



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF  
Energy Resources

# MAINE ENERGY PLAN VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

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09.10.26



12 PM



# MENTIMETER PROMPT

When you hear the word

"ENERGY"

what's the top word or  
phrase that comes to mind?





# Agenda

- Welcome
- Overview and exercise: Maine's energy landscape
- Overview: 2025 Maine Energy Plan and Input Received So Far
- Discussion – Your Priorities for 2027 and beyond
- Wrap up and next steps



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# Maine Department of Energy Resources (DOER)

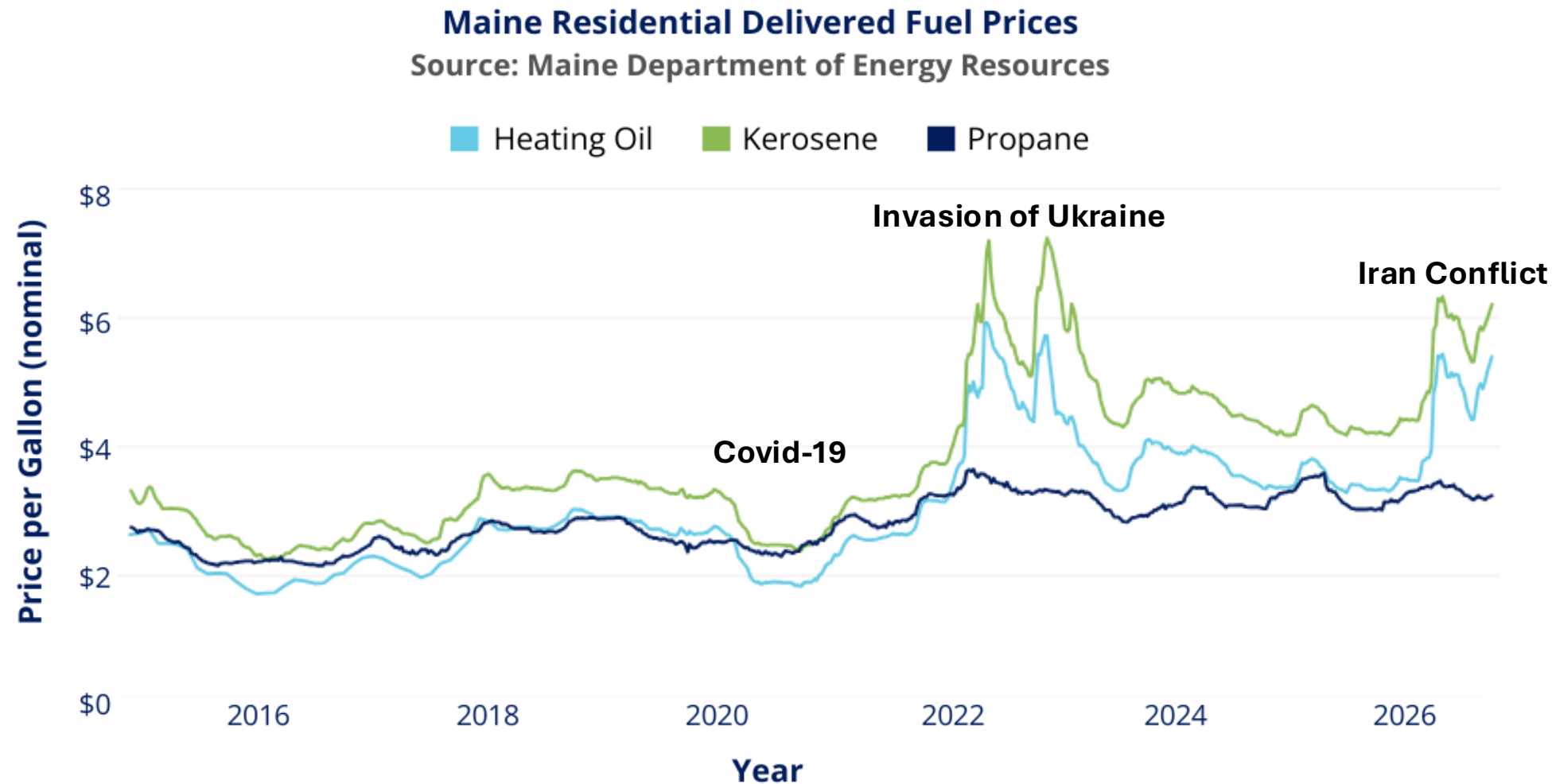
Maine's cabinet-level energy department that leads energy policy, planning, and development for the State.

