



**LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LEAC)
FEBRUARY 20, 2025 - 3:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE**

-
- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Preamble**
 - 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. December 19, 2024
 - 4. Old Business**
 - A. Legislation 1 PUC Regulations 1 CPCNH / LCP updates; CPCNH Publicity Campaign
 - B. Landfill Gas to Energy Project
 - C. Municipal Solar
 - D. Lebanon Energy Savings Program
 - E. EV Subcommittee Report
 - F. Energy Efficiency Standards of the City's Staff Housing Initiative
 - G. City Master Plan-Energy Chapter Update
 - H. Strategic Plan Update
 - I. LEAC goals-review, prioritize
 - J. Environmental Justice Task Force-Update
 - 5. New Business**
 - A. Commemorate Tad's work as the city's Energy Manager
 - B. Comprehensive Climate Action Plan work group
 - C. 'Electrify Everything' worksheet
 - 6. Energy & Facilities Manager Report**
 - 7. Open to the Public**
 - 8. Upcoming Events**
 - 9. Future Agenda Items**
 - 10. Adjournment**

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 20, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

December 19, 2024

DRAFT

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LEAC)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
LebanonNH.gov/Live
December 19, 2024
3:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Bromberg (Chair), Clifton Below, Thomas Benzel, Sherry Boschert (remote), Jonathan Chaffee, Patrick Kenelly, Woody Rothe, Bill Sterns

MEMBERS ABSENT: James Mashal

STAFF PRESENT: Rick Brown, Assistant Director, Public Works, Mark Goodwin, GIS Coordinator (virtual), Cinda Mersel, Recording Secretary

1 **1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Bromberg called the meeting to order at 3:40PM**

2
3 **2. PREAMBLE**

4
5 **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

6
7 **A MOTION was made by Mr. Tom Benzel to approve November 21, 2024 minutes as presented.*
8 *Seconded by Mr. Woody Rothe*

9
10 ** The MOTION was approved 8-0*

11
12 **4. NEW BUSINESS**

13
14 A. Proposed City Budget 2025

15
16 This commission decided they would start today's meeting with new business and discuss the results of
17 last night's City Council budget meeting held at Lebanon High School yesterday evening. The 2025
18 budget was decided, and this budget included eliminating the position of the Energy & Facilities
19 Manager, held by Mr. Tad Montgomery.

20
21 Mr. Bromberg inquired how best to move forward, so that this committee's work continues to progress.

22
23 Mr. Below offered insights, since he is on the City Council, and he has been actively involved in the
24 budget meetings. He said the City is in for some difficult years ahead, at least the next three, since there is
25 a peak of debt service coming due, and the financial impact of recent decisions on major investments,
26 such as the renovation of the City Hall Building.

27
28 Residential and commercial properties values are undervalued (currently in the 70s %), and there will be
29 a reassessment of all Lebanon properties in 2025.

30 Numerous difficult budget cuts had to be made, given all the above and the need and support for more
31 firefighters and for maintaining our current level of police officers.

1 Mr. Below shared many of the budget line-item cuts, including fireworks (\$13,000), Guardrails and
2 Paving, (\$180,000), Sidewalks (\$50,000), etc. The 2025 tax rate increase for property owners will be
3 about 7.9%. The City will not be investing in any significant, non-essential, new capital projects for the
4 next three years or longer, so many pending projects will in all likelihood get moved out to a future date.

5
6 Rebecca Owens, Senior Planner, Planning & Development, has focused on federal funding opportunities,
7 and given the changes in the political environment and administration, these could become much more
8 limited. Mr. Below speculates that this might free up some time for Ms. Owens to focus now on the
9 energy chapter of the Master Plan update. Mr. Mark Goodwin has also been a resource in the past, and
10 possibly could be another resource for this Commission.

11
12 Ms. Boschert asked Mr. Below if the City does not have an Energy Manager, how can the City possibly
13 meet their greenhouse energy goals? She commented that this seems to be a setback for years to come,
14 since this is a crucial time, and delaying is the same as climate destruction. What should the direction of
15 this Commission be, to help impact their ongoing work?

