

Updating New Hampshire's Climate Action Plan

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

local people, local priorities, and local solutions!

Online via Zoom

JANUARY 9, 2024

5:00 PM - 6:30 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
- If possible, cameras ON during small group breakouts.
- You are welcome to listen.
- Use chat for responses and resources
- *Message Mikayla - NH Listens for tech assistance*
- Group Agreements:
 - Listen to others and share air time.
 - Participate and be as fully present as you can.
 - Respect each other and our brief time together.

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:

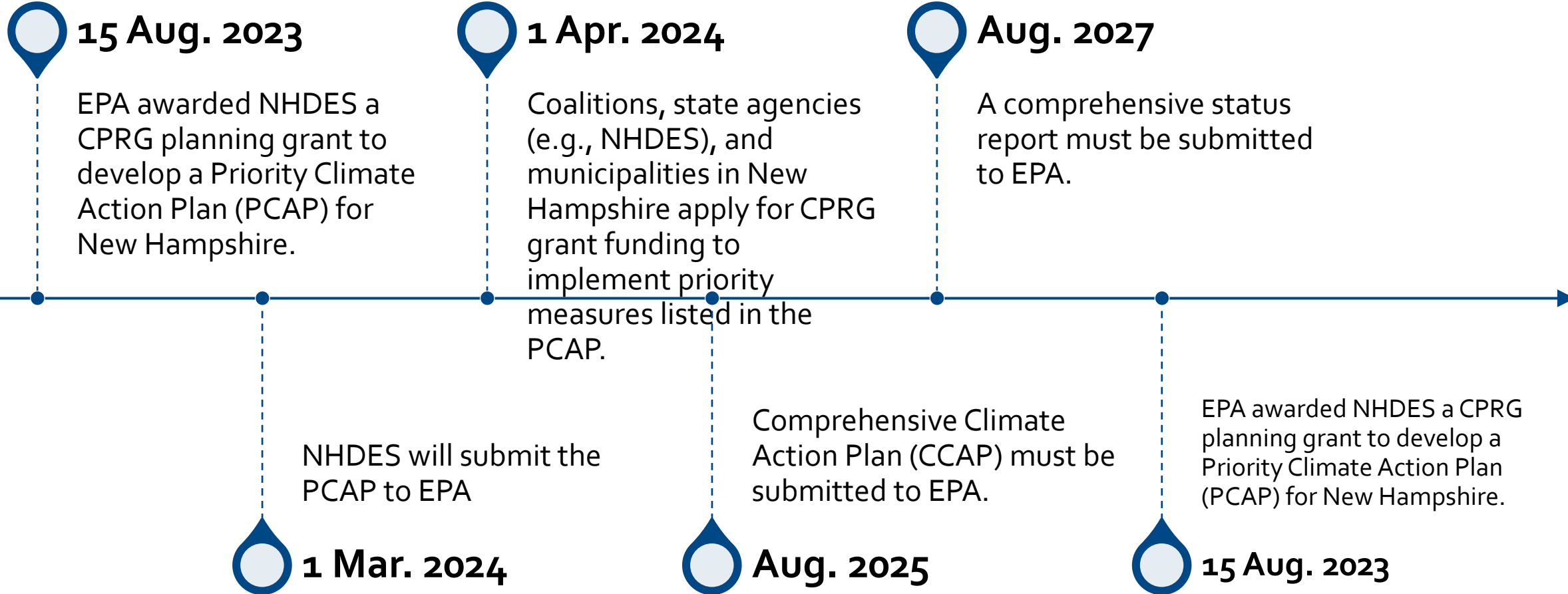
- **Grounding:** Project overview and timeline reminder
- **Spotlight:** Implementation grant goals
- **Spotlight:** NH's identified disadvantaged communities
- **Share:** Project ideas gathered from community engagement
- **Choose your own adventure:** Your priorities for action - talking about opportunities and barriers for implementation at the local level
- **Wrap up and what's next**
- **Q & A 6:25 PM**
- **Close 6:30 PM**



Updating 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. The four-year program runs **2023 - 2027**.
- Community engagement is an essential component to update NH's Climate Action Plan
- 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!

