



**USDA Rural Development**

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# News Release

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## **USDA RD State Director Waring, New Hampshire Congressman Pappas Tour Energy-Smart Projects Throughout Carroll County**

*Effingham Snow Road Bridge, Tamworth Transfer Station, Conway Aligned Solar Array Illustrate Diverse Approaches to Fighting Climate Change*

**CARROLL COUNTY, NH, March 16, 2023** – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) State Director for Rural Development (RD) in Vermont and New Hampshire, Sarah Waring, is visiting USDA-funded projects in Carroll County today with New Hampshire Congressman Chris Pappas to highlight climate-smart infrastructure in the Granite State’s 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District. Joining them will be representatives from Clean Energy New Hampshire and the offices of Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan.

The visits will include the **Snow Road Bridge in Effingham** and **Tamworth Transfer Station**, recipients of [USDA Community Facilities Disaster Relief grants](#), and a **solar array in Conway built by energy producer Aligned Solar Partners** to benefit New Hampshire residents and Stonyfield Organic in Londonderry through the [USDA Electric Infrastructure Loan](#) program.

“Today’s tour demonstrates the multi-faceted approach we must take as we protect the environment and create jobs,” said Waring. “Our work in clean energy is often associated with the [Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#), but the visits today with Congressman Pappas and our partners show different programs playing key roles in reducing our reliance on traditional energy sources—and in creative ways. With disaster relief funds, we can reduce municipal and residential waste and the expenses and emissions that go with it. With electric infrastructure lending, we can help businesses reduce power costs while producing clean energy and putting it back on the grid. Our mission from the Biden-Harris Administration is clear and we take it to heart in New Hampshire: make the lives of rural residents better with clean-energy solutions that make sense.”

Aligned Solar is teaming up with energy provider Eversource to power the Stonyfield Farm processing facility in Londonderry through a [\\$15.2 million Electric Infrastructure Loan](#). The Conway installation is one of four in New Hampshire under the funding, with two in Nashua and another in Loudon. (An array in Maine will work through ReVision Energy to power five public schools in the state). Stonyfield will benefit from a significant reduction in power costs while doing its part to support clean energy generation for rural customers. The project is anticipated to produce 7,098,352 kilowatt hours of clean energy annually.

Structural improvement and reinforcement of the Snow Road Bridge in Effingham, NH, gave town residents access to the recycling and solid-waste transfer station after the bridge's culverts were regularly 'overtopped' from stormwater, causing severe erosion and disrepair. Access to these facilities is crucial for residents and especially important for those with disabilities. Instead of using conventional construction techniques and materials, Effingham used its \$250,000 USDA Community Facilities Disaster Relief grant to secure the services of Hansen Bridge, a Springfield, NH-based company that produces and builds municipal spans with U.S.-sourced steel and laminated timber. This approach represented a significant reduction in costs and emissions from what concrete production and associated trucking would've generated.

Built in 2000, the Tamworth Transfer Station was proving inadequate to handle the town's seasonal influx in population. RD approved a [\\$493,000 Community Facilities Disaster Relief grant](#) to modernize the station with a new storage and loading area, truck scale, baler and forklift. These additions will vastly improve source-separated recycling and sorting capability, and the town's recycled items will be sold back to the community, benefitting both the economy and environment. Tamworth will save an estimated \$60,000 annually and reduce waste from the landfill by 371 tons/year.

Additional information on energy programs is available at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/>

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, Rural Development provides loans, grants and loan guarantees to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, Tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit [www.rd.usda/VT](http://www.rd.usda/VT), [www.rd.usda/NH](http://www.rd.usda/NH) and follow us on Twitter [@RD\\_VTandNH](https://twitter.com/RD_VTandNH).

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