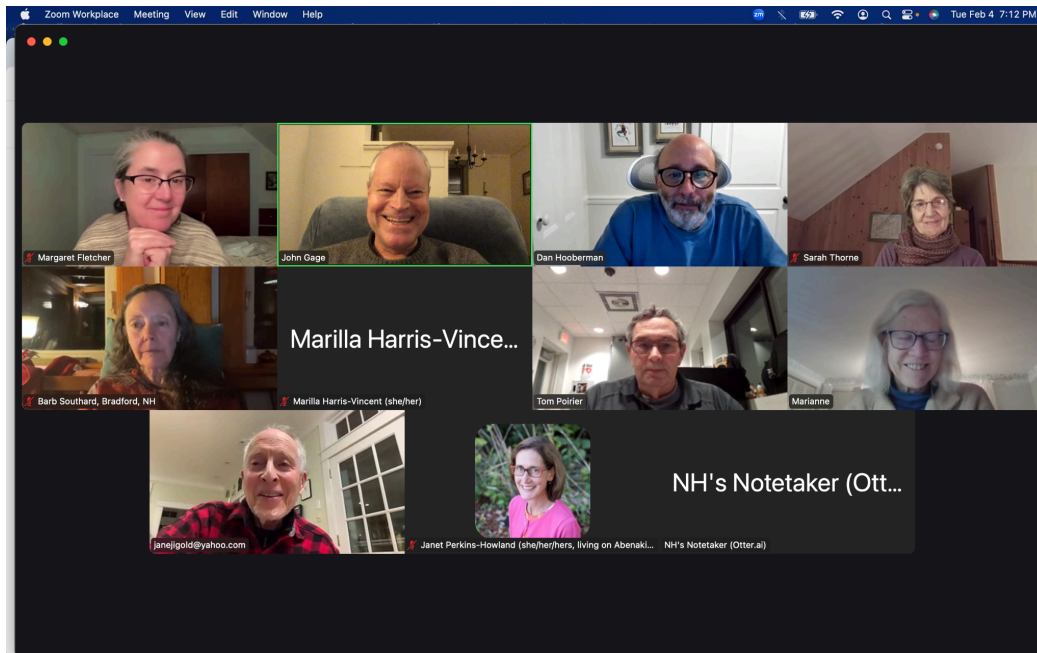


## 2025-02-04 - NH Network Climate Working Group - Monthly Meeting - Agenda



Margaret - Concord UU, getting ito state leg

Dan - CCL liaison to Sen Hassan

Barb - CCL liaison to Rep Goodlander

Marianne - CCL since 2014, in nH sice 2022

Sarah - been involved in UU Laconia, family summer camp goig net zero

Janet - Durham, waste mgtmt committee, obgyn, plastics

Marilla - claremont, conn river conservancy, lobbying, conn

Tom - Salem, 3rd act, SC, interested in state leg.

Gerry - new london, former trailmaster sunapee greenway, nl waste reduction committee,

~~Nick - banned for life - extremely rude violation of civil discourse~~

Mentioned NH Network Presents: Preparing for New Normals in NH's Climate -

<https://sites.google.com/view/new-hampshire-network/events-2022#h.iup5kheafsom>

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm on Zoom to connect, share plans and projects, and amplify each other's climate efforts monthly:

- Join online:  
<https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/my/cclnhrizoom?pwd=MTRoSmtMQ3J3bk9sbEJMdz09>
- Or at Zoom.us with Meeting ID: 9831200408 Passcode: 1632
- Or by phone: 1-929-205-6099 9831200408# 1632#

### Agenda

**Introductions (5 mins)**

**Record meeting?**

**Context setting (1 min)**

- A 1-minute video snippet on the fundamental policy to reduce climate pollution (Economist Gregory Mankiw in *Before the Flood*):

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/b7e1y3CVPil?start=194&end=243&autoplay=1&rel=0>

## Announcements (2 mins)

## Discussion: (3 mins)

**State Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP)** - The NH DOE is planning to take a disappointing approach regarding climate goals. The plan is to be based on what businesses say is doable through voluntary measures as opposed to the state setting science-based emissions reduction goals and working to meet them. Let's discuss what we can do about it:

[vnews.com/NH-is-drafting-a-new-climate-plan-But-it-s-on-track-to-remain-an-outlier-in-New-England-58437853](https://www.vnews.com/NH-is-drafting-a-new-climate-plan-But-it-s-on-track-to-remain-an-outlier-in-New-England-58437853).

