

The Engaged Sierran

Call to Action: Tell Gov. Hassan to support RGGI

The [Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative \(RGGI\)](#) -- a successful partnership between New Hampshire and other Northeast states to fight climate change and increase clean energy investments -- is up for review this year.

RGGI has reduced climate pollution and strengthened our clean energy economy in New Hampshire by requiring owners of fossil fuel power plants to pay for their climate pollution. Because of RGGI, New Hampshire has saved millions of dollars in energy costs.

But polluters don't always want to pay for their pollution and they have influenced the current proposals for RGGI's new goals. We are calling for stronger goals to ensure New Hampshire meets our climate and clean energy objectives.



[Will you send a message to Governor Hassan and New Hampshire's RGGI representatives letting them know you support a strong regional climate action partnership?](#)

Important progress has been made in the negotiations, but RGGI isn't as strong as it needs to be, yet. Fierce climate protectors like you know we can't just do the bare minimum in New Hampshire or regionally -- it's time for bold visionary action.

New Hampshire can be a leader and ensure other states in the region and big polluters don't create loopholes that benefit companies and harm our climate, job creation, and clean energy goals.

[Don't let big polluters use RGGI to avoid cleaning up their act -- send your message today!](#)

Over the past eight years RGGI has successfully reduced climate pollution in the Northeast and provided funding for job-creating, energy saving programs, by requiring owners of fossil fuel power plants to pay for their climate pollution.

A stronger, more just RGGI like we're calling for now, would spur the creation of thousands of jobs and save electric customers money, all while protecting the environment and preserving a stable climate.

[Play a key part in protecting our climate and call on Governor Hassan to be a leader for climate action in the Northeast!](#)

Thanks for all you do for the environment and our communities.

Tomorrow Night: Watch a movie with us!

Thursday, August 25 ~ 7:00pm

Come see a great movie about climate change and learn what we can do to support local climate solutions!

Oscar-winning documentary director Charles Ferguson (*Inside Job*, *No End in Sight*) turns his lens to address global climate change in a new film showing the breadth of the climate challenge, the power of solutions already available, and the remarkable people working to save our planet - from American farmers and African villagers to Indonesian anti-corruption officials and Silicon Valley entrepreneurs. The movie features Sierra Club Executive Director Micheal Brune. Narrated by Oscar Isaac.

\$11 Adults
\$8 Seniors 60+, Students & Military

Presented in affiliation with New Hampshire Sierra Club and League of Conservation Voters.

Win Now and Forever Print

The New Hampshire Chapter is raffling off a signed, numbered copy of a spectacular screen print designed and produced exclusively for us by [William Mitchell](#). The print is professionally framed and matted.

William Mitchell is a printmaker and painter who lives in Dover. He is a juried member of the [NH League of Craftsmen](#) and is a listed artist in Who's Who in America. His works are in many private and public collections, and he has limited edition Christmas cards in the Smithsonian permanent collection. William is an avid hiker and skier, familiar with many of the state's most beautiful places, and he brings his love of lake, rivers and mountains to his work.



Of the print "Now and Forever" he writes: "The beauty of New Hampshire continually moves me. Many people feel a personal connection with my prints because they depict some of their favorite places." His intention is to inspire us to protect these vistas forever.

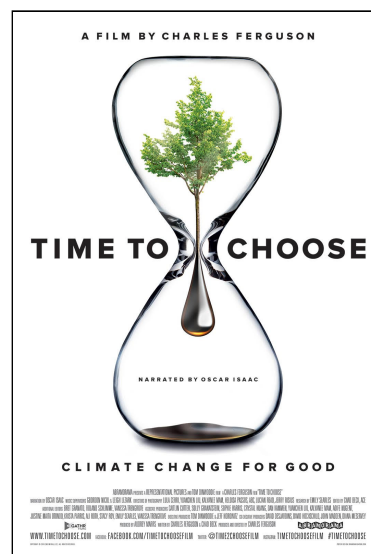
Win this beautiful print for your home by buying tickets, and spread the word to others. Your contribution will aid our efforts to protect the environment and our precious wilderness.

Tickets are \$3 each, two for \$5, and five for \$10. Email NHSC603@gmail.com today and let us know how many tickets we can send you. The winner will be chosen at the end of summer.

Northern Pass: Opposition Continues

With much regret the chapter reports that we withdrew from the Northern Pass Project Site Evaluation Committee proceedings in July. The chapter withdrew for a number of reasons but to be clear NHSC still strongly opposes the Northern Pass for three main reasons:

- The massive reservoirs in Canada are actually flooded rivers and valleys that were home to native peoples and many wildlife species. The flooding has devastated hunting and fishing grounds, as well as sacred sites and villages. The government of Canada plans for new flooding and reservoir construction after the Northern Pass proposal.



- The expected influx of energy will stymie future clean energy development by consuming the investments that would otherwise have gone to local distributed solar, energy efficiency and weatherization programs.
- Private property owners are not being compensated for the change of use of these 60-80 year old utility easements even though Eversource is breaking the terms of the easements by expanding their facilities and using it for international transmission.

