Photo by Bernie Casey

Durham, New Hampshire

Climate Action Plan

2025-2030

Built Environment

Transportation

Natural Resources

Waste & Resource Consumption

Acknowledgements

Climate Action Plan Working Group

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- **Jennifer Andrews** - Project Director, UNH Sustainability Institute
- **Jim Lawson** - Durham Resident; Former Member, Town Council and Energy Committee
- **Erin Dennehy-Walsh** - UNH 2023-24 Sustainability Fellow
- **Gail Jablonski** - Business Manager, Town of Durham
- **Matthias Dean-Carpentier** - Chair, Durham Energy Committee

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- **Rich Reine** - Director, Public Works
- **David Emanuel** - Fire Chief
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- **Rachel Gasowski** - Director, Parks & Recreation
- **Sheryl Bass** - Library Director
- **Michael Behrendt** - Director, Planning & Community Development
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Stakeholders

- **Town Council**
- **Agricultural Commission**
- **Conservation Commission**
- **Energy Committee**
- **Housing Task Force**
- **Human Rights Commission**
- **Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee**
- **Land Stewardship Subcommittee**

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Executive Summary

This Climate Action Plan, building on the Town's first plan in 2022, establishes a clear course of action for local efforts toward a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 2025-2030. The previous Climate Action Plan set a goal of a reduction of 2019 emissions by 42.8% by 2030, and zero emissions by 2050, providing a framework for developing and implementing actions to achieve these targets. This updated plan implements new measures and continues progress on ongoing actions in an effort to meet the 2030 reduction goal.

Given the concrete efforts made by UNH and the Town, the 2030 and 2050 goals were set with the knowledge that much of the reductions would be up to community members. There are no additional significant reductions that can be made on the part of the municipality at this time. Further meaningful reductions will require concerted action on the part of residents, as well as local businesses and institutions.

The 2025-2030 Climate Action Plan is organized across four action areas - the Built Environment (emissions from energy production), Transportation (emissions from fuel combustion in motor vehicles), Waste & Resource Consumption, and Natural Resources - and identifies concrete emissions reduction strategies that the Town will work to enact and encourage, in collaboration with residents, businesses, and local stakeholders including the Oyster River School District and the University of New Hampshire. These strategies continue to follow recommendations from the 2022 Climate Action Plan, and are based on local community input as well as research into best practices.

In this 2025-2030 Climate Action Plan, we emphasize the role of the community in advancing our progress. In order to meet the goal of 42.8% reduction of 2019 levels by 2030, residents and businesses must commit to a collective mission of major reductions, especially in the energy efficiency and electrification of homes, businesses, and vehicles. The plan ahead lays out feasible strategies for major reduction across different sectors to reach our goals.

Introduction

The term “climate change” represents the growing phenomenon of extreme shifts in temperature and weather patterns caused by human activities. Consequences of climate change grow more frequent and problematic each year, posing increasingly serious threats to New Hampshire’s natural resources, public health, welfare, critical infrastructure, and economic interests.

The urgency of this issue for the well-being of people and ecosystems represents both a challenge and an opportunity for local governments. Through reassessing municipal function with the lens of sustainability, towns like Durham are able to revisit the efficiency and inclusivity of their approaches. As a regional leader in community-based green initiatives, Durham is situated to make great strides in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Durham is home to the University of New Hampshire, allowing for increased walkability, public transportation, and green space, as well as opportunities for collaboration. The Town’s capacity for sustainability is bolstered by a partnership with the University of New Hampshire Sustainability Institute. Through this partnership, Durham has hosted 7 Sustainability Fellows since 2018, contracted on a year-by-year basis to complete projects such as community greenhouse gas inventories, renewable energy research, and drafting the Town’s first Climate Action Plan in 2022.

The 2022 Durham CAP laid out actions to be completed by 2024, with overarching goals of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 42.8% of 2019 levels by 2030 and achieving zero emissions by 2050. These ambitious goals were set with the understanding that meeting them would require meaningful, tangible change on the part of individuals and businesses. This 2025-2030 CAP further emphasizes that progress relies heavily on residents’ commitment to reductions, lifestyle changes, as well as shifts in energy efficiency and electrification in their homes and electric vehicles.

What is a Climate Action Plan?

A Climate Action Plan provides a strategic framework through which a government sets and tracks its greenhouse gas reduction targets. These plans focus on mitigation rather than adaptation to climate change impacts, outlining a workplan that organizes processes and actions within the community to measure, monitor, and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

45 states, and 43 of the 50 largest U.S. cities, have adopted Climate Action Plans, due in part to past federal-level initiatives such as the $5 billion Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program. Climate Action Plans on a municipal level represent a commitment to go above and beyond what is required of communities in order to protect the planet as we know it.

In 2022, UNH Sustainability Fellow Rafidah Rahman assisted the Town of Durham in drafting and implementing its first Climate Action Plan. Building on the work of previous fellows including Cathy Fletcher, Emily Mello, and Mary Potts, the plan set ambitious goals and spurred interdepartmental action to reach those targets.

The 2022 plan will serve as the benchmark for this updated 2025-2030 plan in order to situate progress on reduction goals and actions, while simultaneously adjusting the path ahead and defining new actions based on feasibility, stakeholder feedback, and new opportunities for reductions in the Town.

Purpose of the Climate Action Plan

Photo by Bernie Casey

In 2023, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Sixth Assessment Report, written by a panel of hundreds of climate experts and scientists. In this report, the IPCC states that human activities, especially greenhouse gas emissions, have “unequivocally caused global warming” at a global surface temperature of 1.1 degrees above 1850-1900 in 2011-2020. In order to limit further temperature increase and widespread damage, it is critical for humankind to change their lifestyles and use of energy and resources.

In recent years, Durham has demonstrated its commitment to emissions reductions and addressing climate change at the local level. The Town recognizes the risk that climate change poses to its residents, and is acting now to reduce the GHG emissions of both its government operations and the community at large through innovative programs and actions laid out in this plan.

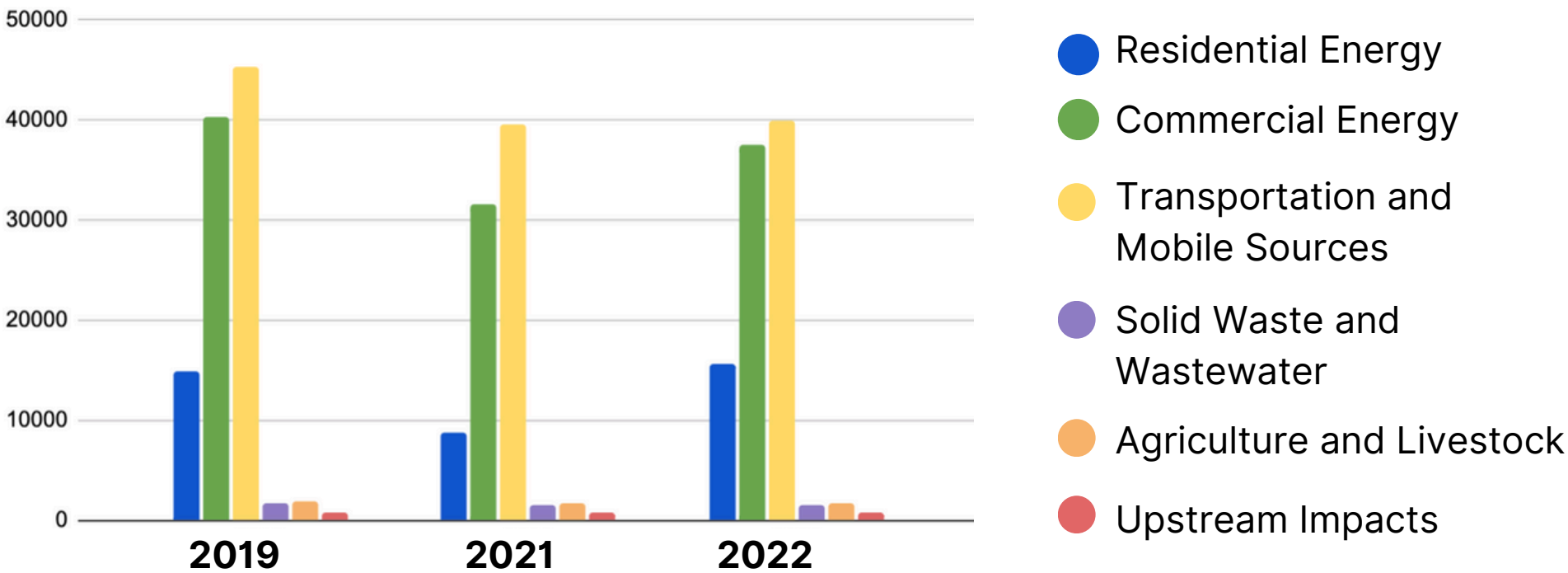
The Town of Durham needs to address existing climate risks such as sea level rise, increased flooding and drought conditions, and increased storm severity, among other anticipated changes, through enhanced resiliency and by adapting its systems and infrastructure to new conditions. Specific adaptation actions can be found in Durham’s 2024 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

While the Climate Action Plan is a framework for developing and implementing actions to achieve emissions reduction targets, the 2024 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan highlights the vulnerability of Durham to climate hazards and the strategies proposed to respond to these vulnerabilities, increasing local resilience to climate-related challenges.

We recognize that no one strategy will undo these challenges, but the implementation of multi-faceted strategies helps to set the Durham community on the right path toward resilience.

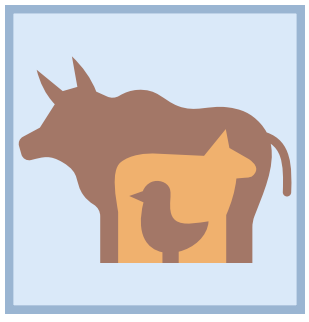
Durham's Carbon Footprint

The Town of Durham emitted an estimated total of 97,019 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MTCDE) in 2022, compared to 104,472 MTCDE in 2019 and 83,622 MTCDE in 2021. Comparisons by sector and year can be seen in the chart below.



