



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
Energy Resources

2027 MAINE ENERGY PLAN

Request for Information

Issued: March 25, 2026

Deadline for Responses: April 27, 2026

Who should respond: Any interested individual or entity

Submit responses to: doer@maine.gov

The Maine Department of Energy Resources (DOER) is required by law to update the Maine Energy Plan every two years.¹ The next plan will be delivered to the Governor and the Legislature by January 15, 2027. The Energy Plan guides Maine's approach to energy policy, with a focus on delivering affordable, reliable, and increasingly cleaner energy to all people and businesses while achieving the state's statutory energy requirements and strengthening Maine's economy.

DOER welcomes public comments regarding the ways in which the energy landscape has changed since the publication of the [2025 Maine Energy Plan](#), whether and to what extent the original strategies and objectives should be updated, and how the next plan can best serve Maine people and businesses.

This Request for Information (RFI) is designed to inform the development of the 2027 Maine Energy Plan. DOER invites any comment or information from individuals, municipalities, Tribal Governments, businesses, stakeholders, and any other interested parties. This is the first of several opportunities for public input during the planning process.

Background

Maine law requires DOER to prepare and submit a comprehensive state energy plan that is informed by public input, including but not limited to at least two public

¹ 35-A M.R.S. §10305 (1).

meetings and receipt of comment related to a draft energy plan. The law also requires that DOER seek input regarding issues faced by socially vulnerable counties and communities, meaning those counties and communities in the State containing populations that are disproportionately burdened by existing social inequities or that lack the capacity to withstand new or worsening burdens.² In addition, the state energy plan must:

- A. Identify opportunities to lower and to maintain reasonable total energy costs for Maine consumers in the State;
- B. Evaluate energy data, including, but not limited to, data on energy supply, demand and costs in this State with consideration of all available sources;
- C. Detail the State's progress toward meeting its energy goals for new renewable generation and energy storage, including distributed energy resources;
- D. Evaluate the State's progress in meeting the oil dependence reduction targets in statute;
- E. Identify resource and transmission and distribution capacity needs to facilitate the development and integration of new renewable energy generation within the State and support the State's renewable portfolio standard requirements, in close coordination with the Independent System Operator of the New England bulk power system (ISO-NE), the Maine Public Utilities Commission's (PUC's) integrated grid planning, and transmission and distribution utilities;
- F. Address the association between energy planning and meeting the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals in the State climate action plan;
- G. Include a cost and resource estimate for technology development to meet the goals and objectives of the state energy plan;
- H. Include energy supply and demand forecasts that must be considered in other planning efforts including updates to the state climate action plan and the Efficiency Maine Trust's triennial plan;
- I. Identify approximate total project award targets for the next three competitive solicitations to be conducted by DOER; and

² 35-A M.R.S. §3210-I (1) (D).

- J. Identify and assess emerging energy technologies, including assessing the commercial readiness, costs and potential appropriateness of those technologies for application in the State consistent with the department's policy and program goals described in section 10303 prioritizing carbon-free and lowest-emission technologies.

DOER may make recommendations, if needed, for additional legislative or administrative actions to ensure that the State can meet the goals and objectives of the state energy plan. The Department shall develop, recommend and, as appropriate, take action to implement integrated or comprehensive strategies, including at regional and federal levels, to carry out the goals and objectives of the state energy plan, to secure the State's interest in energy resources, and the supply and cost-effective use of those resources and lower the total cost of energy to consumers in Maine.

The 2025 Maine Energy Plan

The [2025 Maine Energy Plan](#), released in January 2025, provided a detailed analysis of Maine's existing energy landscape and specific strategies and actions needed to achieve the statutory requirements, including identifying ways to increase energy affordability. The 2025 Energy Plan was informed by a first-of-its-kind technical report that developed forecasts of energy demand in Maine between 2025 and 2040. The plan identified the region's longstanding overreliance on fossil fuels as a key challenge, including Maine's highest-in-the-nation reliance on home heating oil and the significant use of natural gas to generate electricity. Global natural gas and oil market volatility has driven significant [increases in electricity prices](#) and [heating fuel prices](#) in Maine and across the region, underscoring the need to invest in energy efficiency and transition to lower cost, homegrown energy. The 2025 Energy Plan was informed by multiple public webinars, workshops, stakeholder interviews, and opportunities for public comment. multiple public webinars, workshops, stakeholder interviews, and opportunities for public comment.

