

## Concord, New Hampshire's Climate Change Goals

*The earth's climate is warming, driven mainly by greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from the burning of fossil fuels and land use change. Scientists warn that to avoid the worst effects of climate change, we need to begin reducing GHG emissions immediately to reach net zero by the year 2050 (IPCC 2021).*

### Concord's Climate Change Commitments

The City of Concord has made four key climate change commitments to decrease GHG emissions:



**1. 100% Renewable Energy:** By 2030, all electricity consumed in the city will be from renewable sources, and by 2050, all thermal energy and transportation energy consumed in the city will be renewable,

**2. The Climate Mayors Agreement:** To uphold the targets of the Paris Climate Agreement,

**3. Race to Zero:** To reach net zero emissions by 2050, and

**4. The NH Climate Action Plan:** To decrease GHG emissions 80% by 2050.

### Existing GHG Emissions Sources

Concord produced a [detailed carbon footprint](#) study for the year 2019 to identify major emissions sources.

The study found that 48% of GHG emissions are from the residential sector!

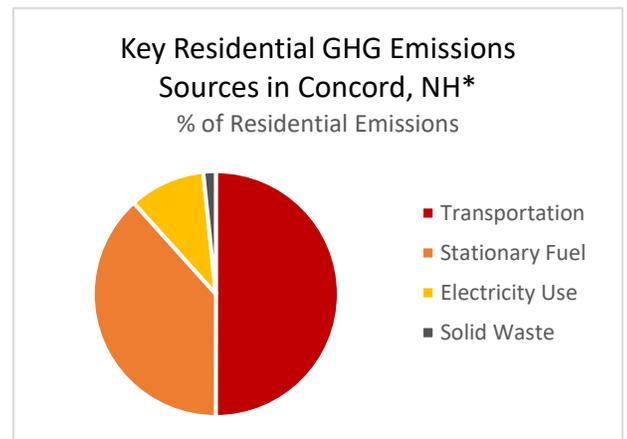
Transportation fuel used to power vehicles comprised half of residents' total emissions. Home heating fuels such as natural gas, propane, oil and wood contributed 38% of emissions, followed by electricity-related emissions at 10%. This inventory did not account for other sources such as food and manufactured goods.

### The Role of Residents

Residents have a huge role to play in combatting climate change! Actions that residents can take fall into three main categories:

- Reduce Consumption
- Electrify
- Go Renewable

*Energy improvements can benefit the environment and save you money!*



\*From 2019 GHG Emissions Inventory Report for Concord, NH

## What Can YOU Do to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint?

### Tips for Households

*This is a set of actions that households can take to reduce your carbon footprint. As you set out on your journey, remember the core concepts: **Improve Energy Efficiency** (reduce consumption/improve efficiency), **Electrification** (of appliances, heating and cars), and **Choose Renewable** power sources (such as solar, wind and geothermal).*

#### **Assessment**

- Complete a home energy audit ([WeatherizeConcord.org](http://WeatherizeConcord.org))
- Optionally, also assess your household carbon footprint (see [EPA Carbon Footprint Calculator](#))
- Create a carbon footprint reduction plan and monitor your progress

#### **Home Heating Fuel** (Natural gas, oil, wood, propane)

- Weatherize your home (e.g., insulate)
- Turn down the thermostat
- Replace gas powered appliances and heat sources with electric
- Consider electric air source heat pumps

#### **Home Electricity**

- Reduce consumption
- Turn off/unplug appliances when not in use
- Replace incandescent lightbulbs with LEDs
- Replace old appliances with Energy Star ([EnergyStar.gov](http://EnergyStar.gov))
- See [www.NHSaves.com](http://www.NHSaves.com) for rebates
- Install solar panels on your home, or
- Select a competitive energy supplier that provides renewable energy (see [Unitil](#) or [PUC](#) website)

#### **Transportation**

- Drive less
- Carpool, bus, rail, walk, bike, and telecommute more
- Plan on your next car being an electric vehicle
- Fly less

#### **Secondary Sources**

*There are additional sources of GHG emissions beyond our home electricity, heat, and transportation. Tackling these sources are also important ways to reduce your emissions.*

**Food**, particularly meat and dairy, and food waste in the supply chain can contribute up to 20% of individual carbon emissions.

- Eat more plants and less meat
- Buy local
- Compost food waste

#### **Financial**

- Offset your remaining carbon emissions (see [GoldStandard.org](http://GoldStandard.org), [CarbonFootprint.com](http://CarbonFootprint.com))
- Divest from fossil fuels (seek investment in Socially/Environmentally Responsible Funds)