Over the course of the four-year program running to 2027:



Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency seeks to achieve three broad objectives:

- 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.





Updating NH's Climate Action Plan

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 [Justice 40 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

A key component to each climate plan is including investments linked to the federal Justice40 Initiative

“the Federal Government has made it a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution”

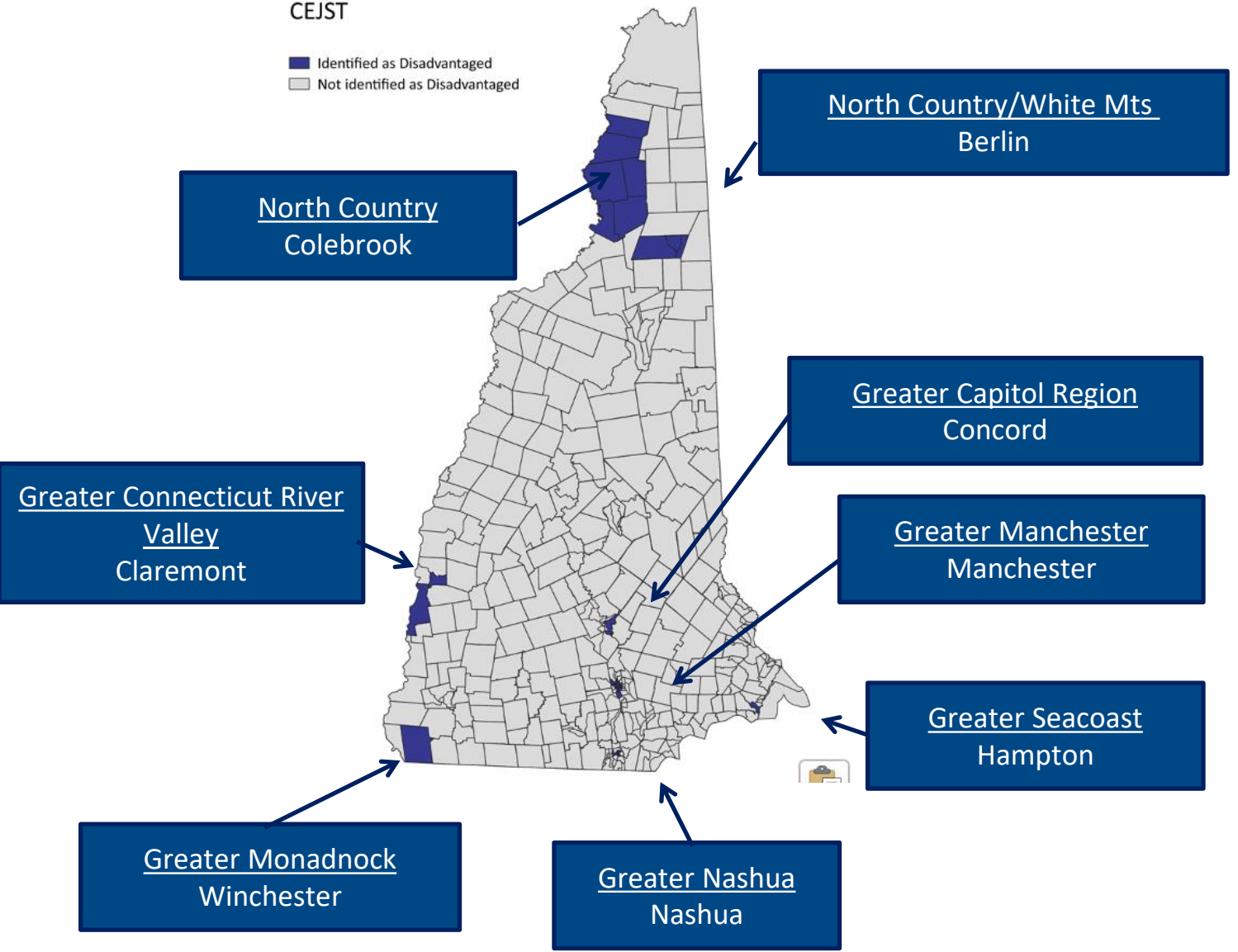
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40/>

