

# Chapter 6: Moving the Plan Forward

## The NH Energy & Climate Collaborative



The New Hampshire Climate Action Plan will not be successful unless it is well implemented. Accordingly, the Task Force identified the development of an implementation plan as a critical component of its work. Implementation of this Climate Action Plan must occur at multiple levels across all sectors of society, and in an ongoing fashion. It will require a high degree of coordination and integration, as well as flexibility, accountability, transparency, communication, and ongoing assessment and reporting.

To accomplish those goals, the Task Force recommends formation of a public/private partnership, the **New Hampshire Energy and Climate Collaborative**, to oversee and guide implementation of the NH Climate Action Plan. Effectively, the Collaborative will be “the keeper of the Plan.”

### PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the Collaborative will be to track and facilitate implementation of the Climate Action Plan’s recommendations, and to report to the Governor, Legislature,

and general public on progress toward achieving the desired outcomes. Activities and responsibilities would include:

- Inventory the activities already occurring in the state relative to the recommendations.
- Identify barriers and gaps to the successful implementation of specific recommendations and ways to remove or fill them.
- Guide efforts toward implementation.
- Serve as a clearing house of actions, including helping to facilitate communications among and between implementing partners and working groups in New Hampshire.
- Track and report annually on progress meeting the Plan’s recommendations.
- Interact and coordinate with other states, especially in the New England region, as time allows.

As previously described in this Climate Action Plan, all potential actions were retained to be reconsidered over time as

economics, technologies or public policies change. However, the initial primary mission of the Collaborative will be to focus on prioritizing and facilitating the implementation of the 67 recommendations of the Task Force and not to re-evaluate or revisit the year-long process the Task Force just completed or to revise the Task Force's recommendations. The Collaborative will likely hold at least four meetings a year, each of which will also provide time for the public to provide input into the process. The Collaborative will produce an annual report and hold an annual summit to report on progress and bring key stakeholders together.

## PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP

Implementation will require continued cooperation and leadership from the public, business, educational institutions, and the nonprofit sectors. Accordingly, the Collaborative will consist of major institutions and leading individuals representing:

- Six members from the business community.
- Six members from the public sector.
- Six members from the education and nonprofit sectors.

Due to the need for continuity with the previous Task Force process, the founding chairman will be the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services. Leading roles are also envisioned for: the University of New Hampshire/Carbon Solutions New England; the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation; and a leading business organization or individual. An executive committee of these four key partners will be formed to manage and facilitate activities in between Collaborative meetings.

## STAFF

It is anticipated that, contingent on obtaining funding, four staff members would support the initial phase of the Collaborative: a part-time director, provided by NH Department of Environmental Services; a full-time technical coordinator; a part-time CSNE manager, provided by UNH/CSNE; and a full-time technical analyst at UNH/Carbon Solutions New England.

The director will be responsible for the following:

- Communicating with the executive committee and the full Collaborative. Providing day-to-day supervision of the technical coordinator.

- Directing the priorities and scope of work provided by the technical analyst.
- Reviewing communications.

The technical coordinator will be responsible for a range of activities, such as:

- Preparing an inventory of actions relative to implementation of the Climate Action Plan.
- Identifying and interfacing with existing organizations who could serve as implementing partners or working groups.
- Identifying gaps in implementation for consideration by the Collaborative.
- Maintaining and administering the clearinghouse of actions to facilitate communications among and between implementing partners and working groups.
- Planning for and preparing materials for Collaborative meetings.
- Planning the annual summit.
- Preparing a draft of the annual report, including reporting on emissions tracking by CSNE, for Collaborative consideration.
- Developing a communications plan for review by the Collaborative.
- Tracking and preparing financial reports.
- Meeting any grant obligations.

The manager and technical analyst at Carbon Solutions New England will be responsible for a range of activities, such as:

- Tracking progress annually, by sector, against Task Force targets and providing an annual report and presentation on such progress to the Collaborative.
- Prioritizing potential technical support to implementing partners, including activities listed below, with the technical coordinator.
- Quantifying the reductions associated with work conducted by implementing partners working on the front lines to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Developing case studies of organizations to document greenhouse gas emissions reductions and associated costs, including cost savings.
- Tracking and reporting on green jobs in New Hampshire and New England and training opportunities.

- Continuing to update the analyses conducted for the Climate Action Plan.

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

It is important to emphasize that the Collaborative will not be directly responsible for implementation of the Climate Action Plan; it is far too large an agenda for any one entity. Rather, the Collaborative’s job is to facilitate, coordinate, and support the activities of dozens of implementing partners from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. As opportunities are identified, Collaborative members would be expected to serve as chairs or leaders of working groups made up of these partners. At this time, it is not anticipated that there will be Collaborative staff support to assist the Collaborative members in this role.

For illustrative purposes only, a partial list of implementing partners might include:

- *Business Council(s)* – to help direct the implementation of the plan toward maximizing economic development.
- *Regional Planning Commissions* – to assist in the implementation of actions at the regional and local levels.
- *Local Energy Committees and Regional Coalitions* – to assist in implementation at the community level.
- *Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board* – to ensure the coordination of energy efficiency, demand response, and sustainable energy programs in the state.
- *Educational Institutions* – Colleges, universities, professional associations, and not-for-profits to ensure that broad based education, outreach and workforce training

programs are developed and integrated.

- *Hospitals and health care organizations* – to implement adaptation measures for public health protection.
- *Interstate and Regional organizations (such as the New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers)* – to ensure that New Hampshire’s efforts are integrated with regional plans.
- *Municipal, state, and federal agencies.*
- *Private for-profit businesses and associations.*
- *Nonprofit organizations representing environmental expertise, low-income residents, energy efficiency, and related concerns.*

## ESTABLISHING THE COLLABORATIVE

The Collaborative will be formed through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by all of the initial members. The Collaborative will also seek “endorsing members” who will actively support the activities of the Collaborative but will not serve as voting members. The procedural rules of the Collaborative will be provided in the Memorandum of Understanding.

It is estimated that approximately \$200,000 to \$250,000 will be needed to support the level of effort recommended for the Collaborative. The goal is to obtain roughly one-third of the funding from government sources (likely through in-kind services), one-third from private sources, and one-third from the business sector. A number of organizations have already expressed interest in providing financial support for this effort.