

Updating New Hampshire's Climate Action Plan

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

local people, local priorities, and local solutions!

Online via Zoom

December 6, 2023

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM



**University of
New Hampshire**

Carsey School of Public Policy



Welcome – Thank you for Being Here



New Hampshire Listens is working on behalf of the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to [design and facilitate community engagement](#)—an essential component of NH's Priority and Comprehensive Climate Action Plans

We are here today to hear from you!



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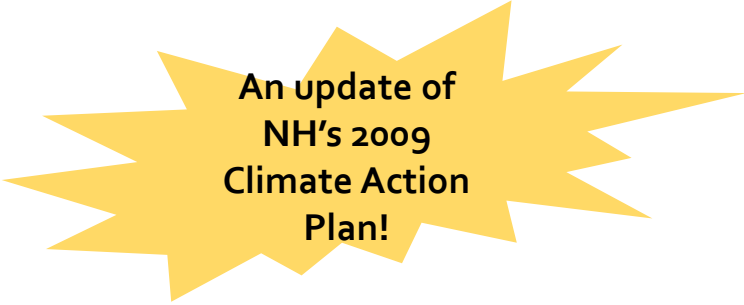
A FEW REMINDERS...

We have formatted today to gather input from you and our time will move quickly.

- Mute in large group
- Use chat for responses and resources
- Message Courtney Wrigley (NH Listens) for tech assistance
- Prioritize cameras ON during small group breakouts
- Group Agreements
 - Listen to others and share airtime.
 - Participate and be as fully present as you can.
 - Respect each other and our brief time together.

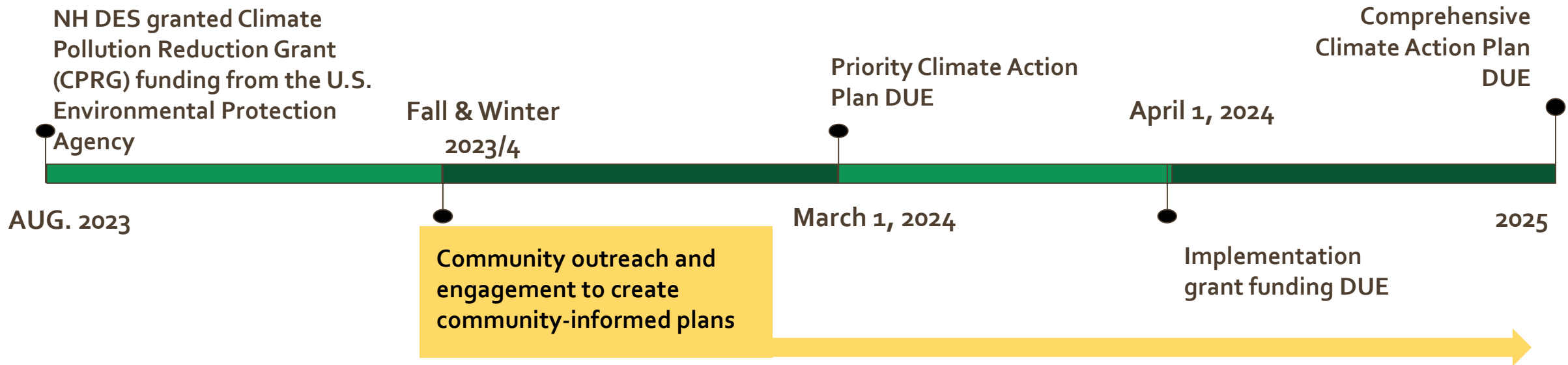


NH's Climate Action Plan



An opportunity for New Hampshire:

- NH was granted federal funding in August to update NH's Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Community engagement (*TODAY*) is an essential component of creating NH's Climate Action Plans
- NH will identify priority projects by (*March 1, 2024*) to apply for implementation funds available from the federal government (*April 1, 2024*) to move projects forward here in NH!



NH's Climate Action Plan



Objectives of the plan are to:

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions while supporting the creation of good jobs and lowering energy costs for families.

Empower community-driven solutions in neighborhoods overburdened from pollution and impacts of climate change by directly seeking input from those communities.

Deliver cleaner air by reducing harmful air pollution in places where people live, work, play, and go to school.

