



## ENERGY & CLIMATE COMMITTEE

### AGENDA

Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 8:00 AM

City Hall, Second Floor Council Chambers

#### **Members:**

Peter Hansel, Chair  
Zach Luse, Vice Chair  
Diana Duffy  
Jake Pipp  
Councilor Raleigh Ormerod  
Jude Nuru  
Paul Roth  
Clair Oursler

Linsey Edmunds  
Councilor Bryan Lake  
Beth Campbell  
Chuck Redfern, Alternate

#### **Staff:**

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes – November 2, 2022
3. Energy Plan Work Group Report-outs
  - a. Weatherization
  - b. Electric Vehicles
  - c. Community Solar
  - d. Renewable Energy Loans
  - e. Outreach and Education
4. Keene Energy Week – Request for reimbursement for EV parking costs
5. Meeting Schedule for 2023
6. Planning for Annual Retreat
7. Community Power Update
8. Membership
9. New Business
10. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 – 8:00 am
11. Adjourn

Link to ECC Google Drive Folder:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1O1WIR0fADTNijRt13v3DU7k2FwxXDcGs?usp=sharing>

1 City of Keene  
2 New Hampshire

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4  
5 ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE  
6 MEETING MINUTES  
7

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

8:00 AM

Council Chambers,  
City Hall

Members Present:

Peter Hansel, Chair  
Zach Luse, Vice Chair  
Councilor Raleigh Ormerod  
Councilor Bryan Lake  
Jake Pipp  
Jude Nuru  
Paul Roth  
Beth Campbell (Zoom)  
Clair Oursler  
Charles Redfern, Alternate

Staff Present:

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

Members Not Present:

Diana Duffy  
Linsey Edmunds

8  
9  
10 **1) Call to Order and Roll Call**

11  
12 Chair Peter Hansel called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM and roll call attendance was taken.  
13 Ms. Beth Campbell joined remotely by zoom.

14  
15 **2) Approval of Minutes-September 7, 2022 and October 5, 2022**

16  
17 Chair Hansel said there are two sets of minutes to approve because at the last meeting the  
18 minute taker was unable to record who made the motion and who seconded due to technical  
19 difficulties. Chair Hansel asked for a motion to approve the September 7<sup>th</sup> minutes. Bryan Lake  
20 moved to approve the minutes. Zach Luse seconded the motion.

21  
22 Mari Brunner discussed an e-mail she received from Mike Metell regarding some corrections he  
23 had for the September 7<sup>th</sup> minutes.

24  
25 Mr. Metell's corrections to the September 7<sup>th</sup> minutes were accepted as an addendum to the  
26 minutes.

27 Mr. Charles Redfern asked if he was a voting member or if there was a quorum. Chair Hansel  
28 stated the committee did have a quorum with other members present so Mr. Redfern would not  
29 be a voting member.

30

31 Chair Hansel asked for a vote on the September 7<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended. The motion passed  
32 unanimously by roll call vote.

33

34 Councilor Bryan Lake made a motion to approve the October 5<sup>th</sup> minutes. The motion was  
35 seconded by Councilor Raleigh Ormerod and approved by roll call of those present. Ms.  
36 Campbell lost her connection from zoom and did not participate.

37

38 **3) Energy Plan Work Group Report-outs**

39

40 **A) Weatherization**

41 Mr. Zach Luse spoke and said they completed the Window Dressers build on Sunday and  
42 completed 191 window inserts. Over 100 went to homes on fuel assistance or in need. Almost  
43 100 of them were just in the “21 in 21” homes (a program of Southwestern Community  
44 Services). Overall, it went smoothly. They plan to have a recap meeting with Habitat for  
45 Humanity and some of the other people and groups who provided significant help to decide what  
46 they think they should do next, whether that be another build or a separate project. He thinks  
47 they will likely plan another build. They have thousands of people on waitlists across New  
48 England and are looking at ways to increase the number of builds they are offering. Overall, he  
49 thought it was a good program and should save about 2,000 gallons of oil every year going  
50 forward.

51

52 Mr. Luse continued, saying that they did about seven shifts from Friday to Sunday and wrapped  
53 up a third shift on Sunday. The Rotary Club was awesome to provide a donation for 100 of those  
54 inserts and also showed up and took over an entire shift of building on Friday night. He said he  
55 wanted to thank all the volunteers for all their help.

56

57 Chair Hansel thanked Zach and Jake for all their work that was put in. They worked all shifts and  
58 it was a significant amount of work. He said the Committee needs to figure out a way, if they do  
59 it again, to get them some help and reduce the burden on them.

