

State of the Air Report

Presentation to BIA/DES Regulatory Conference

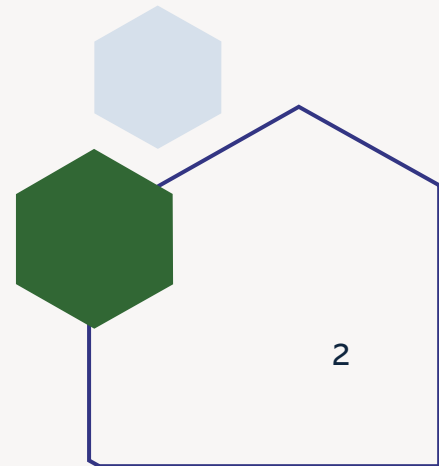
Craig A. Wright, Director

September 12, 2023



Summary of Topics

- Status of Air Quality in NH
- ARD Bureaus Updates
- Challenges we are Facing



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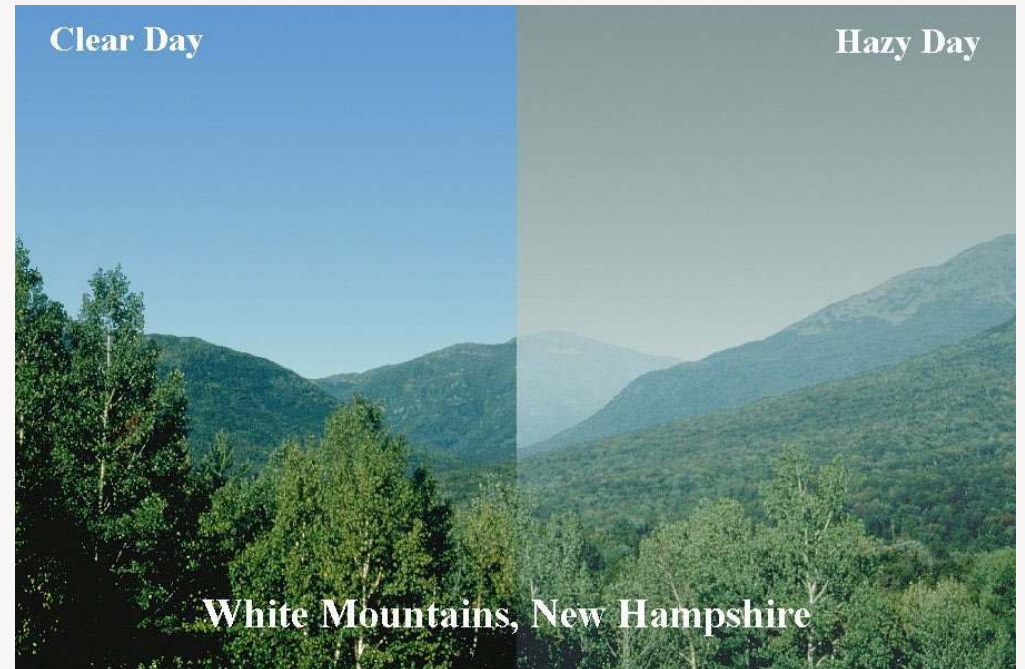
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Air Quality Issues in NH

- Ozone
 - Summertime issue often associated with air transported into the region
 - Historically our largest regulatory challenge
- Fine Particulate Matter
 - Used to be primarily wintertime woodsmoke issue
 - We are now seeing summertime wildfire events
 - Nature of problem makes it very challenging
- Regional Haze
 - Visibility in our Class 1 Areas
- Climate
 - Extreme weather events
 - Ecological impacts to our natural environment