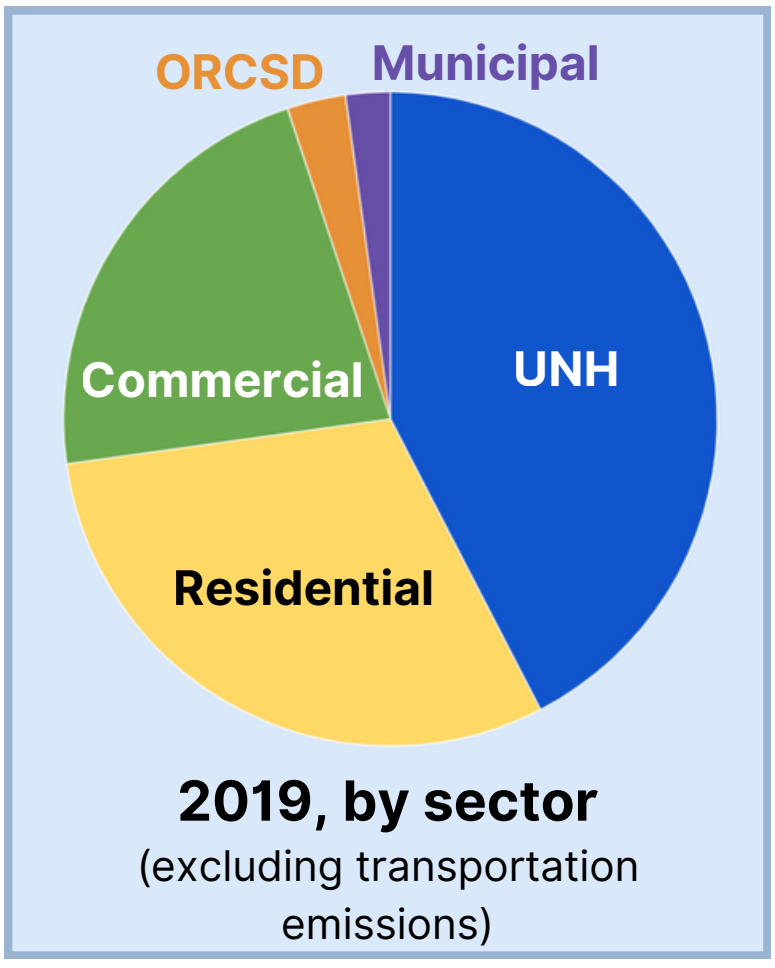
Each year, the largest source of emissions has been transportation, followed by commercial/residential energy. Solid Waste & Wastewater, Agriculture & Land Use, and Upstream Impacts each emit less than 2% of total emissions annually.

2022 Emissions by Source

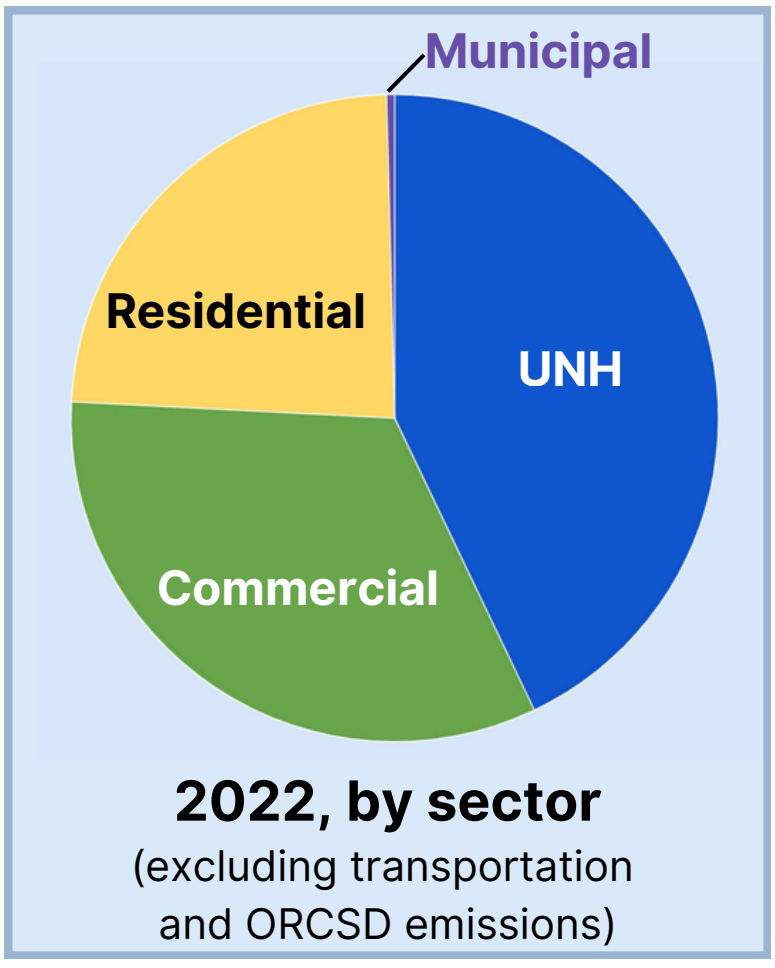
Built Environment	Transportation	Agriculture and Livestock	Solid Waste	Wastewater
				
55.5%	41.1%	1.8%	1.3%	0.4%

The charts below show 2019 and 2022 non-transportation GHG emissions by user (excluding transportation emissions as they are difficult to separate by user). Residential and Commercial emissions accounted for 52.5% of 2019 non-transportation emissions, representing “Durham community” emissions. As this makes up the majority of 2019 emissions, the 2022 CAP emphasized a need for changes in these sectors for the 2030 reduction goal to be reached.

In 2022, Residential and Commercial emissions increased to a combined 56.7% of emissions, further emphasizing a need for change in community behavior to reach more aspirational reductions.



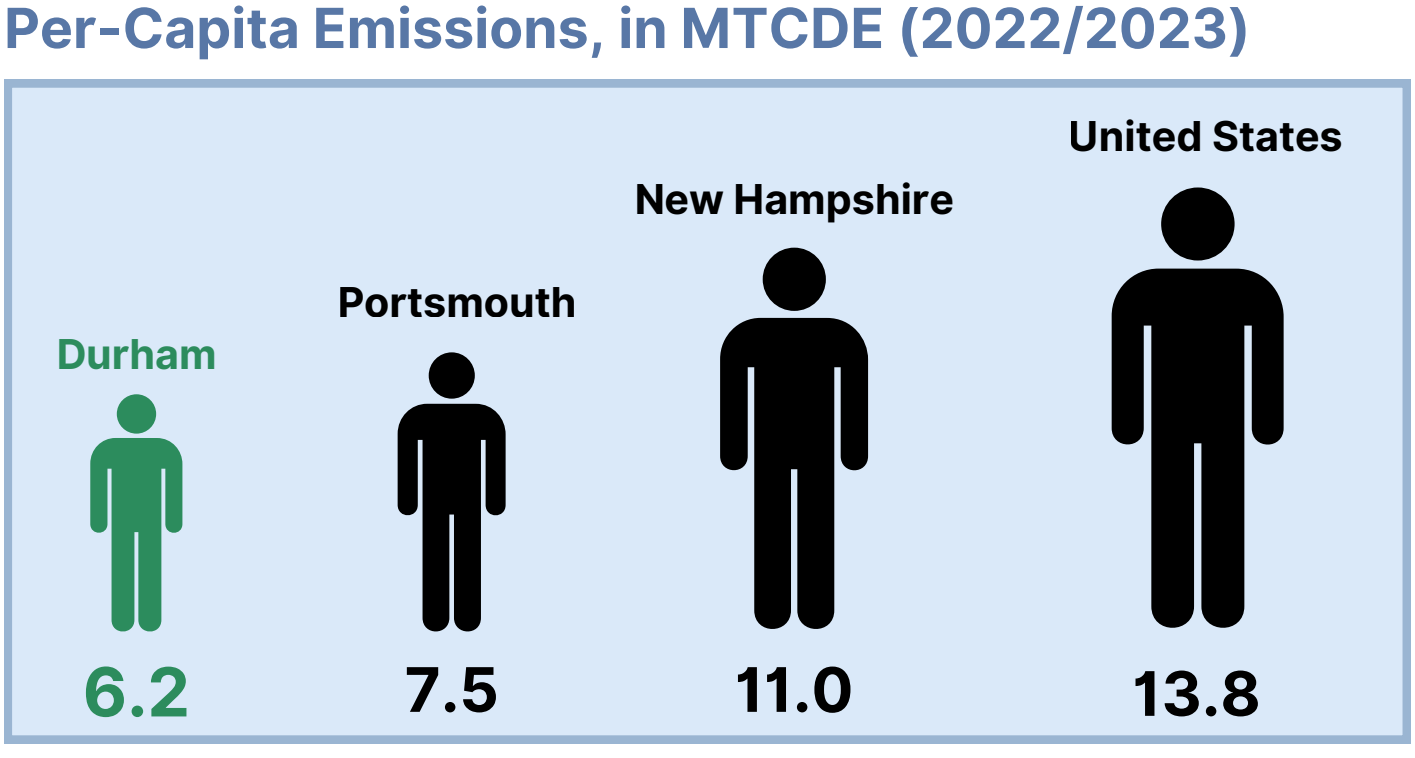
2019, by sector
(excluding transportation emissions)



2022, by sector
(excluding transportation and ORCSD emissions)

UNH, the highest-emitting user in 2019 and 2022, committed to a 50% reduction in its Scope 1 and 2 emissions from 2019 levels by 2030. If this goal is reached, Durham’s footprint would be reduced by about 9,115 MTCDE, representing a 8.72% reduction of Durham’s total 2019 emissions.

