Updating New Hampshire's Climate Action Plan
Greater Seacoast

In-Person Community Conversation

local people, local priorities, and local solutions!

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Group Activity Worksheet Transcriptions

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new hampshire listens

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Services

TRANSPORTATION 1 – Greater Seacoast

What is needed to effectively achieve this project? What would make success possible in NH?

- Pathways to cost reduction for public transit
- Community collaboration
- Physical infrastructure to facilitate public use [of] transit
- Trolley/Shuttle (EV): Very nice, cheap or free; lots of room for beach supplies; front door service; park and ride beach; incentivize [use] – take trolley get free ice cream
- Park and Ride: EV Charger
- Public transport to Boston or subway
- Bike Lanes
- Funding for public transportation, including bus
- infrastructure to bike lanes and rail trails – Portsmouth: Hampton bike trail/rail trail, trails that are not just recreational

TRANSPORTATION 2 - Greater Seacoast

What successful examples have you seen?

- Montreal's underground system, Switzerland… global examples!
- Boston blue bikes
- Boston/Cambridge
- NH Greenway
- Rail Trail
- UNH natural gas buses
- COAST
- Think bike lanes
- Batteries (two-way)
- Ski area shuttles)(with EV chargers at parking lot)
- Circular in city bus routes

TRANSPORTATION 3 - Greater Seacoast

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Lack of actual and perceived safety for public transit/ active transportation
- Ownership
- User attitude – why change the status quo?
- Multiple towns – Cross boundary biking & transit routes need partnership
- Funding
- Public transit needs to be reliable and long term to convince people, change habits
- "Bikelash"
- Priority to cars
- Safety issues
- Lighting

TRANSPORTATION 4 - Greater Seacoast

Who needs to be involved? Identify partners on the ground.

- Municipalities
- COAST
- Rockingham Planning Commission
- Work with local businesses to create incentives to use, e.g. Park & Ride and free ice cream - the liquor stores!
- C&J bus lines, and other transit providers
- Educators - teaching kids how and why to use public transit
- Steve Pesci
- Planning Boards
- C&J, and other private [transit companies]
- Regional Planning Commissions
- AARP
- Statewide bicycling groups

ELECTRICITY GENERATION & INDUSTRY 1 – Greater Seacoast

What is needed to effectively achieve this project? What would make success possible in NH?

- Solar farms: Land/spaces; rooftops; need change to local and state rules, incentivize business, giving incentives to large developments, allow net metering, allow greater than 5mm for farms
- Education to the masses to create buy-in
- Personal – how will this impact me [more so than] statistics
- Location identification of best site
- FOMO – examples/success stories
- Money to help upgrade grid and grants for low-income communities
- Tidal power, UNH research today
- Incentivize distributed storage, i.e. home batteries, or EV at home; transactional (peak, off-peak) energy
- School bus battery provide power for solar and charge at [night]

ELECTRICITY GENERATION & INDUSTRY 2 – Greater Seacoast

What successful examples have you seen?

- Solar farms: Projects in Litchfield, NH? Partners in MA and VT
- NH Electric Co-op's pilot of Transactional Energy in Plymouth
- Iron-oxide industrial battery storage

ELECTRICITY GENERATION & INDUSTRY 3 – Greater Seacoast

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Solar farms: Restrictions on met metering and size of farms (5mm restriction); education and communication barriers; land use, zoning; open space for farms and upgraded grid infrastructure
- Need storage – infrastructure
- Misinformation campaign
- Mindsets
- Existing financial model ("electrical tariff")

ELECTRICITY GENERATION & INDUSTRY 4 – Greater Seacoast

Who needs to be involved? Identify partners on the ground.

- Solar farm: CPCNH, CENH
- Eversource/Line Owners
- Highway (DOT)
- Zoning boards
- Conversation committee
- Private solar companies
- Business sector
- UNH
- Local environmental groups
- PUC
- NH utilities
- NH Legislature
- Community Power programs
- Municipal conservation and climate committees

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS 1 – Greater Seacoast

What is needed to effectively achieve this project? What would make success possible in NH?

- Elevate utilities in flood plain
- Heat pumps
- Solar
- LED lighting
- Weatherization grants and incentives
- New windows
- Need funding programs, tax break(?)
- Success requires good advertising, outreach, and education
- Municipalities and states require new builds and significant renovations to meet green building codes
- Reallocate zoning to allow underutilized commercial and municipal spaces to be used for residential spaces and vice versa depending on need within an area

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS 2 – Greater Seacoast

What successful examples have you seen?

