Developing New Hampshire's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

Technical Input Session 5:
Industry & Waste/Materials Management

Summary Report by NH Listens, May 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 May 15, 2025, NH Listens and NHDES held the fifth and final technical input session for the Industry & Waste/Materials Management 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 (*find agendas and guidance documents on the NHDES CCAP landing page*). 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 Industry & Waste/Materials Management sectors.

*Thank you to **Jamie Green**, Hypertherm, and **Ian Moore**, ProAmpac, for participating as guest speakers for this session.*

Focus Areas

The focus area for this session was:

- Increased Efficiency and Reduced Emissions at Manufacturing/Industrial Facilities

NHDES provided relevant information through slides and corresponding guidance documents to inform participants on the measures' alignments with EPA's required elements. **Participants re-viewed 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: Increased Efficiency and Reduced Emissions at Manufacturing and Industrial Facilities

Measure 1.1. Reduced Emissions and Electrification within Production Lines

- Participants emphasized the importance of businesses prioritizing internal operational changes (e.g., electrification, efficiency improvements) over external-facing solutions like carbon offsets for meaningful emissions reduction.
- A white paper on Interface, a carpet tile company, was cited as a strong example of a company adopting long-term, comprehensive strategies to lower emissions across all aspects of production.

Measure 1.2. Efficiency and Waste Reduction in Operations, Processing, and Distribution

- Water savings at industrial facilities can yield regional benefits, such as freeing up water resources for other businesses or supporting new housing development and demonstrating the interconnected value of resource efficiency.
- Sustainable Lebanon organized a successful Styrofoam recycling drive, illustrating how community-business collaboration can reduce waste.

Measure 1.3. Encourage Businesses to Set Emission and Waste Goals to Expand into Larger Markets/Networks

- Emissions reduction goals for businesses and communities are influenced by local zoning policies and infrastructure—such as the availability of multi-modal transportation options (e.g., bus services).
- Effective emissions strategies should include planning for accessible transit and land use, which can support business sustainability and broader environmental goals.

Climate Action in New Hampshire

Across the five technical input sessions hosted in May, 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	The Volkswagen Mitigation Trust has been utilized as a funding mechanism for electric vehicle charging infrastructure development in New Hampshire.
Buildings	The town of Peterborough, NH, has adopted heat pump policies to encourage building electrification.
Electricity Generation	Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire's non-profit alternative to for-profit utilities has helped drive down electricity rates statewide, while offering clean energy-focused portfolios.
Agriculture and Natural & Working Lands	In Walpole, NH, a local brownfield was transformed into a public parking lot—featuring the town's first EV chargers.
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

A Sense of Purpose: Larry Fink's 2018 Letter to CEOs. *BlackRock*. https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/investor-relations/2018-larry-fink-ceo-letter

Cote, C. (2021, Apr 13). Making the Business Case for Sustainability. *Harvard Business School Online*. https://online.hbs.edu/blog/post/business-case-for-sustainability

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