

2025-01-07 CWG monthly meeting Zoom chat & AI summary

Table of Contents

[Zoom Chat](#)

[AI Summary](#)

Zoom Chat

00:11:59 John Barksdale: suppose to be really cold tomorrow. dress warm.

00:12:00 John Gage: <https://action.womensmarch.com/events/woman-s-march>

00:12:14 Mary Beth Raven: Hi everyone, if you are not speaking, please mute yourself.

00:13:20 John Gage: Mara H. from NHPR article about the NH Climate Action Plan:
[vnews.com/NH-is-drafting-a-new-climate-plan-But-it-s-on-track-to-remain-an-outlier-in-New-England-58437853](https://www.nhpr.com/NH-is-drafting-a-new-climate-plan-But-it-s-on-track-to-remain-an-outlier-in-New-England-58437853)

00:14:37 Patricia Martin: It still works though, John! Better than nothing. Money is the bait.

00:16:52 K's AI Notetaker (Otter.ai): Hi, I'm an AI assistant helping K Manzur take notes for this meeting. Follow along the transcript here:
https://otter.ai/u/DNi0LUSVHC54AurymjKx5phwjvM?utm_source=va_chat_link_1

You'll also be able to see screenshots of key moments, add highlights, comments, or action items to anything being said, and get an automatic summary after the meeting.

00:18:01 Mary Beth Raven: agenda
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x_0YG4gz3FfPQ_D_cBDLComGjaXvEu_awr5s9hiDitQ/e_dit?tab=t.0#heading=h.6d4607myqafr

00:19:23 Patsy Beffa-Negrini, Nelson: <https://legiscan.com/NH/bill/HB278/2025> Pre Legislation

00:21:49 Mary Beth Raven: Should we pause for a moment and address the "question 44" issue of possibly no more hearings and what we can do about that ???

00:21:55 Joanne Burke: are the other new England states adopting these types of bills

00:22:54 Rep. Wendy Thomas: It is HB 306

00:24:22 Patsy Beffa-Negrini, Nelson: Replying to "It is HB 306"



00:31:00 John Barksdale: who is on this committee?

00:31:23 John Gage: Fossil fuel front group influence in Concord - A Case Study:
<https://notnotter.org/a-case-study>

00:32:41 Mary Beth Raven: here is who is on the STG committee
<https://gencourt.state.nh.us/house/committees/committeedetails.aspx?id=15>

00:33:32 Rep. Wendy Thomas: Replying to "who is on this com..."

which committee? The Science Tech and Energy or for the bill's commission?

00:35:41 Rep. Wendy Thomas: Here is the bill text -

<https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/memberPortal/IsrApprove.aspx?id=474&year=2025&sp=1&c=H>

00:37:15 Joanne Burke: Thanks Wendy and Nick for the work you do at the state house! Much appreciated

00:37:33 Nick Germana (he/him): Reacted to "Thanks Wendy and Nic..." with 👍

00:38:16 Joanne Burke: And John of course -thanks

00:39:56 John Barksdale: the republicans and president elect trump at the federal level are going to be against carbon pricing js.

00:40:17 Nick Germana (he/him): He'll respond with tariffs

00:40:33 Patsy Beffa-Negrini, Nelson: Reacted to "Thanks Wendy and Nic..." with 🙌

00:41:42 Patricia Martin: I recently read an SF novel, "The Ministry For the Future" by Kim Stanley Robinson. Spoiler alert, it ends well with a carbon based economy.

00:46:23 diane blanton: Can you put the link to the carbon pricing to have a town wide petition?

00:48:07 Patsy Beffa-Negrini, Nelson: Replying to "Can you put the link..."

Carbon Cash-Back Coalition: <https://www.carboncashback.org>

00:48:43 Patsy Beffa-Negrini, Nelson: Replying to " I recently read an ..."

Great book!

00:49:05 diane blanton: Reacted to "Carbon Cash-Back Coa..." with ❤️

00:50:23 John Gage: HCR1 -

https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_Status/pdf.aspx?id=3339&q=billVersion

00:51:15 John Gage: Proposed amendment:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gXZHyPpkw1GmbEAX3e1ge84fs0ez3govVzBWYDVOOfDI/edit?tab=t.0>

00:52:55 John Gage: Granite Geek response to HCR1:

<https://granitegeek.concordmonitor.com/2025/01/07/another-nh-bill-pretends-that-climate-change-doesnt-exist-because-its-too-scary-to-face/>

00:54:53 Deborah Walker: Replying to " I recently read an ..."

