

The New England Climate Coalition's Principles for Reducing Global Warming Pollution

In August 2001, the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers signed a groundbreaking agreement to reduce global warming pollution in our region to:

- 1990 levels by 2010;
- 10% below 1990 levels by 2020;
- 75-85% below 1990 levels.

Despite some encouraging progress New England states are not on track to meet these goals. It is time for our elected officials to redouble their efforts, focus on implementation and turn around the climate crisis. In order to reduce our global warming pollution to safe levels, leading scientists have indicated that the 2020 reductions must be met and the long-term 75-85% reductions must occur by 2050.

Since 2001, a broad coalition of organizations across the region has unified to promote development and implementation of climate policies that will meet or exceed the goals of this governmental climate agreement.

The New England Climate Coalition advocates that to make meaningful progress toward the deep long-term reductions needed to limit or avoid harmful climate change, the state actions must include at least the following elements, which will ensure significant pollution reductions in each of the three principal fossil fuel consuming sectors of our economy: Electricity, Building Performance, and Transportation.

Electricity:

- **Each state must prioritize efficiency-first policies.** States should implement policies that eliminate electricity load growth and reduce overall electricity consumption by 10% by 2020.
- **Each state must contribute to our renewable electricity future.** States should implement policies that will ensure the construction of renewable energy projects to meet 20% of our needs by 2020.
- **Significant investments, including from RGGI auction revenues, should go towards efficiency and clean energy projects.** Nuclear power, the combustion of construction and demolition debris, and offsets with questionable benefits should not and need not be used to meet reduction goals.

Building Performance:

- **Each state must address inefficiencies in existing building stock.** States should implement policies that leverage public and private capital to renovate existing homes and businesses in order to reduce winter heating fuel consumption and summer cooling demands.
- **Each state must ensure that all new construction is energy efficient.** States should implement progressively stronger building codes and standards that will ensure all new buildings use 20% less energy by 2015, 50% less by 2020 and 80% less by 2030 (endorsed by the American Institute of Architects).

Transportation:

- **Each state must support expanded public transportation.** States should work collaboratively to expand regional bus and rail service, improve interconnections, and implement state specific solutions.
- **Each state must ensure future development is smart growth oriented.** States should implement policies that result in a downward trend of yearly vehicle miles traveled, compact downtown development and preserved open space and agricultural land.
- **Each state must promote cars that utilize cleaner fuels and are increasingly efficient.** Using incentives, low carbon fuel standards and other policies, states should create demand for efficient vehicles, low carbon alternative fuels, alternative fueling infrastructure and alternative fuel vehicles that will lead to significant reductions in greenhouse gasses (according to full life cycle analysis).

Cross Sector Actions:

- **Each state must establish a system of mandatory reporting of CO2 and other global warming emissions.** This would create bottom-up inventories across the economy and inform state climate planning.
- **States should work together to promote regional production and consumption.** Reduced travel of regional manufacturing, agricultural and forest products will cut pollution and foster coordination.
- **States should advocate for mandatory greenhouse gas reductions at the Federal level.** Science-based targets, as above, and protections for a State's right to adopt stricter standards are key in any legislation.