NH Listens / NHDES Community Engagement



CEJST

- Identified as Disadvantaged
- Not identified as Disadvantaged



In-person events remaining

- Claremont – Thursday, Jan 25, 5:30pm
- Winchester - Thursday, Jan 25, 6pm
- Berlin – Wednesday, Jan 31, 5pm
- Manchester – Thursday, Feb 1, 5pm
- Concord – Monday, February 12, 5pm

Statewide online community conversations

- December 6 | 4:30 PM
- January 9 | 5 PM
- January 24 | 6:30 PM

Statewide Cross-Sector Stakeholder Meetings

- November 30, 2023 | 2:30 PM
- January 11, 2024 | 3:30 PM
- February 8, 2024 | 3 PM

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
- Focused on:
 - Projects, not policy
 - Emissions reduction
 - Implementation ready

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/about-cprg-implementation-grants>

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.



Contact NHDES and Learn More

If you have specific questions or comments about the grant or its requirements, process, and timing

email cprg@des.nh.gov

or

visit the project website.

<https://www.des.nh.gov/climate-and-sustainability/climate-change/climate-pollution-reduction-grants>



What we're hearing from in person community engagement events



What priority projects will reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play?

Themes:

- Recognizing ongoing efforts and how to include them in NH's statewide plan
- Promoting education and awareness to generate community buy-in
- Focus on equitable allocation of resources

Workforce Development
Infrastructure Changes
Education and Outreach
Focus on Communities in Need
And Much more!

Greenhouse Gas Sectors

- Transportation
- Electricity generation and/or use and Industry
- Commercial and residential buildings
- Natural and working lands and Agriculture
- Waste and materials management and Wastewater



Small Group Breakouts – Participant Choice by Sector (x2)

Directions

- Choose a sector break out room
- Two, 30 min. facilitated sessions
- Facilitator will guide you through questions
- We want to hear from everyone!
- Group agreements - Share airtime please!

Focus questions:

1. What is needed to effectively achieve this project? What would make success possible in NH?
2. What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?
3. What successful examples have you seen?
4. Who needs to be involved?
Identify partners on the ground.



Small Groups Notes – Slides 17-30

These are raw notes taken by facilitators during the session and later themed and summarized in the online community engagement report. Not all notes meet the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant or Priority Climate Action Plan Criteria. They are to inform the NHDES team as they write the plans using a community-engaged approach.



We Heard from You and Others Statewide!

The next slides are from the brainstormed actions collected during engagement events. The content listed are several examples of eligible projects to inform your conversations:

- Focused Greenhouse Gas reduction by Sector
- Near-term
- Implementable



The stars next to each idea indicate responses from the small group breakout rounds based on the prompts:

- We will focus our discussion tonight on a few projects.
- **GRAB A DOT from the google slides:** What projects will move NH forward on climate emissions reduction, especially projects that serve disadvantaged communities?

TRANSPORTATION – Group Dot Vote

- Bulk purchase of electric vehicle supply equipment for towns and other municipal and local entities (e.g. public schools)*
- Build more public electric vehicle charging stations; address EVSE needs of renters (i.e. community charging)****
- General funding opportunities for public transportation, including bus transit*****
- Infrastructure for low emission transit, like bike lanes and rail trails****
- Incentives to deploy electric charging infrastructure for commercial medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles
- Electric school bus program***
- Electrification of light-duty, municipal fleets

ELECTRICITY GENERATION & INDUSTRY - Group Dot Vote

- Install solar farms, as part of community power and storage systems*
- Community Solar: Small and medium size community solar projects; community microgrids***
- Small, local scale transmission upgrades across our grid
- Monitor heat loss and air quality on buildings and homes
- Provide electric vehicle charging stations, particularly in town and city centers
- Incentives for landlords to install electric vehicle charging stations and weatherization efforts, like solar and window replacement for rental units*
- Support accessible bike-friendly routes*
- Install geothermal heat pump-infrastructure in public buildings and schools**
- Grid decarbonization (beyond solar)*