The Town of Durham's total community emissions in 2022 added up to 97,019 MTCDE, equal to the emissions of about 21,000 gasoline cars driven for one year. To compare Durham's emissions to other areas, the graphic below compares MTCDE per capita in Durham to estimate each community member's relative carbon footprint compared to Portsmouth, the state of New Hampshire, and the United States as a whole.



In order to reach its reduction goal, the Town's footprint would have to reduce to a total of 59,758 MTCDE in 2030. In her 2024 report, Sustainability Fellow Erin Dennehy found that Durham's total emissions decreased by 7.13% between 2019 and 2022.

However, this reduction can be attributed at least in part to the coronavirus pandemic. Universities like UNH were forced to limit their operations, and workers were encouraged to work from home. Emissions category data correspond with these patterns: on-road transportation emissions decreased by 12.77% (5,783 MTCDE) between 2019 and 2021, and only "bounced back" by 0.8% (325 MTCDE) between 2021 and 2022.

This pattern may continue as the U.S. Federal Highway Administration has only observed a nationwide increase of 2.45% in VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled) between May 2022 and May 2024. If this decrease is maintained, in conjunction with the steady growth in electric vehicle (EV) popularity in Durham and increase in active and public transportation, 2030 on-road transportation emissions will decrease by about 30% of 2019 levels.

Photo by Craig Stevens

Planning and Development Process

This plan was developed by 2024-2026 UNH Sustainability Fellow Sophie Goodwin, Durham Administrator Todd Selig, the UNH Sustainability Institute, and individuals from Town departments, committees, and commissions. The Task Force initially created draft goals and actions that were informed by the 2022 Climate Action Plan, The Durham Master Plan, 2019-22 Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Inventories, and Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans. The Task Force solicited feedback from the community through meetings with Town committees, commissions, and departments, online surveys and suggestion boxes, and Friday Updates emails. This feedback helped shape the final version of this plan, making it more useful for the Durham community.

While UNH and the Town are making concrete efforts to reduce their GHG emissions, it is largely up to community members whether or not we meet our goals.

Climate Action Plan Elements

While Durham has already begun to reduce its GHG emissions and climate risk in meaningful ways through a variety of actions, this plan outlines a deliberate and comprehensive approach to continuing and strengthening these efforts. It offers a framework to document, coordinate, measure, and adapt efforts moving forward. This Plan covers goals and actions for reducing GHG emissions resulting from local government and community-wide activities within Durham (i.e., mitigation-focused).

1. **Transportation: Creating a safe, connected, and accessible transportation system that prioritizes low-carbon transportation methods and seeks to reduce GHG emissions.**
    - Active transportation (walking and biking)
    - Electric vehicles (promoting vehicles and charging stations)
    - Land use (impacts on transportation: zoning, bike lanes, and EV charging)
    - Public transportation (expanding and encouraging the use of public transportation and transit)
    - Vehicles (improving vehicle efficiency and reducing use)
    - Design (resilient design and improvements for transportation infrastructure)

2. The Built Environment - Working with residents and businesses to improve energy supply choices and reduce demand.

- Continuing to build a reliable, green, and adequate energy supply to support current and future energy needs.
    - Renewable energy (expanding generation)
    - Resilient energy (reliable energy systems)
- Encouraging the shift to resilient and efficient buildings that minimize the GHG emissions required to heat, cool, and power them
    - Green infrastructure (low-impact development)
    - Energy efficiency (efficiency and conservation)
    - Green equipment (energy efficient equipment)
    - Resilient buildings (buildings resilient to climate impacts)

3. Solid Waste and Resource Consumption - reducing and diverting waste; conserving resources; supporting a local and sustainable food system

- Promoting processes that reduce the amount of waste send to the landfill, encourage reduced consumption, and support locally sourced products.
- Local food system (local food, agriculture, and businesses)
- Purchasing (purchasing practices: Energy Star)
- Waste (waste reduction and diversion; composting)
- Water use (water use reduction and efficiency)
- Consumption practices (sustainable, reduced, and informed consumption)

4. Natural Resources - protecting water and other natural resources, especially green space and public lands

- Preserving and enhancing the health of Durham's waterways, agriculture, wildlife, and open spaces.
  - Agricultural lands (healthy, productive agricultural lands)
  - Open space (preserving green and open space)
  - Sustainable and resilient landscapes (biodiversity, pollinator protection, and resistance to erosion)
  - Tree canopy (tree canopy and forest management)
  - Water resources (protecting water resources)
  - Storm water management

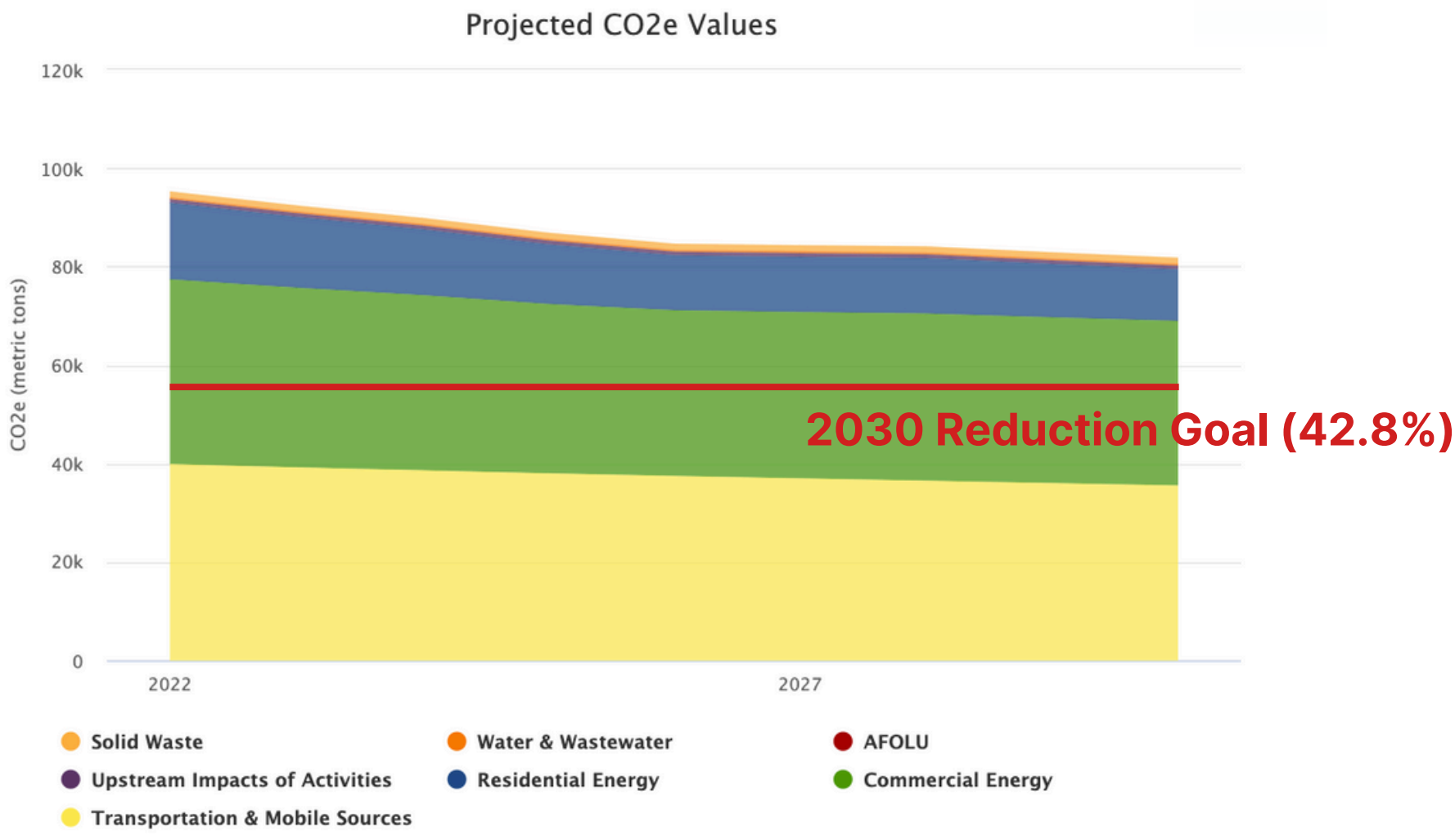
The separate Hazard Mitigation Plans and their updates outline current climate hazards in Durham to increase its resilience (i.e., adaptation-focused). Goals and actions to reduce GHG emissions are organized into four focus areas, providing a structural framework to organize goals and actions under this and subsequent versions of this Plan.

Forecasts to 2030

To estimate the community's future emissions, we have created three emissions forecasts: Business-as-Usual (Forecast 1), Moderate Reduction (Forecast 2), and Strong Reduction (Forecast 3). ICLEI's Clearpath tool was used to estimate external reductions based on lowered carbon intensities and more sustainable practices, as well as reduction measures made within Durham such as energy efficiency retrofits, lowered car usage, switching to electric and hybrid vehicles, and more.

Three forecasts have been created to model varying outcomes caused by external changes and internal constraints, including a lack of commitment or impactful change by the community towards reduced emissions.