Yes, must read about climate. No planes

01:00:22 Patricia Martin: I would totally agree with that, John! John Hunt has a solar field...for at least 10 years, but never supports climate legislation.

01:02:00 Rep. Wendy Thomas: Notter and Boyd also have solar panels on their houses and always vote against renewables.

01:02:41 Karishma Manzur: Which Rep wrote in Union Leader?

01:03:11 Rep. Wendy Thomas: Michael Vose

Vose op-ed:

https://www.unionleader.com/opinion/op-eds/rep-michael-vose-theres-power-in-the-truth-about-climate/article_14a5f7dc-96c1-11ef-8d17-af451ae10906.html

LTE response from John Gage:

https://www.unionleader.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-u-s-is-worlds-leading-gas-and-oil-producer/article_0323fc8e-c47a-11ef-9747-8325ac6b04bb.html

01:03:28 Rep. Wendy Thomas: Chair of Science Technology and Energy
01:05:41 Patricia Martin: Can you call for a role call vote?
01:06:34 Rep. Wendy Thomas: Although all of the GOP this term are on a very short leash
01:08:03 John Gage: Tell Congress you want to see bipartisan cooperation this year:
community.citizensclimate.org/tools/write-congress-nonpartisanship/
01:09:42 Patricia Martin: Thanks, John and CCL!
01:10:14 Nick Germana (he/him): Thank you all!
01:10:27 Mary Beth Raven: thank you reps!
01:10:37 Rep. Wendy Thomas: Reacted to "thank you reps!" with ❤️
01:10:41 Patsy Beffa-Negrini, Nelson: Great meeting! Thank you!
01:10:57 Joanne Burke: Thanks John for all you are doing in this arena, and helping us make climate change efforts possible

AI Summary

Meeting summary for CCL NH RI's Personal Meeting Room (01/07/2025)

Quick recap

The team discussed various climate-related bills and resolutions, with a focus on carbon pricing, climate action plans, and the importance of public participation in the legislative process. They also addressed the challenges of climate change at the state and federal levels, the potential for carbon pricing at the federal level, and the need for science-based policies. The conversation ended with discussions on strategies to address extreme climate change positions, the effectiveness of personal connections with representatives, and the importance of supporting non-binding resolutions proclaiming the rights to clean air, water, and a healthy environment.

Next steps

- All attendees to consider attending the Women's March in Concord on January 8th at 2 PM.
 - All attendees to participate in online testimony and encourage others to do so for the upcoming climate bills.
 - All attendees to consider writing letters to the editor, op-eds, and reaching out to representatives regarding the climate bills.
 - John to meet with the Administrator of Procurement on Friday regarding the proxy carbon pricing bill.
 - All attendees to prepare for potential public testimony on the carbon pricing study bill.
 - All attendees to consider meeting with their local representatives, especially Republicans, to discuss HCR 1 and encourage opposition.
 - New Hampshire Network members to join the Climate Action Team/Climate Working Group for further communication on these bills.
 - All attendees to consider using the provided link to write to Congress asking for bipartisan cooperation on climate issues.
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Summary

AI Notetaker and Climate Progress

In the meeting, John led the discussion and introduced the AI notetaker, Otter, which provides a transcript of audio recordings. The team discussed challenges at the state and federal levels regarding climate and progress. They also reviewed a couple of bills and had a full agenda. John announced a women's march in Concord the following day and shared the registration link for those interested. The conversation ended with John needing to log in as host.

Climate Action and Proxy Pricing

John discussed the upcoming swearing-in of Governor Ayotte and the Women's March's plans to show support for climate science. He also addressed the State Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, expressing disappointment in the Department of Environmental Services' approach, which focuses on federal funding opportunities and voluntary measures from businesses. Mary suggested coordinating members to participate in the plan's working groups, but this was left for further discussion. John then introduced two bills related to proxy carbon pricing and state procurement, and a bill to establish a commission to study the impacts of carbon pricing mechanisms. Nick emphasized the importance of the upcoming meeting with the Commissioner to address concerns about the implementation of the first bill. John encouraged everyone to participate in the legislative process, either in person or through online testimony, to raise awareness about climate issues.

Carbon Pricing and New Hampshire Study

John discusses the increasing likelihood of carbon pricing being implemented at the federal level in the United States, driven by the spread of carbon pricing around the world and the potential for border carbon adjustments to be imposed on U.S. exports. He suggests conducting a study in New Hampshire to research the impacts of carbon pricing, prepare the state's economy, and recommend investments in clean energy solutions like energy efficiency, electrification, and renewable energy sources. John is optimistic that carbon pricing will eventually happen in the U.S. as a crucial step in addressing climate change.

Bill Progress and Climate Change

John and Rep. Thomas discussed a bill that has been brought forward multiple times, with no fiscal note attached, which could potentially expedite its progress. Rep. Thomas acknowledged that the bill's passage is unlikely due to the current political climate, but suggested that it could be used as a vehicle for public education on the topic. John shared a history of the bill and its connection to Representative Janine Notter, who has been instrumental in holding up the bill. He also mentioned a related project involving a citizen's petition warrant article in Merrimack, which was co-sponsored by Rep. Notter. John expressed frustration with the lack of progress on climate change legislation and the influence of the fossil fuel industry. He encouraged the group to speak up and provide public testimony on the bill.

Carbon Pricing and Climate Change

Karishma expressed concerns about the feasibility of carbon pricing at the Federal level in the United States, given the new administration's stance against environmental causes. John responded by explaining the growing carbon price gap between the US and its trading partners, and the potential for the US to be at a competitive disadvantage if it doesn't decarbonize its economy. He also discussed the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, a bipartisan bill that has been introduced in Congress but lacks political will. John emphasized the importance of carbon pricing in addressing climate change and the potential for a steadily rising carbon fee to be rebated back to households. He also mentioned the carbon cash back dot org website, which allows citizens to inform their towns about this policy and vote on it.

Addressing Climate Damage and Costs

John discussed the importance of internalizing the costs of climate damage and the need for an efficient market. He highlighted the issue of external costs, such as the damages caused by greenhouse gas pollution, which are not seen by the producer or consumer but are paid by a third party. John also mentioned the 5th national climate assessment's estimate of \$150 billion a year in damages for the US due to extreme weather events. He praised a bill by Representative Kaplan, which aims to establish a commission to determine the monetary costs of climate damage to New Hampshire and the best means of recouping such costs. John also discussed a resolution by Representative Notter, which calls for policymakers to consider all relevant information and factors pertaining to climate change before pursuing courses of action. However, he noted that Representative Notter is a co-sponsor on a bill that is against doing a study on the impacts and how New Hampshire can prepare for a carbon price.

Addressing Misleading Science Denial Bill

The meeting focused on a problematic bill submitted by a committee chairman, which was deemed to be a caricature of a science denial statement. The bill was criticized for its misleading content, false equivalence between science and skepticism, and potential to justify inaction. The participants agreed that the bill should be completely rewritten, but there was uncertainty about the feasibility of this given the bill's origins. The importance of public hearings was emphasized, with the aim of having well-informed individuals like themselves present to criticize the bill. The conversation ended with a discussion about the potential for tying this issue to other bills and media coverage.

Addressing Extreme Climate Change Position

John and Wharton discussed strategies to address the extreme climate change position in their committee. They considered the possibility of getting some moderate Republicans to oppose the extreme position, either through public shaming or a more nuanced approach. They also discussed the potential of building bridges with Republicans to increase broad political acceptance of climate change as a serious problem. John suggested reaching out to local representatives for a more personal discussion about their concerns. The conversation ended with the understanding that they had more items to discuss on the agenda.

Personal Connections and Public Participation

John expressed his belief in the effectiveness of personal connections with representatives, despite his own experiences of unsuccessful persuasion. He suggested that public shaming might be necessary to prompt change. Representative Thomas agreed, emphasizing the importance of offering alternative solutions rather than just criticism. John then proposed that increased public participation, such as attending hearings and writing letters to the editor, could be a powerful tool for change. He also mentioned the need for science-based policies and the importance of addressing environmental issues promptly. The conversation ended with a discussion about the effectiveness of personal connections with representatives.

New Hampshire Resolution on Environmental Rights

In the meeting, John and Nick discussed a resolution proclaiming the rights to clean air, water, and a healthy environment. Nick explained that the resolution, which was initially proposed as a constitutional amendment, is now a non-binding resolution. He stated that the goal is to get the New Hampshire House to officially state that these rights are fundamental, which could be used politically. Nick also clarified that the resolution is not binding and has no legal weight. The team agreed to support the resolution and discussed the possibility of a roll call vote. Karishma asked about the change from a constitutional amendment to a resolution, and Nick explained that it was to make the resolution more achievable. John encouraged everyone to write to their representatives and to join the New Hampshire networks' climate action team for further communication.