



ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE (ECC)

AGENDA - AMENDED

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 4:30 PM City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
2. **Approval of Minutes** – January 28, 2026
3. **NH Saves Weatherization Rebate Program** – Presentation on Recent Program Updates
4. **C-PACER Updates**
5. **Spring Retreat Planning** – Potential Dates/Times
6. **Keene State College Earth Day Celebration** – Friday, April 17th from 12-3pm at Oya Hill
7. **2026 Monadnock Region Earth Festival** – Saturday, April 25th from 11am-3pm at the Monadnock Food Co-op
8. **Senate Bill 538 (SB538)** – Related to Net Metering Credits for Solar Projects Serving Political Subdivisions
9. **Work Group Report-outs**
 - a. Policy
 - b. Resilience
 - c. Outreach
10. **New Business**
11. **Next Meeting:** March 25, 2026 at 4:30 pm

Link to ECC Google Drive Folder:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1O1WIR0fADTNijRt13v3DU7k2FxwXDcGs?usp=sharing>

City of Keene New Hampshire

ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

4:30 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall

Members Present:

Gordon Leversee, Chair
Maureen Nebenzahl, Vice Chair
Councilor Bryan Lake
Timothy Murphy
Lisa Maxfield
Jake Pipp, Alternate (Remote; V)
Charles Redfern, Alternate (Vot)
Catherine Koning, Alternate (Ar
Voting)
Matthew Boulton, Alternate (Vot
Rowland Russell, Alternate (Vot

Staff Present:

Megan Fortson, Planner

Members Not Present:

Ann Joshi Bargale
Paul Roth
Steve Larmon
Clair Oursler

1) Call to Order and Roll Call

Committee Staff Liaison, Planner Megan Fortson, called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM and led roll call. Mr. Pipp participated remotely from New Haven, CT, and was alone at his location.

2) Election of Chair & Vice Chair

A motion by Mr. Murphy to nominate Dr. Leversee as the Committee's 2026 Chair was duly seconded by Mr. Redfern. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

A motion by Mr. Murphy to nominate Ms. Nebenzahl as the Committee's 2026 Vice Chair was duly seconded by Mr. Redfern. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Ms. Maxfield wanted to publicly thank Mr. Murphy and Mr. Roth for their years as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, during which time Ms. Maxfield felt that the Committee ran smoothly. Chair Leversee agreed, especially because Mr. Murphy stepped in as Chair with no notice and did a

26 superb job organizing and leading meetings. Chair Leversee also thanked Ms. Fortson for her help
27 organizing the meetings and Mr. Murphy agreed.

28

29 **3) Approval of Minutes – December 22, 2025**

30

31 Ms. Fortson reminded the Committee that per the City Clerk, all Committee members should vote
32 to approve minutes if they read them, whether or not they were present at that prior meeting. Dr.
33 Russell said he would still abstain.

34

35 Revision: line 100 should read, “Additionally, he said someone could buy a property and ...”

36

37 A motion by Councilor Lake to adopt the December 22, 2025 meeting minutes as amended was
38 duly seconded by Vice Chair Nebenzahl. The motion carried on a roll call vote of 6–0. Dr. Russell
39 and Mr. Pipp abstained.

40

41 Dr. Koning arrived at 4:44 PM and Chair Leversee appointed her as a voting member.

42

43 **4) C-PACER Program:**

44 **A) Answers to ECC Member Questions**

45

46 Chair Leversee referred to the [January 28, 2026 Energy and Climate Committee Agenda packet](#).
47 Pages 13 and 14 of the packet include answers to the Committee’s remaining questions about the
48 Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy & Resilience Program (C-PACER). The Chair
49 briefly summarized the full answers provided in the packet:

50

51 *1. Who performs the special tax assessments? (state vs. rep for NHBFA vs. City’s tax assessor).* Chair Leversee said the capital provider is required to provide proof to the New Hampshire
52 Business Finance Authority (NHBFA) via a professional appraisal or other, that the C-PACER
53 loan/assessment amount adheres to these requirements prior to monies being released. Chair
54 Leversee said that is the pathway for assessment. Mr. Murphy noticed that the appraisal is a
55 function of the loan amount, which he thought might be relevant. Although he thought it sounded
56 like less dependence on City staff, which was the important part.

57

58 *2. How does resiliency work play into calculating payment/interest rates?* Chair Leversee said
59 regardless of the work/project type (e.g., energy efficiency or resiliency), C-PACER payments and
60 interest rates are set by each independent private capital provider (the NHBFA plays no role in this
61 process). This is how resiliency fits into C-PACER.

62

63 *3. Do applicants participating in similar programs in other states end up saving as much as they
64 initially anticipated?* Chair Leversee said there was no readily available data at this point to know,
65 because there had been no long-term measurement and verification (M&V) component to these
66 programs in most states. The New Hampshire process does require a licensed professional engineer
67 or qualified professional/firm to certify that each project is C-PACE eligible (from a qualified
68 improvement standpoint); Chair Leversee said this should include the fact that the savings are
69 greater than the cost. He noted that property owners should still be provided with evidence that
70 savings will be recognized.

