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Lynch creating climate change task force

MANCHESTER (AP) — Gov. John Lynch is establishing a task force to develop a Climate Change Action plan for the state.

"Our environment is part of what makes New Hampshire so special. From our breathtaking mountains, to our clean waters, to our colorful forests — our environment is a major part of the high quality of life we enjoy here in New Hampshire," Lynch said Wednesday at an energy conference.

Lynch said research shows the state already is seeing the results of climate change, including an increase in intensity of storms, fewer days with snow cover, earlier spring blooming of some plants and earlier spring runoff.

"That is why we are dedicating ourselves in New Hampshire to reducing the pollution that causes global warming and climate change. We know how important it is to the health of our citizens, the health of our economy, and the health of our environment," Lynch said.

The governor said the federal government should address the problems with a national energy policy, but that New Hampshire cannot afford to wait. He said his task force will establish goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and recommend steps the state can take to meet those goals. He wants the group to report back by next August.

Lynch also called for passage this legislative session of a law implementing the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

New Hampshire has joined other Northeast states in developing the regional effort to cap emissions from power plants.