

# Developing a Voluntary Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for NH

NH Listens is working on behalf of the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to design and facilitate community engagement for the development of a voluntary Climate Action for NH.

A part of the engagement design for NHDES is to survey the public through the UNH Survey Center's Granite State Poll and Panel. The following slides provide an overview of findings through January 2026. They will be updates annually.

Full summary reports of all three surveys are linked here: <https://carsey.unh.edu/new-hampshire-listens/engage-ccap-process>, under "Background Materials and CCAP Engagement Support."

This summary was updated in February 2026.



# Opinions about climate change across inputs

	Granite State Poll Jan 2024	Climate & Air Pollution Survey Oct 2025	Granite State Poll Feb 2025	Granite State Poll Jan 2026
 % of NH residents that believe climate change is happening now, <u>caused mainly by human activities</u>	60%	60%	55%	57%
 % of NH residents that believe climate change is happening now but is <u>caused mainly by natural forces</u>	27%	28%	34%	31%
 % of NH residents that believe climate change is <u>not happening now</u>	7%	8%	8%	9%

# Opinions on prioritizing air pollution reductions to help address climate change across inputs

	Granite State Poll Jan 2024	Climate & Air Pollution Survey Oct 2025	Granite State Poll Feb 2025	Granite State Poll Jan 2026
 % of NH residents that think it should be a <u>very high or high priority</u> for New Hampshire to reduce air pollution to address climate change	<b>52%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>47%</b>
 % of NH residents that think it should be a <u>medium priority</u> for New Hampshire to reduce air pollution	<b>19%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>22%</b>
 % of NH residents that think it should be a <u>low or very low priority</u> for New Hampshire to reduce air pollution	<b>27%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>29%</b>

# Granite State Poll



## **Aim of the two poll questions:**

To better understand NH residents' experiences and attitudes concerning transportation, their home, and the environment.



## **Two questions per year**

The questions are included each year of the grant, 4 years total.  
The questions are also included in both distributions of standalone Climate and Air Pollution survey.



## **A representative group of NH residents answered the two questions.**

2,239 Granite State Panel members completed the poll questions online in January 2026. Previously, 1,444 completed the poll in February 2025 and 1,864 in January 2024.  
The response rate was 35%.  
The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 2.1 percent in January 2026.



## **Survey insights that the data provides include:**

Who in NH supports or opposes efforts to reduce air pollution as it relates to beliefs around climate change.  
How the public perceives air pollution as a problem in NH.  
How perceptions around climate change and air pollution are shifting over time.

# Climate Change Opinions – January 2024 Findings



**60% of NH residents believe climate change is happening now, caused mainly by human activities.**

Self-described progressives, socialists, liberals, moderates, those with a college degree or more education, and those who have lived in NH for 20 years or less are more likely to believe this.



