

MONTAGUE ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday September 22, 2026 4:30 PM to 6 PM

Due to COVID-19 Public Participation will be by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83650371181?pwd=5nulunY7YLBdglNVLAqub0weDs9FA5.1>

Meeting ID: 836 5037 1181 Passcode: 426633 Dial: 646 558 8656

Votes May Be Taken

Designate facilitator and scribe, roll call of members who are present 4:30-4:35 PM

Updates & Discussion with Chris Nolan Zeller 4:35-4:55 PM

- Advocating for solar, battery backup at the Turners Falls Airport
 - Walter's thoughts on if selectboard may be interested in sending a letter to legislators, MA Dept. of Public Utilities regarding Eversource grid upgrades needed for solar.
 - Following up on exploring battery storage?
 - Following up with Eversource if there's a way to use flexible interconnection.
 - Following up with Claire Chang's recommendation that the Town hire an engineering firm to figure out nuances of grid upgrades needed for PV array.
- Discussion on Town exploration of municipal electric aggregation.
 - Ask power broker re power source mix options available with renewables and how renewables defined?
- Encouraging the Town to explore potential for at least some higher energy performance builders for former Farren development (MEC might be able to point Town toward some to send RFP).
- Updates on decarbonization plans for town buildings.
- Other discussion, updates.

How pursue priority of outreach & education with practical energy & cost-saving ideas for residents, commercial entities? 4:55-5:15 PM

- Discuss ways to reach people and grab their interest, such as by creating energy saving social norms and encouraging collective action through:
 - Social media
 - Articles in local papers (e.g. re social norm of people accessing Mass Save for energy saving measures & incentives, using Mass Save stats on participation.)
 - Would Megan McDonough of Habitat if make presentation to BOS on ways to raise awareness about energy efficiency opportunities, building costs/savings from efficient & electric homes, what others can do to renovate?

- Select board presentations: share MEC updates with Walter & present them to BOS.
 - Partner with & promote town & organizations on programs such as Winsert Community Builds: 9am - 1pm at Montague Town Hall Annex (located behind Town Hall at 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls) Saturday, September 26, Saturday, October 17 (Held at the Brick House?), Saturday November 7.
 - How promote winsert assembling video and builds on MEC webpage?
 - Tie into River Culture's outreach, energy-related cultural projects
 - Press releases, articles, some featuring local residents taking steps:
 - E.g. Using a smart meter to help save electricity & costs.
 - Using a Kill-a-Watt meter from the Library of Things (already available?)
 - Inviting guest speakers to MEC Zooms, such as Franklin Tech. and Greenfield Community College energy students and other energy experts to MEC meetings and promoting meetings
 - Other ideas?
- Potential topics to focus on:
 - Mass Save/Community Action program energy saving measures, incentives, rebates.
 - Challenging perceptions about energy-related issues.
 - Simple, low-cost DIY projects like: installing door sweeps, installing weatherstripping in doors & windows, using replaceable cord caulk to seal window air leaks.
 - Others?

Approve Sept. 1, 2026 Meeting Minutes. 5:15-5:20 PM

Report on NESEA Pro-Tour (Ray) 5:20-25 PM

Discussion on becoming a Climate Leader Community 5:25-5:40 PM

- Discussion regarding Specialized Stretch Code:
 - How sort out conflicting perspectives on Specialized Code?
 - Spray foam insulation has high total Global Warming Impact.
 - Report on discussion with building expert. (Ray & Sally)
 - Invite Paul Lipke to talk about likelihood that spray foam insulation would be used to meet Passive House standards for required for 12,000+ SF buildings under Specialized Code?
 - Reach out to local builders about their practices, how they meet Stretch Code, would meet Specialized Stretch Code, concerns, their questions?
 - Brief report on conversation with local builder. (Sally)
 - Discuss ideas re educating builders about Specialized Code.

- Promote free Mass Save contractor trainings.
- Other trainings?
- Recommend that Town projects require spray foam insulation installer be a third party certified company and that the on-site installer be a certified installer, to avoid problems that are expensive & hard to fix retroactively? (Peter Yost & another builder require that for projects they oversee.)

State & federal level energy-related policies & legislation updates PM. 5:40-5:42 PM

- Updates on MA climate legislation, including climate bank and climate bill.

Energy Related Town Facility Updates, including Schools. 5:42-5:50 PM

- Potential MEC input for Farren site development.
- Further discussion on the possibility of putting PV panels on the roof of the DPW & the Public Safety Complex, potentially with battery backup, and EV chargers for residents.
- MA Embodied Carbon Intergovernmental Council recommendations:
 - Municipalities not required to follow recommendations but can decide to:
 - Require Environmental Product Declarations (EDPs) for building and road project RFPs.
 - Use state model embodied carbon procurement from Mass Dept. of Transportation (DOT) & Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance (DCAMM).
 - Green Communities will lead municipalities on embodied carbon.
 - Harmonize municipal recommendations from Mass Climate Action Network (MCAN) for building RFPs.
- HERS raters & embodied carbon:
 - Now able to recommend low embodied carbon building materials.
 - HERS score credits, incentives can drive low embodied carbon material use, according to MA 100 Home embodied carbon study.
- Organize education for builders & residents on embodied carbon in building materials (especially as Farren plans being developed?)

Other topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting. 5:50-5:53 PM

Announcements (no discussion). 5:53-5:55 PM

Plan agenda, date for next meeting. 5:55-6 PM