

Energy and Climate Action Committee Meeting Minutes October 15, 2025

In attendance: Liz Steel, Beth Meachem, Bill Chidsey and Blake Auchincloss (on zoom)

Beth made a motion to approve the minutes from June 18th meeting. Blake seconded. Minutes approved - no discussion.

Liz shared the statistics of the WindowDresser participants and encouraged the committee members to sign up to help at the Community Build. The Build begins on 10/31 at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center. Beth and Liz are signed up for November 8th in the morning and Liz is helping to organize the whole event with Craftsbury Energy Committee Chair, Kevin Gregoire. Glover Energy Committee is also helping.

Discussion was had about next steps for the committee and how we can have a positive impact on our community.

The group agreed that building a lending library of books and tools to be shared with the community through the library would be beneficial and worth seeking financial support from the town to support this effort. It was also agreed that investing in some carbon monoxide monitors that we could loan out to folks who are participating in the WindowDressers program would be valuable. We would ask the participants to monitor their home both before and after the window inserts are installed to ensure that their homes are safe and healthy. Bill recommended the KN-COPP -B-LPM monitors and was going to get a quote for Liz.

It was agreed that we should create a checklist of ways to save energy in the home. This could include appliance recommendations and low cost action steps folks could take on their own. Beth agreed to take the lead on this.

Liz would like to approach the SB for funds in the 2026-2027 town budget to cover planned activities. The committee will reach out to other towns to find out what funding they receive from their towns.

Liz provided an update on the Residential Building Energy Standards (RBES) effort. Liz noted that Brett was receptive to including information on the RBES on the zoning page. We also put information on the ECAC page of the town website and linked it to the “Build it Right” piece that Liz and Blake put together. Liz noted she is applying for a Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund grant to help with RBES readiness and education more broadly in the NEK.

After a year of publishing our ECAC News Alerts, promoting helpful tips and money saving incentives for energy efficiencies, it was agreed to work on a new approach going forward. The goal is to get more community engagement with quizzes, questions and prizes. Blake agreed to take the lead on this.

Liz noted she was meeting with Kent on October 16th to brainstorm the approach for the Town Plan. The suggestion is to use a template to help those contributing to the Town Plan to provide a consistent level of input.

Beth and Bill gave an overview to the MERP event at the Library on Oct 18th and Bill provided the details of the energy efficiency work that he is doing. The new Ecobee smart home thermostat will be integrated into the set up as an easy to use temperature and ventilation control. The Ecoer air-to-water whole building heat pump will provide heating and cooling without the use of refrigerants, making the whole system not only energy efficient but also safer. Use of oil for the furnace will be significantly reduced.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 21, 2026 from 6-7:30 at the Greensboro Free Library.

