

Maine Climate Council

Quarterly Meeting



Melanie Loyzim
Council Co-chair



Hannah Pingree
Council Co-chair



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
**Policy Innovation
and the Future**



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
Environmental Protection

September 25, 2024

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Climate Plan Framework and Public Input
3. Amplifying Voices: Representing Diverse Perspectives
4. Break
5. Climate Council Exercise: Responding to what we're hearing
6. Climate Council Discussion: Identifying priority conversations
7. Wrap up and Next Steps



Flow of Maine Climate Council Meetings:

- **October 9:** Updated Climate Action Plan Draft posted for public comment, comments due October 21
- **October 16, 12-1pm:** Emissions modeling webinar
- **October 23, 9am-1pm:** Maine Climate Council meeting IN PERSON (Augusta)
- **October 31, 9-11am:** IF NEEDED Maine Climate Council meeting VIRTUAL
- **November 21:** Maine Climate Council meeting IN PERSON (Location TBD)



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.

80% of Maine's carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels come from transportation and buildings.



49%
Transportation



19%
Residential



12%
Commercial



10%
Industrial



9%
Electric Power

Source: Maine Department of Environmental Protection 10th Biennial Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report



Maine Climate Council Emissions Modeling

- Goals:
 - Identify **pathways** to meeting Maine's 2030 and 2050 emissions targets
 - Assess **costs** and **benefits** of each pathway
 - Keep or revise **targets** for certain measures (e.g., heat pumps) that help us meet our emissions targets
 - Assess **benefits** to low income and disadvantaged communities



Maine Climate Council Public Input

1,079

Survey respondents between
June and September 2024

357

People engaged through in-
person events



222

Working group
members



1,125

Maine youth
engaged in climate
planning



69

Community
engagements with
underrepresented
groups



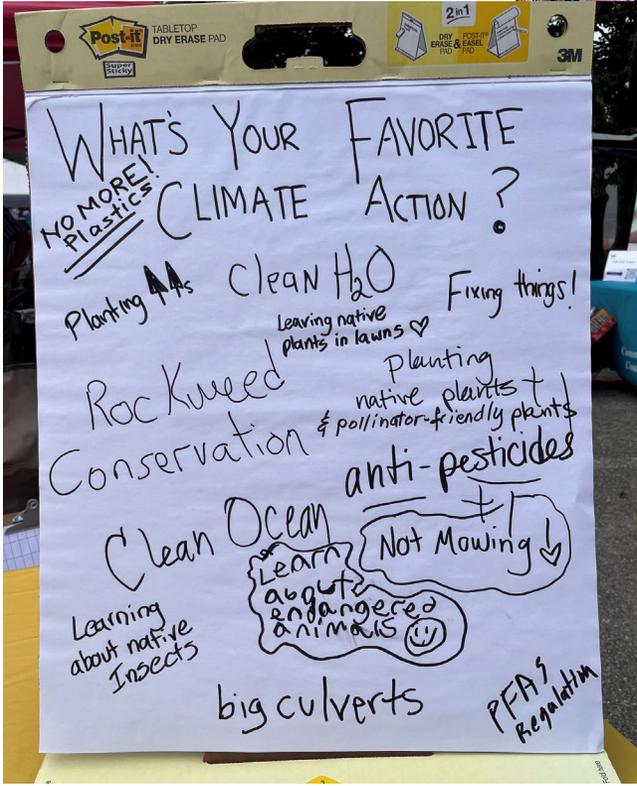


Maine Won't Wait 2.0

Updated Framework
and Public Input

We heard from people at in person events all across the state...

-  Tabling at local events
-  Maine Climate Council public meetings



Machias Blueberry Festival



We heard the top issues on Mainer's' minds...

Impacts from storms: nearly everyone had an anecdote to share

General education + awareness around MWW: Majority of people were unaware of MWW

Climate incentives: many were unaware and excited to learn more

Solar: support and opposition

Electric vehicles: reserved excitement (concerns re: charging infrastructure, cost)

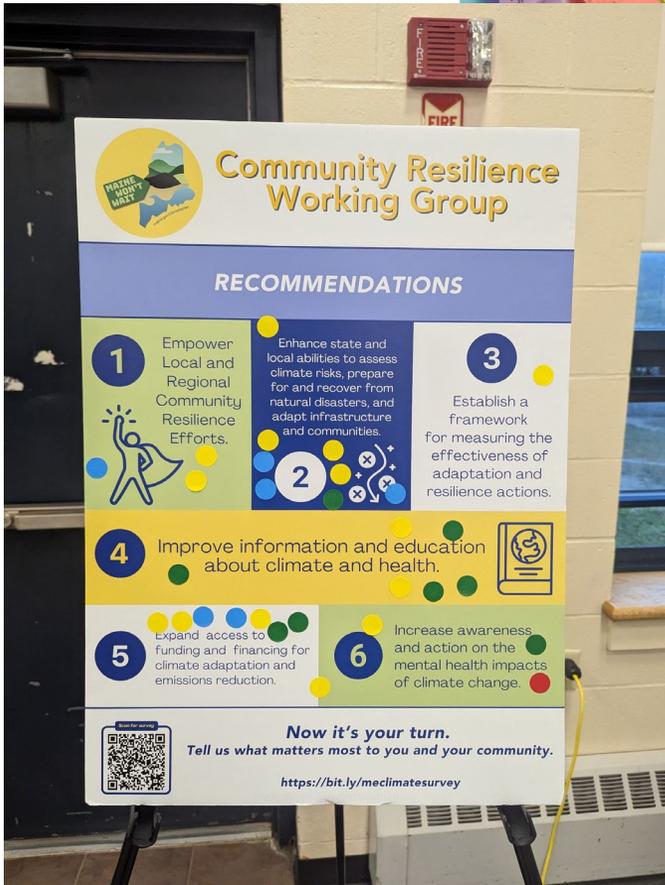
Anxiety about future generations, increasing temperatures and frequency of winter storms

Warming Gulf of Maine temperatures and changing fisheries

Climate Education: Lots of support and enthusiasm



What does successful climate action in Maine look like to you?



Top recommendations in **Presque Isle:**

1. Heat pumps and weatherization
2. Decrease energy burdens
3. Help towns prevent waste



Need for solar but concern about farmland impacts

Concern about electricity prices

Funding and help for small towns

Energy audits

Keeping food local

Help older adults to stay cool

Don't forget about the County!

Top recommendations in **Lewiston**:

1. Increase local food consumption
2. Foster vibrant community centers
3. Heat pumps and weatherization



Empower & support communities

Less fossil fuel use

Make biking & walking safer

Programs that benefit renters

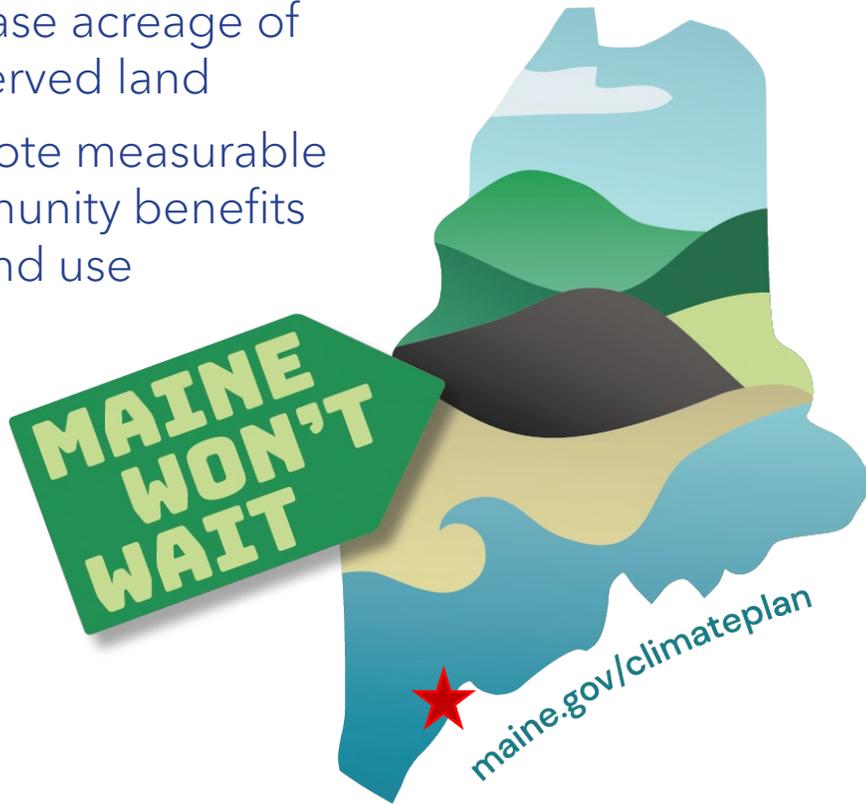
Supporting younger generations & mental health

More EV charging stations

Reduce food waste

Top recommendations in **Portland:**

1. Reduce vehicle miles traveled
2. Increase acreage of conserved land
3. Promote measurable community benefits for land use



Increase public transit, biking, and walking options

Integrate equity lens in all sections

Include markers for progress

Prioritize affordability

Educate and empower communities

Decarbonize the grid



Top recommendations in **Bangor**:

1. Local food production + consumption
2. 2040 clean energy goal
3. Smart growth + sprawl reduction



Reduce vehicle miles traveled

Continued use of forest materials

Support resilience planning in impacted industries

Smart growth

More low-income climate friendly housing!

