

South Burlington Energy Committee

September 23, 2026

The South Burlington Energy Committee held a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 23rd in Room 301, 180 Market St. and by Zoom remote participation.

Members present: Jean Sebastien Chaulot, Steve Crowley (Chair), Ethan Goldman, Fred Kosnitsky, Carrie McLaughlin, MJ Reale (Vice-Chair)

Also present: Bettina Miguez (Climate Action Manager), Lou Bresee (Energy Project Manager - online)

Member of the public: none

Welcome and Agenda review

Comments and questions from the public not related to the agenda: none

Updates From Committee Members/Events and conferences attended:

Gathering of Chittenden County energy committee people - no date set yet

REV Conference 10/14

Vermont Summit with Nate Hagen 9/29.

Ryan Hagen coming to the library next month - 10/17

Action - Fred to send MJ a blurb to pass along

Staff Reports

Bettina -

Attended VECAN plug in solar webinar 9/22. There are no UL3700 certified systems yet. Biggest hurdle is still bi-directional GFCI wiring. It is still not a plug-and-play system. Three experts presenting including Brattleboro person who did some organizing with community to gauge interest and feasibility. Law (7/1) says that HOAs cannot just say a blanket no, but can develop "reasonable" requirements.

City submitting Charging Smart application by end of the month. We are aiming for silver. When putting data together, noticed that only 351 households are signed up for GMP EV rates. Brief discussion on awareness about rates. Might benefit from an educational push.

Learned at EAN meeting 500 MW of distributed solar in VT right now per GMP

Lou

Meeting with gentlemen from Putney doing FLM work (flexible load management). Reviewing the way the building systems are controlled and looking for opportunities for FLM optimization and energy efficiency in the City Hall building.

Renewable Diesel - organization leading that effort is Vermont Clean Communities (Peggy O'Neil). Letter of intent approved by Leahy Institute. The next step is for them to submit a proposal for a pilot.

Impact of Renewable Heating Ordinance - Ethan

2023-2025 buildings have been built under this ordinance

41 single family, 21 multi-unit (50 units). All had heat pumps. No data on gas backups

Expecting an estimated 90% reduction

Results saw baseload go down indicating electric water heating is impactful

Heating load did not change as much as expected with the hybrid gas/electric systems.

Recommendations

Education

Inspections

Modify Ordinance to encourage more electric heat usage

Extensive discussion on whether moving from 85% to 100% renewable source was something the Energy Committee would want to recommend to City Council. Members were split on the idea.

8:05 Enforcing Energy Code - Bettina

Looking at residential building energy code compliance. Working with a DOE grant - realigning to make it about affordability. Q: Do municipalities have the authority to enforce energy code?

State-wide seeing less compliance with energy code in new construction (54%)

State has not figured out how to execute and fund enforcement so the idea is to allow willing municipalities to enforce

Looking for letters of support from municipalities saying they would like to enforce

Motion: Fred moves to recommend to city council that they create a letter of support for this effort to allow municipalities to enforce building codes

Ethan seconds

Unanimous approval

Reflections on Green Community Event

Good comments from the council in the city council meeting

Natural Resources committee was happy

18 surveys, 5 emails

Idea for 2027 - Special issue of the Other Paper or Insert in the Other paper with sections for each committee

Next year more signage about bus stop changes.

Action: Carrie to reach out to Jonathan Dowds to see if he would come to committee to discuss PUC

Action: Talk to O'Brien about experience with space heating solely with heat pumps

Action: Bettina to ask Zack to send slides from the EAN working group

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm. Next meeting is October 28, 2026.