

Maine Climate Council

March Meeting



Hannah Pingree
Council Co-chair

Melanie Loyzim
Council Co-chair



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
Policy Innovation
and the Future



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
Environmental Protection

March 28, 2025

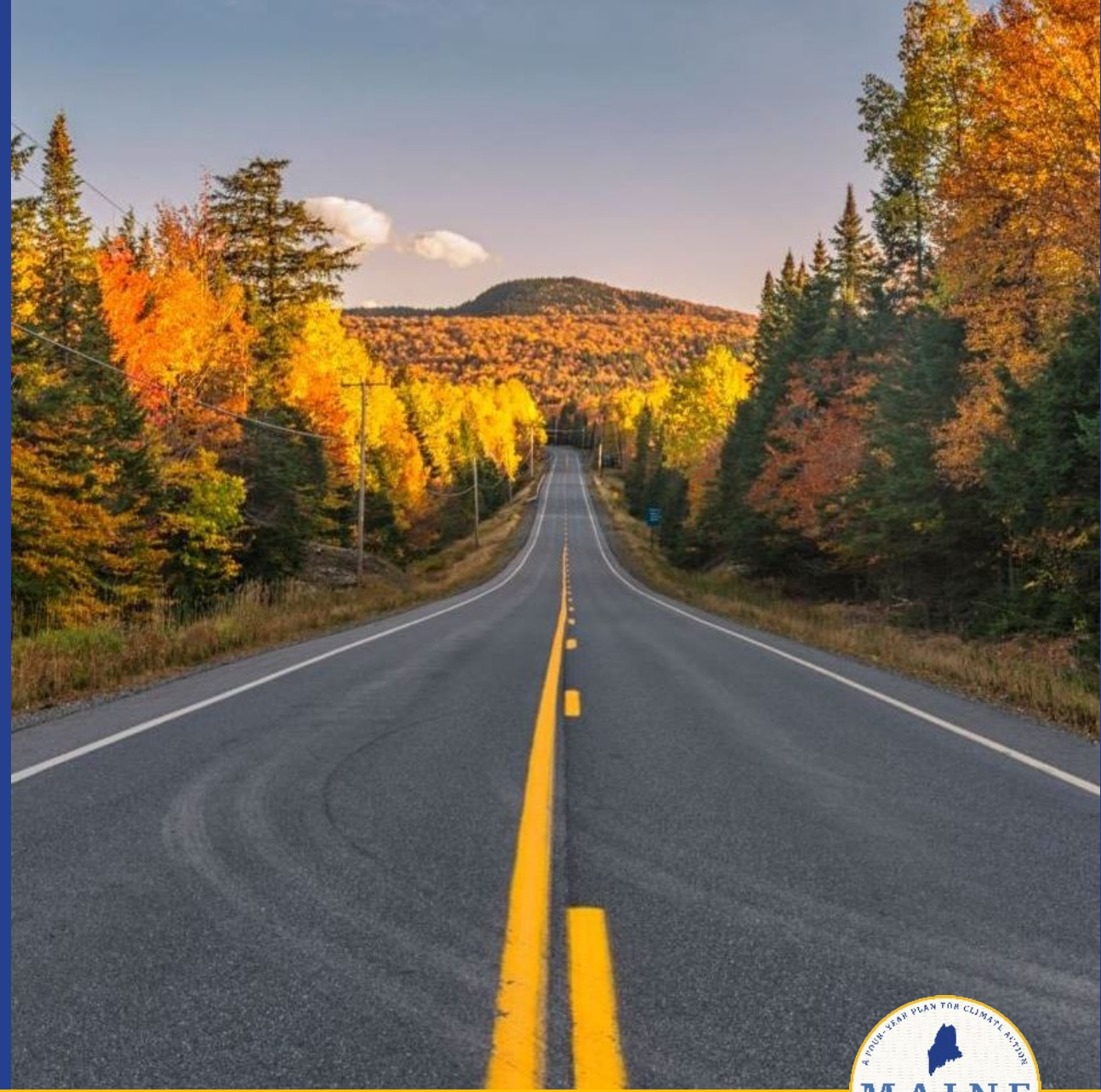
Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Resilience updates
3. Other updates
4. State Energy Plan
5. Federal funding
6. 2025 meeting schedule





