

# Updating New Hampshire's Climate Action Plan

## CROSS-SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS

### Gathering 1

Online via Zoom

November 30, 2023

2:30-4:00pm



**University of  
New Hampshire**

Carsey School of Public Policy



# Welcome – Thank you for being here!

New Hampshire Listens is working on behalf of the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to [design and facilitate community engagement](#)—an essential component of NH's Priority and Comprehensive Climate Action Plans

## We are here today to hear from you!



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# A FEW REMINDERS...

We have formatted today to gather input from you and our time will move quickly.

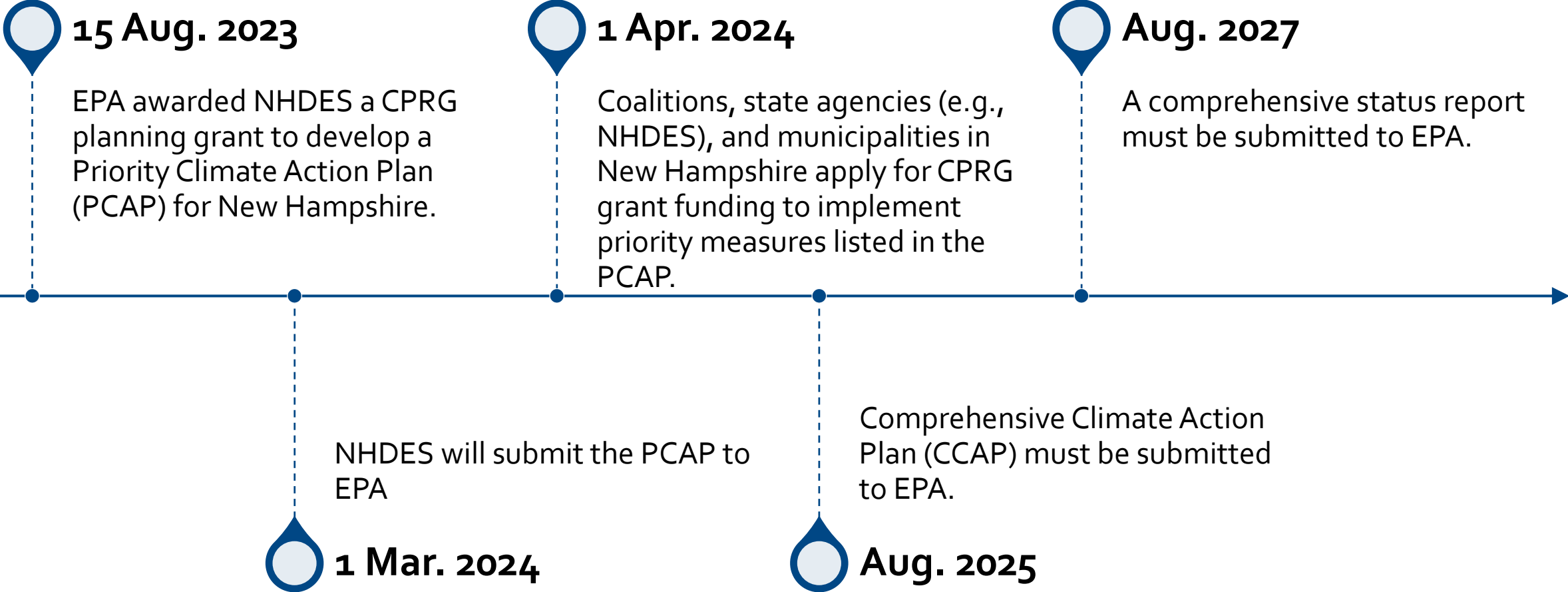
- Mute in large group
- If possible, cameras ON during small group breakouts.
- You are welcome to listen.
- Use chat for responses and resources
- *Message Mikayla - NH Listens for tech assistance*
- Group Agreements:
  - Listen to others and share air time.
  - Participate and be as fully present as you can.
  - Respect each other and our brief time together.



# Updating NH's Climate Action Plan - An opportunity for New Hampshire:

- NH was granted federal funding in August to update NH's Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The four-year program runs **2023 - 2027**.
- Community engagement is an essential component to update NH's Climate Action Plan
- NH will identify priority projects by (*March 1, 2024*) to apply for implementation funds available from the federal government (*April 1, 2024*) to move projects forward here in NH!