Forecast 1: Business-As-Usual

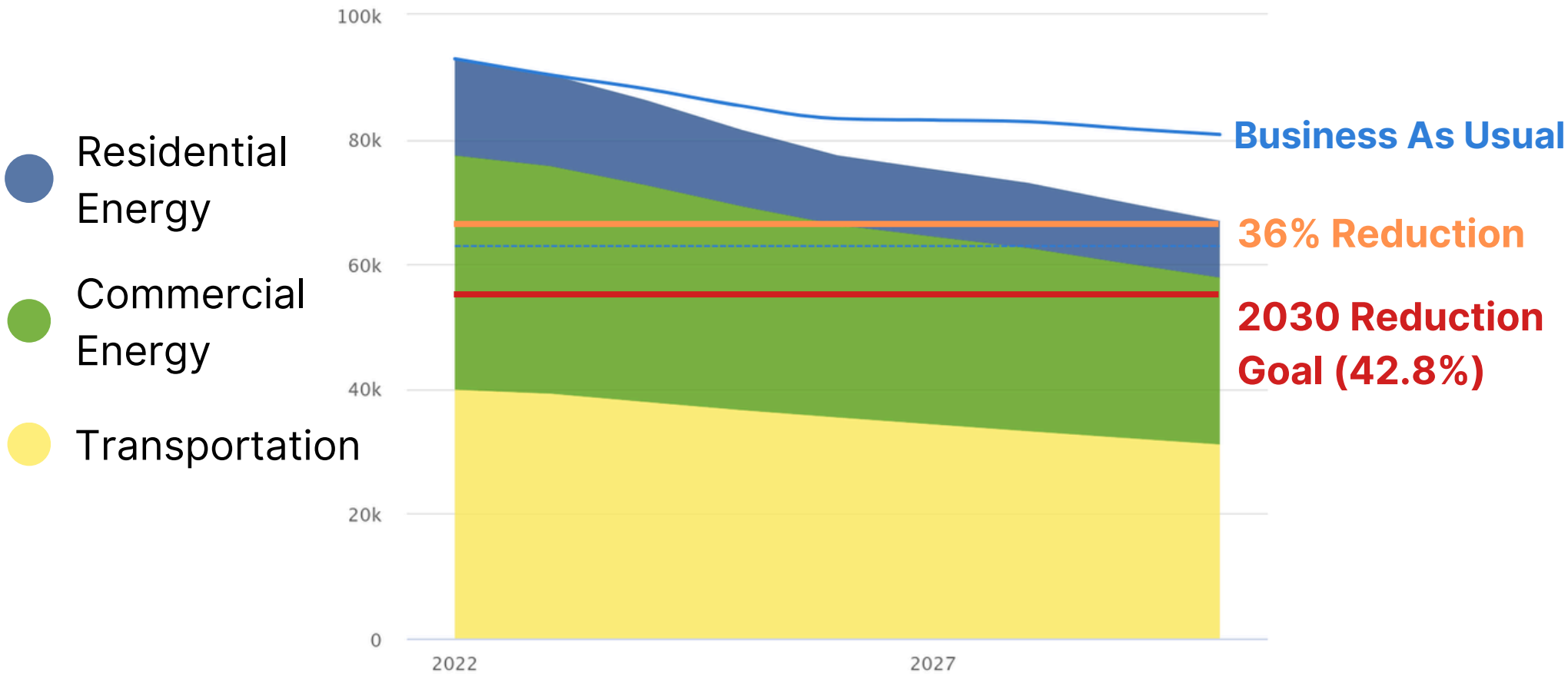


Without any reduction measures, Durham's 2030 emissions would only decrease by an estimated 22.5% of 2019 levels (24,500 Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalents). The reduction shown here between 2022 and 2030 can be attributed to external measures, such as reductions in carbon intensity by Eversource, as well as sustainability efforts implemented prior to or apart from this Plan.

The Town is committed to our goal of strong reductions because we know the community cares about the future of our planet. Our progress since the 2022 Climate Action Plan shows that the Town is on the right track towards stronger emissions reductions than this model depicts. A townwide goal of decreasing our carbon emissions can be seen in shared efforts by the community and municipal operations.

Forecast 2: Moderate Reduction

This forecast assumes additional concerted effort on the part of residents and local businesses to decarbonize the built environment and transportation activities. These reduction measures would represent an overall reduction of about 37,500 MTCDE, or 36% of overall 2019 emissions.

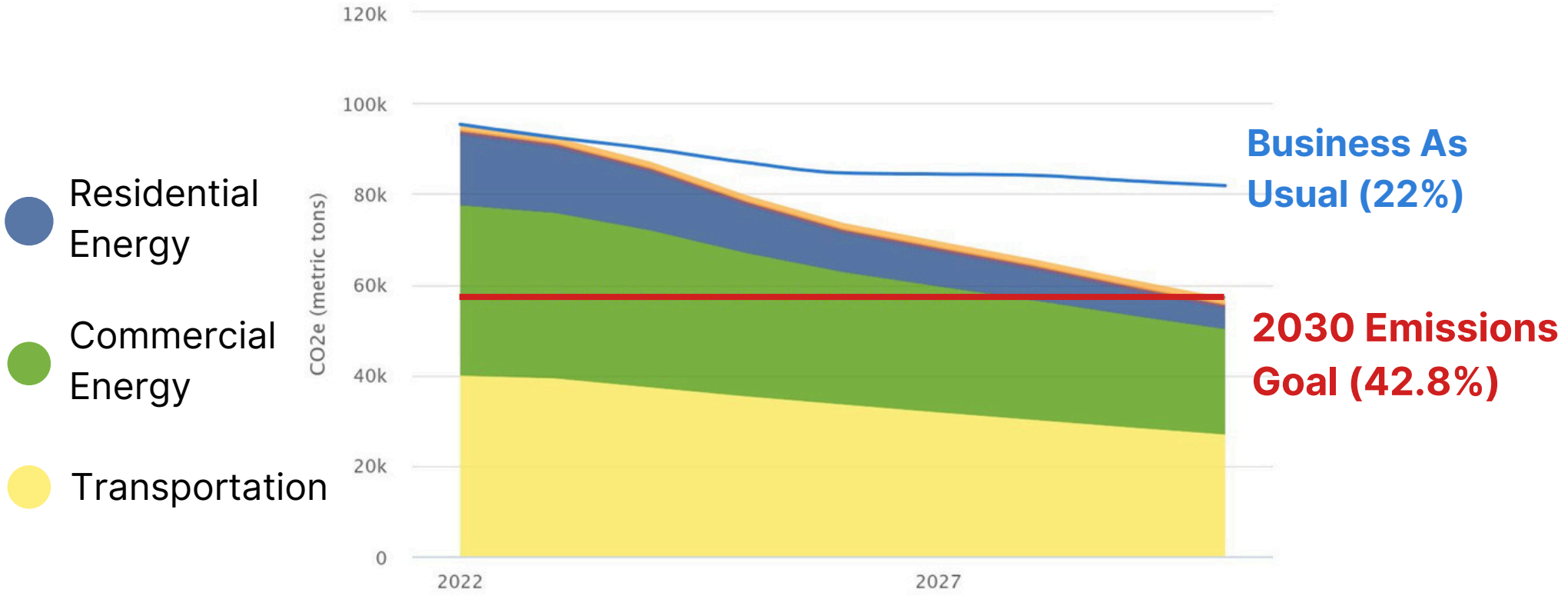


Measures include:

- 5% Reduction in overall VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled)
- Electric and Hybrid Vehicles represent 12% of overall VMT
- 8% solid waste diversion through composting
- Active transportation (biking and walking) is primary mode of transportation by 6% of population
- 3% of residential and commercial units receive efficiency retrofits each year; 3% of units electrify each year (about 90 households annually)
- 80% of new construction is electric
- Clean50 (50% renewable source) becomes default option in the Community Power Coalition partnership with Eversource, and enrollment is moderate

Forecast 3: Strong Reduction

This model illustrates the significant level of change needed on the part of Durham's community members to meet its reduction goals by 2030. These measures would represent an overall reduction of 44,818 MTCDE, or 42.9% of overall emissions, thus meeting the 42.8% reduction goal.



These measures include:

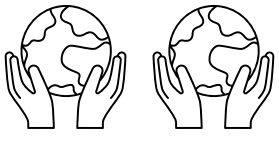
- 12% reduction in overall VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled)
- Electric and Hybrid Vehicles represent 22% of overall VMT
- 10% solid waste diversion through composting
- Active and public transportation (biking, walking, buses, trains) is primary mode of transportation by 10% of population
- 5% of residential and commercial units receive efficiency retrofits each year; 5% of units electrify each year (about 145 households annually)
- 100% of new construction is electric
- Clean100 (100% renewable source) becomes default option in the Community Power Coalition partnership with Eversource, and enrollment in the program is high

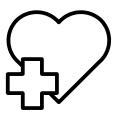
This ideal scenario requires the work of the entire community towards reducing our footprint and meeting the reduction goal.

Summary of Goals and Actions

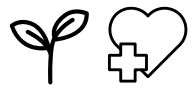
The Climate Action Plan offers a robust set of goals and actions that will address GHG reductions. Each goal and action were created and reviewed by a group of stakeholders who considered technology limitations, funding constraints, public support, feasibility of implementation, environmental justice, and other barriers.

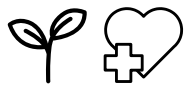
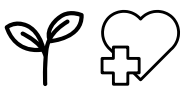
Calculating expected emissions reductions for each goal requires making assumptions about the degree of implementation, technology, and individual behavioral changes several years into the future. The uncertainty associated with these assumptions makes it difficult to assign exact reduction totals to each goal or action. To address this uncertainty and provide a reference for reduction potential, the following symbols and associated ranges represent the emission reductions associated with each objective and its strategies. The focus areas have also been evaluated for co-benefits, as seen below.

