

## Jean Hamilton

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802-777-6546

I have been a WEC member from Plainfield since 2014 and a member of the Board since 2017. Members are welcome to contact me by phone 802-777-6546 or by email [jean.myung.hamilton@gmail.com](mailto:jean.myung.hamilton@gmail.com).

I enjoy sharing time with my family and neighbors, eating delicious food, and exploring land. My career is focused on farm and food business viability, community economic development, and local fun. Currently, my “day job” is Co-Director of the Land Access and Opportunity Board. My husband and I also own and operate three small businesses.

**Skills:** I am a hard worker. I am good at organizing people and ideas. I am skilled at governance and decision making systems. I like people and can make things happen.

**Expertise:** I understand how WEC works. I have been on the Board for 9 years and have a good understanding of the major issues we are facing as an organization. I have expertise in organizational management, community organizing, fundraising, and local politics. I am good at getting things done. I am strategic.

I have many opinions about the issues facing WEC. Here are a few:

1) Net Metering: Vermont needs to be more realistic about meeting our members' need for safe, reliable energy justice. Net metering is a regressive economic policy that requires WEC members to collectively pay a return on investment to net meterers for their energy investments. The net meterers aren't doing anything wrong, they are making good use of a legal, investment opportunity and are building out some distributed energy generation. But, given the current economic conditions of our WEC community, Vermont's net metering laws are not fair, just, or strategic towards long-term climate resilience. It is time to redefine these laws towards economic and environmental justice, grounded in our present day economic realities.

Instead of net metering, we should be investing public resources into solving the gaps in weatherization so that every home in Vermont is weatherized so they are more warm and less expensive, ASAP. We know what is holding back weatherization: workforce, awareness, buy-in, asbestos, and of course money. Investing in weatherization for every Vermonter is a must. I would like to work with WEC and other state energy leaders to develop a coordinated effort to get all WEC homes weatherized.

2) Community Ownership: I believe the people who are most impacted should have the most decision making power over issues like: How does WEC invest the resources we co-operatively own together as member owners. How does WEC conduct itself? What is our annual budget?

I want all WEC members to understand that because you get your electricity from WEC, you are an owner of this company. Because WEC is a co-operative, you're called a member-owner. As a member-owner you have a lot of power.

Through your vote, you have the power to elect the Board of Directors and as a member-owner you can become a Director of WEC by running for one of the 9 elected Board seats.

You have the power to receive your equal share of the profits and wealth generated through the WEC's annual Capital Credits distribution.

I want WEC members to understand that together we own a major economic asset. Please reach out to me if you would like to talk more about what this means for you and your neighbors.

3) Community Power: WEC exists because 100 years ago the investor-owned energy companies didn't think it was worthwhile to provide electricity to our community, it didn't make them enough money. Today 11,000 of us member-owners co-operatively own a 100% renewable, democratically governed electricity company that provides us with reliable, safe, electricity. WEC is an innovative, caring, well-run community-owned economic asset.

I look forward to working with more WEC members over the next three years to see what else we can accomplish by working together. Local control + community co-operation = resilience.