These plans are part of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. **They lead to implementation funding that will support community-engaged projects** with an effort to focus on [Justice4o investments](#) among the sectors of air pollution and greenhouse gas reductions. If you have specific questions about the grant funding, **reach out to the NHDES CPRG Team. Share your thoughts with the team:**

cprg@des.nh.gov

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

local people, local priorities, and local solutions!



Your near-term, implement-ready priorities could become funded projects!

Between **December 2023** and **early February 2024**, join a community conversation to learn and talk together about local priorities and possibilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- Air pollution affects us ALL in our homes, at work, where we and our families learn, and where we play.
- These conversations are focused on talking about local issues and potential solutions.
- The State of New Hampshire needs to hear from local community members interested in, and already working on, air pollution reductions.
- Your input will inform NH's Priority Climate Action Plan, implementation proposals, and future plans.

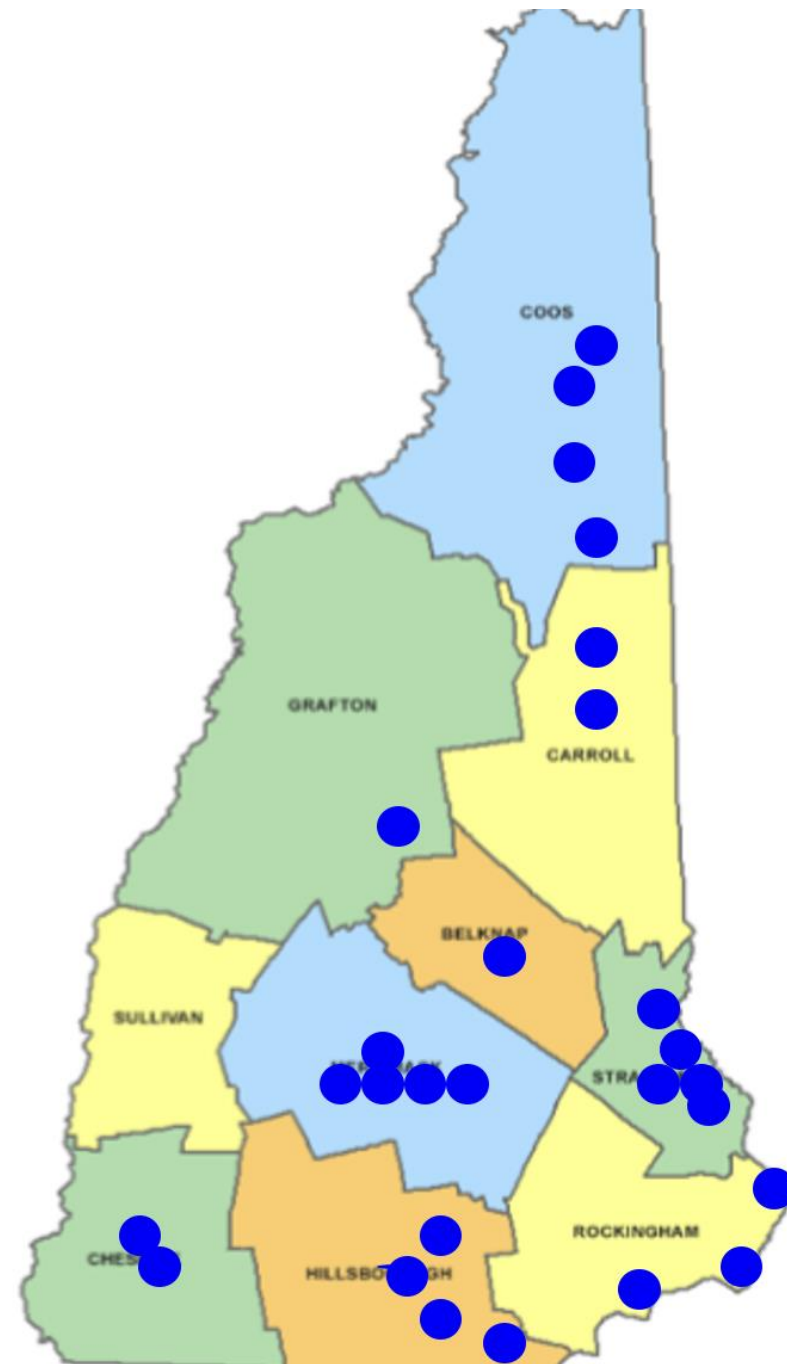
[See registration links HERE](#)

