

Maine Climate Council
Natural and Working Lands Work Group Meeting
Tuesday, October 31, 2023; 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Deering Building, Room 101, Blossom Lane, Augusta

- Co-chair Commissioner Beal welcomed Work Group members and all present introduced themselves, providing highlights of their background and areas of interest regarding climate work
- Facilitator Jo D. Saffair reviewed draft Working Agreements and solicited feedback from the Group. Members suggested clarifying the Group decision-making process.
- Commissioner Beal and Jo D. Saffair provided an overview of Maine’s climate goals, the history of the Maine Climate Council and Natural and Working Lands Work Group, the recommendations the Work Group developed and how these then became part of Maine’s climate action plan, *Maine Won’t Wait*.
- The Group discussed meeting material documents that provided highlights of progress made toward NWL Work Group recommendations since 2020, and shared examples of work accomplished or underway by their organizations or within their communities that advance these recommendations.
- Facilitator Jo D. Saffair described the selection process undertaken to arrive at the three focus areas the Work Group will devote its time to over the next 7 months, and explained how much of this work will take place within a three-subgroup structure during December, January, February and March. Member discussion resulted in all members identifying the subgroup of greatest interest to them from among these three:
 - 30% land conservation by 2030
 - 30% local food consumption by 2030
 - Forest carbon
- It was agreed that meeting dates for all subgroups will be shared with the Work Group to allow for member attendance at meetings other than those of their assigned group if desired.
- An opportunity for public comment was provided. Two public members encouraged the Work Group to consider the carbon footprint of animal agriculture, and promote the conversion of available farmland to the production of plant-based protein.
- The Work Group will meet next on November 29th from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm in Room 101 of the Deering Building, Blossom Lane, Augusta.