

Town of Scarborough Sustainability Committee

February 25, 2026 | 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Scarborough Town Hall and via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Committee (in person): Ron Allen, Geoff Gezik, Lydia Jopp, Deb McDonough

Committee (Zoom): Anton Bodor, Patrice Kastenzholz, Dan Shapiro

Town Council: Bill Donovan

Staff: Jami Fitch

Guests: David Kunhardt, resident; Paul Lyon, resident

Meeting recording

Call to Order

1. The meeting is called to order at 8:01 am.
2. Deb motions to approve the minutes, Lydia seconds. Rollcall vote was unanimous. Motion passes.
3. Deb requests to take up new business first.

Public Comment

1. None.

New Business

1. [LD2112](#) – “An Act to Authorize Municipalities to Form Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Programs to Procure Electricity”
 - David Kunhardt, Scarborough resident and representative from Maine Community Power Alliance provides a presentation on LD2112 (presentation slides attached).
 - Committee questions and comments:
 - Request to clarify how there is no up-front cost when there are brokers selling services to municipalities. *There is no up front cost to purchase infrastructure – CMP retains ownership of their poles, wires, etc. Municipalities hire brokers to assist with energy contracting, typically at a rate below CMP’s standard offer. The broker’s fee is often recovered through the energy contract.*
 - Do utilities in NH actively persuade customers to opt out of the community choice aggregated price? *Utilities are indifferent.*
 - Are any NH communities generating their own electricity? *Some obtain power from local solar farms.*
 - Are there examples of entities owning the electricity delivery infrastructure? *There are a few,*
 - Anton encourages the Committee to review the [testimony](#) provided during the Energy, Utilities, and Technology (EUT) Committee public hearing.

Engineering & Technical Services

259 US Route One | PO Box 360 | Scarborough, ME 04070 | P: 207.730.4400 | scarboroughmaine.org

- Is the primary goal of CCA programs to bring down the cost of electricity or is it to increase the use of renewables? *The primary goal is to stabilize costs.*
- Why isn't the State contracting energy this way? *Current State law doesn't allow it.*
- Ron shares that if the current laws don't allow it, the law should be changed instead of creating a new law to allow CCA programs.
- David will keep the Committee apprised of the bill status in the Legislature.
- Bill shares that the Town Council would need a lot of education to understand what this bill would mean for Scarborough.
- Deb encourages the Committee to review the materials on the Legislature website and share thoughts with her.
- Deb asks Jami to see if GPCOG may be able to take on the roll of tracking sustainability-related legislation.
- *Post-meeting update: The EUT Committee voted ought to pass on 3/5. The vote was split, 8-5, down party lines.*

Old Business

1. [LD1870](#) – “An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters”
 - Deb shares that she has still not been able to obtain a letter from Scarborough's legislative delegation. The Committee is comfortable moving forward to request the Council add the resolution to an upcoming agenda.
 - Jami explains that the Council will need a brief overview of the legislation and what it entails. She will pull together a cover memo with some information to accompany the agenda materials.
 - Deb will plan to attend the meeting to introduce the resolution.
 - *Post-meeting update: The legislation has been amended to focus on a financial study to understand the financial impact of climate change on municipalities. The resolution will be on the Council's 4/1 meeting agenda.*

Updates

1. Town Council
 - Bill shares that the cannabis ordinance will be amended and a short-term rental ordinance will also be considered soon.
2. Planning Board
 - No update this month.
3. Conservation Commission
 - Conservation Commission is supporting the development of a Low Impact Development ordinance.
4. Transportation Committee
 - Metro will be at the Transportation Committee's 3/24 meeting to discuss their fixed route plan. MainedOT will also attend the meeting to discuss the Route 1 pilot project across the marsh.
5. Climate Action Plan
 - The Climate Action Plan Advisory Group met on 2/24. The meeting was well attended by a diverse group of community members.
 - The project website is SustainingScarborough.org. **There is a quick poll currently available on the site. Please take the poll and encourage your networks to do so as well.** The link is also shared on the Town's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

- Jami shares the fact sheet that was developed for the project. Deb provides some suggested revisions.
6. Building Committee
- There is not a representative from the Sustainability Committee on the school building committee.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 am.

Next Meeting: February 25, 2026 at 8:00 am.

