



Developing New Hampshire's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

Technical Input Session 4: Electrical Generation and/or Use *Summary Report by NH Listens, April 2025*

Purpose and Background

In August 2023, New Hampshire was granted federal funding to update New Hampshire's Climate Action Plan to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The four-year program runs from 2023–2027. Objectives of the plan are to:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions while supporting the creation of good jobs and lowering energy costs for families.
- Empower community-driven solutions in neighborhoods overburdened from pollution and impacts of climate change by directly seeking input from those communities.
- Deliver cleaner air by reducing harmful air pollution in places where people live, work, play, and go to school.

These plans are part of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. **They lead to additional implementation funding that will support community-engaged projects** with an effort to focus on investments in Low Income Disadvantaged Communities (LIDAC) across the economic sectors of air pollution and greenhouse gas reductions.

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

Between January 2025 and May 2025, NH Listens is hosting a series of conversations, or Technical Input Sessions, for people to learn, listen, and inform a CCAP for the state. The CCAP allows NHDES to identify strategies and measures to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the near- and long-term. The CCAP must touch on all significant GHG sources and sinks across economic sectors present in New Hampshire.

Technical Input Sessions provide opportunities for NH agencies, outside experts, stakeholders, and the public to discuss and vet potential GHG emission reduction measures for inclusion in the CCAP. The five Technical Input Session conversations are organized by these economic sectors defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):



- Transportation
- Commercial and Residential Buildings
- Electrical Generation and/or Use
- Agriculture and Natural/Working Lands
- Industry and Waste/Materials Management

Goals, Facilitation, and Participation

On April 16, 2025, NH Listens and NHDES held the fourth technical input session for the Electricity Generation and/or Use sectors. The purpose of this gathering was to:

- Provide context about New Hampshire's greenhouse gas inventory.
- Draft preliminary strategies to reduce GHG emissions in the sector.
- Share models for analyzing measures.

In addition, NHDES engaged participants in discussions about their experience in the sector regarding modeling, innovative practices, cross-collaboration, and barriers to implementation.

Participants engaged in a workshop that allowed them to review possible strategies that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase efficiency. The potential strategies prepared were derived from previous meetings, including individual interviews with statewide providers, cross-sector stakeholder conversations, and community conversations.

During the workshops, NH Listens helped keep time, facilitated group discussion, and made sure everyone who attended had a chance to contribute. **8 people attended the session, 18 people registered.** Collectively, they named key considerations and priorities relevant to CCAP planning in the Electricity Generation and/or Use sectors.

Focus Areas

The focus areas for this session were:

- Support Consumer Choice for Renewable Electricity
- Foster Voluntary Innovation, Investment, and Public Engagement in Clean Energy

NHDES provided relevant information through slides and corresponding guidance documents to inform participants on the measures' alignments with EPA's required elements. Participants reviewed these measures and provided feedback on their appropriateness; they also suggested additional actions to ensure a comprehensive and effective implementation approach ([find agendas and guidance documents on the NHDES CCAP landing page](#)). The potential measures prepared were derived from previous meetings, including individual interviews with statewide providers, cross-sector stakeholder conversations, and community conversations.



Themes and Key Points

During the technical input sessions, participants provided information and resources related to their experience in the sector. See **Resources** for the full list of organizations, programs, reports, and case studies shared by participants in this session.

Strategy 1: Support Consumer Choice for Renewable Electricity

Measure 1.1. Highlight Opportunities of Community Power Programs

- Discussion of virtual power plants as a potential future measure.
- Reference to LEAN Energy US' 2023 study on Community Choice Aggregation.
- Conversation about renewable energy purchasing and the varying value of RECs (Renewable Energy Certificates).
- NH Class 1 RECs tend to be more expensive than those from other regions.
- Community power net energy metering was highlighted as an example, enabled by legislation allowing 5 MW of energy to be purchased by municipalities within service areas.

Measure 1.2. Highlight Opportunities of Power Purchase Agreements to Support Distributed Energy Resources (DERs)

- Discussion of Encore replacing net-metering arrangements.
- PPAs (Power Purchase Agreements) were noted as beneficial for municipalities since developers can better utilize tax credits.
- Under the Inflation Reduction Act, there is a direct provision allowing municipalities to take advantage of tax credits more directly.
- PPAs enable purchasers to avoid taking on capital costs and associated risks.