Regional Haze



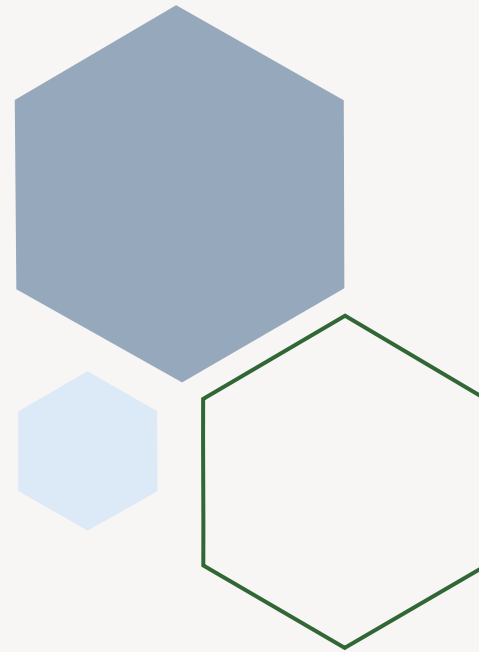
Status of Air Quality in NH



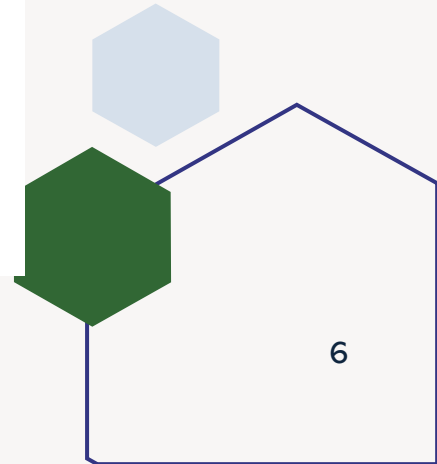
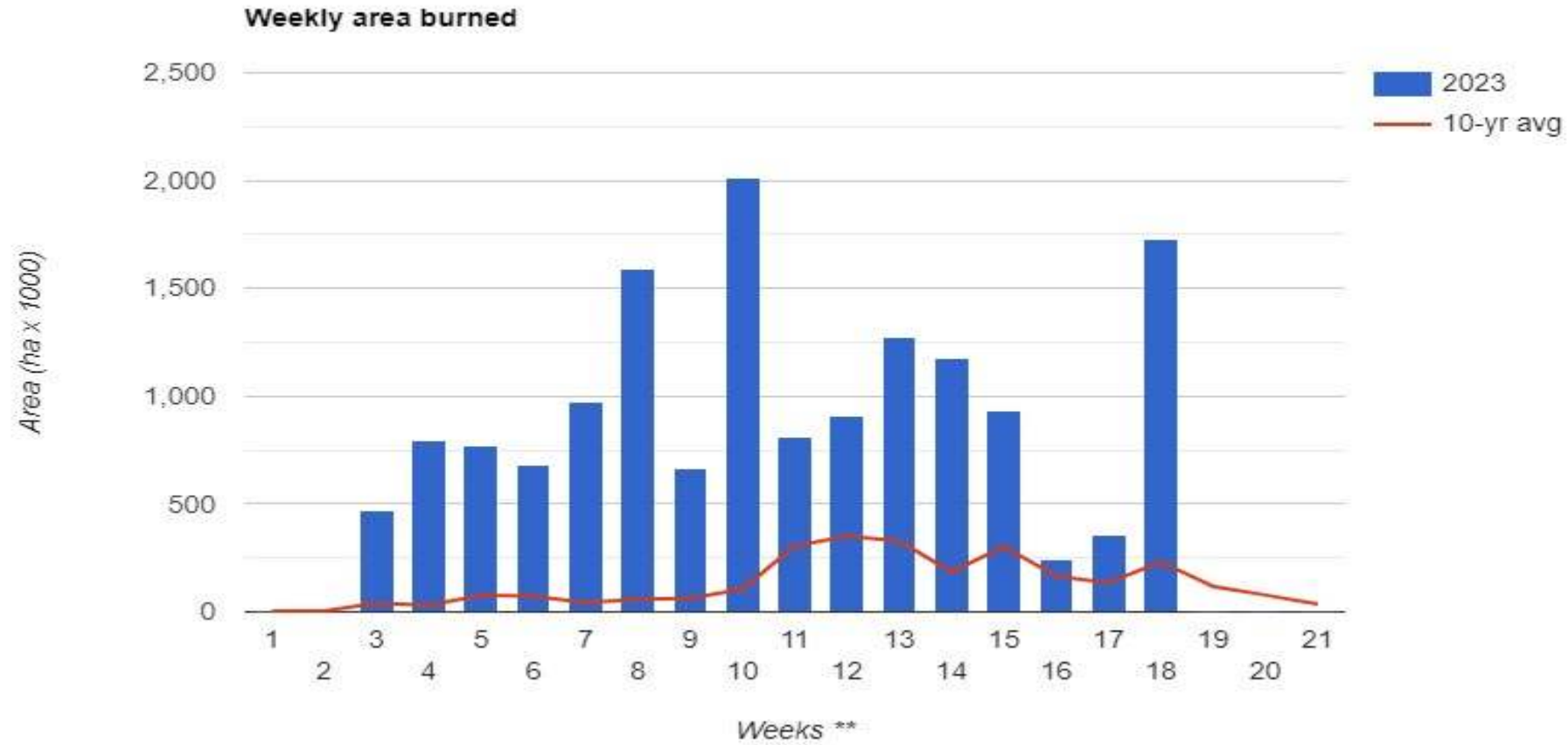
On most days
NH's air quality is
Good!

