The **purpose** of Hanover, New Hampshire’s Energy Committee (a sub-committee of the Sustainable Hanover Committee):

**Lead and support efforts to achieve 100% reliance on renewable sources of energy within the geographic unit of Hanover, NH**

Specifically, our mandate was established on May 9, 2017 when the following article passed at town meeting:

To see if the Town will vote to join the “Ready for 100 Action” campaign, thereby committing to a goal of 100% reliance on renewable sources of electricity by 2030 and renewable sources of fuel for heating and transportation by 2050. Joining the “Ready for 100 Action” campaign implies that the Town of Hanover will lead the community in initiatives designed to help local institutions, businesses and residents transition to 100% renewable sources of electricity and fuel oil. The Town has begun by investing in energy efficiency and renewable electricity generation for Town facilities and will follow by transitioning to vehicles and heating systems fueled by renewable sources.

Members in attendance: Yolanda Baumgartner (co-chair), Marjorie Rogalski (co-chair), Stowe Beam, Julia Griffin (Town Manager), Rob Houseman (Director, Planning and Zoning), Honor Passow, Jackie Richter-Menge, April Salas, Ally Samuell

Members not in attendance: Judy Colla, Mike Hillinger, Peter Kulbacki (Director, Public Works), Ian Marcus

**We discussed a collection of topics all aimed at developing a strategy for achieving our purpose.**

- **Report on the “North American Dialogue for 100% Renewables” meeting at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado**
  - Julia Griffin, Pete Kulbacki, Rob Houseman, and April Salas attended this meeting. Key take-aways for Hanover were:
    - There is no single “best practice” strategy. Different communities have different goals, different deadlines for their goals, different resources, and different constraints.
    - Regulations vary widely by state.
    - Good strategies continually focus on equity and community involvement from bottom up.
  - **No action items**

- **Report on regional activity on the Sierra Club’s “Ready for 100” campaign (This is the campaign that Hanover responded to with the May 2017 vote.)**
  - Ally Samuell shared the two-phases of effort: community commitment and implementation. Community commitment activities are ongoing in the region, but the Sierra Club is working to provide implementation strategies and tools to help communities answer the “Now what?” questions of implementation.
  - A challenge is choosing the most pertinent resources from the many available: Sierra Club Toolbox, Renewable Cities, NREL, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP), Department of Energy (DoE), Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), etc.
  - **Action item: Ally is working with the Sierra Club in the next month to explore hosting a regional meeting for municipalities to share best practices regarding implementation.**
Sustainable Hanover Committee: Energy
Minutes: August 17, 2017 meeting, 1:00-2:30pm in the Town Hall

- Community Solar Working group
  - Goals for the working group were clarified:
    - Address siting, zoning, financing and other considerations for community solar installation
    - Consider SolSmart, which seeks to reduce soft costs associated with solar implementation, not exclusive to community solar
  - Action item: April Salas will convene this working group before the September meeting

- Report on available external resources: NEEP, Energy Service Companies (Also called Energy Savings Companies (ESCos), and Owner’s Reps focusing on energy initiatives
  - Honor Passow reported that an online resource for small communities like Hanover will be completed by NEEP in November. Honor will represent us in advising on its development.
  - ESCO’s design and implement energy savings and power generation projects for customers. Even large municipalities with staff dedicated to energy projects, like Boston and Cambridge, Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island work with ESCo’s on an ongoing basis.
  - Owner’s Representatives guide owners in drafting Requests for Proposals (RFP’s), contracting, financing, permitting, and managing other contractors and ESCo’s to achieve the owner’s goals while avoiding pitfalls. Hanover has used owner’s reps for construction projects such as the parking garage and the Howe Library. Dartmouth hires owner’s reps for large projects.
  - Action item: Honor will develop a list of ESCo’s and Owner’s Reps for Energy with experience working with municipalities in New Hampshire by the end of August.
  - Action item: Julia will use the New Hampshire municipal listserves to learn of ESCo’s and Owner’s Reps used by other towns and cities in New Hampshire by the end of August.

- Partner/Outreach
  - What can we do to engage businesses, schools, and others in Hanover in our efforts?
    - Focus on cost savings, not climate impacts
    - Demonstrate achievement to build momentum
    - Work with the schools and the Howe Library on programming that builds community awareness and knowledge related to the town’s Ready for 100 goal.
  - Action item: Yolanda will meet with Ruby and Megan at the Howe Library on September 1 to discuss this partnership
  - Action item: Jackie will coordinate efforts to engage local schools, relying on suggestions from other committee members to identify key points of contact.

- Green Power Challenge (GPC) renewal
  - The EPA Green Power program is expected to be cut by the current administration, but we will carry on the mission
  - Over 300 households (200 of these are in Hanover) have individual contracts with ENH to buy Green-E certified electricity. Contracts will be up for renewal at the end of October.
  - Sustainable Hanover will not renew its partnership with ENH as the “green” product they will offer does not meet SHC requirements. Participants will need to be informed so they can decide to renew or not.
  - Action item: The GPC work group (Yolanda, Marjorie, Julia, Pete) will communicate with participants to inform them of changes and available options. Communication will be by email, U.S. mail and town e-news in the fall, beginning mid-September.

- Weatherize New Hampshire
Sustainable Hanover Committee: Energy
Minutes: August 17, 2017 meeting, 1:00-2:30pm in the Town Hall

- Weatherize NH is a Vital Communities program customized for individual towns (along the Solarize model).
- 3 – 4 towns will be selected to be in the first round of campaigns starting Jan 2018. Applications are due at the end of September.
- Action item: Marjorie and Yolanda are the contact persons for Vital Communities.
- Action item: Julia will complete and submit the application due to be released 2nd or 3rd week in September.
- Action item: A Weatherize work group will be formed for the campaign, including volunteers to market, enroll and encourage/mentor participants through the weatherize process.

Items for discussion at future meetings
- Measure progress toward the town’s goal
- Form a simple framework for sharing our energy committee’s strategy with the public that clarifies how our activities meet our goal.
  - A proposed strategy based on San Francisco’s work

Our strategy is based on best practice for municipalities. It requires coordinated action in three areas:

1. **Reduce energy consumption** within Hanover’s town boundaries through both conservation and efficiency – action item Weatherize Hanover
2. **Increase generation of renewable energy** within Hanover’s town boundaries – action item community solar
3. **Provide all customers with a 100% renewable power purchasing option** – action item municipal aggregation for electricity purchasing