[maine.gov/energy](https://maine.gov/energy)



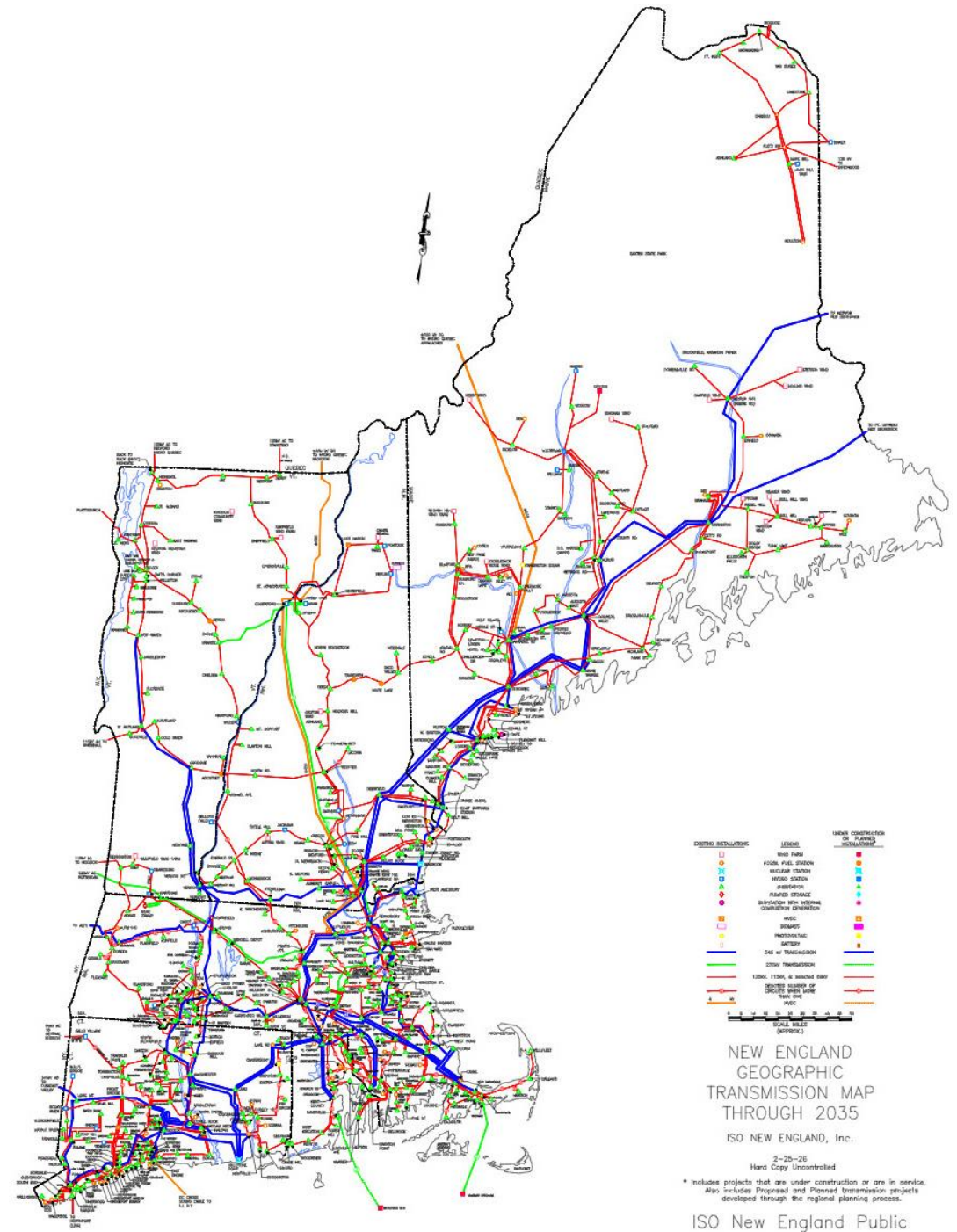
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# Global Events Shape Energy in Maine



