

**Climate Change Policy Task Force
Draft Straw Proposal
Revision 2**

Introduction:

The following document is a revised version of a Draft Straw Proposal that the New Hampshire Climate Change Policy Task Force developed at its meeting on September 12, 2008 in order to assist in their identification of the final recommendations. These final recommendations will be included in the Climate Change Action Plan, which is set to be released in December 2008. The list of potential Actions contained in this document include those measures that have been identified by the Climate Change Policy Task Force as being key items to consider further at their meeting on Friday, October 10, 2008. While this list has been developed to assist in the selection of the final recommendations and contains Actions of very high interest, it does not represent any final determination by the Task Force.

The list was originally crafted based on the analysis conducted by the Task Force's technical consultants, UNH-based Carbon Solutions New England (CSNE). CSNE provided an analysis of the carbon dioxide reductions, cost of implementation and cost savings associated with each of the 100+ Actions that were developed by four of the six technical and policy working groups involved in the project. The assumptions behind their analysis underwent extensive review by NH Department of Environmental Services staff, by members of the technical and policy working groups supporting the process, by the entire Task Force, and by additional individuals noted for their expertise. The Actions that were identified for inclusion in the original Straw Proposal were those measures that possessed a high CO₂ reduction potential as well as a large and positive net cost benefit to the New Hampshire economy.

At the September 12th meeting, the Task Force reviewed this initial list and identified additional Actions to be included in the Straw Proposal as well as identified Actions, which were already in the Straw, that they felt required further discussion. While these initial determinations were based on their own expertise, the Task Force will consider the entire Straw again once they have received and reviewed the extensive array of public comment that has been received over summer and early fall 2008.

When the final Action Plan is finally submitted to the Governor in December of 2008, each of the Actions that have been developed throughout the entire process will be retained in some fashion. There will be a specific suite of Actions, numbering around 60, that will be highlighted in the Action Plan as specific Task Force *recommendations*. The remaining Actions, not recommended, will be noted in the Plan and included in complete form in a separate appendix. This set of Actions will be specifically set aside as a resource to be revisited. It is anticipated that review cycles will occur in an ongoing fashion in the future in order to update the Plan by identifying those opportunities that are most effectively able to reduce New Hampshire's carbon emissions while encouraging greater economic development and energy security.

Goals:

New Hampshire has participated in a cooperative effort to develop a regional climate change action plan under the auspices of the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP). The 2001 NEG/ECP Climate Change Action Plan calls for a long term goal that reduces regional greenhouse gas emissions “*sufficiently to eliminate any dangerous threat to the climate: current science suggests this will require reductions of 75-85% below current levels*”. In a 2007 resolution, the NEG/ECP established a target date of 2050 to achieve “*a 75-85% worldwide target reduction in emissions, subject to further scientific analysis of this target*”.

Increasingly, the goal of reducing greenhouse gases an average of 80% by 2050 has been adopted by more and more states, cities and organizations. This goal is based on the reductions believed by climate scientists to be necessary to stabilize greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at or below 450 parts per million CO₂-equivalent (equivalent is a measurement that expresses the concentration of all heat-trapping gases in terms of CO₂). Scientists believe that this level will avoid the most severe and dangerous potential impacts of climate change. However, recent research questions whether even this goal will be adequate and argues for reducing emissions even more aggressively.

Clearly, stabilizing the concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will only occur through global action. Even regionally, the NEG/ECP Climate Change Action Plan recognized that different jurisdictions would have varying success at meeting even the more achievable short term goals of the plan. However, the long-term goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050 is the recommended bench-mark to assess whether a climate change action plan is putting in place the policies, market changes, technologies, and regulations to be on a glide path consistent with that goal. Accordingly, the Task Force recommends that New Hampshire strive to achieve a long-term reduction of 75-85%, consistent with the NEG-ECP resolutions and the consensus recommendations of the scientific community.

In contrast, short-term or mid-term goals should be consistent with specific actions that New Hampshire can take in the context of its energy profile, environmental priorities and resources, and its economic circumstances. The Climate Change Policy Task Force conducted a comprehensive evaluation of all the potential Actions New Hampshire could take to reduce its greenhouses and move towards the long term goal of reducing its emissions an average of 80% by 2050. As detailed in this report, it is estimated that the implementation of the Task Force recommendations will result in meeting a short-term goal of reducing NH greenhouse gas emissions XX% by 2012 and XX% by 2025. In addition, the Plan also discusses the measures that will be necessary to move from the mid-term goal to long-term goal of stabilizing the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases.

