



South Burlington Energy Committee

July 22, 2026

The South Burlington Energy Committee held a regular meeting on Wednesday, July 21 in Room 301, 180 Market St. and by Zoom remote participation.

Members present: Steve Crowley (Chair), Keith Epstein, Ethan Goldman, Jean-Sebastien Chaulot, Leendert Huisman, Fred Kosnitsky, Carrie McLaughlin

Also present: Lou Bresee (Energy Project Manager), Bettina Miguez (Climate Action Manager), Beth Zigmund (City Council)

Member of the public: none

1. Welcome and Agenda review
2. Comments and questions from the public not related to the agenda: none
3. Welcome new members and introductions

Members shared their backgrounds, committee experience, and interests in energy and climate initiatives.

Ethan - 2020 - Data analytics

Keith - 2008 - Mechanical Engineering - UVM Professor

Beth - City Council Liaison - Physician - Interested in climate change

Jean - New member - former natural resources committee member

Leendert - New Member - Interest in climate change

Fred - 2023 - Community college professor - Outreach

Steve - Original member, rejoined ~5 years ago - retired HS teacher - advocacy work with energy policy

Lou - City employee - energy project manager for 6 years

Bettina - Climate action manager - official city liaison since Feb

Carrie -

MJ - Vice Chair and lead on energy festival/green festival

Bettina also mentioned the representatives to currently active Advisory Groups:

- Carrie - EV Charging in multiunit buildings
- Ethan and Keith - Buildings and Thermal implementation plan

4. Updates From Committee Members/Events and conferences attended

Fred said he is organizing a book discussion with (led by) Ryan Hagen - Your Guide to Climate Action (mid-October). He is also working on setting up a second one with South Burlington Land Trust in November.

Beth - Group came to present a study on federal energy policy on health care costs - short story is that current federal energy policies will result in dramatically higher healthcare costs and GDP losses except for the fossil fuel sector through 2040.

Beth and Bettina attended a Heat Action Workshop by VT public health association - looking at responses to extreme heat. Beth mentioned there are challenges on correlating health events because current hospital coding does not have heat as an option. What are the other impacts that we could measure to tell the story. Bettina mentioned that Vermont's Department of Health tracks extreme heat days and emergency room visits through a [dashboard](#).

Keith mentioned that Launch VT, a startup accelerator where Keith is a mentor, is supporting a start up called Oru, that measures temp of wood stove exhaust to help improve safety and efficiency of the burn.

Jean brought up his interest in encouraging alternative transportation. How can we work with local businesses to encourage people to bus or bike (i.e. Local Motion bike benefits) - could we do this in South Burlington (SBC3)? - If so, can we roll this out during the festival?

To Do:

- Ethan looking into bike benefits

5. Staff Reports

Lou updated the group on:

- 802 Housing - developing 10 house plans/construction plans for affordable housing. Designed with no basement to keep cost down, but everybody wants a basement. The idea is that these could be built offsite, but this will not work unless there is some scale. Outside walls are all designed to be 9" thick. Some designs will comply with 2020 RBES, some with 2024 RBES and potentially a better option. Aligning with Efficiency Vermont. Committed to all electric house.
- Digester was painted - No real change in the last month, but hoping for improvement in winter.
- Looking to bid out a Feasibility study for wastewater treatment plant on airport parkway. Potentially could put a 20kw turbine in line. Would require a pipe replacement (happening in 2 fiscal years). Looking for engineering drawings with this first phase. Phase 2 (currently unfunded) would be construction drawings. Power generated would be used at the plant.
- E-Bikes have arrived - police are using them. There are two being used for summer patrol.

Bettina updated the group on:

- EV Charging in Multiunit second meeting to review responses that have come in. Good turn out in response. Work being done by VEIC, and funded (80%) by CCRPC.
- Guidance on plug in solar is on hold because there is some confusion about some of the direction and safety issues.

To Do:

- Bettina to contact Ethan and Carrie re: Plug-in Solar flyer

6. Elect Committee Officers

Bettina gave a brief introduction to Energy Committee as an Advisory Committee to City Council, which means that it moves at the direction of City Council. General expectations of its members: Arriving on time; attending at least 75% of meetings; participating; reviewing meeting minutes or other documents.

Steve gave a brief description of the different roles of Committee Officers. A brief conversation ensued.

Fred motioned to approve Steve as Chair, MJ as vice-chair and Carrie as Clerk. Jean-Sebastien seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Green Community Festival Update:

VGS and GMP Sponsoring energy zone and music zone. Trying to get five sponsors.

Bettina went to natural resources committee meeting. They would like to have their own booth and looking at what other activities they can engage in. Only a short time to prepare, but they are forming a sub committee to work on it.

Some of the experts signed up include Councilor Chalnack (converting home to almost fossil fuel free); AJ Rossman (about panel upgrade alternatives); Havaleh from Bike and Ped Committee (about commuting by bike); UVM Extension (gardening?)

Currently about 20 Exhibitors have signed up. Have three music acts lined up. Have decided on a logo. Have three food vendors (still looking for a dessert option)

Beth mentioned that the citizens climate lobby would like to table.

Members discussed potential Energy Committee involvement. Among the ideas were:

- Members there answer questions on new technology like plug in solar and window heat pumps.
- Survey (we ask and write down answers)
 1. What are you doing
 2. What would you like to do
 3. What's preventing you from doing those things
- Hand out resource materials from Marley that were at last energy festival (should be in EC's google drive)
- Foam board with what the energy committee happenings/involvements.

There was a brief discussion on the publicity plan. Fred suggested that different committees write an Other Paper editorial reporting on what the Committee and the City are doing and where the money is going with the energy projects.

To Do:

- Fred can do a write up of the energy projects.
- Carrie to buy new t-shirts for new members (and Beth)
- Bettina to reach out to the other committees
- Bettina to send exhibitor link to Beth and Leendert

8. Approved FY 27 Energy Committee Workplan

The [Approved Workplan](#) can be found on the website within the Agenda for the City Council meeting of July 6, 2026.

Pilot outreach to landlords for weatherization - working with VGS and GMP and utilizing the rental registry. Modeling energy usage by square foot to baseline energy usage for rentals. Results showed that there were not many units that were above 50 BTU's. Looking at targeted programs to electrify or weatherize. Energy committee was looking at programs across the country to see what might work for South Burlington

Renewable Heating and Hot Water - ran out of time to discuss.

9. Approval of meeting minutes:

There was no time to approve the minutes; agenda item was postponed to next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. Next meeting is TUESDAY, August 25, 2026.