# Over the course of the four-year program running to 2027:



# Broad Goals for Cross-Sector Stakeholder Gatherings

- Guide and inform the update of NH's Climate Action Plan by talking together about the priorities and essential projects groups of people can undertake and/or are undertaking together.
- Strengthen the connections that will support cross-sector, community-engaged groups/coalitions/project partners who can move forward with implementation of key priorities in NH communities with an effort to focus on [Justice40](#) investments to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in some of our most affected communities.
- Share what we're learning and hearing from community engagement efforts and updates on the planning process and reporting.



# Today's Agenda:



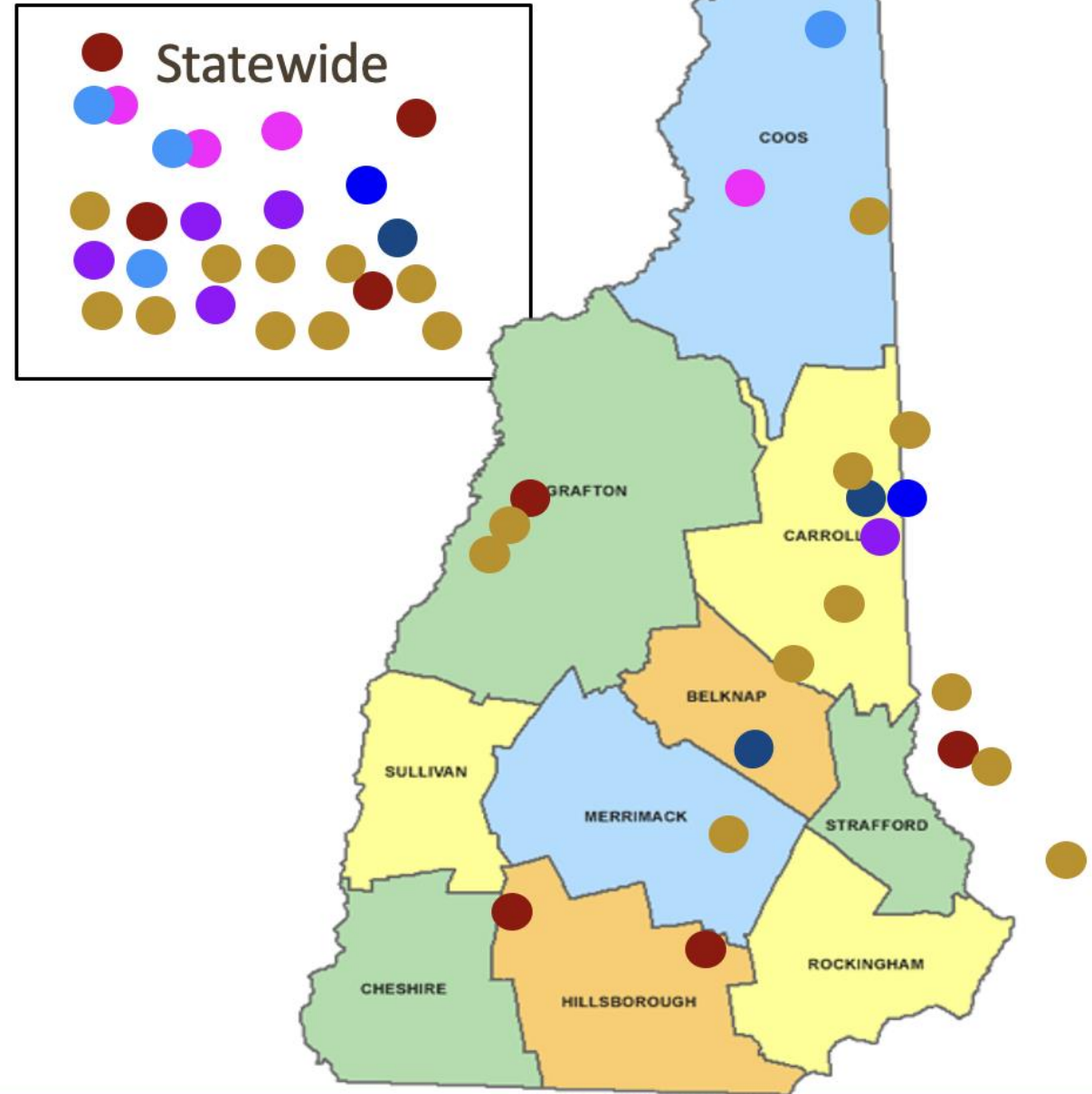
- **Who's here:** Interactive sector map
- **Spotlight:** Communities most affected by air pollution - *Justice40 Initiative*
- **Spotlight:** Community Engagement - *new DES role*
- **Share:** What we're hearing so far from community engagement
- **Brainstorm Breakouts:** Brainstorm priority climate projects - Participants select two (20 min.) sector-based discussions
- **Wrap up and what's next**
- **Close** 4:00 PM



# Who's in the zoom?

## Participation by Sector

- Health
- Law / Law Enforcement
- Civic Engagement
- Education
- Business / Econ. Dev.
- Government
- Outdoors / Conservation
- Other





**Who's Missing?** What key partners - people, organizations, locations - can you identify that should be part of the ongoing outreach and community engagement?