Symbol	GHG Reduction Range
	0–1,000 MTCDE
	1,000–5,000 MTCDE
	5,000 or more MTCDE

Symbol	Co-Benefit
	Support jobs and prosperity
	Advance equity and justice
	Improve environmental quality
	Improve health

Summary of Reduction Strategies

Goal	Supporting Actions	Mitigation (M) or Adaptation (A)	Mitigation Potential by 2030	Co-Benefits
Transportation				
Encourage the use and improve the quality of active transportation in Durham.	T.1-T.5	M		
Continue to promote and enhance public transportation options, such as Wildcat Transit and the Amtrak Downeaster.	T.1-T.2 T.5-T.8	M		
Continue to improve Electric Vehicle infrastructure.	EV.1-EV.2	M		
Promote and support benefits of EV ownership in the community.	EV.1-EV.4 EV.7	M		
Support UNH, Durham Police, and other fleets in their vehicle electrification efforts.	EV.5-EV.6	M		
The Built Environment				
Continue to explore the expansion of renewable energy usage and production in Durham.	B.2-B.3 B.5 B.7	M		
Continue to promote increased energy efficiency and electrification of structures in the community.	B.1 B.4-B.6 B.8-B.9	M, A		

Goal	Supporting Actions	Mitigation (M) or Adaptation (A)	Mitigation Potential by 2030	Co-Benefits
Solid Waste and Resource Consumption				
Encourage the community to minimize waste and consumption.	SW.1-SW.3	M		
Continue to support local businesses and the local food system.	SW.3-SW.6	M, A		
Reduce the tonnage of solid waste and send it to the landfill by 10% per household with the goal of meeting and exceeding the NH state diversion rates.	SW.1-SW.3 SW.7	M		
Natural Resources				
Continue to prioritize the expansion and maintenance of green space in the Town.	NR.1-NR.2 NR.5-NR.9	M		
Provide and enhance recreational opportunities for residents by improving trails and public lands.	NR.3-NR.4	M		

Climate Risks and Vulnerabilities: Durham's Hazard Mitigation Plans

In addition to addressing mitigation concerns as outlined in this Climate Action Plan, there is also a separate 2024 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, which highlights Durham's vulnerability to climate vulnerabilities and the strategies proposed to combat them, thereby improving our local resilience to future climate-related challenges.

The 2024 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, outlining Durham's Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, was adopted by the Town in April of 2024. Preparing for the impacts of climate change is a complex challenge. Despite the uncertainty of future global emissions levels, climate science is evolving. Therefore, Durham's preparedness strategy needs to be an evolving one as well.

Durham has employed a two-pronged approach to addressing climate vulnerabilities: Mitigation and Adaptation. As climate conditions change, proactive planning can be more cost-effective than reactive responses to damage after the fact, and can assist in maintaining the functionality of town infrastructure and systems. It may involve anticipating the need for later modifications or operational changes or designing for projected foreseeable conditions. In other situations, the uncertainty surrounding the timing and magnitude of future impacts may make it more cost-effective to design the project so that future modifications can be made as soon as the potential impact becomes more apparent. For example, a current roadway storm water system can be designed to allow future modifications to accommodate additional precipitation. To be most effective, climate change preparedness requires decision-making that is specific to each project and program, and that is informed by a broad understanding of the impacts of climate change. These considerations are included as part of the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plans.

The most vulnerable populations are in general at greater risk of climate change impacts and often have the fewest resources to cope with these changes. In the aftermath of extreme events, it is imperative to foster resilience in more vulnerable populations and support their recovery. To enhance equity, climate change preparedness strategies should:

1. Identify and prioritize measures that can be used to mitigate the effects of climate change on vulnerable populations.
2. Ensure vulnerable populations' input and perspectives are taken into account.

The Path Ahead

The 2025-2030 Climate Action Plan is organized into four focus areas as listed in the table below. Each focus area has associated goals, created based on consideration of Durham's 2022 Climate Action Plan, 2015 Master Plan, 2019-2022 Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Inventories, 2024 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, and concurrent risk and vulnerability assessments in the 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and 2023 Climate Adaptation chapter of the Master Plan.

Focus Area	Description
Transportation	Promoting a range of transportation options, especially public, active, and low-emission transportation
The Built Environment	Promoting energy efficiency and conservation in buildings, as well as providing green energy choices and an adequate supply for future energy demand
Solid Waste and Resource Consumption	Reducing and diverting waste; conserving resources; and supporting a local and sustainable food system
Natural Resources	Protecting water and other natural resources, especially green space and public lands

See Appendix for emissions reduction potential calculations.

1. Transportation

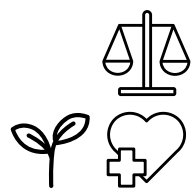
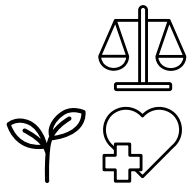
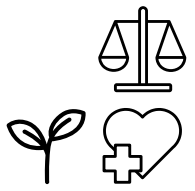
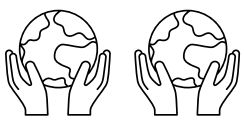
Promoting a range of transportation options, especially public, active, and low-emission transportation

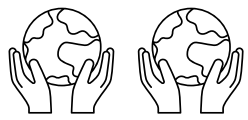
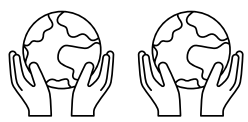
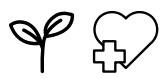
- Creating a safe, connected, and accessible transportation system that prioritizes low-carbon transportation methods and seeks to reduce GHG emissions.
- Subcategories:
  - Active transportation (walking and biking)
  - Electric vehicles (promoting vehicles and charging stations)
  - Land use (impacts on transportation: zoning, bike lanes, and EV charging)
  - Public transportation (expanding and encouraging the use of public transportation and transit)
  - Vehicles (improving vehicle efficiency and reducing use)
  - Design (resilient design and improvements for transportation infrastructure)

Transportation fossil fuels emit GHGs and produce criteria air pollutants when combusted, which impacts health and air quality. The category Transportation and Mobile Sources consists of the emissions of cars, trucks, and other vehicles in the transport of goods and people. This category makes up 41.1% of Durham’s total GHG emissions. Decreasing VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled), relying more on public transit and carpooling rather than single occupancy, expanding active transportation, and shifting from gasoline and diesel to electric and hybrid power will contribute significantly to Durham’s GHG reductions.

Transportation

Durham is a leader in access to sustainable, safe, and active travel options.

	Encourage the use of public and active transportation while improving infrastructure.	Mitigation Potential	Co-Benefits
T.1	Create and launch a town-wide marketing campaign to promote transportation options and encourage diverse ridership of public and active transportation beyond the student population, especially around the University campus and downtown Durham.		
T.2	Partner with UNH to incorporate an educational campaign about active and public transportation options.		
T.3	Continue to promote and provide support for the Cat Trax bikeshare program at UNH, which is also available to Durham residents.		
T.4	Continue to make conscious efforts to protect pedestrian activity in the Town, especially using the findings of the 2024 Durham Pedestrian Safety Report by Tighe & Bond.		
T.5	Continue implementing the Complete Streets project on Madbury Road in phases through 2028, promoting safe access of the road for all users including pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities.		
T.6	Continue to support the Amtrak Downeaster in partnership with the University.		
T.7	Support the University's Federal Transit Administration-funded renovation of the Durham/UNH train station to increase ridership and accessibility by endorsing access and entrance reconfiguration of the town-owned Depot Road lot.		
T.8	Continue to provide advocacy for the University's transportation grant applications.		

	Promote increased community adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles.	Mitigation Potential	Co-Benefits
T.EV.1	Move forward with installation of additional EV charging stations in identified locations through 2029.		
T.EV.2	Continue to encourage EV adoption and remove barriers to ownership.		
T.EV.3	Continue to track the purchase of electric and hybrid vehicles in the community through the Town Clerk's office.		
T.EV.4	Continue to collect public input on electric vehicles from Durham residents by administering the Energy Committee's EV survey.		
T.EV.5	Support the University in its transit fleet replacement efforts and improvement of alternative fuel systems, with plans to retire the UNH diesel bus fleet in the next decade.		
T.EV.6	Support the hybridization of the Durham Police cruiser fleet - newly hybrid as of December of 2024 - and continue to monitor the effectiveness of fleet electrification over the next 3-5 years.		
T.EV.7	Continue to host events, such as June 2024's Electric Vehicle Showcase, to educate the community about electric and hybrid vehicles.		

2. The Built Environment

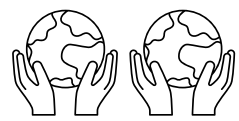
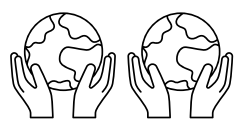
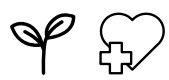
Promoting energy efficiency and conservation in buildings, as well as providing green energy choices and an adequate supply for future energy demand

- Encouraging the shift to resilient and efficient buildings that minimize the GHG emissions required to heat, cool, and power them.
- Continuing to build a reliable, green, and adequate energy supply to support current and future energy needs.
- Subcategories:
  - Green infrastructure (low-impact development)
  - Energy efficiency (efficiency and conservation)
  - Green equipment (energy efficient equipment)
  - Resilient buildings (buildings resilient to climate impacts)
  - Renewable energy (expanding generation)
  - Resilient energy (reliable energy systems)

Energy consumed in buildings accounts for 56.7% of emissions, with Commercial emissions making up 39.8% (UNH 23.4%; other Commercial 16.4%), Residential emissions 16.6%, and Municipal 0.3% of total emissions. Energy consumption makes up the largest source in Durham; decreasing energy use, improving efficiency, and investing in renewable energy sources and a less carbon-intensive energy supply will offset the need for fossil fuels, reducing emissions and pollution.

The Built Environment

Durham prioritizes energy efficiency and electrification of both residential and commercial buildings.

	Continue to promote increased efficiency and low-emission powering of structures in the community.	Mitigation Potential	Co-Benefits
B.1	Continue to provide educational materials about energy efficiency and carbon emission reduction opportunities in existing residential and commercial buildings on the town website, social media platforms, and in Friday Update emails.		
B.2	Continue to advance the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire as a founding member, and incrementally increase default sources to as high a renewable mix as possible, so long as it is not more expensive than the current Eversource default rate.		
B.3	Continue to assess locations for solar expansion in the Town.		
B.4	Support electrification and energy efficiency retrofits for new and existing buildings across the community.		
B.5	Create educational materials and incentives to encourage development of renewable energy systems and high-performing buildings.		
B.6	Evaluate changes needed in Durham (ex: zoning and other means) to allow for a broader variety of modestly sized, affordably priced, energy efficient housing types that are proximate to the urban core in accordance with SmartGrowth principles.		
B.7	Explore establishing a Community Power Program to reserve funds to invest in local renewable energy projects, supported by a CPCNH adder or grants.		
B.8	Facilitate maintenance or creation of affordable, climate-ready housing in town where possible.		
B.9	Support UNH’s goal of reducing their Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 50% by 2030.		

