



CITY OF CONCORD
New Hampshire's Main Street™
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CONCORD ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CEEAC)
MEETING MINUTES
February 03, 2025 @ 6:30PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
37 GREEN STREET, Concord NH 03301

Attendees:

Committee Members:

Rob Werner, Chair, Councilor Stacey Brown (arrived at 6:37), Nick Babladelis, Dot Currier, Allen Desbiens, Jeffrey Evans (arrived at 6:46), Gerald Eaton, Chuck Willing

Absent Members:

Councilor Jeffrey Foote
Carl Cooley
Miriah King

Staff Present:

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

- 1. **Welcome by Chair Werner:** Chair Werner welcomed those in attendance.
- 2. **Adoption of Minutes:** A motion was made by Mr. Eaton and duly seconded by Mr. Desbiens to adopt the minutes of December 11, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Municipal Project Updates

I. Solar Project at Landfill (Kearsarge Solar)

Ms. Fenstermacher reports Kearsarge Solar resubmitted permit documents and are working on finding an off taker for the additional capacity for the group net metering agreement. Chair Werner inquired about Merrimack County participation in this agreement. Ms. Fenstermacher stated the Merrimack County had expressed interest in participating but has since withdrawn due to a potential project of their own. Ms. Fenstermacher states the City will be reaching out to the State to inquire if there is capacity, and Merrimack Valley School 0(MVS) district as well. The City will reach out to other towns if the State or MVS district do not participate, as it is limited by the Unitil catchment area. Ms. Fenstermacher further stated that there is approximately 25% capacity for the off taker to pick up and an additional off taker is needed in order to obtain financing. Mr. Willing states the off taker must be a public entity due to the current state law.

Discussion ensued about timeline, group net metering agreement, capacity, and impacts on permitting and financing for the project.

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

4 Ms. Fenstermacher has no new information to report on West Portsmouth Street Solar Project
5 (Lodestar).
6

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

8 Ms. Fenstermacher reports the Waste Water Treatment Plant Solar Project is now live. The dashboard
9 is not active on the City website but should be soon.
10

11 **4. COMMUNITY POWER**
12

13 **I. Community Power Coalition Policy Update**
14

15 Mr. Willing distributed and reviewed a Community Power report to CEEAC dated February 3, 2025.
16 This report is attached.
17

18 Discussion ensued about the Community Power Coalition's contract with Calpine to provide
19 certain essential services, effect of rates on consumers, Eversource and Unitil rate comparisons,
20 a current bill at the legislature (HB760), Unitil's stranded cost charges approved by the Public
21 Utility Commission (PUC), and potential legal challenges of stranded cost charges passing to
22 consumers.
23

24 Chair Werner inquired about the City's position on Community Power Coalition's rate change.
25 Ms. Fenstermacher stated the City Council voted to join this program and there has never been
26 a guarantee the program rates will be the lowest. The purpose of joining the program was to
27 give residents more options.
28

29 Mr. Willing discussed communication of rate changes through op-ed pieces in the local
30 newspapers, social media, City Manager newsletter, and/or more public sessions.
31

32 Mr. Willing prepared a draft email on behalf of the committee to be on the record expressing
33 opposition against Unitil's stranded cost transferring to the consumer. Mr. Willing recommends
34 sending this email to the PUC, and the Unitil Chairman soon as Unitil is expected to file a
35 position with the PUC by February 14. He also requested that City Manager Aspell send a letter
36 to Unitil and the PUC on behalf of the City. Ms. Fenstermacher will follow up with Mr. Aspell.
37

38 A motion was made by Councilor Brown to authorize Chair Werner to submit the email to Unitil
39 and PUC on behalf of the EEAC and duly seconded by Mr. Evans. The motion passed
40 unanimously.
41

42 **5. POLICY AND PROJECT UPDATES**
43

44 **I. CEEAC Strategic Planning**
45

46 Chair Werner reviewed the priorities discussed at the CEEAC strategic planning held on January
47 11, 2025 at Rath, Young, and Pignatelli Law Office.
48

49 Chair Werner discussed committee priorities:
50

51 **A. Coordination with City Committees**

52 **a) Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC)**
53

- 1 b) Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
2 c) Tree Committee

3
4 B. Collaboration with Community Groups

- 5 a) Concord Greenspace
6 b) School District Sustainability Committee
7 c) Schools (public & privates) – student environmental committees

8
9 C. Build Social Media presence

- 10 a) Assess most effective platforms

11
12 D. Weatherize Concord

13
14 Chair Werner inquired about the city master plan update specific to the energy chapter and
15 timeframe. Ms. Fenstermacher stated the process to update the city-wide master plan is in the
16 budget to start in fiscal year 2026. It is estimated to be a two-year process and the specific time
17 frame for the energy chapter has yet to be determined.

