



City of Keene, N.H.  
*Transmittal Form*

January 17, 2019

**TO:** Mayor and Keene City Council

**FROM:** Conservation Commission

**THROUGH:** W. Rhett Lamb

**ITEM:** G.1.

**SUBJECT:** Sustainable Energy Resolution - Conservation Commission

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

At its meeting of November 19, 2018 Ms. Clark moved for the Conservation Commission to recommend that City Council adopt the resolution presented by the Energy and Climate Committee, with Conservation Commission support. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion, which the Conservation Commission carried unanimously.

**BACKGROUND:**

Chair Haynes welcomed Suzanne Butcher, from the Energy and Climate Committee, who referenced a letter in the meeting packet. She and Nancy Gillard submitted a draft resolution for City Council consideration that would: set new goals for all electricity consumed in the City to come from renewable energy sources by the year 2030, and that 100% of all thermal energy and energy used for transportation come from renewable energy sources by the year 2050. The draft resolution, which 89 other US cities have adopted, can be viewed in the meeting packet. She explained support for this resolution from the Chamber of Commerce, for example, in helping policy makers understand and take steps to prepare for climate change impacts, like the 71% increased concentration of heavy rainfall events in New England. She welcomed questions from the Commission.

Mr. Walker asked about the increased concentration of precipitation. Ms. Butcher replied studies show increased concentration of precipitation during heavy rain and snow events. This is just one example of climate change our nation is facing.

Chair Haynes said this overview is informational and can be presented on a future agenda. Mr. Lamb recalled the proposed resolution submitted to City Council go before the MSFI Committee on November 28, where they will likely make a recommendation to Council. The Commission can make a statement of support to share with Council when they vote on the recommendation from the Energy and Climate Committee.

Ms. Clark moved for the Conservation Commission to recommend that City Council adopt the resolution presented by the Energy and Climate Committee, with Conservation Commission support. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion, which the Conservation Commission carried unanimously.



City of Keene, N.H.  
*Transmittal Form*

January 9, 2019

**TO:** Mayor and Keene City Council

**FROM:** Municipal Services, Facilities & Infrastructure Committee

**ITEM:** H.1.

**SUBJECT:** Roxbury Street Bridge Replacement – Aesthetic Options – Public Works Department

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

On a vote of 5-0, the Municipal Services, Facilities & Infrastructure Committee placed this item on more time for one cycle for staff to return with answers to the Committee's questions.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City Engineer and Josh Lund, McFarland Johnson Consultant, described aesthetic options for the Roxbury Street bridge replacement, for which the Committee has already heard about construction methods. Mr. Lund used a visual aid (diagrams and photo examples) to describe the three bridge rail options for the Committee's consideration, all of which were designed to be safe (crash tested for vehicles) and match the aesthetics of downtown. He noted all options include a pedestal with decorative light posts (to match light posts downtown) at all four corners of the bridge.

- Option A – Powder Coated Steel Barrier and Railing
  - Steel bridge posts with rails and pedestrian balusters. (An opening no smaller than four inches)
- Option B – Combined Decorative Concrete Barrier and Steel Railing
  - A low decorative concrete barrier wall that can have a form liner stone veneer, with a steel pedestrian rail above it.
- Option C – Decorative Concrete Barrier
  - Entirely concrete barrier and pedestrian baluster using recessed decorative panels. There are many decorative concrete stamp options.

The City Engineer noted all options that include steel will be powder coated a specific color, as opposed to the more rustic, exposed steel on the pedestrian trails. He suggests painting decorative pedestrian steel railings (Option B) black to match the light fixtures. If there is more exposed steel (Option A), a lighter blue or green might look better. He hopes to have the Committee's input on this aspect. He added that all three options will be tested for vehicle safety.

Councilor Filiault said he is pleased with the light pedestals because there is not enough lighting in Keene. He asked the City Engineer what option he would choose in his professional opinion. The City Engineer said he prefers Option B because it would be an aesthetically pleasing complement to the industrial heritage of downtown Keene. Option C is modern and does not feel authentic to downtown. Councilor Filiault asked the cost of each option. The City Engineer said they do not have specific figures but all options should fall within the allotted budget; the project is still in the preliminary design phase. Mr. Lund said Option C is the least expensive and Option B is the most expensive.



