

**New Hampshire Climate Change Policy Task Force**  
**Climate Change Action Plan**  
Public Listening Session  
New Hampshire State House  
February 19, 2008

**Summary of Testimony**

- Twenty-nine (29) members of the public provided commentary on the climate change action plan
- Four (4) themes occurred most frequently accounting for 1/3 of the comments
  - Climate Change Action Goals
    - The state should be bold and take a leadership role
    - The plan needs strong specific goals
    - Must take a systems approach and integrate all sectors
    - Must reflect the urgency of the issue
  - Transportation
    - A very important issue to address
    - Cars need to have better fuel economy
    - There needs to be greater emphasis on anti-idling
    - Public transportation needs to be strengthened
    - Carpooling needs to increase
    - Fees should be used (e.g., for parking, for less efficient vehicles)
    - There needs to be better planning
    - Need more park and rides
    - Roads should not be expanded
    - Alternative fuels were also mentioned
  - Clean Energy Sources
    - Renewable energy needs to be expanded including
      - Combined heat and power (CHP)
      - Capturing waste heat
    - Needs incentives
    - Nuclear should be avoided (3:1 ratio of critics to supporters)
  - Education
    - Anti-idling
    - School curriculum
    - Influencing local decision-making

## Testimony

### 1. Sally Davis – Thornton, NH

*Conservation Commission*

Observations:

- When considering an addition to a school, if the payback is less than 5 years it is not acceptable to consider any energy efficiency
- Unsure of who to ask about conducting an energy audit - the Jordan Institute?
- School board is not aware of the opportunities for energy efficiency
  
- How @ local level do we influence decisions?
  - To get more attention
  - A frustration
  - Make impact at local level

### 2. Marjorie Rogalski – Hanover, NH

*Local Energy Committee/Sierra Club/Carbon Coalition –*

Questions:

- Wondered if there could be an update on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

Recommendations:

- Look at more local sources of energy generation since 30% of energy can be lost in transmission lines
- The Task Force should work with local energy committee
- Lead by example
  - The state should pursue Energy Star or LEED certified buildings at a minimum
  - The state fleet should use hybrids and have anti-idling program
- There should be a decrease in the amount of paving and the installation of green roofs in order to reduce impervious surfaces and runoff

Follow-Up at the end:

- Need to include tidal and wind power even if there are objections to the sight of windmills. They are necessary as we do not have enough time to achieve reductions before we are impacted by climate change.

**3. Eric Orff – Epsom, NH**

*Retired from Fish & Game/ Biologist/Member of NH Fish and Wildlife Foundation*

Observations:

- Fish and wildlife are an important part of the economy
- Noticed significant changes in wildlife
- Hunters & Fisherman, who contribute 150,000 - \$75,000 /day to economy, have also seen charges
- There has been a decline in silver herring
  - Taylor River had runs recently of 400,000 silver herring (anadromous fish) which declined 2 years ago to hundreds
- The coastal streams warmed removing oxygen from the water and killing eggs
  - This hurts striped bass, a valuable sport fish
- Sports shops have been hurt by the lack of ice and they want action on this issue

Recommendations:

- The Task Force should ask the delegation to congress to support the Lieberman/Warner act to pass a Cap & Trade program
- Provided extensive documentation of sportsmen's interest in addressing climate change

**4. Chris Nard – Newton, NH**

Recommendations:

- Replacing existing electrical generating facilities with non-polluting, safe, sustainable energy sources as quickly as possible.
  - Include tidal, wind, solar, geothermal and energy efficiency
- This should not include nuclear because of economic and health & safety reasons
  - Economic
    - Nuclear is seven times less cost effective at removing carbon
    - \$2 billion to \$5 billion to build a new plant – instead use this investment in energy efficiency - will see 7x more reductions in carbon emissions
      - Alternatives to investment nuclear include energy efficiency in buildings and transportation
      - For every \$100 dollars that is invested in nuclear an extra ton of CO<sub>2</sub> goes into the atmosphere
  - Health and Safety
    - No baseline threshold below which radiation level is safe
    - Nuclear waste problem is a national security problem
    - Draft options include the term “non-emitting” generation – if this is a code for atomic power, then it should be listed with its nuclear emissions

**5. Steve White – Rye, NH**

*Member of the Rye Energy Committee*

Recommendations:

- Transportation is most significant issue we have to need to address
  - Need to drive less
  - Make better car choices
  - Develop incentives and user fees
    - \$2-3 highway tolls
  - Encourage car pools and buses
    - They could be toll free
  - Need more Part & Rides
    - Placed at every exit
    - Match them with transportation hubs to pick up a bus
    - 101 West/Route 4 needs more park and rides
  - Buses – taxes and user fees should be used to subsidize buses
  - No more free parking
    - Develop a tax on # parking spaces
      - A certain amount for each meter for a year to encourage and expand public transit
      - Tax parking spaces at malls to help down town stores
  - Develop user fees based on mileage drivers
    - State excise tax should be based on miles per gallon plus miles driven
    - Rebate for cars with high fuel economy
    - Use incentive for businesses to encourage car pool

**6. Mimi White - Rye, NH**

*Member of the Rye Energy Committee*

Recommendations:

- Go back to 55 miles/hour speed limit
- Create a bus lane on highways
- For the electric grid – encourage local – residents and municipalities – to generate their own power
  - Create incentives for generation and remove penalties
- Subsidize local farming - for food rather than for fuel
- Ask the Governor to hang his clothes on a clothesline

**7. Lucy Neiman – Rye, NH**

*Member of the Rye Energy Committee*

Recommendations:

- Develop a cooperative regional transportation effort
  - Include a dedicated bus lane
- Create incentives to encourage green industry to develop
  - Cited Apollo's Fire: Igniting America's Clean Energy Future
  - Cellulosic ethanol may be an option for NH as this process does not require corn
  - Should create incentives for new technologies such as biomass generation which are unique to NH – need to bring jobs to the state

**8. Bill Klapproth – Concord, NH**

Observations:

- Need to reduce greenhouse gases and maintain energy generation by substituting with renewable energy
- But in a few years all the available renewable power will not be sufficient to meet our need
- Will need more nuclear energy for our future energy needs

Recommendations:

- Don't exclude – make decisions on science not misperceptions

**9. Melissa Bernardin – Concord, NH**

Recommendations:

- The Task Force should set the strongest goals for the transportation sector
  - Need to educate consumers on how they can reduce vehicle-miles-traveled
  - Create “walkable” communities
  - Need more rail and bus service
    - Rail from Boston to Concord
    - Buses from Keene to Portsmouth
  - Need more sustainability minded leaders in planning
  - Cleaner fuels should be promoted with caution – alternative fuels are a small part of solution
    - Consuming less fuel is healthier
    - Biofuels when considered from a life-cycle perspective can be carbon intensive due to the energy intensiveness of crops
    - Biofuels put pressure on agricultural lands that could be used for food and may result in clearing of virgin lands

**10. Deborah deMoulied – Bow, NH**

*Real Green Goods - Main St. in Concord; Bow energy committee*

Recommendations:

- Follow London's lead and require carbon neutral buildings by 2012 for state, city and town buildings
  - Or at least solar panels
- Waste reduction/recycling
  - Pay-as-you-throw should be standard
  - Institute a state bottle bill
- Avoid the expansion of 93 or any road projects bypassing Concord
- Integrate climate change into the education system – schools, everywhere
- Include Gary Hirshberg, CEO of Stonyfield Farm
  - Need him on board to “pick his brain”
- Many existing examples to draw from
  - Sustainable connections in Washington is a model example community
- Look for places like Dover, which has the fastest tidal flow (3<sup>rd</sup> in world?) to develop alternative energy like tidal energy
- Adopt a new state motto “live green or die”

**11. Don McGinley – New Boston, NH**

Observations:

- We are the choir

Recommendations:

- Need to take into account the skeptics
- Go beyond the science
- Need to turn the skeptic away and convince the general public of the immensity of the problem

**12. Pentti Aalto – Pembroke, NH**

Observations:

- There are fees paid as a result of RGGI for reducing carbon emissions but there is no incentive to change other systems (non-electric generation) and get credit
  - Little incentive to do anything else
    - No benefit for using waste heat
    - Electric car/hybrids energy savings – No credit

Recommendations:

- Look for opportunities to develop and encourage district heating systems to avoid transmission that can occur over miles
- Look for opportunities to develop geothermal systems that run on electricity
  - Need to give heat pumps credit
    - May increase electric demand (???)
    - Reduce oil and natural gas demand

- Look for opportunities to develop an integrated systems approach that couples renewables with the existing system
  - Control the grid or hot water systems for storage capacity
  - Develop renewables to the highest degree
  - Avoid waste no matter what the source even with renewables