The 2025 Maine Energy Plan outlined the following objectives:

- A. Deliver affordable energy for Maine people and businesses.

- B. Ensure Maine’s energy systems are reliable and resilient in the face of growing challenges.
- C. Responsibly advance clean energy.
- D. Deploy efficient technologies to reduce energy costs.
- E. Expand clean energy career opportunities for Maine people and advance innovation.

The 2027 Maine Energy Plan – Planning Process

Over the course of 2026, DOER will undertake a comprehensive planning process to inform the 2027 Maine Energy Plan, which will be released by January 2027. This planning process will reflect the current energy landscape including new federal policies, market conditions, updated energy forecasts and assumptions, and affordability challenges facing energy consumers and businesses in the short and long term.

Throughout the planning process, DOER will seek to strengthen the strategies and actions of the current plan to ensure the next plan sets a clear path for success across the energy sector. This planning process will identify opportunities to deliver savings and highlight where changes are needed with respect to planning, management, and investment to best serve Maine’s people and businesses.

Interested parties, organizations, and communities in Maine are encouraged to contact DOER request DOER to present about the Maine Energy Plan process, provide input to shape the next plan, and ask questions. Please complete [this short form](#) and someone from the Department will be in touch with you.

Request for Information

This RFI is the first of several public input opportunities regarding the strategies and actions of the 2027 Maine Energy Plan. It is a first step in the planning process and an opportunity to share your feedback on ways that DOER should update and improve the process as well as the content of the next energy plan.

How to Provide Information

DOER welcomes feedback in response to this RFI by **Thursday, April 27, 2026**.

There are two ways to provide input: answer a short online survey, and/or provide written responses via email to the detailed “questions of interest” listed below.

1. Online Survey (Microsoft Forms)

A short stakeholder survey is available online through Microsoft Forms [here](#).

2. Written Responses via Email (To: doer@maine.gov)

You may also submit more detailed responses to the “questions of interest” listed below by sending an email with the subject line “Energy Plan RFI” to doer@maine.gov by April 27, 2026. Please choose the most relevant questions to you; responding to all questions is not required. To the extent feasible, please reference question numbers when responding. Submissions may be included directly in the body of an email and/or as attachments in common file formats (.docx, .pdf, or .xlsx).

Please note: All content submitted to the Department of Energy Resources in response to this RFI is subject to the Maine Freedom of Access Act,³ and may be disclosed publicly.

Questions of Interest

The Department of Energy Resources invites your input as it begins developing the 2027 Maine Energy Plan. We welcome responses to any or all of the questions below, as well as the submission of additional thoughts, ideas, or information that you think would be helpful in informing the energy plan.

Part 1: Engaging in Maine’s Energy Plan

A key part of this effort is seeking public input into the planning process and reflecting that input in the final Energy Plan. DOER plans to host a series of public meetings, stakeholder interviews, and public comment opportunities with the goal of engaging

³ 1 M.R.S.A. Chapter 13.

Maine people and interested parties in the development of the Plan. DOER welcomes input on how to most effectively engage stakeholders across Maine in this work.

- A. What recommendations do you have regarding the best ways to engage and solicit feedback from the public throughout the energy planning process in calendar year 2026?
- B. Are there any regional or geographic considerations DOER should consider when planning outreach and engagement?
- C. Are you or your organization interested in participating in stakeholder meetings (virtual or in-person), small group discussions, or having DOER present to your organization or community about the planning process? If so, what format works best for you?
- D. Are there specific topics that you would most like to see covered in public meetings or workshops?
- E. What are the best ways to connect with and include socially vulnerable counties and communities in the energy planning process? “Socially vulnerable counties and communities” are defined in law as “those counties and communities in the State containing populations that are disproportionately burdened by existing social inequities or lack the capacity to withstand new or worsening burdens.”⁴
 - a. The [Maine Social Vulnerability Index \(MSVI\)](#) is based on 19 socioeconomic and demographic indicators taken from US Census data. The MSVI is a customized version of the US Centers for Disease Control’s social vulnerability index. Please comment on whether and to what extent DOER should utilize the MSVI to inform engagement with socially vulnerable counties and communities.

Part 2: Maine’s Energy Landscape

Since the 2025 Energy Plan was released, Maine’s energy landscape has continued to evolve, shaped by market shifts and broader economic conditions, such as changes to state and federal policies, fuel prices, technology adoption, and investment trends. We

⁴ 35-A M.R.S.A. § 3210-I (1) (D)

recognize these changes, and others, have had varying impacts and DOER welcomes input on how these changes should be reflected in the next Energy Plan.

- A. Which market, policy, or economic shifts that have occurred in 2025/2026 do you consider to be the most consequential for energy planning in Maine, and why?
- B. As it relates to Maine, what are the most important near-term impacts of these changes (over the next 1-3 years) that should be addressed through this Energy Plan or planning process?
- C. How are these changes influencing financial decisions related to energy at the household and private sector levels?
- D. How do these changes specifically affect socially vulnerable communities, and what can Maine do to make sure the Energy Plan is designed to benefit everyone?

Part 3: Updating the Objectives of the Maine Energy Plan

The 2025 Energy Plan laid out objectives, strategies and actions identified in the prior planning process to responsibly advance Maine's energy system and meet the state's climate and clean energy requirements (see "The 2025 Maine Energy Plan" above).

- A. Are the objectives from the 2025 Energy Plan still relevant? If not, what updates or changes would you suggest?
- B. What data, underlying assumptions, or analyses from the 2025 Energy Plan should be revised or prioritized in the 2027 plan?

Part 4: Specific Questions Regarding the Objectives of the Maine Energy Plan

Below are the five objectives included in the 2025 Maine Energy Plan with relevant questions under each.

Objective A: Deliver Affordable Energy for Maine People and Businesses

Energy costs affect both daily life and the broader economy in Maine. They show up directly in household utility bills; delivered fuels like heating oil, kerosene and propane; transportation fuels; and indirectly in the prices of goods and services that rely on energy for production or delivery. Energy costs also influence the competitiveness of Maine's businesses and industries. In the 2025 Energy Plan, the residential sector was

examined using an “energy wallet” analysis, which broke down typical household energy costs and projected future scenarios. Affordability can also be assessed through measures like energy burden—the share of household income spent on energy—or by conducting alternative analyses that explore the specific impacts of varying cost trajectories on Maine’s economy.

Objective A includes the following strategies:

- *Reduce Maine’s dependence on imported fossil fuels for heating and electricity generation*
- *Reduce energy burden for low- and moderate-income households*
- *Review existing approaches to identify additional electricity cost control opportunities*

Objective A Questions

1. How should the energy plan define energy affordability?
2. How should the energy plan prioritize energy affordability while also ensuring modern and reliable energy infrastructure and meeting other goals?
3. What strategies would help ensure energy affordability for households and communities with the highest energy burdens?
4. What metrics should Maine use to track progress toward delivering affordable energy?
5. Are there other approaches that Maine should consider to reduce energy costs and price volatility?
6. Comment on available information, data, or provide feedback on energy supply resources or potential resources in Maine (potential resources include, but are not limited to, onshore wind, solar, biomass, biofuels, delivered fuels, waste-to-energy, energy storage, offshore wind, nuclear, natural gas, hydropower, geothermal, tidal energy, and other innovative technologies). Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Current/existing resources and operations
 - b. Feasibility and opportunities for development of new or expansion of existing resources
 - c. Land-use and siting considerations

- d. Technologies and other relevant characteristics that may influence deployment
7. Please comment on expected trends for energy demand in Maine.

Objective B: Ensure Maine's Energy Systems are Reliable and Resilient in the Face of Growing Challenges

Maine's aging electric grid infrastructure continues to face significant pressure from severe storms. As a heavily forested, rural state, Maine's electric transmission and distribution lines have a higher probability of damage from falling trees during wind or ice storms and as a result, Maine experiences more frequent and longer duration power outages than most US states. In 2024, Maine ranked third in the country for the number of total outages as well as the average time customers were without power. In 2023 and 2024, Maine experienced major winter storms that devastated communities across the state, including inflicting significant damage to the electric grid and imposing significant new recovery costs for customers. Maine's reliance on imported fossil fuels for heating and transportation also expose consumers in the state to risks inherent to the supply chain for these energy sources.

