

Maine Climate Council

Natural and Working Lands Working Group

Co-Chairs:

Tom Abello, Office of the Governor

Amanda Beal, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

Jo D. Saffeir, Facilitator, Maine DACF



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
Policy Innovation
and the Future



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
Environmental Protection



November 29, 2023

CLIMATE COUNCIL GOALS



12.01.24

Updated Climate
Action Plan Due



Achieve State
Carbon Neutrality by

2045

Reduce Maine's Greenhouse Gas Emissions
by Targets Outlined in State Law

45%

BELOW 1990
LEVELS BY 2030

80%

BELOW 1990
LEVELS BY 2050

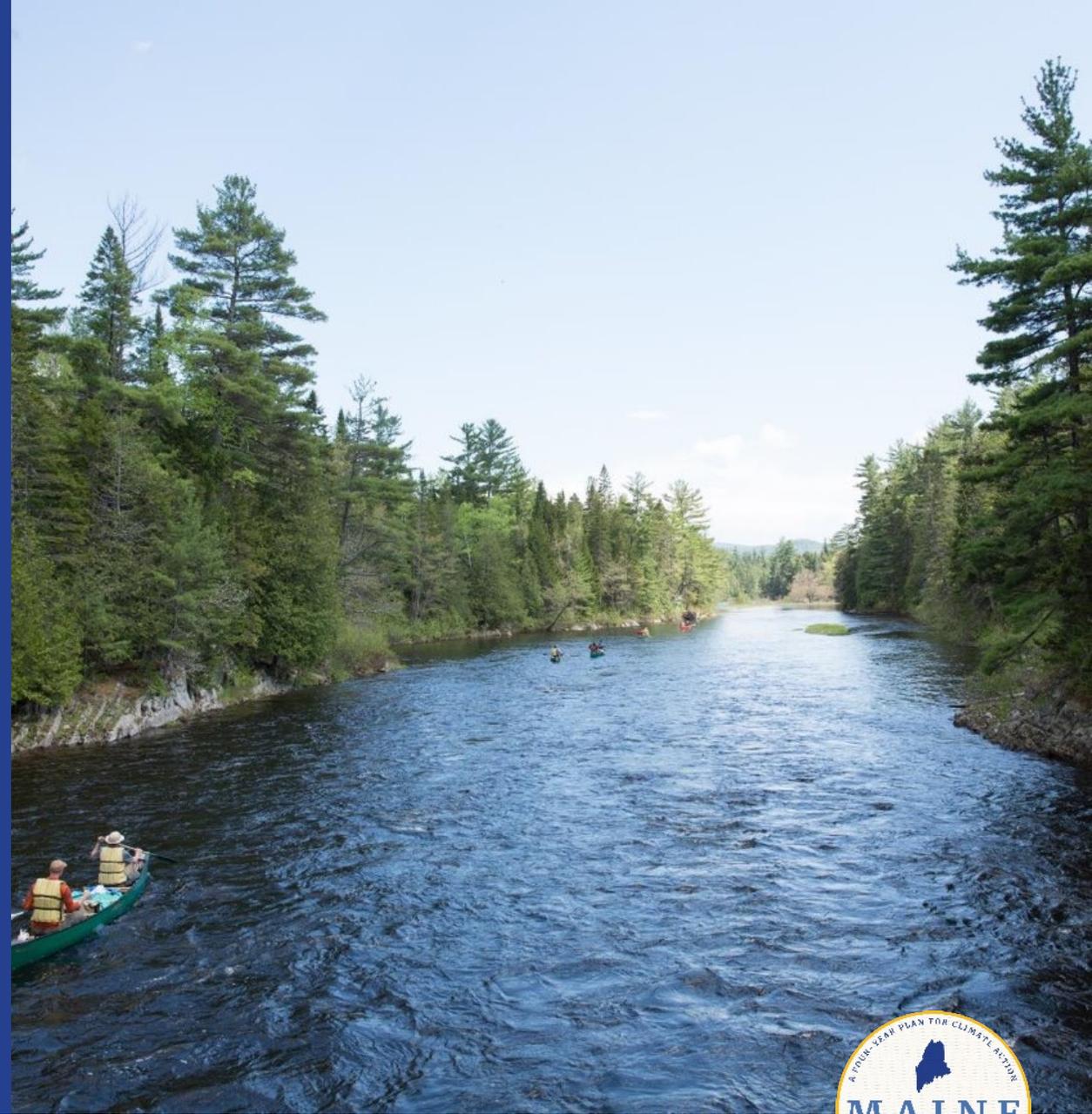


ENSURE MAINE PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES, AND COMMUNITIES ARE
RESILIENT TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