Today's Agenda:



- **Who's here:** Interactive NH map
- **Spotlight:** Implementation grant goals and questions to consider
- **Spotlight:** Commitment to NH communities - Justice40
- **Share:** What we're hearing so far from community engagement
- **Small Group Discussion:** Your priorities for reducing emissions where we live, work, learn, and play
- **Wrap up and what's next**
- **Q & A 5:55 PM**
- **Close 6:00 PM**
- **Brief Q&A with NHDES Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Staff till 6:20pm**

Who's in the zoom?





Karen Craver, MPH

Administrator, Environmental
Health Program

Environmental Justice Coordinator,
Air Resources Division

Share your thoughts with the team:

cprg@des.nh.gov



Kurt Yuengling

Community Engagement
Specialist

Environmental Health Program,
Air Resources Division

kurt.r.yuengling@des.nh.gov

Share your thoughts with the team:

cprg@des.nh.gov

Implementation Grant Goals



- EPA anticipates approximately 30 to 115 grants under this; range \$2 to \$500 million each
- We seek your help identifying the ***near-term, high-priority, implement ready*** projects in NH to apply for federal funding this spring

Goals include:

- Implement ambitious measures that will achieve significant reductions by 2030 and beyond;
- Pursue measures that will achieve substantial community benefits by reducing air pollutants, particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities;
- Complement other funding sources to maximize GHG reductions and community benefits;
- Pursue innovative policies and programs that are replicable and can be “scaled up” across multiple jurisdictions.

What We're Hearing

Last Week: Cross-Sector Stakeholders - 11/30/2023



A FEW OF THE MANY: Near-term, high-priority, implement ready priorities, projects, programs, policies that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by sector in NH

Transportation	Electricity generation and/or use and Industry	Commercial and residential buildings	Natural and working lands and Agriculture	Waste and materials management and Wastewater
Electric Vehicle (EV) Initiatives	Grid Efficiency	Weatherization Improvements	Plant Perennials and Urban Trees	Update Aging Infrastructure
Focus on Public Transportation	Solar for Community Buildings	Build Contractor Capacity	Support Stewardship of Natural Spaces	Recycle Waste for Energy

What We're Hearing

Interviews



**MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES
IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

**BARRIERS TO ADVANCING
THE WORK AND NEEDED
CHANGES**

Share your thoughts with the team:
cprg@des.nh.gov

Small Group Breakouts – Choose One (x2)



Directions

- You will be moved into a small break out room for 45 min. dialogue
- Facilitator will guide you through questions
- We want to hear from everyone!
- Group agreements - Share airtime please!

Focus questions:

What actions would reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play?

What is achievable in your home and community?

How do we work better together?

Group 1: Transportation

Group 2: Electricity generation and/or use and Industry

Group 3: Commercial and residential buildings

Group 4: Natural and working lands and Agriculture

Group 5: Waste and materials management and Wastewater

Small Group Breakouts

Dialogues

1. What actions would reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play?
 - We are focused on identifying the **near-term, high-priority, implement ready** projects in NH to apply for federal funding this spring - what specific projects do you want included?
 - What is achievable at your home? In your community?
 - ***Reminder - the focus on greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution reductions***
2. How do we work better together at the local level in NH?
 - What are the biggest barriers you see in reducing greenhouse gas emissions at the local level? At the state level?
3. Thinking back on our conversation, what 2 - 3 ideas do we want to share with the full group?

Things to Consider: Reducing emissions by sector in NH

Transportation

Electricity generation
and/or use and
Industry

Commercial and
residential buildings

Natural and working
lands and Agriculture

Waste and materials
management and
Wastewater

Modes of travel?

Power sources?
Heat sources?

Building design?
Building codes?

Replacing/upgrading
equipment?

Diverting/Reducing
waste from landfills?

Travel needs?

Project Scale?

HVAC systems?

Local food sources?

Reducing/Capturing
methane emissions?

Replacing
equipment?

Improvements to
the grid?