Strategy 2: Foster Voluntary Innovation, Investment, and Public Engagement in Clean Energy

Measure 2.1. Voluntary Clean Energy Challenges and Recognition Programs

- Communities joining CPCNH have options for renewable energy levels, with only 2–3 communities choosing the higher 33% renewables option.
- Communities can change their default option every 6 months based on local priorities.



- Discussion of sustainability fairs and EV events being organized by communities.
- Example provided of Tamworth’s EV Expo.

Measure 2.2. Community and Public-Private Pilot Projects for Innovation

- Communities can add a small “discretionary adder” to bills to build reserves for municipal energy project investments.
- UNH’s thermal energy storage site was mentioned as a recent innovative project.

Measure 2.3. Encourage Public Participation in Electricity Generation Decisions and Planning

- Suggestion to include CPCNH’s bill tracker as a resource.
- References to working groups and resources from New Hampshire Network, Clean Energy NH, and NH Healthy Networks.
- Discussion of variance in community efforts based on local appetite and volunteer capacity.
- Mention of peaker plants considering transition to battery solutions.
- Reference to Dover’s Citywide Resilience Plan as a useful resource for community planning efforts.

Climate Action in New Hampshire

Across the five technical input sessions hosted in April, participants identified the following programs and projects as being instances of great climate action work being done in New Hampshire and the greater New England Region.

Transportation	<u>NHDES is working on a project under the New Hampshire Clean Diesel Grant Program to reduce truck stop idling in Raymond, NH.</u>
Buildings	<u>In Epsom, NH, Blasted Bough Brewing Company’s solar coexists with agricultural operations,</u> including sheep grazing where panels provide shade.
Electricity Generation	<u>Community Power Coalition of NH’s non-profit alternative to for-profit utilities has helped drive down electricity rates statewide,</u> while offering clean energy-focused portfolios.



**Agriculture and Natural
& Working Lands**

[The Cheshire County Conservation District has a Farm Equipment Rental program](#) that supports and empowers local farmers to build climate resilience throughout the state.

**Industry and Waste &
Materials Management**

[New Hampshire Network's Plastics Working Group launched a pilot program to reduce the use of single-use plastic.](#)

Resources

Participant-Shared Resources

Articles and Research

Amestam, S. (2024, Feb 13). Things are heating up, while UNH is cooling down. *UNH Sustainability*. <https://www.unh.edu/sustainability/blog/2024/02/things-are-heating-while-unh-cooling-down>

Dépit, C. (2023, June). Community Choice Aggregation. *Local Energy Association Network*. <https://www.leanenergyus.org/2023-cca-study>

Kinson, J. (2017, Aug 11). Energy Storage Strategies for the University of New Hampshire: A Feasibility Analysis of Energy Storage Opportunities on the Durham Campus. <https://hub.aashe.org/browse/publication/18926/Energy-Storage-Strategies-for-the-University-of-New-Hampshire-A-Feasibility-Analysis-of-Energy-Storage-Opportunities-on-the-Durham-Campus>

Resources and Organizations

Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. <https://www.cpcnh.org/about>

Citywide Resilience Plan (2023). *City of Dover, New Hampshire*. https://www.dover.nh.gov/Assets/government/city-operations/2document/planning/Resilience-MPC/Citywide%20Resilience%20Plan_ADOPTED_use.pdf

Demand Response for Home Battery Storage. *Eversource*. <https://www.eversource.com/content/residential/save-money-energy/energy-efficiency-programs/demand-response/battery-storage-demand-response>

Energy. *UNH Sustainability*. <https://www.unh.edu/sustainability/campus-initiatives/energy>

NH Bill Actions. *New Hampshire Network*. <https://www.newhampshirenetwork.org/NH-bills>



Tamworth EV & Classic Car Expo. *Drive Electric Earth Month.*

<https://driveelectricearthmonth.org/event?eventid=4649>

Working Groups. *New Hampshire Network.* <https://www.newhampshirenetwork.org/working-groups/working-groups-overview>

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