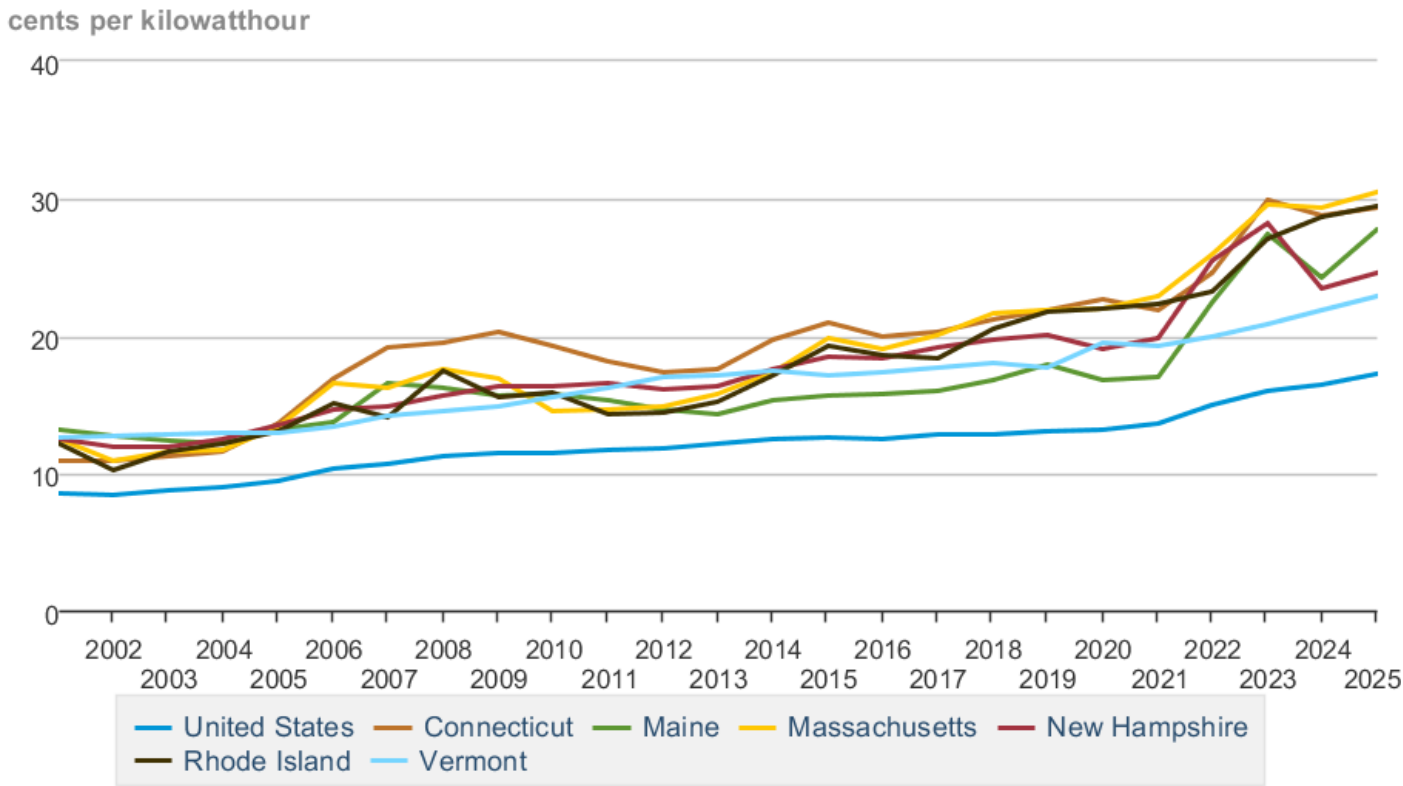
# Electricity System

- Most of Maine shares an electricity grid with New England, managed by ISO-NE
- Northern Maine is connected to New Brunswick only, managed by Northern Maine Independent System Administrator
- Heavy reliance on natural gas to power the regional grid
- Natural gas, aging infrastructure, storm costs, and inflation all contribute to rising costs



