



CITY OF CONCORD
New Hampshire's Main Street™
41 Green Street, Concord NH 03301
(603) 225-8570

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CONCORD ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CEEAC)
MEETING MINUTES
December 11, 2024 @ 6:30PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
37 GREEN STREET, Concord NH 03301

Attendees:

- Committee Members:
- Rob Werner, Chair
 - Councilor Stacey Brown
 - Nick Babladelis
 - Carl Cooley
 - Dot Currier
 - Gerald Eaton
 - Miriah King
 - Chuck Willing

Absent Members:

- Councilor Jeffrey Foote
- Allen Desbiens
- Jeffrey Evans

Staff Present:

- Beth Fenstermacher, PLA, LEED AP, Director of Special Projects & Strategic Initiatives
- Stephanie McKim, Administrative Coordinator

Public:

- Joe Kwasnik

1. **Welcome by Chair Werner:** Chair Werner welcomed those in attendance. Members of the Committee and City staff were introduced.
2. **Adoption of Minutes:** A motion was made by Councilor Brown and duly seconded by Mr. Cooley to adopt the minutes of October 25, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Municipal Project Updates**

I. Solar Project at Landfill (Kearsarge Solar)

Ms. Fenstermacher reports Kearsarge Solar and engineers are revising their permit documents based on D.E.S. comments. Construction is expected to commence in Spring 2025. Ms. Fenstermacher reported that the City Assessor is continuing to work on the PILOT agreement.

Discussion ensued about the revisions requested by D.E.S and net metering.

1
2 **II. West Portsmouth Street Solar Project (Lodestar)**
3

4 The Lodestar facility proposed for West Portsmouth Street is awaiting its permit from the
5 Department of Environmental Services. Construction may not commence until Spring 2025. Ms.
6 Fenstermacher reported that they have requested a PILOT agreement and the City Assessor and
7 Solicitors office are continuing to work on the agreement.
8

9 **III. Wastewater Treatment Plant Solar Project**

10 The 84-kilowatt solar generator at the Waste Water Treatment facility on Hall Street did not go live in
11 November, as expected. Ms. Fenstermacher reports it is expected to go live within days. Once the
12 facility goes live, an announcement with a dashboard will be added to the City website.
13

14 **4. COMMUNITY POWER**

15 **I. Community Power Coalition Policy Update**
16

17
18 Mr. Willing distributed a five-page document titled *Community Power Report to CEEAC (December*
19 *11, 2024)*. Mr. Willing reports that in November, for the first time, Concord residents received
20 their Unitil or Eversource bills showing Concord Community Power as the energy supplier on
21 their bill. Mr. Willing informed the committee that Concord is now included in the Community
22 Power Coalition of NH's (CPCNH) Opt Actions and Product Election Report.
23

24 Discussion ensued about the CPCNH Opt Actions and Product Election Report, net metering
25 benefits, and community power.
26

27 Mr. Willing then discussed the CPCNH Community Benefit Report (current as of September 30)
28 and informed the Committee future versions of the CPCNH Community Benefit Report will
29 show Concord's cumulative customer savings and community benefits (Concord's share of
30 CPCNH's Joint Reserves) now that the program has launched in October 2024. Mr. Willing
31 discussed the Community Benefit data will show a negative value for most of 2025. This reflects
32 the fact that CPCNH has to pay for Concord's power before receiving revenue from Concord rate
33 payers and so Concord will have a net negative contribution to the joint reserves for a period of
34 time until that catches up.
35

36 Discussion ensued about the option to build discretionary reserves (via a Concord-specific
37 adder, currently not in place) for future energy projects.
38

39 Mr. Willing suggests CEEAC should plan future informational session to continually inform the
40 community about how community power works and discuss any new program updates.
41

42 Mr. Willing informed the committee that the utilities and CPCNH will have new rates for the
43 period from February 1, 2025 through July 31, 2025 and these new rates will be decided in
44 December 2024. It is anticipated that the new utility rates will be much more competitive with
45 the CPCNH rates for this period. The CPCNH CEO Brian Callnan will recommend new CPCNH
46 rates to the CPCNH Risk Management and Finance Committees on December 20. Those
47 Committees will then make a recommendation to the CPCNH Board of Directors, who will make
48 a final decision at a meeting on December 30.
49

50 Under CPCNH rules, member communities need to notify CPCNH before each rate period if they
51 wish to use a default rate other than Granite Basic. Ms. Fenstermacher suggested the committee
52 recommend a default product for Concord to the City Authorized Representative (City Manager)
53 Thomas Aspell, Jr. Concord's current default product is Granite Plus. Mr. Aspell will be asked to

1 consider this recommendation, and needs to sign a letter with Concord's election of default
2 product for the next rate period to CPCNH by December 30.