Resilience Programs & Updates



Winter 2023/2024 Storm Damage



Photo credit: MaineDOT



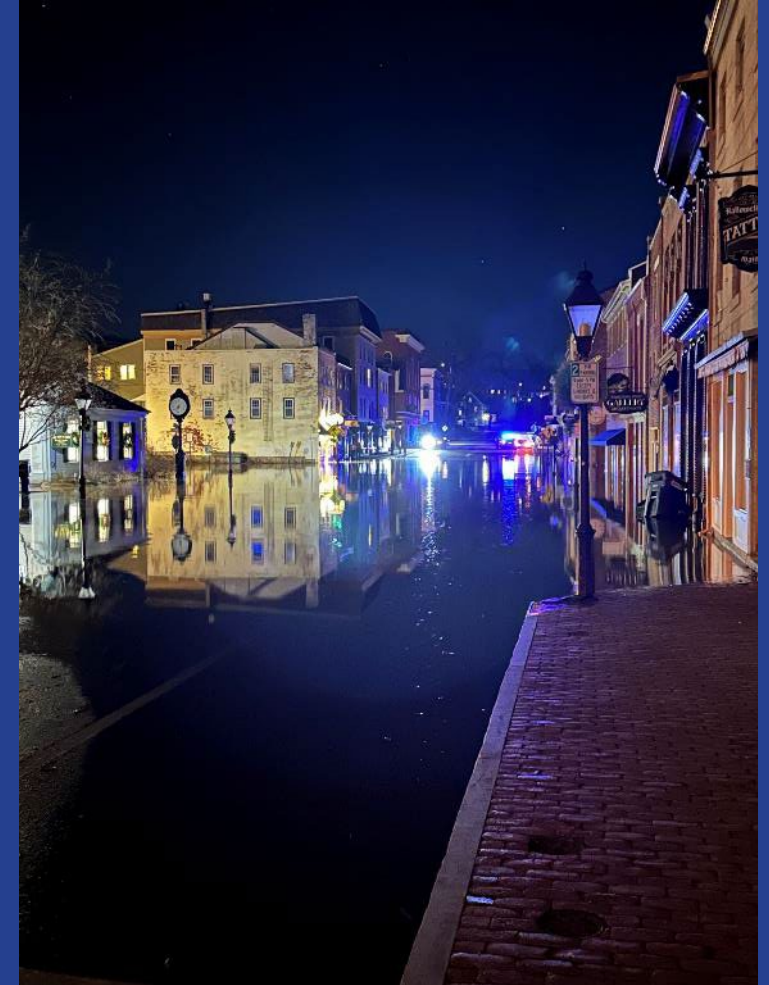
Photo credit: Maine Forest Service



Photo credit: Town of Stonington



Photo credit: DECD



Resilience Programs & Updates

1. LD1: An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes and Infrastructure
2. Update on the \$60 million storm recovery funds
3. Community Resilience Partnership
4. Infrastructure Rebuilding & Resilience Commission
5. NOAA grant - Resilient Maine projects
6. DEP Processes to advance resilience



LD1 An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes and Infrastructure

Home Resiliency Program at the Bureau of Insurance

\$15 million

- Grant program for homeowners to strengthen primary residences against severe weather damage and reduce insurance losses (\$15m)
 - For example, roof strengthening, basement floodproofing.

Funding: LD 1 is funded by existing Other Special Revenues and leverages federal funding. General Funds are not required.

Maine Emergency Management Agency

\$12 million

- One-time funding for Disaster Recovery Fund as match for FEMA recovery funds (\$10m)
- Establish a Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund (\$750k + 2yr contract/grant specialist)
- Update communications technology and early warning systems (\$800k + 2yr communications system manager)

State Resilience Office and Flood-Ready Maine Initiative

\$9.6 million

- Establish the State Resilience Office at MOCA (four 5yr positions, federally funded)
- Flood-Ready Maine initiative to improve flood models and maps and develop an online data hub (\$5.75m + geospatial data manager)
- Regional Certified Floodplain Manager initiative to increase NFIP participation (\$1.6m + program coordinator)

\$60 million for storm recovery

1. Business Recovery & Resilience Fund - \$6 million

- Round 1 - \$4 million to 109 businesses and nonprofits
- Round 2 - \$2 million to 40 businesses and nonprofits

2. Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund - \$25 million

- 43 communities
- 22 culvert replacements
- 13 road, bridge, and stormwater projects
- 4 water and wastewater facility projects

3. Working Waterfront Resilience - \$21.2 million

- 68 properties that each serve 10 or more commercial fishermen or aquaculturists
- Design, permitting, construction, 1:1 match required