Supporting rural EV charging infrastructure

Top recommendations in **Ellsworth**:

1. Reduce vehicle miles traveled
2. Local food
3. Promote smart growth



K-12 outreach and education

Thriving local food systems

More affordable EVs

Support cultural heritage industries

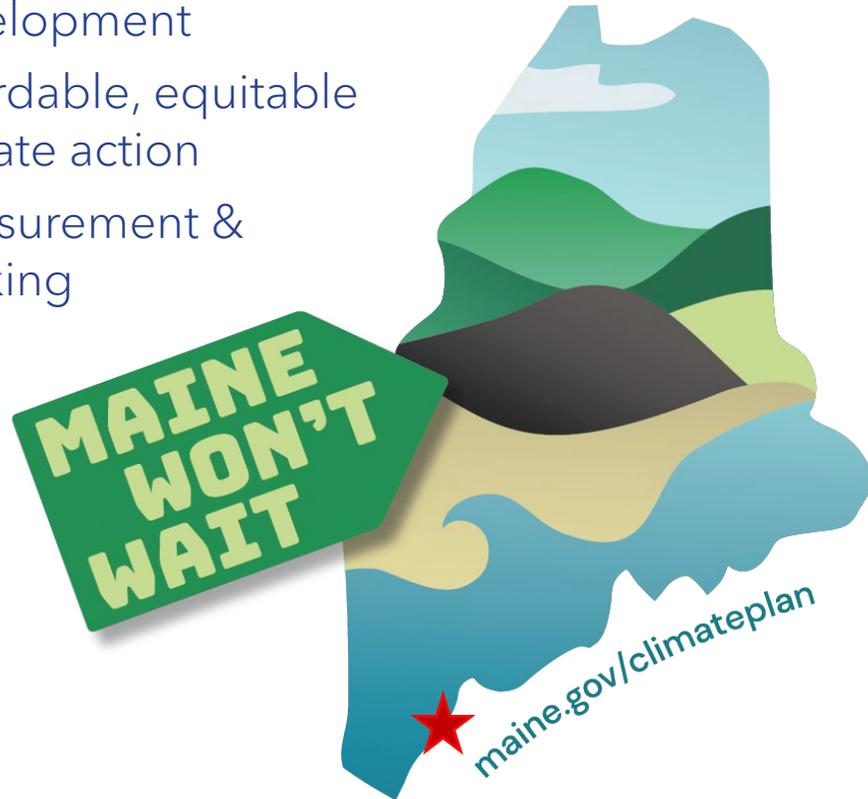
National price on carbon

Support for small working waterfronts

Energy coach program

Top recommendations in **Biddeford**:

1. Smart growth + infill development
2. Affordable, equitable climate action
3. Measurement & tracking



Climate-friendly local food & products

Resilient infrastructure, people, & communities

Smart growth & infill

Affordable housing

Reducing consumption-based emissions

Clean energy affordable for all

Virtual Meeting



Permitting reform

More EV fast chargers

Affordable, safe housing

More solar and wind

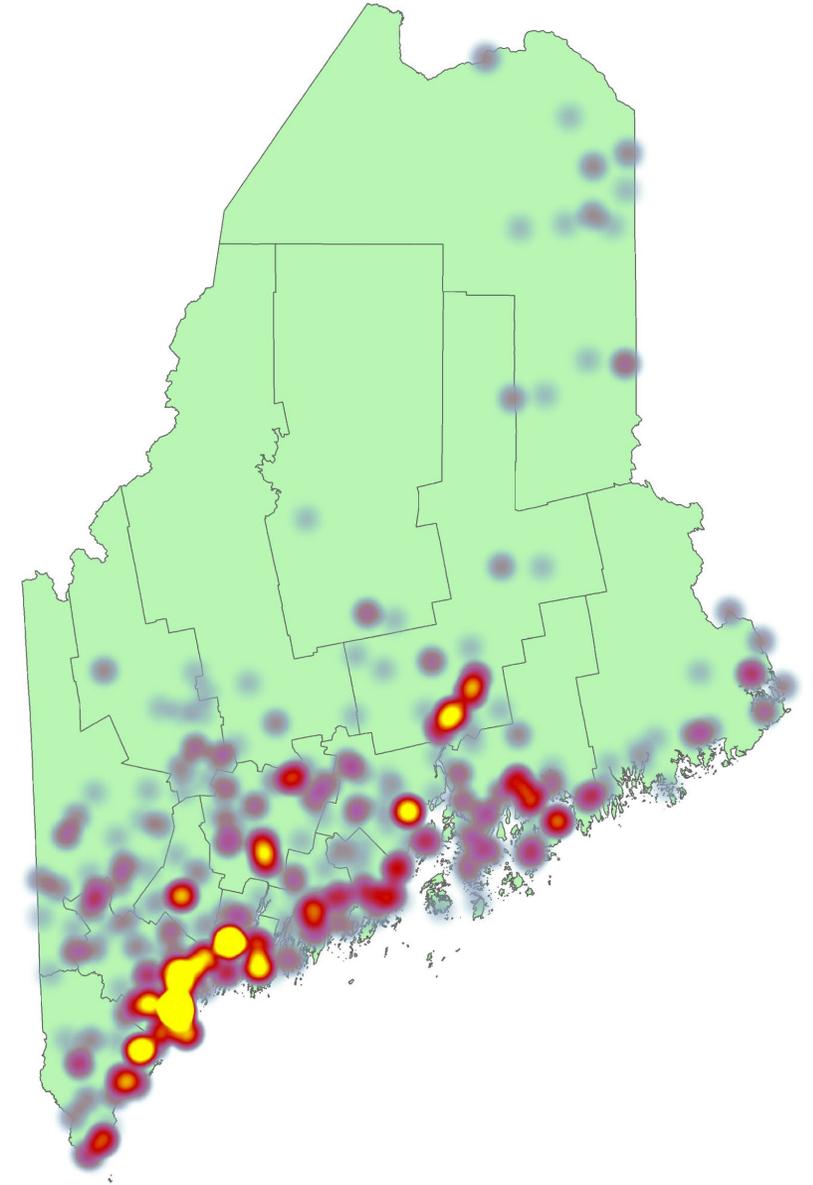
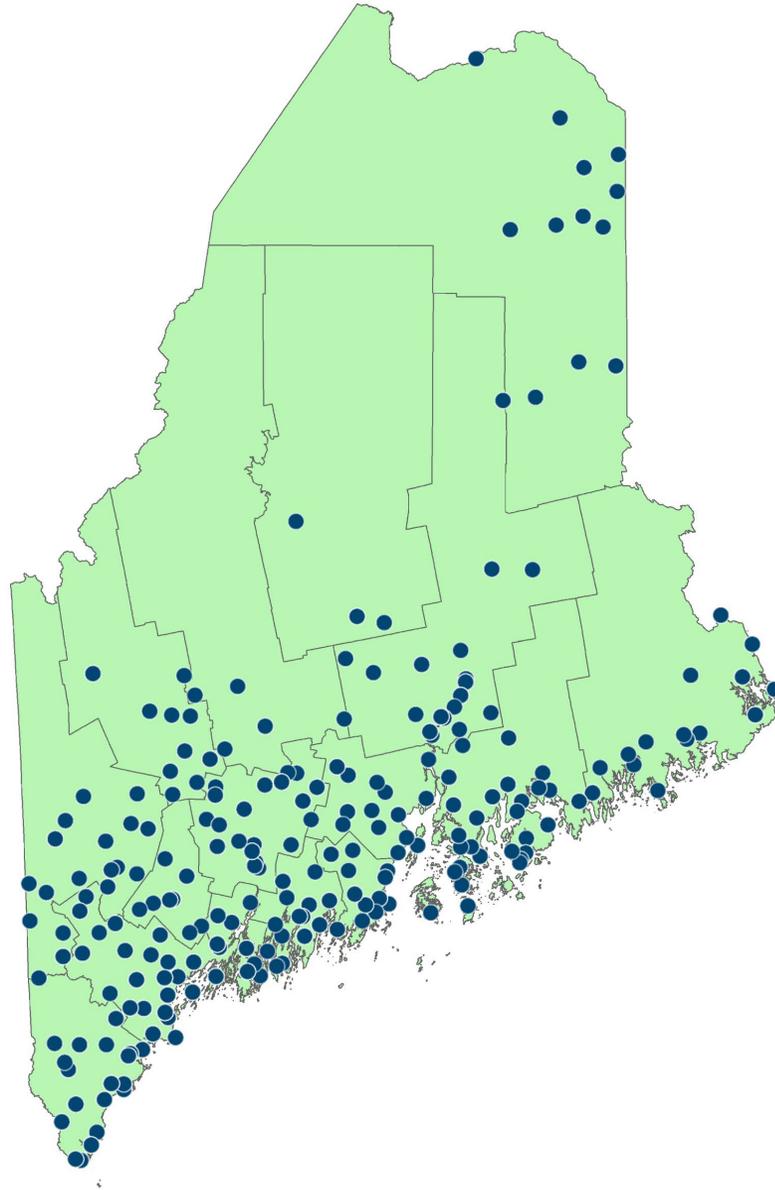
Protect freshwater ecosystems

Support federal climate policies

Engage youth in climate change

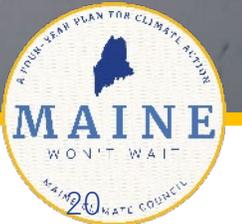


**We also heard
from 1,079
survey
respondents
from 242
towns and
tribes.**





Embrace the Future of Transportation in Maine



Many people strongly supported improvements to public and active transportation

78% of respondents said that **reducing vehicle miles traveled** was a **good fit** or a **great fit** for their community.



Safe bike lanes and paved shoulders

Increased frequency/ convenience of public transit

Amenities at Park & Ride lots

Extend rail service

Bike parking

Small van/bus service in rural areas

EVs: barriers in perception and charging availability remain.

Top concerns about EVs are **range anxiety** and **how well they work in winter.**



We live in one of the more dense areas in Maine, and yet it's still hard to find charging stations and alternatives to car transport.

- Adult survey respondent from Hallowell

People also have concerns about the affordability of EVs.



I think it will be very difficult to transition low-income drivers to electric vehicles unless it will be much less expensive for them than gas-powered vehicles.

-Survey respondent from Biddeford





Modernize Maine's Buildings



People are very supportive of improving energy efficiency in homes and buildings.

94% of survey respondents said that **continuing the progress in weatherization and heating systems** is a **good fit** or a **great fit** for their community.



Renters were more likely than **homeowners** to support **climate-friendly building codes**.



But expressed concern about rising electricity rates.



The cost of electricity and heat are increasing every year. Ensuring new homes are efficient will help those in the future with those costs and are better for the environment.

- Adult survey respondent from Chapman



And the need to support towns and contractors to implement the latest building codes.

“

Help municipalities with building codes, most don't have them nor the CEOs to enforce. Also ensure the products are available statewide.

- Survey respondent from Aroostook County

”

Many people identified the critical need for affordable housing that is energy efficient and provides benefits to renters.

“

Tying the recommendations to housing is a great fit for the communities I work and live in because safe and affordable housing is one of the top issues here.

- Young adult survey respondent from West Paris

”

Many people felt strongly that green schools and municipal buildings should be a priority.

86% of survey respondents said that **leading by example in publicly funded buildings** is a **good fit** or a **great fit** for their community.



Air quality in schools can have a large impact on kids' health, and rarely is managed proactively.

- Survey respondent



Transition to Clean Energy



People are supportive of work to decrease energy burdens.

87% of survey respondents said that **decreasing energy burdens while transitioning to clean energy** is a **good fit** or a **great fit** for their community.



Decreasing energy burden is good, but this should be coordinated with stronger local and regional planning to encourage more housing growth in existing employment centers.

-Survey respondent from Raymond

But are concerned about grid capacity & resiliency:

“

We need investments in the grid to make it more stable with greater capacity for increased electrification.

-Survey respondent from Stonington

”

“

I think the recommendations should include more attention to grid resiliency strategies, like burying lines and microgrids.

-Survey respondent

”

People are also generally supportive of demand management.

86% of survey respondents said that **managing the impact of Maine's buildings, vehicles, and industries on the electrical grid** is a **good fit** or a **great fit** for their community.



Reduce cost for ratepayers

Ensure benefits to low income households

Avoid expensive grid buildout

Many were excited but uncertain about the pathway to 100% clean energy by 2040.

We need to build out our infrastructure to meet 100% clean energy goals by 2040, and implement demand management that enables us to more quickly implement a system that makes use of clean energy flowing in many different directions. And we need to make the adaptation of renewable energy easier for the less well off.

-Survey respondent from Brunswick

I am very much in favor of moving to clean electricity generation but don't think round number goals are necessarily the best way to plan to do it... It's more important that we do this thoughtfully than that we do it all by 2040.

- Survey respondent from Thomaston

***"Accelerate the clean energy goal.
We need to get there faster!"***



Create Jobs and Grow Maine's Economy through Climate Action



Survey respondents want to see more opportunities for clean jobs, trainings, and apprenticeships.

“
We need more training programs and apprenticeships in Maine... and we need more opportunities to keep our youth from leaving the state after they receive an education.

-Survey respondent from Ellsworth

“
We need more clean energy jobs in our rural and disadvantaged community.

-Survey respondent from Sweden

Respondents also emphasized the importance of marine industries and the people who work in them.



"Marine industries are the backbone of our community and have great social, economic, and historical importance. Our lobstermen, shellfish harvesters, and indigenous gatherers are the ones most vulnerable to climate change."

- Adult survey respondent

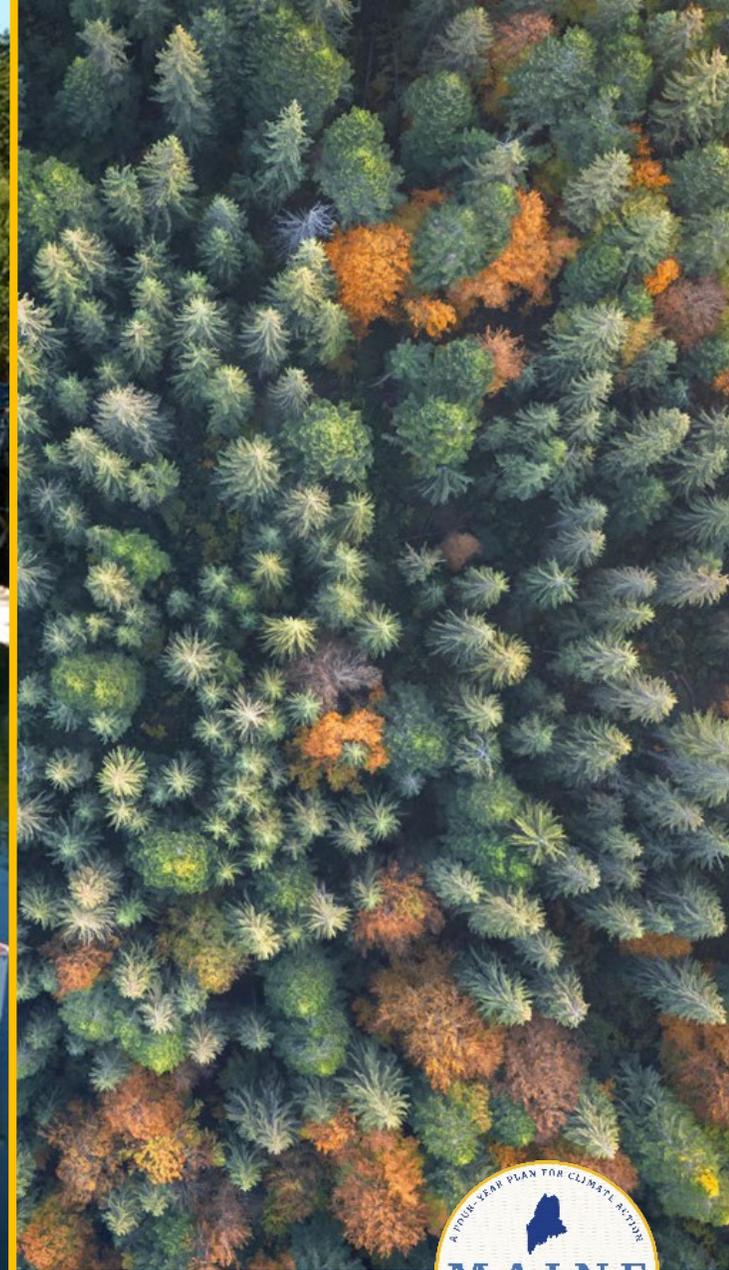
"We can no longer afford to wait and react to climate events, loss of our fishing industry, and destruction of our eelgrass beds...."

- Adult survey respondent from Portland





Protect Maine's Environment and Working Lands and Waters



People are generally supportive of prioritizing land protection and expanding funding.

83% of survey respondents said that **focusing land protection on:**

biodiversity, carbon sequestration, cultural and economic importance, improving equitable public access

is a **good fit** or a **great fit** for their community.



84% of survey respondents said that **expanding funding for land conservation** is a **good fit** or a **great fit** for their community.



But are concerned about inequitable land conservation practices, and impacts on housing shortages in Maine:



I am fearful that land conservation goals will be invoked and used toward inequitable outcomes such as disproportionate conservation in wealthier towns/communities.

- Adult survey respondent from Camden



People are generally supportive of strengthening Maine's local food system.

88% of survey respondents said that **strengthening the viability of Maine farms, fisheries, and other food producers** is a **good fit** or a **great fit** for their community.



87% of survey respondents said that **creating more Maine markets for Maine producers and increase access to Maine food** for their community.



Many survey respondents were passionate about improving affordability of local food and supporting farming in their communities:



*The focus must heavily be on how we get local food into the hands of local consumers in an **affordable and responsible way**.*

- Adult survey respondent from Windham

*It would be great if there were policies that **support small and experimental farmers**.... Perhaps more coalitions or collaborative farming programs that buffered young or new farmers.*

- Adult survey respondent



People support incentives and education to increase use of climate friendly forest practices:

82% of survey respondents said that **increase technical assistance, training, and education to increase the application of climate-friendly forest practices** is a **good fit** or a **great fit** for their community.



We own 100+ acres of forest but really can't figure out what is most climate friendly, aside from leaving it alone. It would be helpful to have more simplified technical assistance and public access to climate-informed foresters.

- Adult survey respondent from Porter

Many survey respondents would like to see Wabanaki leadership in natural and working lands and waters climate planning:



Expand consultation and partnerships with Wabanaki scientists and harvesters in forest management and protection. We see this collaboration happening for brown ash and sweetgrass protection. We know Indigenous peoples worldwide have protected 80% of biodiversity so let's use that knowledge here in Maine and request Wabanaki leadership on strategies to protect their homeland.

- Adult survey respondent from Edgecomb



People were supportive of increasing habitat resiliency.

88% of survey respondents said that **protecting and increasing the resiliency of habitats** is a **good fit** or a **great fit** for their community.



86% of survey respondents said that **enhance ongoing monitoring and data collection to guide decision making and fill data gaps** is a **good fit** or a **great fit** for their community.





Build Healthy and Resilient Communities



Respondents emphasized the importance of funding for communities.

88% of survey respondents said that

simplifying grant applications for applicants and reviewers

is a **good fit** or a **great fit** for their community.



"Funding is a key. Application for funding is all done by volunteers here. We do not have the funding that some towns have to hire grant writers etc. **We have to depend on volunteers to do the work which can put us at a disadvantage for applying for funding we need."**

-Adult survey respondent

Natural disaster preparedness was important to many respondents

91% of survey respondents said that **enhancing the State's ability to facilitate timely and effective natural hazard mitigation planning, response, and recovery**

is a **good fit** or a **great fit** for their community.



*"We all will benefit if we are more **prepared** for the unexpected weather events that seem to be happening more often."*

-Adult survey respondent from Waldoboro

*"I think that being **better prepared to respond to and avoid** natural disasters like the floods that occurred this past Winter is crucial."*

-Adult survey respondent from West Paris

Many people were concerned about fostering hope at the community level.

“

...giving people ways to get involved really help people stay hopeful and feel like they have some agency, and right now I feel like there are far too few ways to get involved with climate work in Maine as a member of the general public.

