

Somerville Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change
Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2024, 7:15 P.M.
Virtual Meeting

Commissioners attending: Ramon Bueno (Vice Chair), Courtney Koslow, Julie Wood, Eliza Johnston, Alexis Washburn, Eri Furusaw

Staff attending: Julia Damiano, Emily Sullivan

Attendees: Karry Muzzey, Ronald Cavallo, William Valletta, Ben Capraro

Meeting started: 7:17 PM

Introductions

CEUCC members, then members of the public, introduced themselves.

Somerville CCE

- Program summary and CEUCC recommendations:
 - Julia presented an overview of the program and teed up the discussion. [See slide deck.](#)
 - Commissioner Bueno commented that Somerville Basic is the default Eversource energy but at a cheaper price. 100% Green exceeds 1200 participants, up ~800 from the last cycle.
- Discussion
 - How much extra Class I RECs and what price threshold is the Commission comfortable with.
 - Last cycle CEUCC agreed to 1) No more than a \$2-3/month increase and 2) at least 15% renewable (we were able to get 20% based on rates)
 - Follow-up questions were asked about the chart on slide 12 – related to perKWh price estimate and the % green.
 - Commissioners recapped the previous cycle conversation.
 - Commissioner Wood opted for 25%, which would get us at 100% green by 2027.
 - Commissioner Johnston asked what 100%+ total renewable means for the City.
 - Based on Julia’s response, Eliza felt 100% (or 25% Extra MA Class RECs) was the highest she would recommend at this time.
 - Commissioner Bueno reminded us that a focus of the previous conversation was to keep the basic option as affordable compared to Eversource rate AND to be more aggressive on the fully green rate for those who can afford a couple of dollars more per month.
 - Commissioner Washburn suggest that the flier be simplified and oriented towards the benefits and essential components vs the process aspects of the program.
 - Commissioner Washburn also asked about the ‘demographics’ of the program, the total number of ratepayers and by each year.
 - Commissioner Furusaw believes there is a Good Energy dashboard that can display that information.
 - Commissioner Bueno and Julia confirmed the rates presented on slide 12 are related to Local Green.
 - Commissioner Furusaw suggested that if SCF plan target is 100% Green by 2030, then it would be ideal.

- Commissioner Johnston suggested the following parameters: (1) No more than a \$2-3/month increase; and (2) at least 20% extra MA Class I RECs, which would bring us to 100% green by 2030.
- Commissioner Washburn pointed out that this rate increase might be less than the Eversource basic rate increase.
- Public comments
 - Ronald Cavallo suggested that the City provide a \$200 incentive for property owners to sign up for 100% Green program.
 - Commissioner Beuno suggested that when new accounts get added they are asked to consider the opt-up option.
- Final Recommendation

Commissioner Koslow made a MOTION that the City negotiate a Local Green with a price cap of up to \$3.50 increase per account per month, with a floor of at least 20% extra MA Class I REC at 8:12PM. Commissioner Johnston SECONDED at 8:16PM. The motion was PASSED UNANIMOUSLY at 8:17PM.

Somerville Climate Forward

- Emily provided an update on Somerville Climate Forward plan. Working with the Mayors Office to release the updated plan in April (Sustainaville Week – April 24th, 5pm). Goal of launch is to engage the community in the components of the plan. Working with local artist to create interactive art around each topic area. Some formal remarks/overview but mostly informal time to engage with art and mingle.
- The plan will be released the week of April 22nd. Ramon asked if the CEUCC could review prior to the release. Emily will talk to Christine about the review.
- No public comments.

Administrative Updates

- OSE will provide an update on staffing and ordinance updates during the April meeting.

Review and approve meeting minutes from December and January.

- Commission voted to approve meeting minutes from December and January. Motion passes unanimously.

The next CEUCC meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:34pm