60

61 Mr. Luse Shared a story that he felt made the effort worth it for him. One of the “21 in 21”  
62 homes that participated is a veteran who is partially disabled who has a small daughter at home.  
63 They live on the first story of an old multiunit building. They had over 30 windows, which were  
64 some of the leakiest, loose windows that he has seen that were in poor shape. They were so  
65 grateful, and the little was following them around and asking questions while installing the  
66 inserts. They are eligible for fuel assistance, but typically go through that in the first month.  
67 Hopefully, this year, that assistance will go a lot farther. That one home is going to make a huge  
68 difference.

69

70 **B) Electric Vehicles**

71 Mr. Lake reported that they were not able to meet this month due to scheduling conflicts, but  
72 plan to meet next month. Mr. Redfern asked if the electric vehicle group covered electric bikes as  
73 well. Mr. Lake responded that they have not discussed it much, but certainly can. They will plan  
74 to bring it up in future meetings.

75  
76 **C) Community Solar**

77 Jude Nuru reported that at their last meeting they met in the field to look at potential sites. When  
78 they visited 560 Main Street, they discovered that the City had just recently erected a shed on the  
79 property. Later, in discussions with the City, he learned that the parcel also has some  
80 contamination issues. As such, they have decided to put that particular parcel of land on the back  
81 burner. They plan to continue to have discussion and explore alternatives. They also looked at  
82 the Rose Lane location for an assessment with the goal to decide which location is best suited.  
83 As Mr. Nuru has been involved with Revision Energy, he reached out to a colleague there and  
84 learned they have been working on two options. One option being the Rose Lane property with  
85 the intent to have it be a location for the community solar farm where members of the  
86 community can buy into the program. They would need at least 20 people. The other is the  
87 Monadnock Cemetery in hopes of developing it for LMI (low and moderate income) offtakers.  
88 Mr. Nuru hopes to be able to present to the City in the coming weeks.

89  
90 Chair Hansel asked if anyone had any further questions. He said that one of the things they are  
91 trying to do is get a prototype up and running, there are not that many installed in New  
92 Hampshire and as such stressed the importance of moving forward with it.

93  
94 **D) Renewable Energy Loans**

95 Chair Hansel stated he did not have a lot to report, however he had another meeting with the  
96 Peterborough energy group who is working to come up with money to support renewable energy  
97 projects (conservation, solar, etc.). Feedback from the Savings Bank of Walpole and Mascoma  
98 Savings Bank has been positive and showed interest. It is currently a work in progress, but  
99 mentioned that they are also looking into the possibility of a green bank formation at the national  
100 level. There is another program that comes out of Brooklyn NY that the Peterborough group is  
101 looking into (Bloc Power). It brings investors into a community and helps fund efficiency and  
102 energy improvements. They are hoping to have more to report in the coming months.  
103 With no questions, they moved onto the outreach and education.

104  
105 **E) Outreach and Education/ Keene Energy Week**

106 Mr. Luse reported on Keene Energy Week and how they believed it to be a big success. The  
107 Clean Energy Team really helped to pull together a lot of the events. The energy expo seemed  
108 better attended than last year and the electric cars definitely seemed to draw interest and  
109 attention. They are hoping to do something similar next year. The Keene and Peterborough  
110 Chamber, SWRPC, and the Monadnock Sustainability Hub put together a panel that he and Chair  
111 Hansel were part of and provided a great discussion. The Clean Energy team did their solar tour,  
112 a movie night at the Library, and a climate café at Brewbakers. The event generated quite a bit of

113 buzz and got us in front of some new people. The one challenge was that, due to the weekend  
114 they chose for the Energy Expo, most of the people he ended up talking to were from out of  
115 town. However, he had some good discussions.

116  
117 Chair Hansel added that it was a great week, in general. It would have been nice to have more  
118 people at the regional issue series event at the Chamber. He also attended the climate café, which  
119 he thought was a good start. The event was attended by roughly 15 people sharing their ideas and  
120 feelings about climate and included discussion of potential ways to start to make progress as a  
121 group. They have since decided to have another meeting.

122  
123 Chair Hansel added that Ms. Nancy Gillard was requesting support for another Button Up  
124 workshop. Ms. Gillard spoke and shared that they had significant interest after the last workshop  
125 and plan to hold one on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Recreation Center from 6pm-7:30pm. They intend to  
126 use the same facilitator, Mr. Todd Eldridge, who did the workshop previously. Chair Hansel  
127 asked the group for a motion of support. Mr. Jake Pipp moved to sponsor the workshop; the  
128 motion was seconded by Councilor Lake and was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

129  
130 Chair Hansel asked if there were any plans for publicity for the Window Dressers program. Mr.  
131 Luse mentioned that they are working on drafting something to get out to the various media  
132 outlets. Mr. Paul Roth added that the Rotary Club has expressed interested in wanting to support  
133 the program and help get more publicity.

