

NEMSN Profile: Lebanon, NH

Community Profile¹

<i>Area (sq. Miles):</i>	<i>40.3</i>
<i>Population:</i>	<i>13,535</i>
<i>Population Density:</i>	<i>335.70</i>
<i>Households:</i>	<i>6,391</i>
<i>Median Age:</i>	<i>39.6</i>
<i>Median Household Income:</i>	<i>\$53,004</i>
<i>Poverty Rate:</i>	<i>12.30%</i>

City Department:

Title: Office of Planning and Development

Staff: David Brooks: Planning and Development Director, Mark Goodwin: GIS Coordinator.

Responsibilities: Overlook program/policies pertaining to energy efficiency and sustainability stated in the Master Plan.

Programs/Policies: Energy Purchasing- Real Time Pricing, Landfill Methane to Energy Project, Municipal Open Space Conservation Program.

Interview:

What have been your biggest successes in the past 2-3 years?

- (Progress)- Energy position- how they are able to get someone to work on sustainability programs.
- Chair of PUC- embraced municipal aggregation, community to business (enabled by legislation).
- Modernization- real time purchasing- big landfill methane & solar- maximum value instead of flat rate. (Currently having hearings, but the issue is there are multiple types of meters).
- Updated Zoning- allowing for larger scale solar.
- Tax exemption for renewable infrastructure.

Given the range of your priorities, which do you consider to be your top priorities?

- Legislation at PUC- enable smart grid to increase bang for buck.
- Landfill methane gas project- “getting closer to converting to energy”, this project with more than cover municipal energy needs.
- Municipal solar 3-5 mw. Starting a Solarize Program.

- LED “pilot project”, with road map.
- Building a program that clearly defines what it means to be a sustainable community.
- (Progress)- Energy position- how they are able to get someone to work on sustainability programs.

Please explain why you have chosen these priorities?

They are part of the Macro level master energy plan this includes retrofits.

Energy committee has prioritized- level of importance, low hanging fruit, realistic.

How important are metrics to identifying the progress of the program and policies?

We have found it to be a challenge to synthesize data that can be useful. Currently we use EPA portfolio manager and are doing initial benchmarking.

This has helped us gain an understanding of municipal building electrical use.

We would like to have a standardized approach for feed in data, need to utilize a carbon calculator.

*Benchmarked the police station and found that more than double the heat was escaping. Therefore, would like to use data to identify energy efficiency problems.

What resources are needed to complete your strategies and priorities? Are they currently available to you? If not, do you know where/how to obtain them?

Need more people working on sustainable programs. It would be helpful to have a stronger connection with other NEMSN communities to find consultants?

We are always in need of finances.

Bigger network postings.

Improve the impact of meetings.

How has the local community promoted its sustainability efforts to members in the community?

- The town has a web page for our energy committee.
- Community work- solarized work is apart of our outreach.
- We held a Landfill compost workshop
- Would like to have more advertisement programs (demonstration of solar, landfill).

- Would like to have someone to manage community outreach, social media.

What are your top 3 barriers that you consider to be beyond the control of the municipality, which have limited your ability to implement sustainability initiatives?

- LED Tariff- streetlight having trouble- would like to go at a quicker pace.
- We struggle to have enough hands working on these projects.
- We've had problems finding contractors when most projects have a 5-year window.
- Finances- improve capital program.

Sustainable Profile²

Overview

- Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling
- Food & Agriculture
- Transportation
- Storm Water
- Energy
- Development
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction
- Climate Preparedness
- Equity & Economics
- Community Engagement

Sustainable Plans

	Targets/Goals	Published Plan	Metrics/Reporting
Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling	✓		
Food & Agriculture			
Transportation	✓	✓	
Storm Water	✓	✓	
Energy	✓	✓	✓
Development	✓	✓	✓
GHG Reduction	✓		
Climate Preparedness			
Equity & Economics			
Community Engagement	✓		
Totals	7	4	2

Data Source: University of New Hampshire Sustainability Institute: Program Implementation Survey 2017

Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling

Top Priorities

-

Strategies

-

Food & Agriculture

Top Priorities

- Support and promote robust network of local farmers at the Lebanon Farmer's Market.
- Maintain Community Gardens.

Strategies

- Expanding market sites to larger employers, source local foods at City Sponsored functions.
- Establish more community gardens in City neighborhoods.
- Encourage municipal departments, residents, businesses, institutions, and visitors, to supports the local economy and preserve the working landscape by purchasing local food.

