



**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH NH
Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee**

AGENDA

**Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 6:30 pm
City Hall Conference Room A
and via Zoom**

Members of the public may attend in person or via Zoom. To attend via Zoom, you must register in advance. Please click on the link below or copy and paste this into your web browser:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUud-yorz4oEtTpEqvzQV6nu7GTAZtIagUa>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Roll call
2. Chairman's remarks
3. Approval of September 4, 2024 minutes
4. City energy efficiency plans – DPW Director Peter Rice, Facilities Manager Joe Almeida and City consultant Michael Davey, Business Development Manager at Energy Efficient Investments based in Merrimack, New Hampshire. *Energy Efficient Investments Inc. (EEI) was founded in 2007 and specializes in Performance Contracting in New Hampshire. Along with their parent company ENE Systems, Inc. EEI has over seventy years of experience in building control systems, security, automation and energy efficiency.*
5. Battery storage program for cold weather shelters covering 80% of cost
6. NREL/wind power for sewer plants, update
7. Green Challenge report on August opt-ups
8. Green Challenge “yard sign” options – Stephanie Seacord, PIO
9. Old business
10. Public comment



CITY OF PORTSMOUTH NH
Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee
Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 5:30 pm

Meeting recording: <https://youtu.be/JPWGP4tVOTE>

Attending: Councilor John Tabor, Kevin Charette, Herb Lloyd, Councilor Cook, Ben D'Antonio. Staff: Jillian Harris, Stephanie Seacord (recording secretary) Not attending: Tom Rooney, Betsy Blaisdell, Tracey Cameron, Peter Somssich, Councilor Kate Cook

1. **Roll call** – Chair Tabor called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm. As a quorum was not present, no formal actions were taken.
2. **Approval of Minutes** – deferred to October meeting
3. **CPCNH net metering**. As the meeting packet information noted, CPCNH is pushing back against PUC/utility company efforts to lower the amount solar accounts are paid and to hold the current policy for the next two years. Eversource is reporting that it's "technically hard" to provide net metering while CPCNH is seeking rates that vary with time-of-day demand and for battery storage options that allow solar owners to put energy back at maximum rate times. CPCNH's goal is that all changes in net metering are supported in a way Community Power customers can take advantage. Kevin suggested that an update from CPCNH or our representative Tom Rooney might be a good topic for a future PEAC meeting. Chair Tabor commented that the zoom call with Brian Callnan demonstrated how complex the topic is; but Portsmouth had 140 solar customers when Portsmouth Community Power went live in 2023 and the group is growing.
4. **NH Saves "Button Up" Workshop October 23 at Community Campus** – Tracey Cameron is coordinating with the Library and Sustainability Committee. Outreach in the form of flyers, press release and City Newsletter all forthcoming.
5. **NREL statement of work** – Herb Lloyd reported he is expecting to hear back from NREL imminently but will be out of town September 10-17 and will forward, when received, to Chair Tabor. Following the first meeting, the scope is focused on how best to take advantage of City property on Peirce Island in and around the wastewater treatment facility.
6. **Jones Avenue solar array options** – Peter Somssich had intended to report back on research he has done on state and county options. Kevin commented that the Jones Avenue Commission report 2014-15 said the site was "not suitable for other uses" than passive recreation. More information is needed. Chair Tabor noted that if PEAC can identify a feasible and workable proposal for a solar array on the site – especially one that could generate power behind the meter – that there would be a public process of outreach, public comment and City Council policy decision before directing staff to advance any project. Kevin noted that Katrina at CleanEnergy NH and the CPCNH Projects team will be good resources for Portsmouth. A site visit to the Exeter solar array and/or zoom participation by the Exeter project manager in a PEAC meeting might be helpful.
7. **Green Challenge** – Launched August 1, Preliminary reports show the numbers and percentages of Community Power customers opting-up in Dover, Portsmouth, Newmarket, Durham and Exeter. Duration:

Aug 1, 2024 through Jan 31, 2025. PIO Stephanie Seacord will investigate options for yard signs – pricing, recyclable materials, etc. for the October meeting.