3. Solid Waste and Resource Consumption

Reducing and diverting waste; conserving resources; and supporting a local and sustainable food system

- Promoting processes that reduce the amount of waste send to the landfill, encourage reduced consumption, and support locally sourced products.
- Subcategories:
  - Local food system (local food, agriculture, and businesses)
  - Purchasing (purchasing practices: Energy Star)
  - Waste (waste reduction and diversion; composting)
  - Water use (water use reduction and efficiency)
  - Consumption practices (sustainable, reduced, and informed consumption)

Emissions from solid waste material directly contributed to 1.3% of the Town's total GHG emissions, and contribute to Transportation emissions via hauling of waste to and from facilities. It is in Durham's long-term interest to continue expanding recycling and enable the reuse of materials. Durham has explored options in electrifying waste collection vehicles to further reduce emissions in this category.

In addition to waste reduction, reusing, and recycling, conserving resources and supporting mindful consumption is vital in Durham. In the past few years, Durham's local food system has continued to thrive with the introduction of the weekly Farmer's Market and promotion of local food production at businesses such as Emery Farm and Tideline Public House.

Solid Waste and Resource Consumption

The Town is committed to reducing waste of resources – water, food, and energy – as well as promoting a centralized local food system.

For some of these measures (SW.4-6), their value comes from strengthening the local food system. While these practices do lower the footprint by reducing the emissions associated with transporting goods, their main ability in supporting the food system is noted using the icon.

	Continue to encourage waste reduction across sectors in the Town.	Mitigation Potential	Co-Benefits
SW.1	Encourage businesses, households, municipal operations, and individuals to minimize waste and consumption of disposable goods through educational programming, social media, and Friday Updates.		
SW.2	Launch an educational campaign on the Durham Transfer Station's composting program to residents and businesses.		
SW.3	Partner with local organizations and businesses to reduce food waste locally.		
SW.4	Explore options to expand food pantry access for community members through possible partnerships with organizations like the Waysmeet Center and UNH Cat's Cupboard.		
SW.5	Continue to support local businesses in Durham to encourage a variety of purveyors while promoting local produce and products.		
SW.6	Continue to support the Durham Farmers' Market, bolstering the local food system for both producers and consumers.		
SW.7	Reduce the tonnage, and send it to the landfill by 10% per household by 2027 with the goal over time of meeting and exceeding the NH state diversion rates.		

4. Natural Resources

Protecting water and other natural resources, especially green space and public lands

- Preserving and enhancing the health of Durham's waterways, agriculture, wildlife, and open spaces.
- Subcategories:
  - Agricultural lands (healthy, productive agricultural lands)
  - Open space (preserving green and open space)
  - Sustainable and resilient landscapes (biodiversity, pollinator protection, and resistance to erosion)
  - Tree canopy (tree canopy and forest management)
  - Water resources (protecting water resources)

As humans, we benefit immensely from the resources created by our environment. With changing climatic conditions, it is important to help protect the wildlife and natural systems around us. Rising temperatures and changes in rainfall threaten the ecosystems of Durham and the habitats of the region's wildlife. While the goals and actions within this section do not reduce Durham's GHG emissions, they are vital in ensuring Durham's continued resilience in the face of climate impacts.

Not only do natural resources ensure resilience, but they also contribute to a more balanced and multifaceted mitigation strategy. Carbon sequestration is a natural process in which carbon dioxide is captured from the atmosphere and stored in organic matter, helping to offset the buildup of greenhouse gases. See page for more information.

Natural Resources

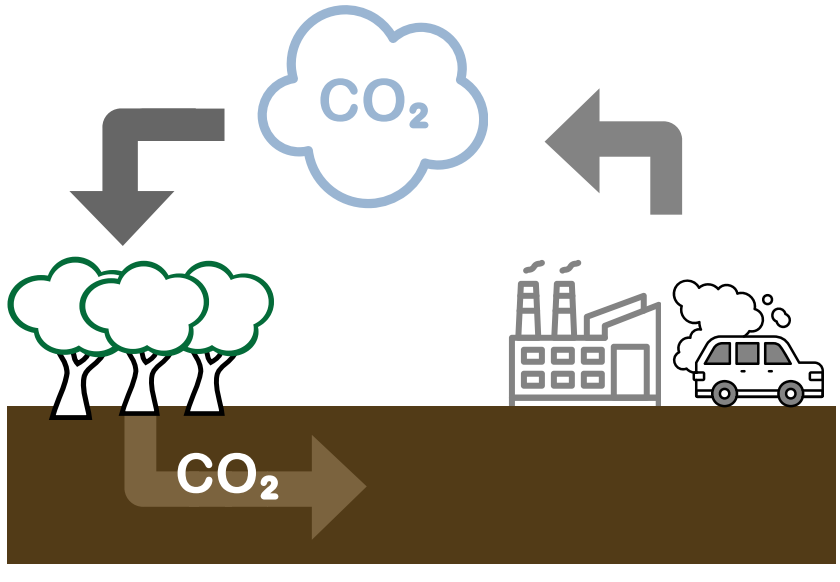
Durham continues to protect and expand the green space integral to our Town's identity: its ecosystems, resilience, history, recreation, and natural beauty.

Note: The tree icon in "Mitigation Potential" here refers to the ability of green space to sequester carbon. See previous and next page for more information.

	Continue to prioritize quality and quantity of green space and nature in the Town.	Mitigation Potential	Benefits
NR.1	Continue to identify and preserve land parcels of great natural resource or recreational value, and seek out partnerships to fund permanent conservation protections for important areas consistent with the Town's land protection policies.		
NR.2	With the help of forester Charlie Moreno, update the Doe Farm Forest Management plan by 2026 with management recommendations based on forest carbon sequestration and climate resiliency.		
NR.3	Provide recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities through investing in universal design retrofits to town playgrounds and upgrading appropriate trails for ADA accessibility on public lands and easements, as appropriate.		
NR.4	Improve the municipal, university, and NGO trails to increase connectivity to one another as well as to the downtown core.		
NR.5	Continue to lead the Wagon Hill Farm Living Shoreline Project with the Coastal Adaptation Workgroup, NHDES, and UNH scientists to protect an area representing historical wetland and saltmarsh areas, publicly accessible coastline, and important salt marsh habitats from the threat of degradation and erosion.		
NR.6	Consider the development of an education campaign to promote sustainable landscaping practices and invasive species identification.		
NR.7	Update stormwater management regulations based on best practices.		
NR.8	Increase the amount of municipal-owned land that meets the Conservation/Open Space Land criteria by 2024.		
NR.9	Maintain capability of sequestering carbon through land use practices.		

What is Carbon Sequestration?

Carbon sequestration is a natural process by which atmospheric carbon dioxide is captured and stored in organic matter including vegetation and soil. By protecting and increasing green and open space, such as forests, parks, and wetlands, the Town creates “carbon sinks” to offset the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Green spaces absorb more carbon than they release, serving as not only areas for recreation, natural beauty, and biodiversity, but also for mitigating climate impact and increasing resilience.



Despite the significance of carbon sinks in climate planning, this strategy is distinct from strategic emissions reductions as detailed elsewhere in this Plan. While emissions reduction strategies directly address sources of carbon emissions by working to prevent new emissions, carbon sequestration works by “removing” and storing carbon that has already been emitted.

Minimize <u>Emissions</u> From	**Maximize <u>Removals</u> From**
Built Environment Transportation Solid Waste Wastewater Agriculture Livestock	Land Use

Using updated land-use calculations, Durham’s forests and trees sequester up to 28,244 MTCDE per year, equal to about 29% of Durham’s total 2022 emissions. Removals have increased since previous calculations because of conservation land acquisitions and a commitment to protecting tree canopy across Durham.

Appendix I: GHG Reduction Calculations

Below is a summary table of the estimated maximum GHG reductions by 2030 for each goal. These numbers were calculated based on assumptions that are included in the calculations following the table.

Goal/Action	Estimated Maximum GHG Reductions by 2030
Encourage the use and improve the quality of active transportation in Durham to reduce VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled) by 10% by 2030. **T.1** Create and launch a town-wide marketing campaign to promote transportation options and encourage diverse ridership of public and active transportation beyond the student population, especially around the University campus and downtown Durham. **T.2** Partner with UNH to incorporate an educational campaign about active and public transportation options. **T.3** Continue to promote and provide support for the Cat Trax bikeshare program at UNH, which is also available to Durham residents. **T.4** Continue to make conscious efforts to protect pedestrian activity in the Town, especially using the findings of the 2024 Durham Pedestrian Safety Report by Tighe & Bond. **T.5** Continue implementing the Complete Streets project on Madbury Road in phases through 2028, promoting safe access of the road for all users including pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities.	1,938 MTCDE (1.8% of 2019 levels)