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS – Group Dot Vote

- Incentives for building efficiency measures, like heat pumps, and weatherization**
- Create opportunities for renters to secure effective approaches to heating, home energy, and EV charging; support work with landlords and tenants**
- Solar on schools combined with infrastructure upgrades, like roof replacements*
- Industry training for contractors, HVAC professionals**
- Increased assistance for multifamily dwelling conversions/similar smaller footprint living*
- Funding for audits, like blower door tests, in residential single- and multi-unit dwellings*
- Workforce development and training, including paid apprenticeships in weatherization; build out contractor capacity****
- Funding for EE enabling upgrades*
- Fossil Fuel Free New Construction**

NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS & AGRICULTURE – Group Dot Vote

- Plant and maintain trees and plants in urban areas
- Provide access to cleaner transportation options and electrified farm equipment****
- Incentivize sustainable forest practice*
- Technical and financial support for community net zero efforts
- Small district heating and cooling
- Preserve wetlands and forests ***
- Support and promote net-zero energy in public buildings as a community approach*
- Support green space: plant trees, utilize ecosystem services to reduce, capture carbon, etc.***
- Maximize carbon storage and sequestration capabilities of forests*****
- Funding for land conservation*
- Supporting small farmers, resilience*****

WASTE AND MATERIALS MANAGEMENT & WASTEWATER – Group Dot Vote

- Incentives for anaerobic digesters to recycle waste for energy back to grid*
- Updating and replacing aging infrastructure to improve efficiency **
- Incentives for anaerobic digesters of organic waste like food, water, ag byproducts**
- Decarbonize and electrify buildings, including residential buildings*
- Incentives and/or cost support for solar energy for town offices, schools, and homes
- Shifting to more efficient lighting, and other electrical uses
- Waste reduction and reuse (i.e., preventing waste from being generated in the first place)***
- Recycling and waste diversion (i.e., avoiding disposal of items in a landfill or incinerator)**

TRANSPORTATION Project Discussion

| Project Focus based on dot voting | What is needed to effectively achieve this project? What would make success possible in NH? | What successful examples have you seen? | What prevents progress or acts as a barrier? | Who needs to be involved? Identify partners on the ground. |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| <p>General funding opportunities for public transportation, including bus transit</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional of funding, particularly state funding, for operating public transit. NH ranks 49th out of 50 for states regarding public transit funding. • Mostly see empty buses driving around in Portsmouth, need better service. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildcat transit and COAST working together to improve access to transit • Savannah, Georgia, has a public transit system that involves both public and private partners. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population density in New Hampshire to make public transit more cost effective. • Public perception - many people do not want take bus for transportation. • Workforce issues, particularly bus drivers. • Lack of awareness of public transit options. • Infrequency of service, for example service in Portsmouth is hourly. If there is more service, more people might use transit. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NH Department of Transportation and NH State Legislature • Local government officials, especially since many local transit systems are funded by the local community. • Service link Community Action Program, these types of agencies need to be involved since NH has increasingly geriatric population and these will need reliable transportation as aging occurs |

TRANSPORTATION Project Discussion (a)

| Project Focus based on dot voting | What is needed to effectively achieve this project? What would make success possible in NH? | What successful examples have you seen? | What prevents progress or acts as a barrier? | Who needs to be involved? Identify partners on the ground. |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| <p>Build more public electric vehicle charging stations; address EVSE needs of renters (i.e. community charging)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on places where employees can use EVSE rather than shoppers. Where people are for several hours • Park and rides would be a good location • Enable/encourage public transportation to use electric buses - maybe smaller vehicles instead of buses. Provide \$\$ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -a lot of gas stations have been installing EVSE. Makes sense, especially on major routes (Route 202) • Costa Rica - small town had electrical vehicle supply equipment in front of townhouse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For renters there is no incentive. What is the incentive for a landlord to do that. • Need street access to chargers close to home • Lack of trained workforce • Time to charge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school guidance counselors - steer students into this field. • Work w/vocational schools for workforce training |
| <p>Infrastructure for low emission transportation, like bike lanes and rail trails</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey of where people want bike lanes/rail trails • Wide sidewalks • Good lighting • Dedicated bike lanes or wide shoulders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East coast Greenway | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of pavement • Right of way • Auto-centric thinking | |

