



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT

**CITY COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY &
UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

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Councilor Mark Barlow, Chair, *North District*
Councilor Gene Bergman, *Ward 2*
Councilor Becca McKnight, *Ward 6*
Councilor Marek Broderick, *Ward 8*

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Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council

Tuesday, June 23, 2026 – 5:30 PM

--DRAFT MINUTES--

See video for full meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TE3UipuBW8c>

Councilors absent: None

Councilors present: Chair Barlow, Councilor Bergman (joined via zoom at 6:45 pm), Councilor Broderick, and Councilor McKnight

Chair Barlow calls the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

1. Agenda

Councilor Bergman moves to adopt the agenda as posted on civic clerk.

Councilor Broderick seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

2. Minutes of 5/26/26

Councilor Bergman moves to adopt the minutes as posted.

Councilor Broderick seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

3. Public Forum

None

4. Deliberative Agenda

4.1 BED Initiative Updates (Emission reduction, Battery Storage)

Darren Springer, General Manager, Burlington Electric Department presented information.

Councilor Broderick asked about July battery storage and wood pyrolysis? **Councilor Bergman** feels the public needs a report that say this is where we are at. **Chair Barlow** wonders if we could dedicate a whole meeting to discuss where we are at with pyrolysis? Question about the state of the pyknosis project? **Councilor McKnight** likes ideas being discussed. Feels Burlington Electric Department has been doing a great job relaying information.

AI generated minutes w/ slight staff revisions: The main discussion focused on an update on BED initiatives presented by General Manager Darren Springer. He outlined plans for a three-year efficiency budget (2027-2029) that would include new programs such as pre-weatherization efforts, electric panel upgrades for income-qualified customers, continued geothermal test well programs, and extended boosted electric vehicle incentives through 2029. The funding for these initiatives would come from energy efficiency charges and the TEPF thermal energy process fuel fund. BED provided updates on three energy projects. The first involves exploring a solar canopy installation in the parking area at 585 Pine Street, which would add approximately 130 kW of capacity alongside the existing 100 kW rooftop solar. The second major update focused on a proposed 5-megawatt battery storage project at McNeil, which would be located in the ash pit area and could dispatch 20 megawatt hours over a 4-hour period. BED plans to present this proposal to the Electric Commission on July 8th and the Board of Finance/City Council on July 13th. The third update discussed exploring wood pyrolysis technology as a potential demonstration project, following an RFI that received limited responses, with BED noting the need for a demonstration opportunity before proceeding with this technology.

4.2 Carbon Pollution Impact Fee Update

William Ward, Director of Permitting and Inspections provided information.

Councilor McKnight hears from folks who are trying to make improvements that it is challenging for them. **Chair Barlow** – clarify that you have not collected and Carbon Impact fees?

AI generated minutes w/ slight staff revisions: Director Ward presented an update on building energy standards and carbon impact fees, reporting that 74 permits were issued for new units in 2024, though 90% were actually additions to existing homes rather than new construction. He identified that only 4% of new construction projects used heat pump technology, and highlighted specific compliant projects including geothermal installations at Integrated Arts Academy and Monte Christi. The department plans to implement monthly reporting on compliance through John Ryan and Kim Ianelli's team, with DPI working with Darren from BED and Katherine Schad from the CTs office to establish where the carbon impact fees will be processed and budgeted. DPI recommended that constituents with concerns about compliance requirements should reach out to Darren's Energy Services team for assistance.

4.3 Rental Weatherization Ordinance Compliance Update

William Ward, Director of Permitting and Inspections presented information.

Councilor Bergman asked how many buildings are using 50,000 BTUs or more. **Chair Barlow** asked about the workforce development in weatherization trades.

AI generated minutes w/ slight staff revisions: The meeting focused on rental housing weatherization compliance, with DPI reporting on enforcement progress and challenges. There are currently 503 rental properties using 50,000 BTUs or more, with 131 properties identified as top priorities for compliance action. The team discussed ongoing delays in weatherization work due to limited staffing and outdated BTU usage data, with Vermont Gas now requiring fees for energy audits beyond single-family homes. The committee unanimously agreed to participate in a statewide public transit funding advocacy campaign led by 350 Vermont. The

discussion also covered the weatherization ordinance, noting that while 83% of rental units are now in compliance, only about 10% progress has been made since the ordinance began. A specific case was mentioned involving a property with failed inspections and significant fees, which resulted in an appeal to the Housing Board of Review.

5. Director's Report

None

6. Councilor Items

Chair Barlow - Working list – Mass Transit, GMT Funding – possible symposium?

Councilor Bergman – 350 Vermont Transportation Group – possibly join?

Councilor Bergman made a motion to have the TEUC participate in this effort that was communicated to us by the transportation group of 350 Vermont.

Councilor McKnight seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

Councilor Broderick - Solid Waste/ Recycling - add to the working list.

Councilor McKnight – Open Space Plan – add to the working list.

7. Next Meeting

July 28, 2026, 5:30 pm at 645 Pine St.

8. Adjournment

Chair Barlow adjourns meeting at 7:39 pm.