

Town of Bow

Energy Committee

Location: 10 Grandview Road, Bow, NH, Room C

Time: 6:30 pm

APPROVED MINUTES

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Present: Nick Lydon (chair), Michael Leuchtenberger (secretary), Stephen Elgert, Russell Anderson, Rob Trotte, Robin Surette

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm.

1) Approval of 3/19/2025 Minutes

Duly moved by Steve and Michael. Approved.

2) Energy Expo Update

Nick Lydon talked with the Bow school to reserve the space again. They know we are looking for October 25, 2025. No commitments could be made at this point, since the sport schedules are not finalized yet. Jessica Dunbar is still involved with the planning team. The group is planning to move the Expo to the spring, so it is likely that we will have an Expo in October 2025 and then again in the Spring of 2026. The Pembroke Energy Committee stepped back, but two additional towns may be joining.

3) Membership/Role Openings

The committee recommends that Robin Surette be officially appointed to the Bow Energy Committee by the Bow Selectmen.

4) Report from Community Power

The committee suggests that Russell Anderson serve as the alternate to Merrimack County Community Power Council (internal name: The Power Council) - to replace Mike Marqett.

Wilmot is leaving MCCPC. The residents were unhappy because of automatic enrollment and increases in their electric rates. Most of the town is served by the Coop.

The contract says the town needs to give 36 months advanced warning to leave the Merrimack County Community Power Council.

5) Plan for the future of the committee

It remains unclear whether the Bow Energy Committee will tackle a large project or focus on smaller projects. Robin Surette was encouraged to add her thoughts to our list.

See below

6) Public Safety Center Solar

The option to buy out the panels on the Bow Safety Building opens up in 2026. Chris Andrews asked for the Bow Energy Committee's input and suggestion. Nick Lydon will forward the two page document for

all to review and prepare questions. We may need / want the complete contract. The current owner will join us by Zoom at our May 21, 2025 meeting.

6) Closing Comments

Senate Bill 106 is in the House committee now. If passed, it would increase the net zero metering cap from 1 to 5 MW.

-> 5) Plan for the future of the committee

Stephen's ideas:

1. Take advantage of the \$15 million charging stations grant to the state. It is unclear how the money can be used, but it may help pay for several public charging stations around Bow. There might also still be money from the VW settlement available for a similar project.
2. Approach Concord to have the bus lines get close to Bow town line. Nick will ask who is funding the bus lines.
3. Extend the bike trail through Bow. It might be helpful to work with the Parks and Rec Department.

Rob's ideas:

4. Create a brochure of programs that are out there that is specific to Bow (e.g., if you want to get a car charger, here is what you need to do if you are a Bow resident)
5. Help initiate programs for schools including a pamphlet with opportunities for training of teachers, administrators, etc.

Michael's ideas

6. Pursue the possibility of electric school buses. Learn from other NH communities who have incorporated electric vehicles into their fleet of school buses, like the nine school districts who received a total of [\\$31 million in rebates from the EPA](#) in 2023 and 2024 towards the purchase of 110 new electric buses.
7. Door to door knocking to encourage people to think about solar panels, heat pumps, electric lawn mowers, EV charging equipment etc. Perhaps bring a brochure like the one suggested by Rob or combine with the run up to the Energy Expo. Could also be used to educate the community about Community Power.

Russel's ideas (provided in writing):

8. Energy Efficiency:
Provide more active guidance to Bow on Energy Efficiency Strategies. Both educational efforts for the public and access to resources available for our citizens. Information may include home insulation, how to transition to heat pumps or higher efficiency home heating systems, lighting efficiency, windows and doors. Perhaps publishing articles via the town facebook page or quarterly articles in the Bow newspaper created by Energy committee or provide links at our town website to various websites with resources or guidance. Promoting and hosting/planning the annual 'Button Up' event we hosted at the Town previously as a main event for this program.
9. Renewable Energy:
Similar to above, provide more active guidance to Bow on Renewable Energy options for homeowners. Both educational efforts for the public and access to resources available for our citizens. Information may include how to assess financial benefits of solar/wind installations on homes, programs-rebates etc, picking a good contractor, how net metering works etc., Perhaps

publishing articles via the town facebook page or quarterly articles in the Bow newspaper created by Energy committee or provide links at our town website to various websites with resources or guidance.

10. Community Power & NH Regulatory:

As previously expressed, Energy Committee taking an active role in Community Power program, developments, etc. The Select Board will likely be requesting a regular report on the community power program from the Merrimack CP Committee representative. Although Robyn Sarrette is appointed as the town's delegate to Merrimack and would be making reports to the board, the Energy committee should also be fully supportive and assisting Robyn with the community Power program whenever the need is there.

Additionally, tracking of new Energy programs, regulations and other governmental actions which may affect Bow Residents. This could be communicated vis publishing articles on the town facebook page or quarterly articles in the Bow newspaper created by Energy committee or provide links at our town website to various websites with resources or guidance.

Chris' Ideas:

11. Promote energy efficiency in town building and residences.
12. Electric school buses, though hard to know what federal rebates will look like

Other Ideas:

13. Make new housing more energy efficient.

We need to decide whether we are able to undertake a significant project (requiring serious person power like the solar projects), or whether we will focus on smaller, manageable, incremental projects (like a brochure, button ups, teacher training, etc).

We might want to stack rank the options to decide on what to do.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Leuchtenberger