New Hampshire Fact Sheet: Clean Power, Clear Savings

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finalized a rule to reduce carbon pollution from existing power plants—a critical step to address climate change in the U.S. The rule, dubbed the Clean Power Plan, asks each state to design its own strategy to achieve carbon reduction targets by 2030. It offers New Hampshire a great opportunity not just to reduce climate change, but to lower electricity bills and boost the state economy.

Basics on the Clean Power Plan in New Hampshire

In August 2015, the EPA finalized a rule to curb carbon pollution from existing power plants. The EPA has set a 23 percent emission reduction target by 2030 for New Hampshire. States must submit their plans for compliance with the Clean Power Plan starting in the summer of 2016.

The EPA rule offers a significant opportunity to save New Hampshire electricity consumers money and boost the state economy. **A Public Citizen analysis projects that energy efficiency measures under the Clean Power Plan will cut electricity bills for New Hampshire residents up to 18.1 percent by 2030.**

New Hampshire can save electricity consumers even more money if it adopts stronger energy efficiency policies. It should seize this opportunity to serve its citizens, who overwhelmingly support more investment in efficiency and clean energy.[1]

The Clean Power Plan Will Cut New Hampshire Electricity Bills

- Based on the EPA's conservative data, by 2030, electricity bills will be 13.2 to 18.1 percent lower under the Clean Power Plan, saving the average New Hampshire household up to $208 annually.[2]
- Without the Clean Power Plan a typical New Hampshire household will pay roughly $1,152 for electricity in 2030; with the Clean Power Plan it will pay $943 to $999.[3]
- New Hampshire could see even greater savings than the EPA's data suggest because the agency omits entire categories of efficiency measures that states can use, such as building codes and appliance standards.[4]

Promoting Energy Efficiency Benefits New Hampshire Consumers and the Environment

- New Hampshire's 2014 energy efficiency programs saved 67,728,171 kWh of gas and electricity. These programs reduced CO_2 emission by 39,008 metric tons annually.[5]
- Customer return on electric energy efficiency investments in New Hampshire is $7 for every program dollar.[6]
- A 2013 study shows that improving all building in the state to the highest cost-effective energy efficiency has the potential to save consumers $195 million per year as well as adding $160 million to the GDP annually.[7]
- New Hampshire utilized $8.2 million from the RGGI's Energy Efficiency Fund to expand and improve energy efficiency programs. The projects supported by these programs are expected to save $83 million in lifetime savings.[8]

New Hampshire Can Capitalize on the Expanding Clean Energy Economy

- In 2010, New Hampshire's clean economy provided 12,886 jobs. This sector saw an annually growth rate of 5.3% from 2003-2010.[9]
- New Hampshire has no fossil fuel resources, so it must import its energy from other states[10]—giving the state an added incentive to invest in state grown clean energy.
- Each year New Hampshire spends over $2.6 billion importing petroleum products. By switching to renewable energy sources, New Hampshire can keep some of that $2.6 billion from leaving the state.[11]
- Currently, New Hampshire produces enough wind energy to power 38,000 homes, but it has the potential to meet 62% of the state's electricity needs.[12]

ENDNOTES

[1] NRDC, New Bipartisan Poll: Americans Embrace Climate Action, clean energy & Health Protections – Majorities in Maine, New Hampshire, Virginia, Florida, and Colorado back an agenda of clean water, clean air, health safeguards and action on climate change, Jan. 22, 2015, http://www.nrdc.org/media/2015/150122.asp.

[2] *See* PUBLIC CITIZEN, CLEAN POWER, CLEAR SAVINGS: THE EPA CLEAN POWER PLAN WILL CUT NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRICITY BILLS BY 10.3 TO 11.5 PERCENT BY 2030 (2015).

[3] *Id*.

[4] *Id*.

[5] NHSAVES, NEW HAMPSHIRE CORE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS: 4TH QUARTER REPORT JANUARY 2014 – DECEMBER 2014 1, Mar. 2, 2015, http://www.puc.state.nh.us/Electric/NH%20EnergyEfficiencyPrograms/12-262/2014/NH%20CORE%20Energy%20Efficiency%20Programs%204th%20Quarter%20Report%202014.pdf.

[6] NEW HAMPSHIRE PUC, 2013-2014 CORE NEW HAMPSHIRE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS 2, Dec. 20, 2012, http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2012/12-262/TRANSCRIPTS-OFFICIAL%20EXHIBITS-CLERKS%20REPORT/12-262%202012-12-21%20EXH%202%20PSNH%20MERGED%20ATTACHMENT%20A%20AND%20B%20TO%20SETTLEMENT%20AND%20UPDATED%20TO%20INCLUDE%20LATEST%20CORRECTIONS.PDF.

[7] New Hampshire Office of Energy & Planning, New Hampshire 10-year State Energy Strategy ii, Sept. 2014, https://www.nh.gov/oep/energy/programs/documents/energy-strategy.pdf.

[8] RGGI, State Investment Pages: New Hampshire, http://www.rggi.org/rggi_benefits/program_investments/new_hampshire.

[9] Brookings, Sizing the Clean Economy: The Clean Economy in the State of New Hampshire, http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Series/Clean-Economy/33.PDF.

[10] Institute for Energy Research, New Hampshire, http://instituteforenergyresearch.org/states/new-hampshire/.

[11] CONSERVATION NEW HAMPSHIRE, HOW NH LOSES $2.6 BILLION EVERY YEAR, MAY 18, 2010, http://conservationnh.org/transportation/how-nh-loses-2-6-billion-every-year/.

[12] American Wind Energy Assocation, New Hampshire Wind energy, http://awea.files.cms-plus.com/FileDownloads/pdfs/New%20Hampshire.pdf