



# CHANGE THE FORECAST FOR WILDLIFE

SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

## Global Warming and NEW HAMPSHIRE

**D**espite a 2001 commitment by New England governors and Canadian provincial leaders to cut global warming pollution in the Northeast, emissions of carbon dioxide and other global warming gases in the region are on the rise. This is bad news for New Hampshire, considering sea level is rising along the state's coastline and average snowfall has been declining on area ski slopes since the 1970s, particularly in the southern part of the state. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates average temperatures in New Hampshire could rise another 4-5 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100 if global warming continues unabated, causing repercussions throughout the environment and economy.



### Global warming effects on New Hampshire wildlife

**N**ew Hampshire is home to an incredible diversity of native wildlife species, including 283 birds, 64 mammals, 50 fish, 19 reptiles and 21 amphibians. Rising temperatures and sea level in the state will likely change the makeup of entire ecosystems, forcing wildlife to shift their ranges or adapt.

- Conifer and mixed forests of the northeast are expected to gradually change to temperate deciduous forests similar to those found today in southeastern Pennsylvania and northern Virginia. Some forest species, such as the sugar maple, are projected to disappear entirely from the U.S. over the next century.



- The breeding range of New Hampshire's state bird, the purple finch, could shift out of the state under certain global warming scenarios. At the very least, the number of nesting finches within New Hampshire is likely to be reduced in the coming century.
- Higher average temperatures expected in the Northeast may force a decline in cold-water fish such as trout in many area rivers.

### What is Global Warming?

When coal, gas and oil are burned, they produce carbon dioxide that builds up in the atmosphere and traps the sun's heat. Much of this greenhouse gas released today remains in the atmosphere after even 100 years, trapping more and more heat.

Since the mid-1800s, emissions of carbon dioxide have skyrocketed, and subsequently global temperatures have risen by about 1 degree Fahrenheit in the last century. Earth has not experienced such a rapid change in temperature in thousands of years.

Unless we reduce the pollution that causes global warming, temperatures could climb between 2-10 degrees Fahrenheit this century. Such a rapid rise in temperature would fundamentally reshape the planet's climate, forever changing the landscape and water resources people and wildlife depend upon.



## What's at stake for Granite Staters?

The changes from global warming threaten not only to degrade the natural forest and aquatic ecosystems of New Hampshire but also the health and economy of the state.

- According to the EPA, sea level near Portsmouth is rising 7 inches per century and will likely rise another 18 inches by 2100. Replenishing sand along New Hampshire's 18-mile coastline could carry a price tag of between \$39-\$304 million.
- The Natural Resources Defense Council reports that if global warming continues, Portsmouth would see two "purple alert" days per summer—the most severe and rare health advisory issued—which calls for everyone to limit outdoor activities.
- During the last decade, 18 ski areas increased snowmaking to ensure good snow conditions, at a cost of \$24.2 million. As global warming continues, this cost will likely increase for New Hampshire's ski-dependent economy.
- Loss of wildlife and habitat could mean a loss of tourism dollars. In 2001, more than 892,000 people spent nearly \$619 million on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing in New Hampshire, which in turn supported 12,791 jobs in the state.

**“Global warming poses an overriding challenge to our responsibility to protect wildlife for our children's future. We must advance balanced solutions that work for people, wildlife and the economy to overcome this challenge.”—**

**Larry Schweiger**  
*President, CEO*  
*National Wildlife Federation*

## NEW HAMPSHIRE CLIMATE CHANGE RESOLUTION:

The Carbon Coalition's Town Meeting Campaign is a non-partisan grassroots initiative to bring a resolution to March 2007 town meetings calling for action on climate change at the national and local levels.

By signing a petition and supporting the resolution at town meeting, you can help share your concern about global warming impacts and desires for solutions with others in your community, and send a message that global warming is a priority concern in the Granite State.

For more information, visit [www.carboncoalition.org](http://www.carboncoalition.org), or contact us directly:

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## New Hampshire's solutions to global warming

New Hampshire signed a 2001 compact between New England governors and neighboring Canadian provincial leaders requiring a collective reduction of global warming pollution in the region.

- In 2002, New Hampshire passed a law to reduce carbon pollution from power plants to the levels they were in 1990 by 2006. The state also has a voluntary greenhouse gas reduction registry and is participating in the development of the Northeastern states' cap and trade program.
- The state's Building Energy Conservation Initiative allows state agencies to contract with a private energy services company to improve energy efficiency in state-owned buildings through retrofits and upgrades.
- New Hampshire has the potential to meet more than 72 percent of its electricity needs with renewable energy like wind and biomass.

Following some simple guidelines, you can cut your global warming pollution, become more energy efficient and give something back to nature.

- **Convert to compact fluorescent bulbs:** If every household in America replaced its next burned out light bulb with a compact fluorescent, we would prevent more than 13 billion pounds of carbon dioxide from being emitted.
- **Become a Green Tag subscriber:** Many states now offer options for homeowners to buy electricity from clean, renewable sources such as wind, solar and biomass that produce little or no global warming pollution. Green energy can also be purchased through the National Wildlife Federation by visiting [www.nwf.org/energy](http://www.nwf.org/energy).
- **Act locally:** Contact your mayor and ask that (s)he sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, committing your city or town to meet or beat the global warming pollution reductions outlined in the Kyoto Protocol.

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