- NH Saves is successful but not well known/advertised
- Code requirement for builders to offer 100% electric HVAC
- Incentive programs

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS 3 – Greater Seacoast

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Workforce shortage – electricians, plumbers
- Education of homeowners and builders (cost/affordability, how it works, incentive programs)
- Solar local codes are too restrictive
- Building owners have no incentive to install energy efficiency
- Lack of requirements/regulations for new builds to meet green building code (ex. embodied carbon reuse of materials)
- Cost to build new versus reuse/adapt
- Resistance to change

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS 4 – Greater Seacoast

Who needs to be involved? Identify partners on the ground.

- Planning Board/Select Boards
- HVAC Companies
- Environmental Groups
- Garden Clubs
- Builders and Contractors
- Apartment Complex Managers
- Municipal officials of executive local and state offices
- CAPS
- NH Saves
- Manufactured housing ("mobile home") owners who need weatherization, heat pumps)
- Utilities
- LEED
- Building departments

NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS & AGRICULTURE 1 – Greater Seacoast

What is needed to effectively achieve this project? What would make success possible in NH?

- Oyster bed can create offshore beams > keep __ high seas energy causing destruction of land – oysters cleanse the water coming onshore

NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS & AGRICULTURE 2 – Greater Seacoast

What successful examples have you seen?

- None recorded

NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS & AGRICULTURE 3 – Greater Seacoast

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Educate towns about doing more than plant traditional landscapes/shrubs versus natives; also plant more densely
- Also, it's [costly] to pay people to maintain the plantings
- More feat than high costs if natives used.

NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS & AGRICULTURE 4 – Greater Seacoast

Who needs to be involved? Identify partners on the ground.

- Garden Clubs
- UNH Cooperative Extension

What is needed to effectively achieve this project? What would make success possible in NH?

- Doesn't need to be just solar – could be wind, could be methane capture from organic waste
- Would be much more effective if electricity storage is also included.
- To be successful, buy-in would be needed from the town planning, zoning, and Select Board, and local stakeholders
- Work with a vendor who could help identify revenue opportunities (selling to [electric and] gas distributors), offsetting town energy expenditures
- Incentives for anabolic digesters to recycle waste for energy back to [the] grid
- Identifying capital grant funding opportunities, coordination with state government (price matching for federal grants?)
- Composting: Incentives for paid programs for businesses
- [Identify] which towns have waste problems > Educate people [about] why they need to care and take action > Give money to people to fix the problem
- Adequate locations to house facilities
- Re: composting via anaerobic digesters: Incentives for commercial property owners to introduce composting for multi-unit dwellings, schools, restaurants
- Incentives for solar at the facilities: Create an education program and make it so its competitive to provide incentive > transparency and sharing with public so consumers can make informed choices based on each cost [of] environmental practices

What successful examples have you seen?

- Massachusetts
- Vermont, cow methane energy programs
- See Form Energy for effective, inexpensive storage
- Many cities have gone all compost – can't put food waste in the trash
- Clean Water Commission (State of NH) is educating [the] public and getting residents to give water samples so polluted areas get addressed, [money] can be available to fix systems

WASTE AND MATERIALS MANAGEMENT & WASTEWATER 3 – Greater Seacoast

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Lack of affordable storage (see Form Energy)
- Community concern re: wind generation; financial need and resources
- Sea level rise impact; Hampton dump, and wastewater treatment facility
- Community support/buy-in
- Educating communities on economic/environmental benefits
- NH laws re: composting
- Popular attitudes re: composting
- People are concerned about individual costs (i.e. taxes)
- (Re: composting) People need to be educated about benefits, proper placement, how to easily do so
- For communities: teach fields, understanding maintenance and testing is needed; then what to do to fix problem at their property
- Understanding financial return [and] lowered expenses, taxes

Who needs to be involved? Identify partners on the ground.

- Regional Planning Commission
- Board of Select people, perhaps zoning
- Town Planning
- Department of Public Works
- Area stakeholders, residents to vote [on] projects
- Town government/Community members
- State funders
- Manufacturers/Industry stakeholders
- Mr. Fox Composting
- Garden clubs
- Local businesses, like restaurants and food banks
- Planning / Select Boards
- Businesses
- Developers