

# Updating New Hampshire's Climate Action Plan Greater Capitol Region

## 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 – Greater Capitol Region

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

- Co-benefits of reduced automobile use
- Smaller public transportation vehicles - @15 passenger vans rather than large busses to serve smaller population centers and more flexible routes
- Expand public transportation
- Smart street/traffic planning (ex. Dover is poorly planned - lots of idling in traffic)
- Charging infrastructure
  - Buy-in of landlords, provide incentives for them to participate
  - Buy in of employers charging station @ workplaces
  - Universal adapters
  - Establish and/or expand electric vehicle system

# TRANSPORTATION 1a – Greater Capitol Region

- To that – public education campaign to reduce misunderstanding about electric vehicles (ex. Range anxiety)
- Infrastructure for low-emission transit
  - Money
  - Transportation planners
  - Construction workers
  - Sufficient clear land
  - Enough uses to demand it
  - Charging state for electric vehicle bikes

# TRANSPORTATION 2 – Greater Capitol Region

## What successful examples have you seen?

- Infrastructure for low emission transit
  - Northern rail trail
  - Rockingham rail trail
  - Wolfboro rail trail
  - Concord, but not connected together
  - Europe
- In Brazil, there are public buses and subways
  - The first 6th months – fares were free, once charges began, the public was accustomed to using it...continued using.

# TRANSPORTATION 3 – Greater Capitol Region

## What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Lack of marketing, awareness; rural nature of residency...
- Even with incentives, it's expensive for consumers
- Lack of information, concerns about the dependability of electric vehicles
- Not enough financial incentives for business/landlords to implement
- Safety of roadways
- Ridership (ex. UNH bus routes have declined)
- Infrastructure for low emission transit
  - Money
  - Workers
  - Enough land for designated lanes

# TRANSPORTATION 4 - Greater Capitol Region

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

- City governments
- NH Department of Transportation
- Employers
- Change rules to allow wheeled vehicles on sidewalks or wider bike routes or add barriers to prevent collisions
- Landlords
- Employers
- Chamber of Commerce
- Exit 17; partner or learn from them

# TRANSPORTATION 4a - Greater Capitol Region

- NH Department of Transportation
- Municipalities
- Infrastructure for low emission transit
  - City planners Engineers
  - Construction/companies/workers
  - Maintenance
  - Parks and rec staff
  - Volunteers

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

- Small local scale transmission upgrades
- Conservation measures
- Not enough support for energy
- Closures of other power support/measures
- Labor training recruit and retain talent
- Successful interconnect study
- Community Solar
  - Funding
  - Land for the panels
  - Buy in from citizens
  - Workforce to install panels
  - Working with existing utilities/government to transport the energy
  - Effect public relations campaign



## What successful examples have you seen?

- Massachusetts generates a lot of solar energy as does Maine
- Maine – building 150-megawatt facility
- Community Solar: Bethlehem, North Country, Lebanon, Keene, Hanover, Portsmouth
- Not aware, I bet there are some – maybe NH electric cooperative has done

## What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- We're not putting enough electricity on the grid; power plants are closing and we're not replacing it with sources of power
- Being able to get communities to achieve interconnection
- Policy
- Community Solar
  - Lack of support from state government
  - Lack of support from town government
  - Lack of cooperation b/w public and private entities

# ELECTRICITY GENERATION & INDUSTRY 3a - Greater Capitol Region

- Nimbyism
- Conflict b/w conservation of habitat and solar development
- Perceptions that solar farms/installations need to go in undeveloped areas – why not over large commercial parking lots and buildings? -- Is cost an issue for siting?
- May need a lot of small scale installations interconnected appropriately, and utilities need to agree to interconnect and they are backlogged. Utilities have no incentive to participated unless compelled by law.
- Utilities have no incentive to play nice.
- The interconnection queue is impossible for siting new large generators
- Maybe thousands of small projects need additional incentives

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

- Legislature and public utility commission and ISO New England – how can we all get on the same page?
- Community solar
  - Private/public
  - Utilities
  - State
  - Towns
  - Federal government
  - Property owners
- Community power providers
  - Other electricity aggregators
  - Municipal planners
  - Anyone who can manage a small loan if grants funds reduce upfront costs

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

- Create opportunities for renters...
- Use more wood products in commercial and residential construction (versus concrete and steel) - provide incentives
- Decommission low use buildings and promote telework for 20,000 state employees
- For low-income renters, need to work with landlords to install more efficient appliances, convert to heat pumps, resident solar, etc.
- Expand weatherization investments for non-profit social services agencies, mental health centers, community health centers, childcare centers
- Install solar arrays over parking lots
- Net zero public buildings – money or technical assistance

## What successful examples have you seen?

- Have not seen
- State of NH rebates for wood pellet stoves
- "Low- and moderate-income solar net metering pilot program". - NH Public Utilities Commission
- I have not many examples many examples in NH but have seen photos of such projects in other places
- Resilient Buildings Group – some utility programs get part of the way there

## What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- No incentive for landlords
- Workforce shortages
- Keep in mind that when shifting heating in apartment buildings to heat pumps, you may have inadvertently shifted costs of heating from landlord to tenant (Landlord usually pay heat tenants usually pay electric)
- Access to working capitol and grants
- Money
- Technical knowledge, codes
- The split incentive for rental properties to install electric vehicle charging or solar
- Not sure the specific barriers but there needs to be a study of how to incentivize property owners to allow this

