

Candia Recycling & Energy Committee
Public Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2026

Attendance: Clay Caddy, Janet Lewis, Boyd Chivers, Gail Thomas, and Al Couch

There was a reminder for committee members that there is an important event coming up. The annual Recycling Conference, put on by NH Recycles, will be held on Monday, May 18th at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. Chuck should be able to get passes for committee members.

It was also mentioned that NH Recycles does a bi-weekly email newsletter that gives updates and information on recycling.

At the last meeting, Janet asked about recycling a specific type of plastic. Al did some research on this, and came up with a lot of information on plastic recycling. He said that although the 1 through 7 categories make it look very simple, it is much more complicated than that. In the plastics industry, there are more than *two thousand* types of plastic. Some can be easily recycled, but many cannot be recycled. Al said he could not find the answer on the item that Janet asked about without getting more information on it. Also, because it looks like a non-recyclable clamshell container, it would not be practical for the Recycling Center to accept.

Al said that a problem has recently occurred with our plastic recycling. When he spoke to Chuck last week, he said that the plastics company he had been sending the material to has now been permanently closed. The company was Trigon, located in Pennsylvania. The company had been handling more than 25 million tons of plastics a year, so they were a major factor in the plastics industry. A search for information on the closure did not give any specific reason. Al said he is searching for other major plastics recyclers, and will work with Chuck to see if we can come up with another company that can handle our plastics. Chuck said he will have a truckload ready to ship by October, so there is a bit of time to come up with a solution.

Clay talked about a new tire recycling machine he saw recently. The machine can grind up one tire at a time, which should help make the recycling of tires easier and more practical for many. Similar to the way plastic material is recycled by chipping up plastic to make new material, old tires are ground up and re-used for things like rubber mulch, playground surfaces, and mixed with tar for road pavement.

Clay talked about scrap metal recycling. He said the revised methods that Chuck set up are working. They now have a roll-off container on site which Chuck can keep loading on a regular basis, rather than have a large truck come in and spend a lot of time loading up.

Clay talked about power plants and the new technology that is being developed. They are now creating very small nuclear plants that can supply a large amount of power. He said they are smaller than the room we are in. This may be the new source of power in the future and would be much cleaner than existing plants. Al mentioned that the coal power plant in Bow is permanently closed due to emissions regulations. There is another power plant near us, which is the waste-to-energy plant in Boscawen. Some of our trash goes to that plant, depending on the available capacity of the plant.

Town's power programs- Al said the town's contract with Standard Power has been renewed, and the Group Net Metering contract is being reviewed and the BOS will decide on that at a future meeting. These programs lower the cost of the town's power supply.

Gail asked about the viability of using solar power. She said that some people can save a lot of money by setting up a solar array. Janet said she had also considered solar, but was concerned about the appearance of the solar panels in the field. Al said that some of the town's energy comes from solar as part of the Standard Power arrangement. He also mentioned that Bob Mitchell, the owner of Historic Motor Sports had installed a solar array several years ago, and he offered to sell any excess energy to the town for a discounted rate. When he found out that by putting the excess power on the grid, he would be getting several thousand dollars in credits each month, so he withdrew his offer.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 23rd, at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Al Couch, Recycling & Energy Committee