# Electricity Prices in Maine and New England

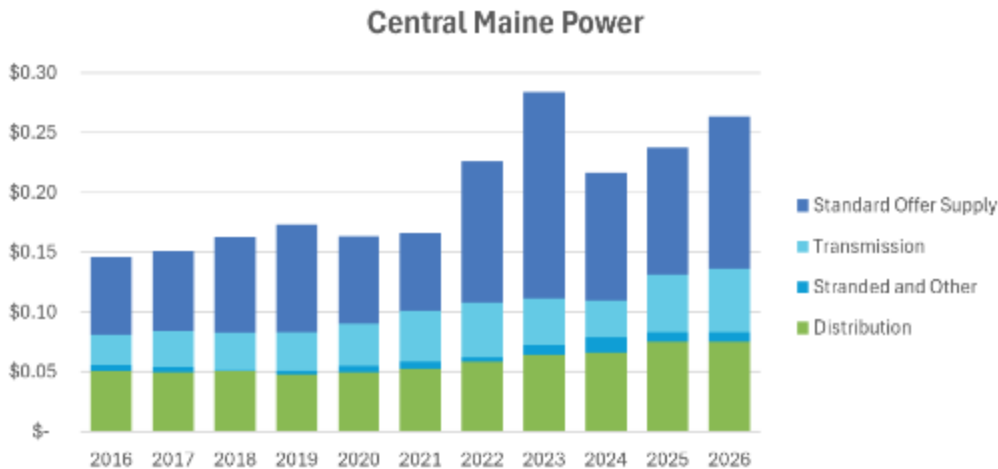
## Average retail price of electricity, annual



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

## Residential electricity prices by component

Volumetric rate components. Maine Public Utilities Commission and electric utilities.



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# Energy Procurements



Cross Town Energy Storage in Gorham. Plus Power photo

**Goal: 400 MW energy  
storage by 2030**  
Current: 250+ MW

**Affordability**

**Reliability**

**Flexibility**



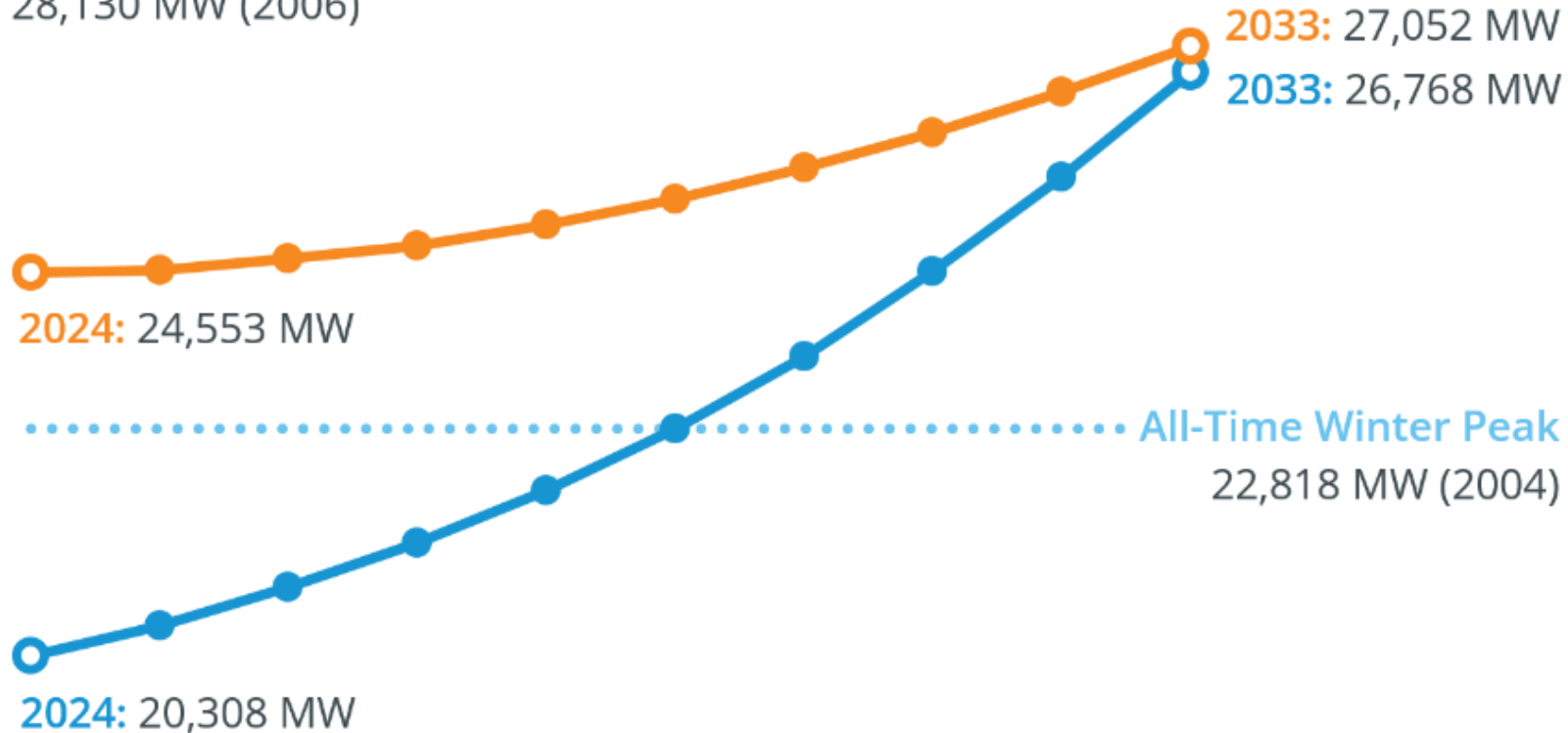
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# The Next Challenge: Maximizing Our Grid

