

Current Activities of the Campton Climate Advisory Committee

January 23, 2023

The Climate Advisory Committee has been investigating several initiatives originally outlined in the 2020 Campton Climate Change Adaptation Report.

Reports to town departments

- Status: awaiting a request from the Select Board to make presentations.
- A draft PPT outline of a presentation for the Fire Dept was submitted to the select board on Aug 12, 2022.

Solar power for town offices

- Status: The committee is working with Corey to investigate options. Contacts were made with vendors that could potentially provide [PPAs](#), which would allow the town to pay a set monthly fee for electricity rather than pay for installing the system. The committee discussed the options of working with the Campton Village Precinct to install a system at their facility that could also supply power for town buildings.
- Key findings:
 - The town will need around 6000sf of land or south-facing roof space to install panels needed to serve the town offices and fire dept. The roof on the main town office is oriented east-west which is less efficient.
 - A 60KW system may be adequate for handling the current load from the town offices and fire dept, but the requirements may increase in the future if the town were to build a library, retrofit buildings with efficient electric HVAC systems, or acquire electric vehicles,
 - Installing panels off-site such as at the precinct land requires paying Eversource a fee to transmit the power to the town offices equal to about 30% of what they would charge for their electricity.
 - The [US 2022 IRA](#) law provides towns with a 30% subsidy if they pay for their own system.

PlanNH Design Charrette Program

Status: An application was submitted by the town in January, 2023. If the grant is approved, the committee is available to assist in the work needed to implement the program.

What is the charrette program: Volunteer professionals work with communities to assist them with downtown or neighborhood design challenges such as safety, walkability, or overall revitalization. A good design is integral to any economic development plan. Since 1996, [Plan NH](#) has conducted over 65 charrettes in 60+ communities across the State.

Community Power:

- Status: The committee has been researching the options for bringing [community power](#) to Campton.

- Key findings:
 - [NH law](#) allows towns to create local organizations that become the default energy supplier in their community. The towns then work with a non-profit state organization that negotiates bulk purchases that reduce the electricity costs for residents.
 - [27 towns](#) thus far have joined the Community Power Coalition of NH. They expect to start providing power this year.
 - Experience in MA and other states is that bulk purchasing in this way reduces the electric supply costs by around 10%, with the savings used to reduce resident electric bills, to increase the amount of renewable energy, and/or to subsidize town programs.
 - The first step for the town is to join the statewide organization which requires select board authorization and has no costs or obligations.
 - Subsequent steps to transition to community power require approval of a warrant article at a future town meeting.

Public Health - identification of vulnerable citizens

- Status: The committee would like to work with the Fire and Police Departments to create a database of vulnerable citizens that can assist town responses to emergencies.
- Key findings:
 - Many NH towns, including [Hanover](#), already create these lists and use them to improve responses to weather-related emergencies.
 - The Climate Committee discussed developing a database in supporting the vulnerable population with Fire Chief Defosses in 2020. He expressed interest in this.