

Rye Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 2, 2022 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Rye Public Library

Approved: 9/6/2022

1. Attendance - Tom Pfau, Howard Kalet, Carl Nicolino, Frank Melanson, Lisa Sweet
2. July Meeting Minutes Approval - approved unanimously with amendments
3. Community Power update
 - Two handouts were shared. One is the CPCNH overview and the other is 2022 Q2 Update. These are attached below.
 - On July 25, the Select Board approved the amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) that will allow the Board of CPCNH to amend the JPA at any meeting, rather than only at the annual meeting. This will give CPCNH more flexibility during the start up phase of the organization. The amendment was approved unanimously by the CPCNH Board and needs approval from the Governing Bodies of all members to take effect.
 - The Energy Committee presented modifications to the Energy Aggregation Plan (EAP) to the Select Board on July 25. The changes do not change the intent of the plan. There are minor changes throughout the document that update the progress of Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH) and Rye Community Power. There are also 2 technical appendices that explain in more technical detail how Load Serving Entities will work and protection of consumer data. These are elements that are included in the original plan, but the attachments add more technical explanation. The Select Board was asked to review the changes so that they could vote to approve by the end of August. The Energy Committee suggested that any legal review of the changes hold off until the Public

Utilities Commission (PUC) releases the final rules for Community Power (expected on July 27).

- PUC released the rules for Community Power on July 27. The rules are very positive for CPCNH and no additional changes in the EAP are expected. The rules will now go to the Joint Legislative Commission on Administrative Rules for a hearing, likely August 18.
- The City of Lebanon has submitted their EAP to the PUC for approval and expects to hear by September 1.
- Rye Energy Committee would like to request from the Select Board that they proceed with legal review so that we can be poised to have the EAP modifications approved by the end of the month. We will ask how they would like to proceed as we are aware they have a full agenda for 8/8.

4. Discuss Home Performance with ENERGY STAR (HPwES) participation and heat pump adoption

<https://nhsaves.com/learn/service/energy-audits-weatherization/>

- Home Performance with ENERGY STAR is a comprehensive, whole house approach to improving energy efficiency and comfort at home, while reducing your energy costs and helping the environment.
- Rye's participation in the program is limited, but the projects that have been completed have good incentives and payback in terms of customer cost, average KWH savings and average Mbtu savings.
- This is for existing homes (not new construction) and cost savings apply to efficiency measures, not to the whole renovation
- HPwES is not income based; the benefit to cost ratio must be greater than 1 (so benefits must outweigh cost); good candidates might be older homes that need to be better insulated or may be ready to replace less efficient appliances with more efficient ones

- Always weatherize first! This is where most energy savings occur. If you do not insulate appropriately, it is hard to “right-size” your heating system; even if you invest in a very efficient heating system, it doesn’t help if you have not insulated your home properly.
- Rye Energy Committee can do more outreach about the program and the incentives that are available.

REC will look into getting on the wait list for a Button UP workshop (from Eversource) or participating in a regional workshop.

- There are income-based incentives available through Community Action Programs and Home Energy Assistance Program (HEA). The HEA can help with windows, weatherization etc. and generally has higher incentives available.
5. Rye Auto Show - September 18; we will have info on weatherization, possibly a Button Up workshop and community power as well as an EV or 2 depending on space.
 6. Rye 400 celebration - think of ideas for Energy Committee to participate
 7. School solar update - did not get to
 8. Website review - did not get to
 9. New Business - Tom will draft newsletter update
 10. Adjourn - 8:00 PM

Next meeting September 6, 2022

Attachments:

CPCNH Overview:

www.cpcnh.org



**COMMUNITY
POWER COALITION
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**
For communities, by communities.

MISSION

To foster resilient NH communities by empowering them to realize their energy goals through civic engagement, public education & technical assistance.

COMMUNITY POWER COALITION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

VALUES

In carrying out its mission, the Coalition is guided by the following values:

1. Embody an **inspiring vision** for New Hampshire's energy future.
2. Support communities to **reduce energy costs** and pursue economic vitality by harnessing the power of **competitive markets** and **innovation**.
3. Support communities to implement successful energy & climate policies and to promote the **transition to a carbon neutral energy system**.
4. **Balance the interests of member communities** who are diverse in demographics, geography and their energy goals.
5. Use our shared expertise, leadership and skills to **educate, empower and build the capacities** of our members.
6. Help communities **demystify the power sector** to make **informed decisions**.
7. Facilitate collaboration & teamwork by championing **diversity, equity and inclusion** of people & communities of all kinds.



Meet CPCNH!