The charges of the working groups:

By June 2024, recommend to the Maine Climate Council updates to existing strategies or new strategies to address gap areas

Equity Subcommittee Context



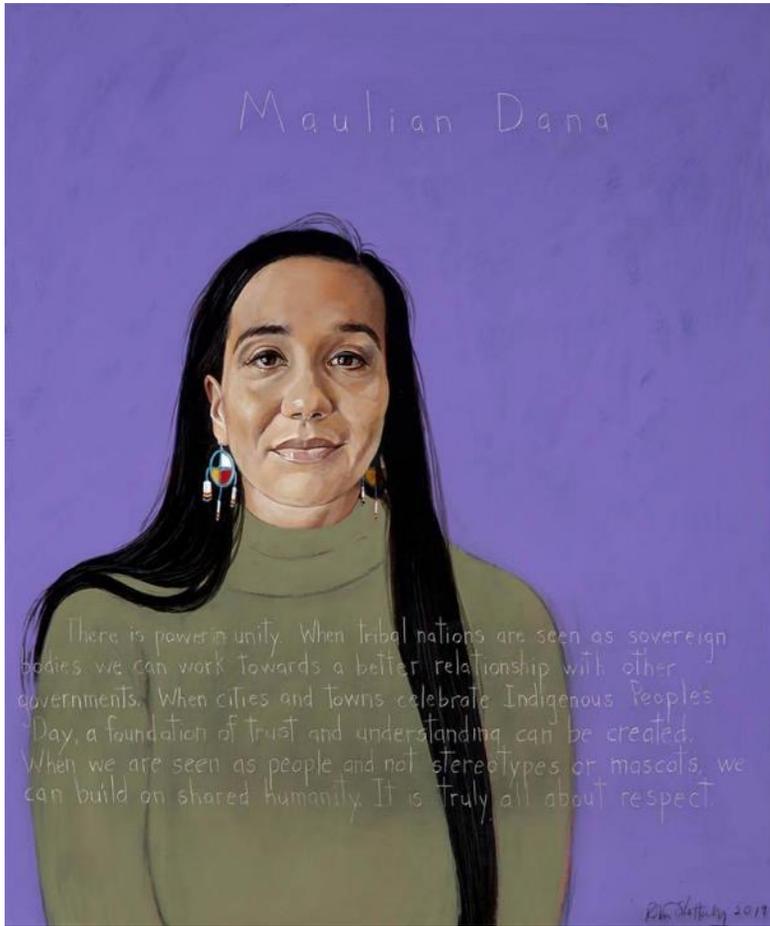
November 29, 2023

Natural & Working Lands Working Group Meeting



Presentation Goals

1. Understand the Equity Subcommittee's work to ensure procedural and distributive equity in the Plan's development and in its subsequent implementation
2. Review the Subcommittee's recommendations related to natural and working lands
3. Review equity outcome and monitoring metrics



Equity Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Maulian Bryant

Penobscot Nation Tribal Ambassador

Read more about Tribal Ambassador, human rights activist, and poet Maulian Bryant [here](#).

Gabriela Alcalde

Elmina B. Sewall Foundation Executive Director

Read more about public health leader Gabriela Alcalde [here](#).

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The Maine Climate Council's Equity Subcommittee

- Equity Subcommittee (ESC) was established following the release of *Maine Won't Wait* on December 1, 2020
- Established to support ongoing planning and implementation of the state's climate strategies to ensure shared benefits reach diverse populations
- ~27 members representing broad range of communities, industries, and interests (ex. ME Equal Justice, ME Envi. Education Assoc., ME AFL-CIO, ME Public Health)



Equity Subcommittee work to date



The University of Maine's Mitchell Center makes public their equity assessment of the Working Groups' recommendations



Three charges of the Equity Subcommittee

1. Setting equity outcomes for climate actions
2. Monitoring progress towards those outcomes
3. Making recommendations to the Maine Climate Council (MCC) to ensure equitable sharing of co-benefits across Maine communities

Equity in Natural & Working Lands



November 29, 2023

Natural & Working Lands Working Group Meeting



Equity in natural & working lands

Maine's natural and working lands represent livelihoods, recreation, and identity for Maine people.