-Survey respondent from Fort Kent

”

“

The best way to improve mental health for young people is to offer hope and opportunity.

-Survey respondent from Islesboro

”

People were generally supportive of working waterfront protection and expanding public waterfront access:

81% of survey respondents said that **preserving and expanding waterfront access, including intertidal access** is a **good fit** or a **great fit** for their community.



83% of survey respondents said that **increasing resilience of public and private working waterfront infrastructure to climate change** is a **good fit** or a **great fit** for their community.



But emphasized the need for balance of coastal uses between industry, natural habitats, recreation, and tourism.

“We should be focusing on protecting and preserving the public rights of all people to enjoy Maine's waterfront and beaches... [The] primary economic driver of Maine's ocean economy [is] tourism and recreation.”

- Adult survey respondent

“Maintaining waterfront access is good, but I think expanding waterfront access should be done in moderation to prevent destruction of natural habitats.”

- Adult survey respondent

Most survey respondents were supportive of land use strategies to promote smart growth

86% of survey respondents said that **promoting smart growth** to reduce emissions, prevent natural and working land conversion, and create affordable housing is a **good fit** or a **great fit** for their community.



83% of survey respondents said that **incentives and regulations for land use policies** are a **good fit** or a **great fit** for their community.



Respondents were excited about ways to reduce sprawl and protect natural lands and farmland.



Rather than destroying trees to create new building lots, we should be re-purposing or replacing existing empty buildings, to make affordable and efficient living spaces, especially close to downtown, as we have no public transportation.

- Adult survey respondent from Waterville



Many survey respondents were excited to see materials management included in the strategies.

“

Glad to see this section added because this is a big climate driver that is not always recognized as such. Definitely excited about growing our circular economy.

- Adult survey respondent from Ellsworth

”

88% of survey respondents said  that **regionalizing and scaling up access to waste prevention and diversion** services is a **good fit** or a **great fit** for their community.



Engage with Maine People and Communities



Many respondents stressed the importance of climate education for all ages and backgrounds.

“

Can the climate council help disseminate information that already exists or let people know where it exists?

-Survey Respondent

”

“This [energy goals] is the toughest part, perhaps. But education and training are essential.”



Many people are excited about more climate education in schools.

“

Add both climate and clean energy education standards to the required curriculum so that every student in Maine learns about climate solutions and clean energy.

-Survey respondent from Bar Harbor

”

“

Let's make sure students learn about the improvements being made to their schools!

- Survey respondent from Hartford

”

Youth perspectives in workshops, discussion sessions + the public survey

Strongest interest in recommendations on **materials management, energy, mental health, housing and transportation**

Rural communities are not as open to having conversations surrounding mental health and using the terms climate change. Meeting people where they are at is really important when encouraging and helping them get the change that they need.

- Young (18-24) survey respondent

Climate anxiety, career opportunities, housing, lack of climate education are top concerns

Incentives for retrofitting climate friendly improvements on old buildings, especially for landlords of low-income housing.

- Young (18-24) survey respondent

I like the idea of increasing conservation jobs in Maine, that is where I would like to direct my personal career choices. Having more options would be great.

Input from JustME for JustUS rural youth organizers

Building & improving public transportation in rural areas

Local food goals are critical for rural communities

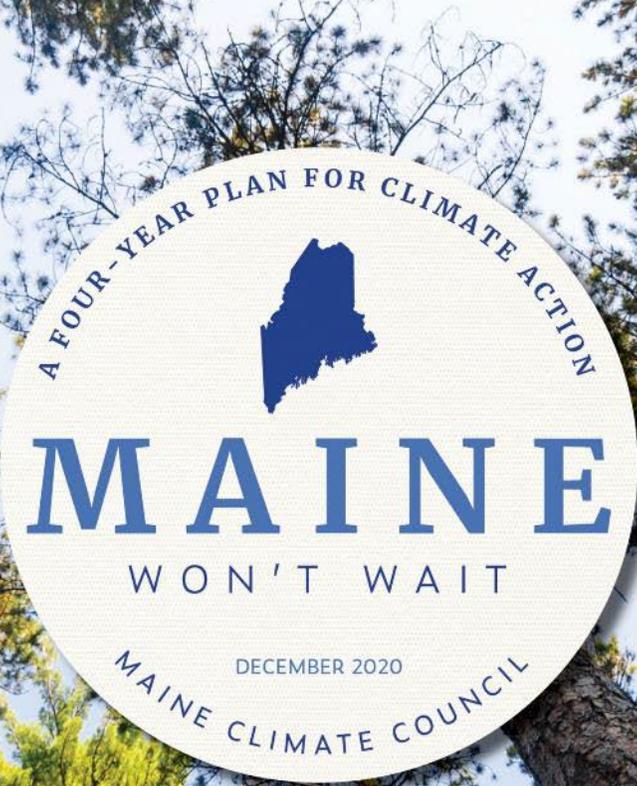
Improving energy efficiency in public housing

Including marginalized voices in climate planning & ensuring a just transition



“ Successful climate action looks like strong climate education & mental health support for Maine youth. ”





A FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION



MAINE

WON'T WAIT

DECEMBER 2020

MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL

Amplifying Voices: Engaging Diverse Populations in the Maine Climate Plan Update

— Maine Climate Council —

September 25, 2024

Meet the Mitchell Center Team



**Dr. Sharon
Klein**

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Professor, School
of Economics

**Dr.
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Noblet**

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Committee Chair

**Janine
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MA Student,
Economics

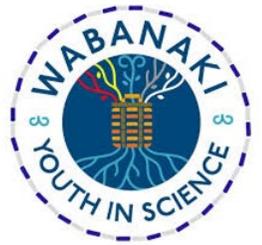
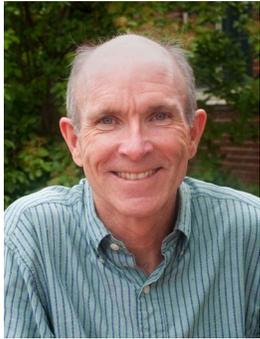
**Faizan
Saif**

MS Student,
Resource
Economics
& Policy

**Sonia
Leone**

BA Student,
Anthropology
and Human
Dimensions
of Climate
Change

Meet the Mitchell Center Team



Dr. David Hart

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Old Town
High School,
WaYS
Program

Reminder of the Project Goal

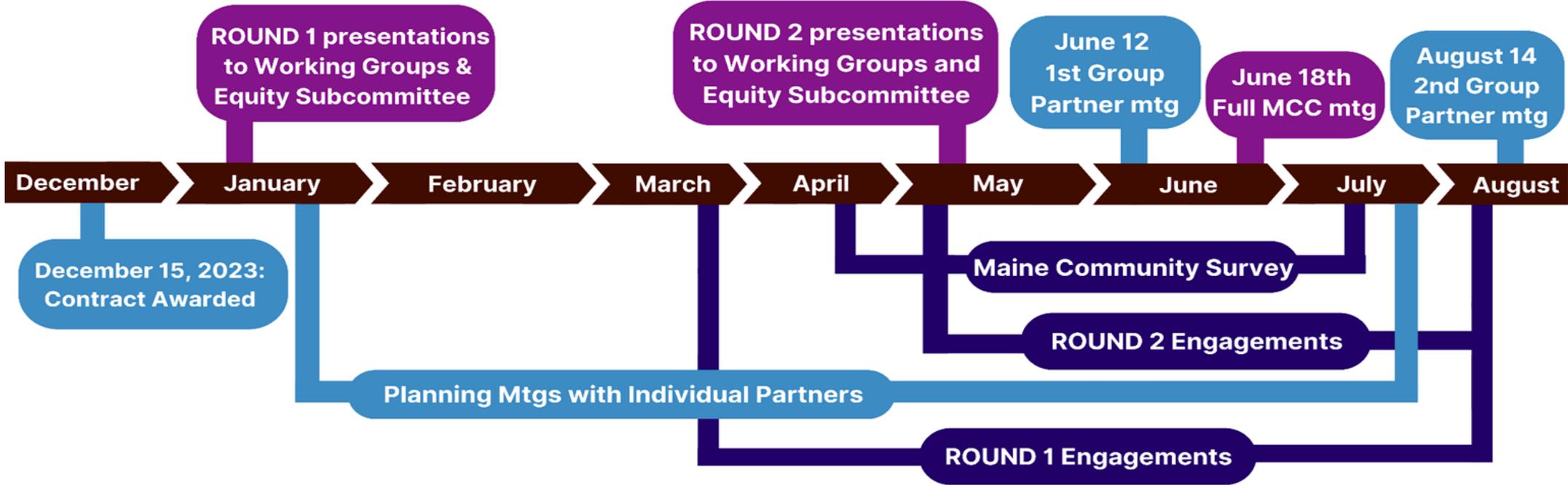


March 2023

To ensure the **populations in Maine most impacted by climate change** are **aware of** and have the **opportunity to influence** State climate programs and policies by iteratively and intentionally **engaging** disadvantaged communities in the Maine Climate Council process **in ways that are meaningful for each population.**

Project Timeline December 2023 to August 2024

- MCC Engagements
- Community Engagements
- Planning/ Coordination



Target Populations

- Low income households, including renters, home owners, and mobile home residents
- Older adults and youth
- Black or POC communities
- **Tribal communities**
- Low income communities
- Disadvantaged communities
- People with limited English proficiency, including New Mainers
- Recipients of low income energy assistance program (LIHEAP), low income assistance program (LIAP), or other energy assistance benefits
- People with mobility challenges
- People without access to reliable transportation
- Migrant farm workers and other outdoor workers
- Businesses in the natural resource industries like agriculture, forestry, and fishing who are operating at the economic margin or suffer disproportionate climate risk
- Un/underemployed people who are also representatives of a priority population or are transitioning from prison or recovery
- Minority, women-owned or veteran owned business enterprises (MWBVEs)
- Rural communities and small towns with limited staff or fiscal capacity
- Climate-frontline communities



Iterative conversations with Wabanaki partners reveal the importance of

- Recognizing Wabanaki tribal sovereignty in Maine climate planning.
- Following an appropriate Government-to-Government process.
- Demonstrating a meaningful commitment to listening and respecting traditional ecological knowledge, in compliance with appropriate data sovereignty guidelines.

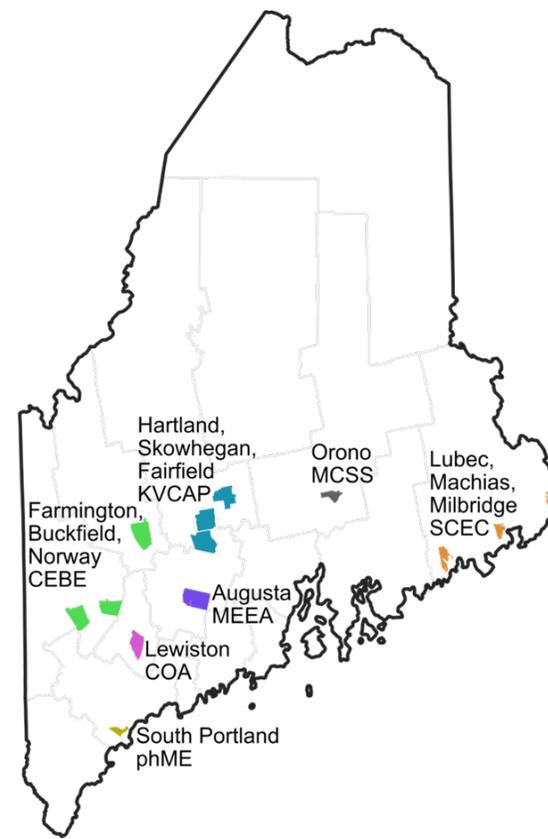
We are especially grateful to Dr. Darren Ranco, Jasmine Lamb, Dr. Natalie Michelle, and Ambassador Bryant for their time and continued efforts in empowering the voices of Wabanaki Tribes.

69 Direct Engagements
 21 partners
 >2,000 participants

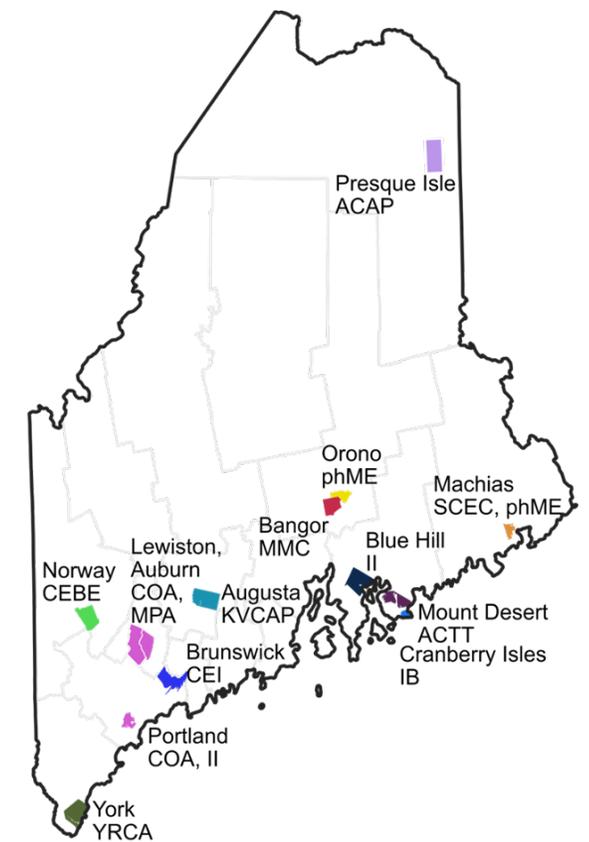
Community Organizing



Maine People's Alliance



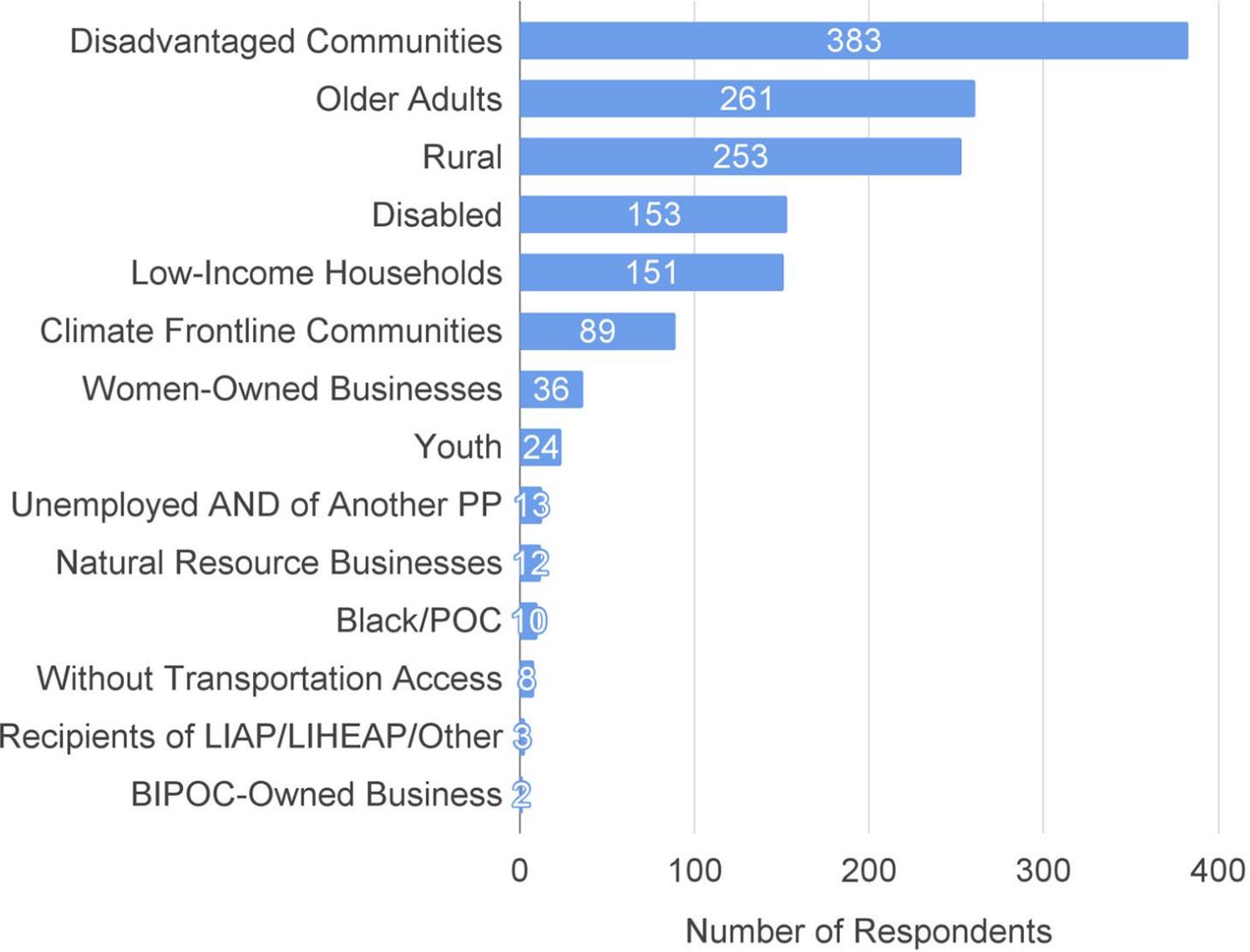
Round 1 Engagements



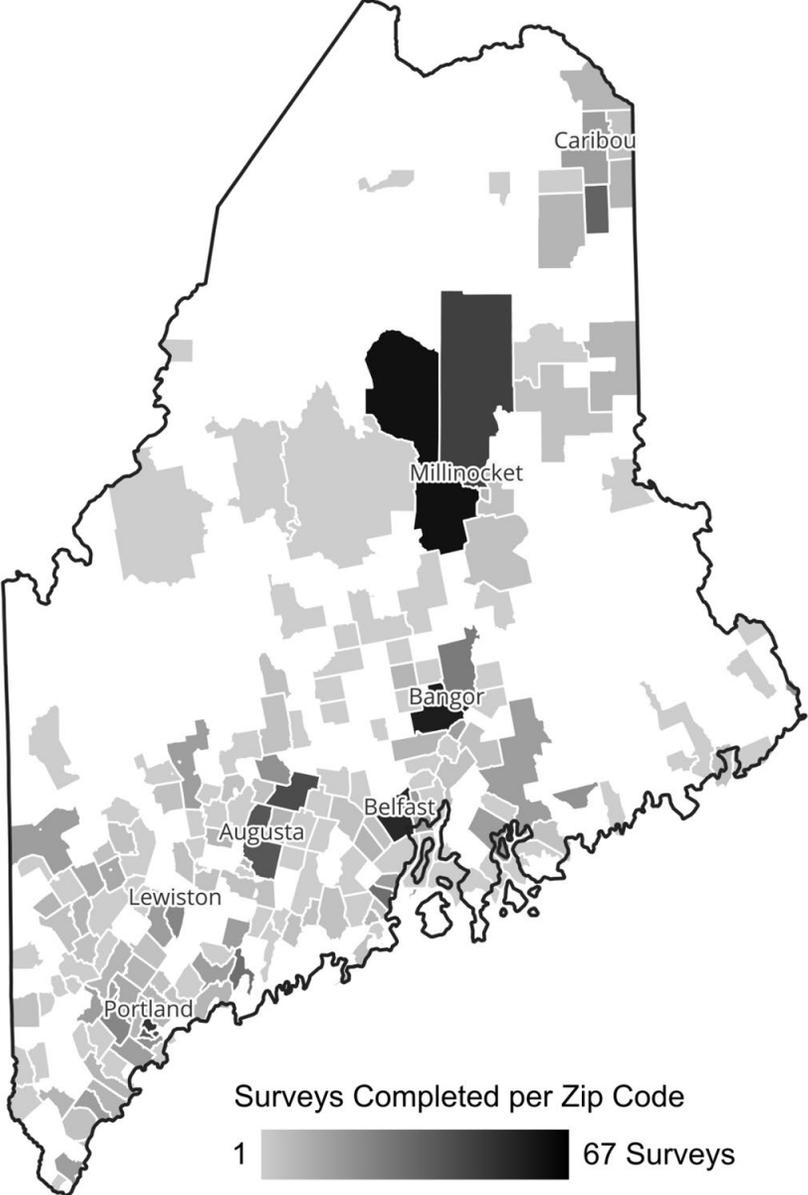
Round 2 Engagements

- UMaine Mitchell Center (MCSS)
- Maine Environmental Education Association (MEEA)
- Center for an Ecology-Based Economy (CEBE)
- Community Organizing Alliance (COA)
- Kennebec Valley Community Action Program (KVCAP)
- PassivhausMAINE (phME)
- Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC)
- A Climate to Thrive (ACTT)
- Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP)
- Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI)
- Island Institute (II)
- Islesford Boatworks (IB)
- Maine People's Alliance (MPA)
- Maine Multicultural Center (MMC)
- York Ready for Climate Action (YRCA)

Maine Community Alternative Energy Survey



(568 total responses; some respondents identified as more than one disadvantaged community).