72

73 *4. What happens if a loan for a project is in place and a state discontinues the C-PACE program?*

74 Chair Leversee said existing loan agreements remain enforceable as the voluntary special
75 assessment lien stays attached to the property until it is paid in full. He said that regardless of the
76 program status (i.e., even if the program ceases to accept new projects), the loan will outlive the
77 program, meaning current and future property owners (if the building is sold) remain responsible
78 for scheduled payments.

79

80 *5. What are the "unincorporated" areas of NH where C-PACER can only be implemented via the*
81 *County in which they lie?* Answers listed in the [01/28/2026 ECC Agenda packet](#), page 14 of 34.

82

83 *6. Of these 3 choices, which is true: a) A county's participation is limited to covering*
84 *unincorporated areas of the particular county; OR b) a county may adopt and sponsor 14 of 34*
85 *C-PACER on behalf of municipalities within said county; OR c) both a) and b) above are true?*
86 The answer is "a."

87

88 Chair Leversee noted that Questions 5 and 6 go together and he answered 6: "*A county's*
89 *participation is limited to covering unincorporated areas of the particular county.*" Thus, none of
90 the unincorporated areas listed under Question 5 in the packet were in Cheshire County. So, Chair
91 Leversee stated the fact that Cheshire County would have no role in establishing a
92 C-PACER Program.

93

94 The [meeting packet](#) (pages 16 and 17) also includes answers the NHBFA provided to City staff's
95 C-PACER questions, which Chair Leversee briefly reviewed:

96

97 *1. Billing & Payments: It appears that the City is obligated to bill and collect the money on*
98 *assessments or has the option to delegate to an outside party.*

99

100 *a. Will the City have to collect the money? If so, how? If not, who pays for the outside, third-*
101 *party service?* Chair Leversee said the short answer was "no." The NHBFA replied that
102 typically, municipalities assign this responsibility to a third party, often the capital
103 provider. Chair Leversee said the City would not really have any role in collecting the fees.
104 The NHBFA's reply stated that the costs associated with third-party, outside service
105 providers would not be paid by the City or with taxpayer dollars. Instead, these
106 administrative fees would almost always be built into the C-PACER financing amount
107 itself and paid for by the property owner. Chair Leversee said the answer was that
108 ultimately, the C-PACER program has been designed to be cost-neutral to municipalities.

109

110 *b. Is the City still liable if there are errors or omissions with the third-party billing company?*
111 Chair Leversee said the City would not be liable for errors, omissions, or mismanagement
112 by a third-party billing company or administrator (this would be spoken to in the
113 "Assessment Agreement"). The financial risk remains with the capital provider, not the
114 municipality.

115

116 *c. What work, auditing, etc. is the City responsible for regarding these projects/billing?* Chair
117 Leversee said the NHBFA replied that, "... the municipality role is simply one of

118 recording,” and the City transfers all rights, titles, and interest in the Notice of Assessment,
119 C-PACER lien, and the Assessment Agreement to the Assignee (typically the capital
120 provider). So, Chair Leversee said the City would not be responsible for auditing those
121 things.

122
123 2. *Impact on City Assessing Dept. Regardless of which City department/office that is put in control
124 of this program, are there any other duties and/or responsibilities that would be placed on
125 Keene's Assessing Department as part of the program's administration?* Chair Leversee said
126 the answer provided a list of responsibilities for the City, which he summarized: enabling
127 legislation, executing all relevant C-PACER documentation and recording the C-PACER lien
128 on the property, and adding the C-PACER repayment as a voluntary special assessment to the
129 annual property tax bill. The City will make itself available to answer questions about the C-
130 PACER Program and work with NHBFA/capital provider, as needed.

131
132 Mr. Murphy thought it was good that the NHBFA's replies about C-PACER's impact on the City
133 Assessing Department were consistent with what Frank Richter of Clean Energy New Hampshire
134 read into the record at the ECC's December 2025 meeting.

135
136 Chair Leversee called this an informational item, and noted that the Committee would remain a
137 resource for the City Council and its Planning, Licenses and Development (PLD) Committee. He
138 hoped they would be satisfied with these answers.

139
140 **B) Follow Up from City Council Meeting – January 15, 2026**

141
142 The Energy and Climate Committee's recommendation that the City Council amend the City Code
143 of Ordinances to add the C-PACER Program was included on the Council's January 15, 2026
144 Agenda. Mayor Kahn referred the recommendation to the Council's PLD Committee for
145 consideration at their February 11th meeting.

146
147 **C) Planning, Licenses & Development Committee Meeting – Wednesday,
148 February 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers**

149
150 Chair Leversee suggested that an ECC member attend the Planning, Licenses and Development
151 (PLD) Committee on February 11, 2026, to represent this item. Vice Chair Nebenzahl agreed to
152 attend. Councilor Lake also planned to attend, but if a quorum of City Councilors is in attendance,
153 it would prevent him from speaking on the topic. Ms. Fortson would also attend to speak as ECC
154 Staff Liaison. She agreed that it would be great to have Vice Chair Nebenzahl express the
155 Committee's desire for the City of Keene to adopt this program and explain its importance based
156 on the ECC's expertise. Ms. Fortson added that the Community Development Director, Paul
157 Andrus, would be available to answer more technical questions the PLD Committee might have
158 related the Assessing Department's involvement in the program.

