

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

9:00 AM

**2nd Floor Conference Room,
City Hall**

Members Present:

Gordon Leverage, Chair
Maureen Nebenzahl, Vice Chair
Councilor Bryan Lake
Lisa Maxfield
Paul Roth
Steve Larmon
Timothy Murphy
Jake Pipp, Alternate
Charles Redfern, Alternate
Catherine Koning, Alternate
Rowland Russell, Alternate (Voting)
Matthew Boulton, Alternate

Staff Present:

Megan Fortson, Planner
Emily Duseau, Planning Technician

Members Not Present:

Annu Joshi Bargale
Clair Oursler

1) Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice Chair Nebenzahl called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Roll call was performed and Dr. Russell was invited to join the meeting as a voting member.

2) Sustainability Coordinator Position – Letter of Support & Budget Info

Megan Fortson, Planner, explained the budgeting related to the proposed creation of a full-time Sustainability Coordinator position. She noted that Community Development Staff are hoping that the Committee will authorize Chair Leverage to write a letter of support for the position that can be shared with the Finance, Organization, & Personnel (FOP) Committee ahead of the Community Development Department’s budget discussion at the May 12th FOP meeting.

Vice Chair Nebenzahl made a motion to authorize Chair Leverage to write a letter of support in favor of the proposed Sustainability Coordinator position. Dr. Larmon seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

3) 2026 Earth Day Outreach Materials – Reimbursement

Ms. Fortson explained that Planning Staff have had purchased paint markers and rocks to use at the April 17th Earth Day Event at Keene State College as well as the Earth Fest Event in Railroad Square on April 25th. City Staff are hoping the Committee would be willing to put \$100 of their budget towards covering the cost of these materials.

A motion to expend \$100 of the ECC's budget on outreach materials for Earth Day events was made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Dr. Larmon. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Lake and Mr. Roth arrived at 9:25 AM.

4) 2025 Master Plan – Presentation & Guided Discussion

Ms. Fortson and Emily Duseau, Planning Technician, provided the Energy & Climate Committee members with a brief presentation about the 2025 Comprehensive Master Plan. Following the presentation, members discussed their goals for the upcoming year related to the Master Plan.

5) Sustainable Energy Plan – Presentation & Guided Discussion

Ms. Fortson and Ms. Duseau then provided the Committee members with a brief presentation concerning the Sustainable Energy Plan adopted by the City in 2021. Following the presentation, discussion ensued amongst members about how this plan could be used to inform the Committee's future work.

Mr. Redfern left the meeting at 10:47 AM.

6) Work Group Discussion – Structure & Responsibilities

Chair Leversee explained that the final portion of the retreat would be focused on discussing the Committee's current workgroups and evaluating whether policy, resilience, and outreach were still the right overarching topics for the Committee to focus on over the course of the next year. Discussion ensued about this topic. ECC members decided that for the coming year, the work groups would remain the same; however, two new projects related to creating a communication plan and benchmarking metrics for a dashboard would be a focus for the group.

7) Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 4:30 PM

8) Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Leversee adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Megan A. Fortson, AICP – Planner

Reviewed and edited by,
Emily Duseau – Planning Technician