

Greensboro Energy and Climate Action Committee
Minutes April 29,2026
DRAFT

Present: Blake Auchincloss, Beth Meachem, Bill Chidsey

1-Beth made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2026 meeting. Blake seconded. All approved

2-Discussion had on planning for Heat Pump 101 Workshop. Date set for 3rd Saturday in August, August 22nd, at 4PM. Committee decided this should be held at Fellowship Hall. Beth to secure space. The event will have a panel made up of folks who have been using heat pumps in their homes. Suggested panelists are Brent and Maya, Blake Auchincloss and Liz Steel. Maybe the Gebbie's who have a variety of alternative energy Resources. We also need to identify owners of an older home who have installed a heat pump who can talk to their experience. Bill will work on this. Blake suggested that the library project might be a good example of heat pump install and all the considerations and work that needed to be done to make a heat pump practical. Beth will reach out to the Sandra and Peter Gebbie. Blake suggested the keynote speaker could be Gwendolyn S. Saveur. Blake will reach out to her to see if she is interested and what type of stipend she would require. She would be asked to speak to the balance between heat pumps and other fuels. She would also be able to speak to assistance and affordability related to purchase and installation of heat pumps in the home. We also want to invite Efficiency Vermont to speak to heat pumps and they could talk to the pluses and minuses as well as incentives. Beth will reach out to Efficiency Vermont. If Gwendolyn is not interested in participating Blake will ask her if she has any recommendations and Bill suggested that Matt Sargent who started up efforts at Efficiency Vermont would be a good alternative. We would market the event to all the surrounding towns in hopes of garnering a strong turn out.

3-A brief discussion was had around the \$1,000 allocation the committee received from the town. Some of the funds would be used to pay a keynote in August. The balance of the funds would go to printing and mailing a flyer

to local residents and purchasing of items for the lending library. Thought was to use Beth's low cost energy savings list for the flyer.

Blake and Bill will work on a list of items to be gathered to begin the creation of an energy lending library. There is no deadline for either of these projects but Beth suggested that we aim for fall/winter to focus on finalizing these actions.

4-Bill mentioned several conferences and trainings he has attended on heat pumps. Discussion was had around the affordability of the Mitsubishi air to water heat pump systems. Bill noted that LEAP event in Waterbury had a huge turnout and the focus was on large solar and EV projects.

5-We reviewed Liz's report on her activities around her RBES project. The depth of her research was impressive. Blake mentioned that the state has recently adopted the 2020 RBES requirements. This was updated from the 2014 document. Discussion was had around the fact that every community approaches this differently. That even with the adoption of the new version of the RBES regulations there is still no way to enforce them. Blake noted that building permits and building sales are the only points that we currently have to note commitment to the RBES regulations. Thanks to the work of Blake and Liz Greensboro now has it built in to the Building permits in Greensboro. Discussion was had around the benefits of a regional approach to implementing the RBES.