Community Power, authorized by NH RSA 53-E, is a program that allows local governments to procure electric power on behalf of their residents, businesses, and municipal accounts from alternative suppliers.

CPCNH is a public non-profit designed to empower our state's cities, towns and counties to fully realize the benefits of Community Power by pooling their resources, knowledge and expertise. The Coalition was created so that communities across New Hampshire could streamline implementation by collaborating across a statewide network of peers, share services and staff support among member communities, participate in joint power solicitations and project development opportunities, and speak with one voice in state policy affairs relating to energy issues.

Community leaders are invited to follow up by visiting www.cpcnh.org or by reaching out to any of the members of the Coalition.

For Communities, By Communities

What is Community Power?

Community Power empowers towns, cities and counties to choose where their electricity comes from and how it is generated on behalf of their residents and businesses. In many states across the country, municipalities and counties have launched regional Community Power programs as a means to reduce the cost to consumers and to push for production of more renewable energy. There are three main components of Community Power:

1. Bulk Electricity Purchases: Communities pool together purchasing power to make large electricity buys jointly. Bulk purchasing can stabilize and lower costs while expanding choices such as more renewable energy options.

2. Electric Distribution Utilities: Under Community Power programs, the existing utility provider (Eversource, Unitil, Liberty, New Hampshire Electric Coop) continues to deliver power and provide electric distribution and transmission services.

3. Value Added Retail Products & Services: Community Power can create a number of benefits for residents and businesses including: affordable rates, green power options, demand response and time varying rates, greater access to rooftop solar, home energy storage or other technology innovations.

How do we launch a Community Power Program?

There are three basic steps for a city or town to launch a Community Power program.

Step 1: Join the Coalition. The first step is for the Governing Body (Select Board, City/Town Council) to adopt the CPCNH Joint Powers Agreement and join the Coalition. There is no cost to joining the Coalition. By joining the Coalition, communities join a statewide network of peers and experts, and gain support towards developing Energy Aggregation Plans and launching programs.

Step 2: Form a Committee and Develop your Energy Aggregation Plan. The second step is the Governing Body establishes a Community Power Committee to create an Energy Aggregation Plan detailing the structure and goals of the program. The Community Power Committee may be a sub-committee of an existing committee.

Step 3: Local Legislative Approval of Energy Aggregation Plan. The final step is to get local legislative authorization through Town Meeting or City/Town Council approval and adoption of the Energy Aggregation Plan. CPCNH works with member cities and towns to customize its template Energy Aggregation Plan to their community's specific local policy goals and objectives.

How do I learn more about Community Power and CPCNH?

To learn more, please go to our website at www.cpcnh.org or email us at info@cpcnh.org.

We look forward to meeting you!

For Communities, By Communities

CPCNH 2022 Q@ Update:

2022 Quarter 2 Update

For Communities, By Communities



COMMUNITY POWER COALITION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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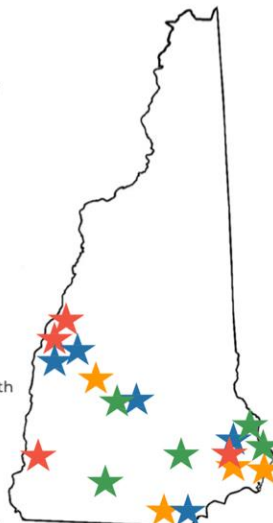


Coalition Tracking to 2023 Power Agency Launch

Happy Summer to our Community Power Subscribers! Since incorporating on October 1, 2021, Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire has made great strides in preparing for power supply operations, leading in the development of regulatory rules, and engaging New Hampshire cities and town to expand our membership and prepare communities for initial program launches.

Over the past nine months, five additional municipalities have joined the Coalition's Membership, putting our collective 19 Members at approximately 20% of the state's population (not counting the population of Cheshire County). Our members include:

	Director	Alternate
★	City of Lebanon Clifton Below	Greg Ames
★	City of Dover Christopher Parker	Jackson Kaspari
★	Town of Enfield Kim Quirk	Jo-Ellen Courtney
★	City of Nashua Doria Brown	
★	Cheshire County Terry Clark	Chris Coates
★	City of Portsmouth Kevin Charette	Peter Rice
★	Town of Durham Mandy Merrill	Nat Balch
★	Town of Exeter Nick Devonshire	Julie Gilman
★	Town of Hanover April Salas	Peter Kulbacki
★	Town of Harrisville Andrea Hodson	Andrew Maneval
★	Town of Hudson Craig Putnam	Kate Messner
★	Town of New London Jamie Hess	Tim Paradis
★	Town of Newmarket Toni Weinstein	Steve Fournier
★	Town of Pembroke Matthew Miller	Jackie Wengenroth
★	Town of Plainfield Evan Oxenham	Steve Ladd
★	Town of Rye Lisa Sweet	Howard Kalet
★	Town of Walpole Paul Looney	Dennis Marcom
★	Town of Warner Clyde Carson	George Packard
★	Town of Webster Martin Bender	David Hemenway



