

Hello Friends,

As you might know, Governor Mills has made it a key policy issue to reduce waste, harness natural energy, and generally be environmentally friendly as we accomplish our daily tasks. Along with installing [solar panels on the Blaine House](#), she recently signed an [executive order](#) encouraging state agencies to lead by example as we combat climate change. I know DAFS can lead by example!

I'm hoping you will join me in striving to be as environmentally conscious as possible both in and out of work. There are many ways we can do this, such as:

- Using a reusable water bottle.
- Consider bringing silverware from home instead of using plastic ware.
- Using a compost pile for unwanted food.
- Consider carpooling to work with a friend or using the [GO Maine system](#). (Did you know that 53% of all Maine greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation?)
- When traveling in and out of state, consider using the Amtrak Downeaster, which recently offered a 15% discount to all state employees! Check your inbox for more information (and know that a Q&A regarding some common questions about this discount is coming soon).
- Consider what you are buying this year for holiday presents. Buying locally, making homemade gifts, or giving charitable presents are great green alternatives.
- If you are in the market for a new vehicle, remember that some state office locations are getting electric vehicle charging stations soon! This is in addition to the [numerous charging stations](#) already located in certain areas of the state. Remember, some electric vehicles (along with other green solutions) are also eligible for rebate programs via [Efficiency ME](#).

We know these are just some of the ways we can be environmentally conscious. You probably have some ideas of your own, and [we want to hear them](#)! Click the link to send us your idea, and we'll start sharing them so others can follow your example!

I'm confident that, together, we can make serious progress as we get Maine closer and closer to environmental sustainability.

Thank you,

*Kirsten LC Figueroa*

Commissioner

Department of Administrative and Financial Services