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# Clean Energy Partnership

February Advisory Group Meeting



# Agenda

- Introductions & Announcements
- Clean Energy Industry Report Update
- Program Update
- Discussion

# Announcements

- Governor Mills proposes to elevate GEO to cabinet-level position
- Maine Energy Plan published in January 2025
- Policy update and discussion





2024

# MAINE CLEAN ENERGY INDUSTRY REPORT



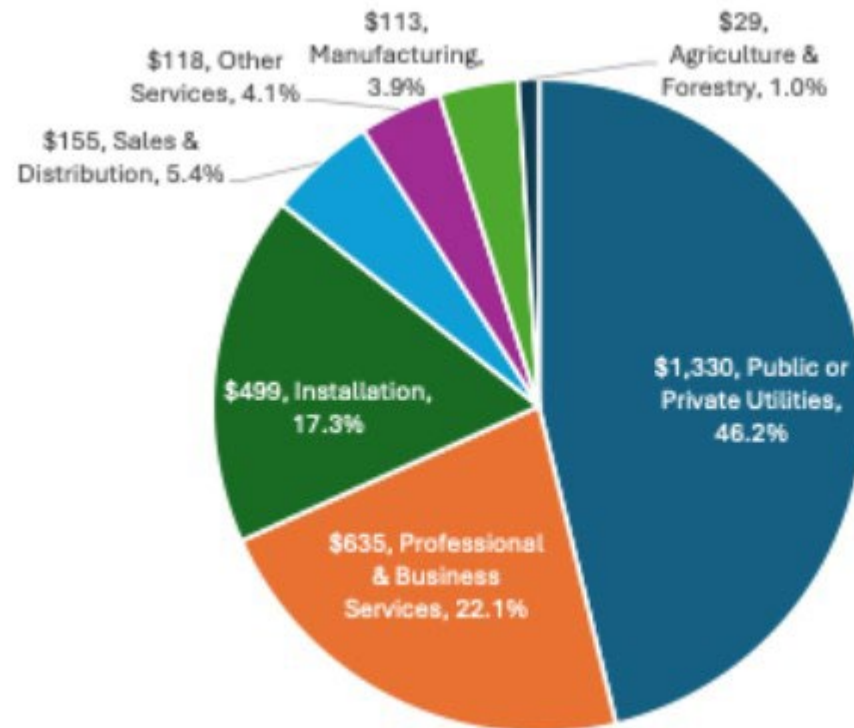
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[bw] RESEARCH  
PARTNERSHIP



# Maine's clean energy industry contributed nearly \$3 billion to the total Gross State Product (GSP) in 2023

Figure 1. Maine Clean Energy Gross Product, 2023, by Segment, in Millions



- Between 2022 and 2023, the industry's contribution to GSP increased by 20%
- The \$3 billion contribution represents 3.2% of Maine's total 2023 GSP<sup>1</sup> and amounts to \$2,062 per capita<sup>2</sup>
- The clean energy utility segment contributes the largest share (46%) to industry's economic output in Maine, totaling \$1.3 billion

<sup>1</sup> Total GSP for Maine is based on U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and JobsEQ data, 2023

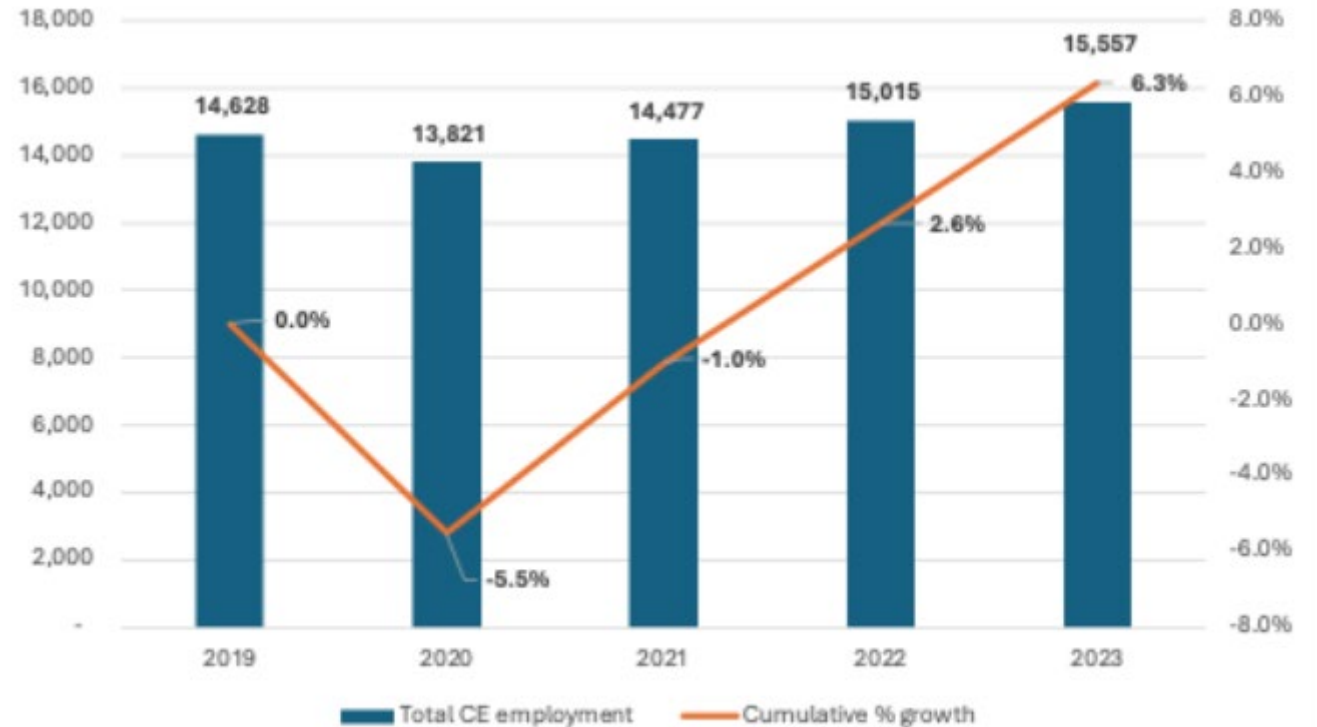
<sup>2</sup> Total population for Maine is based on U.S. Census Bureau data, 2023



# Over the last five years, Maine had the highest rate of clean energy employment growth in New England

- Maine's clean energy workforce grew by 6.3% from 2019 to 2023
- This growth outpaces all other New England states' clean energy economies,<sup>3</sup> with Connecticut's growing the second-fastest at 4.7%

Figure 2. Clean Energy Employment in Maine, 2019-2023



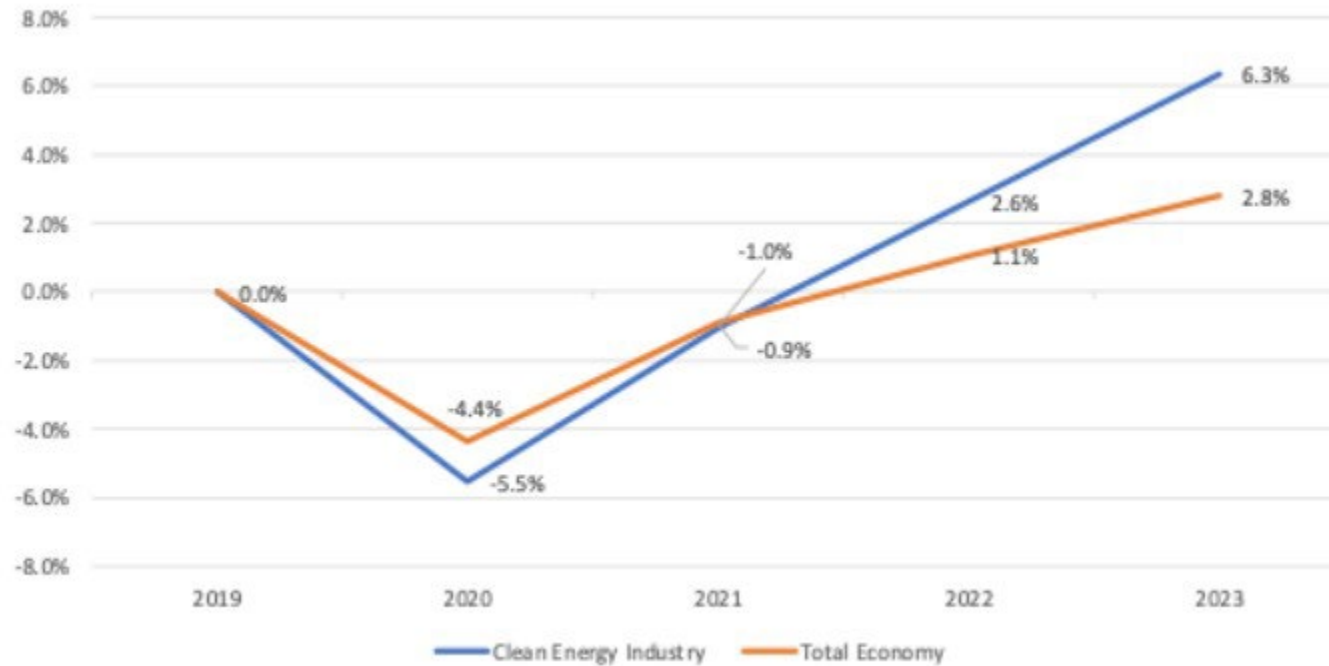
<sup>3</sup> State comparisons are with respect to Maine's clean energy definition