**Cross-sector shareholders:**

People working on greenhouse gas and air pollution reduction

Advocates and non-profits

Regional and city/town planners

Association leaders

More! Please invite others

*What can we do together to best engage with local community members and shareholders in these conversations? Especially in projects that will need coalitions/teams of people working together?*

## A key component to each climate plan is including investments linked to the federal Justice40 Initiative

Karen Craver, MPH

Administrator, Environmental  
Health Program

Environmental Justice Coordinator,  
Air Resources Division

Share your thoughts with the team:  
[cprg@des.nh.gov](mailto:cprg@des.nh.gov)

“the Federal Government has made it a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution”

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40/>

# Community Engagement throughout the Planning Grant

## Kurt Yuengling

Community Engagement Specialist

Environmental Health Program,

Air Resources Division

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Share your thoughts with the team:

[cprg@des.nh.gov](mailto:cprg@des.nh.gov)



# What We're Hearing



- What are the most important issues in your community?
- What efforts are already being made?
- What relationships need to be built?
- What barriers are you seeing to community-engaged work? What needs to change?
- If you could name 2-3 priorities, what would they be?

Share your thoughts with the team: [cprg@des.nh.gov](mailto:cprg@des.nh.gov)



# Small Group Breakouts (choose 2)

**What near-term, high-priority, implement ready priorities, projects, programs, policies would reduce greenhouse gas emissions in this sector in NH?**

## **DIRECTIONS:**

- Choose a breakout room for a brainstorm session by sector
- Two, 15 - 20 min. facilitated sessions
- We will bring you back to the main room after each one

### Sectors Rooms:

- Transportation
- Electricity generation and/or use and Industry
- Commercial and Residential Buildings
- Natural and working lands and Agriculture
- Waste and materials management and Wastewater



# Small Groups Notes – Slides 15-30

*These are raw notes taken by facilitators during the session and later themed and summarized in the online community engagement report.*

*Not all notes meet the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant or Priority Climate Action Plan Criteria. They are to inform the NHDES team as they write the plans using a community-engaged approach.*



# TRANSPORTATION – BRAINSTORM 1: *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play? Stars = What would make the biggest difference for communities most affected by climate pollution?*

- Bulk purchase Electric Vehicle Service Equipment for towns, incl tech assistance re electric\*
- Broadly enable Electric Vehicle School buses incl. Vehicle to Grid (V2G)\*\*\*\*\*
- Adopt CALEV
- Time of use rates for electric, also electric vehicle tariffs\*
- Regional and statewide Plug-in Electric Vehicle Readiness Plans (PEVRP)\*
- Community/university Electric Vehicle car sharing\*\*\*
- Strategic utility investment for make ready & demand charge alternative\*\*
- Use **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative** RGGI funds to support Electric Vehicle Service Equipment development
- Adopt policy that purchased must be Electric Vehicle unless there is a reason to not
- Tech support for communities to help make vehicle purchase decisions\*
- Consumer incentives to purchase Electric Vehicles\*\*
- More \$\$ for Electric Vehicle Service Equipment\*\*

# TRANSPORTATION – BRAINSTORM 2: *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play? Stars = What would make the biggest difference for communities most affected by climate pollution?*

- Increase funding for public transportation\*\*
- Transactional electricity from home or vehicle based batteries into the grid\*\*
- Increase alternative transportation options - rail corridors, wider shoulders, etc.\*\*
- Building code – Electric Service Vehicle Equipment -ready requirement for Multi-unit dwelling and business (and secondary frequency regulation in Lebanon & Dover!)
- Capture landfill & Waste Water Treatment gas for transp fuel
- Address Electric Service Vehicle Equipment needs of renters/ community charging
- Allocation-based programs for Electric Service Vehicle Equipment based on community size w/extra support for small towns
- Model code or NH-tailored guidelines (could be part of general roadmap) for Electric Service Vehicle Equipment in right of way
- E-bike loan program at public high schools
- Moratorium on expansion of roadways where rail lines are feasible.



