



LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LEAC)
FEBRUARY 15, 2024 - 4:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE

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- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. January 18, 2024
 - 3. Old Business**
 - A. Legislation/PUC Regulations/CPCNH/LCP updates
 - B. Landfill Gas to Energy Project
 - C. Municipal Solar
 - D. Rental Decarbonization Pilot Project
 - E. Water Energy Transfer (SHARC) Heat Recovery
 - F. EV Subcommittee Report
 - i. Draft City Workplace Charging Policy
 - G. City Master Plan- Energy Chapter Update
 - H. City Strategic Plan
 - 4. New Business**
 - A. Appoint Tom Benzel to LEAC EV Subcommittee
 - B. Discussion on Proposal for Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Application Endorsement
 - C. New Hampshire Net Metering Statute Changes
 - D. City Workplace Housing Development Project
 - E. LEAC Website
 - 5. Energy & Facilities Manager Report**
 - 6. Open to the Public**
 - 7. Upcoming Events**
 - A. Upper Valley Earth Day EV Expo: April 21st, noon-3pm in the Shaws parking lot, West Lebanon (Tentative)
 - 8. Future Agenda Items**
 - A. Strategic Plan
 - B. Master Plan Chapter 13
 - 9. Adjournment**

Lebanon Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee (LEAC) Agenda
February 15, 2024

Meetings are open for in-person and remote attendance. Members of the public that wish to attend remotely may do so by going to LebanonNH.gov/Live where you will find instructions on how to enter the meeting. Members of the public will be able to participate and ask questions through the City's virtual platform or by phone. Please note: Should technical difficulties occur during the meeting that disrupts virtual or phone connection(s), the meeting will continue without remote access capabilities.

AGENDA
LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE(LEAC)
February 15, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 2
APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 18, 2024

DRAFT

**LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
4:00PM, THURSDAY JANUARY 18, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Bromberg (Chair), Jon Chaffee (Vice Chair), Woody Rothe, Clifton Below (City Council Rep.), Sherry Boschert (REMOTE), James Mashal (REMOTE)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Devin Wilkie (Alt. Council Rep), Meghan Butts (alt)

STAFF ABSENT: Tad Montgomery (Energy & Facilities Manager)

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Benzel

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bromberg called the meeting to order at 4:08pm.

Ms. Boschert said she is attending remotely because of family health (COVID) issues.

Mr. Mashal said he was attending remotely because he had work commitments immediately prior to the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 21, 2023

A MOTION was made by Jon Chaffee December 21, 2023, Meeting Minutes as amended. The Motion was seconded by Woody Rothe.

Amendments: Page 5, Line 10: Delete the two sentences following “community power.”

** The Vote on the Motion was approved: (Roll Call: 6-0 – Rothe: aye; Chaffee: aye; Below: aye; Bromberg: aye; Boschert: aye; Mashal: aye).*

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Legislation/PUC Regulations/CPCNH Updates

Mr. Below said membership in CPCNH will grow to 55 members after the next board meeting. He said it will soon represent about 30% of the state’s population.

He explained that House Bill 1600, which will be heard on January 29 at 2pm, would make clear that municipal hosts under group net metering (generators up to 5 megawatts) could be used to offset the load of community power aggregations, if the generator is a customer of the community power aggregation. He said, if passed, the bill would open up potential projects (up to five megawatts) that could be selling their output to serve Community Power communities’ electric loads.

1 He said at the January 28 meeting, the Board approved the CPCNH support of several
2 pieces of legislation. He said the issues that they were facing were resolved surprisingly
3 quickly thanks to support from key state representatives. He said he felt they were
4 making progress on the legislative front.

5
6 Mr. Below said he used the concept that Mr. Rothe and Mr. Chafee worked on, which is
7 on the Sustainability Fellows website at UNH, to help develop an application for an
8 ambitious community benefit plan that will target disadvantaged communities through
9 the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership funding program.

