



ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE (ECC)

AGENDA

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

4:30 PM

City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
2. **Approval of Minutes** – September 23, 2026
3. **2027 Energy & Climate Committee Chair**
4. **Local Energy Solutions Conference, November 12th** – Additional Tickets
5. **Membership Updates**
6. **Clean Energy Team Climate Café** – Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 6:30 pm in Cohen Hall at Keene Public Library
7. **Button Up Workshop** – Wednesday, November 4th at 6 pm at the Keene Rec Center
8. **Work Groups**
 - a. Policy (*Meets as needed*)
 - b. Resilience
 - c. Outreach
9. **Monthly Communication Topics**
10. **Staff Updates**
11. **New Business**
12. **Next Meeting:** **Monday**, November 23, 2026 at 4:30 pm

Link to ECC Google Drive Folder:

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

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

**Wednesday, September 23, 2026 4:30 PM 2nd Floor Conference Room,
City Hall**

Members Present:

Gordon Leverage, Chair
Maureen Nebenzahl, Vice Chair
Councilor Bryan Lake
Steven Larmon (Arrived at 4:42 pm)
Timothy Murphy
Matthew Boulton, Alternate (Voting)
Rowland Russell, Alternate (Voting)
Jacob Pipp, Alternate (Voting)
Catherine Koning, Alternate (Voting)

Staff Present:

Megan Fortson, Planner & Deputy Zoning
Administrator

Members Not Present:

Annu Joshi Bargale
Lisa Maxfield
Paul Roth

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Leverage called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. Roll call was conducted and Alternate committee members including Mr. Matthew Boulton, Mr. Rowland Russell, Mr. Jacob Pipp, and Dr. Catherine Koning were invited to participate in the meeting as voting members.

Dr. Steven Larmon arrived at 4:42 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes – August 26, 2026

Mr. Pipp made a motion to adopt the August 26, 2026 Energy & Climate Committee (ECC) meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Lake and was approved unanimously.

3. Monadnock Clean Energy Fair Recap

Chair Leverage provided a recap of the Monadnock Clean Energy Fair, which was held Saturday, September 19th at the Keene Rec Center. He said that the event went well and the ECC table was set up inside of the Rec Center. A solar energy survey was handed out to people attending the event and a total of 24 responses were received. Another dozen people stopped by the booth to discuss solar. Respondents were entered into a raffle for a solar battery charger.

Chair Leversee said that he tallied the responses from the survey, which yielded the following results:

- 6 respondents were current solar users; 12 said that they would consider utilizing solar in the future
- Reasons for not currently using solar included questions about the actual long-term savings and the up-front cost
- Motivations for people currently using solar included environmental concerns as well as cost-savings on utility bills
- 23 out of the 24 survey respondents owned single-family homes and 1 rented a single-family home
- Most respondents stated that they receive information about solar from installation companies and friends/family
- The most beneficial information that could be provided for homeowners considering solar are tax incentives, information about upfront costs/savings, and installation/maintenance information.

Mr. Matt Boulton mentioned that ReVision Energy now offers a financing program where customers can pay for their solar installation over time, thereby lowering the upfront costs for homeowners. Chair Leversee stated that he also spoke to event attendees who have an interest in balcony solar, although this type of product requires the installation of special outlets. He said that individuals he spoke to would be more inclined to invest in solar if there were cost savings opportunities versus just based on hearing the success stories of others who have installed it. Mr. Boulton also mentioned PREP, the Peterborough Renewable Energy Project. He stated that the Committee may want to keep an eye on this initiative to see if they have an interest in creating something similar in the future.

