



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Environmental Protection
FROM: Stacy Knapp, Bureau of Air Quality
DATE: April 1, 2021
RE: Proposed rule establishing methods for the calculation of annual greenhouse gas emissions as required by 38 M.R.S. §576-A – request for posting for public comments

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Department) compiles a complete greenhouse gas emissions inventory every two years and reports this analysis to the Legislature. Beginning in 2022, this report must also include an estimate of net greenhouse gas emissions (i.e., a carbon budget), which includes both gross anthropogenic emissions to the atmosphere and carbon sequestered by the environment.

As stated in 38 M.R.S. §576-A, “By July 1, 2021, the Department shall adopt rules to track and report to the Legislature on gross annual greenhouse gas emissions and net annual greenhouse gas emissions.” This Chapter establishes methods for the calculation of annual greenhouse gas emissions as required, outlining the methods, data sources, and assumptions used to compile and report these inventories.

These emissions estimates will be used to assess Maine’s progress toward meeting the gross greenhouse gas reductions set out in 38 M.R.S. § 576-A (1) and (3). The Department will use these methods to measure progress toward these reductions and toward the goals of the climate action plan described in 38 M.R.S. § 577. The net emissions estimate will be used to gauge Maine’s progress toward the 2045 carbon neutrality goal as described in Governor Mills’ executive order dated September 23, 2019.

Departmental Recommendation:

The Department recommends that the Board post the draft rule to public hearing.

Estimated Time of Presentation:

1 hour

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