City of Keene, N.H.  
*Transmittal Form*

January 9, 2019

**TO:** Mayor and Keene City Council

**FROM:** Municipal Services, Facilities & Infrastructure Committee

**ITEM:** K.1.

**SUBJECT:** Relating to Sustainable Energy Goals

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

On a vote of 4-1, the Municipal Services, Facilities & Infrastructure Committee recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution R-2018-36. Councilor Sutherland opposed.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**Description**

Resolution R-2018-36

**BACKGROUND:**

The City Manager recalled a request came before this Committee to create a resolution related to sustainable energy goals. Staff presented the Committee with the proposed resolution that is ready to move forward for Council consideration. She noted slight changes to wording since the Committee saw it last, which Ms. Brunner summarized.

1. The end of the resolution previously said this is “a policy and plan” of the City, which now reads as, “a goal” of the City. She said a goal is more aspirational and can be applied to the whole community as opposed to something focused only on the municipal government.
2. The original proposed resolution listed a deadline of April 2020, which staff changed to December 2020 after evaluating staff availability to support the best possible public engagement process.

Ms. Brunner added that the draft resolution mistakenly includes a statement that it will take effect upon 60 days, which she does not think is logical for this resolution. The City Attorney agreed it is a Scribner error and has no substantive effect on the resolution.

Councilor Sutherland asked if this goal applies to the entire Keene community and not just municipal operations, what the implications are for the community; the City does not have purview over how an individual acts. The City Manager said a large part of this conversation has been reaching out to the broader community; the City has done well reducing its carbon footprint but has not engaged the community. One charge of the Energy and Climate Committee (ECC) is public education, so this resolution was written to support community wide initiatives.

Councilor Sutherland said he is voting against this resolution because he thinks the City already has renewable energy goals outlined clearly in the Master Plan. He does not think it is appropriate to say this goal applies to the entire community, when some in the community might not share this goal. The City Manager said staff did not want to be too specific because they will discuss implementation when developing the strategic plan. Councilor Sutherland asked then, if this is just a resolution saying we will have a plan; he said there is already a

Master Plan and strategic plan approved by the Joint Committee. He said it is inappropriate to pass this and find out what happens later.

Ann Shed, Chair of the ECC, said Keene set a precedent by joining the Cities for Climate Protection in 2000 and worked to reduce the City's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions 20% municipally and 10% community-wide between 1995-2015. She said the City has set a precedent of adopting goals for the community. At that time a plan had not been formulated and it took the City four additional years to adopt the Climate Action Plan, in which there were goals for each community sector (commercial, residential, transportation, etc.). She hopes it will not take four years to develop the Strategic Energy Plan, which is essentially an update to the Climate Action Plan developed 15 years ago. She was pleased to hear the Committee making solar power a priority for earlier agenda items and the municipality should be commended for its efforts to date. Still, the context has changed and we are aware of new threats and the urgency of action. The energy market is also evolving toward renewables. With new technology emerging, the ECC is researching models to make energy efficiency accessible across the income spectrum. In addition to the municipality, the commercial/industrial sector also made significant progress reducing GHG emissions between 1995-2015 because they realized the economic benefits. She is enthusiastic to work on the plan with the ECC and stakeholders throughout the community; the December 2020 deadline coincides with the end of her tenure on the ECC.

Chair Manwaring recognized Nancy Gillard (72 Reservoir St.), who spoke on behalf of herself and Suzanne Butcher (41 Felt Rd.). As a long-time resident, Ms. Gillard said she is proud this is before the Committee in addition to the other great efforts the City has made to reduce GHG emissions, saving the municipality and taxpayer's money. She believes this resolution is a logical next step for the City to join the more than 100 cities nationwide (5th in NH) to adopt this resolution; Keene can learn effective strategies from the cities that have already done this. She encouraged the City to recognize the scope of this work and that Ms. Brunner developed the timeline carefully with the ECC. She does not think people will stop adopting energy efficient strategies during the next two years working on the plan. She said the Clean Energy Team will continue supporting community outreach and working with stakeholders that have submitted letters of support. She and Ms. Butcher are proud of Keene and think this is a great way to move ahead implementing one element of the Master Plan.

Chair Manwaring continued recognizing members of the public.