We have seen a
long-term trend of
improving air
quality in NH

In 2023 we have
had 11 days that air
quality has
exceeded health
standards



Canadian Wildfires in 2023

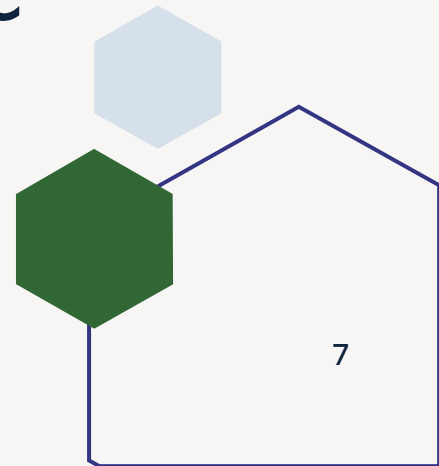


Canadian Wildfire Response

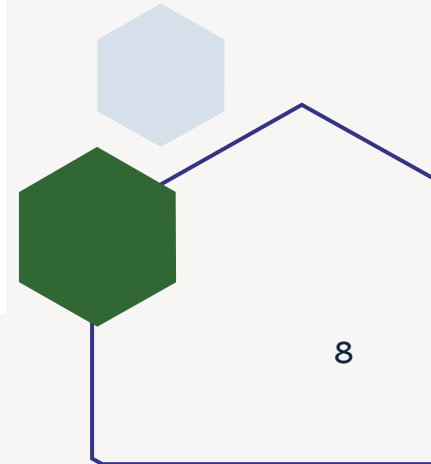
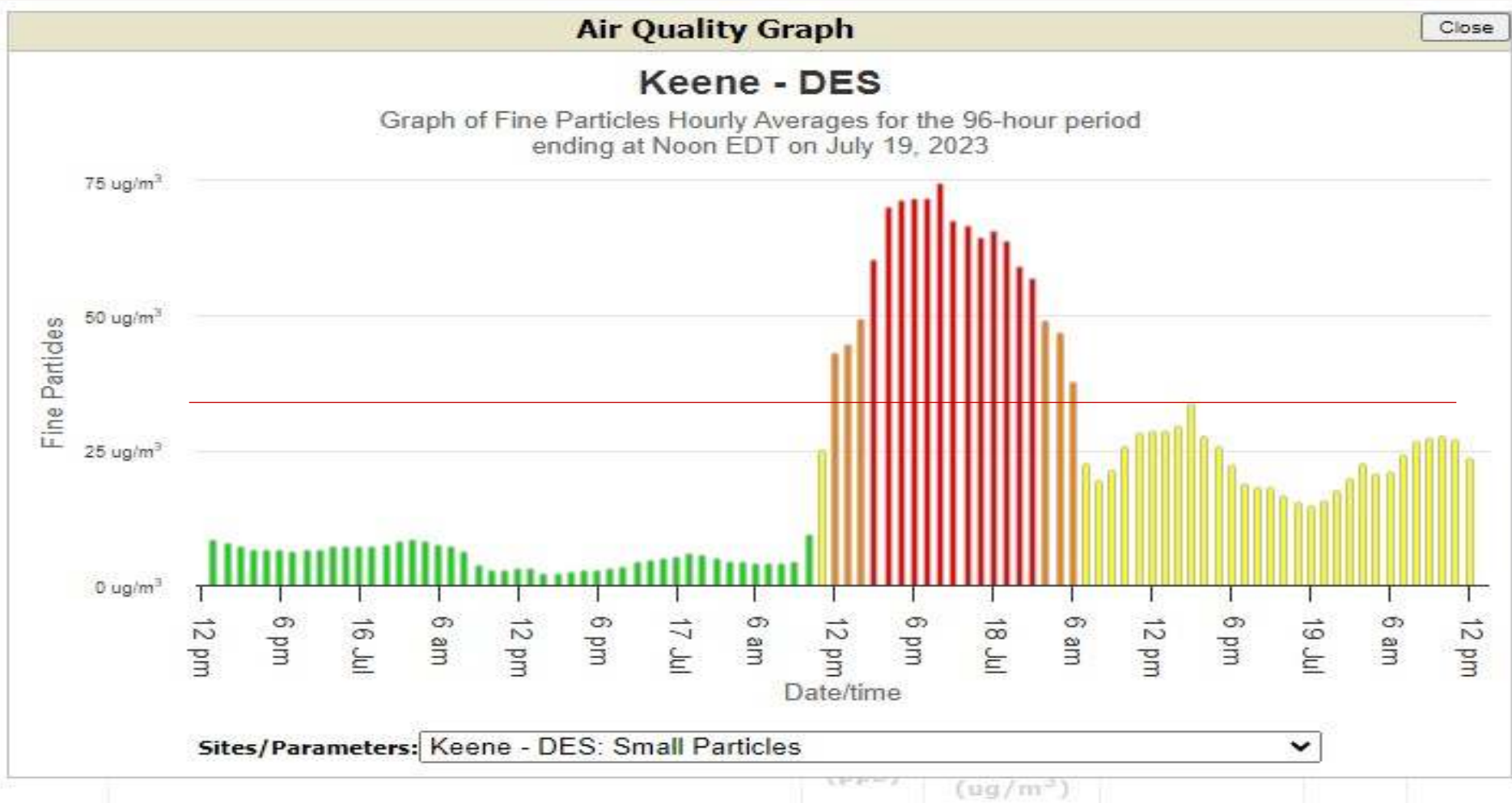
In early June DES began meeting with DPHS and HSEM to develop plans if we got to extreme levels of wildfire smoke in NH