Objective B includes the following strategies:

- *Establish ambitious, data-driven targets for energy resilience*
- *Increase coordination and information sharing across energy-related emergency management and resilience entities*
- *Deploy targeted resources to advance innovative and modern resilience solutions including microgrids*
- *Leverage innovative technologies including energy storage to increase resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions*
- *Strengthen planning and engagement by utilities to identify and address climate and resilience threats cost-effectively*
- *Advance partnerships and coordination to enhance Maine's energy security and maximize relevant federal and other funding opportunities*

Objective B Questions

1. Please comment on how grid resilience, reliability, and security should be considered in Maine energy planning and how the state should be tracking/considering reliability and resilience in this Plan?
2. Are there new technologies or innovative solutions to advance reliability and resilience?
3. Please comment on delivered fuel resilience, reliability and security.
4. Please comment on whether any statutory, regulatory, or policy changes are needed to support access to information about critical energy reliability and resilience topics across and or all energy sectors in Maine.
5. What emerging risks or resilience challenges should the state consider when planning for energy security, and what general approaches, resources, tools, or technologies may help address challenges and improve information sharing and coordination?

Objective C: Responsibly Advance Clean Energy

Maine has a long history of producing energy from clean resources including hydropower, biomass, and wind, and is working to advance those and other clean energy sources to most affordably meet energy needs as well as climate goals and economic development targets. In recent years, hundreds of millions in capital expenditures from the clean energy sector have been invested across the state in the form of new projects and efficiency upgrades, generating significant economic activity in the state and creating new job opportunities. As Maine continues to electrify the heating and transportation sectors and demand for energy grows, it is critical that the state's electricity is increasingly generated by affordable, reliable, homegrown clean energy resources.

Objective C includes the following strategies:

- *Establish a new Clean Energy Standard (CES) to ensure all Maine people have access to cost-effective, reliable, 100 percent clean energy by 2040*
- *Establish a regular schedule of competitive energy purchases*
- *Advance responsible development of offshore wind energy*
- *Advance efficient, necessary infrastructure to modernize Maine's energy systems*

- *Coordinate and collaborate regionally to maximize benefits and achieve shared goals*

Objective C Questions

1. Under law, DOER is required to identify approximate total project award targets for the next 3 competitive solicitations to be conducted by the department pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. §10313. Please comment on this requirement including priorities and considerations for the next three competitive solicitations and implementation of §10313.
2. Under law and through the Maine Offshore Wind Initiative, offshore wind remains an important part of the state and regional long-term energy future. What offshore wind data, research, information, or other considerations should be considered in the development of the energy plan?
3. Please comment on the feasibility and/or costs of developing advanced nuclear technologies in Maine.
4. Relevant to the energy plan and pursuant to [Resolves 2025, ch. 39](#), DOER is conducting a study, in consultation with other state agencies, evaluating the role of hydroelectric power generation, pumped hydro storage, and geothermal systems in meeting Maine's energy and climate goals. Please comment on:
 - a. Emerging technologies that could safely and effectively improve or expand existing hydroelectric power generation capacity in the state;
 - b. Characteristics of locations in the state that might be suitable for pumped storage hydropower system development;
 - c. Considerations for developing district geothermal systems on brownfield sites in the state.
 - d. Any other initial comments related to the Legislatively directed hydropower and geothermal studies.
5. DOER is required to complete a [2027 Renewable Portfolio Standard \(RPS\) Assessment](#), which is now under development. Are there any specific priorities or considerations that are relevant to the Energy Plan development as it relates to Maine's existing RPS study or resources eligible under Maine's existing RPS and complementary Clean Energy Standard (CES)?

6. Please comment on how to address financial barriers to clean energy deployment. What financial tools would aid in greater deployment of small or large-scale energy generation resources?
7. Please comment on transmission and distribution capacity and infrastructure needs to facilitate deployment of new energy resources.

