



Public Webinar: Assessing Maine's Renewable Portfolio Standard

June 17, 2026, 1:30-2:30pm, via Zoom

Meeting Summary

Purpose and Overview

The purpose of this webinar was to provide an overview of the Maine Department of Energy Resources' (DOER) [Renewable Portfolio Standard \(RPS\)](#) Assessment. The assessment, directed by the Maine Legislature under 35-A M.R.S. Section 3210, will evaluate the economic and environmental impacts of the RPS as the state works toward its target of 100% clean electricity by 2040. The meeting covered the proposed study approach, key milestones, timeline, and benefit-cost methodology as well as opportunity for stakeholder input to help inform the study. This summary synthesizes the meeting proceedings and public feedback. [Meeting slides are available here \(PDF\)](#).

Agenda

- Welcome
- Overview of DOER and study background
- Study process and timeline
- Benefit cost & impact methodology
- Q&A
- Next Steps

Speakers

- Celina Cunningham; Acting Commissioner, DOER
- Stephanie Watson, Manager of Energy Supply and Security, DOER
- Jason Gifford; Senior Vice President, Sustainable Energy Advantage
- Tobin Armstrong; Associate Director, Sustainable Energy Advantage
- Glen Weisbrod; Senior Consultant, EBP
- Emina Cardamone; Principal Economist, EBP



Meeting Summary

Background and Overview

Celina Cunningham provided an overview of DOER and introduced the assessment and drafting process. Stephanie Watson then presented background on Maine's RPS and the RPS Assessment pursuant to 35-A M.R.S. Section 3210. Consultants Jason Gifford, Tobin Armstrong, Glen Weisbrod, and Emina Cardamone presented an overview of the proposed RPS assessment with objectives, key milestones and opportunities for stakeholder feedback.

Benefit-Cost-Impact Methodology

The consultants provided a comprehensive review of the proposed benefit-cost and impact methodology and regional market dynamics for the assessment. The consulting team detailed how the Benefit-Cost Impact Methodology will systematically evaluate the actual impacts of Maine's RPS by comparing it to a theoretical baseline where the policy does not exist. The presenters outlined how this framework will measure specific compliance costs, wholesale price suppression effects, regional and global emission reductions, and direct in-state economic investments. To capture a realistic range of market outcomes, the assessment will cross-reference these benefits across two distinct policy attribution cases and three specific analytical lenses, ensuring a precise calculation of the state's true net benefits and provide recommendations for future consideration.

Discussion and Q&A

Following the presentation, audience members were invited to participate in a discussion and ask questions about the study methodology. The following is a summary of key themes from the discussion:

- **Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs):** Participants asked how RECs are defined and attributed in the analysis, including how certificates used for compliance outside of Maine are treated. Presenters explained that the study counts only RECs retired to meet Maine's compliance requirements and excludes RECs used for compliance in other states to maintain a consistent analytical framework.



- **Emissions and societal benefits:** Participants sought clarification on which emissions are included and whether the study would evaluate an in-state-only societal perspective. Presenters explained that the analysis relies on regional datasets to quantify greenhouse gas benefits using the social cost of carbon, while noting that greenhouse gas impacts are inherently regional and global. They also indicated that additional environmental metrics, such as localized air pollutants, could be incorporated based on stakeholder feedback.
- **Methodology updates:** Participants asked how the current study differs from the 2024 analysis. Presenters highlighted several methodological enhancements, including updated data from the latest Avoided Energy Supply Components (AESC) study, evaluation of two attribution cases, and a more comprehensive benefit-cost analysis for Class II renewable resources.

Next Steps

DOER accepted public comments on the proposal and cost-benefit methodology through July 1st, 2026. All public comments and suggestions will be carefully evaluated and integrated into the draft report. The draft will be made available ahead of the next public meeting, where interested parties may provide further feedback. The next meeting will be listed on the [DOER public meetings page](#) and posted in the [newsletter](#).