



# **Getting Natural Gas Right**

**Greg Cunningham**  
**Vice President and Director**  
**Clean Energy and Climate Change Program**  
**August 19, 2015**



# Climate Change

## The Defining Challenge of our Age

*“Without additional mitigation efforts beyond those in place today, and **even with adaptation**, warming by the end of the 21st century will lead to high to very high risk of **severe, widespread, and irreversible impacts globally.**”*

*IPCC, Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report*

# Legal and Policy Basis for Getting Gas Right

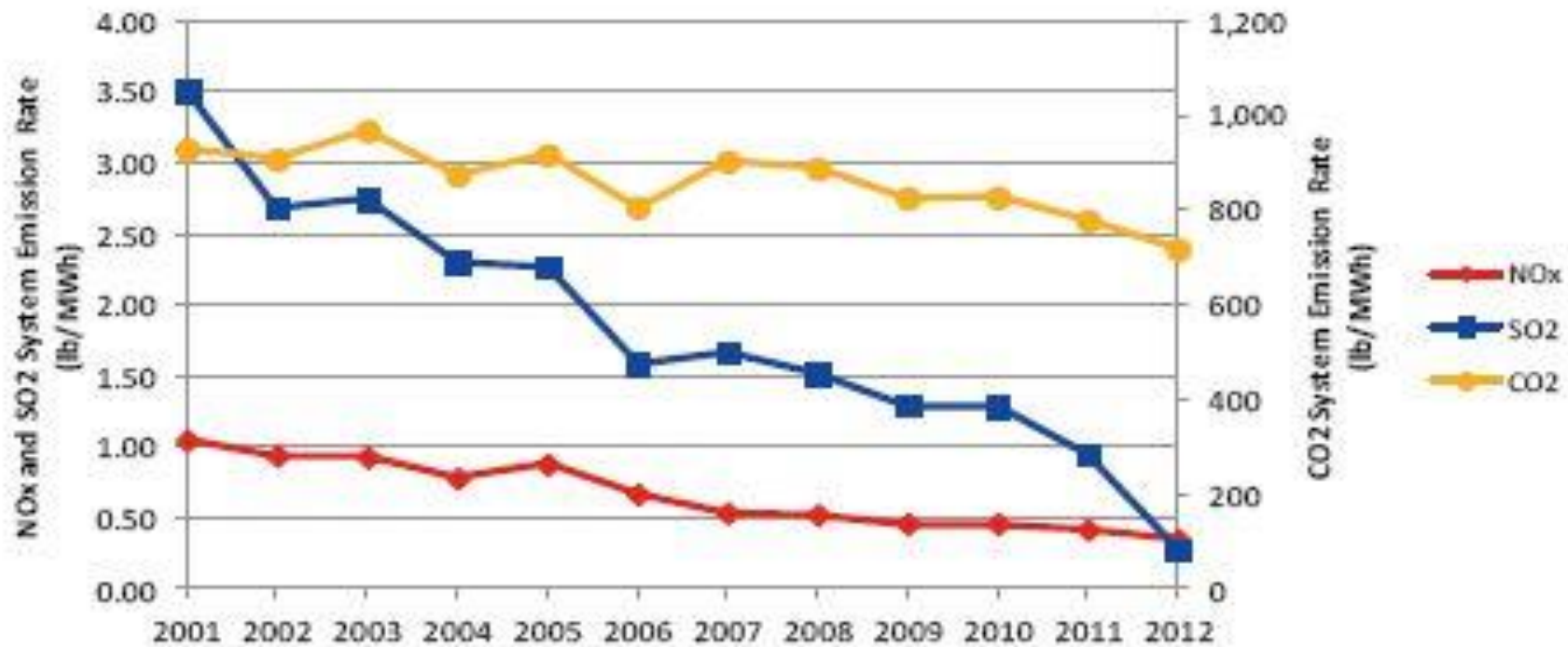
## **Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Goal**

Reductions from all sectors of the economy to reach a target of a 25% reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050.



# Natural Gas: Not a Panacea

Figure 5-2: 2001-2012 ISO New England System Annual Average NOx, SO2, and CO2 Emission Rates (lb/MWh)



# How Much Gas Is Too Much?

**52%** of current generation is gas

Proposed Generation

**57%** gas plants

**42%** renewables



# Mitigation Strategies

## Footprint Power Case Study

- Former Salem Harbor Coal Plant
- CO2 emissions reductions consistent with regional policy goal
- Require closure by 2050

# REC-Specific Considerations

- Must clear in Forward Capacity Auction
- Must have fuel to generate or be penalized
  - Dual Fuel Potential?
- Must get energy to market
- Is it displacing cleaner, cheaper distributed generation?
- CHP is highly efficient, but does it work in Rockland?