Transportation

Top Priorities

- City should aim to lower the drive-alone rate of City employees by 10% over the next three years and improve employee access to commuting options.
- Finish implementing Complete Street Policy.
- Continue progress in Bike Share.
- Look into biofuel sources for municipal school district vehicles.
- The City shall explore ways to allow residents and visitors to reduce vehicle miles travelled throughout the city.
- Municipal No-Idling Policy

Strategies

- City should support a multi-modal transportation system that provides employees, residents, and visitor's ways to travel around Lebanon without driving alone.
- Integrating electric vehicle charging stations in strategic locations.

Storm Water

Top Priorities

- In the process of planning green storm water infrastructure upgrades.

Strategies

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Energy

Top Priorities

- Hire new town Energy Manager.
- Started smart/grid modernization project working with the PUC and utilities.

- New Hampshire Municipal Energy Assistance Program
- Planning Municipal Energy Aggregation Program
- Streetlight Mapping
- District Heating
- PACE Financing
- Building Energy “Stretch” Codes, in the process of commercial/municipal building upgrades.
- Planning LED streetlight/municipal building conversions.

Strategies

- Partner with businesses, institutions, and residents to significantly reduce Lebanon’s overall energy use, improve efficiency, and explore alternative energy options.
- Comply with the goals of the statewide New Hampshire Climate Action Plan.
- Increase energy and cost savings for the City, residents, businesses, and institutions.
- Build a robust and stable local energy economy.
- Increase community security by becoming more reliant on local energy sources.
- Improve energy efficiency of municipal buildings, the municipal fleet, and outdoor lights.
- Adopt a tax-neutral Property Tax Exemption for renewable energy projects.

Development

Top Priorities

- Improve energy efficiency in land use planning for developed areas.
- Implemented policies that allowed for mixed-use.
- Completed urban infill projects.

Strategies

- Encourage appropriate land use patterns that reduce vehicle miles travelled.
- Encourage reuse of buildings.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Top Priorities

- New Hampshire Climate Action Plan: mid-term goal of reducing GHG emissions 20% below 1990 levels by 2025.

Strategies

- Maximize energy efficiency in buildings.
- Increase renewable and low-carbon sources of energy in a long- term manner.
- Protect natural resources.

Climate Preparedness

Top Priorities

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Strategies

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Equity & Economics

Top Priorities

- Actively pursue federal, state, regional, and grants for projects identified in Master Plan.
- Financing mechanisms shall be considered such as “Energy Fund” to support municipal residential, and commercial energy initiatives.

Strategies

- Pursue: Capital Improvements Program, Energy Fund, Consolidating Energy Efficiency Projects, Performance Contract, Municipal Energy Reduction Fund, Planning Grants, Ongoing Grants Updates, Power Purchasing Agreements, and Aggregate Power Purchasing.

Community Engagement

Top Priorities

- Maintain and update City of Lebanon’s website with information about meetings, current projects, and local resources.
- Inform community on ways to be more energy efficient.
- Provide resident workshops (e.g. Button Up/ Weatherize)

Strategies

- Button Up New Hampshire workshops; continue to coordinate opportunities to educate Lebanon residents on ways to save money and be more energy efficient.

Initiative Implementation

Lebanon, NH	Not Yet Considered	Planning	In Progress	Fully Implemented
Curbside Composting	✓			
Zero Waste Policy	✓			
Community Gardens				✓
Urban Agriculture & Local Food Programs	✓			
Complete Streets			✓	
Bike Share/ Rail Trail			✓	
Green Storm Water Infrastructure Upgrades		✓		
Commercial/Municipal Building Upgrades			✓	
Municipal Energy Aggregation		✓		
Municipal Solar Installations		✓		
Community Solar Installations	✓			
LED Conversions: Streetlight		✓		
LED Conversion: Municipal Buildings		✓		
Mixed-Use Development				✓
Urban Infill				✓
Sustainable Housing for Low-Income Families	✓			
Aiding Local Business With Sustainable Programs	✓			
Updated Website with Events/Reports		✓		
Energy Purchasing-Real Time Pricing		✓		
Landfill Methane to Energy		✓		
Municipal Open Space Conservation Program			✓	
Totals	6	8	4	3

Data Source: University of New Hampshire Sustainability Institute: Program Implementation Survey 2017

Sources:

- 1.) "Census Profile: Lebanon, NH." *Census Reporter*. N.p., n.d. Web 20 June 2017
- 2.) "Lebanon Master Plan" *City of Lebanon* March 26, 2012
<https://lebanonnh.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/657>