Proposed Principles:

1. Maximize greenhouse gas emission reductions to move the State, steadily and as quickly as possible, toward the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 75-85% by 2050.
2. Focus initial investments in those Actions that provide the greatest net economic benefit as well as economic opportunity to citizens and state of NH, *recognizing that benefits may include non-monetary benefits and may include short term costs for long term benefits.*
3. Ensure that policies (i) do not further disadvantage already disadvantaged populations in the state and (ii) put mechanisms in place to mitigate impacts.
4. Reduce vulnerability by planning for existing and future impacts from a changing climate.
5. Engage the public to take action at the individual, community and state levels.
6. Create a plan that *views climate change in a regional, national, and global context*, is reviewed on a regular basis to determine progress, and whose actions can evolve and develop over time in response to changing economic and technological developments.

Shorter version:

- 1) Maximize greenhouse gas emission reductions over the long term (sustain ably?)
- 2) Create economic opportunity for NH
- 3) Protect low income families from increasing energy costs
- 4) Plan for impacts from existing atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases.
- 5) Engage the public to take actions at the individual, community and state level.
- 6) Create a plan that responds to changing economics and technology.

Items for Further Discussion at the October 10th Task Force Meeting:

Consider deleting:

- EGU 1.1 Revenue Decoupling
- EGU 1.2 Energy Efficiency Procurement
- TLU 2.B.2.d Implement Recommendations of the I-93 Transit Investment Study
- TLU 1.D.1 Address Highway Travel Speeds

Consider adding:

- AFW 1.1.3 Protect Agricultural Land
- EGU 2.4 Low and non-emitting Supply Side Resources (rename; and expand with two additions provide by PSNH)
- AFW 3.1 Implement Pay-as-You-Throw (to address promoting recycling)
- TLU 2.B.2.h Improve Existing Inter-City Bus Service to Increase Ridership
- TLU 1.B.1 Create a Point-of- Sale Financial Incentive for Efficiency Vehicles
- TLU 1.7 Electric Cars
- Promoting Distributed Generation
- Promoting a “smart grid”
- Tracking technology (possibly through TLU 1.C.2 Promote Advanced Technology Vehicles and Supporting Infrastructure)

- Develop overarching education plan, which partners with formal and informal educational institutions to develop a detailed plan for a broad based education effort for a wide range of audiences in NH, including K-16, graduate students, concerned citizens, workforce, business leaders, etc.

Discuss level of goals relating to:

- Efficiency in new construction (30% to 100% more efficient)
- Efficiency in existing buildings (15,000 or 30,000 homes; 15% to 60% more efficient)
- Efficiency in existing commercial, industrial and municipal buildings (15% to 50% more efficient)
- Upgrade energy codes (25% to 50% more efficient thermal)
- Improve code compliance (50% to 80% compliance)
- Reducing vehicle miles traveled Light Duty (0.5% to 50% below BAU)
- Reducing vehicle miles traveled Heavy Duty (0.5% to 50% below BAU)

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(Items are generally listed in order of numbering scheme in original listings and do not necessarily reflect any prioritization by the Task Force)

1. Maximize efficiency in buildings		
<i>By creating financing to:</i>	RCI 1.1	Maximize Efficiency in New Construction by XX%
	RCI 1.2	Maximize Energy Efficiency in Existing Residential Buildings by YY%
	RCI 1.3	Maximize Energy Efficiency in Existing Commercial, Industrial, and Municipal Buildings by ZZ%
<i>By creating incentives to:</i>	RCI 2.1	<i>Install Higher-Efficiency Equipment, Processes, and Systems</i>
	EGU 1.3	<i>Increase the use of Combined Heat & Power</i>
<i>By making the following changes:</i>	EGU 1.1	<i>Establish Revenue Decoupling</i>
	EGU 1.2	<i>Mandate Energy Efficiency Procurement</i>
	RCI 1.4A	Upgrade Building Energy Codes to?
	RCI 1.4B	Increase Building Energy Code Compliance to ?
	RCI 1.5	<i>Establish an Energy Properties Section in MLS Listings</i>