Protect natural and working lands, **ensure access** for all Maine people, **promote** natural climate solutions, **support** heritage industries, and **explore** opportunities for further collaboration with tribal nations.

To that end...

the ESC's final report created three equity goals that align with the Natural and Working Lands Working Group's recommendations in *Maine Won't Wait*



These equity goals are connected to two of *Maine Won't Wait's* strategies:

Strategy D "Grow Maine's Clean-Energy Economy and Protect our Natural Resource Industries"

Strategy E "Protect Maine's Environment and Working Lands and Waters: Promote Natural Climate Solutions and Increase Carbon Sequestration"



The ESC's report uses the following three terms when assessing progress

- **Actions:** summaries of recommendations. Assess whether they have been implemented or not.
- **Monitoring Metrics:** intermediate indicators to track progress over time and help ensure that actions/recommendations reach intended populations and communities
- **Equity Outcome Metrics:** designed to assess equity in achievement of statewide climate goals. Aligned with existing MWW reportable tracking metrics.

Strategy D

Goal # 2: Help natural resource industries diversify and adapt to climate change through economic and workforce diversification and participation in the clean energy transition

Monitoring Metrics:

- # and % of Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) in natural resource industries
- Workforce characteristics in natural resource industries
- Geographic distribution of training programs/initiatives for natural resource workers

Progress toward Strategy D, Goal #2:

Help natural resource industries diversify and adapt to climate change through economic and workforce diversification and participation in clean energy transition

Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry (DACF)

- Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund was established by 130th Legislature, currently being designed by DACF
 - DACF and partners conducted landscape and gap analysis to evaluate resources currently available, explore funding and technical assistance needs, and barriers to access by priority populations.
- DACF acts as partner, funder, and technical resource to ag service providers across the state to support new and disadvantaged farmers.

Next Steps for Strategy D, Goal #2:

Help natural resource industries diversify and adapt to climate change through economic and workforce diversification and participation in clean energy transition

DACF

- Finish designing Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund. Work with legislative partners to capitalize the Fund.
- Prioritize development of new and value-added markets for climate vulnerable natural resource industries.

DACF, Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (IFW), and other agencies

- Assess natural resource industry workforce and identify barriers to entry for underrepresented groups.
- Encourage diversification in workforce and provide training to help natural resource workers adapt to impacts of climate change.

Strategy E

Goal #1: Ensure equitable access to natural resources to improve the lives and health of people in Maine, particularly for historically disadvantaged and low-income people

Monitoring Metrics:

- Use of publicly accessible natural and working lands by priority populations and communities
- Visitor characteristics of state-owned park and recreation space

Equity Outcome Metrics:

- Geographic distribution of publicly accessible natural and working lands
- Distribution of natural resource agency grant funding by priority population and geography

DACF Progress toward Strategy E, Goal #1:

Ensure equitable access to natural resources to improve the lives and health of people in Maine, particularly for historically disadvantaged and low-income people

- Land for Maine's Future (LMF) funds conservation lands for public access, and recently updated grant scoring criteria to help prioritize applications that serve low income or disadvantaged communities.
- Project Canopy provides grants and technical assistance to enhance urban forests and improve livability and greenspace in priority areas.
- Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) and UMaine investigating demographics of, and barriers to, outdoor recreation participants.
- BPL improving accessibility for visitors with disabilities.

IFW Progress toward Strategy E, Goal #1:

Ensure equitable access to natural resources to improve the lives and health of people in Maine, particularly for historically disadvantaged and low-income people

- Improving water access near population centers, including goal of at least one ADA accessible site within 10 miles of each county seat.
- Goal of suitable hunting, fishing, and tracking locations within one hour of all state population hubs.
- Newly acquired IFW properties in five different counties in 2023 expanded public access.
- Both IFW and DACF received a Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund grant to update statewide conservation priorities, including a focus on lands close to population centers.

Next Steps for Strategy E, Goal #1:

Ensure equitable access to natural resources to improve the lives and health of people in Maine, particularly for historically disadvantaged and low-income people

- Establish baseline data on distribution of, access to, and use of green space and NWL throughout the state, especially for disadvantaged communities.
- Identify barriers to access and interventions that could improve access and reduce costs.
- Establish equity criteria across grant programs and offer increased technical assistance.
- DACF should explore ways that Maine-grown food can mitigate supply chain risks and improve food access for all.

