



TOWN OF DURHAM
8 NEWMARKET ROAD
DURHAM, NH 03824
Tel: 603-868-5571
Fax: 603-868-1858
www.ci.durham.nh.us

November 13, 2023
Transmitted via email.

Governor Christopher Sununu
DOE Commissioner Jared Chicoine
PUC Chairperson Daniel Goldner
PUC Commissioner Pradip Chattopadhyay
PUC Commissioner Carleton Simpson
State of New Hampshire
Concord, New Hampshire

**Re: Support from Town of Durham for Net Metering & NH Saves Programs –
DE 22-060 & DE 23-068**

Dear Governor Sununu, Commissioner Chicoine, Chairperson Goldner, and Commissioners Chattopadhyay and Simpson:

The 2014 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), written by a panel of hundreds of climate experts and scientists and approved by a team of external reviewers, states unambiguously that anthropogenic or “man-made” greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are causing global climate change. For this reason, Durham has joined an increasing number of local governments committed to addressing climate change at the local level, in particular through its commitment to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

Durham recognizes the risk that climate change poses to its residents and is acting now to reduce the GHG emissions of both its government operations and the community-at-large through a suite of innovative programs laid out in our locally adopted Climate Action Plan.

By creating a clear course of action, our Climate Action Plan drives and coordinates local efforts toward a reduction in GHG emissions of 2019 levels by 42.8% by 2030 and achieving zero emissions by 2050. Our locally adopted Climate Action Plan is a framework for developing and implementing actions to achieve these targets.

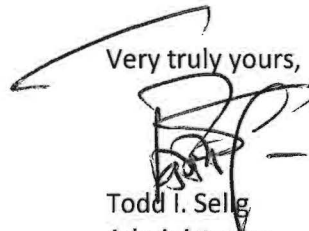
Ultimately, local and state action is needed to reduce New Hampshire’s contribution to the problem of climate change and adapt to its current and future effects.

As you know the NH Department of Energy will soon be recommending, and the NH Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will subsequently be considering, setting a new Net Energy Metering (NEM) rate for NH residents, business, and local governments. We would like to go on record of supporting the practice of NEM for residents, businesses, and governmental entities. Many Durham residents participate in NEM as does the Town of Durham with a 640 kW solar array at our Packers Falls gravel pit in Lee, a 99 kW array on our Churchill Ice Rink, a 15 kW array on our public library, and a 6 kW array on our police station. Additional residents express an interest in participating in NEM in the future. Local officials in Durham have heard a concern expressed about the concept of cost displacement, yet we remain in favor of continuing a robust NEM program in NH.

We also understand that the four utilities that run the state's NH Saves program have proposed a \$253 million plan that would continue providing rebates for residents who want to make their homes more energy efficient in a variety of ways, like buying energy efficient appliances, adding insulation, or doing ambitious remodel projects that specifically enhance energy efficiency at the home. In addition to representing what we believe to be good public policy on the part of New Hampshire, the utilities estimate that over the lifetime of such energy efficiency measures, the plan will save Granite Staters more than \$675 million.

We request that the State of New Hampshire and its various departments and commissions collectively work to take steps to do their part to reduce GHG emissions by supporting programs like NEM and NH Saves. To this end, on November 6, 2023, the Durham Town Council, the Legislative and Governing body of the Town of Durham, NH approved Resolution #2023-26, in support of NEM and the proposed 2024-2026 NH Saves Program, a copy of which is attached for your review and consideration.

Do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions in regard to this or any other matter.

Very truly yours,

Todd I. Selig
Administrator

Enclosure

c: Thomas Frantz, DOE Director of Regulatory Support
Deandra Perruccio, DOE Renewable Energy Division
Town Council, Durham, NH
Energy Committee, Durham, NH



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RESOLUTION #2023-26 OF DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

REQUESTING ADMINISTRATOR SELIG SUBMIT A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF NET METERING AND PROPOSED 2024-2026 NHSAVES PROGRAM TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

WHEREAS, through joining the Global Covenant of Mayors, Durham as a community has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions 42.5% by 2030; and

WHEREAS, over 90% of our community's emissions originate in the built environment and transportation sectors; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Climate Action Plan adopted by the Town Council stresses promoting energy efficiency in buildings, transitioning to electric vehicles, and increasing the town's use of renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, current net metering tariffs reduce taxpayer and customer costs and contribute sources of renewable energy in Durham; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 2024-2026 NH Saves Energy Efficiency Program would provide increased benefits to Durham residents and further our emissions-reduction goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham Town Council, the governing and legislative body of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire, does hereby adopt Resolution #2023-26 requesting that Administrator Selig submit a letter of support for the current net metering tariffs and the proposed triennial energy efficiency plan to the NH Public Utilities Commission.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of November 2023 by a majority vote of the Durham Town Council with 9 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstentions.

Sally Needell, Chair
Durham Town Council

ATTEST:

Rachel Dean, Town Clerk-Tax Collector