Objective D: Deploy Efficient Technologies to Reduce Energy Costs

Energy efficiency – using less energy to achieve the same result – helps lower energy costs across Maine’s economy. Energy efficiency can be realized through a range of technologies and other practices. Increasing electrification substantially increases efficiency – in fact, by 2050 widespread electrification could enable Maine to reduce the overall amount of energy needed while growing its economy. Expanding electrification with modern technologies also increases the availability of load flexibility resources. Because the electricity grid is built to accommodate the times of greatest demand, there is potential for significant cost savings for all electricity customers when peaks can be moderated and lower-cost, abundant energy sources can be maximized.

Objective D includes the following strategies:

- *Advance beneficial electrification and weatherization to reduce energy costs and increase overall grid efficiency*
- *Leverage electrified technologies to unlock grid benefits for consumers*
- *Expand Maine’s electric vehicle (EV) charging network*

Objective D Questions

1. Please comment on any opportunities for increased energy efficiency in any sector in Maine, including opportunities to advance specific technologies (ie: weatherization, wood heat, combined heat and power, heat pumps, etc.) or associated policies.
2. Comment on opportunities to increase the efficient utilization of the electric grid.
3. Comment on opportunities to expand load flexibility resources, particularly through voluntary consumer-enabled mechanisms.
4. Comment on opportunities to cost-effectively expand Maine’s EV charging network as well as other clean or more efficient transportation technologies.

Objective E: Expand Clean Energy Career Opportunities for Maine People and Advance Innovation

In 2024, there were approximately 27,500 workers in Maine's energy industry, including approximately 16,200 clean energy workers and 11,400 traditional energy workers. Today, Maine's clean energy sector alone contributes \$3 billion to the state's economy annually. As Maine's energy sectors continue to grow and change, investing in job training and innovation will be critical to sustaining this momentum. Expanding workforce development helps ensure that Maine people can access good-paying jobs while meeting rising demand in the industry. At the same time, supporting innovation and entrepreneurship can further strengthen economic growth, encourage locally driven solutions, and leverage Maine's natural and economic resources. Together, these efforts position the state to capture long-term economic, environmental, and community benefits from the clean energy transition.

Objective E includes the following strategies:

- Raise awareness of clean energy careers and connect employers to the local workforce*
- Advance clean energy curricula development, technical training, and experiential learning*
- Coordinate with educational institutions, technical and vocational training centers, labor unions, and employers to expand and promote clean energy career pathways*
- Expand pilot programs, technical assistance, and funding for clean energy innovation and foster partnerships with research, education, and innovation institutions and the private sector to advance clean energy innovation*

Objective E Questions

- 1. Please comment on workforce trends, needs, and priorities for Maine's energy workforce, including new opportunities for Maine to lead.*
- 2. Please comment on how the energy plan should consider job quality or other considerations as it relates to growing Maine's economy and supporting family-sustaining careers.*

2. Please comment on the role of energy in advancing economic development goals for the state and communities.
3. Please comment on programs, tools, or resources that would support investment in the clean energy economy in Maine.
4. Please comment on programs, tools, or resources that would support workers in the traditional energy sectors, including fuel delivery.
5. Please comment on climate and clean energy innovation and the needs of the state.
6. Please comment on programs, tools, or resources that would support research, development, and demonstration of innovative energy technologies and projects.
7. Please comment on necessary trainings, education, or other information that should be considered for future Clean Energy Partnership programming.

Part 5: Additional Considerations

1. Are there any other considerations related to the statutory requirements of the Maine Energy Plan that should be taken into account as the 2027 plan is developed?
2. Please provide additional insights, perspectives, or examples you wish to share.

Use of Information

Information collected from this RFI will be used by DOER to inform the 2027 Maine Energy Plan. This is an RFI only; DOER will not pay for information provided under this RFI and no project will be supported as a result of this RFI. This RFI is not soliciting applications for financial assistance or financial incentives.

DOER will publish responses to this RFI on its website. All responses may be subject to disclosure under the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act, thus sensitive or confidential business information should not be provided.