

Deerfield Energy Conservation Committee February 24, 2026

Attendance: David Gilbert Keith, MA Swedlund, Bruce Dolan, Ryan Kingston, Laurie Boosahda

Guests: Lili Dwight, Julie Chalfant

1) Minutes of Dec 15, 2025 and January 22, 2026 approved. Laurie will take minutes

2) Walter Gray, Program Director for Alternative Fuels and Fehr Gillett from [Power Options](#), non-profit advisor to municipalities in New England - allows towns to avoid RFP process.

To take advantage of Federal Tax credits we need to start construction by July 4, 2026 OR place into service by the end of 2027.

To start, we need to send the address of possible site(s) and the most recent EverSource bill.

The town would get the procurement service for free.

If we sign a contract, we need to become members of Power Options (\$584)

Battery storage is a possibility. The town could reduce peak demand charges, or sell to the grid through the "Connected Solutions" program. Power Options will consider this.

3) Climate Leadership [CL] Program

a) Guest: Mark Rabinsky from DOER (Chris Mason, former Western Mass Coordinator has retired)

b) Discussion of CL criteria, cost/benefits, etc.

c) Decarbonization roadmap - funding for towns that are planning to become Climate Leaders.

Mark suggests we submit a proposal for consideration.

d) Education, supporting materials - There is an [FAQ](#) on the website

Mark suggests holding meetings ahead of Town Meeting.

With the Zero-Emission policy, Mark clarified that a town department can determine that available EVs do not meet the needs of the department, so then they must consider a hybrid, or the most fuel-efficient option. If the town wants to swap vehicles, the replacement must have higher fuel-efficiency.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/2025-stretch-code-technical-guidance/download>

4) Green Communities-report was submitted for the DES project

a) Frontier: GC application status - David will check in with Ted Harvey

b) Regional district towns - David has informed them. Other towns seem involved with internal projects.

5) Forest Protection Bills - MA moves that David can decide to sign for the Committee, Laurie seconds
Unanimously approved.

6) Municipal: Other committees: MVP and CCI - feedback postponed because of time

7) Schedule Next Meeting: Thursday, March 12, 4:00 via Zoom

8) Laurie motions to adjourn, Ryan seconds. Unanimously approved. Meeting Adjourned at 6:00