4. 2026 Local Energy Solutions Conference – Thursday, November 12, 2026 from 9am-4pm in Manchester, NH

Ms. Fortson stated that the 2026 Local Energy Solutions Conference hosted by Clean Energy NH is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2026 from 9am-4pm at the DoubleTree Hotel in Manchester. Three ECC members including Jake Pipp, Catherine Koning, and Matt Boulton expressed an interest in attending. Ms. Fortson said that she would send out an email to see if any other ECC members not present at the meeting were interested in attending. She said that the Committee is granted two free tickets as part of their annual Clean Energy NH membership; however, the group could make a motion to spend money from the Committee's on purchasing additional tickets.

5. Community Power Plan Updates – Finance, Organization, & Personnel Committee Meeting on Thursday, September 24th at 6pm

Ms. Fortson reminded Committee members that the Finance, Organization, & Personnel (FOP) Committee would be discussing the proposed updates to the Community Power Plan at their next meeting on Thursday, September 24th. She said that the group would make a recommendation

back to Council regarding whether they should adopt the updated plan, so she recommends that ECC members attend to speak in favor of the proposed changes, if possible. Chair Leversee confirmed that he was planning to attend.

6. Community Power Mailer

Ms. Fortson stated that she added this as a standing item to the meeting agenda. She was unsure if she would be the one working on the mailer or if it would be the Assistant Sustainability Planner once they've been hired; however, she said that City Staff would be working on this in the background and provide updates to the ECC as they become available.

7. Clean Energy Team Proclamation

Dr.. Catherine Koning stated that she spoke to former members of the Clean Energy Team about the possibility of receiving a proclamation. The general consensus was that they would be amenable to a proclamation if it would help publicize the City's clean energy goals. She explained that they felt the proclamation could be coupled with other notable changes, such as having the new Assistant Sustainability Planner begin their time with the City. Dr. Koning stated that maybe an event could be held at the new Monadnock Conservancy building on Ashuelot St.

Ms. Fortson added that another option would be to include the Clean Energy Team, Monadnock Sustainability Hub, the ECC, and other local sustainability organizations in an Earth Month Proclamation in April 2027. Rowland Russell stated that the Committee should look into getting a tour of the new Conservancy Building at a future meeting. Ms. Fortson said that she could look into this and Dr. Larmon said that he was a former member of the Board and could contact folks at the Conservancy as well.

8. Work Groups

a. *Policy (Meets as needed)*

There was no discussion regarding the Policy work group.

b. *Resilience*

Dr. Russell said that the Resilience Work Group had met and focused primarily on discussing heating and cooling centers. He explained that they are looking to obtain a copy of the Emergency Management Plan from 2018 and are still in the information-gathering phase of their efforts. He stated that based on their research and conversations so far, there seems to be an increased need for overnight cooling centers. Dr. Larmon stated that in his research, he has found that Nashua seems to have the best program for heating centers, one of which was set up in a vacant school. He stated that he also wants to see what is in the Emergency Management Plan from 2018. He's also curious about the liability that comes with creating a heating/cooling center, especially for those individuals who are unhoused. At this point, they are trying to identify potential barriers and concerns. Chair Leversee said that he likes the idea of trying to bring cooling to people in their homes. Mr. Tim Murphy clarified that the work group was trying

to focus on emergency situations versus make sure that people have regular access to heating/cooling in their home.

Dr. Russell went on to state that he would also like to explore flood storage loss that may have occurred in the City over time due to development. He stated that the airport has lost flood storage and he is curious if any previous studies have been done of available flood storage capacity in the City. Has there been a loss regionally?

c. Outreach

Dr. Koning said that the Outreach Work Group had not met this month.

9. Monthly Communication Topics

The group discussed the potential of distributing the survey results collected at the Clean Energy Fair as part of a future communication. Members also discussed including links to available resources including but not limited to NH Saves and the Monadnock Sustainability Hub. They discussed the potential for these communications to be sent out monthly. Mr. Murphy thought it would be prudent for the Committee to brainstorm a list of topics and Dr. Koning proposed using the Local Energy Solutions Conference as a topic. Chair Leversee said that conference attendees could provide the Committee with a report-out that could be shared.