2. Increase renewable/low emitting resources in a long-term sustainable manner		
<i>By creating financing to:</i>	RCI 3.1	<i>Increase Renewable Energy and Low-CO₂e Thermal Energy Systems</i>
	EGU 2.1	<i>Promoting Renewable Energy through the Electric Portfolio Standard (RPS)</i>
<i>By creating incentives to:</i>	AFW 2.4	Encourage the Use of Biogenic Waste Sources for Energy Generation
<i>By removing barriers (by allowing?):</i>	EGU 2.4	Low- and Non-CO ₂ -Emitting Supply-Side Resources
	EGU 2.2	Implement Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

3. Support regional/ national Actions to reduce vehicle emissions		
	TLU 1.A.2	Support Fuel Economy Standards for Heavy-Duty Vehicles
	TLU 1.C.1	Adopt a Low-Carbon Fuel Standard
	TLU 1.A.1	Support Stricter Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards
	TLU 1.C.2	Promote Advanced Technology Vehicles and Supporting Infrastructure

4. Reduce vehicle emissions through state actions		
	TLU 1.A.3	Adopt California Low Emission Vehicle (CALEV) Standards
	TLU 1.C.3	Install Retrofits to Address Black Carbon Emissions
	TLU 1.D.1	Address Highway Travel Speeds
	TLU 2.A.1	Implement Commuter Trip Reduction Initiative
	TLU 1.D.2	Address Vehicle Idling
	TLU 1.D.3	Improve Traffic Flow

5. Encourage appropriate land use patterns that enables less VMT		
	TLU 2.C.1.a	Assess GHG Development Impact Fees (Conduct Feasibility Study)
	TLU 2.C.1.b	Streamline Approvals for Low-GHG Development Projects
	TLU 2.C.2	Develop Model Zoning to Support Bus/Rail Transit
	TLU 2.C.3	Develop Model Zoning for Higher-Density, Mixed-Use Development
	TLU 2.C.8	Continue/Expand Funding, Education, and Technical Assistance to Municipalities

6. Reduce VMT through an integrated multi-modal transportation system		
	TLU 2.B.1.a	Expand Local/Intra-Regional Transit (Bus) Service
	TLU 2.B.2.b	Maintain and Expand Freight Rail Service (first step economic study)
	TLU 2.B.2.c	Implement a Stable Funding Stream to Support Public Transportation
	TLU 2.B.2.d	Implement Recommendations of the I-93 Transit Investment Study
	TLU 2.B.2.e	Expand Park-and-Ride Infrastructure

7. Protect natural resources (land, water and wildlife) to maintain the amount of carbon fixed/sequestered		
	AFW 1.2	Avoid Forest Land Conversion
	AFW 1.3	Promote Durable Wood Products
	AFW 2.2	Maximize Availability of Biomass for Electricity and Heating within Sustainable Limits

8. Government should lead by example		
	GLA 1.1	Establish an Energy Management Unit (Work plan to include remainder of GLA Actions)
	GLA 1.2	Establish an Energy Consumption and GHG Emissions Baseline Inventory for State Government
	GLA 1.3	Establish a Self-Sustaining Fund for Energy Efficiency Projects in State Government
	GLA 1.4	Provide for the Establishment of Local Energy Commissions
	GLA 1.5	Include Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Programs and Planning
	GLA 2.6	Increase CHPS Funding for Public Schools

9. Natural resource and infrastructure planning to respond to existing and potential climate change impacts		
	ADP 7	Establish a Permanent Climate Change Advisory Council
	ADP 8	Develop a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the State of New Hampshire
	ADP 1	Develop and Distribute Critical Information on Climate Change
	ADP 2	Promote Policies and Actions to Help Populations Most at Risk
	ADP 3	Charge and Empower Public Health Officials to Prepare for Climate Change
	ADP 4	Strengthen Protection of New Hampshire's Natural Systems
	ADP 5	Increase Resilience to Extreme Weather Events
	ADP 6	Strengthen the Adaptability of New Hampshire's Economy to Climate Change

10. Develop an integrated education, outreach and workforce training program		
<i>Create more effective communication</i>		<i>Develop overarching plan?</i>
	RCI 4.1	Include Energy Efficiency and Conservation in School Curriculum
	RCI 4.3	Reduce Residential Energy Demand through Education and Outreach
	RCI 4.5	Create an Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Systems Web Portal
<i>Increase workforce training</i>	RCI 4.2	Increase Energy Efficiency through Building Management Education Programs
	RCI 4.4	Establish a Comprehensive Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Education Program