8. **Old business: None**

9. Adjourned at 6:30 pm

Next PEAC meeting: Wednesday, October 2 at 6:30 pm

DRAFT



Information for Municipalities interested in Battery Storage

Funding

Through its \$1M New Hampshire Clean Energy Fund (“NHCEF”), Eversource is authorized to award grants to cover 50% of the entire project cost to New Hampshire municipalities who are primarily served by Eversource to install battery storage on a Eversource-served building that is used as an emergency shelter or an emergency response center (or will be designated as such after the battery installation is complete). Grant awards have a maximum dollar amount of \$200,000 per project and are subject to available funding within the NHCEF and Eversource approval.

Additional low- or zero-interest financing for the remaining portion of the project, up to \$100,000, is also available through another portion of Eversource’s NHCEF, in partnership with [Capital for Change](#).

Demand Response

Towns who receive funding from the NHCEF must participate in dispatches for Eversource’s Active Demand Response (ADR) program (ConnectedSolutions), for a period of three years once the battery is operational. The Eversource ADR program calls on batteries through an automated process to discharge (export energy to the grid) in summer months when the grid is strained.

Discharge events are called in July and August to try to mitigate the highest 40 daily peaks in those months. Eversource will call up to 60 events in a summer season.

DERMS Integration

All batteries that participate in Eversource Demand Response programs must be integrated with Eversource’s Distributed Energy Resource Management System (DERMS). This ensures that the battery will receive signals (dispatch, cancel dispatch, etc.) and subsequently dispatch to help reduce strain on the grid.

Storms

Eversource will not call on batteries for Demand Response if a storm is predicted.



Thank you for your interest in the NH Clean Energy Fund Battery Program.

If your town is interested in installing a battery and using funding from the NHCEF to partially offset the total project costs, please fill out and return this preliminary application to Jennifer Runyon at Eversource (jennifer.runyon@eversource.com) on or before November 15, 2024.

Contact Information

Town Name:

Point of contact name, title, phone and email:

Clean Energy NH Circuit Rider Name, phone and email:

Level of Commitment

What is your timeline should you receive Eversource approval to move on to the next round? Please explain how quickly you can move forward with this battery project.

What are competing priorities and/or potential roadblocks for your town that could impact your ability to move forward with this project?

NHSaves Participation

Has your municipality participated in the NHSaves Municipal Energy Efficiency program in the past? If so, please describe the building(s) and project(s) undertaken over the last five years:

Does your municipality anticipate participating in the NHSaves Municipal program in the future? If yes, please describe what energy efficiency upgrades and/or buildings you anticipate being included in projects.

Battery Sites and Specifics

Potential location of municipal emergency shelter: (must be on a building served by Eversource):

Additional potential site addresses?

Please describe any other work you have done on this project such as spoken to installers, received a quote, assessed community interest, etc.

Please note: All project funding is subject to Eversource approval.

Seacoast Energy Challenge July 2024 through January 2025

Community	Launch Date	Current Accounts	Default Product	Initial Opt-Ups (as of June 30, 2024)		Monthly Opt Ups							Cumulative Results (to Date)		
				Opt-Up %	Count	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Net Change	Current Count	Opt-Up %
Dover	10/23	13,024	Granite Basic	0.8%	95	5	4						12	107	0.8%
Durham	3/24	2,638	Granite Plus	1.9%	51	-	1						-	51	1.9%
Exeter	4/23	6,745	Granite Basic	1.8%	124	3	-						1	125	1.9%
Newmarket	3/24	3,910	Granite Basic	0.6%	22	1	7						8	30	0.8%
Portsmouth	4/23	11,185	Granite Basic	2.0%	210	8	6						13	223	2.0%

Notes:

Launch Date: Month that the CPA started serving customers

Current Accounts: Total accounts currently receiving services as of the report date.

Default Product: The energy product that has been chosen as the "default" for each CPA.

Initial Opt Up: Initial percentage / number of active customers who started with a rate product with a higher renewable energy content than the Default Product.

Monthly Opt Ups: Count of number of customers who "Opted Up" during each month, either through the online system or by calling or emailing the CPCNH Contact Center.

Cumulative Results / Net Change: Difference in total number of Opt-Up customers as of the report date relative to the baseline as of June 30, 2024. This may differ from the total of the "Monthly Opt Ups", because it includes customers who Opt In directly to a rate product with higher renewable energy content, as well as customers who Opted Out or Down, or who moved out of the service territory and terminated their account.

Cumulative Results / Current Count: Count of customers who have Opted Up from their CPA's Default Product as of the report date.

Cumulative Results / Opt Up %: Percentage of customers who have Opted Up from their CPA's Default Product as of the report date.