159
160 Discussion ensued briefly between Councilor Lake and Vice Chair Nebenzahl, as they decided to
161 coordinate in advance of the PLD meeting about the ECC's statement. Ms. Fortson encouraged
162 more ECC Members to come and speak in support too, up to the Committee's quorum limit of six
163 members.

164
165 Chair Leversee asked about next steps. Ms. Fortson explained that on February 11, 2026, the PLD
166 Committee (5 members) would gather information, accept public comments, and make a
167 recommendation back to the full City Council (15 members). At the next City Council meeting on
168 February 19, they will decide whether to support the ECC's recommendation to move forward
169 with incorporating the C-PACER program into City Code. If approved, the City Manager would
170 be directed to instruct staff to submit an ordinance to amend City Code to include C-PACER as a
171 new voluntary funding mechanism and establish a district. Chair Leversee noted that the January
172 28, 2026 ECC meeting packet also included a draft ordinance for information on how that could
173 work.

174
175 Mr. Boulton said he was thinking strategically while reading through the answers to these
176 questions, and it seemed like a lot of the burden and liability would not be on the City. He tried to
177 think skeptically; if there were an opposition to the City adopting C-PACER, where would it come
178 from? He asked about the vulnerability in the case the ECC was making, or if there was one.
179 Councilor Lake thought the PLD Committee would be concerned about any potential burden
180 placed on the City. He thought there might also be discussion about establishing a zone, whereas
181 the ECC talked about it making sense to allow C-PACER for the whole City. So, Councilor Lake
182 thought the PLD Committee might need to decide those merits. Dr. Koning discussed how the
183 PLD Committee's job would always be complicated, and things are always being added on. So,
184 she wondered what the PLD Committee's response might be if the concern about establishing a
185 zone was raised. Councilor Lake thought it would depend on whether City staff reports that they
186 find it is too much of a burden. Then it would be up to the Committee to discuss and weigh benefits
187 of the program, and the ECC could comment on why it is trying to enact these goals (i.e., further
188 carrying out the [Keene Sustainable Energy Plan](#)).

189
190 Dr. Koning asked if there was another city the Committee could provide data from. Ms. Fortson
191 explained that no other municipality in the state of New Hampshire had adopted this option yet.
192 NHBFA had internal discussions with the Keene Assessing Department and other necessary staff.
193 Ms. Fortson reported that C-PACER seemed like it would hopefully not be too labor intensive for
194 City Assessing staff, because the responsibilities can be assigned to a financial third party. Ms.
195 Fortson thought one remaining clarifying question was how C-PACER would be incorporated into
196 the property tax bill, but she did not think that it would be a burden for the Assessing Department
197 overall. Any staff concerns would come up during the PLD Committee presentation. She agreed
198 that it was difficult without a lot of data from NHBFA on other cities and states participating in
199 this. Dr. Russell said it would be worth looking at how C-PACER relates to the Strategic Pillars
200 in Keene's 2025 Comprehensive Master Plan and make those connections for the City Council.

201
202 Mr. Boulton asked if the City Council and its Standing Committees typically consult City staff
203 when something potentially objectionable is raised that could cause stress for staff. Councilor Lake
204 said the City Council definitely relies on City staff's opinions about these things. He called them
205 the subject matter experts within those various areas. That is why Ms. Fortson will represent the
206 ECC on this matter, or various department heads act as experts before the Council's Finance,
207 Organization and Personnel Committee during the budget process, for example. Councilor Lake
208 anticipated the PLD Committee discussing potential impacts of the C-PACER Program with
209 Community Development Department staff, much like the ECC had been.

210
211 Mr. Pipp understood concerns about potential staff impacts but also wondered how many of these
212 projects the Committee expected the City to see per year. He expected that it would not be so many
213 that it would increase the burden that much for the Assessing Department. Regarding property tax,
214 Mr. Pipp asked how the increased value will be assessed; will it be added to the existing assessment
215 value for the property (based on the City's formulas)? He said property taxes are reassessed every
216 five years. Councilor Lake agreed, and within that period, every property in the City is revalued to
217 recalibrate the property taxes. Other organizations also perform their own assessments (e.g., a
218 financial institution assesses its property). Councilor Lake called them separate entities that end
219 up filtering into the same value. Mr. Pipp wondered how a mortgage lender's internal assessed
220 value of a property differing from the City's assessed property value would have any impact on
221 the City's value; what if that mortgage assessment is also in-between the City's reassessment?
222

223 Chair Leversee thought it was important that the ECC had moved its recommendation forward to
224 City Council, so it could be discussed by the PLD Committee. At this time, Chair Leversee thought
225 the discussion was in the world of hypotheticals, and it was time to hear what the PLD Committee
226 would have to say. If the PLD Committee were to have more questions, Chair Leversee said the
227 ECC could help get enough information to answer them.
228

229 Dr. Russell thought Mr. Pipp's question about how many C-PACER projects per year the
230 Committee was anticipating was a good one. Dr. Russell knew NHBFA did not have certain data,
231 but he wondered if they had data on the number of projects per municipality per year in other
232 states, so the ECC could provide an estimate based on population to the PLD Committee before
233 February 11, 2026. Chair Leversee agreed. Ms. Maxfield thought the October 2025 Eversource
234 Main Streets Event 10% enrollment rate provided a pretty usual glimpse at the community
235 atmosphere around these programs. Councilor Lake compared it to the City's 79-E Tax Relief
236 Program that is for similar style projects, with a different funding mechanism. During his four
237 years on the City Council, there were only three 79-E projects (two on the same building).
238 Councilor Lake did not anticipate 20 C-PACER projects per year, stating that one per year would
239 be fantastic. Ms. Fortson recalled that only commercial properties (e.g., an office) and properties
240 with five or more units will be eligible for the C-PACER Program.
241