DES would continue to manage air quality forecasting and declaring Air Quality Action Days

DPHS would be the lead in public messaging and the EOC could be activated if we got “hazardous” levels



Canadian Wildfire Impacts on NH – July 2023



PEHB - Air Permitting Program

State and Federal Permitting Programs

805 Permitted Facilities in NH

- 28 Title V Sources (Federal Permit Program – “Major” Sources)
- 777 State Sources including:
 - 264 Temporary Permit and State Operating Permit Sources
 - 422 General State Permit Sources (Emergency Generators) – *online process*
 - 91 Permit-by-Notification Sources (Rock Crushing Operations) – *online process*



Type of Air Permit	Applications (2022)	
	Received	Processed
New Construction (Temporary Permits)	14	15
General State Permits	18	18
State Operating Permits	69	74
Title V Operating Permits	14	8
Permit-by-Notifications	4	4

PEHB - Environmental Health Program

- **Increased Staffing and Technical Support Capabilities**
 - In April 2023 we received a new 5 year grant for funding from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to continue supporting communities with environmental exposure concerns.
 - Plan to add a new health educator position for the program.
 - Health Risk Assessor and Toxicologist positions (SB 309) continue to support PFAS standards and risk assessment
 - Developing education tools for local community leaders related to contamination, cancer investigations and partnering with state agencies



Compliance Bureau

State and Delegated Federal Programs

- Compliance Inspections and Compliance Assistance
 - Conducted 57 inspections at stationary sources
 - Responded to 60 air quality complaints
- Stack Testing and Emission Monitoring
 - Conducted oversight of third-party stack testing companies at 49 sites
 - Quality control checks on 14 continuous emission monitoring systems to ensure data accuracy
- Enforcement
 - Successfully completed 38 enforcement actions in without any federal over-filing

