

Energy Climate Action Committee Meeting  
Minutes – 04/26/2022  
*Virtual Meeting*

**Meeting called to order by chair:** 7:04pm

**Members Present:** Leslie Cerier, Michael DeChiara (Chair), Miriam Defant, Gail Fleischaker, Nate Heard, Graeme Sephton, Zoe Weizenbaum

**Members Absent:**

Guests: Presenter Bob Armstrong

Public: Henry Geddes

**Public comments:** Henry Geddes has volunteered research support for data gathering and communication.

**Review minutes** of March 20, 2022. Approval was moved and seconded. Motion carried unanimously with 7 ayes: Cerier, DeChaira, Defant, Fleischaker, Heard, Sephton, Weizenbaum.

**Review minutes** of April 12, 2022. Approval was moved and seconded. Motion carried unanimously with 6 ayes: Cerier, DeChaira, Fleischaker, Heard, Sephton, Weizenbaum. (Miriam Defant was not present at the meeting so did not vote.)

**Presentation on Municipal Aggregation**

Bob Armstrong related Conway’s experience in aggregation of electrical service in Conway and 12 other communities (11 in Franklin County, 1 in Hampshire County). Armstrong went to community SBs to sponsorship and to each Town Meeting for vote to authorize the SB to contract for electricity on the town’s behalf, a step required by Department of Public Utilities (DPU) for designation of a “municipal aggregation.” (Public education is thus key, ‘though Armstrong did not describe any outreach or campaign effort.) A bid was put out to contract for electrical service to the 13 separately-aggregated communities, and the towns jointly signed a contract with Colonial Power (see <https://colonialpowergroup.com/>).

The service contract for a “Municipal Aggregation” or “Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)” establishes three options for energy sourcing, with a set cost associated with each option. Each household in that aggregation selects its service from among those three options, so each can effectively select the level of cost they wish to pay for their electricity (renewables, i.e., solar, wind, hydropower, have a higher rate). Those rates do not change over the course of the contract, unlike National Grid or EverSource that have different rates for summer and winter. Individual households can opt out at any time — if Colonial’s rates are higher than the going utility rates, for example — and opt back in at will. Service delivery and metering are unchanged from current utility setup.

Discussion after presentation:

**Q:** Do solar producers keep their net metering under aggregation? **A:** yes, net metering is not affected by aggregation.

Aggregation would be providing ‘greener’ energy, at least better than the current situation with NG, and indirectly places pressure toward green sourcing in the market.

**Review of community fuel survey draft**

Nate presented comparative state and county data at last meeting. The fuel-use survey is intended to get at local data, 'though voluntary response cannot give complete picture – and also to introduce ecac and its activity to the community. With voluntary data in hand, we can figure out how to assess attitudes and behaviors toward changes we may want to suggest. For future planning, we need to figure out what data we want to collect and why.

Nate and Gail will make a few suggested changes to the draft survey, get it into Google Form, and send out so ecac members can 'take the survey.'

Marianne Connor will bring us up to date on Co-op Power in a future meeting.

**Next meeting:** May 10, 2022.

**Motion to adjourn** moved and seconded at 8:55pm. Motion carried unanimously with 7 ayes: Cerier, DeChaira, Defant, Fleischaker, Heard, Sephton, Weizenbaum.

Documents used at the meeting:

PowerPoint: Purchasing Electricity\_Bob Armstrong

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Fleischaker