242 **5) Work Group Report-Outs**
243 **A) Outreach**
244

245 Chair Leversee missed the Outreach Work Group's Zoom meeting. Dr. Koning reported that a lot
246 of the Work Group's focus was on the Sustainability Coordinator position. The Outreach Work
247 Group discussed the hope for the Coordinator position to be revenue neutral. To generate
248 enthusiasm, Dr. Koning said the Work Group thought about creating a petition as a mechanism to
249 engage people with the idea of having the Coordinator. She added that another idea was to present
250 a workshop on the City's clean energy progress and what the City could still do, which Dr. Koning
251 said would build the case for the Energy/Sustainability Coordinator position. She wanted to discuss
252 the two ideas with the Committee before approaching Senior Planner, Mari Brunner. Dr. Koning
253 also knew progress with the Coordinator position relied on the Policy Work Group.
254

255 Chair Leversee recalled the December 2025 minutes mentioning that the Outreach Work Group
256 would seek information about the C-PACER Program, but it seemed the NHBFA, banks, and
257 others involved will already probably be the best sources of outreach and information. Still, he
258 said that could be another possible task for the Outreach Work Group.

259

260 Ms. Fortson asked about the deadline to apply for the 2026 Monadnock Region Earth Festival with
261 the Monadnock Food Co-Op. Mr. Redfern said he received an email about it through Pathways for
262 Keene. Dr. Koning said she would inquire about the deadline for the ECC to participate.

263

264 Mr. Redfern mentioned the Committee talking for a long time about getting a banner to represent
265 it at booths during events. The Committee recalled that it purchased a standing banner and
266 tablecloth during the previous fiscal year.

267

B) Policy

268

269 Councilor Lake reported that the Policy Work Group had not met this past month, but he hoped to
270 schedule a meeting with the whole group before the February 11, 2026 Planning, Licenses and
271 Development Committee meeting.

272

273 Councilor Lake led a discussion about the Sustainability Coordinator position, noting that the
274 Policy Work Group was in a holding pattern with it. During his last conversation with Senior
275 Planner Mari Brunner, she reported that the City Manager took the ECC's feedback and they made
276 some changes to the job description. Now, they were working toward the budget process (starting
277 in early May) and he wondered if it was worth seeing if Ms. Brunner needed any further feedback
278 from the ECC. Councilor Lake thought the Committee would love to see the draft job description
279 before it was finalized in case there was any final input. Vice Chair Nebenzahl said Ms. Brunner
280 indicated that she would show the ECC another copy of the job description, which the Vice Chair
281 agreed would be a good thing. Mr. Redfern added that it would be helpful to see the salary and
282 benefits estimated for that position, so the Committee could answer those questions. Councilor
283 Lake said Ms. Brunner was working with the City's Human Resources Department to review all
284 of the similar style positions in the region and decide what makes the most sense for Keene; there
285 are many different levels of what the position could be. So, Councilor Lake said the pay scale was
286 still to be determined when they last met with Ms. Brunner at the end of November. However,
287 Vice Chair Nebenzahl said it was confirmed as a full-time position.

288

289 Discussion ensued about whether this is supposed to be an *Energy* Coordinator or a *Sustainability*
290 Coordinator position. During the Outreach Work Group Report, Mr. Murphy heard that Dr. Koning
291 referred to it as the *Energy* Coordinator. Dr. Koning said she and Mr. Boulton had been helping
292 try to raise money for the non-City portion of the position. So, Dr. Koning brought the title up with
293 Ms. Brunner, who agreed to consider it and wanted to hear more conversation about it. Dr. Koning
294 found *Sustainability* broader (i.e., anything from recycling to land protection, bicycles, etc.). She
295 felt strongly that the position should be *Energy* adjacent or affect energy. Mr. Boulton agreed. Dr.
296 Russell disagreed, countering that this should be a *Sustainability* Coordinator because it began
297 interrelated with the ECC creating the Resilience Work Group; the Committee felt it had been
298 unbalanced in attention on climate impact due to many factors (e.g., staff assistance). While he
299 thought *Sustainability* could be too broad, Dr. Russell felt that *Energy* would be overly focused
300

301 for the Coordinator position. He thought the duties listed in the job description would ultimately
302 be more important and a title like *Sustainability Coordinator* would provide the City with more
303 freedom to take up emergent things, including those climate and energy related. Chair Leversee
304 asked for the Policy Work Group's input since it was working on the job description. Councilor
305 Lake clarified that the job description was in the hands of City staff at this point, but he could
306 request that the Policy Work Group be able to review it again to keep this conversation going.
307

