



ENERGY & CLIMATE COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Wednesday, January 4, 2023, 8:00 AM

City Hall, Second Floor Council Chambers

Members:

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

Beth Campbell
Lisa Maxfield, Alternate
Chuck Redfern, Alternate
Kenneth Swymer, Alternate

Staff:

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes – January 4, 2023
3. Energy Plan Work Group Report-outs
 - a. Weatherization
 - b. Electric Vehicles
 - c. Community Solar
 - d. Renewable Energy Loans
 - e. Outreach and Education
4. Community Power Update
5. Legislative Update
6. Annual Retreat
7. Committee Membership
8. New Business
9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 – 8:00 am
10. Adjourn

Link to ECC Google Drive Folder:

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

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

3
4
5 ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

8:00 AM

Council Chambers,
City Hall

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

Members Not Present:

Linsey Edmunds

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

10 Chair Hansel called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM and conducted roll call.

11
12 **2) Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

13 Chair Hansel announced that he will be cycling off as a member. Mr. Zach Luse has put forward
14 his name for chair and Mr. Paul Roth as vice chair. Chair Hansel asked for any other
15 nominations or comments from committee. Mr. Jude Nuru arrived at 8:03AM. With no
16 comments, Chair Hansel asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Jake Pipp moved to approve the
17 motion for Mr. Luse as Chair and Mr. Roth as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by
18 Councilor Raleigh Ormerod and approved by unanimous roll call approval. Chair Hansel passed
19 the role of Chair to Mr. Luse.

20
21 **3) Approval of Minutes from December 7, 2022**

22 Chair Luse asked for any discussions on the minutes from the December 7th meeting. With no
23 comments or corrections, Councilor Lake moved to approve the minutes of the prior meeting
24 with a second from Mr. Pipp. The motion passed by unanimous roll call approval.

25 **4) Introduction of New Members**

26 Chair Luse suggested all members introduce themselves, and started with himself:

- 27 • Zach Luse runs Paragon Digital Marketing and has been on the committee for over three
28 years.
- 29 • Peter Hansel, retired from Filtrine Manufacturing Company, has been on the committee
30 for six years and very much involved in environmental issues for a long time.
- 31 • Bryan Lake, city councilor for Ward three. Lived in Keene his whole life and works at
32 CNS.
- 33 • Jude Nuru, originally from Ghana. Attended Antioch and continued to work here for
34 Revision Energy.
- 35 • Jake Pipp, has been on committee for five to six years. Works in energy efficiency
36 consulting.
- 37 • Paul Roth, facilities maintenance director at Cheshire Medical Center. Been on
38 committee for three years and has a strong interest in this committee and affordable
39 housing.
- 40 • Lisa Maxfield, new to the committee. Works for an energy auditing company in
41 Brattleboro and has lived in Keene since a month before Covid hit.
- 42 • Clair Oursler, retired Scientist. Been on the committee for two years.
- 43 • Ken Swymer, Recently moved back to Keene and works remotely for a commercial
44 insurance and underwriting company on the West Coast.
- 45 • Raleigh Ormerod, Keene City Councilor official representative and has been on
46 committee for two years.
- 47 • Beth Campbell, works at Unity Homes (subsidiary of Bensonwood Homes). Been on the
48 committee for about a year.
- 49 • Diana Duffy, lived in Keene for twelve years and worked at Keene State College in
50 energy efficiency.

51

52 **5) Energy Plan Workgroup Report-Outs**

53

54 **A. Weatherization**

55 Chair Luse reported that there was no meeting this month nor last month. The Clean Energy
56 Team had to cancel their Button Up workshop last month. They have tentative dates of January
57 25th (still trying to reserve the Rec Center) with a backup weather date of January 31st. Since it is
58 being rescheduled, Ms. Mari Brunner did not believe any action was needed regarding the
59 sponsorship of the event by the committee.

60

61 **B. Electric Vehicles**

62 Mr. Lake reported the electric vehicle work group did not meet this month due to Holidays and
63 scheduling conflicts.

64

65

66

67 **C. Community Solar**

68 Mr. Nuru reported no meeting last month. He is looking forward to more movement this coming
69 year. Mr. Nuru asked if Mr. Hansel had anything to add. Mr. Hansel noted he was not able to
70 attend.

