

NH Climate Action Plan
Annual Progress Review 2010
OVERVIEW

Governor John Lynch established the Climate Change Policy Task Force for the State of New Hampshire in 2007 and charged the group to develop a plan for achieving the greatest feasible reductions in greenhouse gas emissions while also providing the greatest possible long-term economic benefit to the citizens of New Hampshire. Following 18 months of intensive efforts, the 29-member Climate Change Policy Task Force, with the help and participation of over 125 stakeholders and input from over 200 citizens, released the New Hampshire Climate Action Plan in March 2009.

The Climate Action Plan included some 67 Recommended Actions for addressing the State's energy needs while also strengthening the economy and reducing the threats of climate change. One recommendation was that a group of leaders from the business, non-profit, and public sectors come together to help track and support the Plan's implementation. The group, known as the NH Energy and Climate Collaborative (The Collaborative), began meeting in May 2009, recognizing that implementation of the Recommended Actions in the Plan requires a broad committed and diverse effort across the state and across all sectors. The group also recognized the importance of tracking, communicating, and reporting on progress toward implementation of the Plan, as well as the importance of providing a forum (with oversight from the leaders of all sectors) to discuss opportunities, challenges and gaps in implementation efforts.

Over the past year, the Collaborative has:

- Served as a hub for information on statewide energy and climate action in NH
- Created connections among institutions, individuals, and networks that are active in the New Hampshire energy and climate arena
- Provided a forum for problem solving on energy and climate issues in the state that are not addressed by existing institutions, individuals, and networks
- Tracked progress of statewide actions against the 67 recommendations in the Climate Action Plan
- Shared stories through a variety of communication avenues.

In the past year, since the release of the Climate Action Plan:

- Auctions of allowances for emissions of carbon dioxide from electric power plants conducted under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative raised \$24 million for energy efficiency projects in New Hampshire between September 2008 and June 2010, which in the first round of grants resulted in:
 - More than 30 energy efficiency training opportunities;
 - More than 709 people trained in energy efficiency;
 - 500 efficiency projects complete or underway; and
 - More than 185 buildings received energy audits or benchmarking information.
- In fiscal year 2010, the Renewable Energy Fund disbursed \$1.34 million to 237 homeowners for distributed electric generation facilities such as solar photovoltaics and wind turbines.
- The Green Launching Pad, administered by the University of New Hampshire, was established to provide a mechanism for start-up green companies to obtain some funding through a competitive technology program.
- Through the Municipal Energy Assistance Program, 47 New Hampshire towns are measuring and beginning to manage energy use and become project-ready.
- Retail Merchants Association of NH, through its Energy Efficiency Program, met its year one goal of enrolling 25 businesses into its energy retrofit demonstration project within nine months.

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) was created to stimulate the economy and these grants will inject a total of more than \$70 million dollars into New Hampshire's economy for energy related projects.

In addition, through the Collaborative's Social Process Tracking Database, over fifty implementing partners have been identified and many success stories shared on efforts to implement the Climate Action Plan since its release in March 2009.

Although much progress has been made on implementation of the Plan, New Hampshire has a lot of work left to do. The Granite State can only meet the goals in the Climate Action Plan with everyone's support and involvement. Every citizen, business, municipality and organization has a role to play in implementing the Plan.

To learn more about the Annual Progress Review and how to Get Involved in implementation efforts, visit the Collaborative's website at: <http://nhcollaborative.org/APR.shtml>.