10. Staff Updates

Ms. Fortson explained that the regular minute taker, Katie Kibler, had accepted a full-time position with a new employer. While she would still work as a minute-taker for the City for the higher-profile boards, such as City Council, she would no longer be able to serve as the minute-taker for the ECC. Moving forward, Ms. Fortson explained that she would be the minute taker for the Committee until a replacement was found.

11. New Business

There was no new business discussed.

12. Next Meeting: October 28, 2026 at 4:30 pm

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Leversee adjourned the meeting at 5:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Megan A. Fortson, AICP – Planner & Deputy Zoning Administrator

Reviewed and edited by,
Corinne Chaisson, Administrative Assistant



2026 Local Energy Solutions (LES) Conference

C by Clean Energy NH
323 followers • 170 events • 5y hosting • 8k total attendees

Follow

📍 DoubleTree Center · Manchester, NH
📅 Thursday, November 12 • 10 AM - 4 PM

Overview

[Read less](#)

Good to know

Highlights

Defund Believ

From \$161.90
Thu, Nov 12 • 10 AM

Get tickets

From: Catherine Koning
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 11:40 AM
To: Megan Fortson
Subject: ECC announcement

Hi Megan,
Can you send this to the ECC members? Thanks!
-Catherine Koning

From: Catherine Koning
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 11:38 AM
To: Lynx Koning
Subject: Please add this post to CET website - Thanks!

Clean Energy Team Climate Cafe
Wed. Oct. 28, 6:30, Cohen Hall, Keene Public Library

Clean Energy and Climate Policy - Election Outcomes

Rob Werner, State Director of the League of Conservation Voters, will guide us in a discussion of the most impactful clean energy and climate policy changes needed in NH, and how the 2026 mid-terms will affect the legislative landscape in New Hampshire. We will also consider last minute clean energy messaging we can share through email, social media or actual conversations prior to election day.

PRESS RELEASE

With the costs of heating oil and electricity going through the roof (literally!), many homeowners will benefit from learning how to save energy. The annual “Button Up” workshop shows people what they can do to reduce energy costs, and how they can get help paying for it! The workshop is happening Wed. Nov. 4, at 6 pm in the Keene Recreation Center at 312 Washington St.

This free event is hosted by the Keene Energy and Climate Committee and Clean Energy Team. The event is sponsored by NHSaves and coordinated statewide by the Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (PAREI).

The NHSaves Button Up Workshop is a 1.5 hour presentation plus Q&A about how to improve the energy efficiency of your home. It is conducted by a certified energy auditor and covers basic building science principles and weatherization measures that will button up your home for the heating and cooling seasons. It also covers details about the energy efficiency programs that provide cost-sharing energy audits, weatherization measures such as air sealing and insulating, and rebates on new technologies and products such as electric and gas appliances and high efficiency electric heating/cooling equipment.

For questions about the Keene NHSaves Button Up, email Dee Robbins at ms.deerobbins@gmail.com.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR #1 INVESTMENT

Attend a NO-COST Home Energy Workshop



NHSaves ButtonUP
your home | your comfort | your savings

Take the first step to add more comfort and value to your home.

Understand how your home functions as it relates to energy efficiency and what you can do to increase your in-home comfort while saving money and energy.

Learn about:

- Electricity savings
- Utility incentives
- Rebates on electric and gas appliances
- Home Energy Performance program
- Insulation and air sealing
- Energy audit and weatherization programs

Presented by Andy Duncan, Energy Trainer

Wednesday, November 4, 2026
6:00–7:30 P.M.

Keene Recreation Center
Room 14
312 Washington Street
Keene, New Hampshire

LOCAL PARTNERS:
Keene Energy and Climate Committee
The Clean Energy Team

Workshop Details At



PAREI
Plymouth Area
Renewable Energy
Initiative
P.O. Box 112
902 Main Street
Plymouth, NH 03254
plymouthenergy.org/button-up

ButtonUP workshops sponsored by