**27% believe climate change is happening now but is caused mainly by natural forces.**

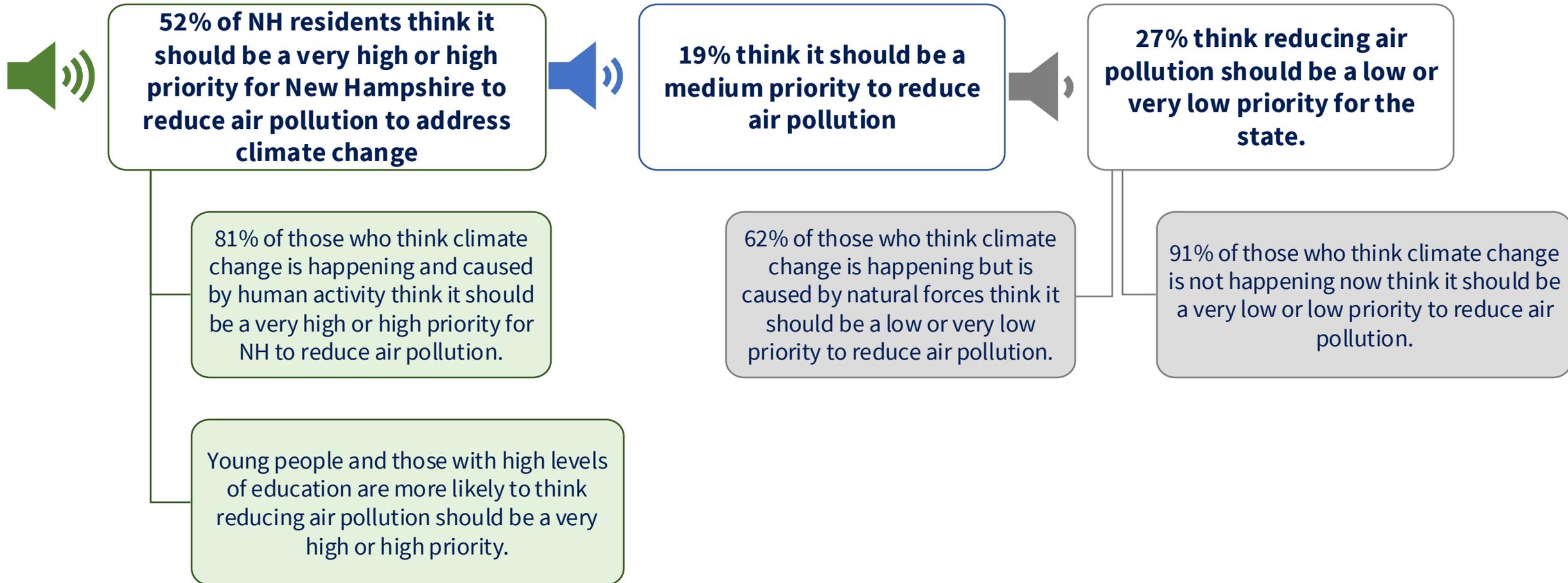
Self-described conservatives, libertarians, and men are most likely to believe this.



**7% believe climate change is not happening now.**

Self-described conservatives are more likely to believe this.

# Opinions on prioritizing air pollution reductions to help address climate change - January 2024 Findings



# Climate Change Opinions – February 2025 Findings



**55% of NH residents believe climate change is happening now, caused mainly by human activities.**

Harris 2024 voters, self-described Democrats, Seacoast residents, NHPR listeners, those with a college degree or more education, CNN and MSNBC viewers, those with a household income below \$45,000, and women are more likely to believe this.



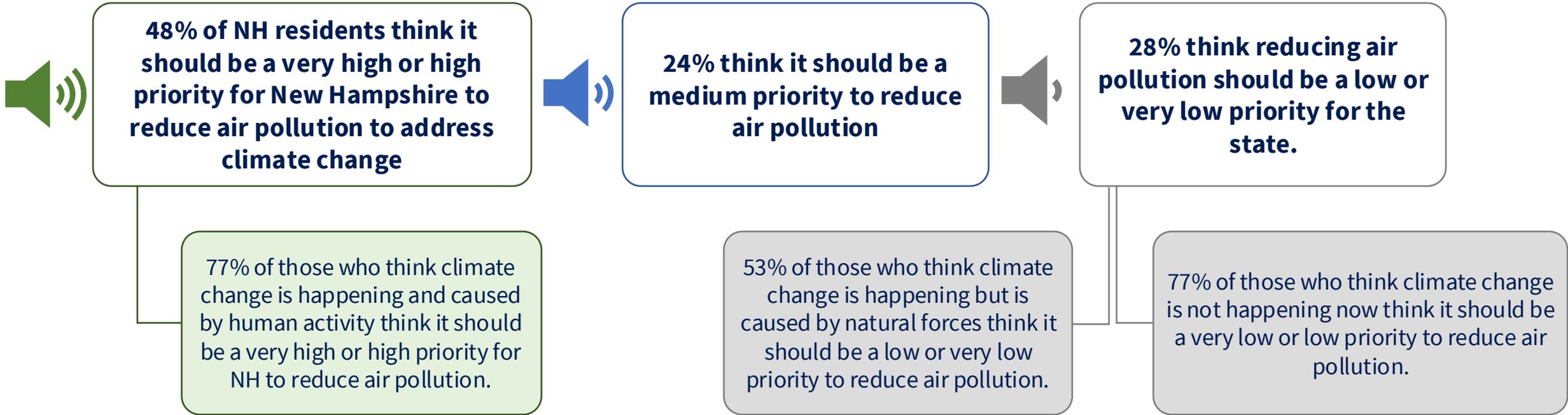
**34% believe climate change is happening now but is caused mainly by natural forces.**

Conservative radio listeners, Trump 2024 voters, those who did not vote in 2024, self-identified Republicans, Fox News viewers, those who do not identify as White/Caucasian only, those with a household income of \$45,000 to \$74,999, Central/Lakes Region residents, and men are more likely to believe this.