308 Mr. Boulton noted that he spoke with Ms. Brunner about the financial package the City team had
309 been clarifying for the Coordinator position. Mr. Boulton said he believed that the financial
310 package was ready to be shared for fundraising. He recalled the three-part strategy for funding the
311 salary and benefits package: 1/3 City-funded, which the City Manager already identified; 1/3
312 public fundraising, which was already completed thanks to community donors, such as Peter
313 Hansel and many others; and 1/3 donations from the business community. So, Mr. Boulton said
314 the three-year position was 2/3 funded at this time. He wondered if the ECC could show the
315 Council that the Coordinator could be value-neutral for those three years, then it might make a
316 stronger, positive case for the City to make it a permanent position. Mr. Boulton and Dr. Koning
317 are not experts on Keene's business community, but they were willing to do the fundraising leg
318 work, so they empowered ECC Members to share ideas (via Ms. Fortson by email). Otherwise,
319 Mr. Boulton reported on Ms. Brunner's excitement because the City had never been this close to
320 having an Energy/Sustainability Coordinator.
321

322 Peter Hansel of Keene suggested framing the 1/3 ask of the business community (roughly \$35,000)
323 as the amount approximately needed to cover this portion of the salary for the position.
324

325 Mr. Redfern noted that Cheshire County has an excellent Grant Manager, Suzanne Bansley, who
326 has landed multi-million-dollar grants. She has everything at her disposal to search for
327 corporations/foundations' focus areas, and who they give money to, how much, and for what
328 causes. He called it robust. Mr. Redfern said in his opinion, the City does not use the County's
329 Grant Manager to the extent that it should. He said Keene is a Cheshire County entity and he
330 thought the City should ask the County to help Keene fund this 1/3 of the Coordinator position for
331 a three-year basis or whatever is decided later on.
332

333 Dr. Russell recalled that with the Downtown Infrastructure Project starting this year, it would be a
334 tough time for downtown businesses and fundraising, which the ECC would need to keep in mind.
335 He recalled that for the Walldogs Festival, over \$100,000 of the \$250,000 was raised from local
336 foundations and grants. So, Dr. Russell agreed with Mr. Redfern about the merit of pursuing grants
337 to fill these funding gaps.
338

C) Resilience

341 Dr. Russell reported that the Resilience Work Group would be meeting on February 10, 2026 to
342 continue prioritizing the rolling list of climate change impacts. Next, the Work Group would
343 compare its prioritized list of climate change impacts in Keene to the 2025 Comprehensive Master
344 Plan, as well as the City's Disaster Preparedness Plan, Emergency Preparedness Plan, and others
345 that might be pertinent. That effort would involve discussions with City staff to ensure the

346 Resilience Work Group's priorities align with the City's, so that the group can focus on identifying
347 gaps.

348
349 Dr. Koning suggested that the Outreach Work Group should report out last because she learns
350 about things during the other Work Groups' reports (e.g., workshops, projects) that would be good
351 for Outreach to share. She is on several committees in the community, and it would be good to
352 spread the word about what the ECC is doing (e.g., climate change priorities, like flooding). Dr.
353 Koning suggested inviting Ms. Brunner to lead public workshop on the City's progress to date and
354 to make the case for why the City cannot advance further without an Energy/Sustainability
355 Coordinator. Mr. Redfern noted that some committees he is a part of have retreats, with a primary
356 mission to accomplish a specific focus like this. Mr. Murphy thought any opportunity for the ECC
357 to interact and coordinate with City staff at future meetings would make sense. Discussion ensued
358 about Dr. Koning's suggestion to hold a workshop event, inviting the public to learn about the
359 Coordinator position. Dr. Koning said in her mind, the event would build the case in the public's
360 minds about the need for an Energy/Sustainability Coordinator and that fact that it would be
361 revenue neutral.

362
363 Dr. Russell recalled Mr. Redfern's past research on cities with coordinators like this. Dr. Russell
364 recalled that some cities (e.g., Portland, Maine) were more than revenue neutral, they could pay
365 their coordinators with the energy savings the cities generated. Dr. Russell wondered whether Mr.
366 Redfern's research would be useful to share with the public. Mr. Redfern agreed, noting that the
367 City was less interested in the research at that time on AmeriCorps, which he believes is
368 responsible for the sustainability coordinators that are spread throughout Maine. He thought the
369 conversation about the Energy/Sustainability Coordinator reinvigorated the Maine research. Dr.
370 Russell said he was thinking about something that was not AmeriCorps funded and made a note
371 to look through his digital materials. Dr. Koning said she had done a lot of that work and already
372 gathered some information Dr. Russell had provided, so she thought Ms. Brunner may be well
373 ahead of this curve on that. She thought the public's understanding was another story.

374
375 Dr. Koning was not suggesting a public event to only focus on the Energy/Sustainability
376 Coordinator Position, she wanted to educate the public about how much progress the City has
377 made toward its goals and what is needed next. Chair Leversee suggested the Coordinator/Progress
378 Event as an agenda item for the February 2026 ECC meeting, and how to approach City staff and
379 the public in an organized and mutually productive way. As the ECC's Staff Liaison, Ms. Fortson
380 suggested having a very clear picture of the event's goal. Ms. Fortson did not think the Committee
381 would necessarily need to convince members of the public about why a Energy/Sustainability
382 Coordinator is necessary if there is no Budget impact. She thought it was great to have an event
383 celebrating everything the City has done with Community Power and more. Vice Chair Nebenzahl
384 said the Committee needed to decide which demographic of the public this event would be for
385 (e.g., groups like the Chamber of Commerce); who is going to come and listen? Ms. Maxfield
386 suggested that this could be an opportunity to use Dr. Koning's knowledge and develop a brochure
387 to distribute to the commercial businesses in Keene, who might donate for the final 1/3 of the
388 Coordinator position funding.

