

Please note The Local Energy Solutions Conference is a month away. Registration information is provided below. The Local Energy Solutions E-News offers a wealth of information that may be of value to you.



# Local Energy Solutions E-News

## February 2015

*Turning Ideas Into Action*

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**Local Energy**

**Register Today**  
**Local Energy Solutions Conference 2015!**



**March 21st, 2015**  
**8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**  
**at the Grappone Conference Center**  
**in Concord**

### **The LES Conference Is Just One Month Away!**

Brought to you by the New Hampshire Local Energy Work Group, the annual LES Conference provides critical resources, information, and guidance for individuals, local governments and school districts across the state seeking to implement an energy reduction or renewable energy project in their municipality. The conference provides an ideal forum to meet and learn from other New Hampshire residents who have successfully implemented an energy project, hear best practices, identify financing options, and much, much more.

## Work Group Members

**Julia Dundorf, NE**  
Grassroots Environment Fund - Co-Chair

**Theresa Swanick,**  
Effingham Energy Committee - Co-Chair

**Scott Albert, GDS**  
Associates

**Rep. David Borden,**  
NH State Representative & New Castle Energy Committee

**Leigh Cameron, NE**  
Grassroots Environment Fund

**Linda Darveau,**  
US EPA Region 1

**Kate Epsen, NH**  
Sustainable Energy Assoc.

**Jim Fenn, Cardigan**  
Mountain School

**Ben Frost, NH Housing**  
Finance Authority

**Carolyn Sarno Goldthwaite,** Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships' (NEEP)

**Rhonda Harmych,**  
TRC Energy Solutions

**Jill Longval,**  
Nashua Regional Planning Commission

**Kevin O'Maley**  
City of Manchester

**Sarah Simonds**

[Register to Attend!](#)

[Register as Exhibitor](#)

[Become a Sponsor](#)



The LES Conference hosted by:



## Funding Available!

### Grow Grants Available Through The Grassroots Fund

The Grassroots Fund is accepting applications for their current Grow Grant round. Grants of up to \$3,500 are available to help grassroots groups increase their impact and expand their efforts. The Grassroots Fund supports projects in the areas of climate & energy, land & water, environmental health, local food, and living economies. Energy committees and groups can apply for funding for a variety of projects including (but not limited to) education and outreach materials, feasibility studies, coordinator stipends, training and facilitation, and renewable energy or energy efficiency projects. [Find out more and apply online by March 15th!](#)

**More Than \$95 Million in Funding and Technical**

Chris Skoglund,  
NH Department of  
Environmental Services

## About the Local Energy Work Group (LEWG)

Our mission is to provide collaborative guidance and technical support to Local Energy Committees & Commissions (LEC's), municipalities, schools, and other political subdivisions\* seeking to reduce energy use, minimize energy costs, and/or reduce fossil-fuel consumption. Consider joining our efforts: contact [Leigh Cameron](#) for more information on the LEWG's efforts and opportunities for participation.

About Our E-Newsletter: The monthly Local Energy Solutions E-newsletter of the NH LEWG is compiled and distributed by the New England Grassroots Environment Fund on behalf of the NH Local Energy Work Group. [Learn more about NEGEF.](#)

### Join Our Mailing List!

**New England Grassroots  
Environment Fund**  
PO Box 611  
Newmarket, NH 03857  
603-905-9915

## Assistance Available for State, Local, and Tribal Governments

More than \$95 million in funding and technical assistance is available for state, local, and tribal governments from the Funders Network, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Department of Energy (DOE) that can be used to support climate and energy initiatives, including economic development, sustainable communities, green infrastructure, and water efficiency. For full eligibility and application details, please visit: <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov>.

## Wood Pellet Commercial Financial Incentives Available

The Northern Forest Center, a non-profit organization working for rural communities and healthy working forests across northern New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, and New York, has financial incentives available to help several commercial buildings in Coos, Grafton, or Carroll Counties switch to high-efficiency wood pellet heat. The incentive is 25% of system cost up to \$10,000 and can be added to the state's generous incentive. The Center is looking for high-visibility projects and owners who are willing to share their stories and open their businesses to tours. Businesses with numerous employees and/or high job creation potential are also desirable. The application process is minimal and we can usually make decisions overnight - this is probably the easiest funding anyone can apply for! If you or a property owner you know would like more information, contact Program Director Maura Adams at [madams@northernforest.org](mailto:madams@northernforest.org) or 603-229-0679 x114.

