

# Dover's Climate Adaptation Master Plan Chapter (2018)

## Summary:

Dover has already been confronted with a variety of hazards associated with climate change, including flooding from storm surges, extreme precipitation, and heat waves. This chapter, which won the NHPA 2018 Plan of the year award, seeks to address climate change in a holistic way. It offers progressive recommendations to inform future land use decisions in order to limit public and private risk and vulnerability.

## Keywords:

- Planning
- Adaptation
- Water Availability & Quality
- Health & Safety
- Food
- Energy
- Infrastructure
- Natural Resources
- Climate Science

## Key Points:

- An inland coastal community, the City is particularly susceptible to flooding in low-lying areas along the Bellamy and Piscataqua Rivers, at the confluence of the Cochecho River and the Salmon Falls River, and along the shores of Little Bay.
- Climate change can be expected not only to exacerbate existing coastal hazards, but also to create a variety of new challenges, such as prolonged drought, contamination of underground sources of drinking water, loss of important natural resources and ecosystems, species migration, and the spread of vector-borne diseases.
- The chapter summarizes best available climate-related science, including data on greenhouse gases, extreme weather, future emissions scenarios, increases in temperature, and rising sea levels.
- The chapter identifies six key climate topics: water availability and quality, health and safety, food, energy, infrastructure, and natural resources.
- There are 47 actions that provide the framework and guidance for the City to begin addressing the long-term impacts of climate change. Actions are broken down into outreach and engagement; studies and initiatives; operations, policies, and procedures; and regulatory.

## Suggested Uses:

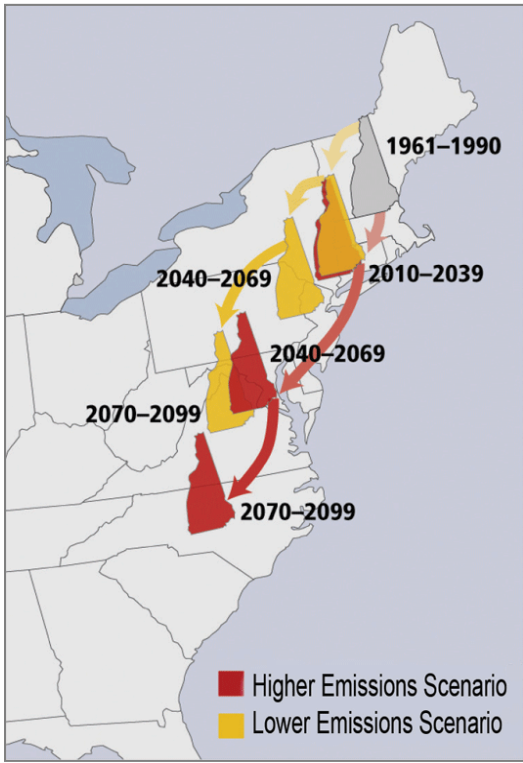
This plan not only represents a comprehensive resource for local decision-making, but also lays the groundwork for future climate and resiliency planning for the City of Dover. Findings in each of the six sections have shaped recommendations for the City to consider as it moves into an uncertain future, while providing support functions, building capacity, and strengthening resiliency for the City and its residents. In addition to a full chapter update every ten years, the City also conducts a yearly assessment in which the goals of each master plan chapter are reviewed.



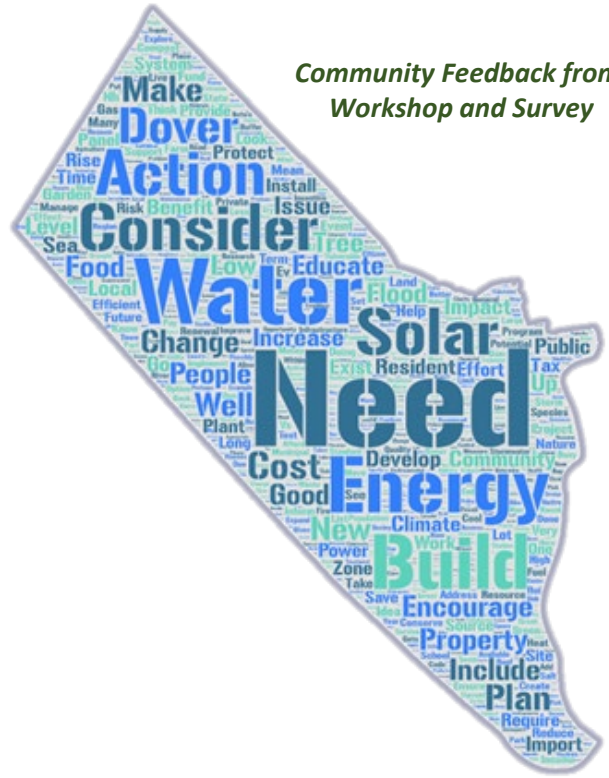
[Find this and other resources on Dover's Climate Resources Webpage](#)

# Chapter Highlights

*New Hampshire's Potential Climate*



*Community Feedback from Workshop and Survey*



*Residential homes vulnerable to future sea level rise*



Dover could expect upwards of 191 homes to be inundated from future sea level rise and storm surges by the end of the century.

**Report Authors:** Strafford Regional Planning Commission  
**Photo Credit:** Kyle Pimental, Strafford Regional Planning Commission

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New Hampshire  
Coastal Program