Right Now

HOW these takeaways are incorporated into the final Maine Won't Wait update is very important in **gaining trust** – they need to be incorporated into the heart of the plan, not alongside it

Elevate strategies that intersect with basic needs: **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

Maine Public | By Irwin Gratz

Published March 20, 2018 at 2:05 PM EDT



Irwin Gratz / Maine Public

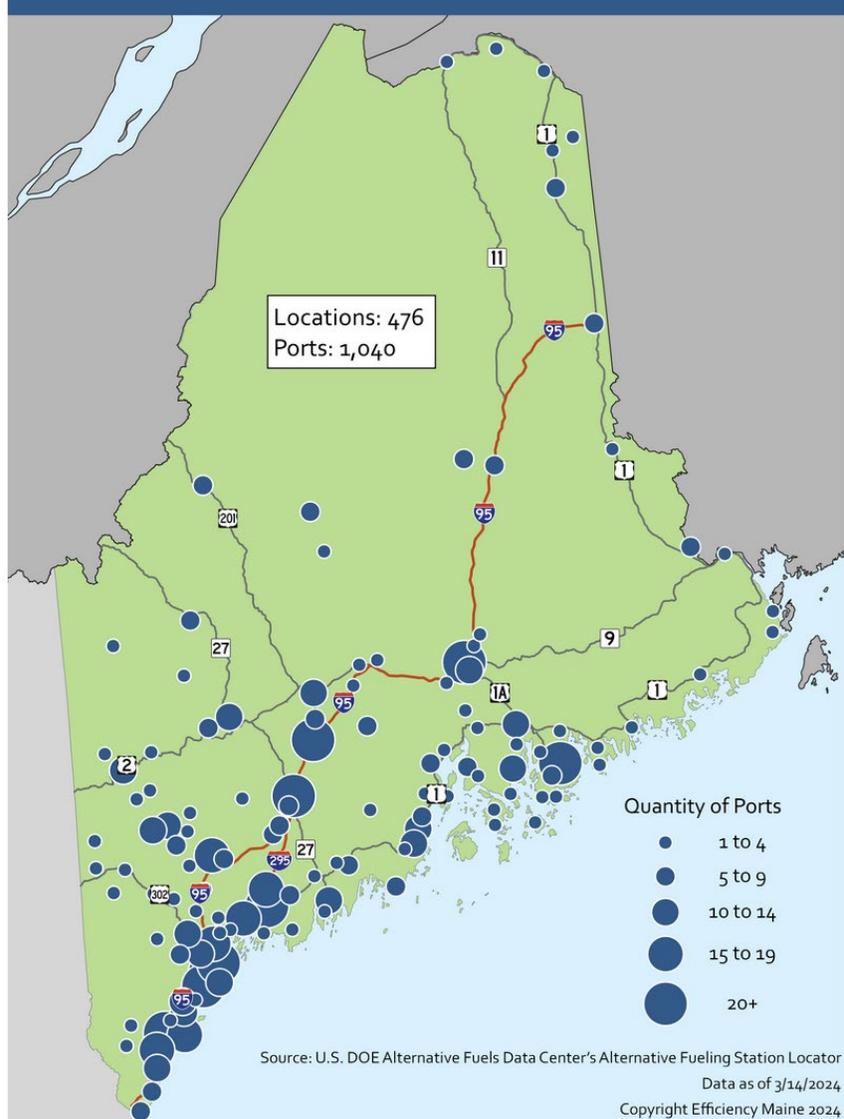
“Let's fund public transit WAY more. Unfair how much money ends up in the highway fund and how little is available for public transit.”

- *Farmer in Western Maine*

A demonstration all-electric bus took a drive around downtown Portland Tuesday.

Address many concerns about all-electric passenger vehicles

Distribution of All Level 2 and Level 3 Public EV Charging in Maine



- Charging cost (road vs home)
- Upfront cost
- Range
- Charging time
- Battery safety
- Environmental impact
- Concerns about being stranded in a storm
- Distrust of new technology
- Options (e.g., all-wheel drive)

“Offering financial incentives to purchase an electric vehicle is a challenging way to address the climate change challenge. Poor community members struggle to make ends meet, so taking out a loan for an electric car that costs several thousand dollars isn't the best option. **Electronic public transportation is the most equitable way to combat climate change** and lessen mental health issues in places as some people are already experiencing hardship. **Giving away free electric automobiles** is another option, but that is not likely to happen.”

- Respondent to a survey implemented by the Community Organizing Alliance in Lewiston-Auburn (7/25/24)

“The electrification of passenger cars and light-duty trucks is the most impactful strategy to reduce GHG emissions in the transportation sector”.

- p.4 Transportation Working Group Recommendations

Elevate strategies that intersect with basic needs: **HOUSING & HOME REPAIR**

“[I know] a few people with **uninsulated trailers** that are not hooked up to septic or water, or anything. I know one person **living in a retrofitted chicken barn** that was built out of cinder blocks, and that's his living space.”

- Participant from a rural community



<https://www.mecep.org/blog/rent-relief-is-needed-for-maine-to-endure-its-housing-crisis/>

“Housing, definitely. It’s hard to find and hard to navigate the system... Housing increases your safety. I was homeless for 9 months—it took a big strain on my health. **Trying to survive makes you focus only on survival and nothing else.**”

- KVCAP-led focus group discussion (8/5/2024) at LINC Wellness Center in Augusta: unhoused people, people with mental illness and substance misuse issues, & low income

Elevate strategies that intersect with basic needs: **HEATING**

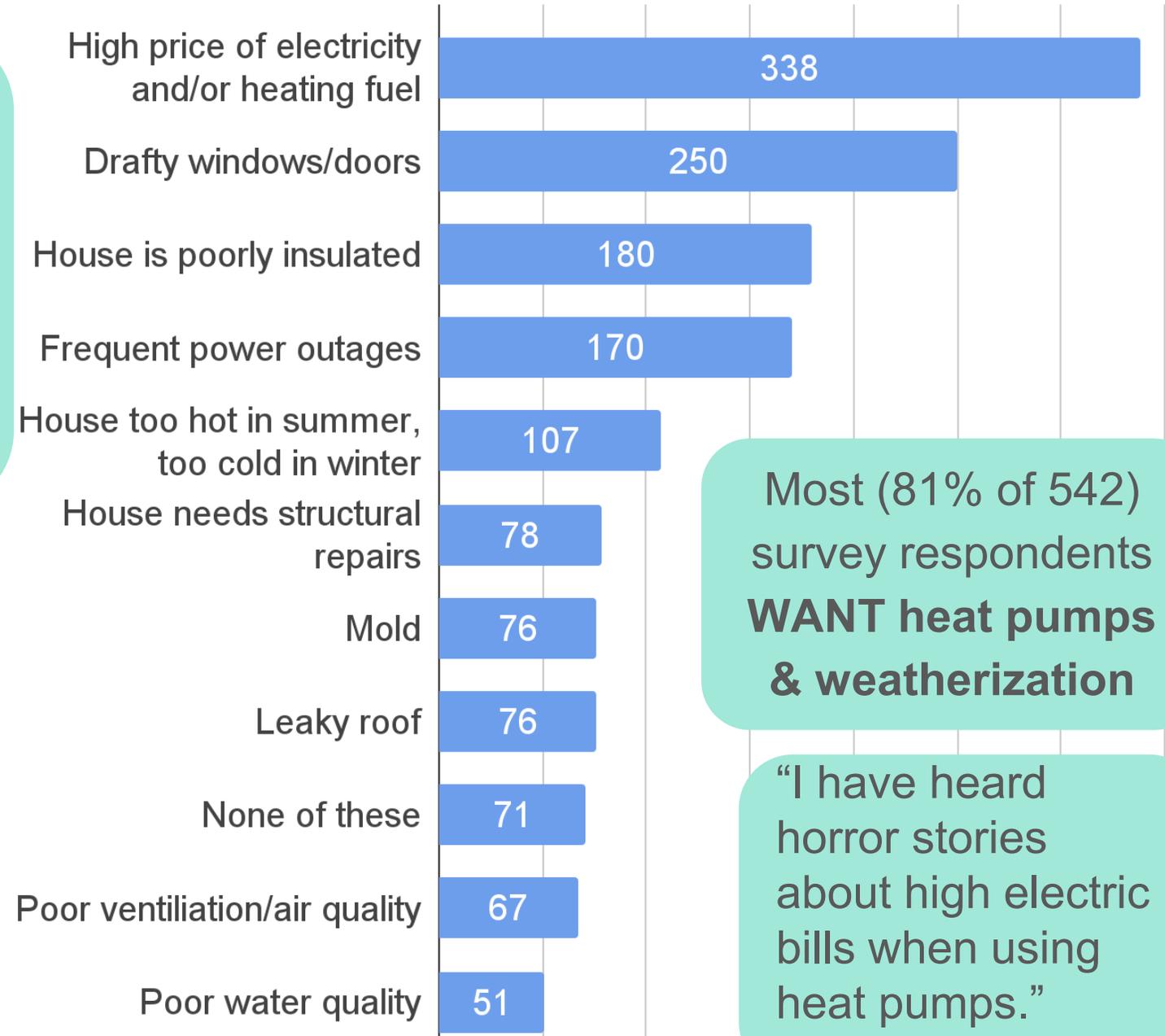
“Many of the homes in the region now have heat pumps with **great funding assistance from Efficiency Maine**. More of these types of efforts would be great.”