## Summer and Winter 50/50 Net Peak Forecast

All-Time Summer Peak .....

28,130 MW (2006)



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# Maine's Next Energy Plan

*Advancing Affordable, Reliable, Cleaner Energy for All Maine People*

## Priorities



**Affordable**



**Reliable**



**Secure**



**Clean**



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# Progress to Date

**70% → 50%**

Maine homes heated by oil

**2 GW+**

New clean energy added

**200,000 +**

Heat pumps installed

**\$3 Billion**

Annual clean energy economic impact



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# Maine's Next Energy Plan

*Advancing Affordable, Reliable, and Cleaner Energy for All Maine People*



## 2026 Timeline



Kickoff Webinar

Request for  
Information

Public Survey  
(ongoing)

Today's  
Workshop

**Public Engagement and Input**

## MENTIMETER PROMPT

If you were responsible for writing Maine's next Energy Plan, what would you put in it and why?



# Common Themes We Heard At In-Person Workshops in August

- **Affordability** - straining Maine people and businesses, particularly low income
- Energy is complex; more **public education, communication** is needed
- Maine needs to make best use of **existing infrastructure**, employ **demand management**
- For some, **clean energy goals** are essential; others urged a closer look at other possible sources. In northern Maine, strong calls for increased **biomass** investment
- Build on what is working. **Take lessons** from past actions
- Importance of delivering benefits for Maine people, also regional coordination and alignment
- Northern Maine's energy circumstances are **unique**, given its separate grid



# Public Engagement to Date



# Request for Information

- DOER issued a Request for Information on March 25, 2026.
  - Sought feedback on changes in Maine's energy landscape since 2025, opportunities to update existing strategies and objectives, and priorities for the next plan.
  - 30+ responses - individuals, companies, and organizations.
  - All responses are available online at <https://www.maine.gov/energy/plan>

## Responses submitted by:

- A Climate to Thrive
- Alliance for Sears Island
- Becky Bartovics
- Brookfield Renewable
- Central Maine Power
- Chelsea Moody
- Chris Spychalski
- Conservation Law Foundation
- CTC Global
- Efficiency Maine Trust
- Fran Turner
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- Islesboro Islands Trust
- Kim and Peter Yesis
- Lisa Buck
- Maine Audubon
- Maine Climate Action Now
- Maine Climate Action Now, Maine Youth for Climate Justice, Natural Resources Council of Maine, and Maine Labor Climate Council jointly
- Maine Coast Fishermen's Association
- Maine Connectivity Authority
- Maine Labor Climate Council
- Maine Renewable Energy Association
- National Grid Ventures
- Natural Resources Council of Maine
- New England Power Generators Association
- Office of the Public Advocate
- Paula Carter
- PowerOptions
- ReVision Energy
- Shred Electric
- Sierra Club Maine
- Steffes, LLC
- Steven Ingalls
- Summit Utilities
- The Nature Conservancy in Maine
- Versant Power
- Yeman Company LLC



