



## ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE (ECC)

### AGENDA

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

8:00 AM

Room 22, Parks & Rec Center

#### **Members:**

Zach Luse, Chair  
Paul Roth, Vice Chair  
Annu Joshi Bargale  
Diana Duffy  
Gordon Leversee  
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, Planner  
Emily Duseau, Planning Technician

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
2. **Approval of Minutes** – November 6, 2024
3. **Presentation** – Josh Meehan, Keene Housing Executive Director
4. **Meeting Schedule Updates**
5. **Adoption of 2025 Meeting Schedule**
6. **2025 ECC Retreat Discussion**
7. **Interest in Presentation on Fine Particulate Matter Pollution**
8. **Work Group Report Outs**
  - a. Community Solar
  - b. Grants, Fundraising, and Partnerships
  - c. Education and Outreach
  - d. Legislative Tracking
  - e. Food Security
9. **New Business**
10. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 8:00 am

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**  
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**Wednesday, November 6, 2024**

**8:00 AM**

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

**Members Present:**

Zach Luse, Chair  
Paul Roth, Vice Chair  
Gordon Leverage  
Jude Nuru  
Kenneth Swymer Jr.  
Councilor Bryan Lake  
Chuck Redfern, Alternate (Voting)  
Rowland Russell, Alternate (Voting)  
Jake Pipp, Alternate (Voting)

**Staff Present:**

Megan Fortson, Planner  
Emily Duseau, Planning Technician

**Members Not Present:**

Annu Joshi Bargale  
Diana Duffy  
Clair Oursler  
Lisa Maxfield  
Michael Winograd, Alternate

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

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11 Chair Luse called the meeting to order at 8:00 am and invited all the attending alternates to  
12 participate as voting members. Mr. Jude Nuru arrived to the meeting at 8:07 am.

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14 **2) Approval of Minutes – October 2, 2024**

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16 Councilor Bryan Lake made a motion to approve the October 2, 2024 meeting minutes as  
17 presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Roth and was unanimously approved.

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19 **3) Update on Keene Clean Energy Team Button-Up Workshop Reimbursement**

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21 Chair Luse explained to the group that Ms. Carolyn Jones no longer needed the Energy & Climate  
22 Committee (ECC) to cover the cost of the ad that was run prior to the Button-Up Workshop. Later  
23 on during the meeting, Ms. Jones mentioned that she was able to get a reimbursement from NH  
24 Saves instead.

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26 **4) Survey on Food Waste/Composting – Rowland Russell**

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Mr. Rowland Russell explained that the local regional food systems assessment group has been collaborating with faculty and students at Keene State College on a senior project related to the feasibility of commercial composting in the region. They've been circulating a survey around the City and trying to get responses from members of the public. Mr. Russell noted that he and his group will most likely extend the timeline of the survey and expand on the survey results and report created by the Keene State students in the future. The students have a limited amount of time to dedicate to the project before the end of their class.

**5) Committee Membership**

Chair Luse mentioned that his second term on the ECC would be expiring at the end of the year, but he would continue serving as Chair until a new member was elected to fill his spot. He noted that Vice Chair Roth would also not be continuing as Vice Chair next year, and the Committee would need to figure out general membership and decide who they would like to elect as a new Chair & Vice Chair.

**6) New ECC Meeting Location – Room 22, Parks & Rec Center, 312 Washington St**

Mr. Luse noted that moving forward, ECC meetings will be held in Room 22 at the Parks & Recreation Center located at 312 Washington St.

**7) Work-Group Report-Outs**

**A) Community Solar**

Mr. Nuru explained that the Community Solar Work Group met last month. They discussed the solar farm in Jaffrey and are trying to publicize it through the Keene Sentinel, Chamber of Commerce, and Hannah Grimes. He mentioned potentially inviting Josh Meehan, the Executive Director of Keene Housing, to an upcoming ECC meeting to discuss what their organization has done related to community solar and achieving 100% renewable solar.

**B) Grants, Fundraising and Partnerships**

Mr. Redfern explained that he forwarded a grant opportunity related solar photovoltaic projects providing direct benefits to New Hampshire residents considered low, moderate, or low and moderate income to the City Manager. She forwarded the information on to the appropriate City departments and other community members. He noted that the application submittal deadline is January 2, 2025.

Chair Luse noted that he had sent this information to City Staff and requested that it be distributed to the ECC members as informational rather than something that the group should definitively consider pursuing. Mr. Nuru mentioned that he has already received \$400,000 in grant funds

69 through this process and stated that he would be happy to help anyone interested in applying for  
70 this type of grant.

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72 **C) Education and Outreach**

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74 Chair Luse explained that the Education & Outreach Group has been working on creating  
75 promotional materials for Community Power & general ECC brochures. He stated that draft  
76 documents have been sent to Mari Brunner, Senior Planner, for her review. Megan Fortson,  
77 Planner, noted that she would follow up with Ms. Brunner about the status of these documents and  
78 would then forward the materials onto Rebecca Laundry, the Communications & Marketing  
79 Director, for formatting.

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81 **D) Legislative Tracking**

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83 Councilor Bryan Lake stated that there were no updates on the legislative tracking work group.

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85 **E) Food Security**

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87 Mr. Russell stated that he has been working with Antioch on a survey to gauge local interest in  
88 community gardens and increasing community garden space. He noted that he has also been  
89 looking into the possibility of creating community gardens in the downtown area. He also noted  
90 that some stakeholders, including indigenous community members, would prefer opportunities to  
91 garden directly in the soil as opposed to using raised beds.

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93 **8) SolSmart Training Opportunities**

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95 Chair Luse noted that there are some upcoming solar training opportunities that will be offered  
96 through the SolSmart Program. He noted that information about the upcoming sessions had been  
97 sent out to the Committee by City Staff via email.

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99 **9) New Business**

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101 Chair Luse mentioned that he attended the Local Energy Solutions Conference that was held in  
102 Manchester on November 1<sup>st</sup> and found it to be very interesting. He noted that he was surprised to  
103 find that Keene is not a member of the Community Power Coalition in NH.

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105 **10) Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

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107 **11) Adjournment**

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109 There being no further business, Chair Luse adjourned the meeting at 8:44 AM.

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111 Respectfully submitted by,

112 Megan Fortson, Planner  
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114 Reviewed and edited by,  
115 Emily Duseau, Planning Technician