

Carbon CO₂alition

*New Hampshire Citizens for a
Responsible Energy Policy*

Fact Sheet # 5: Global Warming and the New Hampshire Ski Industry

Prepared by Clean Air-Cool Planet

New Hampshire's winter tourism economy is snow-driven: Ski and snowboard conditions in New Hampshire are excellent. But experts say global warming could bring shorter seasons, less snow and more erratic conditions. That would mean bad news for our slopes, and bad news for our economy. According to the 2001-02 Ski New Hampshire Economic Impact Study:

- New Hampshire ranks fifth nationally in the contribution of spending by ski area visitors as a percentage of the state's overall economy, and ninth nationally in skier visits.
- Direct spending by skiers, snowboarders, and non-skiing family members totaled \$213.5 million in 2001-2002, up from \$175.5 million spent in 1992-1993.
- 84 percent of direct and secondary sales happened *outside* the ski areas, in surrounding communities - at hotels, second homes, restaurants, shops and bars.
- Direct spending led to an estimated \$405.6 million in secondary spending within the state of New Hampshire, up from \$242.2 million in 1992-93.

Those who flock to our highest and coldest zones are among the first to witness the changes:

- Thawing of the ice on New Hampshire's lakes is happening earlier in the year and ice-free periods are getting longer.
- Winter warming in northern New Hampshire has increased 3.5°F during the past century. Continued warming, as a consequence of global warming pollution, is one of our toughest environmental challenges and threatens the winter tourism economy.

The good news is that we have the technologies to fix the problem. By using new, less-polluting technologies and conserving energy -- as many New Hampshire ski areas are already doing -- we can reduce the threats from global warming.