2024 Maine
Infrastructure
Adaptation Fund
Recipients*

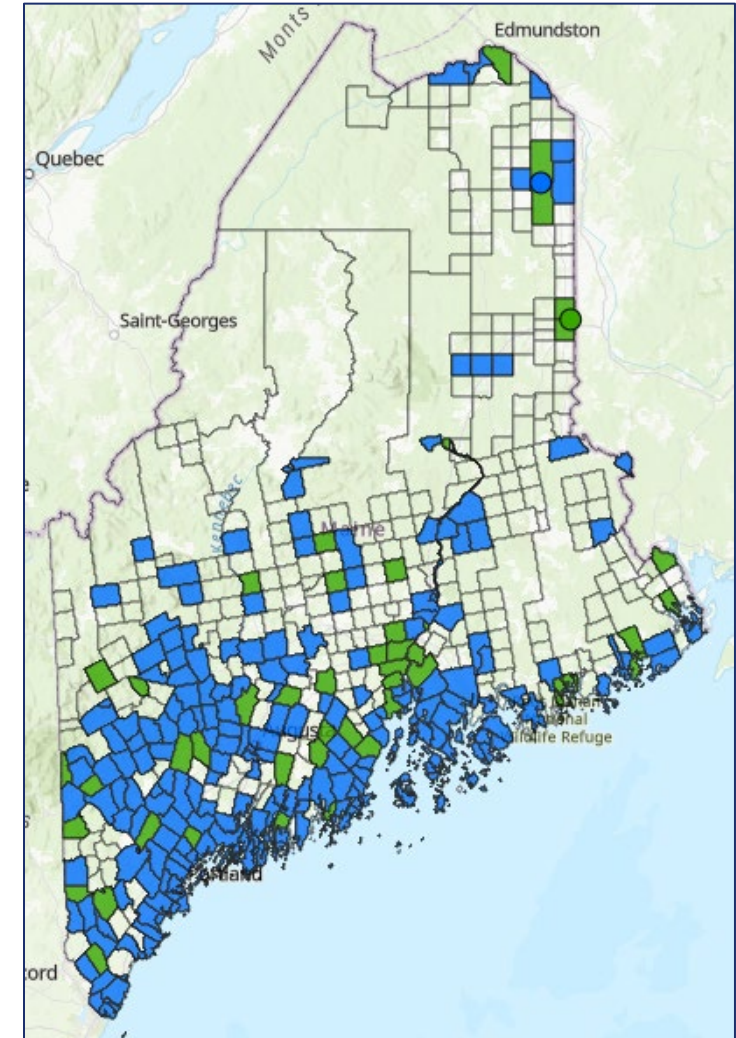


As appropriated by LD 2214

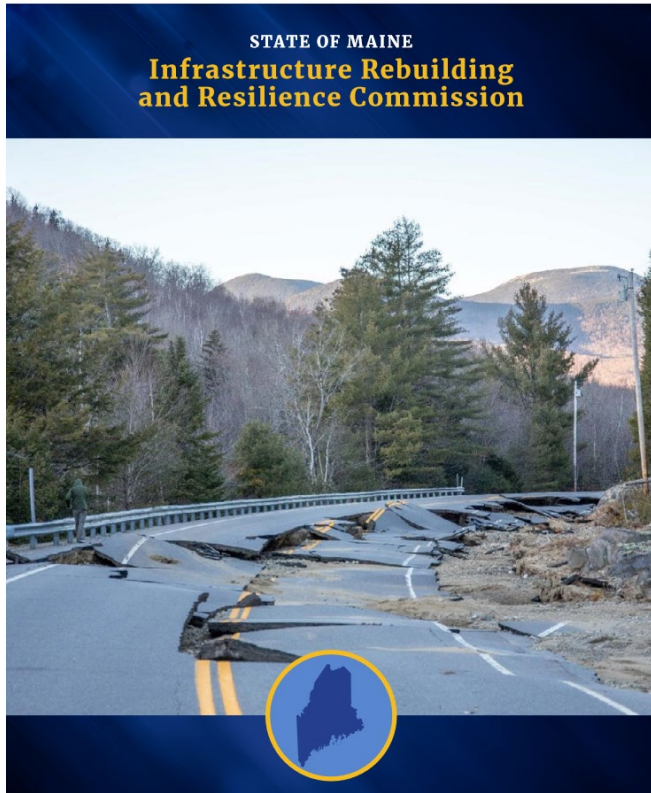


2025 Community Resilience Partnership Grants

- Goal: 80% of Maine communities by 2030
- **263 participating communities, 53% of towns**
- \$8 million available for current round
 - 102 applications
 - Awards expected in April
- Next round opens Spring/Summer 2025



Infrastructure Rebuilding & Resilience Commission (IRRC)



Focus areas

- Strengthen infrastructure resilience at the state, regional, and local levels
- Improve disaster preparation, recovery, and response
- Protect energy systems and critical community infrastructure

Deliverables

- Infrastructure plan and strategies for Governor and Legislature

Timeline

- ✓ November 15, 2024 - Interim report and recommendations
- **May 15, 2025 - Final infrastructure plan**

Interim Recommendations (November 2024)

1. Enhance **communications** during and immediately after emergencies.
2. Strengthen coordination and **rapid reaction** capabilities with the philanthropic and nonprofit sector to alleviate immediate post-disaster needs.
3. Expedite state **permitting** for post-disaster rebuilding.
4. Improve **data and information** sharing to help leaders make informed decisions about risk.
5. Identify and strengthen **critical vulnerable infrastructure**.
6. **Assist communities** to reduce risk and proactively prepare for disasters.
7. Maximize **federal funding** for disaster recovery and proactive resilience projects.
8. Improve and protect **energy infrastructure** and increase energy resilience for customers.
9. Review state and local **regulatory processes** for opportunities to advance resilience and efficient post-disaster rebuilding.
10. Build **long-term analytical capabilities** for understanding and communicating about risk.
11. Develop **funding and financing** strategies for long-term resilience needs.
12. Explore options for **buildings** and infrastructure to become more resilient.