Strategy E

Goal #2:

Improve climate change-related data collection, practices, and usability in partnership with frontline, disadvantaged, and tribal communities

Monitoring Metrics:

- # of state agencies with guidance on climate data consultation with tribal communities
- # of state climate research efforts that include community participatory approaches
- Use of, or reference to, traditional ecological knowledge in state climate planning and assessments

Progress toward Strategy E, Goal #2:

Improve climate change-related data collection, practices, and usability in partnership with frontline, disadvantaged, and tribal communities

DACF

- Municipal Planning Assistance Program (MPAP) added capacity to improve data sharing with communities for comprehensive planning process.
- Bureau of Resource Information & Land Use Planning (BRILUP) has received a report on user preferences for a potential web-based tool to share climate resilience and funding resources.

IFW

- Exploring opportunities to enhance outreach, communication, and accessibility of free climate-related planning resources and data.
- Exploring ways to better incorporate equity in planning processes.

Next Steps for Strategy E, Goal #2:

Improve climate change-related data collection, practices, and usability in partnership with frontline, disadvantaged, and tribal communities

DACF

- Develop online platform to share data and resources with communities regarding climate impacts and resilience.
- Increase opportunities for community participation in data collection and planning.

DACF and IFW

- Understand what data communities need and prioritize participatory approaches to data collection.
- Improve access to data and transparency about its collection/practices for sharing.
- Increase consultation with tribal and resource dependent communities, and value traditional ecological knowledge.

Ensuring Equity Outcomes from NWL Subgroups



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The *new* charges of Working Groups

1. Follow **procedural equity** guidelines to make equitable sector-specific recommendations
2. Determine what indicators are needed to track intermediate progress towards equity outcomes
3. Establish goals for **distributive equity** in regard to implementation and outcomes

Procedural equity is concerned with process

Procedural equity means to ensure equitable planning and implementation.

Government, policy makers, program designers, and implementers must partner with priority populations to allow for meaningful opportunities to participate in policy development, planning, and implementation

Examples of procedural equity include:

- Offering hybrid meeting options
- Holding meetings outside of typical work hours
- Providing language translation/interpretation services
- Ensuring transportation options

Procedural equity requires Working Groups to invite, consult, and engage with priority populations

Priority populations, as defined by the ESC, are more vulnerable to climate impacts, have limited resources or capacity to respond and adapt, and/or have intersecting marginalized identities

Priority populations are:

- Individuals and households
e.g. people with disabilities, migrant workers
- Communities and geographic areas
e.g. low-income communities, rural communities
- Businesses and industries
e.g. natural resource industries: agriculture, forestry, fishing;
minority or women-owned

Distributive equity is concerned with outcomes for priority populations

Distributive equity means to ensure equitable distribution of co-benefits.

Distributive equity asks the question, "Who benefits from Maine's climate actions and investments?"

Distributive equity is shown through outcome metrics:

- How money is being spent
- Where programs are being implemented
- Who is participating in programs

Complementary Work



December 5, 2023

Natural and Working Lands Working Group Meeting



Inputs to the working group process:

| Input | Timeframe |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Emissions & cost/benefit analysis for new and significantly updated strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes qualitative & quantitative description of impacts of strategies on priority populations | Beginning February 2024 |
| Updated Scientific Assessment | February/March 2024 |
| Priority population outreach and engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GOPIF will partner with organizations that serve priority populations to host conversations with members of those populations | Beginning January/February 2024 |
| Medium and Heavy-Duty Vehicle Roadmap | TBD |
| Building Decarbonization Plan | TBD |
| Decarbonization pathways analysis for the energy sector | Ongoing, results expected winter 2024 |
| Land use and VMT analysis | TBD |
| Waste sector analysis | TBD |
| Workforce analysis | TBD |
| Fleet Electrification Plan | TBD |

