

Updating New Hampshire's Climate Action Plan North Country

In-Person Community Conversation

local people, local priorities, and local solutions!

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Group Activity Worksheet Transcriptions



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TRANSPORTATION 1 – North County

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

- Public transit
- Electric Vehicle charging stations
- Expand capacity of distribution of Grid
- Rail trails/bike paths/ multimodal
- Support 15-minute towns (walkable), increase support for trains
- Public transportation
- Electric Vehicle incentives for purchase bike lanes
- Infrastructure for low emission transit-needs space on our roads, protected lanes, traffic calming, better paths & sidewalks. Local government & state buy in as well as businesses and homeowners respecting the bike lanes
- Off road bike paths/rail trails (separate from car traffic)
- Way more public transportation - multiple buses per day between towns and in towns
- Incentives for ATV electrification for ATVs and remote charging stations on trails
- Better Electric Vehicle charging, rentals, e.g. electric bikes
- Electric school buses
- Government vehicles as low as possible on burning gas

TRANSPORTATION 2 – North County

What successful examples have you seen?

- Ammonoosuc Rail Trail thru Littleton & NH Adventure Trail as a cycling [trail]
- Tri County Community Action Programs, but it has limited range
- Riverwalk in Berlin- successful, but how to connect
- EV charging
- Local investments
- Small scale rail - (B- Gorham)
- Bike paths
- Federal incentives for EVs but not state/local
- Tri-County bus
- Austin, Texas & the Netherlands
- SAU 20 and 3 [purchased] electric school buses + repair trucks, snowplowing, etc
- StoryLand in past offered [a] bus from Berlin for summer workers

TRANSPORTATION 3 – North County

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Sparse population - limited ridership; cost
- Electric vehicle charging
- Interconnection capacity and costs for investor
- Support for highways + the one person one big car lobby
- Money for incentives/ high prices of Electric Vehicles
- Widen roads for bike lanes
- Car dominated infrastructure, unplanned sidewalks, fast roads, these create less safe areas for walkers & bikers
- Funding
- Lack of coordination between towns
- Purchasing the buses

TRANSPORTATION 4 – North County

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

- Tri County CAP
- Electric Vehicle charging; utilities work with investors
- Increase public awareness of benefits, higher tax on cars
- State & Federal Government
- State & Local Road Crews
- City, Town, and Local Government, Bureau of Trails
- Chamber of Commerce to advocate for transport for employees - carpools, buses
- School Districts
- Bus Companies

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

- EV charging (non-Tesla)
- Small solar community farms or solar panels for individual homes
- Have utilities explain their plans for the Distribution Grid, e.g. distribution automation
- Solar on the superfund site/Dummer landfill in Berlin- would need [to] purchase power, local buy in, resources to pay contractors, hook up to grid
- Distributed power - small scale generation, smarter metering
- EV charging stations in neighborhoods for ebikes
- Solar “farms” - caution = do not take forests or fields → put on buildings
- More wind power generation -we have a lot of wind

What successful examples have you seen?

- Current Eversource reports on improving transportation/ distribution grid
- Not much - plans for demand response based on time of day emissions
- Charging stations at supermarkets
- Use parking lots (like in St. Johnsbury), so cars can park under panels

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Utility more private than public
- Upgrade of [Coos County] loop to allow more energy to be produced and sold outside of Coos
- Lack of information
- Land for the stations + parking spaces
- Inadequate electrical grid- need more capacity

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

- Local utility presence
- Commodity implementation groups
- Political leaders
- Property owners/ businesses/ communities

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

- Energy efficiency: allow non-profit, city, and business buildings as well as residential houses
 - Local suppliers/contractors to install HP
 - Adopt carbon pricing + tax
 - Heat pumps
 - Solar installation
 - Oil heat conversion
 - EV charging stations @ schools, businesses, banks
- More solar + wind for communities
- Weatherization projects
- Heat pumps/ water, land, air source)

What successful examples have you seen?

- Tri County CAP
- Already insulating housing, more money
- Grant for thermal heat
- Local law 97 in NY ordinances in Boston
- None available (HP) locally
- Better Buildings Program
- NH Community Development Finance Authority & local banks in several areas of NH - including Berlin + Program over +
- CDFR/local banks/local leaders
- Successful wood pellet conversion program here
- Glen House heat pump (under the parking lot)

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Lack of funds
- More outreach
- Small ? funding
- Political disclosure + lack of information - like 5th ____
- Franchise territories and local workforce
- Many in south of state feel North County isn't worth it + aren't educated
 - Heat pumps - no local installers
 - Need local plumbers, etc
 - Solar installers not resident
 - Streamline permits
 - Financial incentives for EV charging, oil heat conversion
 - They who sell oil wish to continue

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS 4 – North County

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

- Volunteer.org + media
- Electricians, engineers
- Heat pumps - WMCC
- Solar program @ WMCC - program Start up costs @ WMCC - grants to get training equipment set up
- Banks & local lenders
- Businesses, schools, banks
- For wood heat → the Northern Forest Center, Concord NH

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

- Plant trees on main streets
- Funds for electric transport
- Farm-to-table (short distance between farm and buyer)
- Electric powered equipment (mowers, chainsaw, logging, farming)
- Green spaces need maintenance - hire more people
- More community forests, lands to keep the trees taking up Co₂
- Planting trees in city - create shade
- Support small farmers
- workshops/ areas for local gardening
- Emphasis on eating grains, beans, veggies over meat 3 times a day
- Support tree growth in changing climate

What successful examples have you seen?

- Sustainable [agriculture (ag)] - none
- Tourist leaflets about good practices
- Community forests
- Home use
- Supporting non-motorized sports
- Agri-tourism
- Greenhouses for salad/greens + vegetables year round
- Farmers markets + coops
- Heavy equipment for forestry
- Arbor Day – Tree City USA
- Meadow Stone Farm – Bethlehem, NH

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Planting them
- There are 3 old landfills that are uncapped [and] releasing methane, project → cap them/ seal them
- Comfort with electric equipment
- Expense of year-round greenhouse farming (cost of cooling)
- Sustainable ag - markets that support agriculture
- Cost [and] community capacity
- People's attitudes toward meat/animal eating 3x's a day – reduce to only one
- Incentivize sustainable agriculture – money and support

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

- Department of Transportation (DOT)
- NH State Parks
- Town/municipal Departments
- Non-profit Advocates
- Colleges - ag schools
- Department of Agriculture
- Public Schools
- Municipal leaders/ conservation orgs - see American Climate Corp etc.
- Local land trust, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources + lands
- NH State Nursery
- NH Division of Forests and Lands
- Local Farmers
- Local gardeners - lots in North Country