



## ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE (ECC)

### AGENDA

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

8:00 AM

City Hall,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

#### Members:

Zach Luse, Chair  
Paul Roth, Vice Chair  
Diana Duffy  
Jude Nuru  
Clair Oursler  
Kenneth Swymer Jr.  
Councilor Bryan Lake  
Lisa Maxfield

Chuck Redfern, Alternate  
Rowland Russell, Alternate  
Michael Winograd, Alternate  
Jake Pipp, Alternate

#### Staff:

Megan Fortson, Planning Technician

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes – March 6, 2024
3. ECC Work Group Report Outs
  - a. Community Solar
  - b. Grants, Fundraising, and Partnerships
  - c. Education and Outreach
  - d. Legislative Tracking
  - e. Food Security
4. Final Earth Fest/Earth Day Preparations - Saturday April 20, 2024 from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
5. Meeting Schedule Updates
6. **Reminder:** NH Businesses for Social Responsibility Networking Event – Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm in Gilsum, NH
7. New Business
8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 – 8:00 am
9. 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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5 ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE  
6 MEETING MINUTES  
7

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

8:00 AM

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Rm.

Members Present:

Zach Luse, Chair  
Councilor Bryan Lake  
Jude Nuru  
Diana Duffy  
Lisa Maxfield  
Michael Winograd (Voting)

Staff Present:

Megan Fortson, Planning Technician

Members Not Present:

Paul Roth, Vice Chair  
Councilor Raleigh Ormerod  
Clair Oursler  
Kenneth Swymer Jr.  
Charles Redfern, Alternate  
Rowland Russell, Alternate

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

10  
11 Chair Luse called the meeting to order at 8:06 AM. Chair Luse invited Mr. Michael Winograd to  
12 participate as a regular member today.

13  
14 **2) Approval of Minutes- February 7, 2024**

15  
16 Councilor Bryan Lake moved to approve the minutes of the prior meeting. Mr. Winograd  
17 seconded. Mr. Jake Pipp asked if he was officially an alternate to which Ms. Megan Fortson  
18 responded that not as far as she was aware. Councilor Bryan Lake said that Mr. Pipp's confirmation  
19 to be appointed as an Alternate member should go through at the City Council meeting on  
20 Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. With all in favor, the minutes from February 7, 2024 were approved.

21  
22 **3) ECC Work Group Report Outs**

23  
24 **A) Community Solar**

25  
26 Mr. Jude Nuru shared that last month the work group had their team meeting and discussed three  
27 major items. They reviewed the community solar project near Ashuelot River Park that Peter and  
28 his partners have been looking at. He believes that they now have concrete plans. It is likely to be

29 a carport and the hope is to be able to allocate some of the power to save LMI. Mr. Peter Hansel  
30 shared that he had an update on the matter after which he would share.

31  
32 Mr. Nuru continued and explained the second issue they discussed was the site vetting in  
33 anticipation of the municipal plan. They have completed the vetting and drafted some preliminary  
34 designs for the parks and recreation building and the transfer station. They need to speak with the  
35 City facilities director to get a better understanding of the age of the roof sites and the electrical  
36 capacity for both buildings. He would like to ascertain if they can take a 60kW solar system.

37  
38 Mr. Hansel explained that originally the Monadnock Conservancy was going to have a parking lot  
39 and separate ground-mounted solar array. It was discovered that creating an array that is larger  
40 than what the individual use on the lot needs creates some complications in determining where  
41 that extra energy is going to go and identifying the off-takers. As a result, they have decided to  
42 build enough for their use, which will be fifty to sixty kilowatts. As it will be smaller, the hope is  
43 to place it on the roof with the ground available if they need additional space. Mr. Hansel shared  
44 that this put them back on the drawing board for finding at least one carport solar site in the region.  
45 He shared that he would love to see one installed in the region and they will continue to move  
46 forward with trying to identify potential sites.

47  
48 The other issue that they started to look at, but did not get a chance to fully discuss was the new  
49 community solar program that has come to the state of New Hampshire. This is a program where  
50 individuals or organizations can buy into a solar farm to own shares. He explained that if somebody  
51 cannot put solar on his or her house, whether due to orientation or structural issues, they can buy  
52 shares. The company Mr. Nuru works for, ReVision Energy, has just launched a program in Jaffrey  
53 and it is the first of its kind in the state. Mr. Nuru clarified that he represents himself on the  
54 committee and that he is not involved with any of the City of Keene Projects with ReVision  
55 because of the conflict of interest created by his involvement on this committee.

56  
57 Mr. Hansel expected it to come online next week. He suggested that any individual or business  
58 that is interested should put some money on the table to get their foot in line. He imagines that it  
59 will go quickly. He recently discussed this with another person in the solar business in the  
60 Monadnock Region who expressed interest in putting in an additional site. Mr. Hansel is hopeful  
61 that there will be at least one, if not two, coming up soon. Mr. Hansel said that given their work is  
62 around community solar, they want to be able to create awareness about this new program so that  
63 individuals, businesses, and other organizations know about the opportunity to buy in and are able  
64 to have access to clean energy. The other thing he wanted to mention was that between the  
65 Monadnock Sustainability Hub and their solar work group, they have put out the word that they  
66 have coaching available for businesses who want to investigate their options for solar.

67  
68 Mr. Hansel shared that he and Chair Luse are both coaches and that the Hannah Grimes Center  
69 serves as the entity that funnels the inquiries as they come in. They are concentrating on businesses  
70 rather than residences. Mr. Hansel is currently trying to get the Chamber of Commerce to put an  
71 advertisement about the coaching in their newsletter. Mr. Luse asked if they had talked to the Small

72 Business Development Center, as they have an energy person for the state. Mr. Hansel responded  
73 that he had not. Chair Luse offered to help make the connection to which Mr. Hansel accepted.  
74 Mr. Nuru suggested researching whether it was possible to put information about the coaching  
75 program on the City of Keene website.

