

January 13, 2020

Dear colleagues:

As we continue to pursue the goal of our city to become 100% renewable energy community, the Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee (EEAC) has identified an opportunity to gain additional assistance in data collection and analysis through the University of New Hampshire Sustainability Fellow Program. I'm writing to provide additional information about this opportunity and its value to our collective sustainability efforts.

The program application for the 2020 Sustainability Program is included in the council packet for the January 13th meeting. The Fellow would work with city administration and the EEAC to support the following program of work during the June to August 2020 timeframe. We hope that you will support this opportunity which requires a \$4,000 match from the City of Concord.

The Sustainability Fellow will be of value to the City of Concord:

* The Fellow would create a baseline GHG emissions inventory for the city and hopefully, the community, by applying the most up-to-date best practices and with the oversight of experts from UNH.

* The Fellow would have adequate time and focus to produce a well-documented and referenced GHG emissions inventory report that can be shared among city staff and members of the community. This report would represent a common source of facts as a starting point for discussions among diverse stakeholders on the major emissions sources.

* The inventory will help to identify priorities for intervention - which action steps will reduce GHG emissions the fastest. Reports from other communities have included emissions projections based on action (or intervention) scenarios, that inform recommendations. (Concord can have the same)

* The engagement of a Sustainability Fellow, and the UNH Sustainability Institute, is the gold-standard approach for producing GHG emissions inventories in NH. For example, GHG emissions inventories for the cities of Lebanon, Portsmouth and Dover were done in this manner. This year, Exeter, Durham, Groton (CT), and Unutil have signed up for a Sustainability Fellow for this purpose.

* Concord would be one of 18 communities or organizations with Sustainability Fellows, and all projects have climate as a focus (5 of these specifically aim to produce GHG emissions inventories). Concord would benefit by being part of a network of Communities and organizations that are working on similar climate change mitigation issues in parallel, with expertise from UNH.

* With additional time, the Fellow may be able to help lay the groundwork for municipal aggregation (community power) and public awareness campaigns, both of which are important strategies for the city moving forward. Even without this, however, the Fellow's work on the GHG inventory will be essential.

Thanks for your consideration.

Best,

Rob Werner
City Councilor, Ward 5
Chair, Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee