

Commissions, Committees, Tasks Forces related to Quality of Place (11 Groups)

Legislative

1. Joint Select Committee on Future Maine Prosperity

Purpose: To develop a comprehensive plan to achieve sustainable prosperity in the state, to develop recommendation for future legislative action to expand the state's economy over the long term and to identify and address threats to the state's quality of life

Chairperson(s):
Senator Dennis Damon
Rep John Piotti

Status: The committee has finished its work and submitted its final report to 123rd Legislature, January 2008

Web Site: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/meprospersity.htm>

Final Report: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/prospersityreport.pdf>

2. Maine Economic Growth Council

Purpose: To develop a long-range economic plan for the state, including goals, measurable outcomes, and benchmarks.

Chairperson(s):
Leroy J. Barry, Retired, Madison Paper Industries
Senator Lynn Bromley

Status: The council is permanent and non-partisan. It developed an annual indicators report, *Measures of Growth*, which uses targeted indicators to assess the state of the economy and Maine's overall quality of life.

Web Site: <http://www.mdf.org/megc/>

3. Community Preservation Advisory Committee

Purpose: To advise the Governor, Legislature, and state agencies on matters relating to community preservation. It also reports out and/or supports legislation.

Chairperson(s):

Sen. Elizabeth Schneider, Senate Chair
Rep. Ted Koffman, House Chair

Status: The council meets quarterly and discusses various topics, with input from stakeholders. It reports annually to the Governor and Legislature with findings and recommendations.

Web Site: <http://www.maine.gov/spo/boards/communitypreservation/index.htm>

4. Intergovernmental Advisory Committee

Purpose: To seek ways to improve efficiencies within and among the levels of government to develop incentives for and remove barriers to intergovernmental cooperation.

Chairperson(s):
Senator Christine Savage, Co-chair
Rep Terry Hayes, Co-chair

Status: The IAC is a permanent, 19-member commission. In 2006, it produced a blueprint for regionalizing the delivery of state and local government services. While inactive in 2007-08, the council will held a meeting in July 2008.

Blueprint:
http://www.maine.gov/iac/reports/Blueprint%20for%20Government%202006%20FINAL_.pdf

Web Site: <http://www.maine.gov/iac/index.htm>

5. Natural Resource Agency Task Force

Purpose: To improve coordination and find efficiencies among the state's give natural resource agencies.

Chairperson(s):
Karin Tilberg, Governor's Office
Representative Wendy Pieh

Status: Final report expected by end of 2008

Website:
<http://www.maine.gov/spo/specialprojects/naturalresourcesagency/agendas.htm>

Gubernatorial

6. Governor's Council on Competitiveness and the Economy

Purpose: To support the work of the Governor and the Legislature in implementing the recommendations of the Brookings report and other important initiatives regarding the state's economic future. This council is the successor group to the Council on Jobs, Innovation and the Economy, which was created by Executive Order in December, 2006.

Chairperson(s): Karen Mills

Status: The council is ongoing and meets quarterly.

Executive Order:

http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Gov_Executive_Orders&id=57798&v=Article

7. Governor's Council on Jobs, Innovation, and the Economy

Purpose: To recommend specific structures and entities that will enhance jobs and economic growth on the innovation-focused and cluster development activities that will define the state's investment strategies.

Chairperson(s): Karen Mills

Status: The council issued an interim report in February 2007 and, with its final report in March 2007, completed its work.

Final Report:

http://www.maine.gov/governor/baldacci/policy/mainers_working_maine/Final%20Report%20031507.doc

8. Working Group to Increase the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the State Economic Development Delivery System

Purpose: To bring together a diverse working group to address overlapping missions and delivery mechanisms in order to maximize federal, state and local return on investment, and to simplify business' access to programs and services.

Chairperson(s):

Commissioner John Richardson

Dana Connors, Maine State Chamber of Commerce

Status: The working group shall report by November 1, 2008, after which time it shall be disbanded.

Executive Order:

http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Gov_Executive_Orders&id=55131&v=Article

9. Governor's Task Force on Wind Power Development in Maine

Purpose: To examine the regulatory processes, review criteria, and financing options and identify potential barriers to wind power development; and to recommend changes to state policies, regulatory requirements, and financial incentives deemed necessary to facilitate siting wind power projects in Maine in a manner that generates the benefits of this indigenous, renewable energy resource for Maine people without undue adverse effects on other natural resources values and uses.

Chairperson(s): R. Alec Giffen, Director, Maine Forest Service

Status: The task force shall submit its recommendations to the Governor no later than January 15, 2008, after which the task force will dissolve.

Executive Order:

http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Gov_Executive_Orders&id=38743&v=Article

Report: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/windpower/>

10. Recreational Use of Public Lands

Purpose: To improve the accuracy and availability of information regarding management of public lands in Maine, and ensure that decisions made on behalf of these lands are made in a way that meets the full array of recreational interests in Maine now and into the future.

Chairperson(s):

Paul Jacques, Deputy Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Status: The task force submitted its recommendations to the Governor in December 2007, completing its work.

The task force recommended establishing a Recreational Access and Conservation Forum comprised of the state's major groups representing environmentalists, conservationists, landowners, sportsmen, and outdoor recreationists to meet regularly to plan and share legislative and other agendas; educate one another on areas of individual expertise; exchange information about trends in recreational use; discuss continuing issues; address emerging conflicts; and create

initiatives that all can support. The task force formed a steering committee consisting of a subset of its members to organize and convene the first forum.

Executive Order:

http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Gov_Executive_Orders&id=32953&v=Article

Report:

<http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/taskforce/documents/ReporttotheGov.RevFinalFinal.doc>

11. Coastal and Nearshore Policy Subcommittee of the Land and Water Resources Council

Purpose: To provide oversight of efforts to improve the management of Maine's embayment areas; especially to improve interagency coordination and communication on marine policy; implement the recommendations of the Bay Management Study; develop an interagency strategic plan, establishing and tracking priorities for that work, and proposing a set of coastal management priorities (beyond bay management) on an annual basis.

Chairperson(s):

State Planning Office

Department of Marine Resources

Status: Ongoing; the subcommittee will report to the First Regular Session of the 124th and 125th legislatures, on the progress of the implementation efforts of the bay management study.

Executive Order:

http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Gov_Executive_Orders&id=35856&v=Article

Bay Management Report:

<http://www.maine.gov/dmr/baystudy/baystudy.htm>