# TRANSPORTATION – BRAINSTORM 3: *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play? Stars = What would make the biggest difference for communities most affected by climate pollution?*

- Address electric demand charges for public Electric Service Vehicle Equipment
- Educate decision makers about electric vehicle fires - bigger problem are scooters, etc.
- Build more public Electric Vehicle Charging stations\*
- Connection between regional bus systems - don't go to Bost to get to Manchester\*\*\*
- Transactional electricity from home or vehicle-based batteries into the grid\*
- More public transportation incl. Rail, etc. Enable mode shift\*\*\*
- Better integrated land use and transp. Planning – ex. improve water systems to allow more housing, etc.
- Focus on increasing Electric Vehicle market penetration
- Denser housing to enable more public transp.

# **ELECTRICITY GENERATION & INDUSTRY 1** *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play? Stars = What would make the biggest difference for communities most affected by climate pollution?*

- Transactional electricity from home or vehicle- based batteries to and from the grid\*
- Policies/incentives that encourage new ideas/technology with generating electricity\*
- Increase NH's Renewable Portfolio Standard, now the lowest in New England\*
- Granite shore power (Bow Power plant) fuel switching from coal\*
- Solar on Schools (Roof ready program) Bow High School example\*
- NH should adopt CA air regs\*
- Strengthen renew tax credit\*
- Small and medium size community solar projects\*\*
- Community Microgrids\*\*
- High school students - solar for schools\*
- Bow coal powered plant with no shut down date\*
- Short & long term plan for electric transmission (site infrastructure)\*
- Affordable energy storage & micro-grids\*\*\*
- The connection cue is a huge problem\*
- Incorporation of env sustainability requirements in state government contracts\*\*

# **ELECTRICITY GENERATION & INDUSTRY 2** *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play? Stars = What would make the biggest difference for communities most affected by climate pollution?*

- Virtual power plant idea\*\*
- More planning on site infrastructure planning\*\*
- We need a net zero goal and legally enforceable deadlines\*\*
- Short, med and long term plan for transmission \*
- NH should adopt CA clear air laws\*
- Renewable portfolio standards\*
- Vehicle to grid\*
- Grid updates\*
- Incentives/rewards for businesses to reduce energy usage/GHG emissions
- Promoting Battery Storage with utility
- Policy: carbon tax on polluters and cash back
- Incorporate sustainability in state contracts
- Health and Human Services: reinstatement of Health & climate change center
- Vehicle to grid seems to be mostly focused on fleets at present; state fleet might be able to do this
- Community Solar

# **ELECTRICITY GENERATION & INDUSTRY 3** *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play? Stars = What would make the biggest difference for communities most affected by climate pollution?*

- Need funds for planning
- Helping regional groups plan and organize
- Smart meters
- Time of use rate tariffs, Electric Vehicle tariffs.
- Electrify everything
- Transmission upgrades across our grid - will create jobs and prepare the grid for new renewable energy generation
- Regenerative Agriculture. Huge carbon capture - look at books by Dorn Cox and Paul Hawkin!
- Keep Priority Climate Action Plan broad
- Regional coordination - could partner with other states on a grid planning effort
- More incentives for renewables
- Linking landfill to grid - lots of barriers
- Policy and legislative changes
- Sending electric vehicle batteries energy back into the grid and recharge during off peak time

# **ELECTRICITY GENERATION & INDUSTRY 4** *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play? Stars = What would make the biggest difference for communities most affected by climate pollution?*

- Offshore wind needs lead time to plan\*\*
- Improving energy storage and affordability\*
- Community power coalitions\*
- Connectivity
- Linking landfill to grid (utility approval issue) Lebanon
- More planning needed so we can catch up\*
- Policy: requiring utilities to offer grid transactive services to all grid-tied systems
- Batteries in solar array
- Policy: Ban of future (new) fossil usage
- Smart meters & time of use incorporating storage
- Lumping solar in the same community for public entities
- Require businesses to accurately account for their emissions
- WEARE acre community solar
- More standards

# COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS 1 - *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play? Stars = What would make the biggest difference for communities most affected by climate pollution?*

