



Opportunities for Climate Action by Regulatory Agencies:

Notes from the New Hampshire Virtual Stakeholder Workshop

OVERVIEW

On October 20, 2022, representatives from the Brown University Climate and Development Lab, Synapse Energy Economics, and Climable.org convened a virtual stakeholder workshop on Zoom. This New Hampshire workshop was the ninth of 12 that will be conducted around New England in 2022. The purpose of the workshop was to crowdsource insights and discuss ideas from stakeholders in New Hampshire—especially those representing environmental justice communities—regarding the climate actions of the utilities, the regulatory structures that the New Hampshire Public Utility Commission has in place to mitigate climate change and the opportunities and challenges for implementing lasting and equitable climate and energy solutions.

The insights from each workshop are summarized, distributed to all participants, and posted publicly here: <https://climable.org/brown>. In early 2023, a summary report will present a variety of options that state regulatory agencies could pursue to meet climate goals based upon the workshops.

We are incredibly grateful to those who were able to attend and appreciate all of the ideas and feedback we received. The following notes are from the New Hampshire workshop and include PUC actions and actions by other stakeholders.

PUC ACTIONS

- PUC actions are not worth pursuing in the foreseeable future given that the Governor's appointees are a roadblock to climate action.
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- Also, the effort to move some PUC duties to the NH Energy Office (the Department of Energy) was ineffective.

ACTIONS BY OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

- Increase participation of local planning boards and local utility boards in the PUC. Identify and implement a coordinator for local energy committees similar to the role of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) for conservation commissions. The coordinator can start with the 20 communities involved in the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) and expand from there. Focus attention on the upcoming net metering proceeding.
- Engage new actors in climate policy and action such as the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation, the League of Conservation Voters, Clean Energy New Hampshire, New Hampshire Audubon Policy Committee, the Builders Association, New Hampshire Farm Bureau, and Vital Communities (coordinates some energy committees in VT and NH). Create a stakeholder directory of these organizations and begin to educate these stakeholders on energy and climate action.
- Circulate plain language materials that have already been developed by others such as: Department of Energy [Energy 101 video series](#), Rocky Mountain Institute [slide show on the energy transition](#), and [350.org presentation on dark money](#).
- Develop plain language materials on the impact of high electric rates on the economics of solar and the economics of solar energy for farmers who are raising livestock.
- Invite new stakeholders to contact legislators and attend legislative hearings to override the Governor (the Democratic majority in House and Senate may continue) and/or put pressure on the Governor to support legislation (if this seems like a likely option post-election).
- Reach out to the media outlets to expose Governor Sununu's brother's involvement in thwarting renewable energy development in the state and misinformation provided by the [New England Ratepayer's Association](#).