## Spotlight From NH Sustainable Energy Association

### Let's Protect the Renewable Energy Fund

**Renewable energy and efficiency policies and funding sources are nearly all under attack right now from legislation in Concord.** RGGI, RPS, and their funds, the REF and the new Municipal Technical Assistance utility program are all threatened. Many are speaking out and telling legislators to protect these programs and funding streams so that towns, schools and residents continue to use them to take control of their energy costs and power sources: this is helping, but we must do more. **If you would like to receive up-to-date information and action alert items, please opt-in to the NH Sustainable Energy Assoc. newsletter by emailing Kate Epsen at [kate@nhsea.org](mailto:kate@nhsea.org). You must opt-in.** NHSEA will not share your name or email with any other group or person.

## Upcoming LES Webinar

**March 11th, Noon-1PM**

### Energy-Focused Legislative Update

Another legislative session is well-underway in Concord - and energy is a top issue. Legislators are looking for ways to control energy costs and clean energy policies and funds are under fire, despite the well-documented and widespread benefits they provide. This webinar will give you a brief overview of the legislative process and cutting edge updates on energy legislation that matters to you and your local initiatives. Everything from the Renewable Portfolio Standard, energy codes, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and how you can access those programs' public funding streams will be covered.

**Speaker:** Kate Epsen, NH Sustainable Energy Association

### [REGISTRATION](#)

The NH Local Energy Work Group (LEWG) presents the Local Energy Solutions (LES) Training Series featuring a series of webinar trainings from Noon-1PM on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

## NH Energy Resources

### Local Energy Work Group Online Discussion Forum

Connect with other NH residents working on energy projects through our new [Online Discussion Forum](#)! Join the forum to ask questions, share your ideas, get answers, and learn about what's going on in the NH energy community! The forum is open to everyone - residents, community leaders, experts, and students. Help us better serve you, by responding to our [February discussion thread](#): *"What are the most important things that you would like to see, learn about, or take away from the Local Energy Solutions Conference in March?"*

### Local Energy Project Profile Templates!

The [Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative](#) assisted the Local Energy Working Group and the New England Grassroots Environment Fund in creating a one-page succinct case study template that NH energy leaders can use to document their energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with the goal of making a database of energy related community-based projects that can serve as inspiration for others.

Start using the "fillable" PDF Template today and share your Project

[profiles.html](#).

This LEWG project was supported by the [NH Charitable Foundation](#) and [NH Saves](#).

## Benchmark NH

Local Energy Work Group  
Recommends [EnergyBenchmarkNH.org](#)

to Help NH Communities Track & Utilize Energy Consumption Data.

Benchmarking or tracking your municipality or school's energy use is an important first step in developing a plan to reduce costs, and ENERGY STAR's new Portfolio Manager software makes it easier than ever to build a baseline of energy use.

## Recognizing NH's Volunteer Energy Leaders

The LEWG would like to honor our exemplary local energy volunteers; working in their communities to further energy efficiency and renewable energy action.

*Whether on Local Energy Committees or working through other town or school efforts, tell us about these local do-ers! Send your nominations or questions to [Leigh](#).*

## Energy Solutions From Around New Hampshire

### News from our communities...

#### Upper Valley

**Eight New Hampshire towns adding over a megawatt of new solar!**

[Solarize Upper Valley](#) finished up it's second round at the end of January, with 181 homes committed to installing solar this spring and summer. 114 of those homes are in New Hampshire. Since the kick-off of Solarize Upper Valley in March 2014, volunteer teams in Andover, Cornish, Hanover, Lyme, New London, Orford, Plainfield, and Wilmot have helped 188 homes go solar, adding over a megawatt of new solar in New Hampshire over the past year. Great work, everyone! Click here to see [Results from Round Two](#), or read the [Round One Report](#). Contact Sarah Simonds from Vital Communities to learn how to bring Solarize to your town ([Sarah@VitalCommunities.org](mailto:Sarah@VitalCommunities.org)).

#### Kearsarge

**Solarize Kearsarge project ends on bright note**

The Kearsarge Solarize project, led by Vital Communities, has successfully

based non-profit, was a demanding one: double the amount of residential solar-electric (photovoltaic) production capacity in the towns of Andover, New London and Wilmot during a 15-week period ending on January 31.