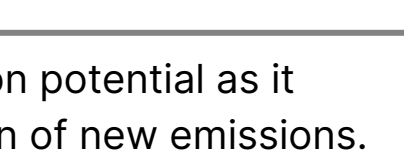
Continue to promote and enhance public transportation options, such as Wildcat Transit and the Amtrak Downeaster, to reduce VMT by 10% by 2030. **T.6** Continue to support the Amtrak Downeaster in partnership with the University. **T.7** Support the University's Federal Transit Administration-funded renovation of the Durham/UNH train station to increase ridership and accessibility by endorsing access and entrance reconfiguration of the town-owned Depot Road lot. **T.8** Continue to provide advocacy for the University's transportation grant applications.	518 MTCDE (0.4%)
Continue to improve Electric Vehicle infrastructure. **EV.1** Move forward with installation of additional EV charging stations in identified locations through 2029. **EV.2** Continue to encourage EV adoption and remove barriers to ownership.	4,849 MTCDE (4.6%)
Promote and support benefits of EV ownership in the community, with a goal of 22% overall EV VMT by 2030. **EV.2** Continue to encourage EV adoption and remove barriers to ownership. **EV.3** Continue to track the purchase of electric and hybrid vehicles in the community through the Town Clerk's office. **EV.4** Continue to collect public input on electric vehicles from Durham residents by administering the Energy Committee's EV survey. **EV.7** Continue to host events, such as June 2024's Electric Vehicle Showcase, to educate the community about electric and hybrid vehicles.	1,306 MTCDE (1.3%)

Support UNH, Durham Police, and other fleets in their vehicle electrification efforts. **EV.5** Support the University in its transit fleet replacement efforts and improvement of alternative fuel systems, with plans to retire the UNH diesel bus fleet in the next decade. **EV.6** Support the hybridization of the Durham Police cruiser fleet, expected to be fully hybrid by December of 2024, and continue to monitor the effectiveness of fleet electrification over the next 3-5 years.	600 MTCDE (0.57%)
Continue to explore the expansion of renewable energy usage and production in Durham. **B.2** Continue to advance the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire as a founding member, and incrementally increase default sources to as high a renewable mix as possible, so long as it is not more expensive than the current Eversource default rate. **B.3** Continue to assess locations for solar expansion in the Town. **B.5** Create educational materials and incentives to encourage development of renewable energy systems and high-performing buildings. **B.7** Explore establishing a Community Power Program to reserve funds to invest in local renewable energy projects, supported by a CPCNH adder or grants.	4,722 MTCDE (4.5%)

Continue to promote increased energy efficiency and electrification of structures in the community. **B.1** Continue to provide educational materials about energy efficiency and carbon emission reduction opportunities in existing residential and commercial buildings on the town website, social media platforms, and in Friday Update emails. **B.4** Support electrification and energy efficiency retrofits for new and existing buildings across the community. **B.5** Create educational materials and incentives to encourage development of renewable energy systems and high-performing buildings. **B.6** Evaluate changes needed in Durham (ex: zoning and other means) to allow for a broader variety of modestly sized, affordably priced, energy efficient housing types that are proximate to the urban core in accordance with SmartGrowth principles. **B.8** Facilitate maintenance or creation of affordable, climate-ready housing in town where possible. **B.9** Support UNH's goal of reducing their Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 50% by 2030.	13,433 MTCDE (12.9%)
Encourage the community to minimize waste and consumption. **SW.1** Encourage businesses, households, municipal operations, and individuals to minimize waste and consumption of disposable goods through educational programming, social media, and Friday Updates. **SW.2** Launch an educational campaign on the Durham Transfer Station's composting program to residents and businesses. **SW.3** Partner with local organizations and businesses to reduce food waste locally.	200 MTCDE (0.19%)

Continue to support local businesses and the local food system. **SW.4** Continue to support local businesses in Durham's downtown to support the variety of purveyors while promoting local produce and products. **SW.5** Continue to support local businesses in Durham to encourage a variety of purveyors while promoting local produce and products. **SW.6** Continue to support the Durham Farmers' Market, bolstering the local food system for both producers and consumers.	Not calculated*
Reduce the tonnage of solid waste and send it to the landfill by 10% per household with the goal of meeting and exceeding the NH state diversion rates. **SW.7** Reduce the tonnage, and send it to the landfill by 10% per household by 2027 with the goal over time of meeting and exceeding the NH state diversion rates.	125 MTCDE (0.12%)

*As described on page 31, the strength of these actions comes from their support for the local food system. While they do reduce emissions from transporting goods, it is difficult to estimate the extent of this reduction.

Goal/Action	Sequestration Potential**
Continue to prioritize the expansion and maintenance of green space in the Town. **NR.1** Continue to identify and preserve land parcels of great natural resource or recreational value, and seek out partnerships to fund permanent conservation protections for important areas consistent with the Town's land protection policies. **NR.2** With the help of forester Charlie Moreno, update the Doe Farm Forest Management plan by 2026 with management recommendations based on forest carbon sequestration and climate resilience. **NR.5** Continue to lead the Wagon Hill Farm Living Shoreline Project with the Coastal Adaptation Workgroup, NHDES, and UNH scientists to protect an area representing historical wetland and saltmarsh areas, publicly accessible coastline, and important salt marsh habitats from the threat of degradation and erosion**.** **NR.6** Consider the development of an education campaign to promote sustainable landscaping practices and invasive species identification. **NR.7** Update stormwater management regulations based on best practices. **NR.8** Increase the amount of municipal-owned land that meets the Conservation/Open Space Land criteria by 2024. **NR.9** Maintain capability of sequestering carbon through land use practices.	

**As described on page 34, carbon sequestration is entirely separate from mitigation potential as it describes a removal of carbon that has already been emitted, rather than prevention of new emissions.

Provide and enhance recreational opportunities for residents by improving trails and public lands. NR.3 Provide recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities through investing in universal design retrofits to town playgrounds and upgrading appropriate trails for ADA accessibility on public lands and easements, as appropriate. NR.4 Improve the municipal, university, and NGO trails to increase connectivity to one another as well as to the downtown core.	Not calculated

These projections were calculated using the ICLEI Clearpath modeling tool, with information provided by municipal stakeholders, previous Greenhouse Gas emissions inventory reports, the 2022 Climate Action Plan, the Community Power Coalition of NH, Unitil, Eversource, Durham census data, and other data sources.

Resident Reduction Guide

Photo by Bernie Casey

Our town has made significant progress in reducing climate impacts, and now we invite every resident to join us in building a more sustainable future. Want to lower your carbon footprint, but not sure where to start? This first-of-its-kind Resident Reduction Guide offers Durham community members an easy, practical resource with opportunities to make a difference.

The Town of Durham does not endorse any business listed in this directory.

Transportation

Public and Active Transportation Options

UNH

UNH Wildcat Transit

The Wildcat Transit bus system is free for Durham residents to use, whether you just need to get across town or want a more sustainable trip to Dover, Portsmouth, Madbury, or Newington. Some stops also connect to the COAST bus system servicing Seacoast areas. The buses also use low- or no-emissions fuels, further reducing the environmental impact of using transit rather than your personal vehicle. Visit the Wildcat Transit website for more information on routes and schedules.

C&J Bus Lines

C&J offers bus routes to the Boston Logan Airport, Boston South Station, and New York City, originating in Dover, Portsmouth, or Seabrook. Rather than worrying about a long drive, or parking at the airport or in the city, reduce stress and your environmental impact by taking the C&J! Park and ride lots are available, as is free wifi, outlets, station lounge access, and multi-pass discounts.

C&J

Amtrak Downeaster

The Amtrak Downeaster offers five daily round-trips between Brunswick, ME and Boston's North Station. Durham is one of only four towns in New Hampshire serviced by passenger rail! The Downeaster offers additional late-night return trips from Boston on evenings of major concerts and events at TD Garden or Fenway Park. Visit the Downeaster website for more information.

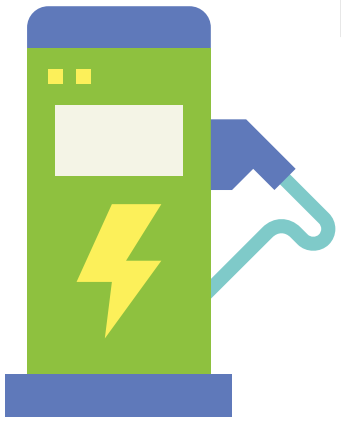
Cat Trax Bike Share

The UNH Sustainability Institute's Cat Trax Bike Share program is open to Durham residents! Download the Movatic app to locate one of 30 maintained bikes near you, unlock one, and bike around town, free of charge! This program is available in the spring, summer, and fall, only within the town of Durham. Visit the UNH Sustainability Institute website to learn more.

Complete Streets Project

Madbury Road continues to be under construction to improve pedestrian, runner, bicycle, and bus use and access between Main Street and Edgewood Road. Four out of five construction projects are set to be completed by the end of 2025. The work includes utility projects, stormwater management, and roadway contracts to improve resilience and accessibility in the downtown core.

Electric Vehicles



Durham Charger Locations

- Pettee Brook Lane: Town-owned, two spots. 25¢ / kWh
- Durham Public Library: Town-owned, two spots. 25¢ / kWh
- Tideline Public House, 15 Newmarket Rd: Public ChargeLab
- 121 Technology Drive: Privately owned. $35¢ / kWh, with guest fees
- Emery Farm, 147 Piscataqua Rd: Public, open 8am-6pm.

Rebates and Incentives

Financial rebates, incentives, and programs for electric vehicle purchases are always changing. To view current programs in New Hampshire, visit the U.S. Department of Energy Alternative Fuels Data Center. The New Hampshire Electric Co-Op (NHEC) also provides incentives to its members.

GREEN WAVE
ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Green Wave Electric Vehicles

Just 30 minutes from Durham is the state of New Hampshire’s first dedicated used electric vehicle dealer, Green Wave in North Hampton. Looking for your next vehicle? Consider prioritizing air quality, environmental protection, and financial responsibility.

The Built Environment

Energy Efficiency and Renewables

Durham Community Power

The Community Power Coalition (CPCNH) balances energy affordability with lower carbon intensity for Durham residents with Eversource as their energy provider. Durham customers can opt in, out, or “up” to cleaner power options. For more information, visit the Durham page of the Community Power website.

Revision Energy

Interested in solar options for your home, business, or elsewhere in the community? Revision Energy is an employee-owned solar company based in Brentwood, and is a trusted UNH corporate partner with extensive projects in Durham, including the Durham Public Library, police station, Churchill Rink, Oyster River school district buildings, and many private residences.

