

FINAL

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LEAC)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
LebanonNH.gov/Live
October 16, 2025
3:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Bromberg (Chair), Thomas Benzel, Clifton Below, Sherry Boschert (remote), Patrick Kenelly, James Mashal (remote), Woody Rothe, Bill Stearns

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonathan Chaffee,

STAFF PRESENT: Chris Kilmer, Asst. Director, Public Works

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Bromberg called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM

2. PREAMBLE – Read by Mr. Chris Kilmer

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. September 18, 2025

*Ms. Clifton Below MOVED to approve the September 18, 2025, minutes as amended.
Seconded by Mr. Tom Benzel*

** The vote on the MOTION was approved(8-0).*

- September 18, 2025

Amendments:

Page 1, Line 25, change **new** metering to **net** metering

Page 1, Line 27, change to : Specific to Lebanon, the Landfill Gas can only be used to produce current renewal energy credits and not for the production of electricity (per DOE), for NH Class 1 energy.

Page 1, Line 28 change Mr. Tom Corman to Representative Tom Corman.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Legislation 1 PUC Regulations 1 CPCNH / LCP updates; CPCNH Publicity Campaign

Mr. Below said that Representative Corman put in the bill drafting request on renewable energy credits. Representative Michael Vose put in a bill to enable storage as part of net metering. His first draft had issues starting with mandating that all net metered installations have to have storage (within 2 years) and also at the request of Eversource, added that by statute the storage could only charge from the net metered generation, which is contrary to Liberty's battery pilot. Liberty allows batteries to be charged from the grid when they dispatch it to save a co- incident peak so that they return it to the customer recharged. Mr. Below met with him and Representatives Corman and McGhee and explained how this works. Representative Vose agreed to take out the mandate provision (that you had to have storage), and that the

language about being only charged from the generation source should have an exception as the Public Utilities Commission allows for the public good. He shared a prior case about this topic.

Regarding Liberty's under collections from prior periods, the PUC only let them recover half of that, so they still have approximately \$4M in under recovery that they have not collected that they need to start trying to recover. They propose to start recovering this with their new rate, but the town of Salem (representing about half of Liberty's service load) is launching their community power program, which will add to their already shrinking customer base. Depending on how this plays out, it creates the possibility that CPCNH rates could be lower than Liberty's sometime next year.

Next, he spoke about people that install solar, and whether they continue to consume the same amount of electricity or an increase. He used AI and found substantial causal correlation that there is actually increased usage since the same people tend to all purchase electric vehicles and utilize charges, electric heat pumps, electric lawnmowers and chain saws, etc. Arguably, the utilities are getting overcompensated, since the electric companies are underestimating the actual electric use of the customer which means they have less lost revenue than they think they have.

As an aside, he noted that nationally, 7% of EV owners have solar whereas in CA, that number is 37%.

Clean Energy New Hampshire along with Revision and others put in comments complimentary to CPCNH.

Eversource is adamant that they do not want to change load settlement because they do not want to allow CPCNH to serve net metered customers. Mr. Below said that the programming involved could not cost that much.

Mr. Below shared that both the states of TX and CA are progressive on distributive energy resources, and competitive suppliers get offered compensation for exports to the grid, both for distributed generation and storage, and it is all encouraged and supported by the business communities there.

90% of attrition from CPCNH is from people moving away (apartments, houses, small businesses, etc.), which is natural. The coalition is looking at their policy on "refreshes" for those who have previously opted out, to notify them that they can opt back in. All communities (in CPCNH) have the option of writing consumers who have opted out but due to their rates currently being higher, they may wait on this for now.

Mr. Mashal spoke about the financials and said that the coalition has been working on a drawdown (losses) of their reserves. All reserves are currently accrued by each municipality and aggregated up at a coalition level. Lebanon Community Power (LCP) has approximately \$1M of reserves, similar to Nashua, though LCP has less customers to serve. This is in part due to the business mix and also because Liberty customers are less expensive to serve than Eversource customers. According to their calculations, there is about a 60 or more days period of reserves. Mr. Below said that Lebanon has offered a *net savings* for those customers who were in this program from the beginning.

He thinks there will be adjustments to their rate setting period; it is under review. Mr. Below said that April 2026 will be 3 years from the launch of this program. In the meantime, they will continue to rebuild cash reserves.

