

New England Municipal Sustainability Network

Peer learning, collaborative projects, intersections with undergraduate and graduate student applied research.

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Founded	Located	Sector	Funding Source	Membership
2010	New England Region	Climate change, sustainability	Grants and in-kind contributions	37 municipalities, 1 state flagship university, several NGOs

Overview

- The NEMS Network was initially formed under the umbrella of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network as one of five regional hubs aimed at creating regional collaboration among municipal staff on climate and sustainability-focused initiatives.
- The New England Municipal Sustainability (NEMS) Network is a consortium of New England cities and towns that collaborate to build more sustainable communities. Collectively home to over two million citizens, the Network serves as a hub for municipalities to share strategies, align resources, and develop joint solutions to pressing climate and sustainability challenges.
- Provides stronger peer connections and collaborative projects across the New England region.
- Governed by Steering Committee comprised of seven municipality representatives; the University of New Hampshire serves as the backbone organization.

Impact of the Network

- Regional geographic scope
- Serves academic New England-based municipalities, higher education and NGOs.
- The NEMS Network operates three issue-specific working groups focused on critical sustainability issues of shared interest across New England region. These working groups specifically focus on the issue of split incentives for renters and landlords. Each group addresses the split incentives problem from a different perspective: clean energy development, community resilience, and the intersections of climate change and public health.
- NEMS has created an array of initiatives aimed at strengthening local government sustainability efforts, which have fostered collaborations among New England communities that support innovation and leading-edge approaches towards sustainability, including community choice aggregation, promoting clean heating and cooling technologies to residents and businesses and coastal resilience, and regional bike-share programs.
- Currently challenged by Federal headwinds and capacity constraints at all levels.
- In the future, NEMS will scale working group efforts, continue strengthening and leveraging the municipal connections to higher education expertise and resources, and land our next grant (our current one expires in May 2027).

