



The CONEG Connection

September 19, 2016

News and Highlights from the Northeastern Governors and Washington, DC in the energy, environment, and transportation policy areas.

New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Meet in Boston

On August 28, 2016, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker hosted the 40th Conference of the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) in Boston. All six New England Governors and the Premiers of the five Eastern Canadian Provinces attended the two-day meeting that featured energy, the environment and economic development as top agenda items.



After the opening ceremony at the Massachusetts State House, a reception followed, featuring local New England farms and fish.

At the meeting, the Governors and Premiers received an update on the region's progress meeting the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 35 to 45 percent of 1990 levels by 2030. The leaders discussed ways the region could continue to work together to reduce their carbon footprint and address climate change targets, as well as the opportunities presented by Massachusetts' new energy diversity law. Governor Baker told the audience **"our region is truly at an energy crossroads that requires us to work collaboratively to make targeted decisions and investments regarding our regional energy and electricity infrastructure. We are working to continue to reduce our carbon footprint here and maintain a competitive position in terms of price and reliability."**



A panel discussion on "The Benefits and Importance of Diverse Energy Generation" featured discussions from utilities and state energy officials on issues such as affordability, reliability, and sustainability. An "Emerging and Innovative Technologies" panel featured presentations on issues such as green building, energy storage, and industrial energy efficiency.

The leaders also had extensive, thoughtful conversations about the challenges of the Region's opioid epidemic, and shared information on efforts underway to combat the crisis. New Hampshire Governor

Hassan stressed that regional cooperation is "a critical part of our efforts to combat this horrible epidemic and save lives."

The NEG/ECP also adopted three resolutions including those to enhance regional collaboration on economic development and trade, as well as on ecological connectivity, adaptation to climate change and biodiversity conservation. The leaders also reaffirmed the commitment of the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers to continue its strong tradition of friendship and cooperation on shared priorities for many years to come. Prince Edward Island Premier Wade MacLauchlan noted the meeting's spirit of collaboration and how the two countries share so much in the areas of trade, economy, energy and the environment.





From left to right: Governor Gina Raimondo (RI), Premier Brian Gallant (NB), Premier Philippe Couillard (QC), Governor Dannel Malloy (CT), Governor Charlie Baker (MA), Premier Wade MacLauchlan (PEI), Governor Maggie Hassan (NH), Governor Paul LePage (ME), Premier Dwight Ball (NL), Governor Peter Shumlin (VT), and Premier Stephen McNeil (NS).

The Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers was established in 1973 and is co-chaired this year by Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker and Premier Wade MacLauchlan of Prince Edward Island. The group will meet again August 27-29, 2017, in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION:

CONNECTICUT:

Governor Dannel Malloy announced that Connecticut's bus rapid transit system [CTfastrak](#) has carried more than four million riders since its launch on March 28, 2015.

Governor Malloy announced that Connecticut will [purchase additional rail cars](#) for expanded capacity service on the New Haven line.

Governor Malloy unveiled a new [interactive online map](#) developed by the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) that allows consumers to locate pharmacies across the state where pharmacists are certified to prescribe the overdose-reversing medication naloxone.

Governor Malloy and Lt. Governor Wyman [expressed their thanks](#) to the Connecticut State Police for saving 100 lives in less than two years through the administration of the opioid antagonist Narcan to

individuals experiencing overdoses.

Governor Malloy announced the launch of the new “CT Prepares” [mobile application](#) that provides emergency preparation guides, and during an emergency provides real-time notifications and alerts and allows Connecticut residents to communicate with family members.

MAINE:

The Maine Emergency Management Agency joined with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to kick-off [National Preparedness Month](#) to help citizens prepare for emergencies such as the natural hazards of hurricanes, floods, and severe summer and winter storms that are common in the Northeast.

US Department of Energy Awards \$5.4 million for the [first tidal generator](#) in western hemisphere.

MASSACHUSETTS:

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker has signed an [Executive Order](#) which lays out a comprehensive approach to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, safeguard residents, municipalities and businesses from the impacts of climate change, and build a more resilient Commonwealth.

Governor Baker has announced his administration’s partnership with the state’s healthcare community to expand the reach and use of first-in-the-nation [core competencies](#) to ensure medical professionals receive enhanced training in preventing prescription drug misuse.

Governor Baker announced the [award](#) of \$1.8 million in direct funding and technical assistance to help coastal communities prepare for and reduce the impacts of coastal storms and climate change, including storm surge, coastal flooding, erosion and sea level rise.

Governor Baker has signed an agreement with off-shore developers [to lease the New Bedford Marine Commerce Terminal](#) as a staging and deployment location for future wind projects.

