

ESSEX ENERGY COMMITTEE

AGENDA:

Wednesday, July 9, 2025 @7:00pm, 81 Main Street, Essex Junction

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE	VIA PHONE
Link Here (or go to Zoom App)	Dial: +1 888-788-0099
Meeting ID: 862 4719 7888	Meeting ID: 862 4719 7888
Passcode: 024651	Passcode: 024651

In Attendance: Will Dodge, chair, Dottie Bergendahl, Geetha Ganesan, Natalee Braun, Rod Williams, Katie Shattuck, Shawn McNamara- (staff representative)

ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Approval of Minutes from 05/14/2025: approved unanimously with no corrections
- B. Welcome of Rod Williams (New Member): committee members introduced themselves and were able to learn more about what drew Rod to membership on the EEC. Discussion included information about local utilities, options for renewables, specifics of how the government operated in Virginia (where Rod moved from) versus Vermont, etc.
- C. Remaining Vacancies: one current opening, still posted
- D. Issues with Overall Administration + Proposed Solutions: Will reported that he will increasingly have challenges managing the organizational aspects required of the chairmanship due to significant work demands. He will, however, remain available for projects, etc. Will plans to support whoever steps in to fully assume the organizational aspects of the EEC work, or whatever division of responsibilities we decide upon. Geetha has volunteered to undertake some aspect(s) of the leadership and the committee will discuss potential organizational structures at our August 2025 meeting.

SUBSTANTIVE

1. Champlain Valley Fair – Next Steps / Volunteers

. Time Commitment and Staffing: the conversation began with Dottie offering a history of the fair and overview of our involvement, including the role of Efficiency Vermont. Our focus has been on promoting weatherization to all interested attendees via

conversation and providing information. Katie will forward the signup spreadsheet and a request for staffing to agencies like CCRPC (Ann Janda), Efficiency VT, CVOEO and other stakeholder agencies.

a. Setup of Info Table: QR codes are valuable, also important not to promise rebates, incentives, etc. that may not be available given the current priorities at the federal level, note that we want to make it clear that we are volunteers and not associated with a specific agency or selling anything.

b. Messaging: weatherization and energy efficiency (comfort, affordability, safety, environment - We are here to make the CASE banner) Katie will contact Efficiency VT to inquire about the current status of the rebates and incentives. Efficiency VT would like us to promote their free in-home energy audits and will provide materials for us.

c. Info and Materials for Info Table: Shawn will bring the necessary equipment including tables, chairs, extension cords. See item b. Above. Will may be able to provide a monitor for our use. What are the “lures” to bring people to the table (e.g., treats, usable swag). A chart of the income guidelines will be important. Will will contact GMP for items to disseminate and Geetha will contact VT Electric COOP and VT Gas Systems for same. Natalee will get in touch with CVOEO to obtain current information and will also contact Henry Bonges and Brad Cook to request their specific expertise. Tenants’ resources for weatherization will also be valuable for the table.

2. Other Updates

a. Next Steps on Enhanced Energy Plan Discussion Resumption with Ann Janda and Katherine Sonnick: Will gave a brief overview of the Enhanced Energy Plan. Restrictions on siting of solar panels is a specific area of concern. To be taken up again at the September 2025 EEC meeting.

NOTE: Link to plan via [GoogleDocs](#).

b. Energy Committee Revised Charter To be taken up again at September 2025 EEC meeting.

b. Unsworth Parcel Opportunity / RFP / Colchester Net Metering Offset Opportunity To be taken up again at September 2025 EEC meeting.

Process has slowed dramatically - part of the challenge may be the recommendation for a consultant and the onerous task of selecting one according to the Town requirements. Battery storage could be an important aspect of the proposal - need more detail on the interaction with the power company

3. Other Business: Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM

Next meeting Wednesday, August 13, 2025 @7PM