Equipment Upgrades?

Increasing carbon
storage in soils?
Forest?

Other uses of the
land/facilities?

Planning/zoning
changes?

Maximizing facility
usage?

Restoring degraded
lands to
wetlands/forests?

Transportation

BRAINSTORM: *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready* projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play?



Recycle more
Compost
Need education & encouragement

Old housing stock.
Need to button up, improve efficiency of old housing stock

Coal plant - Bow, have heard owners want to convert it

Zoning is critical.
Many residents don't know anything about it or how to engage.
Work to improve general knowledge

Train the trainers

Hudson going onto Community Power - lower cost, more energy efficiency, cleaner fuel sources

Utilities need to re-tool/re-think a 2 way relationship with customers

More public transit

Weatherization - need more training for homeowners.
Also need more capacity for low income weatherization

Need professional marketing for weatherization to get people engaged.
Info from a trusted source

Recycling - many towns do it. Need a really effective training to residents. Need to address misinformation

Outreach esp to seniors. Need to address both income limitations & hard to tackle such a large project

Create and support close-to-home opportunities for outdoor recreation

Transportation

BRAINSTORM: *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready* projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play?



Hudson police station
- being worked on
locally now

Most municipal
buildings in most
towns

NH State House
efficiency upgrades

Underserved
communities -
eliminate the wait list
for utility efficiency
programs

May need to totally
rethink single stream
recycling

Eliminate or charge a
fee for single use
plastic bags- combine
with give away of
free reusable bags

Train students in high
school to join local
clean up or
renovation projects.
See Palmer Center-
Hudson

Laconia Tech School -
"Trade Track"

Zoning - many towns
don't allow small lots
or small houses.
Allow more multi-
family

Come up with a
traveling education
program to explain
property taxes

Thinking back on our conversation, what 2 - 3 ideas do we want to share with the full group?

Devote a lot of \$ and time on education
Train the trainers
Incentivize people to get engaged
Comm outreach to both residents & Gov't
Need grants/support

Improve efficiency of old building stock - public & private

Re-think single stream recycling

Electricity generation and/or use and Industry

BRAINSTORM: *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready* projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play?



Weatherization for low income households
Educating on weatherization

Energy Efficiency
For renters & landlords

Tracking mechanisms
(Grants and reporting of economic sectors)

Indoor AQ in old housing
(elevated asthma)
Retrofit old heating equipment

Oldest housing stock in NH; gas heat and indoor air quality/asthma

What is the best way to partner

Need to give intentional focus for renters and the tools that will help renters

Monitoring heat loss on buildings and homes using drones

Change zoning laws and infrastructure to get chargers electric ready

Green mountain power; need battery back ups and microgrids

Electricity generation and/or use and Industry

BRAINSTORM: *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready* projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play?



Need to be able to add electric vehicles in the center of town not just on the outskirts

No incentives for landlords to install electrical vehicle chargers

More "Button Up" workshops (educating of weatherization)

Community Solar opportunities for households that cannot install solar on home

Audit programs for indoor air quality

How to install electric vehicle charger in dense area

Solar, replacing windows, caulking;

New Energy Efficiency Windows and caulking around door/window frames

Electric vehicle fast chargers on highway where they would be most beneficial (especially for renters)

Getting utilities on board with solar programs

Removing Heat islands

Renters - want solar and electric vehicles

New buildings need infrastructure for the electric vehicle chargers

Make Biking safe and accessible

Electricity generation and/or use and Industry

BRAINSTORM: *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready* projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play?



Monitor heat loss

Solar on rental properties; flat roofs on three story housing

Laws around net metering? Can we group people into an agreement?

Pellet heat, air exchanger

DES ambulance and do indoor air quality surveys for people

Solar and historic districts

Low cost, no cost to save energy

More solar farms as part of community power and storage systems

Make biking more accessible

How can we have a productive relationship with the utilities themselves??

Electricity generation and/or use and Industry

Thinking back on our conversation, what 2 - 3 ideas do we want to share with the full group?

What is Achievable?

- Gas to electric - most people don't know how different the air quality will be if you get rid of your gas stove - need to let people know about that
- Having a DES travel crew who identifies heat loss and ask people if they want their air quality measured inside their house
- Lots on addressing the legislation and ordinances that block solar and EV stations

Commercial and Residential Buildings

BRAINSTORM: *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready* projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play?



