



*New Hampshire Citizens for a
Responsible Energy Policy*

New Hampshire and Carbon Pollution

FACT SHEET

Fact Sheet #3: Climate Change and Human Health

Compiled by the Appalachian Mountain Club

In New Hampshire, climate change is strongly influenced by carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases. During the past century, the state's annual average temperature has increased 1.8 degrees F – a trend paralleled by increasing pollution emissions, according to UNH and the National Climate Data Center. Below are some specific facts on how changes in New Hampshire's climate could impact human health.

- The northward spread of animal-borne diseases, such as those carried by mosquitoes, and Lyme disease carried by ticks, is aided by changes in climate conditions, such as milder winters. New Hampshire has experienced a 3.5 degree F increase in wintertime temperatures over the last century, along with 14.6% less snowfall. Scientists predict that this trend in winter temperature change will continue if carbon pollution is not curtailed.
- Mosquitoes thrive in warm, wet summers, such as the summer of 2003. While changes in summer precipitation patterns across New England are expected to vary, temperatures are generally predicted to be higher across the region in the next century. Mosquitoes have the potential to carry diseases such as equine encephalitis and West Nile Virus.
- The White Mountains are visited frequently for hiking and summer recreation. The health of hikers and others recreating outdoors can be compromised by ground-level ozone pollution, which is often higher on mountain summits than in low-lying areas. Ozone pollution is more prevalent in New England when temperatures are greater than 90 degrees F, which scientists predict will occur more frequently in the next century if carbon pollution is not curtailed.
- Recent health studies have shown that ozone exposure is linked to asthma development in children. Ground-level ozone pollution can lead to hospitalizations and workplace and school absenteeism by aggravating asthma and other respiratory diseases.

The organization that compiled this fact sheet is part of the Carbon Coalition, a non-partisan coalition of citizens and organizations across New Hampshire who have come together agreed the country needs to commit to an energy policy that includes significant reductions of carbon dioxide emissions and is founded upon energy conservation and the development of sustainable, renewable energy sources. For more information visit www.carboncoalition.org.