10
11 Mr. Below said there has not been a lot of progress in the hiring of a person to run a
12 publicity campaign, but there are several contract hires of the Coalition that are helping
13 with community engagement. He said there is an opportunity to use Lebanon's social
14 media sites to announce that Lebanon Community Power is lowering its rates as of
15 February 1.

16 17 **B. Landfill Gas to Energy Updates**

18 Mr. Montgomery said Erica Douglas said they will be breaking ground on this project
19 in the spring. He said they did receive their amended air quality permit that allows them
20 to remove catalytic converters from the system's design. He said Ms. Douglas said they
21 expect to receive the utilities' interconnect permit by July 20, 2024.

22 23 **C. Municipal Solar Updates**

24 Mr. Montgomery reviewed the 2023 Lebanon Municipal Solar Production chart
25 included in the materials in the meeting agenda packet. He said the database does not
26 include net export details for the Valley Cemetery and Civic Memorial Fieldhouse
27 buildings because of a lack of Wi-Fi connection to those buildings until late in the year.
28 He reviewed a graph of the same data that was also included in the meeting materials
29 packet.

30 31 **D. Rental Decarbonization/Utility Burden/Sustainability Fellow Update**

32 Vice Chair Chaffee said he attended a meeting on January 16 with NH DES, who
33 shared some of the methodology they intend to put into their planning grant for
34 measuring the output or savings garnered from weatherization programs. He said they
35 would not commit to including a pilot program in Lebanon in their implementation
36 grant application but would discuss it with DES management. He said they are looking
37 for projects around the state they can bundle together and implement. He said they did
38 have a lot of helpful suggestions. He said the decision about whether Lebanon will
39 make an application will not be decided until the end of January 2024. He said they
40 should learn something from NH DES before their February meeting. Vice Chair
41 Chaffee said he did not hear that anyone was interested in becoming a Sustainability
42 Fellow, but there may be candidates to interview.

43
44 [Chair Bromberg introduced Mr. Tom Benzel, who he said is interested in becoming a member
45 of LEAC.]
46

E. Water Energy Technology SHARC Heat Recovery

Chair Bromberg said representatives are scheduled to visit February 5 or 6. He said the sales rep will focus on the DPW garage and get an idea of the Taylor Street project. He said he met with LedgeWorks regarding their village market redevelopment. He said that the company will probably be interested in speaking with the SHARC representative also.

Mr. Montgomery said Fire Chief Wheatley said the timing does not seem right for the new fire station to participate in a WET district energy program. Mr. Montgomery said he asked that the fire station's heating system could be designed so this type of system might be connected to in the future.

[Mr. Montgomery spoke about the Strategic Plan item next, which was out of the order of the agenda.]

G. Lebanon Strategic Plan – Input from LEAC

Mr. Montgomery said that the City Manager had asked LEAC to make recommendations or action items that could be added to the City's Strategic Plan. He asked committee members to give comments to him so he can put them together for final review at the next meeting. He said that DPW has been asked to get the finalized list to administration by March 1.

Vice Chair Chafee suggested the following:

- Weatherization
- Code update
- An additional goal besides 80% reduction
- Hydroplant at the base of the Mascoma River

The group discussed these ideas. Mr. Below said the administration is asking LEAC to review the items in the strategic plan and see what should be updated or if anything new should be added.

H. City Master Plan-Energy Chapter Update

No update

F. EV Subcommittee Report

Ms. Boschert said she is excited to have Mr. Benzel join the EV Subcommittee.

She said she was notified that the city did not receive the CFI grant. She said a Maine group received \$15 million. She said her team will be looking at the entities that did receive money to learn how and why they were successful. She said the Electrification Coalition is having a webinar on this topic later in January. She said the committee is inquiring into why it did not receive the grant and considering whether it should re-apply for the second round of funding, or seek alternative foundation grants, etc.

1 She said there is a Drive Electric Earth Month event being planned for April 20 or 21
2 (tentative dates). She said they would like to have it in the Shaw's parking lot in West
3 Lebanon because there is a new charging station being installed by Rivian in that lot.