16
17 Mr. Below thinks it is possible that there will be further reductions in the budget. A key focus for him
18 will be spent continuing working with the community power coalition, to see what they can do to help
19 local communities and their efforts to improve greenhouse gas emissions.

20
21 Ms. Boschert also asked if there are any TIF funds left, that could be used to improve the City of
22 Lebanon's energy efficiency. Mr. Below explained some details of the fund and the fact that they can be
23 used for infrastructure, and so he thinks that the parameters of this fund could possibly allow for some
24 funding of EV charging, however, he reiterated that he feels there will be hesitancy to spend any money
25 on anything that is non-essential at this time.

26
27 Mr. Rothe commented that now is a critical time for this commission to update LEAC goals and
28 determine where LEAC wants to go. Ms. Boschert seconded this and agreed that they can do this by
29 determining what support they have, and by working with others, such as Vital Communities, and
30 reaching out to Rebecca Owens, and Shaun Mulholland, City Manager, prior to their January 16th
31 meeting.

32
33 Also, Clean Energy New Hampshire has just hired a "circuit rider" for the region, and Mr. Below
34 explained that their role is to go around the state and help different municipalities in their work towards
35 clean energy. He said this has been a very successful program in other parts of the State. They provide
36 some degree of staff support to both convey knowledge and help get projects going.

37
38 Mr. Rick Brown* spoke about the fact that the Energy & Facilities Manager role was an important one,
39 and that he has an already heavy workload with limited capacity. He shared that the recent testing went
40 well for the landfill gas to energy project, and it was a great success. All turbines fired up and the City is
41 waiting on Liberty at this point. This project is almost online. The goal is to complete this in 2024, since
42 there is substantial funding available if they do so (\$2M was mentioned).

43
44 Ms. Boschert suggested they make assignments within this group to commit to reaching out to their
45 resources and invite them to their next meeting. She offered to contact Vital Communities. Mr. Below
46 will continue working with CPCNH. Mr. Bromberg will contact Sarah Brock, with Clean Energy New
47 Hampshire, Mr. Chafee will check to see if there are any more TIF monies available for the EV pole
48 chargers,

Mr. Mark Goodwin, GIS Coordinator, was introduced, and said he has a vested interest in the work of this group and has had for ten years. He thinks they can decide what work LEAC will focus on for this next year. This will give them direction and will also inform them for the capacity of others.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Legislation/PUC Regulations/CPCNH/LCP updates; CPCNH Publicity Campaign

Mr. Below said they have employed the services of a lobbyist for the first time ever, Kristin Koch, with Cornerstone Government Affairs. She is experienced and well connected. She, along with Deana Dennis, will meet with state legislators in efforts to gain support for the Community Power Coalition's legislative agenda.

Mr. Below continued that giving credit for avoided transmission costs adds great value to distributed generation. The Public Utilities Commission recently directed that utilities forecast their default service costs for daily market purchases and also propose that any "under collections" be charged to all customers including those on competitive supply. This favors the monopoly. They have told them to use a methodology that assumes a flat load, which is wrong. These facts were not pointed out to the commission. For the first time, Liberty Utilities will have a rate below the CPCNH rate. All of this has been done without sufficient advance notice.

Eversource filed their proposal to shift part of their utility default service costs to all ratepayer on November 20, 2024, and the commission waited three weeks and then issued their order of notice. They cannot decide on interventions until January 8, 2025, and CPCNH should have an opportunity for discover on Eversource's proposal, which there is not time for in the schedule. It appears CPCNH may not get the discovery responses back until the date of the hearing, which does not give us time for due process rights under the State Constitution, under law, and under the PUC's own rules.

CPCNH is going to fight this, and they have retained council. CPCNH is prepared to take this to the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

B. Landfill Gas to Energy Program

*See Rick Brown's update above. It was noted that the City could get back \$2M if this is completed by year end. Mr. Tad Montgomery and Ms. Rebecca Owens worked tirelessly on this project.