Infrastructure for low emission transit - bike lanes

Public availability for compost opportunities

Mass Transit

Walkable Communities

Locally Produced Power – Community Power Coalition NH

Dark Skies Initiatives

Reduce use of fossil fuels - natural gas and propane

Smart Grid

Replace fossil fuel generation with renewable generation

Public Transit Resources instead of Consumer electric vehicle Incentives

Solar on schools combined with infrastructure upgrades (roof replacement)

Community Power for clean power community wide
Options for renewable enrollment

Expedite closure of Bow Power - Use infrastructure to interconnect renewables like solar farm

Reduce combustion of construction debris and potentially recyclable materials

Commercial and Residential Buildings

BRAINSTORM: *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play?*



Scale up renewables to offset fossil fuel use

100% renewable power with storage

Improved efficiency to reduce demand on renewable sources

Expanded photovoltaic (PV) generation - grants for schools

State level electric vehicle consumer incentives

Time of use electric vehicle charging rates, advanced metering, transactional energy

Funding for electric vehicle/plug-in hybrid electric vehicle for municipal vehicle use

Reducing incineration (Bow Power and Wheelabrator) in Low-Income Disadvantaged Communities

Closing / readapting incinerator in Penacook

Install geothermal heat pump infrastructure during existing excavation

Expanding funding for NHSaves programs

Renewables and grid-scale storage

What is Achievable in your home or community?

- Supporting community power - Concord is already working and applying on the process
- Community power program - self determine how much green power
- Closing Bow Power plant - turning it into solar farm - adapting to renewable energy
- Incinerator in Penacook - readapting / closing
- Keene - redoing streets, concerned about parking spaces more than pedestrian flow. Taking opportunity to put in geo-thermal pump when doing infrastructure projects.
- Growing awareness and education about location of incinerators / polluters in lower-income neighborhoods - where are these located in NH communities?
- Wealthier NH communities have opportunity to take on some of the renewable energy projects or other opportunities - How do we share the opportunity with other NH communities, especially low income and disadvantaged communities?
- Expand NH Saves programs

How do we work better at the local level in NH?

- NH Saves - legislative conflicts
- Portsmouth - focus keeps being low-hanging fruit, we're not going to make a big difference to climate change if we keep focusing on short-term projects
- We need to focus on reducing reliance in fossil fuels and at the same time as scale up renewal
- Let's get 100% clean power in NH - storage for renewable energy - not fossil fuel in the back pocket
- Communities with more resources (like Bedford) can enact some projects - like solar on schools - but how do we roll this out at statewide scale?
- NH SAVES is limited by not allowing anything electric - can it be a different statewide program
- Electric vehicle incentives - not equitable use of funds in NH

Thinking back on our conversation, what 2 - 3 ideas do we want to share with the full group?

Use Less
Use Smart

Think Big - Replace all
Fossil Fuel use with
renewable generation
and storage

Smart Grid
improvements to better
utilize renewable
generation

Natural and working lands and Agriculture

BRAINSTORM: *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects* to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play?



Increase Virtual Work/work from home

Legislation is needed to reduce emissions- focus on policy

Legislation example: reduce single use plastics; extended producer responsibility legislation

Better interactive electrical metering- so that we can use Electric vehicles to power the grid as well as take from the grid

Need change of mindset, NEW DEAL type programs to mobilize people

General comment: need for public stakeholder information- education and improved understanding can help to inform input and action, data can support understanding

Improve Public Transportation ++, also emphasize walkable towns and cities

Legislation to hold people responsible for environmental damage, ie pierce the veil for corp entities

Technical and financial support for community net zero efforts

Small district heating and cooling

Research on cumulative impact of the toxins in emissions

Make sure that information is presented in a manner that is understandable

Most effective public outreach has been outreach that doesn't assume a deficit, but instead assumes value of varying experience and understanding; take a strengths based approach

Ensure that someone on the implementation team with expertise in effective messaging

Legislation requiring the Inclusion of affected communities in all planning that affects them.