4
5 She said Fire Chief Wheatley said the new fire station plans include areas for two
6 outdoor EV chargers with the possibility to add more in the future. She said he said they
7 are incorporating EV charging technology to charge electric fire trucks once they are
8 available.

9
10 She said the team reviewed the Lebanon Fleet Electrification policy, which has been
11 adopted. She said Mr. Montgomery can get the committee members copies of the
12 policy. She said they need to create an EV infrastructure plan for the city. She said she
13 will contact Mr. Montgomery to discuss that idea in more detail.

14
15 ***A MOTION was made by Sherry Boschert that the Lebanon Energy Advisory***
16 ***Committee (LEAC) agrees to be the official sponsor of a Drive Electric Earth Day***
17 ***event in Lebanon or West Lebanon to be organized by Sherry Boschert and other***
18 ***volunteers. The MOTION was seconded by Clifton Below.***

19
20 Ms. Boschert said she would advise City Manager Mulholland that LEAC will sponsor
21 the event. She also said the location of the event may wind up being on City property
22 because they need insurance to hold it in the Shaw's parking lot.

23
24 **** The Vote on the Motion was approved: (Roll Call: 6-0 - Rothe: aye; Chaffee: aye;***
25 ***Bromberg: aye; Below: aye; Mashal: aye; Boschert: aye).***

26
27 Mr. Below noted that Emerson Place now has three EV chargers. Ms. Boschert said she
28 noted that the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission's long-range
29 transportation plan includes a map of area/local EV chargers. She said the map is
30 somewhat incomplete or misleading because it does not indicate that some of the EV
31 chargers listed are not open to the public.

32 33 **4. NEW BUSINESS**

34 35 **A. NHDES climate Action Plan Listening Sessions**

36 Mr. Montgomery said there is a listening session planned for January 25 from 5:30-
37 7:00pm at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center at 152 South Street in
38 Claremont. He said it is an opportunity to get local input on the state's Climate Action
39 Plan. He encouraged LEAC members to attend.

40 41 **B. Collaboration with Regional Organizations for Greater Focus and Impact**

42 Chair Bromberg said he has learned so much about local organizations doing great work
43 independently. He suggested it might be beneficial to work together. The group
44 discussed past collaborative efforts with groups in the area.

C. LEAC Website

Chair Bromberg asked about who updates the LEAC website and how often it is updated. Mr. Montgomery and Ms. Boschert described the process and said committee members often ask for things to be added to the website.

5. ENERGY & FACILITIES MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Montgomery discussed the following:

- The NH Network is creating a dedicated monthly meeting for energy committees. He encouraged LEAC members to be part of that.
- Funding issues – There are several that are being researched and/or pursued. He has been forwarding information related to the multifamily rental decarbonization project to Mr. Chaffee & Rothe.
- Webinar on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG - DOE funding) about several programs.
- NH DOE announcement on a hearing on Feb 7 on Class 3 RECs..
- Update on streetlight project – Liberty is finishing up the last lighting installations.
- Details on the lighting retrofit project for the DPW garage with expansion to the rest of the city. He said that the project will use the Liberty on-bill financing tool with an estimated cost of \$364/month for 36 months and an estimated average gross savings of \$1,856/month, resulting in an average net savings of \$1,492/month for three years and more after that.
- Tour of Wilder Dam in December 2023 with representatives from Hartford and Great River Hydro. Another tour is being planned for those who could not attend this one.
- Met with Fire Chief Wheatley about energy systems for the new fire station building, including solar (both PV and Solar Wall) and the proposed HVAC system. He said that the intention is for the building to be net-zero energy ready, and that the current design incorporates both heat pumps and propane-fired boilers.

6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No members of the public spoke.

Mr. Mashal asked about the open alternate board member seat on the CPCNH. Mr. Below said they need former Chair Ames's formal resignation and then he will bring it to the City Council.

7. UPCOMING EVENTS

- NHDES Climate Action Plan – Jan 25 5:30pm – 7:00pm
- Upper Valley Earth Day EV Event – April 21 noon – 3:00pm

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Ms. Boschert gave an overview of the content of the Sustainable Hanover meeting with officials from Dartmouth College about decarbonizing the district heating system at the College.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Clifton Below to adjourn the meeting at 6:04pm. The Motion was seconded by Sherry Boschert.

** The Vote on the Motion was approved: (Roll Call: 5-0 – Rothe: aye; Chaffee: aye Bromberg: aye; Below: aye; Boschert: aye).*

Mr. Mashal had left the meeting and was not available for the vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Roux

Recording Secretary

AGENDA
LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE(LEAC)
February 15, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 3.
OLD BUSINESS:

**F. i). DRAFT CITY
WORKPLACE CHARGING
POLICY**

City of Lebanon Workplace Charging Policy

2/9/2024 Draft

Rationale

Electric vehicles (EVs) reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Many Lebanon employees are unable to charge an EV at home, and no public charging stations exist in downtown Lebanon or in many other parts of the City. That makes the ability to charge while at work a key tool for meeting Lebanon's goals of reducing City-related greenhouse gas emissions a minimum of 25% below 1990 levels by 2025 and reducing emissions 80% by 2050. (See the Lebanon Strategic Plan and the Energy chapter of the 2012 Master Plan.) Even when public charging stations do get installed, they typically are significantly more expensive for the EV owner compared with workplace or home charging. Providing Lebanon employees with workplace charging options can be an incentive for recruitment and hiring of employees while assisting the City's greenhouse gas reductions.

Workplace EV charging policy

City of Lebanon employees may charge the electric vehicles (EVs) that they use for commuting at designated city-owned EV service equipment or approved electrical outlets, collectively called "EV chargers," under the following terms:

- 1) Participants must be registered in an EV Registration System and display an employer-issued tag on their vehicle while charging.
- 2) Lebanon fleet vehicles get first priority for use of City-owned EV chargers. Authorized personnel may disconnect your vehicle at any time.
- 3) By using the charging station, vehicle owners also consent to their vehicles being unplugged when the car or station indicates a full charge.
- 4) Participants agree to reimburse the city for the electricity consumed, and any other fees that the City wishes to impose for charging, through automatic paycheck deductions or whatever method the City determines is best.

Guidelines

- 1) Do not use municipal-owned charging stations if you can comfortably drive or ride your entire commute using electricity from charging at home (which saves you money).
- 2) Leave a note with your phone number on the dashboard in case you need to be contacted. Be available at that phone for the duration of your car's charge.
- 3) When your car's battery reaches 80% capacity, move your vehicle from the charging station unless you need a 100% charge that day, so that other employees can charge.
- 4) Neatly replace the charging cords when finished. Cords left on the ground are a safety hazard.
- 5) Move your car quickly if a City staff person contacts you because a City vehicle needs that spot.

Steps to implementation

- 1) Define the approved vehicles. Suggested: EVs; plug-in hybrids; electric motorcycles, and electric bicycles or scooters.
- 2) Conduct a workplace charging survey of Lebanon employees to gauge interest, assess future needs, and educate employees. Here is a sample survey:
https://www.workplacecharging.com/files/ugd/49f443_c188a74d93e3426ebf5de3a8a632cece.pdf
- 3) Designate approved charging locations.
- 4) Choose the tags or stickers that will identify participants' vehicles.
- 5) Create an EV Registration System containing each participant's name, department, phone number(s), and vehicle make, model, and license plate number, or brand of e-bike/e-scooter.
- 6) Create a system for participants to reimburse the City for costs and fees:
 - A. *For non-networked, grid-intertied EV chargers (like the City's current EV chargers):* Estimate the average energy consumption of vehicles and charging costs using tools like this calculator:
https://www.workplacecharging.com/files/ugd/49f443_8699e13faf1a485b848125098f433ddc.pdf. Set the fee level(s) for participation. Implement a payment system such as monthly automatic paycheck deductions or another method.
 - B. *For non-networked, off-grid EV chargers:* If the city obtains an off-grid, non-networked charger (like a SolaflectEV station), it will draft a policy addendum for choosing the designated users and setting payment rates and mechanisms.
 - C. *For networked EV chargers:* Participants will follow procedures and payments as outlined in the signage or apps for networked chargers.
- 7) Create a list of registered participants so that members can use the list to collaborate on ideas about how better to share municipal charging stations.

AGENDA
LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE(LEAC)
February 15, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 3.
OLD BUSINESS:

h. CITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Plan Comments from LEAC Members

February 9, 2024 -- draft

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ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Vision Statement

Principle #3: Change "80% below 1990 levels by 2050" to "100% by 2050 and 50% below 1990 levels by 2030".

Strategic Objective 5.4: Energy & Local Government Operations

Action Plans

Change 5.4.1 Action Plan to delete "hybrid/" and read: "Transition Lebanon's fleet to 100% Fossil Fuel Free vehicles by 2050."

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5.4.4 Adopt Environmental Procurement Policy ADM 150, Master Plan Chapter 13 Appendix F

5.4.5 Train City Staff in GHG reduction strategies.

Key Performance Indicators

Add to KPI 5.4.1B: Develop an EV charging infrastructure plan for placement of charging stations at City facilities and in public areas to encourage EV adoption by employees and residents, in accordance with Lebanon's ADM-149 Electric Vehicle and Equipment Procurement Policy.

Change KPI 5.4.1C to delete "hybrid/" and add: 'Implement ADM-149: Electric Vehicle and Equipment Procurement Policy.'

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Change KPI 5.4.1D to "Implement the EVSE infrastructure plan at high-priority locations for use by City fleet and employees."

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Add KPI 5.4.1E -- Transition Lebanon's fleet to 50% EVs or Fossil Fuel Free vehicles by 2035 and 100% by 2050.

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Add KPI 5.4.1F -- Develop a policy for staff use of municipal EV charging stations by the end of 2024.

- KPI 5.4.1A -- Status 2024: Completed an Electric Vehicle and Equipment Procurement Policy instead of a plan, requiring EV purchases unless staff can present a compelling reason not to choose an EV.

KPI 5.4.2C Work with building energy professionals to develop a plan to transition all buildings off fossil fuel heating at the earliest date that is cost effective.

KPI 5.4.2D Transition all City electric use to local renewable electricity by 2025.

KPI 5.4.5a 50% of City staff attend training by Energy and Facilities Manager.

Strategic Objective 5.5: Community Energy Transition

Action Plans

Add Action Plan 5.5.4: Explore the feasibility of an EV carshare program in Lebanon with a particular focus on equity and environmental justice and seek community partners to implement.

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Add KPI 5.5.4: Number of car-share programs contacted and proposals received. Car-share plan developed. Funding sought or acquired.

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Add Action Plan 5.5.5: Support existing multi-unit housing developments to install EV charging stations.

- Add Action Plan 5.5.6: Install public e-bike charging stations where reasonable.

- Add KPI 5.5.6: Plan for the development of e-bike charging locations. Number of e-bike chargers installed.

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- Add Action Plan 5.5.7: Explore the possibility of waiving permit fees or property taxes related to the value of the EVSE being installed.

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Key Performance Indicators

KPI 5.5.1a Adopt an interim goal of 50% reduction in overall community wide GHG emissions over 2005 by 2035.

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KPI 5.5.1b Upgrade from Building Code IECC 2015 to IECC 2021 (pursuant to Master Plan Chapter 13 Appendix A resident survey 2011: Lebanon Energy Priorities and Appendix G) and automatic updates subsequently when new IECC codes are adopted.

KPI 5.5.1c Seek funding for a program of residential weatherization/insulation, heat pump hot water heater and space heating heat pump installation that would achieve in 10% of residential units a ≥25% reduction in GHG emissions.