IRRC Timeline

February/March - Small groups

1. Vulnerable Infrastructure Prioritization and Working Waterfront Stakeholder Group
2. Workforce, Business Development, and Municipal Capacity
3. Permitting & Building Codes
4. Funding & Financing for Resilience Projects

April - Draft infrastructure plan

May - Issue final infrastructure plan



\$69M NOAA grant – Resilient Maine

Build Enduring
Community Resiliency
\$35.2M



Reduce Climate Impacts
through Nature-based
Solutions and
Investments in Green
Infrastructure
\$19.3M



Strengthening
Resiliency of Working
Waterfront
Communities
\$10.6M



Note: Other funds within the grant are for grant coordination within the new State Resiliency Office.

NOAA Resilient Maine – Progress Updates

Milestones

- ✓ Task 1.1 – Increase CRP participation to 225 communities (now 262)
- ✓ Task 1.2 – Regional Coordinator functions filled at all 10 regional councils and Maine Service Fellows placed in five host communities

Upcoming Priorities (partial list!)

- Tasks 1.3 – CRP grant awards and preparing next grant round
- Task 2.1.g – DEP workshopping “Our Shore” design book for living shorelines and coastal bluffs
- Task 2.2 – DACF to launch new Shore Corps Stewards program (Maine Conversation Corps)
- Task 3.3 – Onboarding new co-chairs of the Seafood Economic Accelerator (SEA Maine)

Maine Office of Community Affairs

Samantha Horn, Director



MAINE OFFICE OF
**Community
Affairs**

March 28, 2025

MOCA's Mission

- **Make it easier for communities to find and make use of state planning and resilience resources**
- **Improve and align state programs so that they better achieve the intended results**
- **Partner with other organizations in ways that foster success for communities**

"The Maine Office of Community Affairs is established as an agency in the executive branch to **foster communications and partnerships between the State and communities in this State.** The office shall engage with municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils to **provide coordinated and efficient planning, technical assistance and financial support** to better plan for challenges, pursue solutions and create stronger, more resilient communities."

MOCA Programs

Proposed to be Created

- State Resilience Office (NOAA funded)
- Flood Ready Maine (in State Resilience Office)

Existing, proposed to move

- [Housing Opportunity Program](#) (DECD)
- [Municipal Planning Assistance Program](#) (DACF)
- [Community Resilience Partnership](#) (GOPIF)
- [Maine Floodplain Management Program](#) (DACF)
- [Maine Coastal Program](#) (DMR)
- [Volunteer Maine](#) (DOE)
- [MUBEC/ Code Enforcement](#) (Fire Marshal)

State Resilience Office and the Flood Ready Maine program: Proposed in LD 1

Moves of existing programs: Biennial Budget, part D

Opportunities

By coordinating programs and improving our offerings, we can:

- Provide a one-stop shop for communities
- Align incentives and policies to achieve more consistent results
- Reduce administrative burden on communities and service providers

Sample Initiatives that we are exploring:

- Searchable database to bring grant opportunities together in one place
- Collaborations with other agencies to provide multi-agency pre-application input
- Combine grant programs with a common application form
- Work with regional organizations and nonprofits to bring service delivery closer to the community
- Referral service to provide a “warm handoff” to get community officials and volunteers to the right person the first time
- Create technical assistance materials to address the housing crisis and other key municipal needs

Thank you

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MAINE OFFICE OF
**Community
Affairs**



Supporting Resilience through Streamlined Permitting

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Protecting Maine's Air, Land and Water