71

72 **D. Renewable Energy Loans**

73 Mr. Hansel reported that he and Beth were the original members of the committee, and while
74 they have not achieved a lot, they have had numerous positive discussions with others in the
75 region regarding renewable energy loans and look forward to continuing those discussions and
76 the potential for re-energizing the committee this next year.

77

78 Chair Luse added that he has been talking with Kendra Carter at Savings Bank of Walpole and
79 hopes to get her on the work group or Committee. Ms. Campbell added that she hopes to have
80 more time this next year to devote to the committee. She asked if Peter Hansel would be leaving
81 the Committee. Mr. Hansel replied that he would; however, he would continue to participate on
82 the work group.

83

84 **E. Outreach and Education**

85 Mr. Clair Oursler reported that he attended the Keene Energy Week and expressed interest in
86 reaching out to get more students involved.

87

88 **6) Monadnock Earth Festival- Invitation to Sponsor**

89 The Monadnock Earth Festival is to be put on by the Monadnock Food Co-op. Chair Luse noted
90 that they want to reserve the sign by the post office, but have to be a non-profit organization in
91 order to do so. As such, they are requesting this committee to submit on their behalf and this
92 committee would be listed as a co-sponsor. The motion to approve was made by Mr. Roth with
93 a second from Mr. Ormerod. The motion passed by unanimous roll call approval.

94

95 **7) Introduction of Monadnock Energy Circuit Rider- John Kondos**

96 John Kondos, Monadnock Energy Circuit Rider, addressed the Committee and said that he is an
97 energy efficiency and solar specialist. The energy circuit rider program started in the North
98 Country, where many communities were just getting started. His role is more robust as he
99 serves in an area with numerous energy committees. He is here to help in any way he can, but
100 his role would be more additive. He is interested in results and reducing greenhouse gas
101 emissions, starting with measuring energy use (benchmarking) and doing weatherization and
102 energy efficiency. He help fill gaps where additional help is needed, he could also help with
103 funding. He noted this committee is successful and efforts are much more robust than in some
104 regions. Some towns do not have any sort of energy committee.

105

106 Chair Luse asked if there are any comments or questions from the Committee. Mr. Hansel
107 thanked John for attending and referred to his work over the years on solar and energy
108 efficiency. He likes what Mr. Kondos said about being addition, and noted that some areas

109 where the committee could use help include monitoring how well they are doing / measuring
110 progress.

111
112 Chair Luse said that there is another guest here today. Ms. Brunner said that Nora Hanke from
113 the Monadnock Sustainability Hub is here today to observe the meeting, but she could introduce
114 herself if the Committee would like. Chair Luse invited Ms. Hanke to address the Committee.

115
116 Ms. Hanke introduced herself, and stated that the Monadnock Sustainability Hub is partnering
117 with Clean Energy NH on the circuit rider position. The Hub has been in place for several years
118 and they like to help people get on the path with projects that will reduce greenhouse gasses and
119 climate change. Their goal is to serve as a catalyst for climate solutions and like to help towns
120 and groups that want to learn about those solutions and how to implement change. She and John
121 Kondos are hoping to be complementary to each other, their respective work and throughout the
122 region.

123
124 Mr. Hansel added one way he thought the groups could help each other is through outreach and
125 education. The Monadnock Sustainability Hub often writes articles and pieces and could help the
126 committee spread word on projects/events and education. The Committee could potentially help
127 write articles for the Shopper News, for example.

128
129 **8) Committee Memberships and Budget Discussion**

130 Ms. Brunner stated that the Committee gets \$850 per year with \$250 of that set aside for Clean
131 Energy NH membership and the remaining was previously spent on ICLEI Membership. ICLEI
132 recently increased their membership cost, resulting in \$600 left to use. It is too late to join the
133 National Membership. The money can be used for anything that falls within the purview of the
134 charter. Ms. Brunner said she would send out the charter for member review. There are certain
135 things that would need council approval. If the money is not used, it would go back to the
136 general fund.

137
138 Chair Luse asked if it was too late for next year's budget. Ms. Brunner clarified that budget
139 approval happens in April/May, but that there can be late additions. She noted the budget cycle
140 runs July 1 to June 30.

