

MINUTES

Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee

October 27, 2025

2:00 PM

Newman Library, Room 101S

Zoom: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/81684117092>

Present: Nathan King (presiding), Nam Nguyen, Kirsten Dean, Sheree Andrews, Saskia van de Gevel, Meghan Marsh, Mehmedalp Tural, Liza Morris, Ian Dunbar for Kendra Paisley, Ken Belcher, Nick Woods for Simon Allen, Irene Leech, Nick Quint for Carrie Cox, Emily Williams, Teresa Sweeney, Grey Kieffer, Nam Nguyen, Susan Gill, Scott Kerklo for Matt Stolte, Catherine Shewchuck for Sean Kenny

Absent with Notice: Dwyn Taylor, Julie McClafferty, Jennifer Walters

Absent: Joshua Clemons, Rumana Rani, Carmen Atkins, Ryan Zekra, Arturo Soriano, Nicci Ratcliff, Ella Jackson, Yohan Sequiera

Guests: Kristina Cook, Yugasha Bakshi, Bijou Bachelor, Pamela Tate, Annie Lawrence, Rachael Budowle, Leslie Stevens, Adia Long, Andre Denham, Nathan Li, Larissa Gimmy, Javad Torabinejad, Karen Martens, Kiara Winans, Kenny Harmon, Jordan Lewis, Emily Vollmer, Isabella Nijkamp, Maddie Glanz, Cameron Baller, Mark Witt, Eric Tatum, Morgan Ralph, Steve Durfee, Wesley Gibson, Mrk Hayes, Charul Agrawal, Sean McGinnis, Ron Meyers, Todd Schenk

Nathan King called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of September 22,2025.

Nathan King noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Website: governance.vt.edu

3. Presentation

Nam Nguyen, Executive Director - Energy and Utilities, presented on Belcher Solar Facility Virtual Power Purchase Agreement.

Scott Kerklo, Facilities Operations Engineer, presented a preview on 2025 CAC Assessment Process Goal 5 – Operations of new buildings initiated by 2030 will be carbon neutral.

Steve Durfee, Associate Director of Energy Management, presented on 2025 CAC Assessment Process Goal 3 – Total conversion of steam plant fuel to natural gas by 2025 and 2025 CAC Assessment Process Goal 4 – Reduce building energy consumption to enable carbon neutrality by 2030.

Nathan King, Campus Sustainability Manager and Morgan Ralph, Energy Conservation and Engagement Coordinator, presented an overview of the Sustainable Labs Program..)

4. Other Items

- Question to Nam Nguyen – What makes the Belcher Solar Facility Virtual Power Purchase Agreement a ‘virtual’ agreement?
- Cameron to Nam Nguyen – How can we claim to be progressing towards 100% renewable energy when it is in virtual certificates and we’re still using fossil fuels?
- Question to Scott Kerklo – Given the number of LEED buildings on campus, why hasn’t the campus energy use intensity dropped lower?
- Question on Microsoft Form to Steve Durfee – How is the Energy Subcommittee incorporating climate justice as a core value in its efforts to accomplish Goals 3 and 4?
- Todd Schenk to Nam Nguyen – Are there any more opportunities for projects like the Belcher project to scale up on campus and meet campus needs? Is funding to other projects taking away resources from others like the Belcher project?

5. Announcements

- The meeting went overtime and there was not time to share announcements

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:18 PM.