76  
77 Chair Luse asked if someone was interested in the solar gardens who would be the point of  
78 contract. Mr. Nuru said he or anyone working at ReVision would be and explained that right now,  
79 the first option was offered to residents of Jaffrey. He believed that it had been cleared and that it  
80 was now open to outside people so long as they were in Eversource territory. If they are a Liberty  
81 client, the power cannot be shared because everyone has to be within the same electric utility  
82 territory. Chair Luse asked if it was like net metering. Mr. Nuru said they must participate in net  
83 metering and if they already have solar on their roof, individuals would be excluded because it  
84 would be considered double dipping.

85  
86 Mr. Hansel added that non-profits can now participate in having these solar arrays and get the same  
87 benefits that a for-profit organization would get because they can get the cashback, similarly to  
88 getting a tax credit. Mr. Nuru explained that it can qualify for up to 30% from the International  
89 Trade Commission (ITC) and other bonus credits are coming out of the ITC and affordable  
90 housing. Chair Luse asked what happens if someone owns a share and moves to a different house.  
91 Mr. Nuru explained that they take it with them. Chair Luse thanked both Mr. Hansel and Mr. Nuru  
92 for the updates.

93

#### 94 **B) Grants, Fundraising and Partnerships**

95

96 With no work group members in attendance at the meeting, there was no update provided.

97

#### 98 **C) Education and Outreach**

99

100 Chair Luse shared that the sponsorship of the Energy Expo with the Monadnock Sustainability  
101 Hub was approved by the City Council. He believed they were still looking at the airport as the  
102 event venue. He shared that they also submitted the application to have a table at the Earth Day  
103 Festival at the Monadnock Food Co-op. They are looking for volunteers. Councilor Bryan Lake  
104 has created a Google sheet, but it has not been sent out yet as the times were not clear. Chair Luse  
105 is to confirm the time and once confirmed, Councilor Lake will send out the Google form for  
106 volunteer signup.

107

#### 108 **D) Legislative Tracking**

109

110 Councilor Lake shared that the work group met late last week and spent some time talking about  
111 home energy labeling and how they might be able to go about that. Mr. Mike Kowalczyk, MSK  
112 Consulting, had volunteered to try and help them figure out how they might be able to carry out  
113 some sort of home energy labeling whether through collaboration with New Hampshire Saves or  
114 one of the Vermont towns that already has legislation set up.

115  
116 Mr. Kowalczyk shared there are two items to do next. The first is to go to the NH Saves website  
117 and see if they can support that. In their general language, this group is considered a partner and  
118 is working towards trying to make a more efficient New Hampshire. He believes there is an  
119 opportunity to make a case. He said it could be used for the whole state, especially if the main goal  
120 is not to just give a score of how good or how poor a house is, but rather to provide education and  
121 advice and serve as a resource for already available programs to help folks figure out what they  
122 could do to improve their score.

123  
124 Chair Luse asked Councilor Lake and Mr. Kowalczyk to send him what they are looking for from  
125 Eversource as far as partnerships because he knows the head of the energy-efficient programs and  
126 is willing to reach out to her.

127  
128 Councilor Lake said that of the bills that they are tracking in the State House, there are a couple  
129 related to electric vehicles with one relative to prohibiting electric vehicles from parking in parking  
130 garages. That bill was in committee and passed committee narrowly. He believed it would then go  
131 to the Finance Committee. He went on to state that there is another bill for electric vehicles  
132 prohibiting the parking of non-electric vehicles in spaces designated for electric vehicles that also  
133 narrowly passed as inexpedient to legislate. That one does not have enough support to go through  
134 now.

135  
136 One bill that is tangential to the committee, but may still be of interest, is related to suspending  
137 new landfill permits until 2031. It had major support in the committee to pass. There was a bill  
138 that came up to establish a committee to study revenue alternatives to road tolls. It was voted down  
139 in committee.

140  
141 Mr. Winograd asked if the prohibition of electric vehicles in garages was due to concern about  
142 fires. Councilor Lake confirmed he believed that was the concern.

143  
144 **E) Food Security**

145  
146 Mr. Rowland Russell was not present, so there was no update provided.

147  
148 **4) Earth Day Event Volunteer Opportunities**

149  
150 Chair Luse confirmed that the time for the Earth Day Event is from 12 PM to 4 PM. The volunteer  
151 timesheet will include half an hour to an hour for set-up and clean-up. Chair Luse noted that they  
152 need one volunteer to pick up materials from City Hall on Friday during business hours for which  
153 Ms. Lisa Maxfield volunteered.

154  
155 **5) Meeting Schedule Updates**

156

157 Given there were only six responses, Councilor Lake and Chair Luse thought it would be better to  
158 wait and send the survey again requesting those who have yet to fill it out to do so.

159

160 **6) New Business**

161

162 Ms. Diana Duffy mentioned that a few meetings back they discussed codes. She explained that the  
163 Department of Energy (DOE) is releasing some \$90 million as part of the bipartisan infrastructure  
164 bill for implementing updated energy codes. It is supposed to go to states and municipalities. She  
165 believed the release would be slow and would take a while, but if she is getting the information  
166 correctly, then it means the approval has happened and it will start to filter down. She wanted to  
167 make sure the committee was aware this was happening and on the horizon.

168

169 **7) Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 - 8:00 AM.**

170

171 **8) Adjournment**

172

173 There being no further business, Chair Luse adjourned the meeting at 8:40 AM.

174

175 Respectfully submitted by,  
176 Amanda Trask, Minute Taker

177

178 Reviewed and edited by,  
179 Megan Fortson, Planning Technician