## Organizing: Testimony for NH state climate legislation in 2025 - February Update

The GOP majority in the NH Legislature does not support making tax-payer investments in energy efficiency, clean energy deployment, or electrification of transportation and heating. Helping them understand the costs to NH growing from climate pollution from fossil fuels, the benefits of a federal carbon fee and dividend ([bit.ly/cfdresources](https://bit.ly/cfdresources)), and the growing likelihood of a carbon price coming from above and impacting the businesses and economy of NH ([bit.ly/carbon-price-gap-pdf](https://bit.ly/carbon-price-gap-pdf)) could help change their minds.

A few upcoming bills will provide opportunities to do this:

1. (Public hearing held) [HB278](#) - "relative to proxy carbon pricing in state procurement." (reintroduction of [2024 HB1486](#) by Rep. Germana). 2024 resources: [New Hampshire Bulletin](#) article, [2024 submitted testimony txt \(updated\)](#), and the [recorded 2024 public committee hearing](#).
2. (Public hearing held, exec session deemed this ITL) [HB306](#) - "establishing a commission to study the short and long-term impacts of pending national and regional carbon pricing mechanisms on New Hampshire's citizens, businesses, institutions, and environment." This will help inform the legislature about the likelihood, impacts, and how NH can prepare for federal carbon pricing (ie. decarbonize the NH economy). A reintroduction of [2023 HB372](#) by Rep. Wendy Thomas. ([2023 testimony \(updated\)](#)).
3. (Public hearing held, exec session deemed this ITL) [HB106](#) - "establishing a commission to determine the monetary costs of climate damage to the state of New Hampshire and the best means of recouping such costs." This is preparation for suing the fossil fuel industry for knowingly incurring costly damages to New Hampshire from its pollution, as other NE states have already done (eg., [New York](#), [Vermont](#), and [Maine](#)). It's a follow-up of [HCR5 from 2023](#) (sample HCR5 [testimony](#)).
4. (Public hearing to be held Friday 2/7) [HCR1](#) - "a resolution calling for policymakers locally and nationally to fully consider all relevant information and factors pertaining to climate change before

pursuing courses of action that could adversely affect any economy or environment.” The “whereas” section of this bill is 100% climate skeptic material, but the title would also work for a science-based version to consider the real external costs of using fossil fuels in decision making processes. Let’s propose an amendment with corrected “whereas” clauses:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gXZHyPpkw1GmbEAX3e1ge84fs0ez3govVzBWYDVOOfDI/edit?usp=sharing> and be prepared to critique the original, and defend the updated version.

5. (Public hearing held 2/4) [HR10](#) - House Resolution recognizing the fundamental right to have clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment. Sponsor: Representative Nick Germana.

Other bills will be tracked and announced each week as part of the NH Network’s “NH-Bills” tracking effort, with key weekly actions listed at [newhampshirenetwork.org/NH-bills](http://newhampshirenetwork.org/NH-bills).

### **Discussion: Koch Network influence in the State House delaying efficiency, clean energy, and climate legislation (if time allows)**

What are your thoughts on working with our State Legislators and the media to help push fossil fuel industry influence out of the way of state legislators’ acceptance of the basic science and economics of climate change? I sent an email to everyone in the NH state legislature to call out the Koch Network influence game, offering Rep. Nottter as a case study ([notnottter.org](http://notnottter.org)), and included the media. Are [notnottter.org/the-game](http://notnottter.org/the-game) and [notnottter.org/a-case-study](http://notnottter.org/a-case-study) worth amplifying? How can we do that?

Discussion - John has asked Rep Vose to invite our state climatologist to the STE for an informational hearing, and he agreed to do so. Here is a example of why this is needed:

A few example quotes from the executive session discussion of [HB106](#) - *"Establishing a commission to determine the monetary costs of climate damage to the state of New Hampshire and the best means of recouping such costs."*

1. [Vice Chair Thomas](#): "Motion to ITL".... "[What] concerns me the most was that there were predictions being put forth as the basis for this bill, and I'm not quite sure it would be prudent to hold a commission based on predictions..." "for lack of any hardcore absolutes it's in the best interests to just ITL this bill."
2. [Representative Tony Caplan](#): when the issue of climate change comes up, the issue becomes politically divided due to the fossil fuel industry's funding of misinformation to delay legislation.
3. [Vice Chair Thomas](#): "We heard a variety of viewpoints," referring to seven or eight in favor, and two who testified against the bill and downplayed the scientific consensus of AGW (a chemist and an energy consultant) and claimed climate change from fossil fuels is not a problem for our state. Thomas concluded that since there is uncertainty, the committee should not support a bill to consider the cost of damages because of the exposure to being sued by the industry.
4. [Chairman Michael Vose](#): "We are experiencing mild and minor changes to the climate. We don't know exactly what causes those changes. We also don't know what the long-term impact of those changes is going to be."

## Town Warrant Articles

## Congressional Action

### Wrap up (7:55 pm - 8:00 pm)

- Stay Connected: join [citizensclimatelobby.org](http://citizensclimatelobby.org) or [newhampshirenetwork.org](http://newhampshirenetwork.org) if you are not a member yet.
- Photo
- **Future Plans**
  - a. Weekly planning meeting?
  - b. Review past committee hearing testimony?
  - c. How can we change the way the Republicans feel? Heartfelt testimony about the importance of nature will not pierce the bubble. What are their values? How can we connect to those values to change the conversation? (Small, efficient gov't, strong economy). China's eating our lunch in clean energy development. In history, the countries that control energy are the ones that control the conversation. The US is going to be flattened by China this century on the current path.
  - d. Elli Sparks, Eric Cantor story: CCL got a meeting with Cantor's LD. LD said he was having the meeting because he had to meet with constituents, but disagreed. CCL said we understand, and we believe the solution lies between energy, economy, and environment. What is Rep Canter's thoughts on energy? Views on the economy? Views on the environment? Canter - said environmentalists always say the sky is falling. CCL took that info, and left on good terms. CCL developed a presentation, returned a month later. Said he said env's were alarmists, presented info about the facts. 20 minutes into the meeting, he stopped them and he said, you guys are scaring me. Then later, he mentioned he was hearing the same things from the farmers, and the fisherman. (Could we have the state climatologist bring in facts that would scare them? Or bring in people who have been in NH for a while, and can share their stories about problems from climate change. Find personnel stories, and actual damages.

## Appendix

Why focus on helping NH Legislators anticipate a federal carbon price on fossil fuels?

Watch Senator Whitehouse's 295th "[Time to Wake Up](http://bit.ly/time-to-wake-up-295)" Senate floor talk ([bit.ly/time-to-wake-up-295](http://bit.ly/time-to-wake-up-295)). It's about the "Global Economic Consequences of Climate Change", and Whitehouse says that "Carbon pricing is coming," and why "that's a good thing." Additional reasons for that: [bit.ly/carbon-price-gap-pdf](http://bit.ly/carbon-price-gap-pdf). Senator Whitehouse provides important talking points we can share with NH legislators and others in NH.

Elon Musk: "The only action needed to solve climate change is a carbon tax"...with a revenue-neutral approach. "It's Economics 101" - <https://twitter.com/elonmusk/status/1753837756793466975>

Watch the 5-minute video, review the (updated) slides, and pick up some talking points from the one-pager about why it is critically important to “**Close the U.S. Carbon Price Gap**”:

- What More Should the U.S. Do On Climate? A 5-minute video: [bit.ly/carbon-price-gap-2024](https://bit.ly/carbon-price-gap-2024)
- Carbon Price Gap slides - [bit.ly/carbon-price-gap-presentation](https://bit.ly/carbon-price-gap-presentation)
- One-pager (with supporting pages) in PDF form: [bit.ly/carbon-price-gap-pdf](https://bit.ly/carbon-price-gap-pdf)
- Carbon Fee and Dividend is half the solution to our 1.5°C global goal: [bit.ly/cfd-is-half-the-15-solution](https://bit.ly/cfd-is-half-the-15-solution)

Is carbon pricing unlikely in a Trump administration? We just saw the Biden Administration fail to do it because there was a lack of political will for it. Even if it is unlikely in the next Administration, we can use the next four years to inform others about it and build support for CF&D legislation for the following administration.

However, not all hope is lost even for the short-term. Elon Musk is close to Trump's, and Musk is a strong supporter of the cash-back carbon pricing approach. In February of 2024, Musk tweeted an [8-minute video](#) he narrated about why climate change is a problem and why a rebated carbon fee on fossil fuel production is a necessary, good solution to address climate change. Trump is a strong supporter of tariffs - the U.S. could impose a strong carbon tariff on China and other developing countries that is WTO compliant in the form of a CBAM. (The [EU CBAM](#) is a good example of how that can be done by a country or region that has a carbon price).

See also: “CF&D is half the 1.5°C solution” at [bit.ly/cfdresources](https://bit.ly/cfdresources) - this is why informing people about the beneficial, popular, far-reaching federal Carbon Fee and Dividend policy, and helping a growing number of citizens, community leaders, and businesses show support for this to Congress and the President, is one of the most important things any of us can do to help our leaders address the fundamental market failure underlying the main cause of pollution responsible for global warming and climate change.

A recent Op-Ed from Rep. Michael Vose, Chairman of the STE Committee, reflects the misguided thinking about what we know through science ([text here](#)): "Rep. Michael Vose: There's power in the truth about climate"

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[https://www.unionleader.com/opinion/op-eds/rep-michael-vose-theres-power-in-the-truth-about-climate/article\\_14a5f7dc-96c1-11ef-8d17-af451ae10906.html](https://www.unionleader.com/opinion/op-eds/rep-michael-vose-theres-power-in-the-truth-about-climate/article_14a5f7dc-96c1-11ef-8d17-af451ae10906.html).

My LTE response ([text here](#)) was also published: "U.S. is world's leading gas and oil producer" -

[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](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).

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<https://www.centerforenvironmentalrights.org/news/chesapeake-bay-journal-river-gains-rights-of-nature-under-rappahannock-tribal-law>

The Rights of Nature model is a legal framework that grants legal rights to nature, such as ecosystems and species, and gives them the same legal protection as people and corporations. The model aims to:

- Recognize that nature has fundamental rights to exist, thrive, and evolve
- Provide nature with a voice through representation
- Reorient Western law around principles of relationship, interconnection, reciprocity, and responsibility
- Promote a holistic approach to addressing and achieving the SDGs

Rights of Nature laws can be made legal through: Tribal ordinances, Tribal resolutions, and Constitutional amendments.

Rights of Nature laws grant natural entities legal personhood, which gives them specific rights, responsibilities, and protections. This allows people to represent nature in court.

As of 2022, 24 countries have rights of nature laws, including:

- Canada
- At least seven Tribal Nations in the U.S. and Canada
- Over 60 cities and counties throughout the United States

[Art.] 2. [Natural Rights.] All men have certain natural, essential, and inherent rights among which are, the enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing, and protecting, property; and, in a word, of seeking and obtaining happiness. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by this state on account of race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

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## Discussion

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Here is the ChatGPT analysis of the seriously flawed HCR1 "climate" resolution:

### Climate change resolution

This resolution raises several concerns, primarily because its language and framing may subtly undermine the urgency and scientific consensus around climate change. Here are some points to consider:

#### 1. False Equivalence Between Science and Skepticism

- The resolution implies that there is a "wide spectrum of opinion" about the impact of human behavior on climate change. In reality, there is overwhelming scientific consensus that human activity is the primary driver of recent climate change. This framing risks giving undue legitimacy to fringe or discredited views.

#### 2. Focus on Historical Predictions

- The mention of "historically wrong climate predictions" is misleading. While some early climate predictions may have been off due to limited data or methods, modern climate science relies on robust models and decades of

refined research. Highlighting past errors could be an attempt to erode trust in current science without addressing its advancements.

### **3. Suppression and Fraud Claims**

- The resolution alleges "suppression of some climate perspectives" and "fraudulent research," but it provides no evidence or specific examples. These claims can sow doubt about the integrity of climate science, even though the vast majority of research is peer-reviewed and follows rigorous standards.

### **4. Alarmism and Intimidation**

- The assertion of a "long history of climate alarmism" and "chilling effects" on discourse might discourage urgent action by framing advocates of strong climate policies as fearmongers. It downplays the real and present dangers posed by climate change.

### **5. Economic Impact Focus**

- While considering economic impacts is important, the resolution's emphasis on avoiding policies that "adversely affect any economy" could be used to justify inaction. Bold climate action often involves short-term costs but is necessary to prevent far greater long-term economic and environmental damage.

### **6. Ambiguous Goals**

- The resolution calls for "proper consideration of all relevant data and perspectives," but this can be a double-edged sword. Without specifying what constitutes "relevant," it could open the door to delaying tactics that demand endless studies and debates instead of implementing needed policies.

### **7. Appeal to Balance Without Addressing Urgency**

- While the resolution seeks balance, it does not acknowledge the urgency of addressing climate change or the scale of the threat. This could hinder decisive action at a time when delays exacerbate risks.

### **Summary**

While the resolution may appear reasonable on the surface, its underlying tone and structure risk promoting inaction by casting doubt on scientific consensus, focusing on economic fears, and amplifying fringe perspectives. It may serve as a tool to delay or dilute meaningful climate policy rather than advance informed, effective solutions.