



PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

and

HOME BUILDERS & REMODELERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

The New Hampshire department of Environmental Services (DES) and the Home builders & Remodelers Association of New Hampshire (HBRANH) share the common goals of environmental education, protection of NH natural resources, strong and economically diverse communities, encouraging local land use decision making consistent with the state's smart growth principles, and state level policy initiatives resulting in more affordable housing opportunities and more land conservation.

DES was established in January 1987 under the provisions of Chapter 202, Laws of 1986 and brought together programs four previously separate state agencies that had responsibility for such matters as water and air pollution control, water supply protection, dams and flood control, and waste disposal. Today DES implements these and other programs through a variety of regulatory compliance assistance and educational efforts. The HBRANH was chartered in 1961 and has 1,000 members state-wide. HBRANH is an association of industry professionals dedicated to providing quality housing opportunities through education, vision, and advocacy for the betterment of all NH communities.

In the past, DES and HBRANH have worked cooperatively and in partnership on efforts dealing with environmental and building regulations and how construction debris is most effectively handled. We have openly discussed and compromised in areas of new legislation as well. Based on the successes of prior partnership and efforts to bring greater recognition, effectiveness, structure and efficiency to future partnership efforts, DES and HBRANH hereby enter into this Partnership Agreement. It is anticipated that this Partnership Agreement will result in enhanced communication between DES and HBRANH and improved environmental protection.

The specific areas of cooperation are detailed in the attached work plan, which is the result of discussions between representatives of DES and HBRANH. The tasks are nonbinding and voluntary, and can be revised at any time by agreement of both parties.

	
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Date: 12/8/2008

Date: 12/15/08

HBRANH & DES PARTNERSHIP WORK PLAN

- I. Timeframe: This Work Plan shall be for the time period from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010 and shall be implemented pursuant to this work plan, as amended from time to time by mutual written agreement of both parties.
- II. Program Areas and Tasks
 - A. Education and Outreach
 1. DES will:
 - a. Meet periodically with the HBRANH for the purpose of communicating status of legislation, policies, regulations, etc. that have a direct influence on HBRANH members;
 - b. Partner with HBRANH to implement innovative land use controls, and to encourage smart growth policies, housing opportunities, the Build Green NH[®] program and other energy conservation initiatives, and land conservation;
 - c. Work with HBRANH, the regional planning commissions, local communities, and others to support adoption of local land use regulations that comply with state planning law and state smart growth policy, and that have a sound basis in local master plans.
 - d. Provide HBRANH with information on the proper collection and disposal of problem wastes common to their work, including mercury, asbestos and lead; and
 - e. Work with HBRANH to increase the reduction, reuse and recycling of Construction & Demolition Debris.
 2. HBRANH will:
 - a. Provide a link to DES website on the HBRANH website;
 - b. Educate DES on the potential impacts of their decisions on housing and small business;
 - c. Partner with DES to provide education for HBRANH members and other local officials through committee participation, workshops, and other programs. This education will span all areas pertaining to environmental issues and regulations and will include proper handling of problem wastes and the benefits of reducing, recycling, and reusing construction and demolition debris; and
 - d. Identify outreach needs of HBRANH members and communicate them to DES.
 - B. Responsible Growth
 1. Through targeted outreach and education, DES will assist HBRANH members to:
 - a. Understand how to best use available natural resource information in land use and land conservation planning;

- b. More effectively protect critical natural resources and minimize negative environmental impacts when designing and building development projects; and
- c. Promote the role of adequate and affordable workforce housing in reducing environmental impacts, for example, through reduced travel demand and land disturbance.

2. HBRANH will:

- a. Provide DES opportunities to understand obstacles to responsible and affordable housing;
- b. Assist DES to better understand market needs and the information and technical assistance needs of builders and developers; and
- c. Encourage communities to participate in DES programs leading to resource protection, land conservation, and sufficient workforce housing.

C. Climate Change and Energy Usage

- 1. DES will: Provide outreach materials, and explain the use and purpose of the *ENERGYSTAR* benchmarking tool to HBRANH members.
- 2. HBRANH will:
 - a. Assist DES by distributing information and outreach materials for EPA's Community Energy Challenge; and
 - b. Provide outreach materials to DES on the Build Green NH[®] program.

D. Rule and Policy Changes

- 1. DES will: Solicit input from HBRANH on rulemaking and policy changes.
- 2. HBRANH will: Participate in rulemaking and advisory groups, specifically as requested by DES.

III. Resources to Implement Partnership Agreement

- A. DES will provide staff support to meet the goals of this partnership, subject to budgetary limitations.
- B. HBRANH will provide staff and Board time to meet the goals of this partnership, as time and budget permit.