

FINAL

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LEAC)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
[LebanonNH.gov/Live](https://lebanonnh.gov/live)
January 15, 2026
3:30 PM

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: James Mashal

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

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Bromberg called the meeting to order at 3:38 PM

2. PREAMBLE – Read by Mr. Chris Kilmer

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. December 18, 2025

*Ms. Clifton Below MOVED to approve the December 18, 2025, minutes as amended.
Seconded by Mr. Jonathan Chaffee*

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

Amendments:

Pg. 5, Line 18, omit “streetlight conversion to high efficiency along with” and add “about”

Pg. 5, Line 26, add an f to Chaffee

4. OLD BUSINESS

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

Mr. Below said that this was opening week of the New Hampshire legislature. This coming Tuesday the House at 3:00PM (House Science and Technology & Energy) is hearing the bill that would repeal the local option to give a tax credit for solar. Mr. Tom Cormann, Representative Ward 3, NH House of Representatives, will continue to fight against this longstanding policy, which has been in effect for 50 years (since 1975). Mr. Below analyzed this policy in 2021 and found that if solar was taxed in the same way that natural gas/combined cycle is, mostly what is displaced on the margin, the tax burden per kilowatt hour would be roughly 6 to 8 times as high as for natural gas generation per kilowatt hour, because it is more capital intensive, but they have higher costs because of fuel. If this credit were to be eliminated, it would probably bring the entire solar industry to a nearly complete stop in New Hampshire because most communities have developed solar tax exemption.

This proposed policy favors fuel intensive combustion for electric generation versus free fuel sunlight.

Mr. Bill Stearns appeared with SCPNH for testimony on the Solar Balcony Bill, a bill that would allow plug ins for solar, small systems 800-1200 watts maximum capacity. The State Codes Board along with some electricians, and other stakeholders want to do what they can to enable this to happen, but to do so safely. Senator Waters is the primary sponsor from Dover, and at a subsequent meeting he commented on his progress with some of the stakeholders.

Mr. Bill Stearns has offered his help to Senator Waters as a technical representative.

Mr. Below said that there are numerous other bills coming up and that these can be viewed on the CPCNH website (bill tracker), to see their positions along with ones they are only monitoring.

Mr. Below presented the recommended refresh policy to The City Council at the first 2026 Council meeting and they unanimously adopted it. He will work with the City Manager to get the messaging out about the new policy and how consumers can opt out if they choose to. It is still anticipated that once the under collections are approved for Liberty, their rates will be higher than CPCNH rates.

CPCNH is well hedged, whereas some other providers are not.

Mr. Below said that he thinks it's a misconception by the sponsors of this bill; he thinks that they are trying to "level the playing field" when in fact this would do just the opposite.

If they want to level the playing field, simply get rid of the taxes on power generation and tax per kilowatt hour produced.

Mr. Doug Cogan offered that Clean Energy New Hampshire is also getting the word out about this effort to repeal the local tax exemption for solar.

B. Landfill Gas to Energy Project: compost issue

Mr. Chris Kilmer said the gas plant had been down a few days in the last month but is back up again. They have replaced the chiller. Also, they are working with both Virgin and Unison to keep it going. Unison is coming the week of January 26th to walk them thru the first service of the conditioning skid and help with the first media change.

It appears they generated about 568 rec credits in the 3rd quarter.

C. Lebanon Energy Savings Program

No updates to report per Mr. Jonathan Chaffee

D. EV Subcommittee Report

Ms. Sherry Boschert said that DES has approximately \$3M in grant funds that they would like to use to assist with EV charging stations, and so LEAC has the opportunity to apply for some of these funds to be used to build these in downtown Lebanon as well as other nearby areas. It was agreed that this does not

need to go before the City Council and also that this money will be discussed during the EV Subcommittee meetings.

LEAC EV Subcommittee received the \$3,000 grant money from AARP New Hampshire, and so they have purchased the EV power stations, connectors and the solar panels. They are still raising funds for the shelter (cover) to go over these. They will have the opportunity to resubmit for grant money with T-Mobile with a March deadline, with a focus on using these funds for covers for these charging stations.