Maine Environmental Licensing System



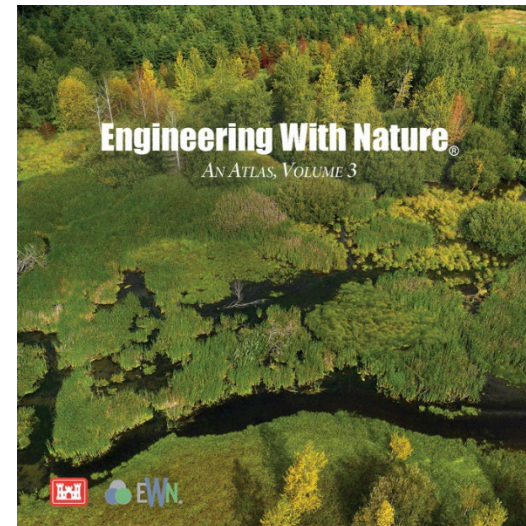
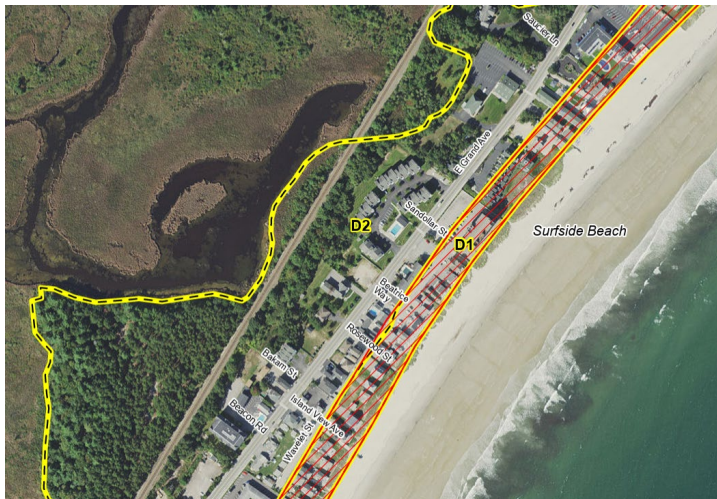
<https://mels.maine.gov>

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Protecting Maine's Air, Land and Water

Simplifying Permitting

- Outsourcing permit application reviews
- Expand options for Permit-by-Rule
- Clearer standards for resource protection
- Use best available science and publicly accessible tools



Shoreline Stabilization Proposed Rule Changes

- Projects allowed through permit-by-rule (Ch. 305):
 - Biodegradable materials for sand dune restoration
 - Beach scraping
 - Increasing seawall up to base flood elevation (except in sand dune system)
- Limit use of riprap and hard armoring when not protecting structures or infrastructure (Ch. 310)

<https://www.maine.gov/dep/rules/index.html>

Other Maine Climate Council Updates



MAINE GOVERNOR'S
Energy Office

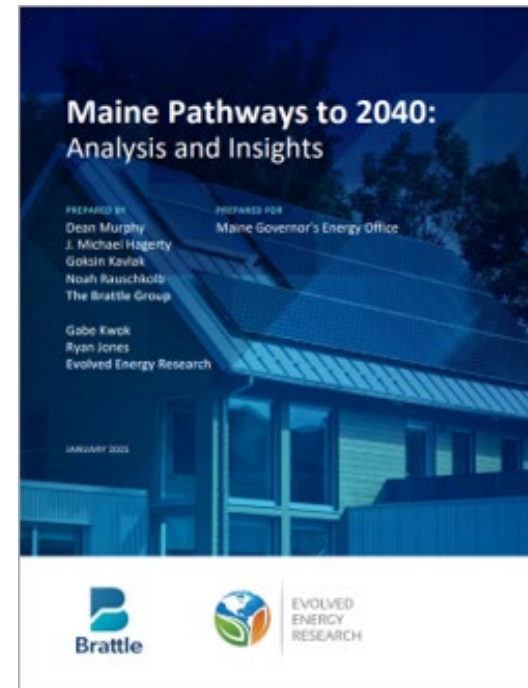
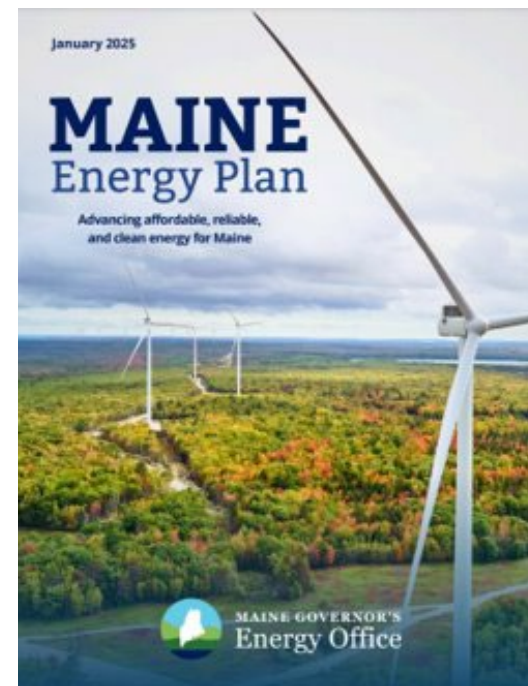
Maine Energy Plan & Clean Energy Industry Report