Future Projects List:

- School Building Process
- Communications, outreach, and engagement
- Community solar / municipal solar array
- Revamp [Sustainability Committee webpage](#)
- Recycling information for homeowners when houses change hands
- Composting/food waste
- Residential energy efficiency grants
- Coordination with Scarborough Public Schools
- Municipal building energy audits
- Electric school buses
- Tree preservation ordinance
- Swap shop
- Energy stretch code
- Incremental fees for trash bins
- 10-year cost-benefit analysis for building systems
- Storm drain stenciling

Community Choice Power in Maine

**What can Community
Power—or Community
Choice Energy
Aggregation—do for Us?**

2/24/2026



Agenda

- Folks want local control
- What are **Your** Values?
 - State Experience
- Community Power in CA, NH, MA
 - **Next Steps**



Our Values

1. Saving Customers Money
2. Gaining More Local Control
3. Non-profit management of supply
4. Increasing GHG-Free Energy Choice
5. Saving \$ For Distributed Energy + More
6. Trust, Transparency with public oversight
7. Jobs, Expertise, and Motivation

We Can Choose Our Future

MAINE COMMUNITY POWER ALLIANCE



New Features With Community Choice Power

Aspects of the Electrical Grid System	Consequence for Community Power
Utilities continue to own infrastructure	No upfront capital investment
State enabling law needs to be modernized	LD 2112 has an “Opt-out” approach
Joint Powers Agency or Agencies can be set up, get licensed, with public oversight	Requires county-by-county (or municipality) vote to authorize
PUC sets Renewable Portfolio Standards	Members lead on Renewable Portfolio Standards
Community Power offers more flexible, nimble choice of suppliers	Member entities contract for energy generation, through others—can be local providers
More independence on setting rates, using the proceeds.	Members set supply rates, keep profits , choose where to invest and innovate, locally
Desire for more public transparency	Transparent reporting with full public oversight

IOU = Investor-Owned Utilities

PUC = Public Utility Commission – State entities that regulate public utilities

RPS = Renewable Portfolio Standards – Goals for putting renewable energy in place, e.g., “80% by 2030”

State Experiences



www.leanenergyus.org

Community Power has many names:

"Municipal Energy Generation"

"Municipal Aggregation"

"Government Energy Aggregation" - NJ

"Municipal Energy Aggregation" - IL

"Governmental Electricity Generation" - OH

"RI Energy Aggregation Program" - RI

"Community Choice Energy" - MD

"Community Power" - NH

So Far, Ten States Have Community Choice:

- **California** – 218+ communities in 25 CCAs
- **Illinois** – 379 active, 746 authorized
- **Maryland** – Authorized in 2021 – in development
- **Massachusetts** – 144 active, 176 authorized
- **New Hampshire** – 62 Operating, 8 launching, 7 planning a 2026 launch
- **New Jersey** – 1 active, 131 authorized
- **New York** – 101 active, 158 authorized
- **Ohio** – 354 active, 632 authorized
- **Rhode Island** – launched May 2023, 7 authorized,
- **Virginia** – authorized in 1999, none launched yet

States Considering: AZ, CO, MI, NM, PA, CT...

New England CCAs

State	Authorized	Active	% of Population
Massachusetts	199	144?	41%
New Hampshire	All	77	40+%
Rhode Island	7	7	38%
Maine	All	12*	