- Rebates for heat pumps and weatherization (VT, ME, MA programs)\*\*
- Financing for heating conversions - green bank or revolving loan fund\*\*
- Weatherization ready improvements - Non-energy saving measures, to enable Income qualified programs\*
- Green fund available for Energy Efficiency Improvements - Revolving loan managed by state\*
- Rebates for renewable energy (beyond tax credits)\*\*
- Increased assistance for multifamily dwelling conversions/similar smaller footprint living\*\*\*
- Funding for EE enabling upgrades (i.e. structural, electrical, safety)\*
- Use Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative funds for weatherization & heat pump programs\*
- Enable on meter loans for energy improvements - residential maybe specific to elderly\*
- Resiliency planning - land uses together, whole village\*
- Building out contractor capacity\*
- Increasing awareness of residential programs available\*
- Adopt Electric Vehicle readiness in the building code as Lebanon and Dover have done\*
- Workforce development and training, paid apprenticeship in weatherization\*

# COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS 2 - *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play? Stars = What would make the biggest difference for communities most affected by climate pollution?*

- Allow CAP funds for weatherization to cover delayed maintenance issues that are delaying weatherization
- Consistent, long term incentives
- Adopting most current Energy Code
- Clearer guidance/pathways for IRS incentives - will be underutilized due to complexity
- Training for contractors b/c many say they don't feel comfortable installing heat pump hot water heaters, etc
- Zero energy ready new construction
- Guidance on land use for rural communities
- PACE guarantor fund to support energy efficiency PACE - current legislation priorities do not protect towns
- Zero energy retrofits

# COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS 3 - *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play? Stars = What would make the biggest difference for communities most affected by climate pollution?*

- NHSaves weatherization of multi family rental units
- Model ordinances or subdivision regs that promote cluster development
- Commercial weatherization
- Wholistic retrofits to incorporate all available cost effective measures
- District ground-source heat pump systems
- Incentivizing solar on commercial & multifamily parking lots
- Scaling up weatherization efforts - financial incentives
- Pre-approved contractors and bulk purchases for Heat pumps
- Workforce development for building trades
- Living wages
- Collaboration with unions
- Change building code to be 1 zone cooler for insulation requirements as Durham has done



# COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS 4 - *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play? Stars = What would make the biggest difference for communities most affected by climate pollution?*

- Education and outreach for self installed weatherization & audits - no cost
- Industry training for HVAC professionals - focusing on health impacts with energy efficiency
- Funding for audits - blower door tests (residential) single and multi unit
- Funding for installed weatherization and heating measures
- Improved incentive through NHTSaves
- Heat pumps
- Affordable housing
- Technology
- Funding to support technical assistance - construction manager circuit rider
- Policy for NH to enact latest building/energy code available

# NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS & AGRICULTURE 1 - *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play? Stars = What would make the biggest difference for communities most affected by climate pollution?*

- Supporting planting of edible perennials in a more widespread way\*\*
- Supporting small farmers- localism\*\*\*
- Engaging the public - education and enablement\*\*\*
- School gardens and educational programs to support school gardens +1\*\*
- Regenerative agriculture / building healthy soils +1\*\*
- Planting and maintaining urban trees\*\*\*
- Additional money/support for land conservation +1\*\*\*\*\*
- Maximize carbon storage and sequestration capabilities of forests\*\*\*
- Reducing monoculture (grass)\*\*
- Plant based diets +1\*\*
- Incentivize old growth\*\*\*
- Preserving wetlands and forests\*\*
- Reducing food waste\*\*

# NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS & AGRICULTURE 1 - *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play? Stars = What would make the biggest difference for communities most affected by climate pollution?*

- Grow local, buy local, eat local\*\*\*
- Food forests/ community forests\*\*
- Composting at the community level\*\*\*\*
- Electrified Farm Equipment\*
- ID and reduce health impacts to outdoor workers from weather and climate\*
- Support shift from modern ag practices to regenerative ag practices (see The Farmer's Footprint)\*\*\*\*
- Program created and funded to help people in the ag sector become net zero\*\*\*
- Stewardship and education to our visitors of our natural spaces
- Promoting and incentivizing sustainable forest practices\*\*

# NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS & AGRICULTURE 1 - *Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play? Stars = What would make the biggest difference for communities most affected by climate pollution?*

- Idea about engaging new people: try to engage outdoor workers (farm workers, landscapers, etc)- could participation be incentivized? Could we go to their meetings?
- Provide access to cleaner transportation options and electrified farm equipment
- ID what land is good for farming, what land is good for housing, solar farms, etc. (land characterization to support competing interests\*\*)
- Electrified landscaping equipment\*
- Robust educational programs for general public to understand the impact of food choices and waste practices\*\*
- Regenerative Agriculture. Huge carbon capture

