

Updating New Hampshire's Climate Action Plan Greater Nashua

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**

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TRANSPORTATION 1 – Greater Nashua

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

- Expanding public transportation: more electric buses and vehicles
- Bring rail to Nashua/Concord for reduction of cars & trucks and community issues
- Increase investment in public transportation (mass transit)
- Increase funding for municipal fleets (schools, police depts, city vehicles)
- Workforce development – grants to Nashua Community College and others to train workforce
- Finding most efficient implementations - Vehicle selection, Locations with demand
- Make EV charging infrastructure for multifamily dwellings
- Expanding micro-transit options (bikes, scooter, walking!) and supporting infrastructure (wide sidewalks, rail trails)

TRANSPORTATION 2- Greater Nashua

What successful examples have you seen?

- Nashua has two (2) electric-hybrid buses
- Orlando, FL has all electric fleet
- Chelmsford, Claremont, Wolfeboro – EV police vehicles
- ME, MA, VT – EV infrastructure examples (incentives)

TRANSPORTATION 3 – Greater Nashua

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Culture of taking public transportation or biking education needed
- Cost of building electric chargers
- Not enough skill labor to build EV chargers
- Lack of education/about electric cars/batteries/knowledge of benefits
- Not enough incentive policies
- Lack of funding for public transit
- Viable routes
- Opportunity cost of use
- Capitalism
- Infrastructure – Weight of EVs (parking garage, bridges)
- Lack complete streets – bike lanes and walkable sidewalks

TRANSPORTATION 4 – Greater Nashua

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

- Nashua Transit
- Energy Commission
- SAV
- Board of Selectmen
- All fleet owners (police, schools, etc.)
- RCC
- Housing developers (install EV connection when building)
- EV Charging CO's
- City/Town

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

- Shut down Merrimack Generating Station – Solar convert from coal burning – Transmission > Farms convert LNG
- Business model & maintenance management for EV stations
- Workforce Development
- Energy storage, solar
- Geothermal battery/energy storage
- Convert [municipality] to EVs
- Community education
- Policy incentives, for multifamily in particular
- Solar cooperatives/local government lead leasing programs; providing electrical residential loads in order to incentive the benefits of solar on site

What successful examples have you seen?

- NH Community Power Coalition
- Londonderry, Milford
- Oyster River Middle School – Geo-thermal
- Hillsboro Area Renewable Energy Initiative (HAREI)
- Broward County Solar Coop

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Fossil Fuel Subsidy
- Fossil fuels and shareholders
- Investments
- We need storage for energy
- Need to figure all the ways [in which] NH can store energy
- Unvalidated safety/interference concerns
- Transmission distances
- Wholesale price versus direct use on the property

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

- Students
- Tech School
- Research: UNH, Dartmouth
- Big box stores, solar on roofs and parking lots
- Landlords
- High energy industries
- Revision Energy

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

- Heat Pump/Incentive
- Decarbonize and electrify
- Central location for info on energy
- Rebate guarantees
- Ability to share success stories
- Progressive building & energy codes and adoption thereof
- Security for the Mt. Saves program
- Education
- Tough restrictions on clear cutting and providing more greenspace & landscaping requirement in new building projects
- Regulations on the percentage of trees are allowed to be removed from property

What successful examples have you seen?

- ME > Heat pump rebates / community engagement
- NYC > Examples of giving renters options / decarbonization of new builds
- MA > Better net. metering regulations
- MA: Building codes
- MA, NH: So long as it is insulated from politics

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Access to info (lack thereof)
- Rental (lack of choice)
- Perceived tax implications
- Politics

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

- Utility companies
- NHDES
- Regional Planning Commissions
- Cities/Towns
- Comm. Power Program
- Insurance
- Builders/Developers
- Community based orgs
- Landlords/relators
- Municipal departments – Fire, police, administration
- Sustainability/Energy Commission

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

- Protect large blocks of open space
- Education
- Incentivize public to preserve forest
- Awareness/education about benefits of urban forestry
- Workshop/internship opportunities related to sustainability
- Incentive sustainable ag, support small farms: Government/quasi gov't required to buy local, buy non-elastic sustainable packaging; encourage or require grocery stores to buy local first, no/low packaging loan program for machine
- Incentives for cover crops
- Insurance for extreme weather (subsidies to small farms)

What successful examples have you seen?

- Stronger conservation commissions
- Town bands to purchase open space
- Burlington, VT
- CSAs
- NH Food Alliance works to create local ecosystem of food
- Removal of dams (Durham) to restore fish pathways

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- High cost of land due to development pressure
- Property rights; need for parking/ [sic] impermeable surfaces
- Roads – pavements cuts up natural ecosystems, migration patterns
- Loss of small farms
- Industrial agriculture
- Pesticides kill soil and organisms
- Education about farms
- Farm subsidies

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

- Conservation Commissions
- [Board of Selectmen}
- Forestry Committee
- NRPC
- Schools, Colleges & Universities
- Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook - Abenaki People
- New Songbird Beekeeping, Tyngsboro, NH; NH Beekeeping Association, Plainfield, NH
- Solar Voltaics
- Schools, Students
- Restaurants
- Hospitals

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

- Education programs to focus on importance of recycling
- Rethink single serve recycling
- City wide composting, we would need a designated site
- Have composting collection containers available to residents
- Education in schools re: what is recyclable
- Major infrastructure investment in wastewater treatment facilities and expanding capacity and moving towards anaerobic digesters
- Collection system for all units including multi-residential and condos for recycling and composting
- Composting collections sites or pickup
- Capturing and using methane from landfills and/or waste facilities
- Setting suggestions (or recommendations) for large businesses and school facilities on waste
- Reducing packaging and plastic bag at refill

What successful examples have you seen?

- Walpole, NH - has a great recycling center that is profitable
- Vermont
- Grow Nashua
- Maine's plastic policies: holding producers responsible for plastic waste
- MA – Solar on capped landfill
- EU – Plastic rules
- CA – Waste rules
- San Francisco – 80% diverted from landfill
- Singapore

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Currently no incentive for sophisticated methods of recycling
- Lack of transparency in where items go
- Lack of education/guidance
- Need more incentives/requirements re: recycling, composting
- NH imports trash from other states
- Limited access to recycling
- Limited knowledge of what landfills handle
- Lack of funding for facility expansion
- Language barriers

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

- Sustainability committees
- City/Town Officials
- Waste Management Companies
- High residency business owners
- NH Department of Environmental Services
- Wastewater Treatment Facilities
- Department of Public Works
- Landfills
- Residents
- Community gardens, Farmers
- Landlords (for multifamily units)
- Save Forest Lake Coalition, Tom Swan
- Slingshot (nonprofit)
- NH Network, incl. Plastics Working Group