ELECTRICITY GENERATION & INDUSTRY Project Discussion

| Project Focus based on dot voting | What is needed to effectively achieve this project? What would make success possible in NH? | What successful examples have you seen? | What prevents progress or acts as a barrier? | Who needs to be involved? Identify partners on the ground. |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <p>Incentives for landlords to install electric vehicle charging stations and weatherization efforts, like solar and window replacement for rental units</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective communications and information sharing with landlords regarding the process, procedures • Education – Outreach to landlords, Contractors & housing advocates • Incentives for Landlords to make changes (tax breaks?) • EV & low income? | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of EVs - perhaps a deterrent for landlords to install EV charging infrastructure in affordable housing/low-income residential units | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat 4 Humanity • Window dressers organization/ |
| <p>Community Solar: Small and medium size community solar projects; community microgrids - Install solar farms, as part of community power and storage systems</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost saving from other successful projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns of town/city finances | |
| <p>Support accessible bike-friendly routes</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning with DOT and local cities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rail Trails - Manchester Bristol • UNH bike project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road conditions, narrow shoulders (Twisty Roads) | |

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS Project Discussion

| Project Focus based on dot voting | What is needed to effectively achieve this project? What would make success possible in NH? | What successful examples have you seen? | What prevents progress or acts as a barrier? | Who needs to be involved? Identify partners on the ground. |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Incentives for building efficiency measures, like audits, heat pumps, and weatherization <i>(combined a few projects)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting information to decision makers • Addressing opposition • Good economic sense - cost effectiveness • Finding co-benefits of efficiency • Adaptive Reuse of existing building stock • Centralized place to get all the information for weatherization / opportunities for residential projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lakewise practices as an example project (neighbors sharing their weatherization participation) Peer support • NHSaves Programs • Collaborative funding for non-energy saving measures to enable weatherization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education of community members willing to vote on municipal investment into weatherization / solar projects • Funding streams (like Lead abatement) snags up when weatherization comes up (example Keene) • Clear information about incentives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer local community members on energy committees • Upper Valley social service orgs (income-dependent weatherization programs) Southwestern • Contractors • Claremont schools - education workforce development • Vital Communities |

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS Project Discussion (a)

| Project Focus based on dot voting | What is needed to effectively achieve this project? What would make success possible in NH? | What successful examples have you seen? | What prevents progress or acts as a barrier? | Who needs to be involved? Identify partners on the ground. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p>Workforce development and training, including paid apprenticeships in weatherization; build out contractor capacity</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making alternative energy education and topics interesting and attractive to students at younger age (middle school) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical schools & community colleges NHSaves Contractors Outreach by town building departments Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multitude of small contractors with little resources for training Funding for education programs (high school and community college level) in NH (burden falls on communities or lack of funding) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay stipends for training Technical programs at NH high schools Outreach to students in schools Incentivized installation of code plus efficiency measures |
| <p>Create opportunities for renters to secure effective approaches to heating, home energy, and EV charging; support work with landlords and tenants</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentive that both the landlord and tenant can benefit Bundle benefits for tenants and landlords together Commercial buildings - attracting EV Tying incentive benefit to affordable housing / income-level rentals | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenant can't access incentive because don't own the building Lack of benefit for landlords on building upgrades while tenants benefit from increased EE measures Protection for tenants not to be priced out if buildings upgraded Housing affordability Local municipal tax assessment and amounts go up when landlords improve buildings (disincentive for landlords) Absentee Landlords | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenants and building managers Multifamily construction contractors |

NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS & AGRICULTURE Project Discussion

| Project Focus based on dot voting | What is needed to effectively achieve this project? What would make success possible in NH? | What successful examples have you seen? | What prevents progress or acts as a barrier? | Who needs to be involved? Identify partners on the ground. |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| <p>Maximize carbon storage and sequestration capabilities of forests</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop open or previously used land before forests • Need more education | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more profitable to log forests during development rather than open or existing spaces • Misinformation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk with foresters and National Forest Service to identify trees that sequester more carbon than others - promote growth of trees that store carbon longer - update forestry practices |
| <p>Preserve wetlands and forests</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater compliance with permitting process • A "common commitment" to protecting these areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NH Current Use • Conservation Easements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State regulations have lots of loopholes, can be confusing, • Compliance - permitting can be costly and need for more inspections/enforcement • How can local municipalities have more stringent rules? • Education and outreach to developers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHDES Wetlands |

NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS & AGRICULTURE Project Discussion (a)

| Project Focus based on dot voting | What is needed to effectively achieve this project? What would make success possible in NH? | What successful examples have you seen? | What prevents progress or acts as a barrier? | Who needs to be involved? Identify partners on the ground. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p>Supporting small farmers, resilience</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need the next generation of farmers to take over • Education - especially where your (consumer) dollars actually go when you purchase food • Help farmers identify grants and fill out the applications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manchester Grows (local fresh food for community and higher profits for local farms (more direct flow of funding, fewer "middle-men") | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small profit margins, hard to improve or recover from extreme weather events • Floods may contaminate animal feed grown on the farm so feed must be purchased externally • Farmers may not know about grants or how to fill out the applications / digital divide | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manchester Grows • US Dept of Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation Service (information resources as well as grants) |
| <p>Provide access to cleaner transportation options and electrified farm equipment</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on maintenance • Confidence in the equipment • Network of repair shops/ mobile technicians | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers know how to repair existing equipment, how to work on new electric vehicle equipment? • Lack of maintenance / support network currently | |

WASTE AND MATERIALS MANAGEMENT & WASTEWATER Project Discussion

| Project Focus based on dot voting | What is needed to effectively achieve this project? What would make success possible in NH? | What successful examples have you seen? | What prevents progress or acts as a barrier? | Who needs to be involved? Identify partners on the ground. |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <p><i>Waste reduction and reuse (i.e., preventing waste from being generated in the first place)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging refill stations, encouraging people to refill containers with certain products (e.g., shampoo, cleaners, etc.) • Passing legislation that regulates packaging. • Waste is not just trash, wastewater byproducts, paper mill waste, creative alternatives to landfilling. • Education for wastewater, rebrand wastewater into resource recovery (NH is one of the last states to still call it wastewater). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States that require deposits on bottles and cans • Charges on plastic bags. • Carbon credits by showing monetary value for reusing certain materials and not creating additional GHG emissions by simply disposing of the material. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educating the public and operator is difficult • Public perception of applying biosolids to land. • Informing legislators about the potential benefits and understand the implications of bans on being allowed to apply materials like biosolids to land. • Municipalities move slow, infrastructure upgrades can take several years depending on budgets. • Legislation to change the source - change the packaging at the manufacturer level. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Resources Conservation Services (Carbon credit) • Municipalities • Legislators • Product Manufacturers • Federal Government |

Large Group Discussion

Breakout group name a few projects chosen for discovery and action discussion.

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)

INVITE US to YOUR MEETINGS, GROUPS etc.

We are ready to come to you as we move toward the
Comprehensive Climate Action Planning Process.

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

Online cross-sector stakeholder conversations

Thursday, November 30 | 2:30 PM

Thursday, January 11 | 3:30 PM

Thursday, February 8 | 3:00 PM

Online community-focused conversations

Wednesday, December 6 | 4:30 PM

Tuesday, January 9 | 5 PM

Wednesday, January 24 | 6:30 PM

Jan/Feb In-person events

Concord - Tuesday, Jan 16, 5pm

Hampton – Wednesday, Jan 17, 5:30pm

Nashua - Thursday, Jan 18, 5pm

Claremont – Thursday, Jan 25, 5:30pm

Winchester - Thursday, Jan 25, 6pm

Berlin – Wednesday, Jan 31, 5pm

Manchester – Thursday, Feb 1, 5pm

Colebrook - Wednesday, Feb 7, 5pm

Thank you!



[Keep Learning about the Process](#)

Review the [Notice of Request for Public Comment: Draft Priority Measures for New Hampshire's Priority Climate Action Plan](#)

Community Engagement continues as a key piece of this work through the entire grant timeline

- Send comments and ideas to the NHDES CPRG team: cprg@des.nh.gov
- [Provide Additional Feedback Post-Event](#)
- Invite us to your meetings, workgroups etc. We are keeping a list and strategizing for future engagement
- [Learn more about engagement and see registration links for events](#)