Maine Climate Council Meeting | March 28, 2025

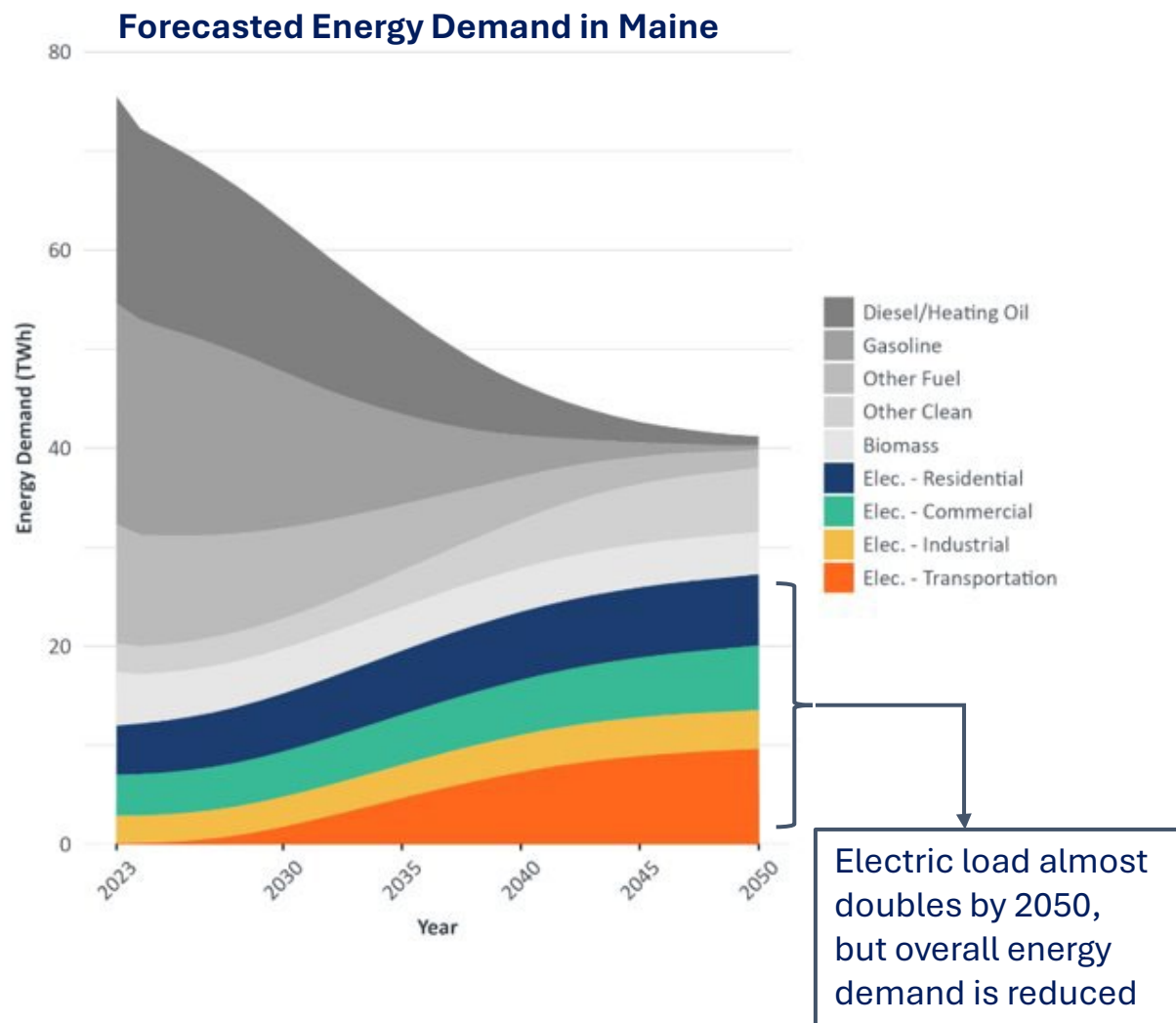
Dan Burgess, *Director*

Maine Energy Plan

- Per statute, the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) is required to develop a state energy plan and update it every 2 years
- In 2023, Governor Mills directed GEO to develop a pathway to achieve Maine's goal of **100 percent clean energy by 2040**
- Culmination of an 18-month stakeholder process
 - 5 public webinars, multiple opportunities for public comment, stakeholder meetings
- Built upon the technical analysis and modeling in the "Pathways to 2040" report
- Aligned with the 2020 Maine Won't Wait Climate Plan and coordinated with the objectives of the state's 10-Year Economic Plan and the Maine Infrastructure Rebuilding and Resilience Commission



The “Pathway to 2040” technical report modeling was grounded in the 2020 Maine Won’t Wait Climate Plan



First-of-its-kind hourly modeling of electric load growth in Maine

Key Takeaways

- 100% clean energy by 2040 is **achievable, beneficial, and results in reduced energy costs** across the economy
- Electrification; diversity of supply are key to ensuring more affordable, reliable, clean energy for Maine
- Key considerations:
 - Innovation; emerging technologies and applications for load flexibility

Maine Energy Plan Objectives



A

Deliver
affordable
energy for
Maine people
and
businesses



B

Ensure Maine's
energy systems
are reliable and
resilient in the
face of growing
challenges