389
390 Dr. Koning mentioned a Letter to the Editor in The Keene Sentinel, with data, which made
391 Community Power look really bad, saying that it was costing more than Eversource. Dr. Koning

392 thought the ECC should keep an eye on it if a lot of people drop out of the Community Power
393 Program.

394
395 Ms. Maxfield recalled that at the November 2025 meeting, she mentioned honoring a special
396 community member, who was highly involved with the ECC for many years. Ms. Fortson said she
397 inquired and the ECC would need to decide whether to take that action and then coordinate with
398 the Mayor's and Clerk's Offices to add the Proclamation to an upcoming City Council agenda.

399

400 **6) Adjournment**

401

402 There being no further business, Chair Leversee adjourned the meeting at 5:33 PM.

403

404 Respectfully submitted by,
405 Katie Kibler, Minute Taker

406

407 Reviewed and edited by,
408 Megan A. Fortson, AICP - Planner



EVERSOURCE

Unlock Enhanced Incentives for Savings and Comfort

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- Enjoy enhanced comfort and humidity control
- Experience quieter, more peaceful living spaces with reduced outside noise
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Program Benefits

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- **Weatherization Services:** 100% off (up to \$15,000) air sealing and insulation
- **Appliance Upgrades:** Replace inefficient appliances, such as refrigerators, freezers, and heating and cooling systems
- **Additional Enhancements:** Receive energy-saving thermostats, faucet aerators, pipe wrap, and potentially, new windows and doors

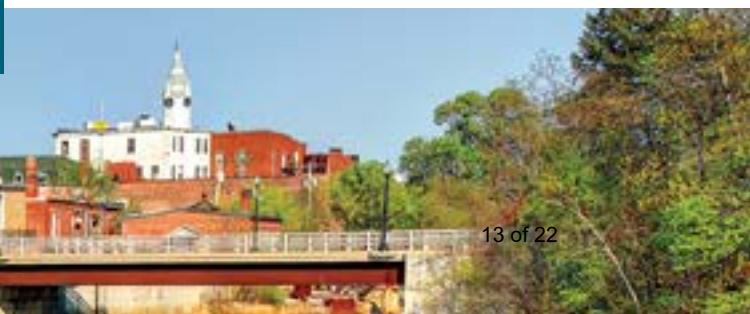
Number of Household Members	Annual Household Income
1	≤ \$69,394
2	≤ \$90,746
3	≤ \$112,098
4	≤ \$133,449
5	≤ \$154,801
6	≤ \$176,154

Take the Next Step—Be Part of the Program

Email Margaux.Levesque@eversource.com or call **603-634-2142** for more information and to see if you qualify.

Visit NHSaves.com/Income-Verification to verify your income through our portal. If your income is above or below the specified range, you may qualify for other offers.

Visit eversource.com/home-performance to learn more.



From: [Megan Fortson](#)
Bcc: [Energy and Climate Committee](#)
Subject: C-PACER Update
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 2:46:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi All,

Exciting updates regarding the C-PACER Program! At their meeting last night, the Planning, Licenses, & Development Committee unanimously approved the ECC's recommendation that the C-PACER ordinance gets incorporated into City Code. The next step in this process is for the recommendation to go back to the full Council for a vote.

If approved by the Council, the City Manager will instruct City Staff to work on drafting and submitting an ordinance application to incorporate the program into City Code.

Thank you to everyone for all your work on this! A special thanks to Maureen & Bryan for taking the time to attend last night's meeting and represent the committee!

Have a good evening,
Megan

Megan A. Fortson, AICP (she/her)
Planner, Community Development Department
City of Keene
3 Washington Street
Keene, NH 03431
(603) 352-5440 | [KeeneNH.gov](#)



WIRE FRAUD ALERT: Be aware!!! Invoice scams are on the rise! If you receive an e-mail or any other communication that appears to be generated by the City of Keene that contains wire instructions, consider it suspect and call our office at a number you trust.

From: [KSC Eco-Rep](#)
To: [Mari Brunner](#); [KSC Eco-Rep](#)
Cc: [Emily Duseau](#); [Megan Fortson](#)
Subject: Re: Keene State College Eco Reps Earth Day Celebration
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 1:27:55 PM

Hi Mari,

We will be providing tables and chairs to all organizations! You are welcome to invite committee members to table with you as well, the more the merrier! Different organizations do different things so you can bring an interactive activity or just information whatever is easier for you, the orgs with interactive activities sometimes gain more student interest, but an activity is not required!

We look forward to having you!

Amanda Rotigliano
She/They
Keene State College
BA Legal Studies | BA History | Honors Program
Eco-Rep President | Class of 2027 Secretary
Student Assembly | Student Assembly Speaker
508-570-8695 | Bellingham, MA | Keene, NH

From: Mari Brunner
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 12:07 PM
To: KSC Eco-Rep
Cc: Amanda Rotigliano; Emily Duseau; Megan Fortson
Subject: RE: Keene State College Eco Reps Earth Day Celebration

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the University System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Amanda,

Thank you for the invitation, I can attend and provide information about the City of Keene Community Development Department. We have several projects that are underway that may be of interest for students, including the Keene Community Power Program and an update to the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (last updated in 1999!).