B. Landfill Gas to Energy Project

Mr. Kilmer said that the hydrogen sulfide vault that has been causing shutdowns has been temporarily addressed with a workaround. Their staff has been manually pumping, to help keep things running. The revised vault with different sensors is in and they are simply waiting for it to be installed by an electrician.

He is still working through the production bill credits with Liberty; they are recording the correct amounts, but it is not accurately tabulating on the bills. Mr. Kilmer continues to manually tabulate each month, so that the end results is an accurate amount/credit.

He just learned that their Q2 recs minted but without any classifications on them. The issue is that the City needs to report emissions. He has shared GIS requirements with Mr. Below a bit earlier today, for them to discuss. The City now meets the thresholds, and their accountant has that information to compile, and he anticipates the City will get the domestic content adder. The goal is money back via direct pay.

C. Lebanon Energy Savings Program

Mr. Rothe said they are still working with Resilient Building Group. He learned that the mailings from RBG have been staggered so many landlords were not aware of this program until calls from Mr. Jonathan Chaffee representing LEAC.

D. EV Subcommittee Report

Mr. Stearns said that AARP is going to contribute about \$3,000 for an EV bike charger at Ledyard School. He and Ms. Boschert will work together on ideas to raise the additional funds needed for this installation.

Ms. Boschert said that there has been significant pushback from developers for EV. Some want this moved out of Zoning and into the site plan review process. The other topic is the actual proposed amendments themselves, and what the regulations should be. The Planning Board unanimously voted for the regulations to be taken out of Zoning and put into site plan review process. They did not, however, take any actions on the regulations themselves.

The City Council has formed a Task Force with three members of the City Council and three members of the Planning Board and charge them with reviewing the proposed regulations and amendments and deciding which way the City of Lebanon should go.

Members are: Tim McNamara, Laurel Stavis, Chris Simon, Ward 1, Wes Acord, Karen Appleton and Don Collins. Another Council member, Eric Stacey, had drawn up his own proposal about the regulations and wanted to be appointed to this task force and if he was not appointed, he said he would resign. He was not appointed so at the meeting Eric Stacey resigned.

Ms. Boschert plans to attend the next meeting, and she asked LEAC members to come, if possible, to help make LEAC's case.

Other key dates:

ZBA (Zoning Board Adjustments) November 3, 7:00PM, to review the proposed amendments. Ms. Boschert will be traveling that day and asked if any one of the LEAC members could attend this important meeting. Mr. Clifton Below said that he will attend.

November 24, 6:30PM the Planning Board will review all of this again.

January 7, 2026 City Council will meet and have public hearings.

January 21, 2026 City Council will have another public hearing and, in all likelihood, make decisions.

Ms. Boschert had a good meeting with Mr. Jon Levada (a developer), and she thinks there is the possibility of collaboration for a better infrastructure and outcome.

LEAC has applied for a T- mobile grant (\$8,000) and are awaiting their response. It could potentially cover the cost of two installations. They are also asking for TIF funds (\$105,000 approximately) to install the remaining ones. The new City Manager, Andrew Hosmer, agreed to review this in the future.

Lastly, she looked at the City's fleet electrification plan because Mr. Jim Wheatley, Fire Chief and Mr. Paul Cotes, Recreation, Arts, and Parks will be needing to replace some vehicles at some point in the future.

E. Energy Efficient Standards of the City's Staff Housing Initiative

Mr. Rothe said they have submissions for some modulares. Either he or Mr. Kenelly will talk with Mr. David Brooks.

F. City Master Plan – Energy Chapter: review

Mr. Bromberg had shared the updated Master Plan in advance of this meeting (September 20th), but not all members had the chance to take a thorough look at it. Four LEAC members met multiple times with Ms. Catheryn Hembree, Planning, and reviewed this large document. Their deadline for reviewing this is approaching so they will plan to discuss and vote on this plan at the November LEAC meeting. It will also be included in the November Agenda Packet.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Clean Energy NH: Energy Circuit Rider Program, Mr. Doug Cogan, Sullivan County

Mr. Cogan's focus is on working with energy committees on clean energy. He lives in the area and is familiar with Lebanon and surrounding areas, including Plainfield where he has lived for years.

Clean Energy New Hampshire has established a new relationship with Liberty Utilities via a three-year program for NH Saves. As an aside, Claremont is currently updating their energy chapter as well.