Recognize that we need to take a long term look/approach when thinking about outcomes/how change would impact where we are in the future

Natural and working lands and Agriculture

BRAINSTORM: *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects* to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play?



High school and community college curriculum focus on greenhouse gas reductions

Consider how the forest economy fits with greenhouse gas reduction

Create positions similar to pollution prevention, but for greenhouse gas emission reduction (specialists who can go out and assess and make recommendations)

Wood heat- US EPA standards for low polluting/high efficiency wood stoves, incentivized by tax credit- could further incentivize change-outs, with a focus on communities that experience poor air quality

More green space, more trees, utilize ecosystem services to reduce/capture carbon, etc

Reduce barriers for renters to secure better approaches to heating/ home energy/ places to charge electric vehicles- work with landlords and tenants to achieve this (the Fed. Housing Finance Authority is currently looking at renter rights like habitability and connection between this and housing cost)

Help people to understand how to measure emissions so that they can consider how to prioritize and reduce

Consider heat islands, specifically in disadvantaged areas- focus on adding more green space/tree canopy

More planning, of land use

Additional monitoring of landfills

More/better stormwater infrastructure, stormwater utilities like Dover

Support and promote net-zero energy in public buildings as a community approach

Incentivize renewable energy and stop subsidizing fossil fuels

Thinking back on our conversation, what 2 - 3 ideas do we want to share with the full group?

Legislation- for example, extended producer responsibility

Theme- it's going to take all of us to make changes; consider education and communication at multiple levels- including funding for high school and community college curriculum with the recognition that improved understanding can facilitate change. Also, look to and learn from what other communities have done

Reduce barriers for renters (and other populations that face barriers) to secure better approaches to heating/ home energy/ places to charge EVs- work with landlords and tenants to achieve this

Waste and materials management and Wastewater

BRAINSTORM: *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready* projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play?



How the food system impacts climate change - Keeping Food Local

Foods are more culturally relevant to the community where it is grown

Decarbonize and electrify buildings, including residential buildings

Community Power for the Androscoggin Valley - Renewable Energy & Distributed Power

Understand what is clean power energy. Which is cleanest?

Shifting to more efficient lighting and other electrical uses

Incentives/ cost support for solar energy for town offices, schools, and homes

Build out infrastructure for electric vehicles at state-owned facilities, incentivize electric vehicles use

Protect open space and wetlands, which are carbon sinks and protect from flooding

Changing minds through funding and storytelling

Barriers in New Hampshire's Government

Barrier of inertia, people become accustomed to status quo (e.g., building techniques)

Barrier: Current attitude can be changed by education and public awareness

Climate change concerns should be front-page news (not secondary)

Some people do not believe that we can change the course we are on.

Waste and materials management and Wastewater

BRAINSTORM: *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready* projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play?



Barrier - Getting shareholders to relinquish some of their profits for the benefit of the climate

Climate change is not always a priority for low-income communities - concerned about immediate issues

Model planning and zoning regulations to limit sprawl and reduce emissions

Berlin is interested in a street revitalization- make the City more walkable

Groups working on creating, expanding rail trails (e.g., WOW trail)

Barriers - Zoning, housing, transportation.

City green spaces that cool, provide food, and act as carbon sink. Picking the right crops for the area.

Reducing use of plastic, recycling - grant to assist with recycling. NH never had a bottle bill.

Incentives for buying electric school buses, which would also reduce student exposure to hazardous pollutants

Rather than legislate or force behavior, draw attention to climate change crisis in a relatable way

Developing more sustainable seed or crops that can adapt to climate change (e.g., erosion, extreme heat, dry conditions, pest).

Improve increase green spaces in the City of Manchester - Community Gardens, Green Space

Barrier - Many people do not want to be regulated; need to enhance our sense of protecting the community

Current regulations contribute to sprawl - thought rules were good, but regulations created sprawl

Waste and materials management and Wastewater

What is Achievable in your home or community?