A few questions for you:

1. Would I need to provide my own table, tent, chairs, etc.?
2. Could I invite committee members from City boards/committees to table with

me? (Energy and Climate, Conservation Commission, and the Bicycle Pedestrian Pathways Advisory Committee all come to mind)

3. Should organizations just plan on bringing information to share, or would you like more interactive activities?

Thank you again for the invitation, it's great to hear from the Eco-Reps! You've been a fantastic partner over the years with the City.

Best,
Mari

Mari Brunner, AICP

Senior Planner - Community Development Dept.
(603) 352-5440 | KeeneNH.gov

FRAUD ALERT: Be aware!!! Invoice scams are on the rise! If you receive an email or any other communication that appears to be generated from the City of Keene that contains wire instructions, consider it suspect and call our office at a number you trust.

From: KSC Eco-Reps
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 10:36 AM
To: Mari Brunner
Cc: Amanda Rotigliano
Subject: Keene State College Eco Reps Earth Day Celebration

Hello Mari,

I am reaching out on behalf of Keene State College Eco-Reps, which is an on-campus organization dedicated to promoting sustainability to the campus. On Friday, April 17th from 12-3 pm (with setup beginning at 11:30 am), we are hosting an Earth Day Celebration on the Keene State College campus at Oya Hill. There will be off-campus organizations who will table, with sustainability and the mission of their organization in mind. The Eco-Reps' table will feature plants, information about how students can live more sustainably on campus, and some earth day game.

We would like to invite you to collaborate with us at our Earth Day Celebration! Your organization's presence would add value to our event through education and engagement with students. Please respond to this email invitation to RSVP. Additionally, if you could describe the educational/promotional materials or activities you'll have at your table that would help us advertise this event. Let us know if you have any questions or would like more information.

Thank you for your consideration and hope to see you there,

Amanda Rotigliano



EVENTS

2026 Monadnock Region Earth Festival

April 25 @ 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Join us for the 2026 Monadnock Region Earth Festival to celebrate our community's commitment to preserving and sustaining our planet and healthy living for all!

Festivities will be happening in and around the store, along the bike path, and Railroad Square!

Farmer's market style festival with vendors and educational opportunities!

BBQ from MFC's Prepared Foods Team!

Enjoy Live Music from Local Bands!

Green Up Keene with The Board of Directors

DETAILS

Date:

April 25 (2026-04-25)

Time:

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Event Categories:

Board of Directors, Co-op Event, Community Event



From: [Frank Richter](#)
To: [Megan Fortson](#)
Subject: Will Keene sign a letter to extend municipal net metering?
Date: Monday, February 16, 2026 9:30:12 AM

Megan,

Clean Energy NH has identified a bill currently before the NH State Legislature that directly affects Keene's ability to invest in municipal solar.

Would you ask your Select Board or City Council to consider signing on to the attached letter in support of [SB538](#)? This bill ensures 20 years of net metering credits for solar projects that serve political subdivisions (towns, cities, counties, school districts, other governmental entities).

We are hosting a **Virtual Lunch Hour** for municipal officials and committee members next Thursday to learn about SB538 and answer questions. We'd love to see you there and will follow up with a link to the recording.

Thursday, February 19, 12pm - 1pm

Click here to join by Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87282442699>

Meeting ID: 872 8244 2699

One tap mobile +16469313860,,87282442699#

Why This Matters

1. **Solar is a good investment for NH towns.** Many NH communities already rely on municipal solar to generate predictable revenue and savings, budget relief, and long-term cost control for taxpayers.
2. **Municipalities rely on net metering to make solar financially feasible.**
 - Net metering allows towns to get credit for any excess energy sent back to the grid (e.g. a excess energy produced on a sunny day offsets energy used on a cloudy day).
 - Group net metering allows towns to share excess energy with other electric meters (e.g. a municipality could oversize a solar array at the transfer station and share those energy credits with the fire station across town).

Here's the problem: Under current rules, net metering credits are only guaranteed through 2040.

Long term net metering uncertainty is **particularly problematic for the many municipal solar projects that rely on outside financing** (e.g., when a town leases land to a solar developer, collects lease and tax payments, and purchases power at a fixed rate). Right now, **uncertainty in state policy is preventing many such projects from moving forward.**

SB538 guarantees 20 years of net metering credits for municipal solar projects. Specifically: SB538 guarantees that municipal group net-metering projects serving only political subdivisions (e.g. towns, schools, and counties) will remain eligible for net-metering tariffs for a full 20 years from when they began receiving compensation, rather than having eligibility end in 2040.

Please read the attached letter for more examples and context.

What You Can Do

1. A Formal Vote Is Ideal

The strongest signal is a vote by a municipal governing body (e.g., Select Board, City Council), authorizing participation in the sign-on letter.

If helpful, here is **sample motion language** you are welcome to adapt:

To authorize the Chair of the Select Board to sign, on behalf of the Town of [Name of Municipality] a letter in support of SB538 (2026), relative to extending net metering eligibility terms for municipal energy projects.

If your board prefers slightly different wording, that's completely fine—the key thing is a clear vote authorizing the signature.