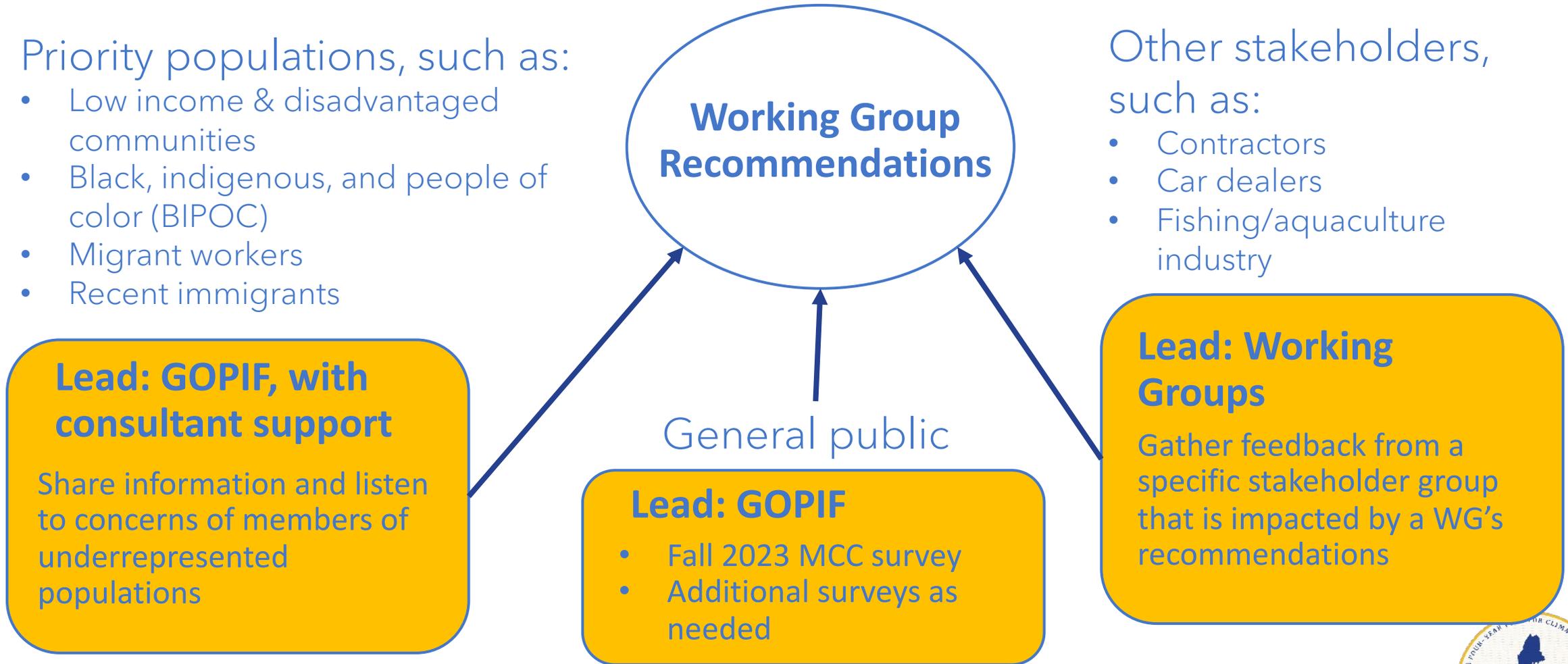
Outreach & engagement

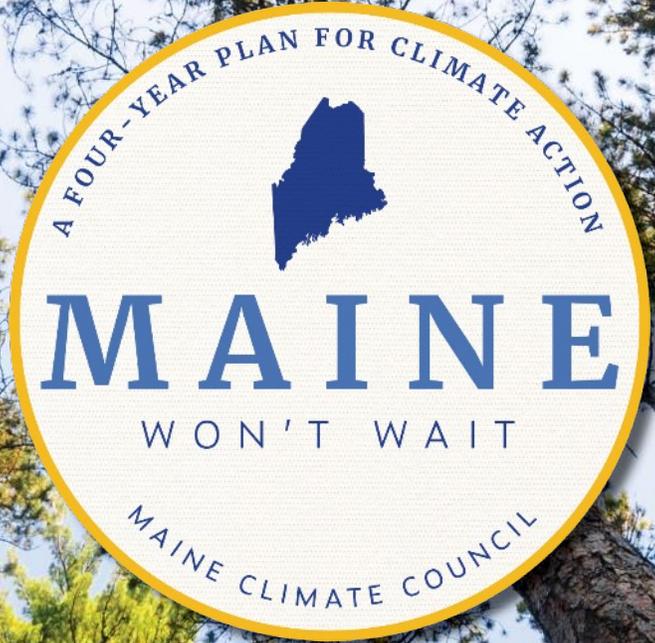
Priority populations, such as:

- Low income & disadvantaged communities
- Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC)
- Migrant workers
- Recent immigrants

Other stakeholders, such as:

- Contractors
- Car dealers
- Fishing/aquaculture industry





A FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION



MAINE

WON'T WAIT

MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL