

New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts Position Paper
November 2022

NHADC recognizes the volatile nature of New Hampshire's climate change.

Climate change has reached New Hampshire. Ask the local sugaring family who now tap a month earlier or the ice fishermen whose huts must be moved off ice days earlier than in the past or southern NH ski areas that can, in part, no longer operate due to unpredictable snowfall. New Hampshire has seen a 3 degree rise in temperature (national average is 1.9 degree increase) since 1900, rainfall up 19% since 1895 and extreme rain events (over 2 inches) up 140% since 1950. NH must reckon with climate change.

Climate Change Overview

Climate change refers to temperature and weather patterns that shift over time. Natural geologic events such as volcanic eruptions and human activities which burn fossil, or carbon based fuels, cause atmospheric temperatures to rise. As temperatures rise, ice melts, sea levels rise, and coastal communities sink. Precipitation changes cause more frequent destructive storms, floods, land erosion, as well as droughts. Unpredictable weather changes predicate crop failure and stress on farm and wild animals. Native flora and fauna move to more inhabitable areas, adapt weakly, or vanish. Both natural and man induced climate change negatively impact the natural resource systems life depends on for survival.

Climate Change Impacts in New Hampshire

New Hampshire is already experiencing

- shorter, warmer winters
- disruption of winter recreation activities and economic stability
- increased illnesses, allergies, asthma, and infectious diseases
- longer, hotter, muggier summers that demand extended water use and energy for cooling
- invasive plants and animals
- loss of endemic animal and plant species across ecosystems
- diminishing fresh water quality and resources
- added stress on children, elderly, disabled and low -income communities

There is little doubt that the climate is changing and everyone will be impacted in some way.

Actions

NHADC brings sound, scientific practices to local communities to help manage climate change. NHADC provides:

- Information, materials and tools to implement current farm, forestry, soil, and water conservation methods
- Directives and integrated support for increased land resiliency
- Help to implement conservation goals
- Innovative and proven practices for farmers, such as regenerative agriculture
- Help to build and maintain profitable operations
- On ground support
- Funding resource information
- Technical support
- Help to implement federal initiatives such as carbon sequestration programs

In the face of documented climate change in NH and the world, NHACD works to sustain and protect vital natural resources.

New Hampshire Fish and Game, *Rising Temperatures and Climate Change*,
www.wildlife.state.nh.us

New Hampshire Forest Legacy Program, New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, 2019.
Report developed by Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, LLC and The Nature Conservancy.

US Environmental Protection Agency Climate Change Website. www.epa.gov/climatechange

US Environmental Protection Agency, *What Climate Change Means for New Hampshire*,
EPA430-F-16-03, August 2016