2022 statistics



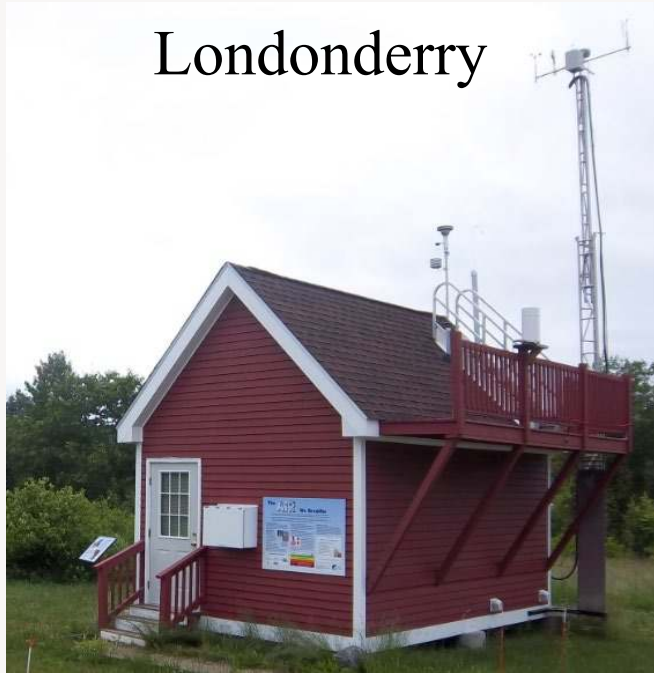
Compliance Bureau

State and Delegated Federal Programs

- Emissions Inventory
 - Federal grant awarded in 2021 to replace emissions inventory database to automatically complete EPA emissions reporting requirements.
 - Additional federal grant funding in 2022 to create an online emissions reporting portal.
- Asbestos Management
 - Federal grant awarded in 2022 to conduct 30 inspections per year at NH schools to ensure proper management of asbestos



