

New Hampshire Climate Action Plan

A Plan for New Hampshire's Energy, Environmental and Economic Development Future
(Prepared by the NH Department of Environmental Services for the Climate Change Policy Task Force)

A Call to Action

The New Hampshire Climate Action Plan is a blueprint for addressing the climate change challenge in New Hampshire over the next half century. It calls for **achieving the greatest feasible reductions in greenhouse gas emissions while also providing the greatest possible long-term economic benefits**. Everyone – government, businesses, and individuals – can play a part in reaching the goals in the Plan by reducing energy use and developing renewable energy sources. Doing so will save money and will have wide-ranging economic and environmental benefits.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals:

Mid-Term Goal – Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2025

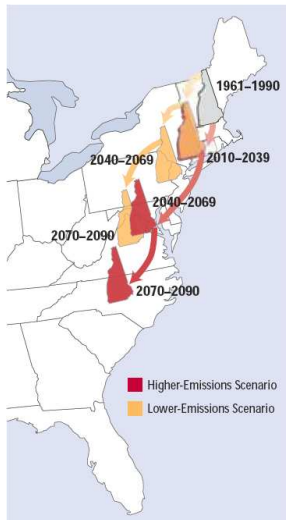
Long-Term Goal – Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050

“No-Regrets” Approach and Benefits of Taking Action

The recommendations in the Plan are based on the “no-regrets” principle that what’s good for the environment will also be good for the economy. This means that actions taken to address climate change will also simultaneously achieve environmental, economic, and societal benefits that are worthwhile and important on their own including to:

- **Promote the growth of new jobs and energy technology development.**
- **Reduce the cost of energy.**
- **Encourage the sustainable growth that preserves New Hampshire’s quality of life.**

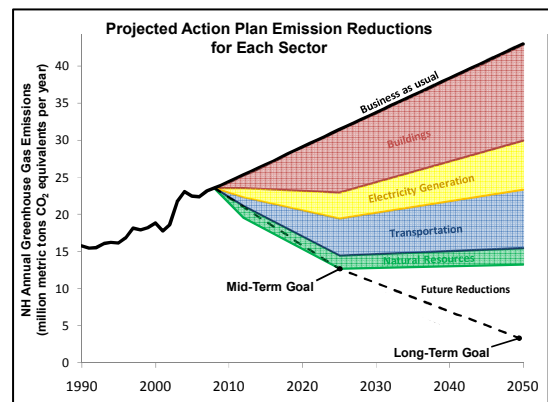
Why Immediate Action is Needed – Our Changing Climate



Changes are already occurring in New England’s climate – warmer winters, reduced snowfall, increased rainfall, rising sea level, and more severe weather events that result in an increased risk of flooding. These changes are projected to grow in severity and could include other impacts such as stresses on fisheries, decreases in winter recreational activities, alterations to forest quality and productivity, and increases in heat-related illnesses. According to the 2007 Northeast Climate Impacts Assessment, by late in this century, New Hampshire’s climate will more closely resemble that of North Carolina. A failure to act to address climate change is expected to result in increased impacts and costs to New Hampshire.

Reaching the Goals in the Plan

The Plan contains 67 recommended actions that will be sufficient to achieve the mid-term reduction goal and establish a framework for taking additional measures to reach the long-term goal. The greatest reductions would come from improvements in the building sector, followed by the transportation and the electric generation sectors.



Highlights of the Recommendations in the Plan

Maximize Energy Efficiency in Buildings

In New Hampshire, about one-third of the energy consumed is used to heat buildings and structures and over one-third is used to generate electricity, much of which is used in buildings.

If existing homes could reduce their energy use by 60 percent, in the year 2025 we would realize a net savings of nearly \$1.6 billion annually.

Examples of what to do include to:

- √ *Ensure that buildings and homes are adequately sealed and insulated.*
- √ *Keep heating and cooling systems properly maintained and operated.*
- √ *Upgrade heating and cooling systems to be more efficient if possible.*
- √ *Use the most energy efficient lighting, appliances and other electrical equipment.*

Reduce Fuel Consumption in the Transportation Sector

The transportation sector is the most significant single source of greenhouse gas emissions in the state, and its relative contribution is projected to increase further based on current trends.

New Hampshire citizens consume 700 million gallons of gas and 200 million gallons of diesel fuel annually, and travel approximately 15.7 billion miles on the state's roads and bridges.

Examples of what to do include to:

- √ *Drive the most fuel efficient vehicle possible.*
- √ *Drive efficiently – Reduce idling, observe the speed limit, avoid rapid acceleration and breaking.*
- √ *Reduce trips by combining errands.*
- √ *Use alternative modes of transportation – take the bus or train, walk, bike, and carpool.*
- √ *Plan and develop communities that encourage compact, mixed-use designs.*

Increase Renewable and Cleaner Sources of Energy

Using homegrown and renewable resources can reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels and create new jobs and economic opportunities for New Hampshire's people and businesses.

The greenhouse gas carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere for, on average, 100 years once it is emitted.

Examples of what to do include to:

- √ *Use solar thermal power for heat and hot water.*
- √ *Use wood for heating and producing electricity.*
- √ *Combine heat and electrical generating systems.*

Adapt to a Changing Climate

By preparing for climate change now, the state can avoid significant costs, whether economic, social or ecological, in the future by:

- √ *Increasing resilience to extreme weather events (built environment/communities);*
- √ *Strengthening protection of New Hampshire's natural systems; and*
- √ *Strengthening the adaptability of New Hampshire's economy (e.g., recreation and natural resource based economy) to climate change.*

For information on the New Hampshire Climate Action Plan and steps you can take to reduce energy use and increase energy efficiency, contact the NH Department of Environmental Services at 271-1370 or visit www.des.nh.gov or the Office of Energy and Planning at 271- 2155 or visit www.nh.gov/oep/.