

Summary of City of Lebanon NH Initiatives on Energy & Environmental Sustainability

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- In 2007, a decade ago, the City Council created the Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee (LEAC) and charged it with identifying “opportunities and mak[ing] recommendations to the City Council with regard to reducing energy use, increasing energy efficiency, exploring alternative energy usage and reducing pollution, to the environmental and fiscal benefit of the City.” That charge was later expanded “To promote energy conservation measures for city residents and businesses, thereby cutting greenhouse gas emissions and reducing energy costs for taxpayers.”
- One of the early major tasks that was accomplished was to develop an Energy Chapter for the City’s Master plan.
- In 2012 both the Planning Board and City Council adopted that chapter as official policy to help guide the City’s development. To quote from that plan:
- “The long term vision for Lebanon’s energy future is to increase energy savings for residents, businesses, and municipal functions, to ensure a robust and stable energy economy, and to reduce the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions that result from a fossil fuel-dependent economy. The purpose of the Energy Plan is to develop near-term outcomes, strategies, and actions that lay a strong foundation for Lebanon’s energy future, for the fiscal and environmental benefit and security of the City and its taxpayers.”
- The plan includes a statement that “The City shall comply with the New Hampshire Climate Action Plan, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.
- The overall long-term goal is that “Lebanon is a leader in energy efficiency, renewable energy reliance, and innovation across municipal, commercial, institutional, and residential sectors.”
- The plan outlines numerous strategies and actions to support that goal, a significant number of which are incorporated into the City’s current Outcomes and Work Plan.
- In 2013, upon recommendation of LEAC, the City Council adopted property tax exemptions for renewable energy systems pursuant to RSA 72.
- The City undertook major upgrades to its waste water treatment plant that both improved its energy efficiency and the quality of treated water, such as by reducing nitrogen.
- Over the years LEAC has sponsored a number of Button-Up workshops and other forums and events, including a Solar Expo earlier this year.

- In 2014 LEAC studied the potential for improving the energy of street lighting by converting to LEDs. This led to Liberty Utilities piloting LED street lights around Colburn Park and subsequently proposing an LED tariff that was approved earlier this year. The City participated in that PUC docket and as part of a settlement approved by the PUC, Liberty agreed to work with the City to allow City installed and owned LED street lights, which is significant because it opens the door to consideration of smart street lighting which could be dimmable and adjustable, with built-in revenue grade metering to allow for realization of electric use savings.
- In 2015 the City and LEAC, in conjunction with citizen volunteers and Vital Communities supported a Solarize Lebanon-Enfield initiative that resulted in a four-fold increase in PV in Lebanon, from about 81 kW to 320 kW of installed capacity. This installed capacity has continued to increase since then.
- Several years ago the City installed a LFG collection system and began flaring the gas, reducing by many fold the warming potential of that source of GHG emissions.
- In 2016 LEAC developed criteria for evaluating the renewable energy potential at City sites and soon realized that in addition to about 1 MW of potential generation from landfill gas, the City has sites suitable for multiple megawatts of PV and could, within a few years, be generating more than twice what City government consumes.
- Also in 2016 LEAC and the Planning Department undertook development of zoning amendments that allow community scale solar in all zoning districts, plus other appropriate renewable energy. The City Council and voters approved all of these recommendations by March of this year, laying the ground work for much expanded development of renewable energy within the City.
- Also upon the LEAC's recommendation our City Council has taken a number of actions over the past 2 years, including:
 - authorized the City to intervene in NH PUC proceedings to develop new net metering terms, investigate grid modernization, and previously mentioned case where we secured several new options for LED street lighting, including municipal ownership.
 - authorized LEAC to serve as Lebanon's Electric Aggregation Committee pursuant to RSA 53-E to develop a plan for municipal aggregation (MA) of electric loads and a pilot with real time hourly pricing and innovative net metering and community solar opportunities. In late June, as part of the PUC docket to develop new net metering tariffs and rates, the PUC gave preliminary approval to the City's proposed real time pricing (RTP) pilot using MA and directed Liberty Utilities to work with the City to develop and file a final plan. LEAC is now working on this innovative plan to enable new forms of community solar, with direct producer to consumer retail sales, like farm to table, along with other

distributed energy resources such as storage and demand response which are key to accelerating the integration of distributed renewable resources at scale and in a cost-effective manner.

- requested a proposed Capital Improvement Plan project for 2018 to implement 1 MW of electric generation from LFG which may be sold through our municipal aggregation and that proposal is now pending in the City's current budget process
- and last, but not least, the City budgeted for a full-time Energy & Facilities Manager directly under the City Manager, a position which hopefully is on the verge of being filled
- This summer the City Council unanimously passed a resolution in support of the Paris Climate Accords and expressing the City's commitment to continue to work within and with other municipalities to implement actions in support of the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.
- Finally, the City and LEAC are supporting a new Weatherize Lebanon initiative by citizen volunteers and Vital Communities, that will launch after the first of the year and encourage residents to undertake deeper whole house performance energy audits and investments with utility support.
- We have much to do to achieve our sustainable energy and climate actions goals and will continue our work, with or without the support of our federal government.