# Maine's clean energy economy is growing faster than its overall economy

Figure 3. Cumulative Employment Change in Clean Energy and Total Economies,<sup>4</sup> Maine, 2019-2023



- Since 2019, the number of clean energy jobs in Maine grew at a rate by more than double that of the state's overall workforce
- From 2022 to 2023, Maine's total economy jobs grew by 1.7% while its clean energy workforce grew more than twice as fast (3.6%)

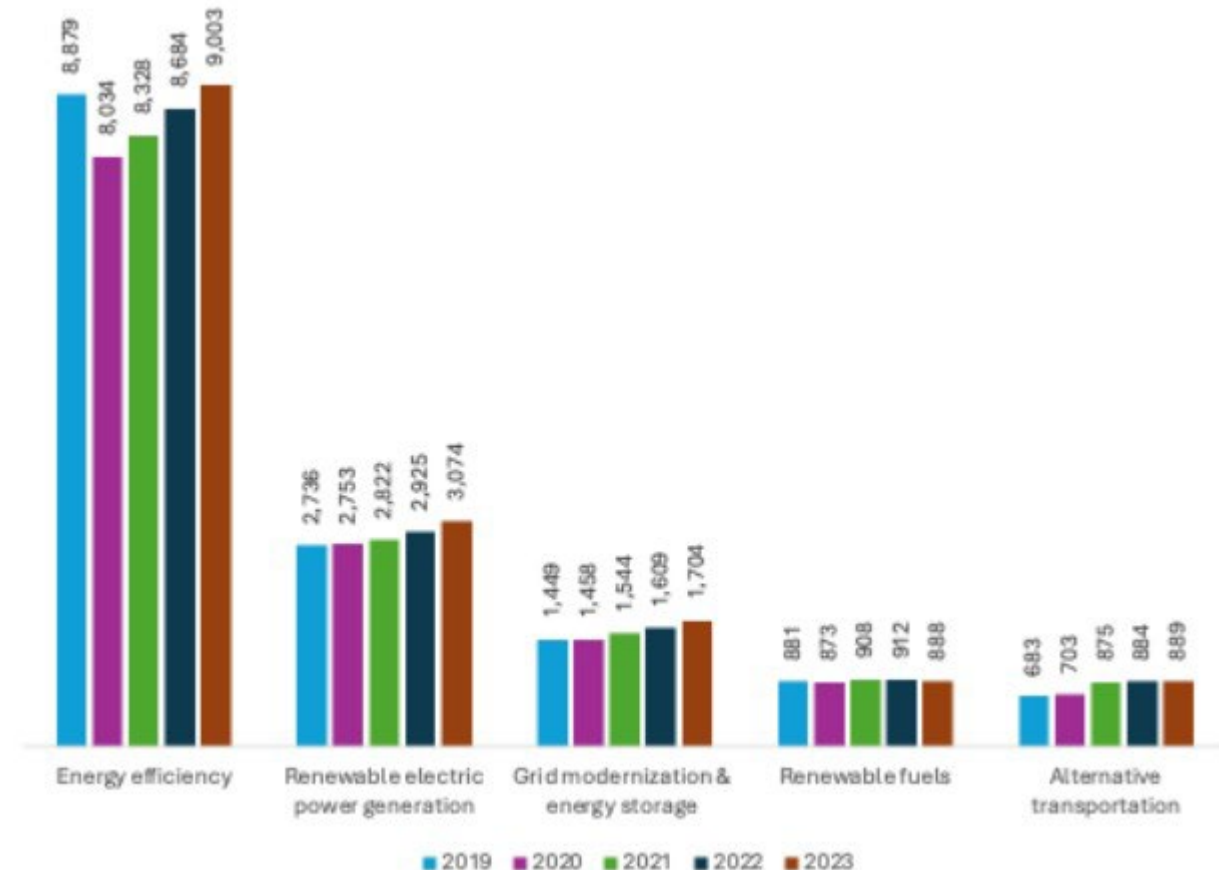
<sup>4</sup> Total employment in Maine is sourced from the Quarterly and Annual Industry Employment and Wages data of the Maine Department of Labor's Center for Workforce Research and Information.