– *Rural resident with a disability from E. Millinocket*

“We need **more education for the immigrant communities around the HEAP and LIAP benefits**.

This is the first time I hear it, so why is there not outreach regarding these programs?”

– *Immigrant leader*



Most (81% of 542) survey respondents **WANT heat pumps & weatherization**

“I have heard horror stories about high electric bills when using heat pumps.”

– *Older Adult*

Prioritize Person-to-Person EDUCATION & CAPACITY-Building



“If people don’t know what a heat pump is and how it works, they probably aren’t using it correctly”

- Resident of a rural community

Climate
Ambassadors

Energy Coaches

Have you been wondering how to:
Save money on your heating and electric
Make your home more comfortable?
Cut your carbon footprint?
Good timing –



CLEAN ENERGY NH
Your Voice in All Energy Matters

The program supports community members in becoming effective communicators about climate change and solutions by providing an overview of climate science and impacts, solutions, and, importantly, how to effectively communicate about climate change. The ambassadors program will support residents as they tap into their unique skills and networks to take meaningful climate action and inspire others to join them. This program is for anyone, no prior knowledge or training is required.

ENERGY CIRCUIT RIDERS

An Energy Circuit Rider is a shared staff person providing services to multiple cities and towns across a region. The CENH Energy Circuit Riders help municipalities and small businesses plan, finance, and implement energy-saving upgrades to buildings and infrastructure, as well as clean energy technologies such as renewable energy or electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Working side-by-side with municipal officials and business owners, Energy Circuit Riders provide capacity and expertise to support informed decision making.

Prioritize Equity Outcome & Monitoring Metrics from the March 2023 Equity Subcommittee (ESC) Report

“The ESC recognizes that... **equity outcomes should seek to over-serve** or represent vulnerable populations.” - p. 15 ESC Report, March 2023

Table 3: Equity Outcome Metrics for Maine Won't Wait Indicators

Statewide Indicator	Equity Outcome Metrics
Energy saved via ongoing efficiency measures	Energy cost burden ³⁰ among low-income households and energy bill assistance recipients # and % weatherization and energy efficiency projects in low-income homes, and among energy bill assistance recipients # and % of affordable housing units built or renovated with clean or efficient energy technologies
Clean-energy jobs created	Geographic distribution ³¹ of clean energy jobs # and % of clean energy jobs held by priority populations ³²
Electric Vehicles (EV) on the road, Plug-in EVs, total	% of EVs owned or leased by Low-and Moderate-Income households (proxy: rebates to Low- and Moderate-Income households)

Special Considerations for **OLDER ADULTS**

- Create an Older Adult Ambassadors Program
- Consider the unique needs of older adults that **live alone**
- Disaster Plans should specify considerations for older adults & people with disabilities

Going Forward

A constant theme throughout these engagements was to start now with the 2028 Update & build on the great work and momentum already in motion

Implement a Poverty-Centered FUNDING & CAPACITY-Building Plan

“More funding is needed for weatherization, heat pumps, and **home repair** for people -to assist people who need these programs”

- Older adult in Maine Council on Aging listening session (8/6/24)

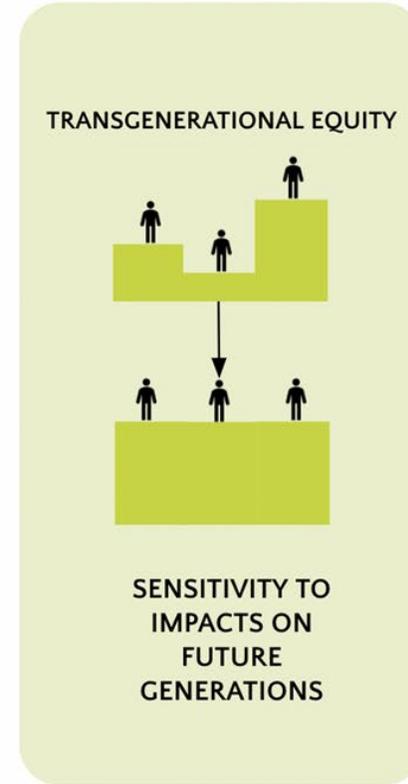
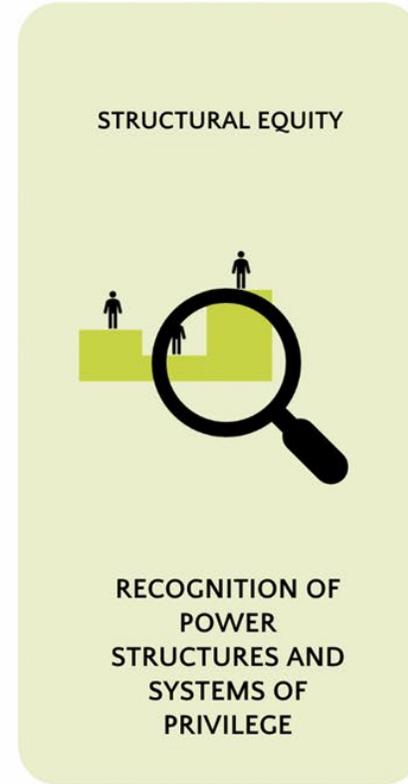
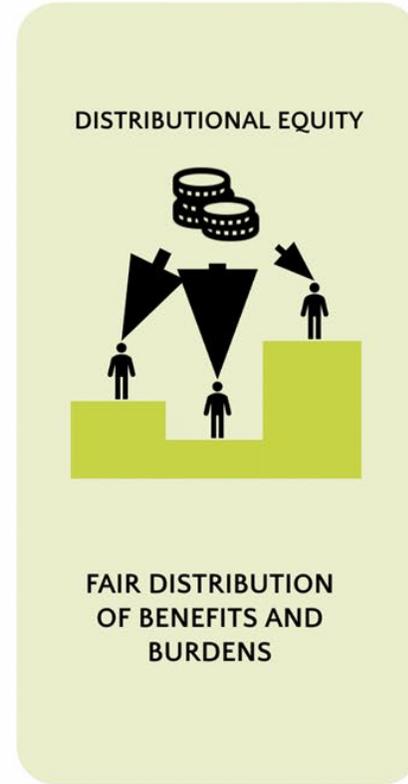
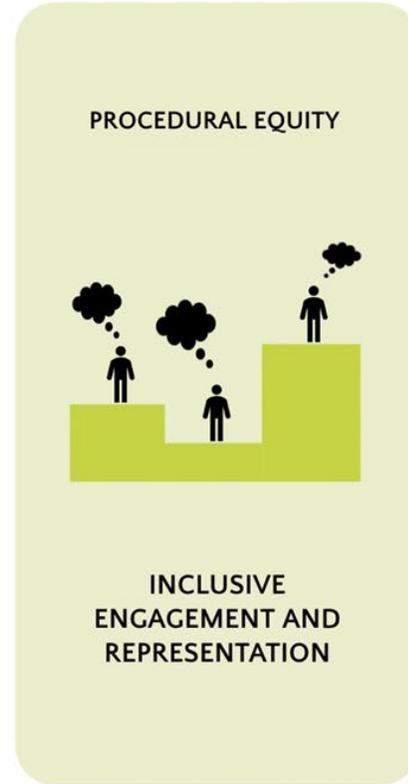
“I see climate change as deeply related to other large problems in how our economy is structured for the benefit of the few at the expense of the many. I think **information about climate change needs to always be connected with a strategy** for how to address poverty and oppression.”

- Participant with low income, Maine Survey



<https://yorkreadyforclimateaction.org/energy-coaches/>

Commit to long-term, iterative relationship-building to meet people where they are at



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Co-develop (with many partners) a strategy for addressing poverty through climate action

Meet people where they are at: Climate Change Language

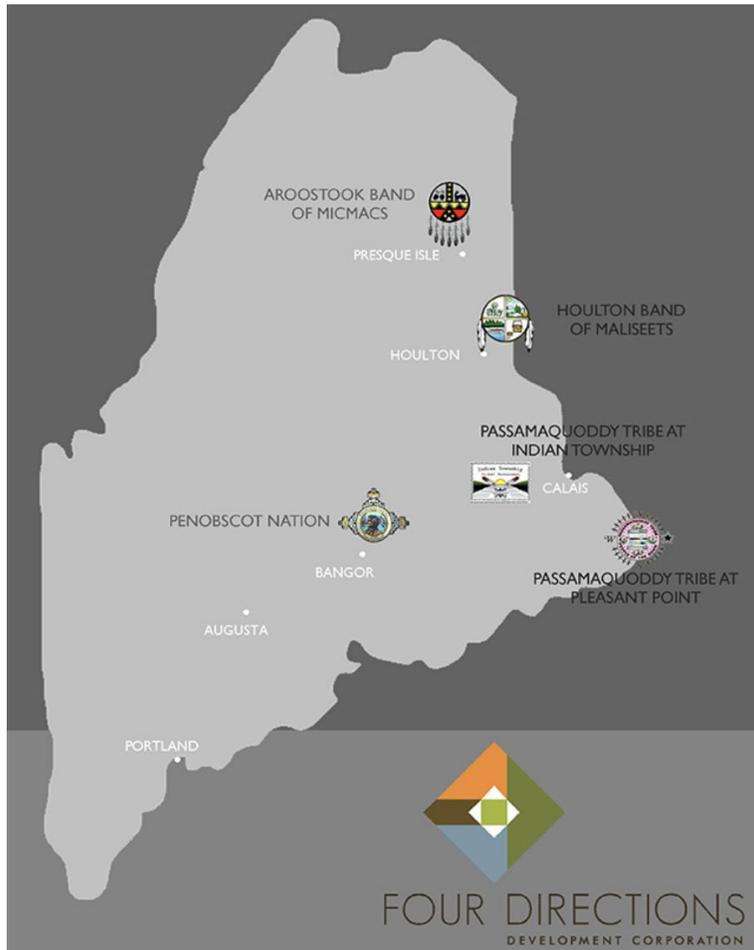
“There’s the **importance of using the language that people already use**the things that are important to them, the things that are consistent with them to kind of navigate conversations about climate change..... I think that **at the state level, there are a lot of very smart people finding the ways to have... and to inspire and navigate those conversations.**”