NEW HAMPSHIRE:

New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan provided an update on New Hampshire’s [comprehensive response](#) to the heroin and opioid health crisis and provided recommendations for building on the state’s progress.

Governor Hassan , joined by Senator Jeanne Shaheen, [announced](#) that twelve New Hampshire projects will receive a total of \$1.55 million in grant funding from the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) to help spur economic and community development in the North Country.

NEW YORK:

Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the release of the [New York State Offshore Wind Blueprint](#) .

Governor Cuomo has announced [the availability of \\$3 million in funding](#) for municipalities in New York to advance the purchase or lease of Zero Emission Vehicles and the installation of electric vehicle charging or hydrogen fuel cell infrastructure.

Governor Cuomo announced the grand opening of a [first-of-its-kind center](#) to provide community-based and peer-driven support and recovery services for teens and young adults that are in recovery or at risk for substance abuse disorders.

Governor Cuomo announced the [availability of \\$98.7 million](#) in FHWA funding to support bicycle, pedestrian, multi-use path and transportation-related programs as well as projects that reduce

congestion and help municipalities in meeting the requirements of the Clean Air Act.

RHODE ISLAND:

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and Office of Energy Resources (OER)'s recently-completed [pilot project](#) to upgrade lighting fixtures at several popular parks and piers across the state is projected to save an estimated 356,370 kilowatt-hours of energy annually as well as nearly \$50,000 in energy-related costs.

Governor Gina Raimondo has announced that the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank's new Efficient Buildings Fund will provide [\\$17.2 million in financing to six communities](#) to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that are expected to conserve the equivalent of the average annual energy consumption needs of 832 Rhode Island households.

VERMONT :

The Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and other state agencies have [signed an agreement](#) with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to establish a Silver Jackets Program to reduce the risk of flooding and other natural disasters through actions such as improved communication and coordination of agency resources, and creating a more efficient pre- and post-disaster response.

Governor Peter Shumlin signed an [Executive Order](#) to give preference to companies that promote clean energy and take action to address climate change when awarding state contracts.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON, DC:

Opioid Awareness Week

President Obama has proclaimed the week of September 18-23, 2016, as [Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week](#). U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch has [scheduled several events for the week](#).

Monthly U.S. Renewable Electricity Generation in 2016 Surpasses Previous Years

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)

[reports](#) that as of June, U.S. renewable electricity generation has surpassed levels from previous years in every month this year.

Secretary Moniz Calls for More Funding for Energy Emergency Response

With the anniversary of Superstorm Sandy approaching, in testimony to the Senate Energy Committee, US DOE Secretary Moniz called for [increased federal funding for U.S. energy emergency response activities](#). Secretary Moniz also announced up to [\\$34 million in funding](#) for twelve energy sector organizations in nine states, including two CONEG states, for cybersecurity RD&D to increase the reliability and resilience of critical energy infrastructure.

US Officials announce New Offshore Wind Strategy

Secretary Moniz and Secretary Jewell announced a [collaborative strategy](#) for facilitating the growth of the offshore wind energy industry in the U.S. This new strategy builds off the Administrations Climate Action Plan and seeks to create jobs and reduce carbon pollution by developing clean energy technology.

Status of PTC Implementation

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has released an update of each [railroad's progress implementing Positive Train Control \(PTC\)](#) technology, and highlights FRA's support to help railroads implement PTC, and as well as the ongoing challenges to install the technology.

LIHEAP Funds Released

HHS has announced the release of [the final \\$14.4 million in FY2016 LIHEAP funding](#) to the states and the re-allotment of \$1.7 million in unobligated FY2015 LIHEAP funds.

HHS Awards Funds to Address Opioid Epidemic

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has announced the [award of \\$53 million](#) to 44 states (including all seven CONEG states), four tribes and the District of Columbia to expand and improve programs to address the opioid abuse epidemic.

Northeast Corridor Investment

Vice President Biden announced an historic [\\$2.45 billion federal investment in the Northeast Corridor \(NEC\)](#) that will allow Amtrak to purchase 28 next-generation high-speed trainsets, make significant station improvements at Moynihan Station New York, make track capacity upgrades along the NEC and modify fleet maintenance facilities.

New Amtrak President

Amtrak has named [Charles W. "Wick" Moorman](#) as its president and chief executive officer effective September 1, 2016. Moorman replaces Joe Boardman who is retiring this year after serving as Amtrak's president since 2008.

Did You Know...

The Northeast Corridor serves 750,000 rail passengers daily and moves a workforce that contributes \$50 billion annually to the American economy. On its own, the NEC Region would be the fifth largest economy in the world, ahead of France and just behind Germany.

Source: Northeast Corridor Commission.

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400 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 382
Washington, DC 20001

202-624-8450

info@coneg.org