



**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. We can solve global warming and revitalize our economy by rebuilding America with clean energy.



### 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.

### Global Warming Pollution

Burning coal, gas and oil produces carbon dioxide, which is a greenhouse gas that warms the planet as it builds up in the atmosphere. Some of the carbon dioxide 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, causing global temperatures to rise by about 1° Fahrenheit in the last century. Earth has not experienced such a rapid change in temperature in thousands of years.

### A Global Solution

The U.S. must lead the world by passing global warming legislation at home and working with other nations at the Copenhagen climate summit at the end of 2009 to sign a new climate treaty that keeps further warming below 2° Fahrenheit. With a global solution, we can avoid the worst impacts of global warming.



## 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 2006, 986,000 people spent nearly \$525 million on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing in New Hampshire. The industry in turn supported 12,690 jobs in the state. \* (*Jobs are an average of 2001 and 2006 data.*)

**"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

### GLOBAL WARMING NATIONAL POLICY SOLUTION:

A federal legislative solution can drive American ingenuity, create millions of green jobs, and restore America's global leadership on global warming. Legislation should:

- \* Include ambitious targets to reduce America's global warming pollution as swiftly and deeply as possible. Scientists say that developed countries as a whole need to reduce their global warming pollution by at least 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 to avoid the worst impacts of global warming.
- \* Move America toward a 100% clean electricity future by maximizing energy efficiency, modernizing the electric power grid, expanding power generation from renewable energy resources, and investing in clean transportation infrastructure.
- \* Invest in natural resources. Forests, coasts, wetlands, clean air and clean water are already being impacted by global warming. Funding is needed to safeguard the natural resources that are critical to wildlife populations and human health.
- \* Lead a worldwide effort to finance clean energy technology, forest conservation, and adaptation to unavoidable impacts of global warming.

For more information, visit: [www.nwf.org/globalwarming](http://www.nwf.org/globalwarming).



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## New Hampshire's solutions to global warming

New Hampshire is addressing global warming with a number of programs that will create new investments and jobs in renewable energy technologies. The state has the potential to meet more than 72 percent of its electricity needs with renewable energy such as wind and biomass. Although more needs to be done, the following initiatives represent progress toward a cleaner energy future.

- In 2005, Governor Lynch joined other Northeast states in signing onto the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a regional agreement to reduce global warming pollution from power plants through market-based emissions trading. Legislation in 2008 is expected to define program implementation.
- New Hampshire passed a Renewable Energy Act in 2007, a key step toward ensuring that 25 percent of the state's energy comes from renewable sources by 2025. A UNH study found that this law has the potential to significantly reduce energy costs while spurring millions of new investment dollars in clean energy technology and creating over a thousand jobs.
- In May 2007, Schiller Station in Portsmouth converted one of its coal boilers to burn wood. Named Northern Wood Power, this is the first such conversion at a power plant in the country.

**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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