2. Energy Committees Can Sign On, Too!

Local Energy Committees and Commissions are also welcome to sign the attached letter. If you go this route, CENH strongly encourages Energy Committees to:

1. Notify your Select Board or City Council that you are doing so, and
2. Share the letter and background with them so they are aware of the issue and the committee's position.

That coordination helps ensure local elected officials are not surprised when the issue comes up at the State House—and it strengthens our overall message to lawmakers. We have seen instances in which energy committee volunteers have gotten out ahead of their select board, and have been removed from their energy committee as a result.

3. Let Your Legislators Know This Matters Locally

In addition to signing the letter, we strongly recommend that at least one local official (Select Board member, councilor, or committee chair) reach out directly to your State Representative or local Delegation. Even a short note is effective. For example:

"As a municipal official in [Town], I want to flag SB538 as important to our community. Community-scale solar projects can deliver real tax revenue and energy savings for municipalities, but uncertainty around net-metering terms is stopping projects from moving forward. We hope you'll support SB538 as a practical, pro-municipal fix."

Hearing directly from local officials—especially those responsible for budgets and tax rates—makes a real difference. You can do this in a short email, but a brief phone call can be even better. If you're uncertain who your local representative is or how to contact them, [you can find that information here](#).

Next Steps

1. Please let us know whether or not your municipality or committee plans to sign on,
2. If so, tell us who the authorized signer will be, so the final letter accurately reflects your participation.

We intend to compile the final letter with all signatories listed by March 26, 2026 (the date of "Crossover," by which time SB538 will have moved to the NH House of Representatives from the NH Senate).

We're happy to answer questions, provide additional background, or help think through how this fits with

projects your community has explored or considered.

Thank you for all the work you do on behalf of your community, and for considering adding your voice to this effort.

Best regards,

Frank Richter | Energy Circuit Rider

[Clean Energy NH | Energy Circuit Rider Program](#)

Check out our new Community Resources webpage

125 N. State Street

Concord, NH 03301

Senator Kevin Avard, Chair
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
New Hampshire State House
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Support for SB538 – Ensuring Long-Term Value for Municipal Renewable Energy Projects

Dear Chairman Avard and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the undersigned communities, we write in strong support of SB538, which extends a 20-year term of eligibility in the net metering 2.0 tariff for “municipal group hosts” and other political subdivision energy projects. Net metering is the cornerstone of the economics of these projects because it allows project owners to get credit for the excess energy they send back to the grid. Without a guarantee that they’ll continue to receive compensation at a predictable rate after 2040, banks, investors, and developers are reluctant to build these projects. For New Hampshire municipalities, school districts, and counties, local renewable energy generation delivers predictable revenue and savings, budget relief, and long-term cost control for taxpayers.

For example, a 5 MW AC solar array is currently under construction in Concord and will supply power to multiple state, school, and municipal facilities signed on as “offtakers” for the project. During its first 15 years in operation, this project will offset over \$1 Million in state and municipal electricity costs, generate more than \$1 Million in new tax revenue for the City of Concord, and invest over \$1 million in local electrical grid improvements. The project will also generate lease income for the private property owner providing the site for this project.

These benefits are not speculative. They are stable, predictable, measurable, and flow directly into municipal budgets, school operating costs, and the local economy. This has a direct benefit for local tax-payers.

The net metering 2.0 tariff for “municipal group hosts” allows a municipality, school district, county, or other political subdivision to build a renewable energy project on one site and use some of that generated power to offset electricity bills at other public facilities. On a small scale, this means an oversized array on the roof of a town hall can generate power for the fire station across town. On a large scale, multiple communities can collaborate to establish a single multi-megawatt solar array rather than multiple smaller arrays, as in the Concord example cited above. Projects can be located on public or private land, as long as the energy is credited to electric meters owned by political subdivisions.

However, uncertainty around how long projects are eligible to receive net metering compensation is fast becoming the single largest barrier to more municipal renewable energy projects like these going forward.

As documented in [testimony submitted by Clean Energy NH in support of SB538](#), solar developers have already abandoned at least 274 MW of large scale solar projects in New Hampshire, and 12 solar companies have exited

the state entirely due to the lack of bankable term certainty. With no guarantee of how compensation after 2040 will be structured and a shrinking payback period, banks and developers are unwilling to invest in these projects.

The result of this lack of certainty represents a lost opportunity on the order of 40–50 large scale projects statewide. For New Hampshire communities, that means \$120-\$150 Million in lost municipal property tax revenue, lease income for landowners, and electricity savings.

For the communities listed below, and for municipalities across New Hampshire, this bill is about protecting local revenue, reducing long-term energy costs, and ensuring that more viable projects can proceed for the benefit of taxpayers.

We respectfully urge the Committee to recommend SB538, Ought to Pass, and to give municipalities the clarity they need to responsibly plan, finance, and benefit from local energy projects.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

On behalf of the [Governing Body or Energy Committee]

[Municipality Name]

[Name]

[Title]

On behalf of the [Governing Body or Energy Committee]

[Municipality Name]

[Name]

[Title]

On behalf of the [Governing Body or Energy Committee]

[Municipality Name]

[Name]

[Title]

On behalf of the [Governing Body or Energy Committee]

[Municipality Name]