

CLIMATE CHANGE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

IMPACTS & OPPORTUNITY



[Our global climate is changing](#) at an unprecedented pace. Why? Because humans are emitting tons of harmful greenhouse gases into the atmosphere by burning dirty fossil fuels. The [science is clear](#) that human activity is causing the climate crisis and we are on track to create a world devastating to the health and quality of life of future generations.

CLIMATE CHANGE'S IMPACT ON NEW HAMPSHIRE

Climate change affects the New Hampshire we know and love in an extreme way. If our fossil fuel emissions continue as they are now, the New Hampshire climate will be comparable to that of current-day North Carolina by the end of the century. The changing of New Hampshire's climate is already having negative effects on our local ecosystem, public health, economy, and quality of life:

- **OUR LOCAL ECONOMY:** Climate change is impacting industries important to our local economy, including outdoor recreation and the maple syrup industry. For example, the [\\$152 million](#) that "snow activities" contribute annually to our state economy is threatened by increasingly warmer winters. New England's maple syrup industry is expected to [shrink by half](#) by the end of the century due to climate change's impact on maple trees and the tapping season.
- **THE LYME DISEASE EPIDEMIC:** Warmer temperatures and changing rainfall patterns encourage the population growth and spread of disease-carrying pests ([such as ticks](#)), thereby increasing the presence and spread of vector borne diseases, [including Lyme disease](#).
- **NEW HAMPSHIRE'S WILDLIFE:** As a result of climate change, one million plant and animal species are threatened with extinction in a matter of decades. For example, climate change is the leading cause of [moose and loon population decline](#) in New Hampshire and our state's [hemlock trees will be threatened](#) by invasive plant species.

OPPORTUNITY FOUND IN THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

[Scientists and climate experts agree](#) that to avoid the most severe impacts of climate change, we must cut our emissions in half by 2030 and reduce them to net zero by 2050 by transitioning our electricity, heating, and transportation to clean and renewable energy. There are many co-benefits to this clean energy transition to our local community—from economic, health, to social.

For example, clean and renewable energy preserves the local economy by keeping more energy dollars local, creating local jobs, and lowering costs for all ratepayers:

- **LOCALIZE ENERGY SPENDING:** In 2012, northern New England [spent more than \\$12.4 billion](#) on energy, 66% of which was spent on imported fossil fuels. That's \$8.2 billion leaving our local economy to support our energy demands! Transitioning to clean and renewable energy will help keep more of our energy dollars circulating in our local economy.
- **JOB CREATION:** The renewable energy transition will also create more jobs than if we stayed with fossil fuels: On average, \$1 million invested in clean and renewable energy results in the [creation of 16.7 new jobs](#)—the same amount invested in fossil fuels only creates 5.3 jobs.
- **LOWER COSTS FOR ALL:** Renewable energy sources don't just benefit those directly involved — research shows that renewable energy sources can help lower electricity costs for all ratepayers. A [recent study](#) found that from 2014 to 2019, New Hampshire ratepayers saved over \$83 million thanks to local solar!

For the sake of our local ecosystem, economy, & community's health, it is clear that we need to make a fast transition away from fossil fuels and embrace clean and renewable energy sources. Local action is an important avenue by which we can guarantee that Peterborough enjoys clean air for its residents to breathe, has sustainable jobs, and is doing its part to lead in the climate crisis. [The first step is making the commitment!](#)



ARE YOU READY FOR 100%?

PETERBOROUGH ENERGY ACTION is a grassroots organization working with the community to transition Our Town — Peterborough, New Hampshire to 100% clean, affordable, renewable energy for all.

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