



## Team 4- Balancing Economic Development & Environmental Stewardship

**Goal** Community members steward both a vibrant economy and our human and natural resources so that all generations thrive.

### Progress/Accomplishments - What the team is working on and why

**Conducted Town Surveys** about broadband, energy, business incentives, Master Plans and natural resources, and waste and recycling to better understand circumstances related to the team's goal in our towns. The results of the survey led to the following additional actions.

**Promoted access to broadband** by producing reports for towns with recommendations for local actions and promoting the "NH I want broadband survey" county-wide through the media and a public service video. Broadband access allows business development with less environmental impact. Lack of high speed access is impacting existing businesses and home owners.

**Planned Wood Biomass Tour** for November to encourage schools and towns to consider the use of wood biomass for heating public buildings as a way to manage costs and support the local economy through purchases of locally produced fuel.

### What we've learned

- Residential and business density is the driving force for broadband expansion. Local solutions in less dense areas are possible (and happening!) such as wireless neighborhood nodes.
- Wood biomass is an efficient heating source that can help schools and municipalities reign in their heating costs while investing their heating dollars back into the local economy. Changes in technology and financing are making this a viable option.
- No towns in Carroll County offer business incentives. However, the region and state have many advantages that could be more intentionally promoted.
- There are wide variations in costs and practices around waste and recycling. The team needs to gather more data but this looks like a promising future action area.
- The team's approach is to focus on actions that are timely and impact the broadest number of people economically and environmentally.

### What's Next

- Finalize plans for fall biomass tour
- Business incentives - explore and decide on strategy for elevating positive aspects of region.
- Also on our radar - 1) waste and recycling (research success stories and borrow shamelessly); 2) form broadband subcommittee if there is enough interest

### How you can help

- Research what towns and other entities are already doing regarding business.
- Help the committee work on a county-wide strategy to promote the region capitalizing on existing information and resources.
- Be a liaison between your community and the team.