141
142 Mr. Pipp asked if any expenses came out. Ms. Brunner noted that there was a cleaning fee that
143 came out of last year's roundtable event. She did not believe that there were any expenses from
144 this year that have come out of the budget (the \$45 approved for Ms. Jones at the last meeting
145 has not yet been paid out).

146
147 Mr. Hansel asked with the community power program starting in the spring whether Ms.
148 Brunner expected any expenses for that. Ms. Brunner did not anticipate any additional expenses
149 as the committee.

150

151 Chair Luse asked what is included as part of the membership to ICLEI. Ms. Brunner said the
152 lowest membership rate is \$1200, which is double what the committee was previously spending.
153 Membership includes access to the Clear Path Software for greenhouse gas inventories. The fee
154 to use the software is equivalent to the membership. Additionally, it includes access to online
155 resources and online community.

156
157 Ms. Brunner mentioned the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN). They have
158 regional networks with Keene being a founding member of the New England regional network.
159 The regional networks do not have any dues or membership costs (USDN has a sliding scale, so
160 she doesn't know what the cost would be for Keene to join).

161
162 Mr. Pipp asked about the New England Municipal Sustainability Network. Seems like it could
163 be a good option, but the website has not been updated in a while. Membership list had not been
164 updated and did have Keene listed on it. Ms. Brunner clarified that the network is the regional
165 network she mentioned earlier. There are no membership dues so it is a low budget network,
166 and while she thought it was effective, she noted it was really geared more towards staff than
167 this committee.

168
169 Mr. Hansel asked about NEEP (Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership) as a potential
170 opportunity. Chair Luse said they provide the software for the home energy labeling and last he
171 knew, their Vermont Membership was around \$17,000.

172
173 Mr. Roth asked John Kondos if he had any suggestions. John suggested putting the money
174 towards outreach and education and local efforts.

175
176 Chair Luse asked for any other thoughts on associations or groups. The next part of the
177 discussion will be what the group wants to budget for with regards to next year.

178
179 Ms. Brunner mentioned that she was in the City's Mail Chimp account recently and checked on
180 the status of the Energy and Sustainability email list, which was created during the energy plan
181 process. She believed there was over 100 people on the e-mail list for outreach purposes.

182
183 Chair Luse asked the groups' thoughts on using the money for outreach. Mr. Pipp seconded the
184 suggestion.

185
186 Mike Metell asked if there was any way to join or work with the State to join NEEP. Without
187 them, we cannot get the program needed for home energy labelling. Councilor Ormerod asked if
188 there was potential to join the Vermont Program for a small fee to get access to NEEP
189 resources. Mike Metell was interested and wanted to discuss further and Chair Luse suggested
190 asking NEEP if that was a possibility and what it would cost. Mr. Metell responded that
191 essentially he did and was told that it is a "state thing". Councilor Ormerod stated he would be
192 willing to go back and ask again as he believes there might be some room for negotiation and
193 education of what Keene has to offer.

194
195
196
197
198
199
200
201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208
209
210
211
212
213
214
215
216
217
218
219
220
221
222
223
224
225
226
227

Councilor Lake returned to the budget discussion and asked if the committee was planning to run Keene Energy week themselves and whether there was any funding. Mr. Luse did not believe so as it is simply too much for volunteers to be able to support. Mr. Hansel asked if funding was required. Mr. Luse responded that funding was previously provided by donations, but that a fund for incidentals might be useful.

Mr. Hansel stated he would support going back to the City and requesting at least keeping the budget level. Mr. Luse seconded that suggestion.

9) Planning for Annual Retreat

Currently trying to pin point a date in mid- April. Ms. Brunner is to send out a doodle poll before the next meeting.

10) Community Power Update

Ms. Brunner noted that there is no significant update. A few communities in the region have received PUC approval, namely Walpole and Peterborough. More towns are working towards approval. She hopes to have more news next month. The City is still waiting on data from Eversource. The launch cannot happen until April at the earliest, and the data is needed in order to be able to go to bid.

11) New Business

12) Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 8:00AM

13) Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Luse adjourned the meeting at 8:46 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Amanda Trask, Minute Taker

Reviewed and edited by,
Mari Brunner, Senior Planner