

**Climate Change Action Plan Task Force
Second Meeting – Stonyfield Farm
March 10, 2008**

Adaptation Working Group Update

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Adaptation Working Group's Purpose

To address how the State will prepare for the inevitable changes that the climate will experience in the coming decades; changes that will likely occur regardless of the degree to which climate change action occurs in NH and around the globe.

Key Issues

- Increase Resistance to Extreme Weather Events
- Public Health and Wellness
- Preserve and Restore the Ecological Environment
- Upgrade the Built Environment (and plan future development sustainably)
- Economic Development

Goals and Actions

A. Invest in the dissemination of reliable and useful information about the economic and social impacts of Climate Change to decision makers in the public and private sector.

1. Develop more comprehensive modeling tools, mapping, data sets, and observations to track potential and actual impacts from Climate Change scenarios. Use these for long-term planning efforts.

B. Focus policies and actions to help most at risk populations (elderly, low income, chronically ill and children) prepare for the impacts of Climate Change and related social impacts (i.e. cost and availability of: commuting/transportation, heating and cooling homes, food and potable water, health care, and the potential need for relocation, etc.).

1. Expand public transit modes.
2. Create a clarification within the constitution to allow the gas tax to be used for transportation adaptation.
3. Prepare for air quality changes and related respiratory considerations.

C. Empower public health officials to prepare for an increased incidence and impacts of existing and emerging infectious diseases and other acute and chronic conditions.

1. Prepare for heat waves and temperature extremes.

D. Strengthen state and local protection of New Hampshire's natural services network which includes agricultural soils, drinking water, hydrology, and wildlife habitat connectivity.

1. Preserve 75% of all federally designated farm land.
2. Protect potable drinking water systems. Improve the management of groundwater as population and demand grow.

E. Increase resistance to extreme weather events.

1. Guide future development away from most vulnerable flood prone areas. If possible provide economic incentives for this.
2. Upgrade the built environment to prepare for weather related impacts (increase in extreme precipitation events, sea level rise).
3. Require consideration of Climate Change guidelines in building codes for regional, municipal, and urban planning.

F. Strengthen the New Hampshire economy by helping businesses decrease energy costs, encouraging and providing incentives to businesses developing new technologies (relative to adapting to Climate Change), and investing in infrastructure that will support current businesses adapting to Climate Change.

1. Plan for changes in local economies (ski industry, maple sugaring, local farming).
2. Provide incentives to businesses focused on adaptive technology services

G. Permanently establish a Climate Change Advisory Council. Establish by statute.

1. Develop specific recommendations for Climate Change Adaptation strategies, processes, and policies for government agencies, private industry, public health officials and the general public.
2. Direct relevant state agencies including DES, DOT, DRED, OEP, DOA, F&G, DHHS and PUC to establish an interagency Climate Change Team.

Working Group Needs
More Public Health Input