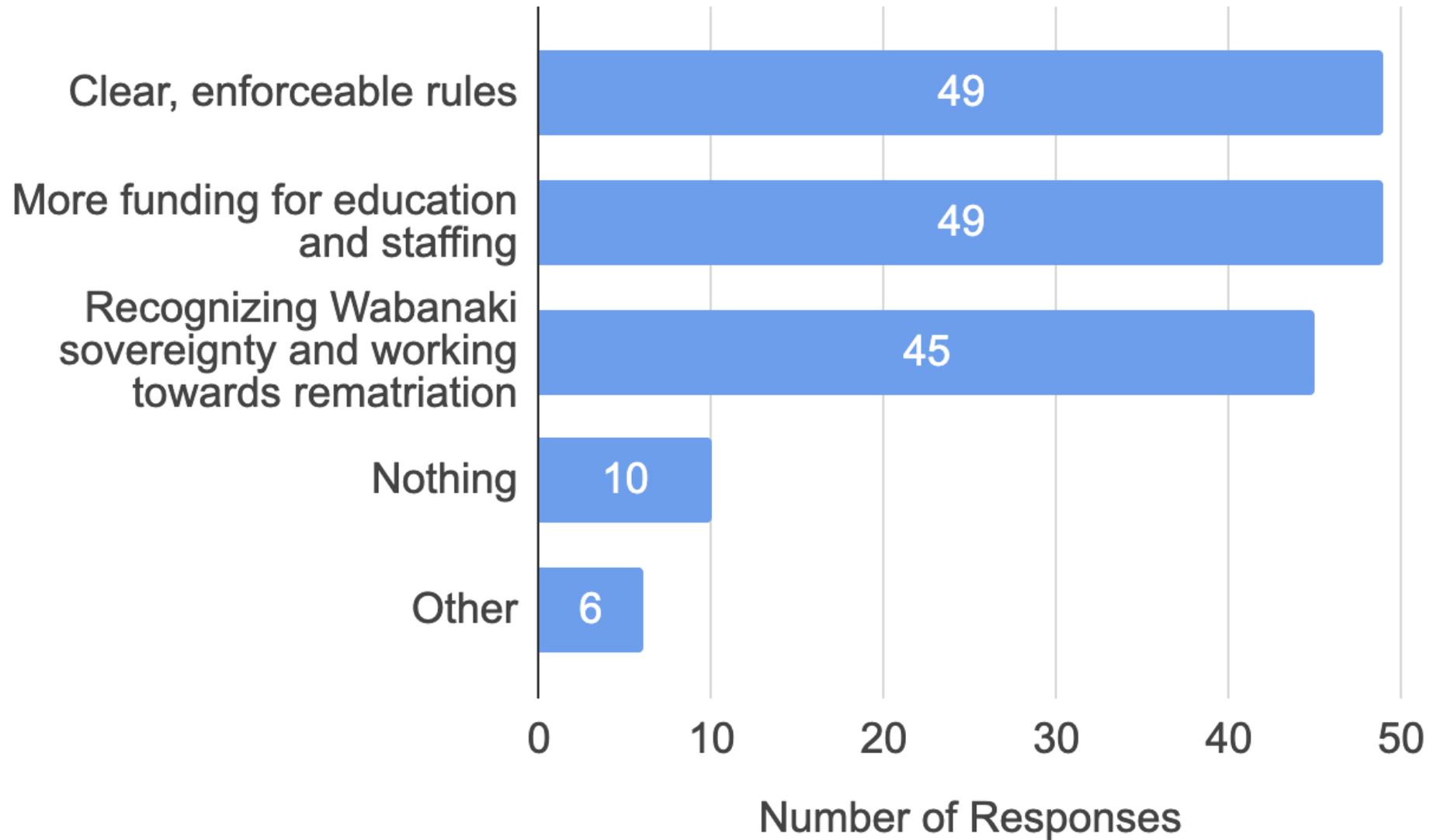
- SCEC Focus Group, 7/8/24

- 70% never involved in Climate Council activities (335 total responses)
- 69% trust info from the state or affiliate (e.g., Efficiency Maine) (542 total responses)
- 64% trust info from family/friends

Directly engage the 5 Wabanaki Governments

Align dialogue with recommendations from the 2024 Annual Report of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations





Maine Community Alternative Energy Survey responses to the question: What could be improved in terms of how these areas are protected? (83 total responses; some respondents selected more than one answer)

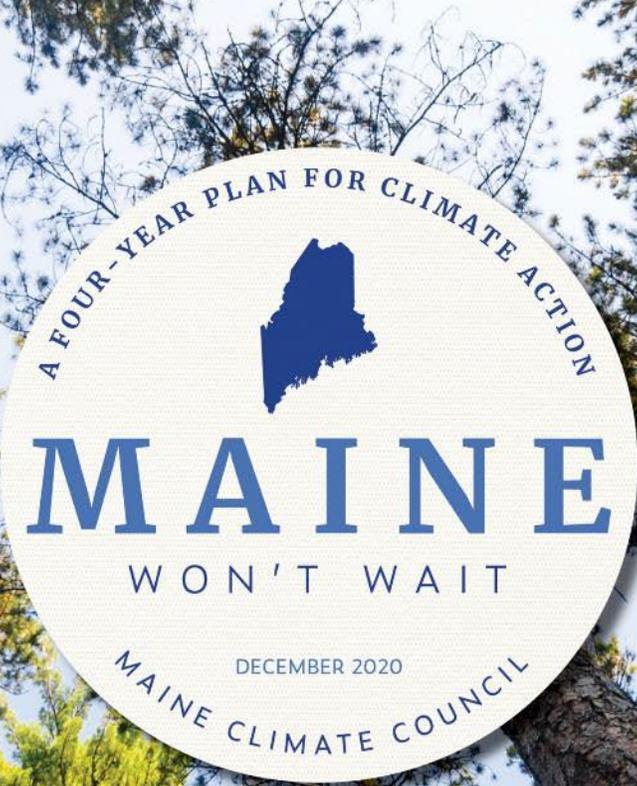
Acknowledgements

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A FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION



MAINE

WON'T WAIT

DECEMBER 2020

MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL

Break until 10:40



Equity Subcommittee Leadership - Takeaways

- Additional commitments or targets to hold the plan accountable to vulnerable Mainers
- Ensure costs are addressed to keep households whole
- Include impacted people in climate program implementation
- Invest in education and outreach
- Use accessible language



Climate Council Exercise: Responding to what we're hearing

- What are specific opportunities to adjust our strategies, recommendations or actions based on what we're hearing from the Mitchell Center and public input?



Climate Council Discussion

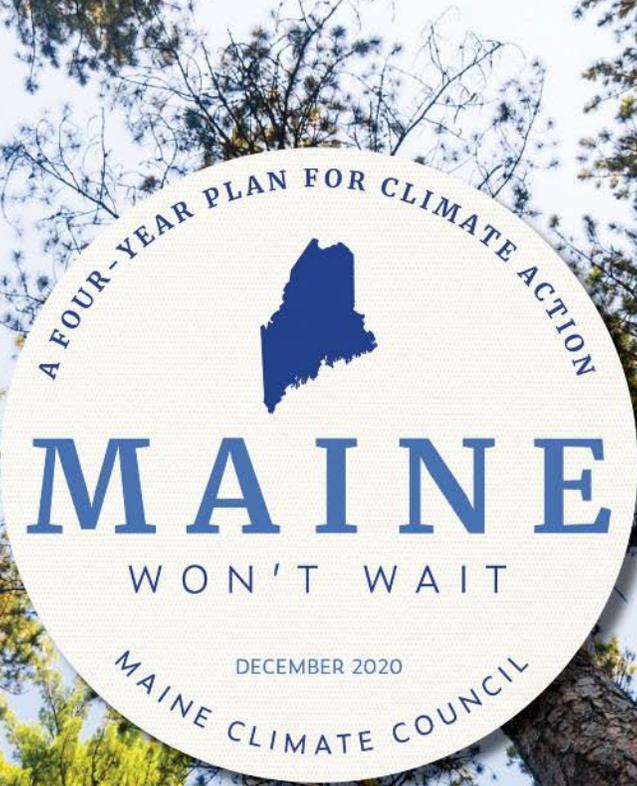
Identifying Priority Conversations



Flow of Maine Climate Council Meetings:

- **October 9:** Updated Climate Action Plan Draft posted for public comment, comments due October 21
- **October 16, 12-1pm:** Emissions modeling webinar
- **October 23, 9am-1pm:** Maine Climate Council meeting IN PERSON (Augusta)
- **October 31, 9-11am:** IF NEEDED Maine Climate Council meeting VIRTUAL
- **November 21:** Maine Climate Council meeting IN PERSON (Location TBD)





A FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION



MAINE

WON'T WAIT

DECEMBER 2020

MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL