

Updating New Hampshire's Climate Action Plan Greater Manchester

In-Person Community Conversation
local people, local priorities, and local solutions!
February 1, 2024, Manchester
Group Activity Worksheet Transcriptions



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TRANSPORTATION 1 – Greater Manchester

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

- Bike infrastructure
- Maple & Beech St.
- East/West Rail Trail + Transport Corridor
- E-bike vouchers/rebate program
- Public transit – Electric trains, e-buses
- EV charging infrastructure
 - Level 2, DC Fast (> 150kw)
 - Community charging
 - Workplace charging
 - Light-duty Electric vehicle service equipment
 - Curbside (utility + light poles)
 - Multi-family electric vehicle service equipment

TRANSPORTATION 1a – Greater Manchester

- Medium- + heavy-duty depot charging
- Rest area EVSE (>50kw)
- Prioritize DC fast charging (>180kw) along major travel corridor
- Expanding public transportation access
- Better communication
 - Schedules,
 - Apps/maps
- Improve “image,” remove stigma
- Bus workers into city
- Clean and safe image

TRANSPORTATION 2 – Greater Manchester

What successful examples have you seen?

- Cambridge, MA – Boston - Minneapolis
- Denver and Boulder
- Melrose MA, Mall of NH, Welcome Center (93)
- NYC – Subway App
- [The Nature Conservancy] Transit to Trails
- Park City Bus System (clean, well-marked routes are convenient)
- Use trolleys, shuttles for large festivals or comm events
 - Opportunity to show positive image of buses

TRANSPORTATION 3 – Greater Manchester

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Money + politics
- Funding
- Cost awareness; cost/benefit site control landlord permission
- Current technology slow,
- Manufacturing [sic] lead times
- No idea where bus stops
- How much it costs
- Bus schedule?
- Where do people find [information about] our public system
- City needs to put [money] into public communication around how to use
- Create an app, signage then publicize – put info up in bus stops

TRANSPORTATION 4 – Greater Manchester

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

- Conservation Law Foundation / PLAN NH
- Manchester Moves / Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission
- Bike Walk Alliance
- Planning and Community Development
- Manchester Transit Authority
- State Legislative Study Commission [sic] renters areas to charging stations
- The Nature Conservancy
- Tech
- EV buses?

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

- More investment in community solar
- Incentivize large apartment buildings to have solar
- Electric vehicle charging
- City parking garages
- Lease space to EV charging company
- Trees
- Electric train
- Non-fossil home energy
- Non-fossil [building] energy
- Small wind farm at old landfill – the electrical infrastructure is there, and the area is not highly populated

What successful examples have you seen?

- Solar installation on the old damp
- City of Boston
- Parking garages
- Highway rest areas
- There are small wind farms all over

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Lack of awareness
- Community buy-in
- Can seem overwhelming with older buildings
- Getting private landlords invested in putting solar on apartment buildings
- Power distribution
- Infrastructure needs to be improved
- Regulatory approval

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

- Solar panels on parking lots, park under them: Manchester Transit Authority could put them over bus depot
- Public building solar: Schools, City Hall, Commercial buildings (Mall of NH solar panels on building or parking lot)
- Neighbor Works: Encourage them to put solar panels & heat pumps
- Local government
- Charging companies
- Garage owners
- City departments
- Installers
- Utility

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

- Heat pumps and efficient improvements, dollar
- Money
- Training of contractors/installers > workforce development
- Education around different HVAC options
- Zoning ordinances
- Weatherizing buildings
- Offer incentives to landlords to tighten renter buildings
- Expand energy adopt services
- Increased incentives [for low- and moderate-income] households
- Expand NH Saves
- Solar panels and heat pumps in schools

What successful examples have you seen?

- Salem, NH + Elmgrove, affordable housing efficient
- VT heat pump rebate \$2,000/ton
- MA heat pump rebate up to \$15,000
- Eversource in MA and networked geothermal or thermal networking
- Legislation with standard and goals (see MA)
- Commercial buildings
- MA weatherization for builders
- Elmgrove – Manchester
- Exeter High School – solar
- Phillips Exeter

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- NIMBY-ism (Not in my Backyard)
- Zoning ordinances
- Lack of education
- Lack of money
- Initial cost of land (developer)
- Lack of education, funding
- Different languages
- Zoning and planning boards
- [Money]

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

- Manchester School District
- Contractors
- NH Saves (?) - Program takes too long to respond
- State government
- Town and city government
- Passive House [sic] company MA
- Southern NH Services (SNHS) – weatherization programming
- Reliable, cheap tech and install partners
- State to distribute money
- Towns, cities to be brought in and educate
- Planning [department] and regional planning commission > community education and changes to [regulations]

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

- Add more trees to Manchester
- Properly prepared sidewalks to promote growth
- City resources and cooperation of city officials
- Trees specified by qualified individuals (Arborists)
- Ongoing care
- Upholding current use as it stands: Expanding to Manchester and cities in NH that can't meet the acreage cut [off] > create an urban incentive for greenspaces that benefits the public through run of reduction, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, etc.
- Educating people about the [difference] between extractive/destructive practices vs. good forestry practices
- Supporting local mills and low-grade timber markets
- Composting: incentivize and made accessible
- More trees in urban areas
- Prioritize native species
- Workforce > Climate Corps

What successful examples have you seen?