Peter Wadowick (Langdon), who works for Bensonwood Manufacturing, thinks 15 months is plenty of time to develop a plan, as opposed to the 23 months proposed. Concord has already adopted this resolution and is in the process of developing a Strategic Energy Plan. He read a statement from the Concord ECC advisory report in support of 100% renewable energy: The City should develop and adopt an initial plan within one year of making its commitment to achieve the goal of 100% renewable electricity. City staff will draft the plan with the Energy Committee providing oversight and assistance, and a stakeholder group providing community input. The plan might include a conceptual approach to achieving the long-term renewable energy goals as well as more specific steps that might be achieved in short-term timeframes. This plan would be updated periodically over the course of the period until 2050. Mr. Wadowick thinks Concord recognizes their sustainable energy plan should be written expeditiously; the plan should be a living and working document added to and fine-tuned over time as technology and practices change. Renewables are good for the economy, environment, and community health. He understands that resources and staff are limited but he thinks 23 months to create a plan implies a certain reticence and undue bureaucracy that the City might regret. He hopes there will be an amendment to change the deadline back to April 2020.

Abigail Walton (40 Avon St.): Environmental Studies Professor at Antioch University New England (AUNE), former Keene Master Plan Steering Committee member, and former Planning Board member. She is familiar with the planning process and resonated with the theme of citizen pride expressed regarding this resolution. She just returned from the National Conference on Science & the Environment in Washington, DC and found NH icy instead of snowy, as it should be. There is a sense of urgency about the impacts of climate change. Still, she

was proud because Keene was featured again in the US Government's Fourth National Climate Assessment for its innovative approach to climate adaptation planning. That plan was created through stakeholder engagement as a part of the Master Plan goals; it continues to be recognized internationally. She said it is easy to forget Keene is looked to as a leader in this space but we should be proud and recognize the opportunity to continue elevating and making this a place that attracts people. On the theme of pride, she noted how happy she was as an educator to see Ms. Brunner and Ms. Thelen, who are alumni of AUNE, doing good things in the world. She looks forward to AUNE students' involvement in this planning process as well. She said the Master Plan was not created to collect dust on a shelf; it is a living document with language stating we recognize there is always a need to take actions of leadership, like with this resolution. She quoted the section of the Master Plan on renewable energy: The City should actively pursue the integration of renewable large and small-scale energy sources. City government should continue to pursue federal and state funding for renewable energy projects as well as working with local groups to create renewable energy incentives for residential and commercial landowners. She said that if the City moves forward with a robust plan there is an opportunity for shovel-ready projects that attract investment and increases Keene's competition in the state. This is one of the top implementation strategies in the Master Plan. She understands staff is busy with another top implementation strategy—the Land Use Code Update—but she agreed that April 2020 is a better goal and hopes the resolution will be amended in that way.

Regarding the timeline, the City Manager noted the Community Development Department is very short staffed. While she knows everyone faces these staffing challenges, the City is in the middle of a large project that takes great time. A senior planner is on leave and two others have retired recently. She added that Keene is not as big and does not have the same resources as Concord. So, when staff is on leave, it takes time to recruit. The Community Development Director reflected carefully on the current projects and the timeline Ms. Brunner drafted and determined December 2020 is the most realistic deadline to achieve this goal successfully.

Chair Manwaring spoke in favor of the December 2020 deadline because it gives Council more time to understand the issues and prepare to vote. She thinks community buy-in seems important and meeting the 100% renewable energy goals by 2030/2050 will require time spent showing the community how they can do their part. She is pleased to see the ECC and Clean Energy Team's hard work and she knows they will do great outreach.

Chair Manwaring recognized Councilor Terry Clark, who was grateful to see the participation around this issue. He said December 2020 might be reasonable if starting from scratch, but the ECC is already working on it and wants to keep moving forward. It is increasingly important to start implementing this goal. He said the level of support for the ECC was evident by the public participation in the meeting and thus this plan will not likely need as much staff support. He thinks it can be completed in one year. He asked the members of this Committee to amend the resolution with a deadline of April 2020. He said putting it off tells the community it is not important when it is.

Connor Hill (Winchester) recalled a recent news report that carbon dioxide emissions increased last year and there is no time to procrastinate. When he was here last he presented a letter from Keene High School students and it is an issue that will define his generation, the future of Keene, and the planet. As a young person, he urged the Committee to act as quickly as possible.