134  
135 **4) Downtown Reconstruction Project**

136  
137 Chair Hansel said that information about this agenda item was attached to the amended agenda  
138 for today and introduced Mr. Redfern, alternate member of the Committee. Mr. Redfern said the  
139 City of Keene has been planning to improve the infrastructure of the downtown for quite some  
140 time to include changing sewer, water, and utilities of various types. Mr. Redfern thought since it  
141 was already going to be torn up and will need resurfacing, it would be a prime time to think  
142 about what the downtown landscape should look like, including vehicle traffic, alternative modes  
143 of transportation, tree lining, sidewalks, etc. This redesign should address the needs of the future  
144 city, and not just include what it has been in the past but what it should be for the future.

145  
146 Mr. Redfern shared three models that were generated as potential designs for Main Street and  
147 Central Square. The reason for this discussion today was due to rumors of closing downtown off  
148 to bicycle traffic altogether, which caused concern among the bicycle community. Mr. William  
149 Schoefmann and Mr. Redfern were asked by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Path Advisory  
150 Committee (BPPAC) to reach out to other like-minded committees that are part of the City  
151 Government. Mr. Redfern read the charge of the BPPAC group, and noted that the Energy and  
152 Climate Committee also has a charge that includes advising City Council and advocating for the  
153 reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

154

155 Mr. Redfern continued, stating that the BPPAC Chair in coordination with Mr. Schoefmann  
156 (City of Keene GIS Technician) helped facilitate a letter to the Downtown Infrastructure Steering  
157 Committee as well as all City Councilors and the Mayor. Mr. Redfern said he sees no reason  
158 why the City Council couldn't come to a consensus on one of these three designs that will meet  
159 the needs of the growing bicycle community. He noted that the City has more young people  
160 moving in that are interested in biking, and e-bikes are becoming more popular. According to  
161 Norm's Ski and Bike shop, 50% of their sales are e-bikes – this could bring more baby boomers  
162 out on bikes.

163  
164 BPPAC is asking the identified committees, including the Energy and Climate Committee, to  
165 submit a letter to the Downtown Infrastructure Steering Committee, City Council and Mayor.  
166 This is a request for Chair Hansel to facilitate this for this group. They are looking for a motion  
167 to allow the chair to write a letter on behalf of this committee advocating for a design to include  
168 bicycle infrastructure. He shared a letter with Chair Hansel that was written by the BPPAC to use  
169 as an example. He noted that other groups and businesses, including the Monadnock Alliance for  
170 Sustainable Transportation (MAST) and Norm's Ski and Bike are also writing letters. They are  
171 also going to the Conservation Commission to request that they write a letter.

172  
173 Councilor Ormerod requested the specific rejections. Mr. Redfern shared that one was regarding  
174 how the bike racks were overfilled and unsightly. The other comments seemed to be around  
175 driver's perception of bicyclists as a nuisance.

176  
177 Councilor Lake shared that he had heard arguments that there is not enough space in the  
178 downtown for both bicyclists and cars.

179  
180 Mr. William Schoefmann spoke and shared that the in-line parallel parking that is shown in some  
181 of the options is probably not going to happen, it is very likely that pull-in diagonal parking is  
182 going to be maintained on Main Street. Some of the center parking is likely to be taken out. He  
183 shared that the use for center island was 60%. He knows they have conducted parking counts and  
184 those will be reported out this week.

185  
186 Mr. Redfern added that one of the options shows only the loss of 12-13 parking spaces. He sees a  
187 compromise to be made – he agrees that biking may not be the most important consideration, but  
188 he believes it definitely should be part of the mix. He is asking that some consideration be given  
189 to bicycle infrastructure and that a compromise be made.

190  
191 Paul Roth said that, in addition to a parking study for motor vehicles it sounds like a parking  
192 study for bicycles might be helpful. He shared that the City has some of the best bike trails in the  
193 city and expressed his belief that the City really needs to market our City as a "bike friendly"  
194 place.

195  
196 Ms. Beth Campbell asked clarification of whether the question before the Committee is to  
197 express support in general for bicyclists in the downtown, or to weigh in on which design should

198 be chosen. Chair Hansel clarified that the group is being asked to express support for the  
199 inclusion of bike lanes, not to pick a particular option. Ms. Campbell said she personally feels  
200 very strongly about incorporating bikes. She has been an avid bike commuter throughout her life.  
201 She noted that safety increases, and ridership increases, once you give people a safe opportunity  
202 to ride. It also provides opportunity for those with disabilities or lack of access to a car. It serves  
203 to increase the desirability of a city. She is in support of any initiative in support of bike lanes  
204 and access.

205  
206 Mr. Pipp spoke in support of Ms. Campbell's points. He noted he would personally feel more  
207 comfortable biking downtown if the bike lane was separated from the general traffic. He added  
208 that, if biking is more accessible people might end up on bikes instead of in cars, reducing the  
209 overall need for parking. It sounds like there may be a need for more bike racks downtown as  
210 well.

