

Rye Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 12, 2023
3:00 PM
Rye Public Library

1. Attendance

Howard Kalet, Tom Pfau, Lisa Sweet, Rob Spork, Carl Nicolino, Frank Melanson

2. August meeting minutes

Approved unanimously

3. Community Power update

Rates for Rye Community Power changed on August 1. The rates are the lowest available in the state. The Eversource rate is 12.58 ¢/kWh and there is only one product option (with the minimum renewable energy content of 23.4%).

The current rate period will go through the end of January 2024. New rates will be set in late December and posted on the Rye.CommunityPowerNH.gov website thirty days in advance of the February 1, 2024 - July 31, 2024 rate period.

Of Rye's 2914 customers (excluding large commercial and industrial customers), 24 have opted out to use Eversource or a competitive supplier. 53 customers who were not automatically enrolled (because they were using a competitive supplier or are net metered customers) have chosen to opt in to Rye Community Power. To opt up to a more renewable product, you can go to Rye.CommunityPowerNH.gov or call 1-866-603-POWR (7697)

Product	Rate (¢/kwh)	# Rye Customers
Granite Basic (23.4% renewable)	10.9	2868
Granite Plus (33% renewable)	11.3	1
Clean 50 (50% renewable)	12.3	13
Clean 100 (100% renewable)	15.2	8

The table shows the approximate number of customers at the end of August and the rates which started on the first meter read in August. There are 12 active community power programs operating with the Community Power Coalition of NH. The city of Dover and Cheshire County will be launching by the end of November.

The Community Power Coalition of NH will be developing products and pricing for large commercial and industrial customers. They are also actively working with the utilities to enable net metered customers to participate without losing their net metering credits. Some net metering customers can participate without losing their credit, but others (in short - those who receive a payment either monthly or annually because they sell more energy to the grid than they purchase from the grid) can not be served at this time because the utilities need to provide that data as required by RSA 53-E and the PUC 2200 rules.

4. School solar update

Tom provided a summary of monthly solar production and demand charges for the School solar installation over the past year. He noted that demand charges for Rye Junior High have decreased each month compared to the previous year. Members engaged in a discussion about strategies to further reduce peak demand, such as using a building management system to automatically stagger startup times for energy-intensive equipment. Rye Energy Committee will seek to meet with the Rye School Board to discuss the charging station so that appropriate and beneficial use is defined.

The roof work at Rye Elementary School has been completed. The School Board will decide whether to install the solar panels, the size of installation, and what type of installation will be used (either a power purchase agreement or an outright purchase of the system).

5. Breakfast Hill solar project update

Discussions are ongoing with the Select Board to determine the liability management of the parcel of land in the absence of the original documentation.

6. Offshore Wind

With more committee members now present, Carl provided in-depth background information on existing and planned offshore wind projects in the Gulf of Maine region. He confirmed plans for Tom Sherman, David Watters to attend our next meeting to discuss NH state offshore wind commission. Members discussed project timelines in consideration of rising costs and supply chain issues. Conversation also focused on the environmental review process and potential impacts to fisheries, whales, and other wildlife. Questions were raised about policy changes needed in New Hampshire to enable greater industry participation and economic development opportunities.

7. Town Master Plan – Housing Survey

Tom shared details from the Master Planning Committee meeting that reviewed a buildout analysis conducted for the ongoing master plan update. He displayed maps showing the locations of existing homes and developments based on assessor data and

maps outlining potential future development areas based on current zoning regulations and minimum lot sizes. Committee discussion focused on how the master plan could incorporate goals and recommendations around climate change mitigation and encouraging new construction to be more energy efficient.

Rye uses the 2018 International Residential Code (IRC) and the 2018 International Building Code (IBC). Other communities such as Durham use the more stringent code, which is the 2021 IRC/IBC. A more stringent code requires the new construction to be more energy efficient. This costs more in initial costs, but does save money for heating and cooling over the life of the building. There are incentives available to increase the efficiency of home construction and remodeling. (see [NHSAVES.com](https://www.nhsaves.com))

Howard and Tom will attend the housing public session on September 27 to represent the committee's interests.

8. New Business

There is money available in the REC budget for more people to attend the Local Energy Solutions Conference (LES) or to take a course. We receive 2 complimentary tickets to LES through our membership with Clean Energy NH.

9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 4:59 pm.