Mr. Wadowick noted he is also on the Clean Energy Team. While he understands the staffing concern he thinks it is a barrier we should overcome and the Clean Energy Team is willing to do what they can to help. He still thinks April 2020 is a better, more urgent deadline to show we take this seriously.

Councilor Hooper asked Ms. Shedd her feelings about the deadline. She said she could not speak for the ECC because the deadline changed since their last meeting. Personally, she felt relieved when she saw the December deadline because she thinks the plan will be deeper with that additional time for community engagement. Beyond drafting the plan, sharing it will take time in addition to the Council process, which is also lengthy. She stated that action will not halt while this plan is developing. She is also a member of the Monadnock Energy Hub, a

coalition of local energy committees, initiating solarized and weatherized campaigns throughout the region. She would be happy to complete the plan sooner than December 2020, but thinks it is a reasonable and realistic deadline.

Councilor Lamoureux said this resolution is important for the community and thinks this is a good balance of urgency and realities of staff availability and Council proceedings. He commended the Community Development Director and Ms. Brunner for working as hard as they have, and will continue to, make that deadline possible. He supports the December 2020 deadline because the ECC and staff want to do a good job.

The Community Development Director noted one important element of the December 2020 date is that City and stakeholders will not stop working on GHG reductions and energy efficiency in the meantime. They are looking for new opportunities every day and the plan will help the community develop better options and alternatives.

Councilor Filiault said he supports the December 2020 deadline because the plan can be completed earlier. When things are rushed they take longer to get through the Council process. He said it is better to take staff advice and change something later if necessary.

Mr. Wadowick asked if the deadline means the plan must be adopted by December 2020 or just complete and starting the Council process. Ms. Brunner said the word adopt was not included because we cannot assume the Council will adopt something that has not been developed yet. The ECC and staff timeline builds in time for the adoption process but that is not guaranteed.

Councilor Sutherland made the following motion, which Councilor Lamoureux seconded.

On a vote of 4-1, the Municipal Services, Facilities & Infrastructure Committee recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution R-2018-36. Councilor Sutherland opposed.



# CITY OF KEENE

R-2018-36

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Eighteen.....

A RESOLUTION RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY GOALS.....

*Resolved by the City Council of the City of Keene, as follows:*

WHEREAS, The City of Keene has formally recognized the challenges of Climate Change since the year 2000 when it became a participant in the Cities for Climate Protection Program; and

WHEREAS, The City of Keene then developed and implemented a Climate Action Plan in 2004 and a Climate Adaptation Plan in 2007 and incorporated these plans into its 2010 Comprehensive Master Plan after extensive community stakeholder engagement; and

WHEREAS, The State of New Hampshire 2009 Climate Action Plan set a goal of reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 80% from 1990 to 2050; and

WHEREAS, the challenges presented by Climate Change have become increasingly apparent in the intervening years, as reported in the Congressionally-mandated National Climate Assessments; and

WHEREAS, the United States Energy Information Administration reports that the combustion of fossil fuels accounts for as much as 76% of US Greenhouse Gas Emissions; and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency measures that drive down energy demand are the most cost-effective means to reduce fossil fuel consumption, and clean energy sources such as solar, wind, and small hydro may now be cost-competitive with fossil fuel sources; and

WHEREAS, local, distributed generation of energy can provide resilience to weather-related interruptions of energy supply and economic disruptions of energy pricing while reducing air pollution and associated public health risks; and

WHEREAS, clean, renewable energy is one of the nation's fastest-growing employment sectors and represents an enormous economic opportunity for Keene to create jobs and attract talent, thereby contributing to the vision of a vibrant economy outlined in the Comprehensive Master Plan and the Economic Development Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, economically disadvantaged residents, older people and children, people who are homeless, people with disabilities or health conditions, and

PASSED

members of other underrepresented minorities experience the impacts of climate change disproportionately; and

WHEREAS, cities across the nation have made commitments to transition to 100 percent clean energy and Keene strives to remain a leader among its peer cities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Keene that:

A. It is the goal of the City of Keene that all electricity consumed in the City will come from renewable energy sources by the year 2030 and that 100% of all thermal energy and energy used for transportation come from renewable energy sources by the year 2050. This goal will apply to the entire Keene community, not just municipal government operations.

B. The City of Keene develop a strategic plan by December, 2020 to meet these renewable energy goals through a transparent and inclusive stakeholder process.

---

Kendall W. Lane, Mayor