

**Town of Sudbury
Energy and Sustainability Committee (ESC)
Minutes – February 17, 2026**

Present in person: None

Present remotely: Rami Alwan, Member and Chair; Olga Faktorovich Allen, Member and Vice Chair; Jennifer Dudgeon, Member; Mary K. Farris, Member; Nate Garazzo, Member; Venk Gopal, Member; and Joe Martino, Member.

Absent: Elsa Iovanella, Member; and John Keklak, Member.

Also Present remotely: Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director; and Eric Simms, Sustainability Coordinator; Kiff Gallagher, Global Heat Reduction Initiative; Jennifer Norfolk, Global Heat Reduction Initiative; Zoe Mann, Global Heat Reduction Initiative; and Sudbury TV staff

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Chair Rami Alwan.

1. Report on the Joint Meeting with Select Board

Rami reported that he and Olga met with the Select Board on February 3, 2026. Rami and Olga presented a list of ESC projects and activities, including the solar arrays at Haskell, Curtis and the Fire/Police Station. The Select Board expressed satisfaction with and support for ESC's work.

Rami summarized the status of the Haskell solar project. He indicated the need to get all stakeholders on board. Currently Parks and Rec are opposed to the project. Rami and Olga elaborated on the reasons Parks and Rec objects to the Haskell solar project, including aesthetics, safety, and lack of input into the decision-making process.

2. Combined Facilities Director Update

Sandra reported continuing work on the solar projects at Haskell, Curtis and the Fire/Police station, in particular preparing renderings for socializing the projects. Sandra mentioned she will be meeting with the Historic District Commission in April, as the Fire/Police station work will require their approval.

3. Sustainability Coordinator Update

Eric reported continuing work on the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Hazard Mitigation Plan. Additionally he is working on the Green Communities application with a target date of the end of June, and on the MVP 2.0 certification with the development of the resilience coaching program. For the latter, Eric is looking for a few additional candidates for coaching and for the advisory committee.

Eric requested ESC to vote on funding the purchase of BSC flood plain maps. These maps offer more accurate and up-to-date data as compared to maps available from the federal government. Eric indicated that the cost of the BSC maps is \$6,250.

Motion:

Rami made a motion to purchase the BSC maps. The wording of the motion:

"To additionally fund our ongoing efforts with the climate change vulnerability assessment for an additional \$6,250."

Mary seconded the motion.

Vote:

7-0

4. Continued Discussion on ESC Mission

Olga reviewed progress so far on updating the ESC mission. The work so far has produced expressions of vision and purpose. The vision is currently stated as, "fight climate change, pursue energy independence, and enhance resilience across communities and ecosystems", while purpose is expressed as "generate insight and lend expertise, inform and advise, facilitate implementation and support accountability for town climate and sustainability goals". Members debated the wording of these definitions, in particular the word, "fight", as it has a somewhat negative connotation. After discussion, Olga suggested that the wording be put up for approval by ESC at this or at a future meeting. Olga also asked for volunteers to further elaborate on, "enhance resilience across communities and ecosystems". Nate offered to perform this work.

Action Item:

Nate to present a detailed definition of, "enhance resilience across communities and ecosystems", at the March meeting.

5. Other Items

Olga invited Kiff Gallagher, Jennifer Norfolk and Zoe Mann of Global Heat Reduction Initiative (GHRI) to present on the topic of near-term global warming.

Kiff explained how curtailing the release of a number of short-lived gases such as methane and pollutants such as PM2.5 provides an opportunity to bend the near-term warming curve more effectively than simply controlling carbon dioxide. Methane, in particular, while short-lived, is hundreds of times more harmful than carbon dioxide. Kiff mentioned that IPCC will be recognizing this approach in an upcoming update of its reports.

Following Kiff's presentation, ESC members asked some technical questions about GHRI's

methodology and ways GHRI could be helpful to Sudbury. Olga suggested that an option would be for GHRI to work with a consortium that includes Sudbury and surrounding towns. Eric expressed interest in this idea, and indicated he would speak with counterparts in surrounding towns.

Action Item:

Eric will investigate the prospect of collaborating with sustainability professionals in neighboring towns to utilize GHRI consulting services with regard to reducing short-lived greenhouse gas emissions.

ESC members also discussed other environmental issues, including limiting the number of refuse haulers currently operating in Sudbury, and compelling natural gas companies to remedy leaks which substantially contribute to the methane release in town. Venk mentioned that Arlington has a methane release task force that puts pressure on gas companies to address leaks.

Venk briefed ESC on the roll-out of smart electricity meters. He indicated that residents, businesses and the municipality will receive notices 90, 60 and 30 days prior to the replacement of existing meters with smart meters. Rami suggested that Eversource be requested to accelerate the changes at town buildings.

Action Item:

Venk to contact Eversource to inquire whether smart meter installation can be accelerated for town buildings.

6. Next Meeting

ESC members agreed to hold the next monthly meeting on March 17, 2026.

Conclusion of Meeting

With no further business before ESC, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Submitted by: John Keklak