# The energy efficiency technology segment is the largest of Maine's clean energy industry

- The energy efficiency segment employed 9,000 jobs in 2023, comprising almost 60% of the clean energy sector's total workforce
- 40% of these energy efficiency workers are involved with high efficiency HVAC and renewable heating and cooling

Figure 4. Clean Energy Employment in Maine by Technology Segment, 2019-2023



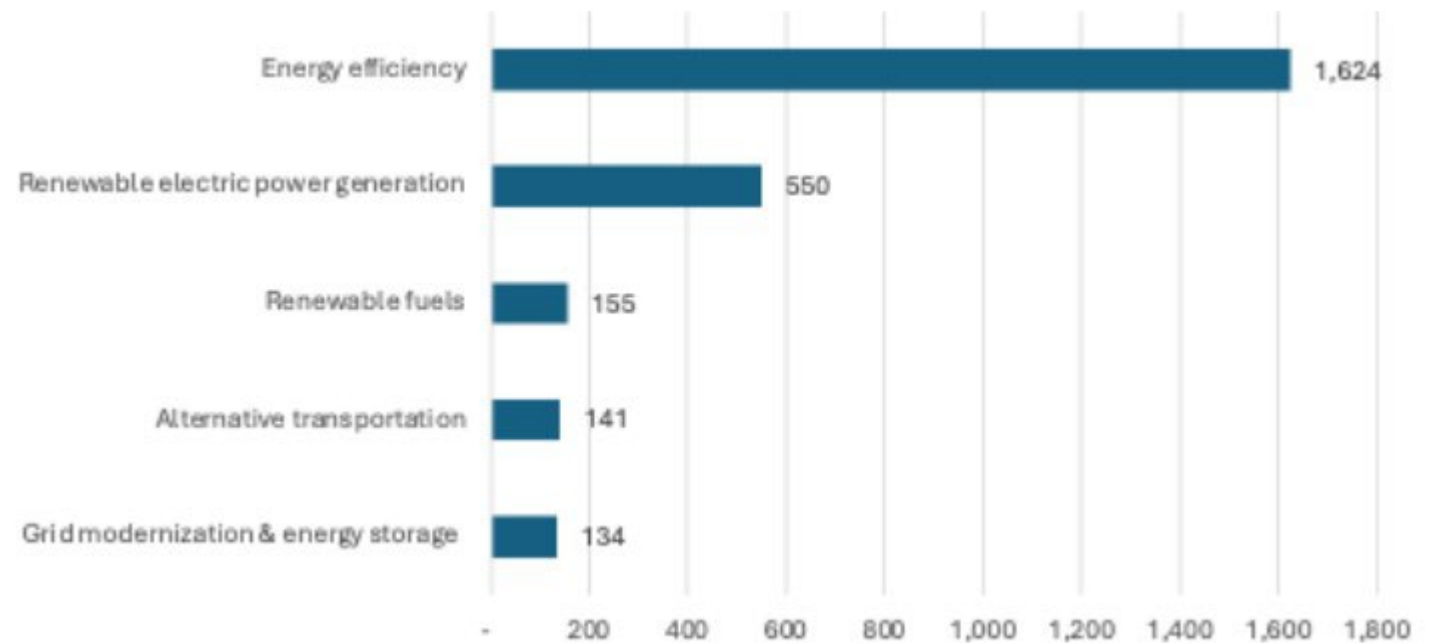




# Clean energy business establishments make up 4.2% of all establishments in Maine<sup>5</sup>

- There were 2,600 clean energy business establishments in Maine in 2023
