

Carbon CO₂alition

*New Hampshire Citizens for a
Responsible Energy Policy*

Fact Sheet #6: Local Climate Solutions **Prepared by Clean Air – Cool Planet**

Many communities in New Hampshire have taken steps to increase their energy efficiency and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, and in doing so, have saved taxpayers money:

Keene

Keene has undertaken comprehensive steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by becoming a member of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives and its Cities for Climate Protection program. Keene declared a goal of reducing their carbon emissions by 10%. Among Keene's actions:

- Upgraded to energy-efficient traffic lights
- Uses biodiesel fuels in its municipal fleet (school buses will be added soon)
- Enacted an “anti-idling” campaign for city workers, which has cut fuel use by 6% despite increased vehicle use during the flooding in the fall of 2005
- A geothermal heat-pump system was installed in the municipal building

Manchester

Replaced more than 3,300 traffic lights with energy-efficient LED traffic lamps that use 80 to 90 percent less energy, **saving the city nearly \$100,000.**

Somersworth

Installed energy-saving lighting and other energy improvements in 169 housing authority units, resulting in **\$45,000 of savings a year.** The project was made possible through a “performance contract” where an energy company retrofits city buildings in exchange for a share of the energy savings.

Claremont

Converted 1,016 streetlights to energy efficient models, with an estimated savings of \$27,000 per year. **Savings will increase to \$118,000 per year** once the city repays PSNH for the improvements through the Smart Start loan program.

Hanover

Richmond Middle School uses a heating system that burns wood chips from local lumberyards. This system is expected to **save the community \$60,000** a year on energy bills (the total cost of heating with wood chips was about 1/6 what it would have been with oil) and **reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1,000 tons a year**.

There are many more environment-friendly schools in the planning stages.

Online resources:

Clean Air – Cool Planet www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/for_communities/index.php
The Jordan Institute www.nhphps.org
International Council for Local
Environmental Initiatives www.iclei.org