

City of Keene, NH Towards a Climate Resilient Community

#### NEMO U7 October 30, 2010

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# Keene, Ne Keene, NH

Who are we

What have we done Mitigation Adaptation Making it stick (Alignment)

**Observations** 

# Keene, NH

- Population of 25,000
- Mayor & City Council
- Climate Initiative since 1999



## Why should Local Gov. Respond?

Best Economic Interest /

Local government knows details

Time lag in response from higher levels of government

 Local government is positioned to meet needs



CITY HALI

## Keene, NH

- Partnered with ICLEI in 1999
- Conducted GHG Emissions Inventory
- Adopted Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2004
- Adopted Adaptation Plan (CRC) 2007
- Update GHG Emissions Inventory
- Adopted Comprehensive Master Plan 2010

### **Keene's GHG Reduction Target**

- 2 reduction targets for 2015
  - Community = 10% below 1995 levels
  - Municipal = 20% below 1995 levels
- To reach the community goal, reduce approximately 73,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>
- To reach the municipal goal, reduce approximately 1,300 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>

## **Reduction Measures to Date**

- Biodiesel throughout city fleet (77 vehicles in total)
- Hybrid vehicle program
- Geothermal system at DPW
- Methane to energy system
- Micro Hydro installation at Water Plant
- Internal municipal recycling program

## **Reduction Measures to Date**

- LED for traffic signals & street lights
- Police on Bicycles
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
- Offset our Christmas Tree Lighting
- Recycling Outreach and Backyard Composting Program
- Energy upgrades to VFD motors

## **Reduction Measures to Date**

- Tax breaks for residential wood, wind and solar
- Woodstove Changeout
- Built three roundabouts
- Anti-idling campaign
- Carbon Challenge with Portsmouth NH
- Sponsored Middle School solar car race
- "Climate Change the Musical"

### **Reduction Measure Savings...**

- LED Replacements \$3,854 annually
- Police on Bicycles \$805 annually
- Internal Recycling Program \$3,140 annually
- Methane Recovery System \$ 55,000 annually (estimated)

## In the Pipeline...

- Exploration of wind generation and more hydro power
- Partner in local bio-diesel production facility
- Urban forestry program (carbon sequestration and maintenance)
- Energy efficiency upgrades to through an ESCO

## In the Pipeline...

- Building code changes for energy efficiency
- Incentives for green buildings
- Expand 10% Challenge Program
- Changes to land use regulations to better incorporate smart growth & sustainability principles
- Neighborhood Home Weatherization

## Keene's CRC Plan



I.C.L.E.I Local Governments for Sustainability

- ICLEI partnership
- Complement to CCP
- Vulnerability assessment
- Create goals and ways to achieve those goals

## **Climate Impacts**

- Floods
- Changes in snowfall
- Changes in plant and animal species
- Hotter days
- Air Quality Impacts
- More dynamic weather pattern



Keene 2005

#### 86 PREPARING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

2. Plan- ning Area	3. Current and Expected Stresses to Systems in This Planning Area	7. Projected Climate Change Impacts to Systems in This Planning Area	VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT		
			8. Degree of Sensitivity of Systems in This Planning Area (see Table 8.1)	10&11. Adaptive Capacity of Systems in This Planning Area (see Table 8.2)	12. Vulnerability of Systems in this Planning Area
Water supply	Managing summer drought (current and expected)	More drought, summer water stress likely due to lower winter snowpack and warmer, drier summers. Population growth will compound this problem.	High – water supply is very sensitive to changes in snowpack.	Low – numerous regulatory constraints on reallocating water, options for expanding supply limited, summer demand already greater than supply.	High
Stormwa- ter man- agement	Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) during heavy rainstorms (current and expected)	More localized flooding, water quality problems possible if precipitation becomes more intense, frequent.	High – CSO events are sensitive to changes in the intensity and frequency of rain events.	Medium – can upgrade the system but costly; some upgrades already underway.	Medium
Road operations and main- tenance	Pavement buckling on asphalt roads during extreme heat events	More required asphalt maintenance likely.	High – pavement buckling an existing problem on many roads.	Medium – can replace asphalt more frequently but costly; dependent on industry-wide changes in asphalt for improved asphalt mixes.	Medium

Table 8.3 – Vulnerability assessment for systems associated with sample planning areas of water supply, stormwater management, and road operations and maintenance. This table provides an example of a qualitative vulnerability assessment for systems in the sample planning areas of water supply, stormwater management, and road operations and maintenance.