The final numbers were impressive:

\*\* Number of property-owners in Andover, New London and Wilmot who indicated an interest in a residential solar installation: 243 ( 131 in Andover, 58 in New London, 54 in Wilmot);

\*\* Number of property-owners who requested a site evaluation in order to learn if their property was suitable for a solar installation: 193 (101 in Andover, 52 in New London, 40 in Wilmot);

\*\* Of those who received a site evaluation, number of property-owners who received a site visit by ReVision Energy, the Solarize Kearsarge installer partner: 124 (69 in Andover, 37 in New London, 18 in Wilmot);

\*\* Number of property-owners who have committed to residential solar installations: 38 (20 in Andover, 13 in New London, 5 in Wilmot).

Solarize Kearsarge was one of five Solarize community projects across the Upper Connecticut River Valley. Other participating communities included Randolph-Brookfield-Braintree (VT); Orford (NH); Pomfret-Woodstock (VT); and Hanover (NH). All were guided by Vital Communities.

### Hampton

This Warrant Article will be on the March Ballot in Hampton NH: Art 41: Erect solar panels on the closed land fill site to generate electricity. On the petition of Sunny Kravitz and at least 25 Hampton registered voters; shall the Town of Hampton at no cost to the Town, seek information and proposals as to the feasibility of erecting a Mega KW solar array on the closed land fill site to generate electricity.

The goal is to reduce the cost of electricity for the Waste Water Treatment Plant and municipal buildings from a renewable source of energy. A majority vote is required.

## Other News

### Here's Why You Shouldn't Idle Your Car on Cold Mornings

Despite common belief, your car doesn't need time to warm up. Check below to see how the myth could be hurting you, and your wallet.

[Read the article](#) by Jason Claffey of the Nashua Patch

## Upcoming Events

**February 18th. 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

## **The Burden: Fossil Fuels, the Military, & National Security, at the Music Hall Loft in Portsmouth, NH**

GraniteRoots Public Solutions will be screening Truman Project's film, *The Burden: Fossil Fuels, the Military, & National Security*, at the Music Hall Loft in Portsmouth, NH. Senator Jeanne Shaheen will deliver opening remarks and the film will be followed by a panel discussion with former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Operational Energy, Hon. Sharon Burke, current Director, U.S. Navy Task Force Climate Change, Rear Admiral Jonathan White, and the Truman Project's Executive Director, Michael Breen. [Click here to RSVP](#). See the trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=io7V7rHIO2U>.

### **April 10th & 11th: Save the Date**

#### **RootSkills Networking & Training Event**

The Grassroots Fund is partnering to offer a RootSkills Networking & Training Event in New Bedford, MA on April 10th & 11th. Over 100 community volunteer organizers will gather for 2 days of networking, good-food-eating, relaxing, interesting-conversations-having and key grassroots organizing skills-building. On Saturday, participants will have a choice between 4 daylong workshop tracks, specifically focused on grassroots volunteer work, on 1) Participatory Leadership - Working Together for Community Solutions; 2) Group Governance, Structure & Fundraising - Key Building Blocks for Long-term Work; 3) Cross-class Alliances, Racial Equity & Youth Engagement - Everybody at the Table; and 4) Personal Leadership - Working for Change from the Inside Out. Please save the dates, share with your network(s) and get ready to register by the middle of February!

### **April 11th: Save the Date**

#### **Ammonoosuc Regional Energy Fair**

Once again, we have invited the best speakers, educators, and vendors to Profile School in Bethlehem, NH to participate in our Ammonoosuc Regional Energy Fair. Exhibits and how-to demonstrations from solar to wood pellets to heat pumps and more will be open from 8:00 to 3:30 with representatives to answer your questions. Presentation tracks with regional experts will cover topics that range from "how to understand your electric bill" to "what is a net zero building" and "how can I get involved in a community net metering project". Participation is free to the public. See you there!

### **April 28: Save the Date**

#### **Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable**

This year's annual Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable will take place Tuesday, April 28th, at the Montshire Museum in Norwich, VT. The Roundtable is intended to assist existing Upper Valley energy committees in carrying out their work by sharing information and

forming new energy committees.

## Announcements

### Community Resilience Organizations (CROs) Take Flight in Vermont Towns

**New Program helps communities work together on hazard mitigation, climate adaptation and community building.**

South Royalton, VT - There's no way to prevent disasters like Irene. But a new statewide pilot program - Community Resilience Organizations (CROs) - aims to make sure that Vermont towns are ready for whatever comes next.