**8% believe climate change is not happening now.**

# Opinions on prioritizing air pollution reductions to help address climate change across - February 2025 Findings



# Climate Change Opinions – January 2026 Findings



**57% of NH residents believe climate change is happening now, caused mainly by human activities.**

Self-identified Democrats, self-described liberals and progressives, Seacoast residents, those who have completed postgraduate work, those who have lived in New Hampshire for 10 years or less, and those who have never been married are more likely to believe this.



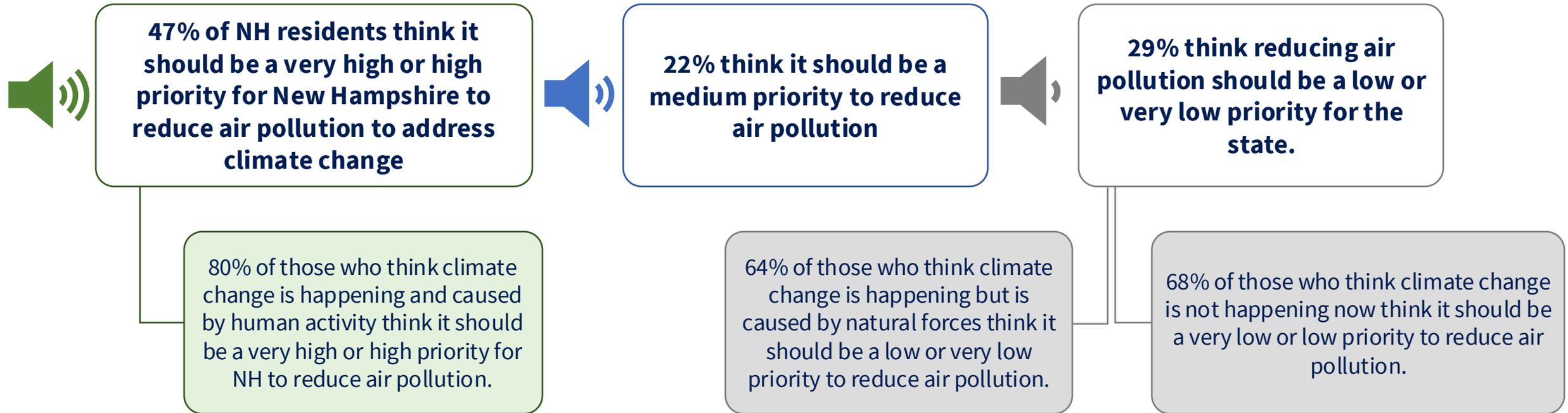
**31% believe climate change is happening now but is caused mainly by natural forces.**

Self-described conservatives and libertarians, self-identified Republicans, those who are divorced, separated or widowed, Connecticut Valley residents, and those aged 50 to 64 are more likely to believe this.



**9% believe climate change is not happening now.**

# Opinions on prioritizing air pollution reductions to help address climate change across -January 2026 Findings



# Climate & Air Pollution Survey - October 2024 Findings



## Aim of the survey:

To better understand NH residents' experiences and attitudes concerning transportation, their home, and the environment.



## A representative group of NH residents received the survey.

UNH Survey Center distributed this standalone survey to Granite State Panel members.  
The survey included the two Granite State Poll Questions.



## Respondents and response rate

1,278 Granite State Panel members completed the survey online.  
The response rate for this survey was 32%.  
The margin of sampling error was +/- 2.7 percent.



## Greenhouse gas (GHG) economic sectors informed by findings:

Transportation  
Buildings (Residential)  
Electricity Generation and Use



## Survey insights that the data provides

NH Residents' attitudes, behaviors, and values related to potential CCAP measures.  
Public support for incentives and GHG mitigation strategies  
This survey will be sent out again in 2026/2027.