# Initial themes from public input to date

## *Objective A: Deliver Affordable Energy for Maine People and Businesses*

- Highlighting **energy burden** as an important metric to quantify and understand affordability for households
- Emphasizing **energy costs as key to Maine's economic development** and business environment
- Encouraging opportunities to **lower costs of deployment**, from consumer devices and building upgrades to infrastructure at all scales
- Identifying the impact of **changes in federal policy and tax credits** for consumers
- Encouraging mechanisms to enable households and businesses to be **compensated for grid services** including load flexibility and other value delivered

*Initial themes identified from responses submitted to Maine Department of Energy Resources Request for Information published March 26, 2026. Themes summarized here are not exhaustive and are not intended to be reflective of the totality of information received or the views of any individual respondent.  
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# Initial themes from public input to date

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

- Emphasizing **increasing storm events and changing weather patterns** posing risks for vital infrastructure
- Identifying the importance of both **maintaining existing and deploying new** energy sources, particularly clean energy
- Ensuring supply to meet **rising demand**
- Noting **supply chain and workforce** vulnerabilities particularly in rural communities
- Emerging and evolving **cybersecurity** risks

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# Initial themes from public input to date

## *Objective C: Responsibly Advance Clean Energy*

- Varying perspectives on future new generation sources including **offshore wind, advanced nuclear, and geothermal**, as well as the full range of existing sources
- Expressing a range of perspectives on **siting concerns**, including for new generation, transmission, port infrastructure, and more
- Noting **environmental and safety impacts of various energy sources**, including combustion and explosion risks and fuel spills
- Suggesting steps to **increase public understanding** of benefits, costs, risks, and opportunities
- Encouraging a range of actions to **reduce soft costs** to facilitate cost-effective and timely deployment

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# Initial themes from public input to date

## *Objective D: Deploy Efficient Technologies to Reduce Energy Costs*

- Emphasizing the **lowest-cost energy is energy not needed**, and expressing support for energy efficiency, conservation, and demand management
- Identifying various tools to enable enhanced **grid utilization** and otherwise **maximize use of existing infrastructure**
- Highlighting **advanced conductors and grid-enhancing technologies** as potential lower-cost and faster-to-deploy options to expand electric grid capacity
- Emphasizing **creating an environment to support efficiency** by identifying and addressing barriers
- Enthusiasm for supporting initiatives such as **on-bill financing, energy coaching or navigation, expanded auditing**, and other measures

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# Initial themes from public input to date

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

- Highlighting the importance of, and uplifting examples of, **pathways into energy careers** for Maine people
- Emphasizing **workforce needs as a priority** to enable achievement of other objectives
- Supporting training, skills, and **family-sustaining wages, benefits, and advancement opportunities** for energy workers
- Expressing support for **recent and ongoing initiatives** to support these goals

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# Initial themes from public input to date

## *Recommendations for engaging the public in updating the Energy Plan*

- Encouraging use of **both in-person and online or hybrid meetings** to provide opportunities for attendance from across Maine
- Scheduling events both **during and outside of normal working hours** to increase access and participation
- Providing **recordings of meetings and presentations** where appropriate and possible
- **Identifying where public input is most helpful and impactful**, as well as what decisions can't be changed
- Explain **how public input impacted the final plan**

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# Small Group Break-Outs

## Reflection Questions:

- **PRIORITY AREAS:** Based on this feedback to date, and your own priorities, what should be the key focus areas of the 2027 Energy Plan?
- **ACTIONS:** Are there specific actions you have in mind to address these priorities?



# Small Group Break-Outs

## Discussion Questions:

- ☐ Anything that was striking or resonated with you?
- ☐ Anything that was very different from your thinking?

*\*Please be prepared to share out with the group!*





**Scan the QR code below or go to  
[maine.gov/energy/plan](https://maine.gov/energy/plan)**

- Share feedback using the online survey
- Sign up for email updates
- Request a meeting or a presentation
- Read public comments



# Next Steps



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# Thank You

[doer@maine.gov](mailto:doer@maine.gov)

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

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receive updates  
on the Maine  
Energy Plan**