### **13. Doug Bogen – Barrington, NH**

*Clean Water Action - <http://newenglandclimate.org/>*

#### Observations:

- History of process
  - 1998 advocacy for four-pollutant bill
  - 2002 Clean Power Act
  - 2002 Action Coalition – to bolster New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) Action Plan
  - 2001 – Governor Sheehan signed onto NEG/ECP plan
  - NEG/ECP required states to have a plan - no state have kept to their plans
  - Regarding NEG/ECP interim goals, NH is behind and needs to get going
  - In the 2004 annual report card that tracks progress in achieving the goals
    - There are 8 action items
    - NH is behind – back of the class
  - NH has recently experienced some improvement and earned a “C-“ but need to develop a specific plan with goals to improve further
  - Started pressuring DES to develop a plan in 2003 under Commissioner Nolin
  - Finally have a Task Force to develop a Climate Change Action Plan under Lynch/Burack leadership

#### Recommendations:

- The Task Force should adopt at least NEG/ECP goals but stronger goals are preferable
- Should try to achieve 80% reductions by 2050 – Need to get moving quickly to forestall worst
- Clear goals are needed to target most important actions
- Nuclear power is in draft options but isn’t acceptable as this does not account for the lifecycle emissions
  - There has been a multimillion dollar effort to promote it as carbon free
  - It takes vast amounts of electricity to enrich the fuel
    - 3000 MW of electricity to perform enrichment
  - Need to reconsider this option
  - The adaptation workgroup should look at impact on the Seabrook facility
    - How will sea level rise impact the Seabrook nuclear plant
    - How will it affect the stored waste

**14. Alex Lee - Concord, NH**

*Exec Director Laundry List*

Observations:

- Agrees with the recommendation for the Governor to hang clothes on a line
- Nuclear power has several issues that need to be taken into account
  - Waste disposal, cost, proliferation
  - Can't just focus on emissions – need to consider nuclear proliferation (black market of plutonium)
  - Nuclear renaissance does not match science

Recommendations:

- Discussion of this issue appears in Amory Lovins roadmap for reducing oil and achieve an oil import free economy by 2040
  - The task force should read this
  - Turning reductions into business opportunities
- Lovins' book emphasizes being carbon free and nuclear free
  - Often stated that we need to achieve 50-80% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Not enough – we need a per capita emissions goal that takes into account global political implications
  - Need more (e.g., 96% reduction by US)
  - The US should have a goal of 0% emissions
  - US must lead

**15. Morgan O'Neill – Durham, NH**

*UNH Student – Course Following the Task Force*

Observations:

- New physics building at UNH is very energy efficient
- When UNH destroyed the old building they were able to recycle 80%
  - Bricks into asphalt and wood was remilled and reused in the building

Recommendations:

- New Hampshire should make sure that as we build new facilities, we recycle old ones
- Develop an internet portal where builders can post and locate salvaged material to facilitate recycling building materials

**16. Mary Boyle – Cornish, NH**

*NH Hospital for health environment  
Energy Committee*

Recommendations:

- Reduce Speed limit on highways to 55 mph
- Changing the culture can occur through the media
  - Radio/TV adds to take action as personal responsibility.

**17. Bill Vance – Strafford, NH**

*Strafford Energy Committee*

Recommendations:

- When provide fuel assistance to low income homes, audit their homes and insulate etc.
- Develop a hot line for ideas/ media
- Encourage employees to ride commuting
- Encourage 4/10 hr day work weeks
  - Studies suggest more efficient workday
- Subsidize bus and trains
  - Reduce subsidy over time as ridership increases
- Make biodiesel stations mandatory in the state
  - There maybe emissions and smell benefits
- Look to energy committees to assist/approach the private seeker

**18. Paul Leveille – Grafton, NH**

*President NH Sustainable Energy Association*

Recommendations:

- Significant measures in all sectors needed as soon as possible.
- Have limited time to reduce carbon by 80% to avoid worst effects
- We need real charge and real leaderships
- Focus on built environment
  - “Seal the bucket first then find new ways to fill it”
  - 50% energy use occurs in buildings
  - New building cut energy by 50%
- Supports a performance based code
  - Perform a HERS rating prior to occupancy
- Then can focus on renewables
  - Address service barriers
- Need a funding mechanism to overcome the first cost such as energy efficiency revolving loan funds
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory says we can produce 100% of energy from renewable sources
- Need to stop subsidizing carbon intensive and fossil fuels
  - Need to support locally available energy sources
- NH can provide the leadership
  - Incentives for distribution renewables
  - Balanced interconnection
  - Decoupling
- Use RPS funding & RGGI funding for distributive renewable generation
  - New technologies – tidal, biomass
  - Native to NH
  - Need grants

**19. Ruth - Hanover, NH**

*Dartmouth College Student*

Observations:

- Coalition of NH college and university students -1 Sky Platform (<http://www.1sky.org/>)

Recommendations:

- Include students in the process
- Set emissions at 80% by 2050 with benchmarks
- Place moratorium on new coal plants
- Should make commitment to green job creation - clean energy
- Use this as an opportunity

**20. Robert Williams, Jr. – Chichester, NH**

Recommendations:

- Avoid actions that reduce options in the future (unintended circumstances)
  - Central school was built in 1950 and designed to allow building heat to melt snow on roof – very inefficient
  - Recently wanted to insulate the building to cut costs but the building roof can't handle the snow load if insulated better
- Nuclear - not carbon free
- Noted that Swedish buses turn off the engines at lights. A separate signal indicates to them when to restart their engines so that they can immediately pull out when the signal changes.