18
19 Chair Werner discussed Municipal Energy Assessment and revisiting establishing a baseline of
20 Municipal energy efficiency measures and where the city currently stands with regards to
21 energy efficiency. Ms. Fenstermacher has been informed by General Services that all bulbs have
22 been replaced with LED in the City facilities. Any additional upgrades needed are larger
23 upgrades that are not currently in the budget. Ms. Fenstermacher suggest the Sustainability
24 fellow could assist with collecting information for this priority in the future as it will be
25 required for reporting.

26
27 Councilor Brown mentioned that the sustainability program at the high school has looked at
28 recent development projects at the City to suggest sustainability improvements. Councilor
29 Brown suggested having the students become more involved, including a tour the waste water
30 treatment plant and/or present their ideas to the committee. Councilor Brown will touch base
31 with the teacher that heads up the program and provide Ms. Fenstermacher's contact
32 information.

33
34 Chair Werner suggests the formation of two working groups within the committee to focus on
35 the following priorities:

- 36
37 • Community Power Adder – analysis and proposal development. Mr. Willing, Joe
38 Kwasnik, Mr. Desbiens, and Mr. Babladelis have been selected for this working
39 group.
40
41 • Earth Day – agenda development, community involvement and updates. Mr. Werner,
42 Ms. King, Councilor Brown, Ms. Currier, and Mr. Evans have been selected for this
43 working group.

44
45 Ms. Fenstermacher inquires if the committee would be interested in representatives from other
46 committees assisting with Earth Day preparations such as the Conservation Committee.
47 Discussion ensued regarding additional committees and potential involvement.

48
49 Chair Werner will call a meeting for the Earth Day working group and Mr. Willing will call a
50 meeting for the Community Power Adder working group.
51
52
53

1 **II. UNH Sustainability Fellow (Summer, 2025)**

2
3 Chair Werner informs the committee that Ms. Fenstermacher and Chair Werner will be involved
4 in interviews for the Sustainability Fellow towards the end of February.

5
6 **III. Earth Day Town Hall (April, 2025)**

7
8 Chair Werner states working groups have been established within the committee to prepare for
9 Earth Day 2025.

10
11 **IV. ICLEI USA Funding Opportunity**

12
13 Chair Werner and Ms. Fenstermacher reviewed eligibility for the ICLEI USA funding
14 opportunity and have determined that the timeline for application submission is unreasonably
15 close and requirements for funding is restrictive. Therefore, they will not be pursuing this
16 funding opportunity.

17
18 **V. Weatherization/Solarization Program (Q1, 2025)**

19
20 Chair Werner has no new information to report.

21
22 **6. Other Business:**

23
24 There is no new business.

25
26 A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Eaton and duly seconded by Councilor Brown. The
27 motion passed unanimously.

28
29 **7. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

30
31
32 Respectfully Submitted,

33
34 Stephanie McKim
35 Administrative Coordinator – Development

36
37

Concord Energy and Advisory Committee Priorities – 2025

- Reframe CEEAC Vision
- Update Energy Master Plan Chapter
- Municipal Energy Assessment (baseline updates)
- Weatherize Concord 2025
- 2025 UNH Sustainability Fellow
 - City Dashboard – GHG baselines
 - ClearPath tool – Students (Concord High School)
 - Municipal fleet assessment and plan
- Coordination with City Committees
 - Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC)
 - Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
 - Tree Committee
- Collaboration with Community Groups
 - Concord Greenspace
 - School District Sustainability Committee
 - Schools (public & privates) – student environmental committees
- Build Social Media presence
 - Assess most effective platforms
- Expand Public Outreach/Communication efforts
- Community Power
 - “Adder” analysis and proposal development – form subgroup
 - Programs in other communities – Nashua/other communities “Adder”
 - Municipal Challenge program
- State of New Hampshire Legislation
 - Clean Energy New Hampshire – City of Concord membership
 - Net Metering Expansion
 - CPCNH priority legislation
- Earth Day Community Conversation
 - Agenda development- form subgroup
 - Community Updates
 - Community Feedback