C. Municipal Solar

This is waiting on legislation.

D. Lebanon Energy Savings Program

No updates

E. EV Subcommittee Report

Ms. Boschert said they had a productive meeting last week, though they are assuming the City will not be getting any federal funding.

They have talked with the Finance Department regarding the Lebanon Workplace Charging Program and are waiting to hear back from them regarding an agreement with employee users on how they will pay for their usage, such as a deduction from their paychecks.

1 The previous plan was for the RFP to get real world cost estimates and proposals for these proposed
2 charging stations to include all of their CFI (anticipated grant money) partners, and several locations, but
3 Ms. Boschert recently wrote the DPW leaders and asked to redo these; she wants to narrow it down to
4 seven potential locations that qualify for TIF funding and for direct pay rebates Today, she heard back
5 from Chris Kilmer, and given the finalized budget from last night, he wants to check with City Manager
6 Mulholland, to see if there might be some TIF money still available. If no TIF funds are available,
7 perhaps the City could then offer to issue the RFP under the terms that the City is willing to reach an
8 agreement for the use of its land, with a third party, if that entity wants to install these charging stations.
9 We can provide them with the locations that have been vetted and provide them with the information we
10 have on these. The preference is still for the City to do these though.

11
12 The fast charger in the Hanover Street lot would not qualify for direct pay, but with this exception, the
13 other locations all appear viable.

14
15 Mr. Benzel is working on the airport charging station project for this funding but had no updates. There
16 are no proposals yet, and no RFPs have been completed yet.

17
18 The Dartmouth student team are continuing their work on creating a design for e-bike charging stations.
19 There is still a question whether the units can be outside in all-weather without a roof.

20
21 Previously Mr. Montgomery was the primary liaison with them and the City.

22
23 Ms. Boschert and Mr. Benzel have been meeting with Planning & Zoning regarding potential revisions to
24 their zoning ordinance to perhaps allow for low power level 2 vs. all level 2. She is evaluating
25 information provided LEAC by some West coast organizations. She has been charged with providing
26 Planning Department examples, cost evaluations, etc.

27
28 She and Mr. Sterns are beginning work on an Earth Day event for the Fall 2025 and will provide updates
29 as they have more contacts.

30
31 Lastly, each year, Ms. Boschert asked for vehicle registration information. She is awaiting accurate
32 information since the initial vehicle registration count provided to her appears wrong.

33
34 **F. Energy Efficiency Standards of the City's Staff Housing Initiative**

35
36 No updates

37
38 **G. City Master Plan – Energy Chapter Update**

39
40 Mr. Chaffee asked if LEAC is responsible for providing a climate action plan in the Energy Chapter for
41 meeting the emission reduction goals adopted by the City. Do they have the authority, for instance, to
42 make specific proposals regarding City buildings and their energy usage, when these are the responsibility
43 of City departments? Solid waste is the source of a large proportion of City emissions, but it is an area
44 about which LEAC has little technical expertise to make proposals for emissions reductions. To do so
45 would require extensive research and collaboration with City staff.

46
47 Should the committee completely sidestep the emission reduction goals or perhaps recommend areas in
48 which more consideration needs to be given to what actions to take?

Mr. Below thinks the purpose of the update is more than just refreshing the language. It seems like the update necessarily includes updates on strategies, actions, and goes further than the current Master Plan. For example, should LEAC include a climate action plan in this revision? Mr. Rothe had brought up this possibility in the past, and he has a list of climate action proposals gleaned from other cities' climate action plans. Directive language would be in order.

Mr. Bromberg commented on the depth of knowledge, talent, and commitment of this commission and affiliated City employees, as well as the detail of the Master Plan.

H. Strategic Plan Update

In the spring, there will be a Council review of the current strategic plan and Mr. Below asked for the LEAC members to provide their input on that part of the energy plan.

City Manager Mulholland said they can help the City prioritize what they can try to accomplish in the next year or two, given the limits on staffing/resources.

I. CPCNH Clean 100 Opt-Up Program

This is on hold until the utility rate setting matter is resolved.