C

Responsibly
advance clean
energy



D

Deploy efficient
technologies to
reduce energy
costs



E

Expand clean
energy career
opportunities
for Maine
people and
advance
innovation



MAINE GOVERNOR'S
Energy Office

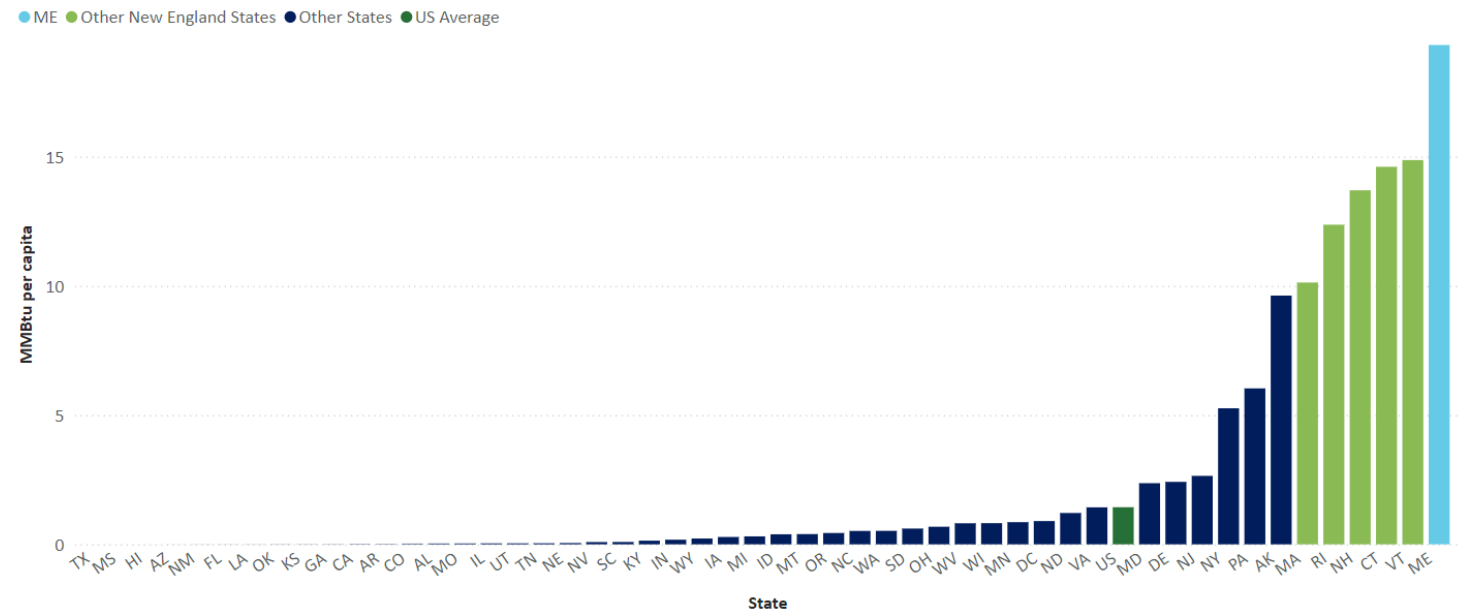
Objective A: Deliver affordable energy for Maine people and businesses

Strategy A: Reduce Maine's dependence on imported fossil fuels for heating and electricity

Strategy B: Reduce energy burden for low- and moderate-income households

Strategy C: Review existing approaches to identify additional electricity cost control opportunities

Distillate fuel oil (e.g., heating oil) consumed by the residential sector by location (2022)



Objective B: Ensure Maine's energy systems are reliable and resilient in the face of growing challenges

Strategy A: Establish ambitious, data-driven targets for energy resilience

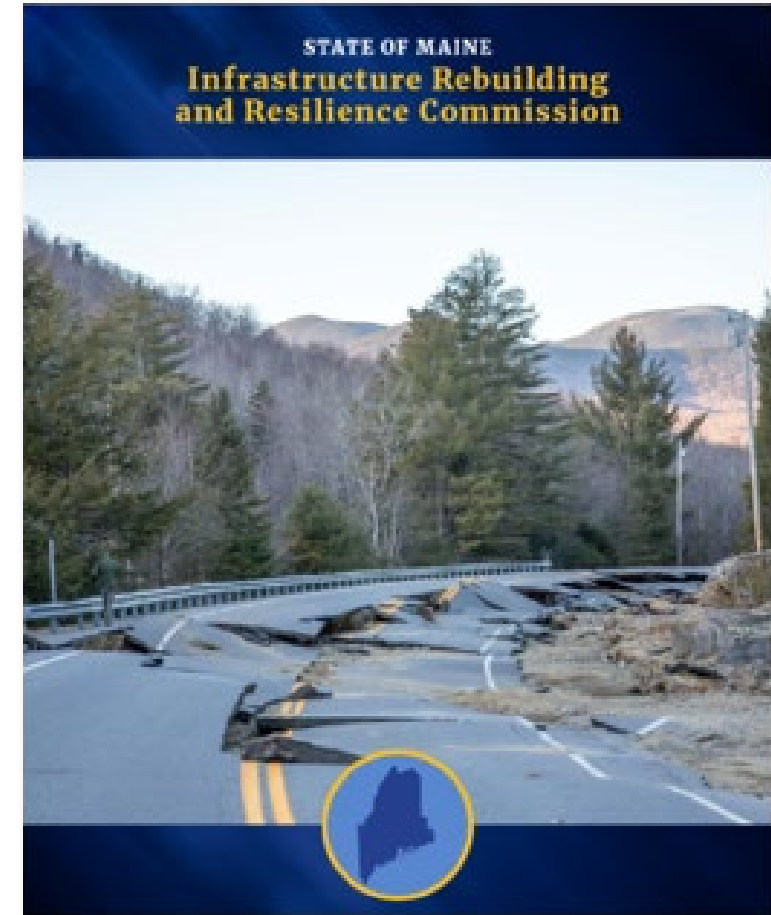
Strategy B: Increase coordination and information-sharing across energy-related emergency management and resilience entities