- 62% of these establishments work in energy efficiency, with over 50 added to this segment since 2022
- Half of Maine's clean energy establishments are involved in the construction value chain

Figure 5. Clean Energy Business Establishments in Maine by Technology Segment, 2023

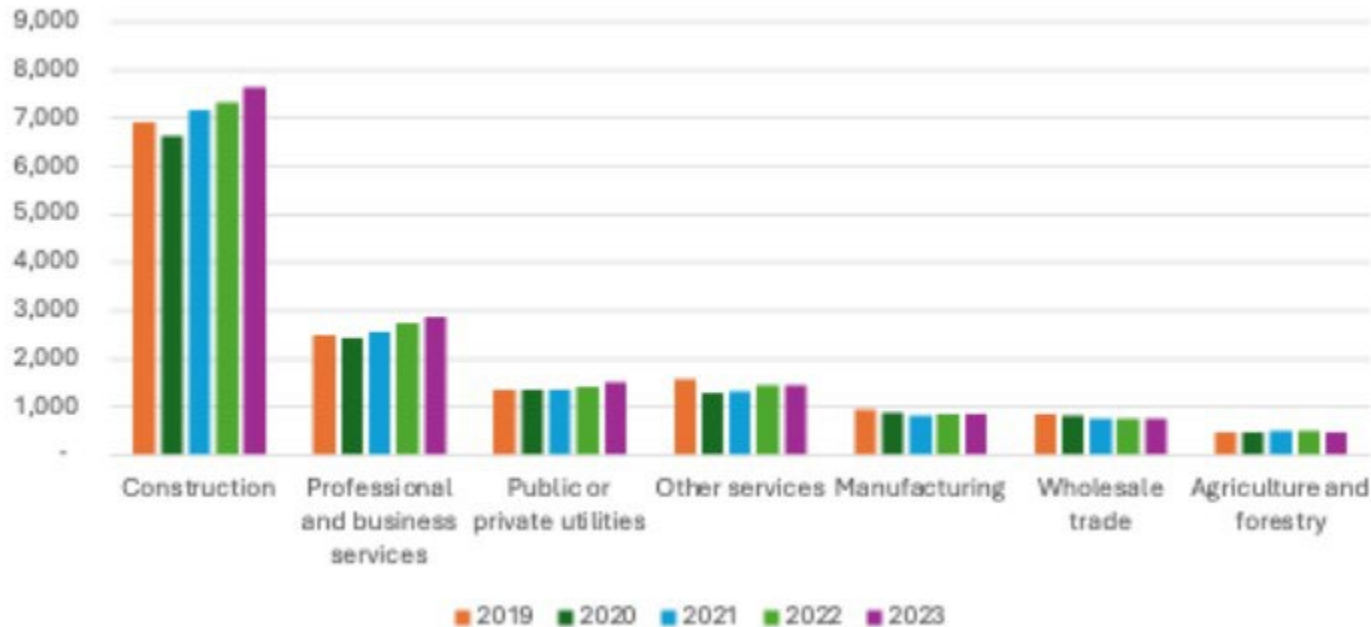


<sup>5</sup> Total employment in Maine is sourced from the Quarterly and Annual Industry Employment and Wages data of the Maine Department of Labor's Center for Workforce Research and Information.