- Cambridge, MA
- Charlotte, NC – TreeCharlotte.org
- NH State Foresters in NH manage for ecological goals while still pulling in revenue
– a good example for others
- The North End

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Older sidewalks
- Money
- Permitting restrictions
- Private/public partnerships need to implement
- Lack low-grade markets
- Carbon markets
- Pro-forestation – lack of education
- Eversource cutting down trees
- Parking requirements, prioritizing cars
- Landlords don't like hassle of raking leaves
- Disease (emerald ash borer)
- Cost

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

- City engineers/planner
- Department of Public Works
- Private landowners
- Land Trusts
- UNH Extension – Foresters
- Logging Contractors
- NH Division of Forests and Lands – Land Management
- Eversource
- [Department of Public Works] – Park system
- Homeowners

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

- Public support for necessary projects (e.g. separating storm [water] and sewage)
- Residential grey water recycling community
- Less streets, more greenspaces
- New construction grey water pavement
- Storm water treatment through natural filtration
- Not mix storm and wastewater in sewers
- Commercial
- Facility operations/owners
- Feeds [sic] tech owners (waste generation)
- Fuel/energy off-takers

- Pipeline/virtual pipeline operator
- Infrastructure
- [sic] Biogas pipelines
- Natural gas pipelines
- Electrical (grid, transformer, interconnections, etc.)
- Waste collection facilities
- Waste sorting facilities
- Anaerobic digestion systems
- Biogas > Renewable Natural Gas cleanup (“polishing”)

What successful examples have you seen?

- California
 - Dairy Digester Research and Development Program (DDRDP via CalRecycle)
 - Calgreen Dairy Digesters
 - Anaergie Dairy Digester
- East Bay [multi-unit dwellings] wastewater anaerobic digesters projects (biogas > RNG > hydrogen)
- Earthships Biotope Communities in Taos, NM
- EPA Building, Denver, CO
- University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center
- Porous Asphalt in parking lots

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Infrastructure, costs, off-takers
- Supportive policy enabling cost-effective outputs
- Permitting, fire codes, electrical codes
- Education and workforce development
- [sic] Panel surfaces removed, and trees and native plants installed

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

- Community planners
- Regional Department of Transportation and transportation planners to student new traffic/people movement and patterns

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

- Training and licensure for workforce development
- Industry trade program – youth build
- Summer camps – [building] and trades focused (similar to robotics programs)
- Affordable housing, public transportation, and a living wage

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT 2 – Greater Manchester

What successful examples have you seen?

- Londonderry, Manchester, Interlakes, Auburn, Nashua, Milford > Bus students to technical schools
- Delaware 3x more [money], 3x more students
- Massachusetts – bus to classes for the day vs. for a 90-min class, greater efficiency and [less] gas emissions
- Incentivize coming to NH provide housing, moving cost, etc.
- Carpentry trades and youth builds in MA
- See Science Center/Robotics and STEM
- New housing in Salem NH
- Living wage, Other States

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT 3 – Greater Manchester

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Finding enough teachers, electricity
- [Development] pathway to green energy
- Trades at tech and [community] colleges/schools
- Advocacy in 4-year degree vs. trade schools
- Trade school looked down [on]
- Educate guidance counselors.
- CHANGE THE MESSAGING
- Funding
- Tech program partner, funding
- State politics
- Zoning and planning boards
- “Not in back yard” NIMBYism

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT 4 – Greater Manchester

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

- Schools: [High schools], tech, community
- Guidance counselors
- Even 4-year colleges could modify their coursework
- Need transportation
- Need scholarships
- Robotics community/ teams/ competitions
- Manchester Office of Youth Services
- Trades Programs: Unions (apprentice programs), community college, Manchester School of Technology
- NH Housing

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

- Plant and maintain trees/plants in urban areas
- MyCitysTrees and itreetools.org
- School and municipal partnerships
- Incentives for well-kept green spaces
- Expand Immigrant Farm Program (Fresh Start Farms)
- Local produce in food deserts (West Side)
- Programs for senior citizens
- Education around invasives and pollinator names and urban corridors for wildlife
- Supporting local farms
 - Clean soil and water

LINKAGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH 1a – Greater Manchester

- Efficient water systems
- Transportation of products, access for people
- Marketing
- Land accessibility
- Access to learning skills
- Community buy-in/ownership

What successful examples have you seen?

- Urban canopy improvement program
- NH [Division] of Forests and Lands, Urban Forestry Program
- Regenerative roots in Nashua
- Fresh Start Farms / ORIS
- Denver Food Rescue
- Current Grant / M. Health [Department]
- Londonderry, Manchester, Interlakes, Auburn, Nashua, Milford > Bus students to technical schools
- Delaware 3x more [money], 3x more students
- Massachusetts – bus to classes for the day vs. for a 90-min class, greater efficiency and [less] gas emissions
- Incentivize coming to NH provide housing, moving cost, etc.

What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Workforce: Might need a designated school staff to program [manage]
- Summer vacation issue is during growing season > watering needs
- Resistance to improvement of neighborhood due to gentrification
- People [sic] being afraid of wildlife like insects, snakes, etc. > need to educate on ecosystem balance
- Permitting
- Transportation
- Education
- Space, funding, human resources
- Funding (of course)

LINKAGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH 4 – Greater Manchester

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

- Youth, local community, elder community > bring people together outside to improve mental health
- Knowledge keepers and experts, i.e. not [natural resource] professors, maybe master gardener programs via UNH Extension
- Fresh Start Farms
- Manchester Health [Department]