J. Environmental Justice Task Force-Update

No updates though Mr. Chafee said they have about 50 recommendations along with the impact of each as well as the effort to implement each, and from these they will categorize and prioritize a few major recommendations.

6. ENERGY & FACILITIES MANAGER REPORT

No update other than Mr. Below reported that there was an energy clinic at the Kilton Library recently, brought together by Mr. Tad Montgomery and attended by several LEAC members, himself included. Vermont Law School students attended this meeting as well, and they are reaching out to see how they can be of help. For example, they are working on a project for low income housing via manufactured housing in Vermont, and they want to see if there is interest for this type of project in Lebanon.

Mr. Below thinks LEAC can try to help facilitate the above.

Mr. Montgomery had previously brought together several non-profit entities such as Listen. Lebanon Towers Building and Rogers House could be a beneficiary of solar energy. There appear to be opportunities here in Lebanon and LEAC will give continued attention to this in the future.

Ms. Boschert said that currently these Vermont law students are conducting a needs analysis.

7. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No one from the public came forward

8. UPCOMING EVENTS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

**A MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Tom Benzel.
Seconded by Mr. Woody Rothe*

**The vote on the MOTION was approved 8-0*

***The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 PM**

Respectfully submitted,
Cinda Mersel
Recording Secretary

AGENDA

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LEAC)

February 20, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 4

OLD BUSINESS:

I. LEAC Goals-Review, prioritize- Project Summary, Scorecard & LEAC Short List Documents

Straw Poll – which project
are you most excited about?

__ Votes

SCORECARD

↩ Project Idea to be Scored ↩

Lebanon Master Plan: Chapter __, page __

Outcome/Strategy/Action: _____

NOTE: Score as “2.5” if “not applicable” or “don’t know”

This Project ...	Not at all	Not Really	Somewhat	Extremely	Notes
1 ... will generate interest & enthusiasm among potential allies, including the public	1	2	3	4	
2 ... will be reasonably easy to raise funding for	1	2	3	4	
3 ... will have results we can measure	1	2	3	4	
4 ... has energy-savings/ production potential	1	2	3	4	
5 ... has a reasonable payback period / return on investment	1	2	3	4	
6 ... will not unfairly burden or benefit, or have downside risk	1	2	3	4	
7 ... has acceptable environmental impacts	1	2	3	4	
8 ... will benefit the local economy	1	2	3	4	
9 ... is time sensitive in some way (must happen at certain time or by certain date)	1	2	3	4	
10 ... Value-add of LEAC involvement	1	2	3	4	
11 ... will be reasonably easy to raise HUMAN resources for	1	2	3	4	

Add up the numbers circled for a total “SCORE”:

How excited is our group to work on this project? Not very Somewhat Extremely

Working Project Title: _____

Brief project description:

Energy Committee role:

- *List likely Energy Committee activities:*
- *Does the Energy Committee have any realistic influence in this matter?*
- *How hard would it be to pull together compelling data to make the case for this project (and track its impact later on)?*

Additional people resources needed to pull this project off (list necessary partners and their role):

Timeline:

- *When could this project get under way?*
- *Roughly how long is it likely to take, start to finish?*
- *Any time-sensitive aspects of this project?*

Comments on any financial costs/benefits:

LEAC "Short List" – 1/7/16

On the back burner and should be monitored

#	Strategy/Project	Responsible for project description	Notes
1	Outdoor City Lighting	Clifton	City-owned, utility-owned, policies
3	School Facilities	James	Low priority
8	Mascoma River hydropower	Clifton	Host public forum if project moves forward? Long term: city might revert to using hydro power to power water pumping stations
9	C-PACE	Karen	Waiting for update from Jordan Institute; LEAC may have a role in gathering data and preparing for eventual roll-out of C-PACE