*** Municipal and Island Utilities, not CCAs per se, could be strengthened by LD 2112**

More State Details

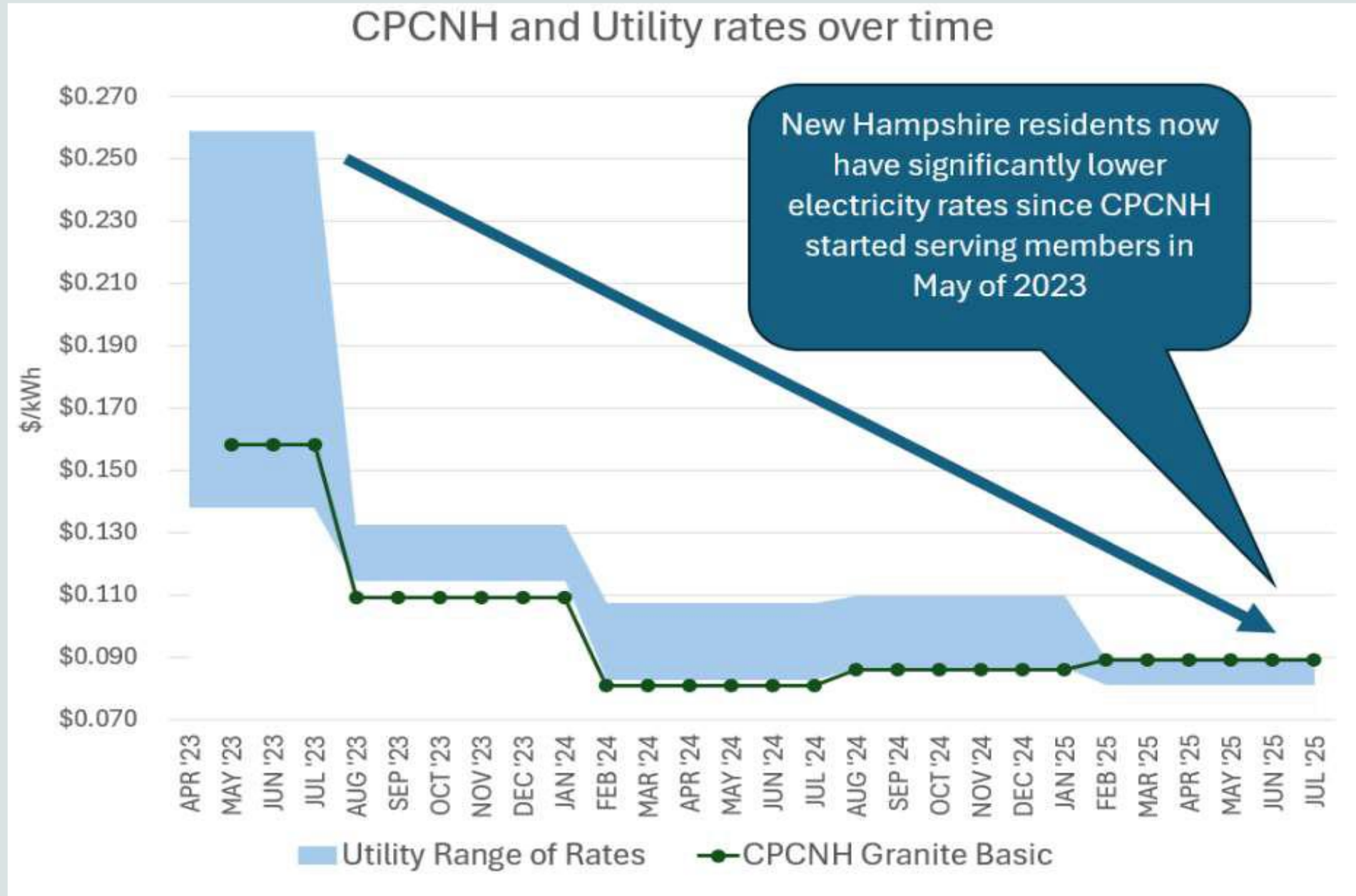
CALIFORNIA

- Began with Marin Clean Energy in **2010**
- Grown to **25** CCAs by '23, serving over **14 million** people in **218** Communities
- **Higher Renewables selection achieved than expected**
- **Profits used for public purposes**
- Investment grade = lower cost loans
- Lower cost energy solutions

