



24 July 2014

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources supports the recommendations of the State Energy Strategy as part of building a sustainable future for our state. We support the adoption of newer versions of the International Energy Conservation Code and the International Existing Building Code. Beyond energy conservation, both offer appropriate pathways for compliance *and* energy reduction within an historic preservation project, including performance-based metrics which may be more compatible with preservation standards.

We also support small-scale hydroelectric power generation as it has provided local, sustainable, and renewable energy throughout the history of our state and the development of its economy. While other renewable energy installations may be perceived as at odds with historic preservation goals, consultation between energy professionals and preservation professions often find appropriate solutions that meet both goals, even within historic districts. Net-metering may also offer a way for historic neighborhoods to benefit from renewable energy installations sited away from sensitive historic buildings.

The smart growth principles outlined in the strategy generally follow traditional New Hampshire development patterns. Smart growth initiatives would promote reinvestment in downtowns and village centers with existing infrastructure and embodied energy in both buildings and infrastructure while also protecting historic residential neighborhoods and agricultural landscapes by avoiding impacts to them.

We would like to offer that passive methods of energy conservation are built in to many historic New Hampshire buildings, many of which pre-date modern building systems. These passive conservation features often rely on occupant knowledge and training, but may offer substantial savings in energy if used properly. Additionally, some of these methods (building orientation, fenestration patterns designed for natural lighting and cross-ventilation, and shade tree planting) could be used today for new construction to avoid energy use.

Historic preservation, energy conservation, and renewable energy installations are all vital to economic development and quality of life in New Hampshire. The Division of Historical Resources and the preservation community look forward to partnering with OEP and other agencies and partners to be part of the conversation about how to move New Hampshire towards a more sustainable future.