LEAC in the Driver's Seat

#	Strategy/Project	Responsible for project description	Notes
4	Possible City sites for solar PV	Clifton and James	And/or other energy projects? Main focus currently is PV – look for smaller, short term projects (<100kW) – small successes leading to larger projects later on
7	Downtown hot water district heating	Karen	No one else is working on it; Downtown visioning is happening now; LEAC might have a role in researching/presenting on this topic.
10	Promotion of residential energy efficiency and renewable energy	Rainie	e.g. Solarize
12	Community conversations	Ariel	Host/promote community conversations on energy/climate
13	City plan for energy infrastructure	Mark G. and James	Set targets to work toward (e.g. X% solar, X% hydro, role of natural gas), LEAC recommend a reasonable plan to City Council

City Staff in the Driver's Seat

#	Strategy/Project	Responsible for project description	Notes
2	City facilities and accounts	Mark G.	Benchmarking; tracking and acting on opportunities
5/11	Landfill Gas and Waste Water Treatment Plan	Mark M. and James	City staff taking this on in the next 18 months
6	Proposed LNG/CNG depots and distribution utilities	Ariel	Public education is a LEAC role; Permitting and planning piece is a city role

AGENDA

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LEAC)

February 20, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 5

NEW BUSINESS:

**B. Comprehensive
Climate Action Plan
work group- Electrify
Everything-Home
Action Plan
Document**

electrify EVERYTHING

Home Action Plan

Use this action plan to track audit recommendations, and record the age, anticipated replacement date, and essential statistics for the household systems and appliances you want to electrify—so you can plan for the options that are right for you, and decide what to do and when to do it.

-  Download this form, and save or print a copy to fill out.
-  Look up, search out, or track down as much information as you can about your home's systems and appliances, and record it here.
-  Research the options, and choose the ones that are the best fit for your home and your budget.
-  Combine audit recommendations you've received with replacement dates and options to create a roadmap for your electric future.

electrify YOUR HOME

weatherization

Energy audit completed: DATE

Priority recommendations:

<u>ACTION</u>	Completed: <u>DATE</u>
<u>ACTION</u>	Completed: <u>DATE</u>
<u>ACTION</u>	Completed: <u>DATE</u>

heating

The average lifespan of a household oil or propane furnace is 15-20 years. If you don't know when your current furnace was installed and you have no accessible record to check, do your best to estimate. Add 15-20 years to that date to determine a target year for replacement.

Age of current furnace: YEARS Target replacement date: DATE RANGE

Replacement option: ☐ cold climate heat pump ☐ other: ALTERNATE SYSTEM

hot water

The average lifespan of a tankless water heater is 20 years; for an electric or gas water heater, it's 10 years; for an indirect water heating system, it's 10-15 years. If you don't know when your current hot water system was installed and you have no accessible record to check, do your best to estimate. Add the corresponding number to that date to determine a target year for replacement.

Age of current system: YEARS Target replacement date: DATE RANGE

Replacement option: ☐ hybrid heat pump hot water heater ☐ electric tankless hot water heater

☐ other: ALTERNATE SYSTEM

electrify YOUR TRANSPORTATION

Which of your household gas-powered vehicles gets the fewest miles per gallon? Which do you use the most often? Which is the oldest? You may want to replace your most-used vehicle first, especially if its mpg is low, even if it's technically newer than another vehicle you own.

gasoline vehicle 1

Model year: YEAR Current mileage: TOTAL MILEAGE

Miles per gallon: MPG Miles driven per year: ANNUAL MILEAGE

Target replacement date: DATE RANGE

Replacement option: ☐ hybrid ☐ plug-in hybrid (PHEV) ☐ electric vehicle (EV)

gasoline vehicle 2

Model year: YEAR Current mileage: TOTAL MILEAGE

Miles per gallon: MPG Miles driven per year: ANNUAL MILEAGE

Target replacement date: DATE RANGE

Replacement option: ☐ hybrid ☐ plug-in hybrid (PHEV) ☐ electric vehicle (EV)

driving time reduction plan

Telecommute # days a week, starting DATE Bike or walk # days a week, starting DATE

Use public transit # days a week, starting DATE E-bike # days a week, starting DATE

electrify YOUR LIFE

lawn care

The average lifespan of a gas-powered lawn mower is 8-10 years; for gas-powered leaf blowers and snow blowers, it's 10 years; for gas-powered lawn trimmers, it's 5 years. Fill out this section for whatever gas-powered lawn care equipment you have, and leave any extra space blank.