Technical Services Bureau – Air Monitoring



Upcoming Planned Changes to Network

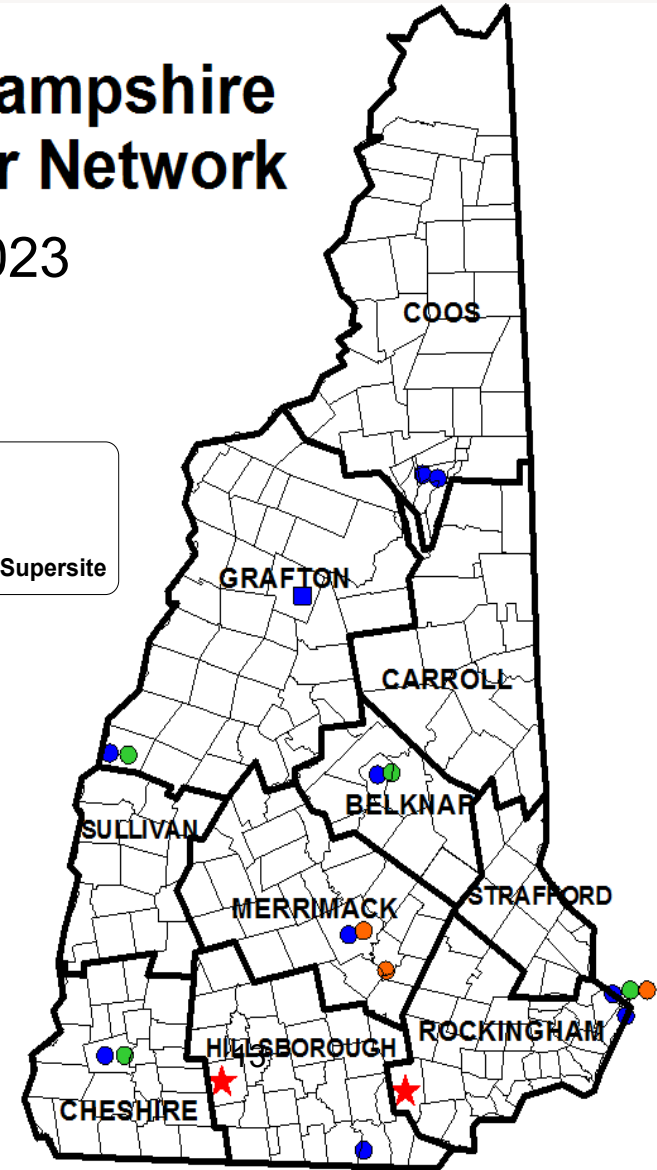
Relocating Laconia Site – Ozone and PM

Adding Trace CO to Mt. Washington

New Hampshire Monitor Network

2023

- Ozone
- PM2.5
- SO2
- ★ NCore Supersite



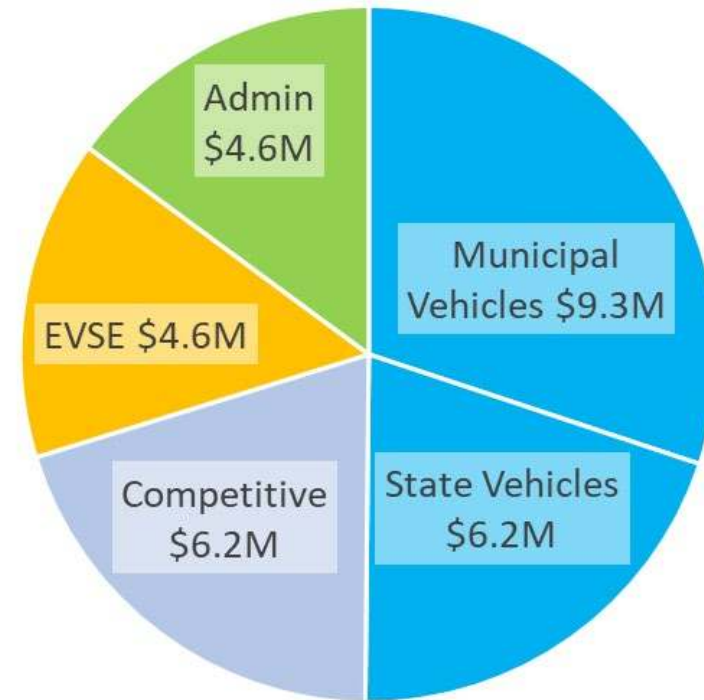
TSB - Mobile Source Programs

- Annual Motor Vehicle Inspections (OBD)
- Grant programs (DERA and VW)
- Granite State Clean Cities Coalition
- Education/Outreach
- Transportation Planning/
Regional Planning
Commissions



NH Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Allocations

- NH was allocated \$30.9M in October 2017, held in a Trust
- NHDES became the lead agency for the VW Trust funds in August 2021
- NH Beneficiary Mitigation Plan:
 - Approx \$15.5M for replacing government diesel vehicles and equipment (including through DERA)
 - Approx \$6.2M for competitive projects to replace diesel vehicles/equipment (i.e. DERA)
 - Approx \$4.6M for installing EVSE
 - Up to \$4.6M for administrative costs
- Learn more at:
<https://www.des.nh.gov/business-and-community/loans-and-grants/volkswagen-mitigation-trust>



Challenges 2023 and Beyond

- Transitioning to a future workforce
 - Currently have 14 vacant positions (20% of our staff)
 - Recently had 4 senior staff retirements
 - Expect another 8-10 senior staff retirements near term
- Transportation remains the largest source of emissions in NH and the US
- Ozone transport = historically has been biggest impact to NH
- Summertime wildfire smoke events – a new normal?
- Continue to support a transition to cleaner energy
- Expectation and demands on staff are incredibly high from all directions

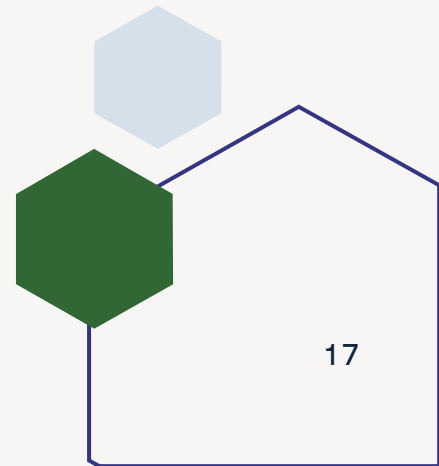
Federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

In April – DES applied for an Inflation Reduction Act Grant to develop a state plan to reduce greenhouse gas and other air pollutants