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

- Resilient Buildings Group
- Clean energy NH
- Municipalities
- Building owners/property
- Managers
- Grant administrators
- NH Dept of Environmental Services



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

- Incentive – additional cost of raised solar panels on ag land
- Promote urban forestry program to plant trees to share residential multi-unit buildings
- State focused program that would provide funds to allow municipal and local trusts to purchase conservation easements on forested lands from willing private landowners
- Planning across forest parcels. It becomes harder to manager land the smaller the parcel
- Provide access to clean transportation
  1. Funds for electric vehicle charging stations
  2. Funds for rebates for consumers to buy EV's and electric farm equipment
  3. Provide funds for clean energy sources like solar panels

## What successful examples have you seen?

- Mass Smart Program
- The state's Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) is similar but not only focuses on forest lands
- The IRA provided money to buy electric vehicles for consumers
- The IRA provided money for charging stations
- I've seen where landowners are offered funds to lease their lands for solar panels

## What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Money
- Lack of funds (x2)
- Education
- Fear of the unknown
- Misinformation or lack of understanding about what sustainable management of forests and the benefits it provides
- Lack of intention or forward-thinking in local land use planning

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

- Farmers
- Natural Resources Conservation Services
- Solar developers
- State, County, City, Private Landowners, Farmers
- Land trusts, municipalities - including conservation commissions
- Connecting to private landowners

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

- Project = food waste sharing and diversion
- Opportunities in every municipality
- Needs buy in from school administrators, teachers, students
- Funding regional composting facilities or anaerobic digesters
- Anaerobic digestion of organic waste
- Raise the treatment plant in Seabrook – water table rise is sinking the plant
- Repair the wastewater plant on the Lamprey river – it is under capacity and constantly overflowing into the river
- Composting facilities and composting at local dumps
- Grey water utilization – new construction

## What successful examples have you seen?

- Hollis, NH
- Northwood
- Bethlehem/Franconia
- Seacoast
- Grants to municipal landfills to convert methane to power (UNH and Turnkey landfill?)
- None in NH aware of some overseas
- Dirt doctors in Pembroke for yard waste

## What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- In difference/apathy
- Greed
- Lack of regional facilities
- Lack of trained workforce
- Lack of public understanding
- Attitudes of many to just discard leftovers
- Established disposal system hard to change
- Lack of knowledge of this win-win
- Need new infrastructure throughout the area sewer – water pipes
- The new water treatment plan down river in Durham is over capacity and needs the contaminated river water to function properly.
- Infrastructure lack of education

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

- Existing composting companies
- Solid Waste Hauler
- Municipal leadership
- School administrators
- Solid waste management committees
- Select boards and town managers (+mayors)
- State town researchers



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT 1 - Greater Capitol Region

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

- Duplicate offshore wind institute as run by Bristol community college in MA
- Start with community college on seacoast in NH
- Apprenticeship program
- Scholarships
- Outreach to Career and Technical Education Centers
- Needs assessment
- Training "facilities"
- Funding for training electricians
- High School Vocation Education Programs
- Climate education associated education on career paths needs to start earlier with age

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT 2 - Greater Capitol Region

## What successful examples have you seen?

- Bristol county community college
- Apprenticeship NH – apprenticeships in construction infrastructure
- Former High School programs that send students to community college electrical programs
- Maine program to train low-income students to trades

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT 3 - Greater Capitol Region

## What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?

- Cost
- Language
- Lack of information
- Lack of promoting exposure to these careers to high school students need grants to high school programs and collaboration with tech schools

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT 4 - Greater Capitol Region

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

- Trade associations
- Exciting credentialed mentors
- International institute of New England (IINE)
- Ascentria (non-profit) works with New Americans
- Apprenticeship NH/Community College System of NH
- High school administrators
- Apprenticeship sponsors
- Unions for pertinent trades
- Sponsors/organizers of career fairs

# LINKAGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH 1 - Greater Capitol Region

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

- Heat pump deployment
- Increase incentives for residential use
- Needed: Increased funding and matching funds
- Plant and maintain trees...partner with state nursery to increase access to native trees and shrubs. Use state nursery as vendor of choice for planting
- Increase urban tree canopy
- Solar is important but don't use farm locations which limit agriculture in NH
- Remove the Bow Powerplant
- Deeper research in environmental issues to ocean power production

# LINKAGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH 1a - Greater Capitol Region

- Install Euro solar equipment as energy art – tourism
- Remove dams to help clean waterways
- Expand hydroponic farming – grow local, eat local
- Increase public health programs
- Public health – Air Emissions
  - Permanently shut down the Merrimack Coal Fire Power Plant in Bow
  - Organic mercury from the plant has been poisoning NH far beyond Bow it's also impacting our Merrimack water shed – replace with solar array

# LINKAGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH 2 - Greater Capitol Region

## What successful examples have you seen?

- Fairhope, AL – town received direct grant and planted hundreds of trees through town urban area
- Main Gov's program: competition for supply incentives to increase workforce to install and maintain
- Latin America and the Global South

## **What prevents progress or acts as a barrier?**

- Develop criteria for grant recipient
- Commercial nursery prices
- Capacity of need
- Funding only available for full sized school busses



# LINKAGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH 4 - Greater Capitol Region

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

- Boy/girl scouts as project leads
- UNH Extension – Master Gardens
- NH Audubon