As the Granite State braces for electricity rate shock set to take effect on August 1 for customers on default energy supply from investor-owned Eversource and Liberty Utilities, more¹ and more² communities and experts,³ as well as the Governor's Consumer Advocate,⁴ look to Community Power to provide rate relief. And with the Public Utilities Commission's forthcoming July 27th publication of final draft rules, the runway to launch of the Coalition's initial programs in 2023 is clearing for takeoff.

¹ City Councilor Tabor, *Greener, less costly electricity is possible in Portsmouth*, <https://bit.ly/3R3yjFr>

² Energy News Network, *Municipalities to replace utilities as default energy suppliers*, <https://bit.ly/3bQI7Cc>

³ NH Bulletin, *Advocates point to policy action in the face of rising energy costs*, <https://bit.ly/3R3yjFr>

⁴ Don Kreis, *Welcome to the ugly era of 22 cent electricity*, <https://bit.ly/3bKVHXY>



Meet the Coalition Officers and Leadership

The Coalition's Member Board of 37 appointed officials serving as primary and alternate Directors are hard at work overseeing agency start-up operations across six committees: Executive, Finance, Member Operations and Engagement, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, Risk Management, and CEO and Staff Search. The Coalition is led by:



Clifton Below, Chair

City of Lebanon | Assistant Mayor & City Councilor

Mr. Below is a former PUC Commissioner, State Senator, and State Representative. He is the prime author of the Community Power Law and the first-in-the-nation Electric Utility Restructuring Statute, and has played key leadership roles in development of numerous other state and regional energy policies and programs. Mr. Below is a 4th term City Councilor and 3rd term Assistant Mayor.

Christopher G. Parker, Vice-Chair

City of Dover | Deputy City Manager

Mr. Parker leads (re)development and strategic projects for the City of Dover in support of enhancing the community's vibrancy for Dover residents and businesses. He coordinates interdepartmental activities ranging from strategic planning and resiliency, to capital investment and best management practices. Mr. Parker is committed to initiatives that encourage resiliency, public participation and education for planning, capital improvement, and financial policies. Mr. Parker was named professional planner of the year for New Hampshire and Northern New England in 2011, and has held a variety of roles with the City over the past 25 years.



Kimberley Quirk, Treasurer

Town of Enfield | Energy Committee

After 25 years in high tech, Ms. Quirk founded Energy Emporium, a solar installation company in 2009, which in 2019 merged with ReVision Energy. Ms. Quirk now manages the Upper Valley branch and serves as the company's storage expert. Ms. Quirk won a "Lean & Green" Award from NH Business Magazine for renovating an 1850's home to become net zero and fully powered by PV and thermal solar + storage. Ms. Quirk is a former chair of the Enfield Energy Committee and the current chair for the Enfield Community Power Plan.





Doria Brown, Secretary
City of Nashua | Energy Manager

Doria Brown manages Nashua's energy procurement, greenhouse gas accounting and energy efficiency projects. She leads the City's Electric Aggregation Committee and advises the City on Community Power. Ms. Brown was previously the Sustainability Specialist at Worthen Industries, served as Chairwoman of Nashua's Environment & Energy Committee.



Matt Miller, Chair of Risk Management Committee
Town of Pembroke | Energy Committee

Mr. Miller has held technology leadership positions across multiple continents at Schlumberger, an oilfield engineering services firm. He returned to New Hampshire in 2021 and now serves on the Pembroke energy and budget committees. Mr. Miller is recently retired and is motivated to help NH and Pembroke navigate the energy transition to achieve beneficial outcomes for their residents, municipalities and businesses through launching the Community Power market.



April Salas, Chair of CEO and Staff Search Committee
Town of Hanover | Sustainability Director

In addition to her role as Hanover Sustainability Director, Ms. Salas is the Executive Director at the Revers Center for Energy at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, where she oversees programs and activities on the transition to sustainable energy. She serves on the Sustainable Hanover Committee and advises the Town on: Community Power, strategic pathways to accomplish the Town's 100% Renewable by 2050 goal, clean energy project and services solicitations, Power Purchase Agreement negotiations, and project management oversight. Ms. Salas represents Hanover in PUC proceedings, most recently the Development of a Statewide Multi-use Online Energy Data Platform (docket DE 19-197). She has nearly two decades of public and private sector experience in energy finance and market analysis, power delivery and smart grid infrastructure, sustainability and reliability, and the integration of new technologies into the electric power system and has held leadership positions at the federal level including Director of the White House and U.S. Department of Energy's Quadrennial Energy Review Task Force Secretariat.





