

Concord, New Hampshire's Climate Change Goals

The earth's climate is warming, driven mainly by greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from the burning of fossil fuels and land use change. Scientists warn that to avoid the worst effects of climate change, we need to begin reducing GHG emissions immediately to reach net zero by the year 2050 (IPCC 2021).

Concord's Climate Change Commitments

The City of Concord has made four key climate change commitments to decrease GHG emissions:



- 1. 100% Renewable Energy:** By 2030, all electricity consumed in the city will be from renewable sources, and by 2050, all thermal energy and transportation energy consumed in the city will be renewable,
- 2. The Climate Mayors Agreement:** To uphold the targets of the Paris Climate Agreement,
- 3. Race to Zero:** To reach net zero emissions by 2050, and
- 4. The NH Climate Action Plan:** To decrease GHG emissions 80% by 2050.

Existing GHG Emissions Sources

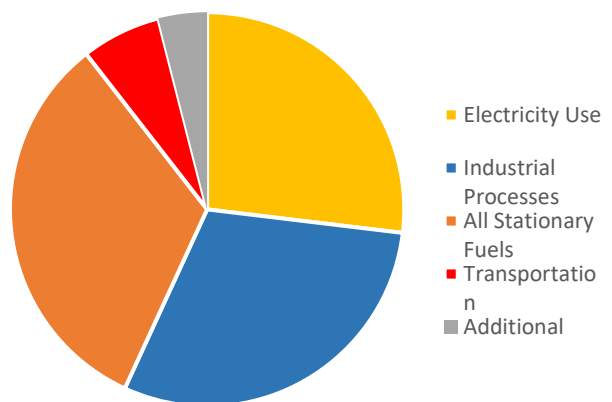
Concord produced a [detailed carbon footprint study](#) for the year 2019 to identify major emissions sources.

This study found that 50% of Concord's GHG emissions are from the commercial and institutional sectors!

Stationary fuels such as natural gas, propane, oil and wood generated 33% of commercial emissions, while electricity use accounted for another 25%. Transportation fuel produced 6% of commercial emissions. Industrial processes (from one fuel plant) contributed 30% of emissions in this sector.

Key Commercial and Institutional GHG Emissions Sources in Concord, NH

% of Commercial Emissions



The Role of Businesses and Organizations

Businesses and organizations have a huge role to play in combatting climate change! Globally and in New Hampshire, businesses are adopting emissions reduction goals ([theRE100.org](https://www.theRE100.org/), [PivotGoals.org](https://www.pivotgoals.org/)), demonstrating that reducing fossil fuel consumption is good for business and the environment. Concord businesses and institutions have a huge opportunity to take leadership in combatting climate change and reducing carbon emissions.

Climate Change Actions for Businesses and Institutions

To reduce carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuels, businesses and institutions can:

1. Assess your organization's energy use and climate footprint

- Complete an energy assessment ([WeatherizeConcord.org](https://www.weatherizeconcord.org))
- Create a GHG emissions inventory for your facility (see [CarbonFootprint.com](https://www.carbonfootprint.com) or [EPA GHG Inventory Guidance](https://www.epa.gov/ghginventory))

2. Set climate change goals aligned with science that meet or exceed Concord's renewable energy targets. Many large companies are doing this! ([theRE100.org](https://www.theRE100.org)). Some companies choose to apply targets to their own operations while others extend goals to suppliers and partners.

- **Science-based targets** seek to reduce carbon emissions by 45% by 2030 compared with 2010 baseline ([ScienceBasedTargets.org](https://sciencebasedtargets.org))
- **Concord's renewable energy goal** is to eliminate fossil fuels used for electricity by 2030 and those used for thermal (e.g. heat and air conditioning) and transportation by 2050

3. Develop a multi-year greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan

- **Improve Energy Efficiency**
 - Improve building insulation ([WeatherizeConcord.org](https://www.weatherizeconcord.org), [NHsaves.com](https://www.nhsaves.com))
 - Replace old equipment with more efficient versions
- **Adopt Renewable Alternatives**
 - Install [solar panels](#) on your business, or
 - Identify a [competitive energy supplier](#) that provides renewable energy
- **Electrify**
 - Consider replacing gas equipment with electric alternatives
- **Transportation**
 - Reduce reliance on car and air travel for business activities and employee commutes
 - Encourage or expand telecommuting
 - Upgrade your vehicle fleet to electric
- **Advocate and Share**
 - Advocate for your needs at the state and national level and sign on to the **NH Clean Energy Principles** ([NHBSR.org](https://www.nhbsr.org))
 - Mentor other businesses, including suppliers and partners. Require emissions reductions from suppliers.
- **Consider offsetting remaining emissions**
 - Plant trees
 - Purchase offsets (see [GoldStandard.org](https://www.goldstandard.org) and [CarbonFootprint.com](https://www.carbonfootprint.com))
- **Monitor progress** towards your goals

For help and guidance, contact:

- Clean Energy NH ([CleanEnergyNH.org](https://www.cleaneenergyNH.org))
- NH Saves – for Business ([NHsaves.com/programs/#business](https://www.nhsaves.com/programs/#business))
- Resilient Buildings Group ([ResilientBuildingsGroup.com/](https://www.resilientbuildingsgroup.com/))
- US Green Buildings Council, New Hampshire Chapter: USGBCNH@gmail.com
- NH Businesses for Social Responsibility ([NHBSR.org](https://www.nhbsr.org))