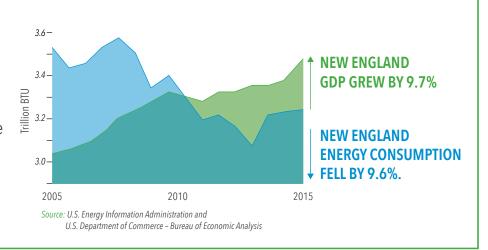




# GROWTH IN NEW HAMPSHIRE'S ECONOMY IS NO LONGER TIED TO ENERGY USE

New England doesn't have to increase energy use to grow its economy. In fact, the GDP in New England grew by 9.7% from 2005-2016, while energy use fell by 9.6%.



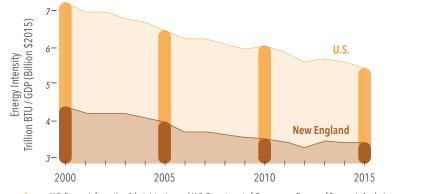
#### DESPITE HIGHER THAN AVERAGE RATES, COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL ENERGY COSTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE ARE LOWER THAN THE U.S. AVERAGE



While the price per kilowatt hour of electricity in New Hampshire has been higher than the national average for decades, New Hampshire **residents currently pay less of their overall household income on energy (5.5 %)** than the national U.S. average (5.6%). The same is true for commercial costs: the average monthly New Hampshire electric utility bill in 2015 was actually **lower than the U.S. average commercial bill**, at \$529 versus \$671.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS ALREADY REDUCING ENERGY COSTS

Despite traditionally higher energy prices, New England's improvements in energy efficiency have resulted in a net benefit – the energy intensity of the New England economy is actually lower than the national average.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration and U.S. Department of Commerce – Bureau of Economic Analysis







## NEW HAMPSHIRE ALREADY HAS A RELIABLE ELECTRICAL GRID

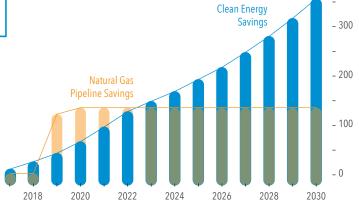
Even with cold winter temperatures and high energy demands, New England's electrical grid has stayed reliable. Several reliability studies have found that there's **no immediate risk to New England's energy security.** 



NEW HAMPSHIRE SHOULD AVOID ENERGY PROJECTS THAT WILL TIE UP BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN PUBLIC CAPITAL INVESTMENT OVER THE COMING DECADES WITHOUT PROVIDING THE ASSURANCE OF SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS TO CONSUMERS.

Large infrastructure investments, including natural gas capacity projects, are risky. In several instances, we have seen technical overcapacity and underutilization result in little to **no return on investment**, with stranded costs left for consumers to pay.

If they expect to use taxpayer funds to build new infrastructure for natural gas pipelines, policymakers owe consumers a **thorough examination of all the choices**.



Note: Total projected cumulative savings from 2017 to 2030 are \$1.63 billion for the natural gas pipeline scenario and \$2.27 billion for the clean energy scenario. Source: Wake et al., "New Hampshire's Electricity Markets: Natural Gas, Renewable Energy, and Energy Efficiency, "2017, Section 5, http://scholars.unh.edu/sustainability/6/.

## WHAT OTHER CHOICES DO WE HAVE TO INCREASE ENERGY CAPACITY?

New Hampshire should invest in energy opportunities that:

- 1. Reduce costs
  - 2. Increase customer flexibility and individual choice
    - **3.** Can be changed if they're not working
      - 4. Have a proven ROI

#### THESE OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:



Better Contracting Practices



Changes to Rules, Regulations or Policies



Promotion of Energy Efficiency



**Renewable Energy** 

