CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

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CONCORD ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CEEAC)

MEETING MINUTES

May 27, 2026 @ 6:00PM

Council Chambers

37 Green Street - Concord, NH 03301

Attendees:

Committee Members: Chair Rob Werner, Councilor Michele Horne, Nick Babladelis, Chuck Willing (arrived 6:25 pm), Miriah King, Elise Foerster, Thomas Kolling, Gerald Eaton, Mark Fagan

Student Representatives: Elliot Clendenning, Ben Poole

Absent Members: Councilor Mark Davie, Jeffrey Evans, Allen Desbiens

Staff Present: Beth Fenstermacher, PLA, LEED AP, Director of Special Projects & Strategic Initiatives

The meeting was called to order by Chair Werner at 6:04 pm.

1. **Adoption of Minutes**

   A motion was made by Mr. Kolling and duly seconded by Councilor Horne to adopt the minutes of March 25, 2026, as written. The motion to adopt passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. **Municipal Project Updates**

   West Portsmouth Street Solar Project (Lodestar)

   No updated to report.

   Solar Project at Landfill (Kearsarge Solar)

   Ms. Fenstermacher reported that the project is on track to be complete this summer, and suggests an event in late summer/early fall would be appropriate timing. Planning of an event to be revisited in July once the schedule for interconnection is more clear.

3. **C-PACER Update**

   Ms. Fenstermacher reported that staff met with NHBFA staff regarding the City's review of the Commercial Project Assigned Clean Energy and Resiliency (CPACER) program. Ms. Fenstermacher reported that staff will report back to the Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee (FPAC) in July, and it will go back to the full City Council from there.

4. **COMMUNITY POWER**

   Ms. Fenstermacher provided a brief summary from Mr. Willings report in his absence. She reported that she, Mr. Willing, and Mr. Kolling attended the recent CPCNH Annual member meeting. During that meeting, there was a presentation of the performance audit prepared by The Energy Authority (TEA) with recommendations to avoid a repeat of the Winter 2024-25 performance that led to a drawdown of reserves. New rates will be announced in late June. Mr. Fagan asked what is going to happen if CPCNH cannot procure power and what is the City's responsibility for notifying customers. Ms. Fenstermacher indicated that all information from CPCNH points towards improved financials and no cause for alarm. Mr. Fagan disagreed.

   Mr. Willing arrived at the meeting (6:25 pm) and distributed and reviewed a Community Power report to the CEEAC dated May 27, 2026. This report is attached. Mr. Willing addressed Mr. Fagan's concerns indicating that finances are

improving because of the higher rates they are charging in the current period. CPCNH is projecting to get back into the positive by July, and there is no reason to believe these projections are inaccurate. By rebuilding the reserves this period, it gives CPCNH more flexibility with rates in June. Calpine is still under contract; they are the credit back-stop to facilitate power procurement from either them or another entity. Mr. Fagan doesn't think the financials are positive and risk that Calpine will not sell power if they continue to be in a deficit. Mr. Willing responded that the financials are indeed currently improving, and passed out a copy of the Treasurer's report. There is no indication that there will be sudden significant change that would cause CPCNH to suddenly be unable to supply power. Mr. Willing further stated that the EEAC's obligation is to track and provide recommendations to Council.

Discussion continued around what would happen if CPCNH was unable to procure power and customers would go back to Unitil default. Mr. Willing repeated that CPCNH has implemented sound practices and the organization is heading on the right track to protect against the risk of repeating 2024/25 performance.

The committee agreed it's all about the messaging, and will revisit once the full financial audit is available and after the rate setting period.

5. RESILIENT BUILDINGS GROUP ENERGY EFFICIENCY COLLABORATION

Ms. Foerster provided a status update on the Weatherize Concord campaign that is being coordinated with Resilient Buildings Group (RBG) and representatives from Unitil and Liberty Utilities. The goal of the campaign is to have 100 homes enrolled in NHSaves by December of this year. She provided an overview of the history of Weatherize Concord and how it halted in 2020 due to funding being rescinded. However, funding is available now. NHSaves is funded by ratepayers, and qualified participants can be reimbursed up to 75% of project costs. RBG will be able to complete the income verification for qualifying customers. Unitil and Eversource have indicated that they may offer an additional $500 incentive for qualifying projects.

The committee discussed how to get the word out, including press releases, radio, Greenspace Coalition, announcement at June 8th Council meeting, tabling at National Night Out and Farmer's Market.

Ms. King offered to staff an EEAC table at the Launch event.

6. POLICY AND PROJECT UPDATES

a) UNH Sustainability Fellow Institute Update

Ms. Fenstermacher reported that Danielle Melius starts on June 1, and she will be attending the June 24th EEAC meeting.

b) Community Project Brainstorm

Based on the success of the Earth Day clean-up, Chair Werner opened up discussion for ideas about future community projects. He provided the example of Local Food dinners that the committee had organized in the past. Ms. Foerster suggested a "Trash Crawl" to entice participants to clean up trash while visiting various breweries in the city.

The committee will review the draft Strategic Action Plan and revisit at a future meeting. Ms. Fenstermacher suggested this is an appropriate time to finalize the Plan so that it can be included in the upcoming Master Plan.

7. New Business/Announcements

Chair Werner provided legislative updates on SB352 – net-metering term limits to be set at 20 years for municipal projects, which is predicted to be signed by the Governor. Next session is hoped that this will extend to businesses and not just municipal projects.

Ms. Foerster reported that Energy Week was very successful and inspiring. Some takeaways include the Monadnock Energy Hub and their Energy Coaching program.

Mr. Clendenning announced that this was likely his last meeting as he is graduating and heading off to college. The committee congratulated Mr. Clendenning and wished him luck. There was discussion about how to get stronger connections to the High School in the future.

8. Next meeting:
The next meeting will be the Weatherize Concord Launch – 6/24 at 6pm at the Citywide Community Center, 14 Canterbury Road.

9. Adjourn:
A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Werner and duly seconded by Councilor Horne. The motion passed by unanimously voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Fenstermacher, Director of Special Projects & Strategic Initiatives

Community Power Report to CEEAC (May 27, 2026)

CPCNH held its Annual Membership Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting on April 30 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. Chuck Willing, Beth Fenstermacher and Tom Kolling represented Concord at the Members meeting.

The Members approved a by-law change to allow member communities to appoint a second alternate member representative to CPCNH if they wish. If Concord appointed another alternate representative, that person could participate on committees, receive direct communications, etc. The Members also elected a slate of directors to serve new three-year terms. The directors elected Board leaders for the coming year until the April 2027 annual meeting.

The Members heard a presentation by representatives of The Energy Authority (TEA) on and independent evaluation TEA prepared for CPCNH analyzing CPCNH's performance during the winter of 2024-25, which led to a substantial drawdown of CPCNH's joint reserves, and recommendations on practices and procedures that CPCNH should adopt to avoid similar episodes from occurring in the future.

A new rate period for CPCNH and the utilities will begin August 1. The utilities have issued solicitations for supply 50% of their energy needs for the August 1, 2026 through January 31, 2027 rate period. The utilities will file proposed rates with the PUC next month for approval by the PUC. CPCNH will also announce and approve rates in late June.

The Poverty Plains solar project in Warner is largely constructed. It might take until later this summer for interconnection to be completed, then the project can begin operation.

A reminder that CPCNH purchases RECs associated with power generated by residential solar panels. If you know of someone with panels who is look for a REC purchaser, please tell them to contact Mark Bolinger at CPCNH.