

# 2007 State Development Plan

## Shaping New Hampshire's Future

### Introduction

Draft components of the 2007 State Development Plan are now available for review at the Office of Energy and Planning's website. The Plan's vision is: *To support New Hampshire's prosperity and unique quality of life we must maintain the essential character of our State's natural and built environment through innovative approaches to planning, preservation and development at the state, regional and local level.* The Plan sets forth 10 goals, each with five strategies, as well as numerous policies, program developments, and state priorities to implement the Plan's goals.

The Plan provides a basis for identifying critical issues facing the State, determining state priorities, allocating limited state resources, and takes into account the plans of various state, regional, and local governmental units. It establishes policies in areas related to the orderly physical, social, and economic growth and development of the State. Ultimately it will serve as the basis for policy and program development by the various departments of state government.

To learn more about the 2007 Plan and review draft materials, please visit [www.nh.gov/oep/programs/SDP/](http://www.nh.gov/oep/programs/SDP/).

If you are interested in attending a forthcoming public information or focus group session to review the Plan or would like to submit comments, please contact:

Jennifer Czysz, Senior Planner  
Office of Energy and Planning  
57 Regional Drive  
Concord, NH 03301  
jennifer.czysz@nh.gov  
(603) 271-2155

**Your interest and feedback will help to shape New Hampshire's future.**

# 2007 State Development Plan

## Shaping New Hampshire's Future

### Outline and Vision, Goals, and Strategies

#### **Vision**

To support New Hampshire's prosperity and unique quality of life we must maintain the essential character of our State's natural and built environment through innovative approaches to planning, preservation and development at the state, regional and local level.

#### **I. Executive Summary**

1. Statement of Purpose
2. Statutory and existing plan references
3. Vision Statement
4. Matrix comparing the Plan's goals to the statutory components

#### **II. Recent Trends**

1. Demographic
2. Housing
3. Economic
4. Transportation
5. Land Use

#### **III. Goals and Strategies**

1. **Foster** the traditional character of New Hampshire downtowns, villages, and neighborhoods by encouraging mixed-use development that is walkable, sustainable and conducive to community life.
  1. Maintain traditional compact settlement patterns that incorporate a mix of uses to efficiently use land, resources, and investments in infrastructure.
  2. Promote good local planning.
  3. Require state agencies to make decisions about the locations of their facilities as a reflection of smart growth principles and consistent with local planning and zoning.
  4. Support historic and traditional centers.
  5. Design transportation solutions in traditional municipal centers and downtowns to fit the context and needs of the community.
2. **Protect** and preserve New Hampshire's land and water resources including farms, forestlands, wildlife habitats, water resources, air quality, and other critical environmental areas.

1. Manage water use and minimize the impacts of stormwater runoff and pollution on New Hampshire's surface waters and ground water, particularly the availability and quality of drinking water supplies and aquatic biological communities.
  2. Protect the State's valuable natural land and air resources that are a vital component of the State's quality of life and economy.
  3. Conserve statewide critical habitats and species in need of protection.
  4. Continue statewide, regional, and local conservation land acquisition in coordination with other important social goals such as provision of affordable housing.
  5. Make land use decisions that account for long-term incremental and regional impacts of development on natural resources.
- 3. Seek** innovative approaches in transportation to address safety, diverse geographic needs, accessibility for people of all ages, preservation of environmental quality, and alternatives that reduce energy consumption.
1. Formalize the connection between land use and transportation planning at the state, regional, and local level.
  2. Improve statewide public transportation services and reduce transportation related energy consumption.
  3. Increase street connectivity to preserve state highway capacity and enhance walkability within communities.
  4. Create and institutionalize a corridor-based transportation planning approach to be integrated at the state, regional, and local level.
  5. Support the State's economy through transportation network improvements that will facilitate the movement of employees, goods, and services while preserving traditional landscapes and community centers.
- 4. Promote** stewardship of New Hampshire's resources for recreation and other activities that contribute to the health and quality of life for citizens and visitors in New Hampshire.
1. Ensure that the quality and quantity of the natural resource base is maintained or enhanced as recreation pressures increase.
  2. Ensure that a variety of recreational opportunities are provided, even as competing pressures and potential conflicts arise when multiple activities compete for the same resources.
  3. Wisely use financial and human resources including volunteers, partnerships, and youth programs, to meet a wide range of recreational needs.