Organizing has started for Earth Week Open House and it is being sponsored by five different groups. Sustainable Lebanon is the fiscal sponsor. Sustainable Hanover, Sustainable Woodstock, Norwich Energy Committee, Vital Communities, as well as LEAC are the other sponsors.

It will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2026. Also, for the first time, businesses will be invited to participate in this event and can choose to give tours of their facilities during the week leading up to this event.

E. UV's 'Energy' Committees' collaboration

The first Energy Committee collaboration meeting took place on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 in the Chamber Room. 20 people attended, representing all seven towns that were invited.

There was a lively discussion throughout. Key topics were “window dressers” and energy coaching and food/waste production. They will meet regularly and that schedule will be agreed upon soon.

During the meeting, some LEAC members had mentioned that Lebanon is stopping landfill which was *premature*. Whatever transition Lebanon makes will provide for 6 months advance notice to those impacted. Any further messaging should simply be that there are changes being considered and to keep an eye for communications on this topic.

F. C-PACER – Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency

Ms. Boschert included a document in the Agenda Packet, which outlines the process to get C-PACER, along with a draft of a Motion for this. The process includes 3 steps, 1-giving it to the City Manager for review, next to 2-present this program to the City Council, for them to 3-vote to set a public hearing. 2 & 3 might be able to be handled in one meeting rather than two.

Ms. Boschert will draft a memo for the City Manager, to this affect and to give it to Mr. Below and Mr. Cogan.

G. CIP – Capital Improvement Plan: priorities stemming from Chapter 13

Ms. Boschert and Mr. Chaffee worked together to develop the top 7 priorities for LEAC for 2026. The full document is included in today's Agenda Packet.

They are:

1. Form a new subcommittee: Energy Efficiency in City Buildings (LEAC member needed to head this initiative)

2. EV Subcommittee Pursue EV Charging Funding
3. Lebanon Energy Savings Subcommittee
4. Support Adoption of C-PACER
5. Organize a conference with sustainability programs, commercial C&I customers, NH Saves and CPCNH to highlight C-PACER (and applicability to resilience)
6. Reduce streetlight levels, starting with a pilot
7. Consider a local “add on” the Lebanon Community Power base rate

Mr. Chaffee asked for members to give thought to committing to this plan, and then they will vote on this at the February LEAC meeting.

Mr. Kilmer and Ms. Boschert will work together to come up with an estimated budget of what LEAC will need the City to set aside, so that if TIF grants and/or CIP grants are approved, the funds will be there to cover the 20% contribution required from the City. These will then be included in the list of projects that need to be considered by the City of Lebanon and will ultimately be presented to the Planning Department.

5. NEW BUSINESS

The City Council is meeting next Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 6:00PM, in the Chamber, to discuss the full package of Zoning Amendments, one of which is the update to the EV requirements. Mr. Below, along with Ms. Boschert, and Mr. Jon Lavidas, will be attending to support the EV initiative.

Mr. Chaffee praised both Mr. Below and Ms. Boschert on the way they worked through a complicated and what could have been contentious compromise of EV charging, levels, etc. This could be a game changer for developers to get EV charging in the future and a role model for New Hampshire and elsewhere.

Mr. Below ended by sharing a recent permit process that he went through in the City to install a level 2 charger using an energy management system so that he could charge on a 100 AMP panel. He wrote up his application, utilizing the 2023 national electrical code. The accuracy and analysis of his application was confirmed with the State electrical inspector.

6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

7. UPCOMING EVENTS

Earth Day, Saturday, April 25, 2026

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. January 9, 2026- 12 PM – Upper Valley Open House Planning Meeting
- B. February 19, 2026 – 3:30PM - next LEAC meeting

9. ADJOURNMENT

***Mr. Tom Benzel MOVED for adjournment.
Seconded by Mr. Patrick Kenelly***

**The MOTION was approved (7-0)*

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Cinda Mersel
Recording Secretary

A citizen, Mackie O'Keefe joined the LEAC meeting at approximately 3:50PM.

No citizen spoke at this meeting.