## Vulnerabilities & Opportunities

**Three Sectors** 

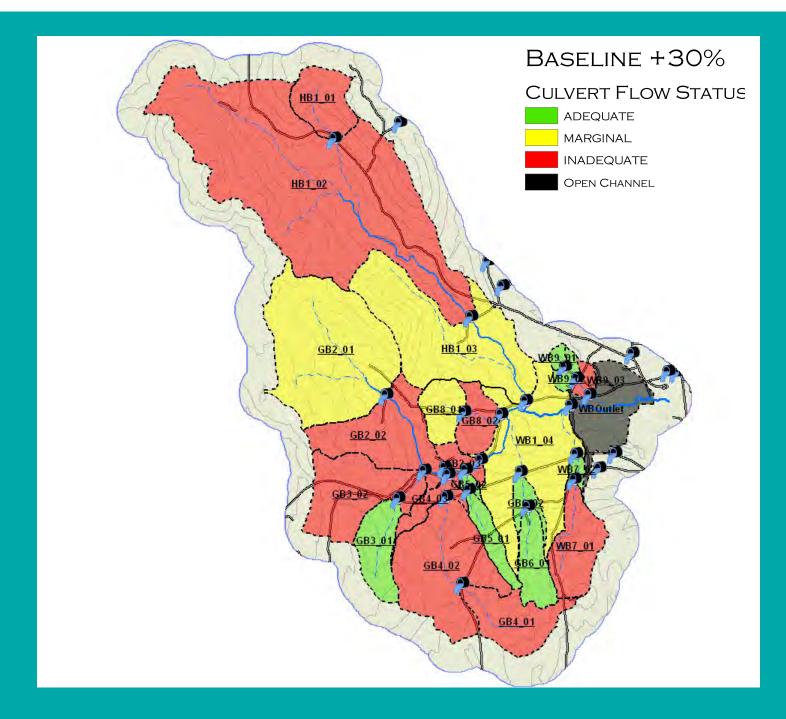
- The Built Environment
- The Natural Environment
- The Social environment

## **The Built Environment**

- Opportunities:
  - Buildings and Development
  - Transportation Infrastructure
  - Stormwater Systems
  - Energy Systems



Photo: M. Engert



## **The Natural Environment**

• Opportunities:

- Wetland & Watershed Management

– Surface Waters

– Fauna and Flora

- Agriculture



Photo: M. Engert

## **The Social Environment**

- Opportunities

   Social Services
  - Public Health
  - Emergency
    Services
  - Sustainable
    Business
    Development
    Food Security



Photo: Clipart

## **Resiliency in Keene**

- Develop energy efficiency and sustainable design standards
- Decrease runoff from sites
- Enhance ability of Stormwater systems to handle large storms
- Develop No Build zones
- Create migratory pathways for animals
- Promote renewable energy resources
- Increase local food production
- Improve reliability of emergency communications

### 2010 Comprehensive Master Plan

- Written through the lens of a changing climate
- Emphasis on Community Sustainability
- Sets goals and actions for future land use, capital projects, and operating budget