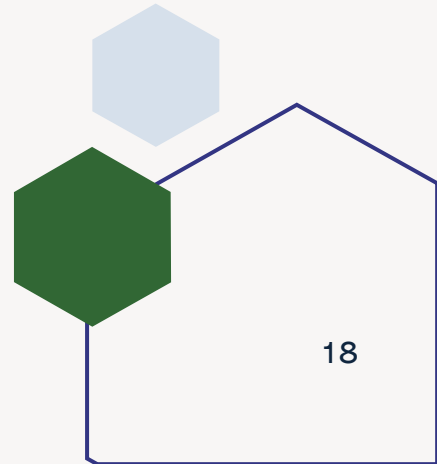
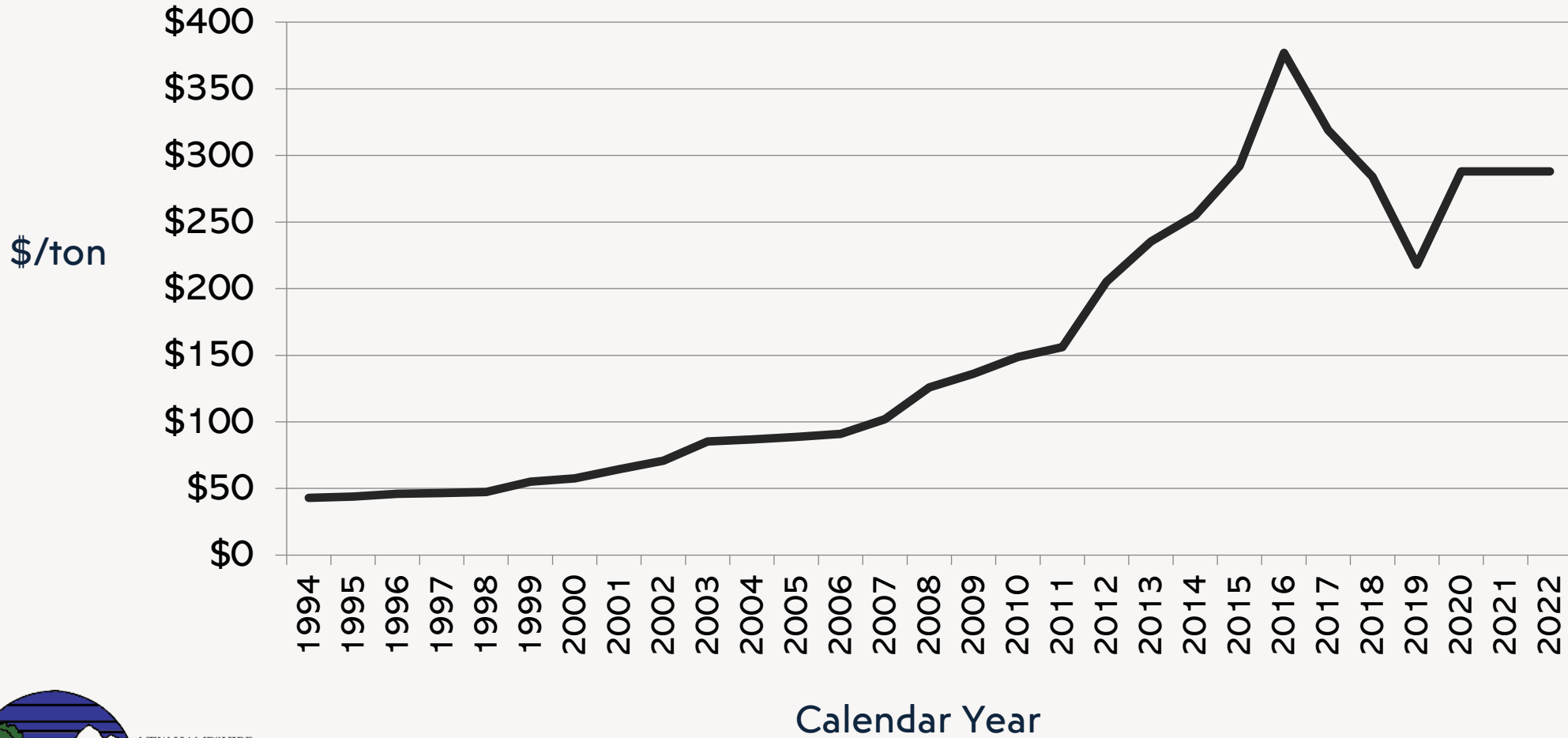
In late August – DES was awarded a \$3 M grant and must now develop a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) by March 1, 2024

EPA intends to award an additional \$4.6 B in climate implementation grants under IRA with initial application being due around April 1, 2024

In-order-to qualify for the implementation grants a state must first develop the PCAP



Status of Air Permit Fees





Thank you

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