

YOUR VOICE IS NOW NEEDED.
HELP US DETERMINE THE PRIORITIES
FOR THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN.

STEP 1: READ THE CLIMATE STRATEGIES

Six working groups – joined by an expert Scientific and Technical Subcommittee – have issued recommended strategies for the Council for achieving Maine's climate goals.

STEP 2: DISCUSS THEM WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Using our general questions about climate change in Maine as a prompt, consider the strategies of each working group and discuss what you think the priorities are for Maine.

STEP 3: SHARE YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL

Note down answers or suggestions and send them to the Climate Council via survey, email or mail.

climatecouncil.maine.gov



About Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing

- Heating, cooling and lighting of buildings is responsible for 30 percent of Maine's greenhouse gas emissions. Residential homes emit 19 percent; commercial buildings are 11 percent.
- Many of the 550,000 existing homes in Maine are aging and inefficient, with 56 percent having been built before 1980. Approximately 20,000 homes since 2010 have been weatherized to increase efficiency, reduce heating bills, and decrease emissions.
- Maine's 61 percent of homes heated by oil is the highest in the country. New high-performance electric heat pumps are 60 percent more efficient than oil burners. Some 45,000 high performance heat pumps and 25,000 heat pump water heaters have been installed in Maine in the past several years to lower emissions and energy bills.
- The most cost-effective time to improve a building's energy efficiency is during construction. New "net zero" efficiency buildings combine energy efficiency and renewable energy generation to create homes with very minimal utility costs and emissions.
- "Embodied carbon" describes energy used to create and manufacture building materials. Wood and other bio-based materials provide a double benefit: they have low embodied carbon (compared to steel, many types of insulation, concrete, and fossil fuel based products), they naturally store carbon, and source wood can be regrown to remove more carbon from the atmosphere. Utilizing more wood products, especially those produced in Maine, for building construction has positive climate and economic benefits.



Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing Strategies

- **Improve the design and construction of new buildings:** Provide incentives and code requirements that encourage net-zero, renewable energy ready homes and businesses. Provide training to contractors and code enforcement officers to support compliance.
- **Transition to cleaner heating and cooling systems:** Provide incentives to encourage consumers to purchase highly efficient heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and efficient, modern wood heat.
- **Improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings:** Expanded weatherization programs will reduce emissions and save money for homeowners on utility bills through added storm windows, reduction of air leaks, and supplementing insulation.
- **Promote “Lead by Example” programs in existing and new publicly-funded buildings:** This work would be accomplished by requiring best practices in construction, including building materials selection, heating, cooling and lighting systems, and enhanced efficiency and weatherization.
- **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from industrial processes:** Support industrial facilities that shift from carbon-intensive fuels to cleaner alternatives. Expand funding for industrial energy efficiency and fuel switching projects and establish a task force to recommend additional long-term strategies in this sector.
- **Modernize Maine’s electric grid:** Make buildings part of the solution and ensure the state state’s electricity system is ready for increased electricity use by the building and transportation sectors as they convert to electricity procured from clean, renewable sources.



Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing: Discussion Questions

How would each of these strategies fit your community? (Great, good, neutral or not at all)

- Improve the design and construction of new buildings
- Transition to cleaner heating and cooling systems
- Improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings
- Promote “Lead by Example” programs in existing and new publicly-funded buildings
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from industrial processes Modernize Maine’s electric grid

Are there other ideas about Maine’s building, infrastructure and housing to share with the Council?

After reading these strategies, are there actions that you personally would like to be able to take?



Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing: Responses & Notes

The council works for all of Maine.
All of Maine has a voice in our recommendations.

Share Your Thoughts:



Ways to share:

1. Answer the WG strategy surveys at <https://climatecouncil.maine.gov/surveys>
2. Email answers to mainedclimatecouncil@maine.gov
3. Mail your thoughts to us by August 21, 2020 at:

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Governor's Office of
Policy Innovation + the Future
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Augusta, Maine 04333-0181

Please let us know your zip code and email address so we can keep in touch!

climatecouncil.maine.gov

Thank You!