KPI 5.5.3b Make local or regional renewable electricity the cheapest and therefore default option for CPCNH/LCP.

KPI 5.5.3c Make local renewable electricity available to Lebanon residents, organizations, and businesses through the LFGTE project, LCP, local solar development, etc.

KPI 5.5.3d Negotiate with Great River Hydro and Green Mountain Power for purchase of local hydropower for the community.

~~KPI 5.5.3e — Given the poor experience here in Lebanon and in other communities in trying to get people to “opt up,” a 25% goal is unrealistic. Change this KPI to: Ten percent of Lebanon Community Power customers switch to Clean 50 or Clean 100 by 2027.~~

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Add KPI 5.5.4: Number of car-share programs contacted and proposals received. Car-share plan developed. Funding acquired. A start date set.

Add KPI 5.5.5: Number of multi-unit housing developments contacted. Number of education events held. Number of EV chargers installed.

Add KPI 5.5.6: Proposal developed for e-bike charging locations. Number of e-bike chargers installed.

TRANSPORTATION

Strategic Objective 7.1: Public Transit

Action Plans

Add Action Plan 7.1.2: Support the transition of public and semi-public fleets (including school buses, senior center buses, etc.) to EVs.

Add Action Plan 7.1.3: Develop or recruit an EV car-share program. (See Action Plan 5.5.4 and KPI 5.5.4.)

Key Performance Indicators

Add KPI 7.1.2A: Half of public and semi-public fleets electric or Fossil Fuel Free by 2035 and 100% by 2050.

Add KPI 7.1.2B: Number of fleet owners contacted, education events conducted, and vehicles transitioned to electric.

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AGENDA ITEM 4.
NEW BUSINESS:

C. NEW HAMPSHIRE NET METERING STATUTE CHANGES

Net Metering At Risk
PLEASE TAKE ACTION

(email from the NH Network on 2/5/2024)

Net Energy Metering (NEM) promotes cost savings, empowers customer choice, stimulates economic growth, and enhances environmental sustainability while contributing to a more reliable and resilient energy grid. Entities with net metering are credited for the energy they put back on the grid, and that makes net metering financially possible.

This policy has been helping local people and municipalities go solar in New Hampshire since 1998, and supports locally generated small-scale hydropower.

But now, the policy that supports local renewable energy is at risk of a rollback. Early next year, New Hampshire's Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will decide on how much those who generate local power should be compensated in **Docket 22-060**. This decision could put solar out of reach for many Granite Staters, hurting both our economy and environment.

Overwhelmingly, new generation sources built just over the last decade have been built because of net metering. Without net metering, New Hampshire will not build the resources needed to electrify the economy.

In early March 2024 the PUC (NH Public Utilities Commission) **will decide how much NH homeowners, businesses, and municipalities will get paid** for their investment in solar power on their property. Currently payment for net metering is at 75%. If the PUC lowers this payback rate, we may see an end to new solar projects in the state.

VERY IMPORTANT: Much of the energy policy (or lack thereof) in our state comes from regulatory or administrative bodies, like the PUC or the Department of Energy. These agencies do NOT have the decision-making transparency we find at the State House; it is difficult to influence them, and they are powerful. Please:

1. Send written testimony to: clerksoffice@puc.nh.gov
and be sure to reference **Docket 22-060**

To see what others have said, go to
<https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2022/22-060.html>
Spoken testimony begins at #59, and written testimony follows.

2. Have your municipal leaders give testimony **ON OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD** (this could come from your town manager, town council, energy committee...) **The testimony of your town's officials bears the greatest weight!!** Here's the snail mail address:

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

3. PLUS: Please also **have your town officials respond** to the call for input to the NH Climate Action Plan, cprg@des.nh.gov. Remember: the official comments from our municipal officials have the greatest power to influence policy.

HAPPY NOTE: Your letters at the end of 2023 got the attention of the Department of Energy and the PUC. They are reconsidering their actions, knowing that we are watching and we care.