Age of current mower: YEARS Target replacement date: DATE RANGE

Age of current leaf blower: YEARS Target replacement date: DATE RANGE

Age of current snow blower: YEARS Target replacement date: DATE RANGE

Age of current trimmer: YEARS Target replacement date: DATE RANGE

- Action plan options:
- ☐ reduce area and frequency of mowing, starting DATE
 - ☐ replace gas-powered equipment with electric equipment
 - ☐ hire electric lawn equipment service

appliances

The average lifespan of a clothes dryer is 10-13 years. The average lifespan of a propane range stove is also 10-13 years. If you don't know when your current appliances were installed and you have no accessible record to check, do your best to estimate. Add the corresponding number to that date to determine a target year for replacement. Fill out this section for whatever propane-powered appliances you have, and leave the rest blank.

Age of current clothes dryer: YEARS Target replacement date: DATE RANGE

- Action plan options:
- ☐ air dry clothing, starting DATE
 - ☐ replace propane dryer with electric or heat pump dryer

Age of current propane range: YEARS Target replacement date: DATE RANGE

- ☐ replace propane range with electric range

LAWN CARE

trimmers

Fuel source:	gasoline ☐	electricity ☐	Emissions impact:	high ☐	medium ☐	low ☐	Energy consumption:	high ☐	medium ☐	low ☐
Age of device:	_____			Estimated lifespan:	_____			Replacement date:	_____	

leaf blowers

Fuel source:	gasoline ☐	electricity ☐	Emissions impact:	high ☐	medium ☐	low ☐	Energy consumption:	high ☐	medium ☐	low ☐
Age of device:	_____			Estimated lifespan:	_____			Replacement date:	_____	

lawn mowers

Fuel source:	gasoline ☐	electricity ☐	Emissions impact:	high ☐	medium ☐	low ☐	Energy consumption:	high ☐	medium ☐	low ☐
Age of device:	_____			Estimated lifespan:	_____			Replacement date:	_____	

Step 3: Evaluate your household's sources of electricity.

Green Mountain Power produces electricity that is rated as having a low carbon impact. Be aware that one reason for that low impact rating is that Vermont is one of very few states that classify hydropower as a clean and renewable energy, even though there is a significant carbon impact resulting from the trees and plant life destroyed by flooding land for hydroelectric dams. Nonetheless, GMP has very low reliance on fossil fuels for power generation.

Investing in solar panels on your house or property, or in a community field, can provide you with a clean renewable source of electric generation. It can also save you on your overall energy costs over the life of the investment.

Resilience is another consideration. As extreme weather events increase, more frequent power outages are likely. Solar power, in combination with **home energy storage batteries**, can provide a clean and reliable back-up during outages. GMP has programs that reduce the cost of these energy storage batteries—and allow them to be used to draw or store power and maximize the efficiency of the grid, reducing the need for brown-outs or rolling black-outs during periods of high energy usage.

Step 4: Create your electrification plan, with the help of your community and local resources.

The **Norwich Energy Committee** (norwichenergycommittee.weebly.com) offers many helpful links and resources to help you research products, consider your next steps, find contractors, and talk to neighbors who have taken steps you may be considering.

Efficiency Vermont (efficiencyvermont.com) lists products, rebates, and local contractors, and provides contact information for their staff so you can get in touch regarding energy saving steps you are considering.

Mileage Smart VT (www.mileagesmartvt.org) has information regarding significant rebates for purchasing a used hybrid, PHEV, or EV.

Drive Electric VT (driveelectricvt.com) has information regarding significant rebates and other resources for purchasing a PHEV or an electric vehicle.

For additional information about rebate programs that can save you money on electric vehicles, home energy storage, and home and yard appliances, visit **Green Mountain Power** (greenmountainpower.com/rebates-programs).