

Updating New Hampshire's Climate Action Plan Greater Monadnock Region

In-Person Community Conversation
local people, local priorities, and local solutions!
January 25, 2024, Winchester
Group Activity Worksheet Transcriptions



**University of
New Hampshire**

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TRANSPORTATION – Greater Monadnock Region

- Vehicles and EV Infrastructure, Working with Businesses & Municipalities
- There are limited EV and fast charging options
- Explore opportunities for businesses to host fast charging; serves EV owners and brings increased business
- Provide chargers to municipalities to buy EV; additional opportunities to work with private, nonprofit organizations with transportation needs (i.e. assisted transportation services)
- House a match program (~30% match) at DES that provides help to municipalities to achieve fundings for existing services, the match could be a loan that provides a small return if selected program offers a rebate-type obligation
- Education and support, regional technical assistance
- **Potential Partners**
 - Eversource
 - Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC)
 - Southwest Community Service

ELECTRICITY GENERATION & INDUSTRY – Greater Monadnock Region

- **Updating the Grid**
 - This part of NH (Hinsdale/Winchester/surrounding communities) has weak grid infrastructure, need a multi-megawatt grid to serve Hinsdale and Winchester
 - Ongoing conversations with utility companies to opt into complementary programs to update the grid to handle clean energy
 - Need more land to expand, several acres
- **Repurposing Spaces for Solar Use**
 - Brownfield land in the region can house solar farms, as the contaminated land cannot be used for commercial or residential purposes
 - Other locations include placing solar panels include closed landfills
- **How to Include Utility Companies**
 - Potential for utility companies to opt into complementary programs to update the grid to handle clean energy
- **Work in Schools**
 - Install solar and improve energy efficiency
 - Provide education around the process
 - See NY state schools, for examples
 - Youth CTE programs to help students understand the solar industry

Weatherization and Overall Takeaway

Weatherization

- Keene
 - 2121, weatherization program provides programming to upgrade homes (annual application process)
 - Nearby community that has multi-unit dwellings (MUDs), resident owned communities, senior housing, low-income housing, manufactured homes
- Swansy
 - Nearby community that has MUDs, manufactured homes
- Lakes Region Community College
 - Trainings on energy audits
- White Mountains Community College
 - WMCC and Lakes Region have an energy focus, gap in the southern part of the region (CTE programs)
 - Need for apprenticeship programs in the area
- Peterborough
 - Currently working on renewables program, can connect to knowledge share with Peterborough and Keene

Takeaways

- Need to move quickly; filling in gaps for the folks doing the work and build up what's missing