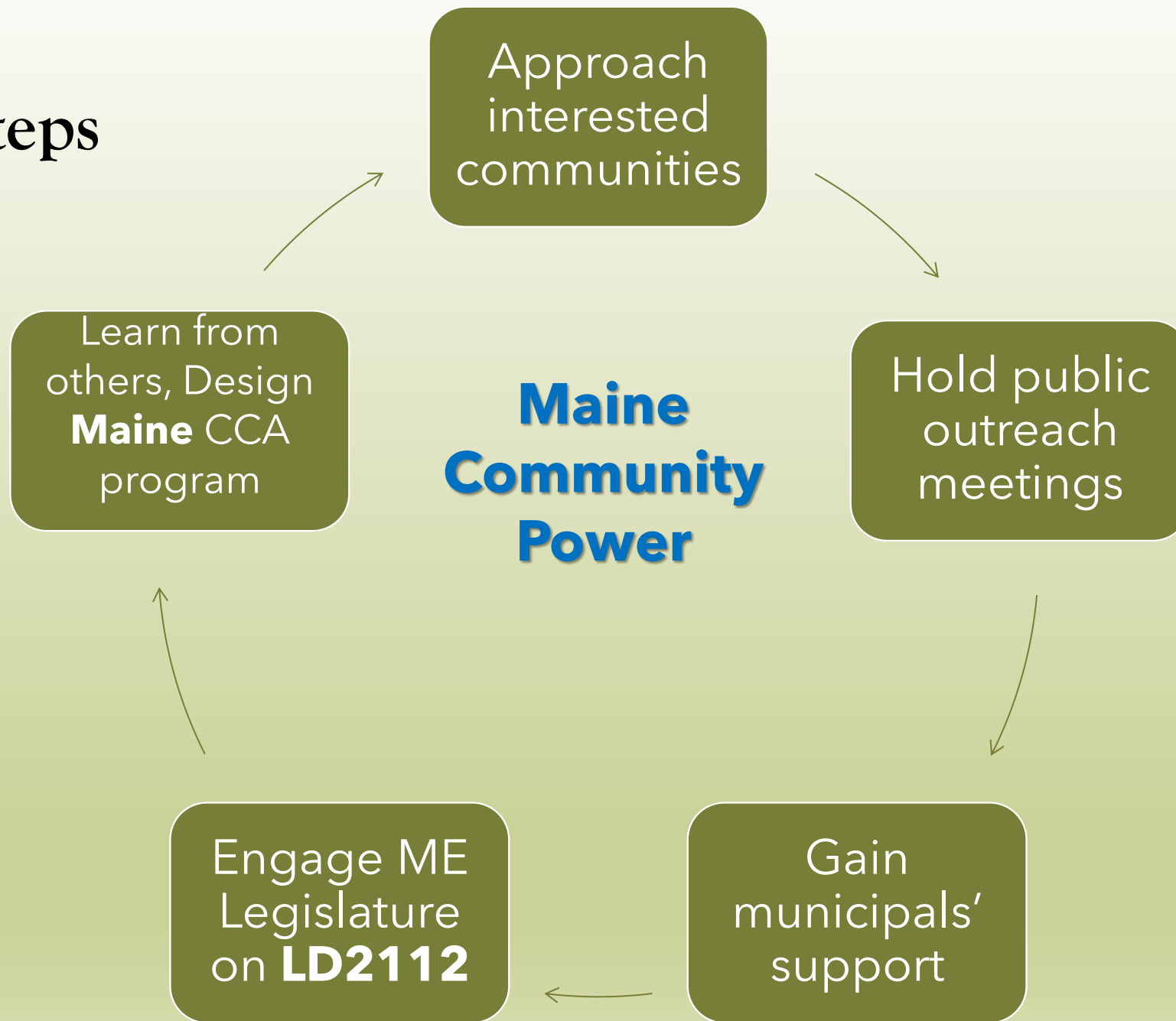
NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Legislation revised in 2019; PUC okay in 2022
- Independent brokers grew
- As of Jan '26, **CPC NH** has **62** operating members, +**8** launching, +**7+** more on deck
- On average, **Lower cost supply** than IOUs
- **Higher clean energy content offered** as option
- **Local control** of profits means savings for projects
- **Collaboration** among members of **Clean Energy NH**

Actual Experience of Declining Rates in NH with CPCNH



Next Steps



MAINE COMMUNITY POWER ALLIANCE



Summary

It is time for a new approach to achieving local control over energy supply:

- **CCAs are alive in 10 states**
- **Savings are being enjoyed**
- **Community Power in NH is a great model**
 - **Local control matters for innovation**
- ❖ **Community Power can be useful in Maine.**



**COMMUNITY
POWER COALITION
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**
For communities, by communities.



Resources

www.leanenergyus.org and their
Book on Community Choice

communitypowernh.gov

[Clean Energy NH](#)

25 CCA nonprofit organizations in CA:
cal-cca.org

[MCE Clean Energy of CA](#)

Thank You

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