



## ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE (ECC)

### SPRING RETREAT AGENDA

Monday, May 12, 2025

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Room 22, Parks & Rec Center

#### **Members:**

Kenneth Swymer Jr., Chair  
Paul Roth, Vice Chair  
Councilor Bryan Lake  
Maureen Nebenzahl  
Gordon Leversee  
Annu Joshi Bargale  
Clair Oursler  
Lisa Maxfield  
Steven Larmon

Tim Murphy  
Jake Pipp, Alternate  
Chuck Redfern, Alternate  
Rowland Russell, Alternate

#### **Staff:**

Megan Fortson, Planner  
Emily Duseau, Planning Technician

1. **Call to Order, Participation Guidelines, & Ice Breaker**
2. **Floodplain Mitigation Plan & FEMA Mapping Updates** – Kürt Blomquist, Emergency Management Director, & Michael Hagan, Plans Examiner / Floodplain Manager
3. **Master Plan Update** – Megan Fortson, Planner, & Emily Duseau, Planning Technician
4. **Break**
5. **Ice Breaker**
6. **Work Group Discussions**
  - a. Education & Outreach
  - b. Grants, Fundraising, & Partnerships
  - c. Community Solar
  - d. Legislative Tracking
  - e. Food Security
7. **Closing Discussions & Adjournment**
8. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 4:30 pm – City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

Link to ECC Google Drive Folder:

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



**Energy and Climate Committee Retreat  
May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**City of Keene Master Plan Update: Flourishing Environment Pillar**

**Goal 1: Promote smart growth.**

1. Identify priority infill or redevelopment sites through spatial analysis
2. Incentivize the adaptive reuse of existing buildings in coordination with the actions outlined in the pillars of Livable Housing, Thriving Economy, and Vibrant Communities
3. Create a list of prime agricultural lands and priority areas for environmental protection and conservation

**Goal 2: Prioritize environmental protection and sustainability.**

4. Expand and enhance buffer areas along natural water features by conducting a specified environmental and land use assessment
5. Promote the Keene Community Power (CP) program to increase awareness of competitive electricity options that help move the community to 100% renewable energy
6. Add a pollinator element to the City's conservation plan
7. Work with partners to support and expand incentive programs for existing buildings to upfit for weatherization, energy efficiency, and renewable energy generation
8. Establish a green business incubator in coordination with the pillars of a Thriving Economy, Adaptable Workforce, and Vibrant Communities

**Goal 3: Integrate green technologies and best practices in Keene's build environment.**

9. Invest in battery storage and incorporate the storage capacity into the local electrical grid
10. Train staff and local contractors on new/innovative building methods and materials such as 3D printing, modular construction, and hempcrete
11. Identify and incorporate the latest technologies and best practices to improve wastewater treatment
12. Develop a community facing environmental dashboard that tracks Keene's progress on climate and environmental goals

13. Conduct scenario planning and predictive maintenance models to understand potential flood implications and other vulnerabilities. develop a resiliency and mitigation plan

14. Develop a city-wide vulnerability and resiliency plan

**Goal 4: Expand community and infrastructure development.**

15. Support the Connected Mobility Pillar of enhancing Keene’s active transportation options by closing gaps in walking and biking networks

16. Conduct a walk audit in coordination with the pillars of Connected Mobility and Vibrant Neighborhoods

17. Solicit public feedback on appropriate locations for solar panels, green rooftops, and electric charging stations

18. Pursue grant funding to provide electric vehicle infrastructure to support the transition from traditional vehicle infrastructure

19. Select and implement a dam replacement option

20. Install infrastructure and amenities to improve access to the Ashuelot River

21. Fully implement the recommendations in the GHG reduction pledge

**Goal 5: Strengthen Keene’s leadership and collaboration locally and beyond.**

22. Hire a Sustainability Coordinator to accelerate the city's progress on its environmental goals

23. Actively promote trails and natural areas through local and regional channels

24. Partner with local businesses to identify funding and ways to incentivize innovative renewable energy solutions, such as solar over parking lots and agrivoltaics

25. Proactively develop and nurture a strong relationship between the City and local land trusts

26. Collaborate with local schools and businesses to develop pilot sustainability projects, environmental stewardship, and volunteering initiatives

27. Identify initiatives or projects that can be undertaken as a community event to get people excited about sustainability

**Work Group Discussion: Guiding Questions**

**Topic Areas**

- What goals do the Energy and Climate Committee want to achieve over the course of the next year?
- What work group topics would assist in meeting the outlined goals?

**Process**

- What have work groups done well? How could work groups be improved?
- What other stakeholders and partners can the ECC work? How can we initiate engagement with those people or groups?
- What check-ins should be scheduled for the work group and what kind of report-outs should be coordinated for monthly meetings?