# Half of Maine's Clean Energy Employment is Involved in the Construction Value Chain Segment

Figure 6. Clean Energy Employment in Maine by Value Chain Segment, 2019-2023



- Over 7,600 clean energy jobs (51%) are in construction
- Between 2022 and 2023, more than 300 clean energy construction jobs were added to Maine's economy



# Maine’s clean energy workforce is more racially and ethnically diverse than the state’s overall workforce, but lacks in gender diversity

Table 1. Clean Energy Workforce Demographics, Maine, 2023

	Maine Clean Energy Industry	Maine Overall Economy
Female	26.6%	51.4%
Male	73.4%	48.6%
White	91.1%	93.5%
Hispanic or Latino	3.8%	2.3%
Black or African American	3.2%	2.7%
Asian	2.4%	1.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.7%	0.6%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.1%
Two or more races	2.3%	1.5%
Veterans	7.5%	7.1%
55 and over	21.1%	27.6%

- There are higher shares of persons of color, Hispanic or Latino individuals, and veterans in Maine’s the clean energy workforce than in its statewide workforce
- Women make up over half (51%) of the state’s total labor force, but represent only one-quarter (27%) of clean energy workers in Maine

# Program Update



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# Workforce Development

## 2022 Workforce Development

Served 3,504 participants in 2024, including over 1,330 who received training, credentialing, and job placement, and over 2,138 who received clean energy education and career outreach.

## 2024 Workforce Development

Awarded \$2 million in federal funds for six clean energy workforce training programs and career navigation services, anticipated to serve over 1,500 participants.

<https://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/cep/projects>



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# Workforce Development

## Maine Clean Energy Jobs Network

In 2024, GEO launched a new online directory that connects jobseekers to Maine-based clean energy employers and training opportunities. Job seekers that use the site can opt-in to receive customized support from a Clean Energy Career Navigator through a partnership with the Maine Department of Labor's Career Centers.

## Maine Clean Energy Industry Reports

In May 2024, GEO released the 2023 Maine Clean Energy Industry Report, authored by BW Research Partnership and commissioned by GEO. Also in May 2024 GEO released the Maine Energy Efficiency Contractor Needs Assessment.

<https://mainecleanenergyjobs.com/>

<https://www.maine.gov/energy/studies-reports-working-groups/completed-reports>



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# Innovation

## Business Incubators, Accelerators, & Support Services (2023 Innovation)

Served 497 participants in 2024, including 33 startups receiving services from incubator and accelerator programs, 23 contractors receiving business development and administration assistance, and 400+ partners and members of the public attending community events.

## Maine Community Energy Redevelopment Program (MECERP)

In partnership with HR&A, GEO is providing technical assistance to six communities to help revitalize former mill sites, power stations, and other facilities with available or excess electrical capacity.

<https://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/cep/projects>  
<https://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/mecerp>



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# Workforce Development (BIL/IRA)



## **Grid Modernization (\$5.1 M)**

- Train the workforce needed to upgrade Maine's electric grid for flexibility and resilience.



## **Energy Efficiency – Residential (\$1.3 M)**

- Train, test, and certify residential energy efficiency and home electrification contractors, including heat pumps and weatherization.

## **Energy Efficiency – Energy Auditors (\$0.8M)**

- Provide classroom and hands-on job training for careers in residential building energy auditing and develop a qualified contractor workforce.

## **Solar (\$5.5 M)**

- Train the workforce needed to expand residential solar.

## **Energy Efficiency – Codes (\$0.6M)**

- Develop an informed contractor base to implement Maine's new Uniform Building and Energy Code.



*Advisory Group Subcommittee*



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# Maine Community Energy Redevelopment Program

The Maine Community Energy Redevelopment Program (MECERP) provides communities with technical assistance to **create good-paying jobs, drive local economic development, and meet state climate and energy goals** by:

Leveraging existing underutilized electricity infrastructure.

- Former industrial sites, power stations, and other facilities with available or excess electrical capacity

Emphasizing collaboration to develop actionable plans.

- Community and stakeholder visioning to inform and prioritize development plans

Identifying funding pathways to support implementation.