Lisa Sweet, Chair of Member Operations and Engagement Committee

Town of Rye | Energy Committee

Ms. Sweet taught middle school math and science in public, private and international schools and has worked in educational publishing, curriculum development and standards alignment, and as a teaching consultant. Ms. Sweet helped develop “Sidewalk Farms,” an initiative to sustainably grow food in small spaces around the community. She joined the Rye Energy Committee with the goal of educating others and making change on a community level. Ms. Sweet leads the Coalition’s Committee to provide support and communications services and resources across the Membership towards successful launch of Community Power programs.

Amanda Merrill, Chair of Regulatory & Legislative Affairs Committee

Town of Durham | Energy Committee

Ms. Merrill was raised in New Hampshire and has a long history of leadership in nonprofit, educational and public institutions. Ms. Merrill is a former State Senator, Representative, and House policy staffer. Following her legislative career, Ms. Merrill served as director of the NH Office of Energy and Planning under Governor Maggie Hassan. Her work as a legislator and policy professional has consistently focused on environmental and energy policy issues.



Beyond the Coalition’s Officers and Committee Chairs, the other 29 representatives and alternates serving on the Board of Directors bring great breadth and depth of expertise to the organization with experience and professional backgrounds including: utility directorship; private equity investing; entrepreneurship; community organizing; public works planning and development; journalism; human resources; law; mechanical, software and electrical engineering; energy efficient building design and construction; municipal management and more.



Coalition Prepares for Power Supply Operations

June 15th, 2022 marked the deadline for responses to the Coalition's Request for Proposals for Comprehensive Services and Credit Support.⁵ The Risk Management Committee is currently reviewing numerous proposals and overseeing the process to short-list, interview, negotiate with and select vendors to conduct operations on behalf of the power agency.

The number and quality of proposals submitted strongly affirms that the energy industry, both regionally and nationally, shares in the Coalition's vision of a transformative, market-based and democratic model for the power sector, and is enthusiastic about partnering to make that vision reality.

Additionally, during the first three quarters of its start-up phase, the Coalition has:

- Received approximately \$130,000 in grants and donations to cover administrative expenses and consulting services.
- Contracted for General Counsel and legal services provided by Duncan Weinberg Genzer & Pembroke, P.C. with Eli Emerson from Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer as New Hampshire counsel.
- Contracted for technical consulting services provided by Community Choice Partners, Inc.
- Contracted with Herndon Enterprises, LLC for organizational and Member support services.

Peterborough Votes to Join Coalition!

On July 5th, the Peterborough Select Board voted unanimously to adopt the Coalition's Joint Powers Agreement and join as a Member. The Coalition Board will vote on welcoming its 20th member community at its upcoming Board meeting. The Town of Peterborough has already approved an Electric Aggregation Plan at Town Meeting and is well-positioned to join the first wave of Coalition programs to launch. Peterborough aims to use Community Power to achieve its 100% renewable energy goal.

PUC Scheduled to Publish Rules July 27

The Public Utilities Commission has scheduled a meeting for July 27th to present and vote on a final rules proposal to govern Community Power Aggregations.⁶ The PUC's initial draft proposal was based almost entirely on the petition prepared by the Coalition and joined onto by numerous public, private and nonprofit stakeholders.

⁵ See www.cpcnh.org/solicitations

⁶ NHPR, *State regulators delay vote on Community Power rules*, <https://bit.ly/3P2Uk5G>





The proposal will come before the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules before it is formally adopted, likely in August. The Coalition anticipates final rules will be in place by Fall 2022.

Two Bills Mark Legislative Progress: SB 321, SB 265

Coalition leaders guided two important bills to enactment this legislative session.

Senate Bill 321 allows Community Power Aggregations and others, on a pilot basis, to accelerate the deployment of small-scale renewable and battery storage projects of up to two megawatts in capacity. Programs implemented under the legislation would help reduce transmission and capacity costs levied on customers.

As a result of Coalition organizing and action alerts,⁷ more than 80 individuals showed up to support Senate Bill 321 at legislative hearings. The only opposition came from Eversource. Governor Sununu signed the bill into law on June 17, 2022.