He will stay abreast of issues coming up and stated goals. As the City of Lebanon dives into their Master Plan, he might be of assistance connecting possible grant opportunities for the City and help with that paperwork. He also has tools and resources and numerous guides for the City's use. He can be of technical and possible financial assistance (connecting parties, completing applications, etc.).

Chair Bromberg invited Mr. Cogan to LEAC's November 20, 2025 meeting at 3:30PM, and Mr. Cogan accepted.

He has shared (through Mr. Bromberg) a local energy briefing for LEAC members consideration. Numerous programs and resources are listed here that would be helpful for LEAC.

Today, he asked about municipal buildings and how the energy is tracked and was told by Mr. Rothe that the energy portfolio manager program is still being used to track energy in those buildings. It was suggested that Mr. Mark Goodwin might be a resource to get specific answers about this.

Next, he asked about energy audits and retrofits. There was an audit and retrofit completed in 2023; He asked if that work has been completed. Mr. Below said that the only areas he does not know about is the back wall and stage in the Opera House and the green rooms below ground level. Mr. Cogan then inquired about other locations including the Police Station, the West Lebanon Fire Station and the Lebanon Airport; solar phases, etc., these are all areas where he might be able to be of assistance.

Ms. Boschert was asked about the May 25, 2025 RFP. She shared that LEAC EV Subcommittee has taken bids, and LEAC is waiting for further response from TIF. Mr. Cogan said that there is still money available for funds up to \$100,000 (per project) for EV charging systems, the clock is ticking on this as it has on others. Ms. Boschert was aware of this source and is continuing to navigate this for LEAC.

Mr. Cogan said that there is a heat pump accelerator program that is coming forward in 2026, and he thinks they can help the City with this. He also cited several other energy topics that he wants to discuss with LEAC. Mr. Below gave Mr. Cogan the contact name of Lieutenant Michael Wright with the City of Lebanon Police Dept.; he is responsible for facilities management for the police station.

Mr. Mashal left the meeting at 4:30PM.

B. Housing and Land Conservation – future meetings, topics

C. Local Energy Solutions Conference – brief discussion

Chair Bromberg said that Mr. Chaffee was asked if LEAC would like to get on the list of hosting organizations for public information sessions from the Department of Environmental Services (DES). He asked for a vote on this.

***Ms. Boschert MOVED that LEAC, Lebanon, NH agree to be host for some of these meetings
Seconded by Mr. Below.***

****The vote on the motion was approved (7-0).***

Ms. Boschert noted that the deadline for giving feedback for the current draft is November 15, 2025. She encouraged LEAC members to provide their feedback individually, since they will not meet again in time to meet this deadline. Chair Bromberg will let Ms. Oxenham know of LEAC's interest.

D. Meeting with new City Manager – report

Chair Bromberg met with Mr. Andrew ("Andy") Hosmer, City Manager, and found the meeting affable. Ms. Boschert also meet with him on a different date, and she too found the meeting productive.

E. Halting Landfill composting program ?

Mr. Kilmer said that it is not definite whatsoever that the City is stopping the composting program at the solid waste facility, rather they are in early discussions and *considering stopping*. They are researching options. He said that currently, the way they are set up results in the compost not being “functional” or viable, so they are not able to send it off site. They cannot use it as cover material because the current bags that are used do not break down. Also, they are awaiting test results to see if they can put in on the float versus having to landfill it. They do not have the manpower to handle this properly, nor do they have a good use for the landfill at this point in time. It will need to be relocated at some point in the future. It was also noted that the methane generation has a positive impact on the other end and could result in credits back to the City.

Mr. Rothe added that the City compost is not viable for consumers because of the likely fungicides in it. Mr. Below additionally added that there could also be pFAST chemicals or other things they do not control and could pose liability for the City if they were to try to pass this along.

6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC None

7. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Composting Workshop – October 21 6:00 – 7:30PM Kilton Library, West Lebanon, NH
- Public Comment opportunity regarding Environmental Services publishing draft measures for New Hampshire’s climate action plan - October 30 6:30-7:30PM Kilton Library, West Lebanon, NH

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Benzel MOVED for adjournment.

Seconded by Mr. Kennelly.

**The vote on the MOTION was approved (7-0).*

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Cinda Mersel
Recording Secretary