**21. Senator Harold Janeway – Webster District 7**

NH State Senate

Observations:

- There is no sense of urgency on this issue in the legislature
  - There is not a sense that more needs to be done
  - The small group that is active is tolerated more than it is supported

Recommendations:

- Hope the Task Force's report will serve as a wakeup call - hold the legislature responsible
- Bill McKibben has highlighted the penalty to society from procrastinating on taking action on climate change – his perspective should be used in educating the public about climate change

**22. Bill Cable – Cornish, NH**

Observations:

- In 1978 became residents - never hooked to grid; wind and solar panels
  - Possible model for others – using minuscule amount of energy

Recommendations:

- Conservation is the quickest easiest way to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
  - For instance, compact fluorescent bulbs were \$15/bulb and are now cheaper
- Energy efficiency plus conservation most important change
- Transportation is a more difficult issue
  - Support for hybrid and electric cars/motorcycles – could be charged with solar
  - Lower the speed limit
  - Support for smaller vehicles
  - Tax on larger vehicles
  - Support for bicycle
  - Need more public transportation – bus and rail
  - Need high speed internet for everyone to support telecommuting
- Home heating
  - Could use wood
  - Put more emphasis on pellet stoves and heat pumps

**23. Adrian George – Nashua, NH**

*Citizen/scientist – atmospheric physics/member of Unitarian Universalist Church*

Observations:

- Provided the Universalist Unitarian Association (UUA) Statement of Consciousness 2006
  - It is a matter of faith as well as science
  - Want to prevent harm from climate change and have a limited window of time to act
  - Part of this effort includes church green sanctuaries are churches that look at energy, transportation, recycling

Recommendations:

- But need more than individual actions, need laws to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Also need to retain forests

**24. Roger Lohr, Hanover, NH**

<http://www.crosscountryskiresorts.com/>

Observations:

- Hanover, NH has an idling campaign
  - Focused on how restarting the car is not a problem
  - The program started in 2006
  - Noted that it is hard to change behavior
    - Observed a drive up bank teller for 9 days to get baseline
    - In 45 minutes, observed 85 minutes of idling
    - Have used DES signs in addition to bookmarks and bumperstickers and held a bus campaign

Recommendations:

- Starting a government anti-idling policy
- Creating an education campaign for residents
- Identifying where regular idling is occurring

**25. Maria Barth - Lee, NH**

Observations:

- Concerned about her grandchildren

Recommendations:

- Interested in the educational piece
  - How can the state influence the state curriculum
  - Health Program
    - Reproductive responsibility
    - Need control of population growth

**26. Monica Cote - Concord, NH**

Observations:

- Has a history of green practices
- Promotes recycling at work and on own time
  - Notices that there is lots of paper used up by medical records
  - In spite of the “3 Rs” there is little recycling in school
  - There is no curbside recycling in Concord – finds that unacceptable

Recommendations:

- Education is a big thing that we need to do
  - More compact fluorescent light bulbs and driving slower
  - Need more education on the recycling issue
- Need a bottle bill like they have in VT
- If caught idling should have to pay a fee
- Recommends watching “The Story of Stuff”

**27. Tobias Marquette – Barrington, NH**

*Rochester Energy Committee; Carbon Coalition; and Rockingham-Strafford Energy Alliance*

Recommendations:

- Sign onto the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)
- Transportation
  - Hike the tolls and shift the funding to mass transit
  - Expand mass transit rather than expanding the roads
- Strengthen building codes
- Consider the Town of Epping's Article 22
  - <http://nhplanning.com/epping/Article22/Ordinance.htm>
  - Saves energy therefore saves businesses money
    - Local bank is adding solar panels
- Eliminate the disincentives to energy efficiency upgrades
  - For instance, the tax increase due to the increase in property value from installing renewable energy
- DES and the Climate Change Policy Task Force should work with the local energy committees (90 plus formed around the state) which are offering local support
  - The volunteers involved have lots of expertise and want to get more involved
- Be Bold – Make NH a Leader.