All communities face a range of hazards and changes, but few are adequately prepared. "Resilience is a muscle that needs to be exercised" said Paul Haskell, Chair of the Sharon, VT Selectboard. The CROs program was created to help diverse community sectors come together to build and exercise those "resilience muscles." CROs will engage the community broadly in completing essential hazard mitigation and climate adaptation tasks and also in celebrating together, building the social cohesion that will help when future challenges arise. [Read more here.](#)

#### Connect with CROs

[www.gocros.org](http://www.gocros.org)

[www.facebook.com/gocros](https://www.facebook.com/gocros)

[hello@gocros.org](mailto:hello@gocros.org)

#CROsVT

### Modern Wood Heating Options & Opportunities Video

The NH Wood Energy Council has produced this [video](#) to introduce New Hampshire commercial and institutional building owners to modern wood heating as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels. This brief, informative video covers chip and pellet boiler technology, fuel supply and sustainability, costs and savings, financing and incentives, and environmental and economic benefits. The video summarizes technical assistance and support provided by the NH Wood Energy Council to help building owners decide if heating your building with local and renewable wood fuels is an option for you to consider.

### Building Operator Certification Training at LRCC Starts February 20th

Lakes Region Community College is again offering its 8-day Building Operator Certification class running every other Friday from February 20 through May 29, 2015. Experienced facilities management staff who successfully complete this program are awarded the nationally recognized Building Operator Level I Certification. **New Hampshire**



to receive a **50% tuition award**, reducing the tuition from \$1,480 to \$740. Please visit the [LRCC Energy Calendar](#) for registration details.

## New Energy for New Hampshire!

### Final State Energy Strategy Released

The NH Office of Energy and Planning released the **Final State Energy Strategy**, which can be found [here](#). The ten-year strategy highlights the need for more investment in energy efficiency, local renewable energy, and smart transportation policies, among other recommendations. As the opening summary aptly states, "The time for action is now."

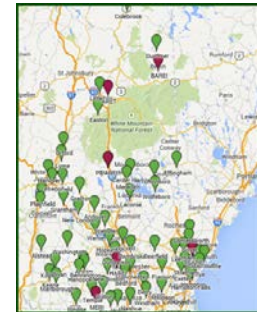
To learn more or get involved in implementing the strategy, contact [Kate Epsen](#) of NHSEA.

## Resources & Tools

### More LEWG Resources

- 

The Local Energy Work Group is delighted to debut their [Google Map](#) highlighting the important work you are doing in your community! The map includes contact information and other relevant links that showcase the breadth of energy work going on in our state. The map can help you connect with your neighboring energy committees, as well as learning more about LECs in other parts of the state. And since many of you have banded together to reduce regional energy consumption, these regional organizations are also included.



- **Local Energy Reference Guides** - The Local Energy Work Group has developed three [quick reference guides](#) (by sector) to NH's current technical assistance, loan and incentives programs to support energy projects. **Please reference and distribute broadly**
- **The NH Energy Calendar** - This unique application and resource tool, developed by Local Energy Work Group specifically for Local Energy Committees and other municipal staff and volunteers, provides monthly advice, guidance and

project to Town Meeting. [Download FREE](#)

### **Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP)**

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) is pleased to announce the release of the "Regional Operations & Maintenance Guide for High Performance Schools and Public Buildings in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic: Strategies for creating green, healthy & energy efficient existing buildings in your state or local government." The Guide is an updated version of the NE-CHPS Operations and Maintenance Guide, which focuses on guidance for school buildings, to include strategies for all public buildings. It contains operations and maintenance (O&M) procedures that will help buildings reduce their operating costs, as well as lead to healthier indoor air, improved student and staff comfort, reduced water consumption, improved environmental stewardship, and overall improvements in the learning environment.

[Download the guide.](#)

### **ENERGY STAR's How To Guide For Current Portfolio Manager Users**

These directions will guide you in entering data into Portfolio Manager and will describe different aspects of the tool. EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager helps you measure and track energy use, water use, and greenhouse gas emissions from your buildings, all in a secure online environment. You can track data for a single building or for your entire group, or portfolio, of buildings. The tool will assist you in identifying under-performing buildings, setting investment priorities, verifying efficiency improvements, and receiving EPA recognition for superior energy performance. [Download the guide.](#)

### **ENERGY STAR Webinars**

**February 24th 2:00 p.m. - [ENERGY STAR® Resources for Local Governments and ICMA Members](#)**

**February 25th 1:00 p.m. - [Portfolio Manager® 201](#)**

**March 12th 1:00 p.m. - [Portfolio Manager® Office Hours, Focus Topic: Understanding Energy Metrics](#)**

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