The process of the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (NHSEC) will not be an effective venue for NHSC to address these issues because the limited discussion and scope. The [NHSEC docket](#) has become so legalistic that our National Legal Team determined the risk too high for the Chapter to continue without a lawyer. The decision stems from the confidentiality agreement presented to NHSC last month - during the discovery phase potentially confidential information would be used by Eversource to answer questions from the different parties, information that will not be shared with the public. The confidentiality contract included financial penalties. Additionally, the contract stated guilt by the signed parties and harm to Eversource without debate. It was very unfair. Since the Chapter was part of the NGO grouping and we refused to sign the confidentiality agreement the others had, the grouping became unworkable. NHSC withdrew from the docket formally on July 29, 2016.

Moving forward the chapter is taking the opposition to other venues, including different media outlets, the newsletter and the public. Our policy against massive hydro projects stands, as does our opposition to Northern Pass.

The chapter made a strong connection with the Pessamit Band of First Nation's people from Canada. Because of the Sierra Club policy opposing large scale damming projects, like Hydro Quebec in Canada, we recognize the plight of the native people impacted by the flooding - most of the communities were required to relocate. Often the new villages were much more modern and organized differently - for sure with important improvements like schools and electricity but also with significant challenges, like the elimination of hunting and fishing grounds, and the sacred sites, such as cemeteries and places of worship, were flooded.

Confronting the clean energy claims of Eversource and Hydro Quebec is the major goal of NHSC and the Pessamit of Canada. The massive reservoirs have destroyed the ecosystem of the rivers, mistreated the native communities, and abused the definition of clean energy. Since the inception of the Sierra Club in 1892, damming rivers and building reservoirs have ignited opposition from the Sierra Club. From Hetch Hetchy Valley in California, to Glen Canyon Dam in Nevada, Sierra Club has a long history of opposing river damming. That is our policy and it has not changed. Anything short of no is yes to Northern Pass. We are planning events for September and throughout the year. Please join us in the opposition. Email us at NHSC603@gmail.com.

Join Us for National Drive Electric Week



Nissan LEAF® Exclusive Automotive Sponsor.

This year, we're celebrating electric and hybrid cars in THREE locations in New Hampshire!

Sunday, Sept. 11, 12pm-4pm
New London Historical Society
New London, NH

Saturday, Sept. 17, 11am-3pm
Pete Brook Municipal Lot
Durham, NH

Saturday, Sept. 17, 8:30am-12pm
Concord City Plaza (in front of State House)
Concord, NH

Join us and other plug-in electric vehicle drivers and supporters to learn more about the clean-air benefits, cost-savings and fun provided by electric cars, as part of the annual National Drive Electric Week.

Three events will be held this year in New Hampshire out of more than 150 across the country, where electric vehicle owners, government and community leaders are holding electric car parades, "tailpipe-free" tailgate parties, ride-and-drives, and other public events.

Are you coming? Use hashtag #NDEW2016 in your social media posts!



>>ATTENTION CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR OFFICE<<

URGENT : Candidates for state office, Governor, Executive Council, State Senate and State House:
Please fill out the 2016 Candidate Questionnaire to share your positions on the important environmental issues facing the state. NHSC has an endorsement process and the first step is to fill out the Candidate Questionnaire. May the Environmental Champion prevail!
Candidate Questionnaires are due September 2, 2016.

Exploring the Planet

Join us on our outings, or, take the initiative - lead one yourself and make new friends! [Check our website](#) for more information.

Wednesday, August 31, 9am - St. Gaudens National Historic Site

Celebrate our national lands with this easy short hike on trails at [St. Gaudens National Historic Site](#), Cornish, NH. 2-3 miles, with a few hundred feet elevation gain. Fee or National Park Passport required for entry.

Contact Outings Leader Peter Hope at 603-863-6456 or phope@worldpath.net if you are interested in joining us!

Writing Assignment: Benefits of Electric Vehicles

This September, electric and hybrid vehicles will be showcased in New London, Durham, and Concord as part of National Drive Electric Week. (See above for details on locations and times). What makes electric better? Read the Sierra Club's [Electronic Vehicle Factsheet](#), and come out to one of the events to learn more about driving tomorrow's cars, today.

Then, show your support for electric cars by writing a letter to the editor of your local paper supporting electric cars and electric car hookups in New Hampshire. [Find your local newspaper on our website](#).

For consistency, please conclude your letter with this message:

Electric vehicles provide an important 21st-century solution to climate disruption. These cars are not only better for our climate, improving air quality and reducing our dependence on dirty fuels, but they save their drivers money, too.

Upper Valley Group Launches Ready for 100 campaign



The Upper Valley Group just launched the *Ready for 100* campaign in the Upper Valley! This is a nationwide campaign initiated by the Sierra Club in coordination with other groups, to influence cities, regions, and states to commit to 100% of their energy coming from renewable sources by 2050. Learn more on the [Upper Valley group website](#).

[Become a member today](#), and support our efforts to explore, enjoy, and protect our Earth!

SAVE THE PLANET & SOME GREEN.
JOIN AND ENJOY NEW MEMBER BENEFITS



August 2016



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