# Focus on Home Heating and Shifting to New Systems



## About the respondents:

*Homeownership:*  
 67% - NH residents own their home  
 22% - Rent their home

*Primary Fuel Sources for Home Heating:*  
 41% - Heating oil  
 20% - Natural gas:  
 18% - Propane  
 9% - Wood  
 7% - Electric  
 5% - Wood pellets



## Homeowner plans to change heating systems:

58% - No timeframe for installing a new primary home heating system  
 50% - Plan to install the same type of system they have now  
 28% - Plan to change to a new type of system; higher for those with:  
     51% - Wood  
     50% - Wood pellets  
     45% - Electric



## Reasons to change:

75% - To increase energy efficiency  
 56% - To lower energy costs  
 49% - To get away from fossil fuels



## Incentives to speed up adoption of new heating systems:

48% - Rebates  
 43% - Tax credits  
 18% - Easily accessible information on cost and operation of heating systems  
 13% - Easily accessible information on installers of heating systems  
 40% - None of these

# Residential Solar Use and Going Solar



## About the respondents:

- 10% - Of homeowners have solar panels installed at their home.
- 22% - Rates are higher among Connecticut Valley residents



## Who has plans to go solar?

- 20% - Of homeowners without solar panels say they are likely to install them within 10 years.  
*Left-leaning, younger, higher-educated, and Seacoast residents are more likely to say this.*

### *Home purchasing:*

- 36% - Of homeowners would be more likely to purchase a home if solar panels were already installed.



## Who doesn't?

- 72% - Unlikely to install solar panels within the next 10 years.  
*Self-described conservatives, those with a high school education or less, and those aged 65+ are more likely to say this.*

### *Reasons against installing:*

- 31% - Can't afford the installation costs
- 26% - Don't feel solar panels will save money
- 25% - Home doesn't get enough sunlight



## What would incentivize people to go solar?

- 45% - Rebates
  - 42% - Tax credits
  - 36% - Incentives for manufacturers/distributors to lower homeowner costs
- Need accessible information:*
- 25% - Cost & operation of solar panels
  - 18% - Solar panel installers

# Personal Vehicle Usage and Opinions about Shifting to Electric



## About the respondents:

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- 86% - Say their primary personal vehicle is powered by gasoline.
- 10% - Have a hybrid, electric, or plug-in hybrid vehicle.



## What would incentivize them?

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- 29% - Incentives to install home chargers
- 27% - Tax credits for vehicle purchasing
- 24% - Public charging along highways
- 24% - Public charging at recreation sites
- 23% - Public charging in downtown areas
- 23% - Rebates
- 51% - None of these



## Support for policies/funding:

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- 56% - Think incentives for EVs should be available to all consumers.
- 49% - Think that NH should invest in public charging stations.

# Transportation options and reasons against public or active alternatives



## About the respondents:

93% - Used a personal vehicle to get around NH in the past year.

### *Alternative Transportation use in the past year:*

25% - Walking

14% - Regional bus service

11% - Biking

10% - Taxi or ride-share program

6% - Moped or motorcycle

5% - Train

4% - Public bus



## Reason against public transit:

54% - Public transit unavailable near home

42% - Personal transportation meets needs

25% - Transit routes don't go to needed destinations

25% - Enjoy driving

19% - Transit schedules don't meet needs

13% - Takes too much time

7% - Don't feel comfortable using public transit



## Reasons against active transit:

54% - Live too far from destinations

32% - Personal transportation meets needs

27% - Roads are too dangerous

21% - Physical limitations

19% - Enjoy driving

14% - Takes too much time

13% - Lack of dedicated walking/biking paths

# Transport options and expanding alternative modes



## Would people use public transit more if it were expanded?

### *Would definitely/probably use:*

- 53% - Trains
- 35% - Buses
- 28% - Public buses
- 21% - Taxis/ride-shares



## A majority support expanding alternative transit options.

66% - Expanding public transit supports economic growth in NH

### *Public transit should be a:*

- 48% - Viable option all over the state, even in rural communities
- 27% - Viable option for urban areas to support people without a car
- 18% - Social service so people who cannot drive can meet their needs



## The state should invest:

- 66% - Money to increase public transit
- 60% - In expanding walking and biking paths

# Further Opportunities to Learn and Engage

**Send comments and ideas to the NHDES CPRG team:**  
[cprg@des.nh.gov](mailto:cprg@des.nh.gov)

**Learn about the CCAP process and other CPRG work at NHDES:**  
<https://www.des.nh.gov/comprehensive-climate-action-plan>

**Summary reports of the CCAP Technical Input Sessions and Survey Findings are linked here:**  
<https://carsey.unh.edu/new-hampshire-listens/engage-ccap-process>

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