### Keene Comprehensive Master Plan



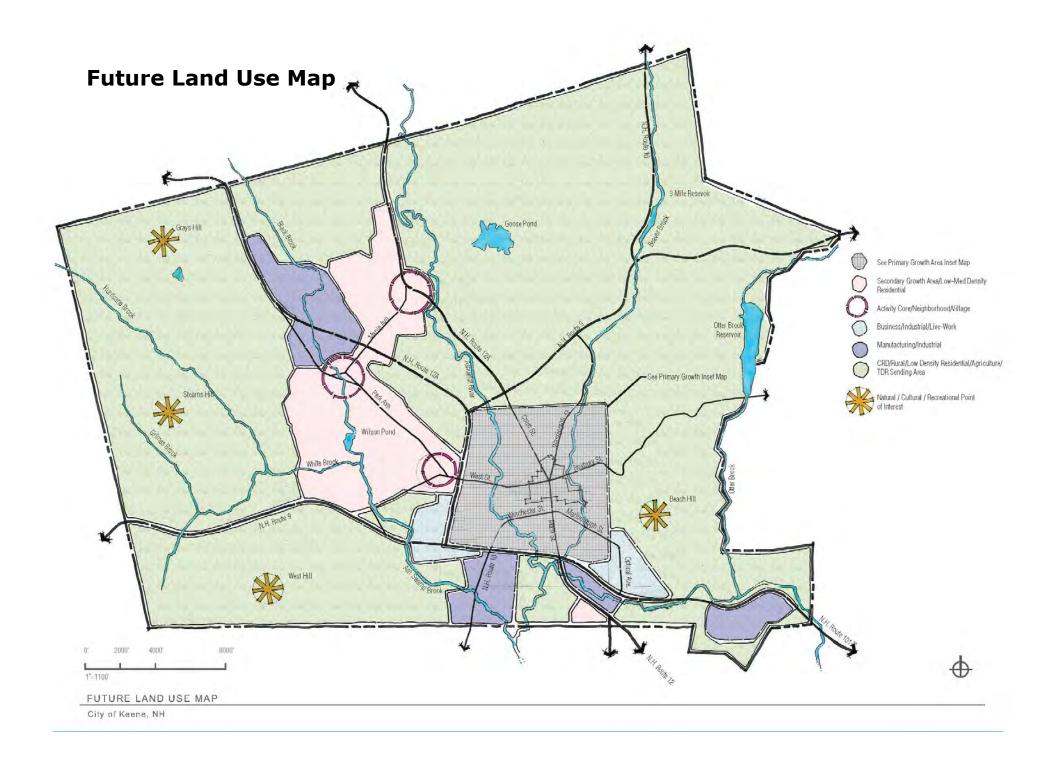


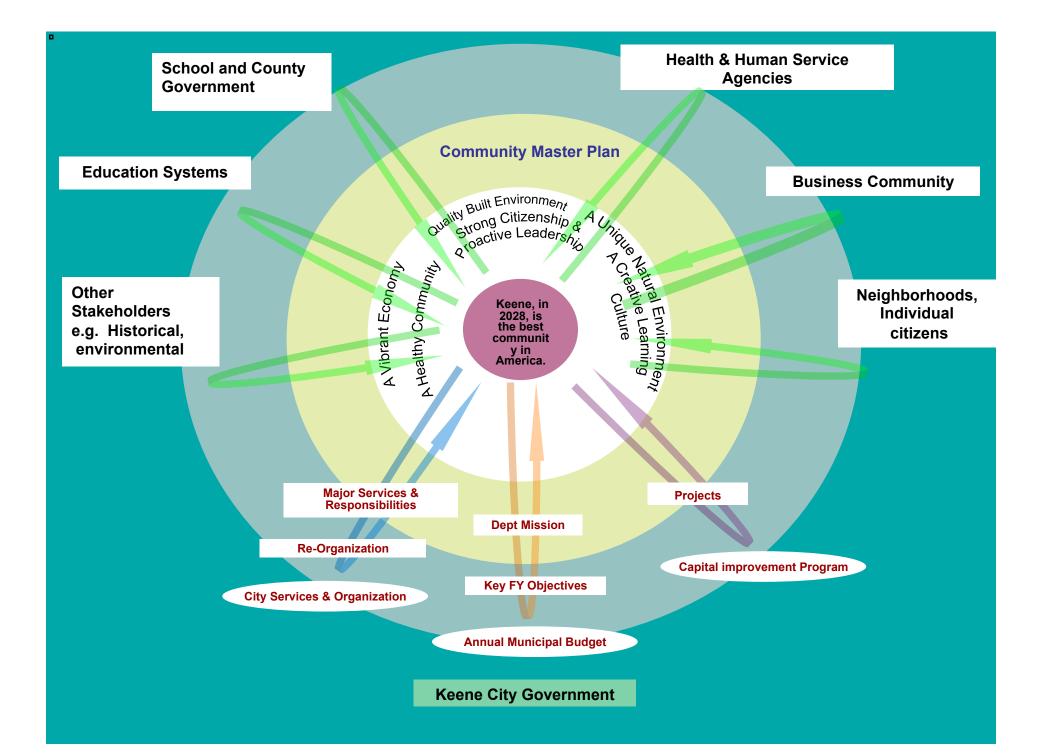


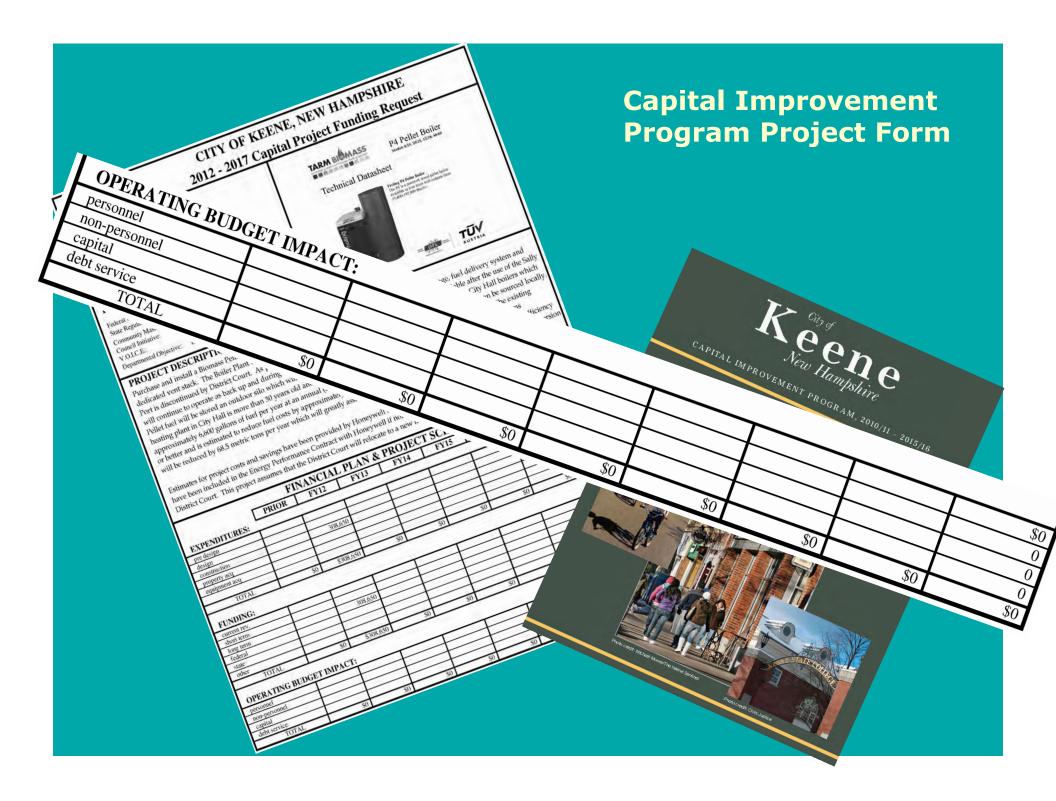


### 2010 Comprehensive Master Plan Top implementation strategies

- Align Land Use and Zoning Regulations
- Improve Transportation Network
- Neighborhood Planning
- Neighborhood Weatherization
- Utilize Low Impact Design
- Become a Vision 2020 Champion
- Continue Climate Change Program
- Develop an Implementation Plan







### **Observations**

- **#1** Leadership
- #2 Emphasize education/ information
- **#3** Keep the conversation going
- #4 Integrate into all aspects of decision making
- **#5** Include all Town departments
- **#6 Make Economic arguments**

## Observations

- #7 Use new tools social marketing
- **#8** Partner with anyone you can
- **#9** Dedicate staff time
- #10 Run a speaker series
- #11 Push higher levels of Gov't to act
- **#12 Mitigation before adaptation**

## **Observations (is it working?)**

- 2015 projected emissions are 255,000 tons
- Need to be at 188,000 to make 10% reduction

The target can be reached but

- Its not enough
- Local government can't do it alone

## **Contact Information**

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