3
4 Discussion ensued about rates, impact of rate changes on the community, and the adder.

5
6 Mr. Babladelis motioned to recommend to the City Authorized Representative Tom Aspell at the
7 upcoming rate period, Concord Community Power program maintains its Granite Plus program
8 default service, recognizing that the CEEAC values the choice that residents have to opt down,
9 opt up, or opt out monthly, and the committee will continue to educate and communicate to
10 community efforts to maximize community savings and benefits. This motion was seconded by
11 Ms. King. The motion passed unanimously

12
13 Mr. Willing informed the committee that the Coalition is about to begin an annual solicitation
14 program for renewable energy. This program will go before the CPCNH Board of Directors at its
15 December 30 meeting and, if approved, should be implemented in March 2025.

16
17 Discussion ensued about renewable energy projects and credits.

18 19 **5. POLICY AND PROJECT UPDATES**

20 21 **I. New Hampshire Energy Expo**

22
23 Ms. King informed the committee the NH Energy Expo was success. The expo had over forty
24 vendors and an estimated 200 attendees. Volunteers for the next NH Energy Expo are
25 welcomed.

26 27 **II. CEEAC Strategic Planning**

28
29 Chair Werner confirmed the retreat is scheduled for January 11, 2025 at Rath, Young, and
30 Pignatelli Law Office from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Preliminary agenda for the work session will be
31 distributed by Chair Werner to the committee.

32
33 Discussion ensued about the 2019 strategic plan that has not been officially adopted by Council,
34 current initiatives of the City, future goals of the committee.

35 36 **III. UNH Sustainability Fellow (Summer, 2025)**

37
38 Chair Werner has been working with Ms. Fenstermacher to apply for the sustainability fellow
39 through UNH. Application was submitted December 10 and it is expected that this sustainability
40 fellow should begin Summer of 2025. The fellow will focus on green house gas reporting and
41 analyzing fleet electrification opportunities.

42 43 **IV. Earth Day Town Hall (April, 2025)**

44
45 Chair Werner reiterated earthday.org contacted the City Mayor. They have a template of ideas
46 and they are working with ICLEI USA to do a program around Earth Day 2025 that focuses on
47 lifting up what communities are doing. Chair Werner suggest the conversation around The
48 Earth Day 2025 include public engagement in what the City has accomplished and what the
49 committee is working on. He will be attending a virtual conversation with earthday.org and
50 ICLEI centered on Earth Day 2025 later this month.

51
52 Discussion ensued about ICLEI involvement, and further discussion in January.

53

1 **V. ICLEI USA Funding Opportunity**

2
3 Chair Werner and Ms. Fenstermacher were made aware that the City of Concord is eligible for
4 the ICLEI USA funding opportunity in early December. This funding is provided by a
5 partnership between ICLEI USA and the Coalition for Green Capital. This funding opportunity is
6 being further examined by both Ms. Fenstermacher and Chair Werner.

7
8 **VI. Weatherization/Solarization Program (Q1, 2025)**

9
10 Chair Werner suggests updating past information for this program and prepare to launch
11 program in March 2025.

12
13 Discussion ensued about funding from D.O.E. and E.P.A., heat pumps, and the funds should be
14 available in the summer/fall.

15
16 **6. Other Business:**

17
18 Ms. Fenstermacher inquired about a Clean Energy NH membership. The committee is not a
19 current member. The committee would like to become a member. Ms. Fenstermacher will
20 submit this to the budget for 2026 to add it in as a request as an ongoing membership.

21
22 A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Willing and duly seconded by Councilor Brown. The
23 motion passed unanimously.

24
25 **7. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

26
27 Respectfully Submitted,

28
29 Stephanie McKim

30 Administrative Coordinator - Development