4. Promote growth and development patterns that encourage local recreational opportunities and preserve appropriate undeveloped lands for future recreational use.
  5. Promote the health and wellness benefits gained from improving recreational opportunities and bicycle-pedestrian linkages in communities.
- 5. Advance** state, regional, and local partnerships that create economic opportunities in a manner consistent with community master plans.
1. Build stronger, self-sustaining local economies.
  2. Ensure that all New Hampshire households have the opportunity to earn a living wage.
  3. Provide grants, technical assistance, and other opportunities designed to promote and enhance the state's economy and quality of life.
  4. Examine the direct impact of economic growth on affordable housing availability.
  5. Work to sustain and expand existing industries while also responding to new economic opportunities.
- 6. Preserve** New Hampshire's historic and cultural resources that are an integral part of the state's quality of life, economy, and visual character.
1. Increase survey and recognition efforts to identify important cultural and historical resources.
  2. Promote the development of a "preservation ethic" to be integrated into decision-making on a state, regional, and local level.
  3. Create preservation opportunities through the partnership of local government, regional and state agencies, non-profit agencies, and private industry.
  4. Provide necessary funding and incentives to encourage and support preservation efforts.
  5. Plan for continued economic growth in New Hampshire that capitalizes on the special qualities of our village squares, downtowns, and historic resources.
- 7. Create** a range of quality housing opportunities and choices for people of all income levels to ensure that communities maintain a diverse population.
1. Provide incentives, guidance, and support to local governments to ensure that state-delegated planning and land use regulatory authority is used to promote a balanced and adequate supply of housing for all New Hampshire citizens.

2. Treat housing as an integral part of the state's economic infrastructure.
  3. Establish a long-term commitment to ensuring that the state achieves and maintains a healthy housing infrastructure to support ongoing economic growth and prosperity.
  4. Encourage decisions that reduce the energy costs occasioned by the type, construction, distribution, and commuting requirements of housing.
  5. Encourage municipalities to work collaboratively to support regional affordable housing needs, consistent with the housing needs assessments prepared by regional planning commissions.
- 8. Develop** policies and actions necessary to assure safe and reliable utility services to better account for New Hampshire's changing demographics, and promote energy efficiency.
1. Encourage demand reduction through energy efficient development while pursuing renewable energy production and purchasing.
  2. Promote a diverse and affordable range of heating fuel options for NH residents and businesses.
  3. Develop and provide for maintenance and upgrades of water supply, wastewater, and stormwater management systems that protect natural resources.
  4. Establish opportunities to create community water and septage systems as well as regional connections between independent water and sewer systems.
  5. Promote affordable access to the highest quality broadband and telecommunication services available throughout the state for all residents, businesses, and government entities.
- 9. Link** State investments in public facilities in a manner that fosters community vitality and efficient use of resources and energy.
1. Create an asset management structure to ensure the efficient utilization of all state-owned buildings and property.
  2. Promote the consolidation of facilities to ensure that as many different state office functions are occurring in one place; "one-stop shopping."
  3. Promote energy efficiency through state building retrofits, state agency vehicles, maintenance, energy efficiency, cost of procurement practices, and use of indigenous, renewable energy sources.
  4. Encourage the redevelopment or reuse of existing structures to the extent that their energy and safety upgrades yield a favorable life cycle cost comparison with new construction.

5. Promote public facility sharing including solid waste, regional schools, and emergency services between municipalities.

**10. Reduce** the potential impact of natural hazards on the State's citizens and guests, critical support services and facilities, infrastructure, historic resources, economy, and natural resources.

1. Assess the risks to the State from flooding, winter storms, earthquakes and other natural hazards and improve upon the protection of the general population.
2. Reduce the potential impact of natural disasters on the State's critical support services, essential facilities, and infrastructure.
3. Reduce the potential impact of natural disasters on New Hampshire's built environment including its historic resources and those features vital to the State's economy.
4. Protect the State's natural resources and environment from the potential impact of natural disasters.
5. Promote future development that considers, and avoids or mitigates, potential natural hazards.

#### **IV. Implementation**

1. Matrix that identifies the following for each implementation action:
  - a. Does the item require-
    - New appropriation or other funding source?
    - New legislation or issuance of an executive order?
    - New or revised administrative rules?
  - b. Timeframe for completion
  - c. Responsible agencies

#### **V. Methodology**

1. Time Frame
2. Public Participation
3. Draft Preparation
4. Draft Review