- Keep local food in communities
- Developing sustainable seeds or crops that can adapt to climate changes that we're now going to continue to face (extreme heat and dry conditions; pest resistance)
- Culturally relevant food
- Decarbonize and electrify buildings
 - Buildings are a huge source of emissions
- Developing programs using grant money to assist economically disadvantaged people to improve efficiency of homes and government buildings
- Community power for ACV, renewable power
- Identify what clean power regeneration is; build capacity to under
 - Which energies are cleanest and impacts (hydroelectric, biomass, natural gas, coal, and so forth)
- Shifting to LED, efficient lighting
- Subsidizing solar and introducing alternative energy in schools

- Electric vehicle Infrastructure (school buses, more charging stations)
- Protect open space and wetlands
- Systemic issues that has happened around zoning; difficult to navigate
 - Housing, employment and other social determinants of health
 - People prioritize what is in front of them (family, econ. status)
 - People are not receptive to climate change; other things are on their mind
 - Want to prioritize these conversations to these communities; where we are and how did we get through
- Plastic
 - NH is inefficient with recycling
 - Not sure where the plastic goes
 - Can we use grant money to reduce plastic waste?
- Greenhouse
 - Has composting containers at local greenhouse (Loudon, Proven Perfect)

Waste and materials management and Wastewater

How do we work better at the local level in NH?

- Government has not passed bills/legislation supporting clean energy
 - Issue of campaign financing
 - Frustrating for those who want to see progress
- Inertia
 - Sprawl: people are used to keep building and using up open space
 - Becomes an issue of transportation, commute
 - Public health problems
- Knowledge
 - Need to make people more aware of
 - Balancing both side, it's natural for media to be unbiased but this is a real crisis
 - You can't change people's mind, but you can give them new information
 - There's a lot of denial, and a lot of deniers
 - Having two-way conversation with media to alert them with the time-sensitive issue
- Can't place blame
- Human activity is the cause, and we can change the activity
- All for programs that can create jobs
- Getting shareholders of fossil fuels to relinquish the need for profit; the gains made by burning fossil fuels
 - Nobody can own alternative means of energy (solar)
- Since the 80s, the government's turned against regulation
 - Seems like in every sector; now, people don't like to be regulated
 - Some regulations that we have, and support contribute to the sprawl
 - Local zoning and planning policies, NH instituted a lot of laws
- Model planning and zoning regulations where other towns have created ideal regulations

Waste and materials management and Wastewater

BRAINSTORM: *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready* projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play?



Thinking back on our conversation, what 2 - 3 ideas do we want to share with the full group?

Berlin is interested in a street revitalization, make the City more walkable and bikeable

Improve increase green spaces in the City of Manchester - Community Gardens, Green Space

Groups working on creating, expanding rail trails (e.g., WOW trail)

SHARE OUT



Thinking back on our conversation, share 2 - 3 ideas with the full group.

All of the ideas and priorities captured during today's meeting and small groups will be recorded and inform NH's Priority and Comprehensive Climate Action Plans (PCAP and CCAP)

Join us for community conversations local people, local priorities, and local solutions!

[Register for any of the dates and times below for
online community conversations.](#)

Air pollution affects us all in our homes, at work, where we and our families learn, and where we play. The State of New Hampshire needs to hear from local community members interested in, and already working on, air pollution reductions! Your priorities could become funded projects.

Online

[Register for this online session](#)

Tuesday, January 9 | 5 PM

[Register for this online session](#)

Wednesday, January 24 | 6:30 PM

In Person

[Register for the Greater Capitol Region Conversation](#)

Tuesday, January 16 | 5 PM | Concord, NH

[Register for the Greater Seacoast Conversation](#)

Wednesday, January 17 | 5:30 PM | Hampton, NH

[Register for the Greater Nashua Conversation](#)

Thursday, January 18 | 5 PM | Nashua, NH

[Register for the Greater Connecticut River Valley Conversation](#)

Thursday, January 25 | 5:30 PM | Claremont, NH

[Register for the Greater Monadnock Conversation](#)

Thursday, January 25 | 6 PM | Winchester, NH

[Register for the first North Country Region Conversation](#)

Wednesday, January 31 | 5 PM | Berlin, NH

[Register for the Greater Manchester Conversation](#)

Thursday, February 1 | 5 PM | Manchester, NH

[Register for the second North Country Region Conversation](#)

Wednesday, February 7 | 5 PM | Colebrook, NH

Updating New Hampshire's Climate Action Plan

[Complete additional feedback form about this work](#)

[All engagement events and info](#)



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