- Bill Text, <https://bit.ly/3OGBCat> | NH General Court Bill Details, <https://bit.ly/3OMeLDY>

Senate Bill 265 Becomes Law! Coalition leaders, including Cheshire County Director Terry Clark and Board Chair Clifton Below, successfully shepherded Senate Bill 265, “relative to the aggregation of electric customers by counties,” through the legislative process. Governor Sununu signed the bill on May 27.

The bill clarifies that counties launching opt-in Community Power Aggregations need not mail written notifications to all retail electric customers within their geography, a point of confusion in the statute as previously constructed.

Cheshire County is a founding member of the Coalition and is developing its Electric Aggregation Plan for approval and implementation. This bill clears the way for Cheshire County to demonstrate the state’s first County-level Community Power program.

- Bill Text, <https://bit.ly/3OICa9c> | NH General Court Bill Details, <https://bit.ly/3OH4pVN>

8 Community Power Plans Approved, More to Come

Town Meeting season resulted in a perfect record for Coalition Member Community Power votes!

Five of five Coalition Member towns with Community Power on the ballot (Enfield, Exeter, Plainfield,⁸ Rye and Walpole⁹) voted overwhelmingly to approve Electric Aggregation Plans. These towns joined Harrisville, Hanover and the City of Lebanon, which had previously approved programs locally.

⁷ Coalition Action Alert, February 22, 2022, <https://bit.ly/3nBp3um>

⁸ Plainfield approves power coalition plan, <https://bit.ly/3nFSR9r>

⁹ Walpole voters OK community power plan, <https://bit.ly/3ab7hvd>



The City of Nashua and the Town of Durham are working towards authorizing programs in the next couple of months, putting the collective electric load of anticipated first-wave launch communities at over 500,000 annual megawatt-hours.

The Coalition's remaining Members – Cheshire County, the cities of Dover and Portsmouth, and the towns of Hudson, Newmarket, New London, Pembroke, Warner and Webster – are each working towards developing their Electric Aggregation Plans for local approvals in 2023 and subsequent launch of programs.

The Coalition continues to field inquiries from interested communities and attend meetings with committees, municipal staff, select boards, and town/city councils considering membership.

Over the past several months the Coalition has presented to the Londonderry Town Council, Milford Select Board, Cornish Energy Committee, Dublin Energy Committee, Nelson Community Power Committee, Boscawen Energy Committee, Androscoggin Valley Energy Committee, and the Peterborough Community Power Committee. The Coalition continues to engage with dozens of other local leaders inquiring about Coalition Membership and has presented at various educational and panel events including those hosted by NH Network for Environment, Energy and Climate and Portsmouth Smart Growth.

Priorities Moving Forward

Over the remainder of the start-up phase, the Coalition will prioritize:

- Completing the competitive solicitation process and executing service agreements that will allow the Coalition to launch Community Power programs across New Hampshire.
- Supporting Members that have authorized programs by procuring power and managing the customer enrollment and program launch process
- Supporting our Members' local committees in drafting Community Power Plans, educating the public and approving their plans in compliance with RSA 53-E.
- Supporting municipalities in joining the Coalition by adopting the Joint Powers Agreement.

The Coalition's staffing strategy is to fill key functional roles with highly qualified staff in managerial positions to provide oversight and initiative for the agency:

- Prior to launch, the Coalition expects to hire a CEO or General Manager experienced in managing an all-requirements power agency in a competitive market.
- Leading up to launch of initial programs, the Coalition aims to fill additional staff positions in the areas of business development and customer service, energy portfolio management, financial management, information technology, and regulatory and legislative affairs.



**COMMUNITY
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OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**
For communities, by communities.

Mission and Values

*Our mission is to foster resilient New Hampshire communities
by empowering them to realize their energy goals.*

The Coalition creates value for our Community Power member municipalities by jointly contracting for services, developing projects and programs together, educating and engaging the public, and advocating for communities and customers at the Legislature and Public Utilities Commission.

In carrying out its activities, the Coalition is guided by the following values:

- Embody an **inspiring vision** for **New Hampshire's energy future**.
- Support communities to **reduce energy costs** and pursue economic vitality by harnessing the power of **competitive markets** and **innovation**.
- Support communities to implement successful energy and climate policies and to **promote the transition to a carbon neutral energy system**.
- **Balance the interests of member communities** who are diverse in demographics, geography and their energy goals.
- Use our shared expertise, leadership and skills to **educate, empower and build the capacities** of our members.
- Help communities **demystify the power sector** to **make informed decisions**.
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