211  
212 Mr. Nuru added that he believes the exclusion of bikes is in conflict with some of the policies the  
213 City is trying to implement, for example Complete Streets, also the 21 in 21 program which is in  
214 a neighborhood where people live in easy biking distance, and he believes strongly in  
215 maintaining an avenue for the continuous use of bikes in the downtown.

216  
217 Chair Hansel asked the Committee if the group would be comfortable with him writing a letter  
218 on behalf of the group. If so, he would look for a motion. Paul Roth made a motion to authorize  
219 Chair Hansel to write a letter on behalf of the Committee. The motion was seconded by  
220 Councilor Ormerod.

221  
222 Ms. Brunner said that it would be helpful to list off specific recommendations or items to  
223 mention in the letter. Do you want to keep the letter specific to bike lanes? Chair Hansel agreed,  
224 and he referenced the sustainable energy plan and the charge of the committee and said that will  
225 be the primary emphasis of his letter. He asked if the group had anything else they would like  
226 him to highlight.

227  
228 Ms. Brunner provided a brief overview of the various design options included in the November  
229 agenda as a reference for the group.

230  
231 Chair Hansel thanked Mari and stated the idea of a mini-roundabout really excites him. He  
232 questioned whether traffic studies have been done on the single lane of traffic and whether that  
233 would cause traffic. Ms. Brunner replied that a traffic study has been done, and said that the City  
234 had hired Stantec and their conclusion was that there is excess capacity and we could go down to  
235 one lane in each direction. She suggested reaching out to Kürt Blomquist from the Public Works  
236 Department for any specific questions about that.

237  
238 Chair Hansel asked if there is anything else that should be in the letter. Councilor Ormerod  
239 suggested including a recommendation for a separated bike path. He said it is important to  
240 mention things that are specifically in our charter.



241 Chair Hansel asked for a roll call vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a roll  
242 call vote.

243

244 **5) Community Power Update**

245

246 Ms. Brunner said that, now that the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has approved the City's  
247 plan, the next step is for the City Council to approve the various amendments to the plan. She  
248 recalled that back in March, the City's consultants were closely watching the PUC's comments  
249 on other plans and based on the feedback the PUC provided to other communities, they  
250 recommended that the City include a more robust data security plan. This was created and added  
251 as Exhibit III at the end of the plan. Then, once the approved rules adopted by the PUC became  
252 public in late July, a number of tweaks and adjustments were made to comply with the rules. The  
253 amended Community Power Plan went to the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee  
254 last week, and they recommended to the City Council that it be adopted as amended. It will go to  
255 City Council tomorrow. The City's consultants have already begun requesting data from  
256 Eversource; however, due to timing the program launch likely will not happen until April.

257

258 **6) Committee Membership**

259

260 Chair Hansel discussed the need for members as terms are coming up at the end of this year. If  
261 someone is interested, they can go directly to the volunteer form on the City's website. Once  
262 submitted, it is sent to the Mayor. Chair Hansel asked if anyone had any thoughts of new  
263 members. He mentioned that he will be going off and Mr. Luse will be coming on as the new  
264 chair. Mr. Luse added that he had reached out to three people, but have not heard back.

265

266 **7) New Business**

267

268 No new business

269

270

271 **8) Next Meeting: December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

272

273 **9) Adjournment**

274

275 There being no further business, Chair Hansel adjourned the meeting at 9:26 AM.

276

277 Respectfully submitted by,  
278 Amanda Trask, Minute Taker

279

280 Reviewed and edited by,  
281 Mari Brunner, Senior Planner



**From:** [Carolyn Jones](#)  
**To:** [Mari Brunner](#)  
**Subject:** Question  
**Date:** Monday, November 14, 2022 8:53:15 AM

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Hi Mari,

During Keene Clean Energy week we had tabling at Railroad Square. We had 3 electric cars from the dealerships that Zach wanted to be able to park for the duration of the tabling event. He asked me to reserve 3 parking places on Main Street. It was late in the game since we needed them for October 15. When I went to reserve them on October 11th they said I needed to pay \$45 even though it was a city event. After much discussion including talking with Corrine, I paid the \$45.

I spoke to Zach about it and he asked me to contact you to see if I could be reimbursed.

Let me know what you think.

Thank you,  
Carolyn Jones



## **Energy and Climate Committee**

### **2023 Meeting Schedule**

All meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 8:00 AM

Wednesday, January 4

Wednesday, February 1

Wednesday, March 1

Wednesday, April 5

Wednesday, May 3

Wednesday, June 7

Wednesday, July 5

Wednesday, August 2

Wednesday, September 6

Wednesday, October 4

Wednesday, November 1

Wednesday, December 6

Meetings are generally held at City Hall in the second floor Council Chambers.  
Meeting dates, times and location are subject to change.