Durham Energy Commitee

Have questions, concerns, or need some guidance to prioritize energy efficiency and renewable energy in your home? The Durham Energy Committee is an excellent resource to residents.

Solid Waste and Resource Consumption

Durham Transfer Station and Recycling Center

The transfer station, located at 100 Durham Point Road, is open to residents from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM on Tuesdays and Saturdays for processing and disposal of refuse and recyclables.

Compost

The Transfer Station also processes compost, reducing the Town's municipal solid waste, landfill impacts, and methane formation. To compost your food and yard waste at the Transfer Station, bag your items in compostable bags or brown paper bags before placing them in the toters at the Transfer Station.

Compostable Items

- Veggies and fruit (without stickers)
- Meat and bones
- Shellfish
- Eggshells
- Dairy products
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Brown paper napkins, plates, paper towels, and bags
- Tea bags (no staples)
- Muffin wax wrappers
- Flowers and floral trimmings
- Pizza boxes or greasy cardboard
- Human or pet hair
- Certified compostable products

Swap Shop

The Swap Shop at the Transfer Station is a volunteer-run resource where Durham residents can donate their items for other residents to pick up, which reduces landfill waste and disposal costs while saving residents money and lowering consumption. Open for taking and donating items Tuesdays and Saturdays 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM.

You can donate items that are safe, clean, functional, and in at least "good" condition. There are also textile recycling bins and book collection bins adjacent to the Swap Shop for donation to Eco Smith, Salvation Army, and Discovery Books. For any questions, there will be a volunteer on duty to help with donations; this community resource is fully powered by the work of volunteers.

For more information, including operations guidelines and a list of what cannot be donated, visit the Public Works site or email durhamnhswapshop@gmail.com.

Mr. Fox Composting

Prefer curbside compost pickup? Locally-owned Mr. Fox Composting provides residential and commercial weekly or bi-weekly compost pickup to Seacoast towns. For more information, visit the Mr. Fox website at mrfoxcomposting.com.

Plastic Bag Recycling

Local retailers offer plastic bag recycling, including Hannaford at 7 Mill Road, Market Basket, Target, Lowe's, and more. Do not place your plastic bags in your curbside recycling! Plastic should be reduced, reused, and can be recycled at participating locations.

Scrapp

Not sure whether you should recycle, compost, or trash an item? Download the Scrapp app, developed by UNH alumni, to scan your waste. The app can also be used to reduce business waste costs and track waste data.

Recycling in Durham

Remember: Durham uses a dual recycling collection program, meaning recycling pickup rotates weekly between co-mingled recyclables (plastic, glass, and cans) and fiber recyclables (corrugated cardboard, mixed paper, and newspaper). Recycling collection calendars, lists of recyclable items, and other public works information can be found on the Durham website! Please note, the Town aims to shift to single stream recycling in mid-2026.

Supporting Our Local Food System

Durham Farmer's Market

The Durham Farmer's Market is running its second season! The market, in partnership with Seacoast Eat Local, runs Mondays 2:30-6:00 from June to October in the Downtown Mini-Park at 66 Main Street. For more information on vendors and more, visit the Seacoast Eat Local website.

Local Farms

The Oyster River Foodshed Partnership supports local production in Durham, Lee, and Madbury. Visit their website for more local vendors.

- **Tecce Farm,** 240 Mast Road: fruit, vegetables, corn, dairy products, eggs, baked goods, and flowers
- **Emery Farm**, 147 Piscataqua Road: fruits, vegetables, pumpkins, seasonal activities, and a local market
- **Great Bay Wool Works**, 62 Bennett Road: wool and yarn
- **Fox Point Oysters**, Cedar Point, Little Bay: oysters
- **UNH Farm Stand**, 13 Spinney Lane: seasonal organic farm stand

Durham Local Businesses

The Town of Durham is home to many small businesses that need community support. For a full directory of these businesses, please visit: https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/directory.

Reducing Material Consumption

Echo Thrift Shop

Echo Thrift Shop, located at 15 Main Street (lower level of the Community Church), is a volunteer-run thrift shop. 100% of proceeds support local non-profit organizations. Shop, volunteer, or donate clothing, accessories, and household goods! Open Monday-Friday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

New Moon

New Moon is a women's consignment shop located at 9 Madbury Road, offering curated apparel and local goods.

Durham Public Library

The library, of course, offers free access to books of all kinds, but your library card gives you access to much more than books!

- **Adult, Child, and Young Adult Services**: Learn a new language, play games, or join a book or interest group, no matter your age!
- Printing, faxing, copying, scanning, notary, 3D printing, and email services, as well as help with your mobile devices.
- **Museum Passes**: Get discounted or free access to museums, botanical gardens, aquariums, science centers, and state parks from Boston to Portland!
- Get access to the Wall Street Journal and New York Times with your library card.
- **Library of Things**: From a metal detector to a pasta making kit, you can borrow rather than buy so many Things from DPL!

UNH Trash 2 Treasure

The UNH Trash 2 Treasure program aims to reduce the inevitable waste produced during university move-out. Look out on the UNH Sustainability social media and website for drop-off information in May and June. Donatable items include gently used clothing, electronics, appliances, and other dorm and apartment necessities.

Support Food Security

Waysmeet Center

Whether you are seeking food security or wish to donate food, the Waysmeet Center at 15 Mill Road can help! Food pantry donations can be dropped off weekdays 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Stop by once a week to pick up food Tuesdays 3-6, Wednesdays 1-4, and Fridays 12-2. For more information, visit the Waysmeet website.

St. Thomas More Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is available in the church hall Thursdays 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Food donations, monetary donations, or volunteering information can be brought to the parish office during business hours. Contact the parish office for more information.

UNH Cats' Cupboard

Cats' Cupboard is located in the Memorial Union Building at 83 Main Street, providing free and nourishing food to the UNH community. For interest in creating a food or item drive and inquiries about wishlist items, please contact basic.needs@unh.edu.

Gather

Gather is a food security organization with pantry market locations in Portsmouth, as well as programs including mobile markets, Meals For Kids, and volunteer-powered, healthy meals for those in need. Visit their website at gathernh.org for more information on their programs, becoming a volunteer, donating household and food items, or signing up to volunteer with their gleaning team to reduce local farm-level food waste.

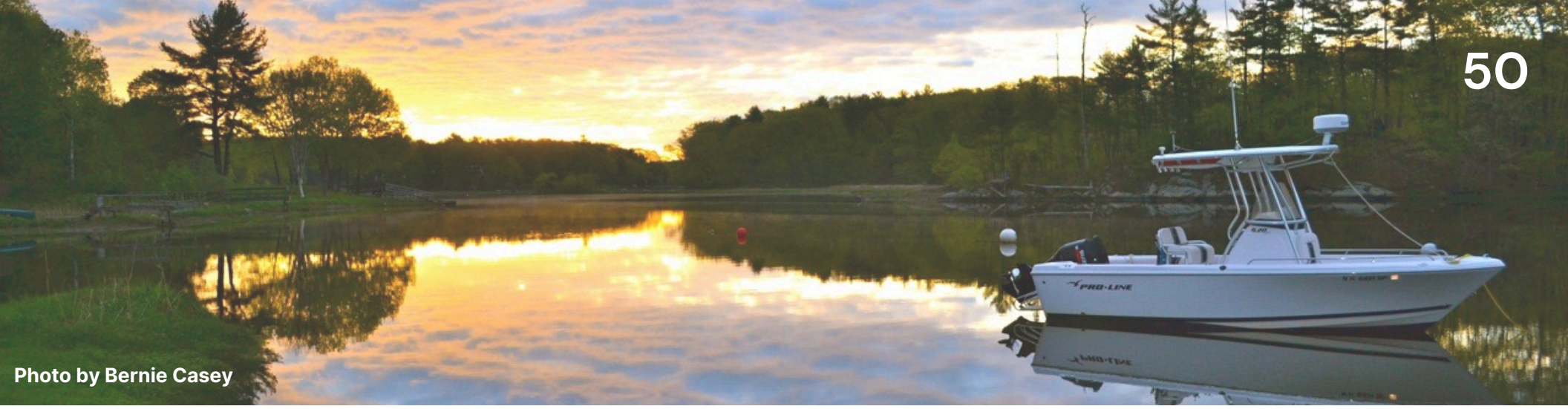


Photo by Bernie Casey

Natural Resources

Trails and Conservation Lands

For a full list and updated trail maps, visit the Durham website at: https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/trails/trail-maps

Land Management Best Practices


NH Fish and Game

Pollinator Protection

Pollinator populations, including those of butterflies and bees, are in decline across New Hampshire. There are many things you can do on your property to protect these critical species! UNH is Bee Campus certified, and Durham residents should aim to expand these protections town-wide!

- **Avoid spraying for mosquitos:** mosquito spraying and fogging can harm, and even kill, pollinators as common insecticides kill all insects on contact. Instead, research larvicides in standing water and protection for predators like bats.
- **Create pollinator habitats:** Make your garden a pollinator safe haven by growing diverse and native plants rich in nectar and pollen, providing nesting sites in bare soil, offering water sources, and avoiding use of pesticides. Even a seemingly tiny garden can be a rich habitat for bees and butterflies! UNH Extension also offers Pollinator Garden Certifications. For more guidance, download the app Beecology from Worcester Polytechnic Institute researchers and visit pollinator resources at nhaudubon.org and wildlife.nh.gov.
- **Maintain a more "wild lawn"**: Participate in "No Mow May," use your mower to mulch leaves late in the fall rather than raking, avoid leaf-blowing, and mow less frequently in the summer.
- **Use yellow light bulbs:** Use yellow bulbs rather than traditional light bulbs around doorways and porches to attract fewer bugs.


Photo by Carol Birch


Photo by Alan Bennett