# WASTE AND MATERIALS MANAGEMENT & WASTEWATER -

*Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play? Stars = What would make the biggest difference for communities most affected by climate pollution?*

- Anaerobic digestion of organic waste (food, water, ag byproducts, etc.)
- Technical assistance and funds to convert to reusable (e.g., washing system): Public schools-Nursing homes\*\*
- Eliminate single use plastic\*\*
- Repeal advanced recycling\*\*
- Textile recycling\*\*
- Water Reuse/Recycling
- Updating and replacing aging infrastructure to improve efficiency\*
- Technical support and funds to get communities to start composting\*\*\*
- Reduce food waste - would also reduce land use for landfills\*
- Laws to require recycling, composting, pay-as-you throw\*\*
- Laws to ensure out-of-state compliance with recycling, composting, pay-as-you throw\*\*

# WASTE AND MATERIALS MANAGEMENT & WASTEWATER -

*Near-term, high-priority, implement ready projects to reduce emissions where you live, work, learn, and play? Stars = What would make the biggest difference for communities most affected by climate pollution?*

- Food Waste Disposal Ban - NHDES Rules and Staff - Focused on Large Generators\*\*\*\*\*
- Address Consumption and consumerism generally (EPR)\*\*\*\*
- Coordinating positive legislation
- Food Waste Focus - Beyond Large Generators - Siting of Composting Facilities\*\*
- Landfill gas capture and reuse - carbon capture for credits\*
- Education curriculum and advocacy to primary and secondary schools
- Approach Businesses about collecting compost material - food and yard waste\*
- Don't combine sewage sludge with compostable food waste.\*\*
- Elimination of plastics\*\*
- Anaerobic Digesters - Recycling Waste for Energy back to grid\*\*
- Reducing, Reusing, Recycling Construction & Demolition Debris\*\*
- Bottle Bill in NH for funding\*\*\*
- Sustainable solid waste agreement
- Eliminate plastic bags\*\*

# **Large Group Discussion**

**If we have time, share one or two priority projects by sector.**

**All of the ideas and priorities captured during today's meeting and small groups will be recorded and inform NH's Priority and Comprehensive Climate Action Plans (PCAP and CCAP)**

# Considering for Next Time:

- Considering many of the priorities and projects identified today and elsewhere, what will it take to put these into action?
- What can we do together to best engage or talk with local community members/local shareholders in these conversations? Especially in these projects that will need coalitions/teams of people working together?

## Cross-Sector Stakeholder Meetings

**Meeting 2:** January 11, 2024 - 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM | Registration:

<https://unh.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJArfu2pqjouHtywQWniClQOe2m31QiLYLr7>

**Meeting 3:** February 8, 2024 - 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM | Registration:

<https://unh.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpduorzovGtPk3D9LR3SdMf5buWT1SLXW>



# Join us for community conversations local people, local priorities, and local solutions!

## In Person

[Register for any of the dates and times below for online community conversations.](#)

Air pollution affects us all in our homes, at work, where we and our families learn, and where we play. The State of New Hampshire needs to hear from local community members interested in, and already working on, air pollution reductions! Your priorities could become funded projects.

## Online

[Register for this online session](#)

Tuesday, January 9 | 5 PM

[Register for this online session](#)

Wednesday, January 24 | 6:30 PM

[Register for the Greater Capitol Region Conversation](#)

Tuesday, January 16 | 5 PM | Concord, NH

[Register for the Greater Seacoast Conversation](#)

Wednesday, January 17 | 5:30 PM | Hampton, NH

[Register for the Greater Nashua Conversation](#)

Thursday, January 18 | 5 PM | Nashua, NH

[Register for the Greater Connecticut River Valley Conversation](#)

Thursday, January 25 | 5:30 PM | Claremont, NH

[Register for the Greater Monadnock Conversation](#)

Thursday, January 25 | 6 PM | Winchester, NH

[Register for the first North Country Region Conversation](#)

Wednesday, January 31 | 5 PM | Berlin, NH

[Register for the Greater Manchester Conversation](#)

Thursday, February 1 | 5 PM | Manchester, NH

[Register for the second North Country Region Conversation](#)

Wednesday, February 7 | 5 PM | Colebrook, NH

# Thank you! Updating New Hampshire's Climate Action Plan

[Complete additional feedback form about this work](#)

[All engagement events and info](#)

Next Cross-Sector Stakeholder Meetings: **Jan. 11, 2024 & Feb. 8, 2024**



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