- Maximize the likelihood of securing significant local, state, and federal funding for their projects



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ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT

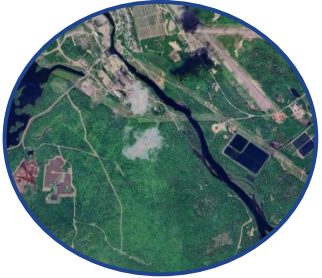


HR&A



# Six Identified Community Projects (Phase I)

\*\*Additional scopes being reviewed



## One North (Millinocket)

**Scope:** Redevelopment of 1,400-acre site formerly occupied by the Great Northern Paper Company



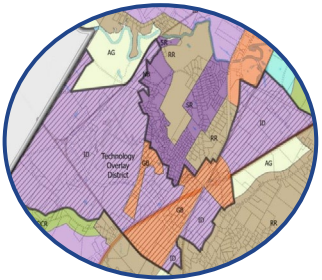
## Town of Lincoln

**Scope:** Business plan to attract tenants to the 387-acre Lincoln Technology Park, formerly Lincoln Paper and Tissue Mill.



## Town of Bucksport

**Scope:** Development plan for land alongside the Penobscot River around the existing thermal power station.



## City of Auburn

**Scope:** Development vision for Forest Bioproducts Advanced Manufacturing Tech Hub Overlay



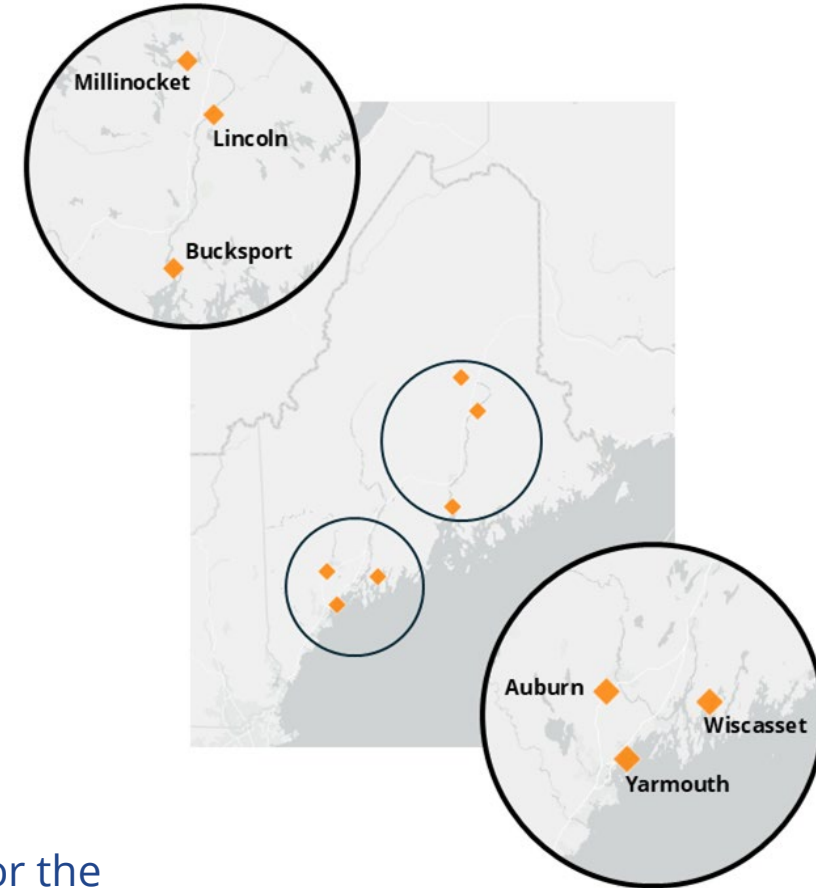
## Town of Yarmouth

**Scope:** Assess alternative uses of Wyman Station on Cousins Island.



## Town of Wiscasset

**Scope:** Development plan for the 33-acre Birch Point Peninsula (Mason Station) and a 297-acre parcel across from the decommissioned Nuclear Plant.



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# Discussion



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# Thank You and Next Steps

- Post your open positions on the Maine Clean Energy Jobs Network:  
<https://mainecleanenergyjobs.com/>
- Sign up to host clean energy interns through the ReMaine Program:  
<https://careerequity.com/remaine/>
- Share feedback on initiatives and opportunities to engage







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Thank You

Email address

[www.maine.gov/energy](http://www.maine.gov/energy)

Sign up for the  
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