Strategy C: Deploy targeted resources to advance innovative and modern resilient solutions including microgrids

Strategy D: Leverage innovative technologies including energy storage to increase resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Strategy E: Strengthen planning and engagement by utilities to identify and address climate and resilience threats cost-effectively.

Strategy F: Advance partnerships and coordination to enhance Maine's energy security and maximize relevant federal and other funding opportunities.



Objective C: Responsibly advance clean energy

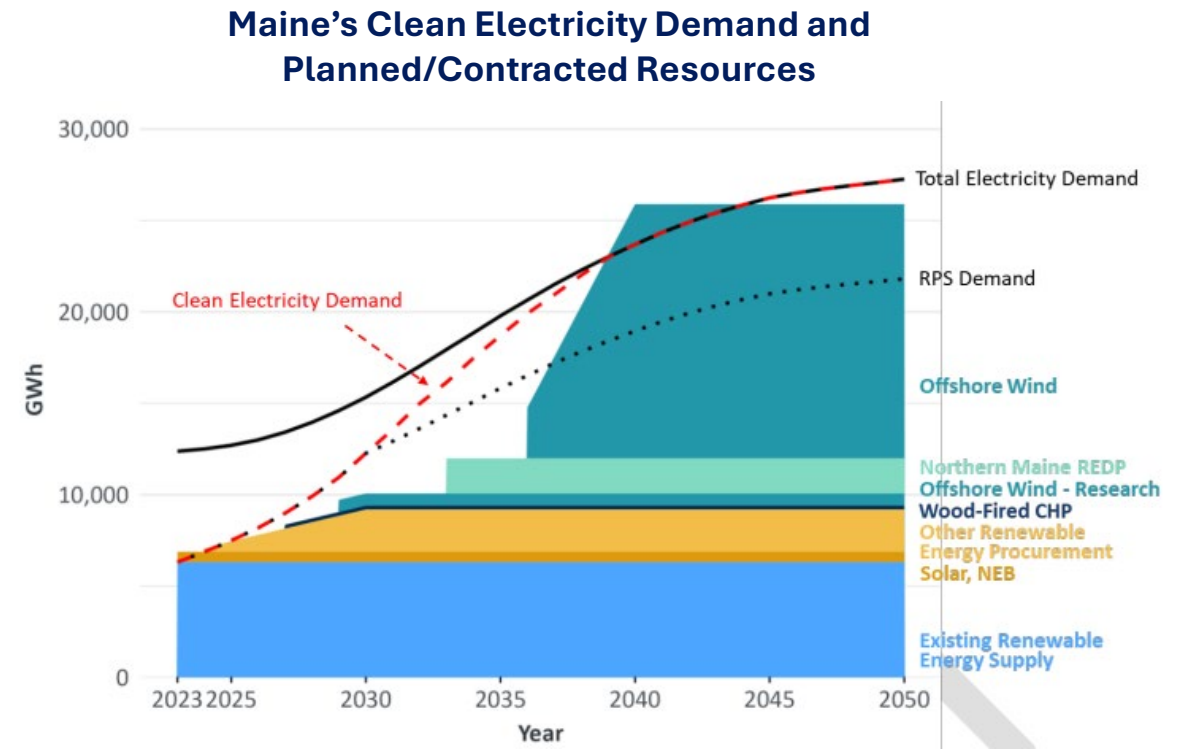
Strategy A: Establish a new Clean Energy Standard (CES) to ensure all Maine people have affordable access to 100% clean energy by 2040.

Strategy B: Establish a regular schedule of competitive energy purchases

Strategy C: Advance responsible deployment of offshore wind energy

Strategy D: Advance efficient, necessary infrastructure to modernize Maine's energy systems

Strategy E: Coordinate and collaborate regionally to maximize benefits and achieve shared goals



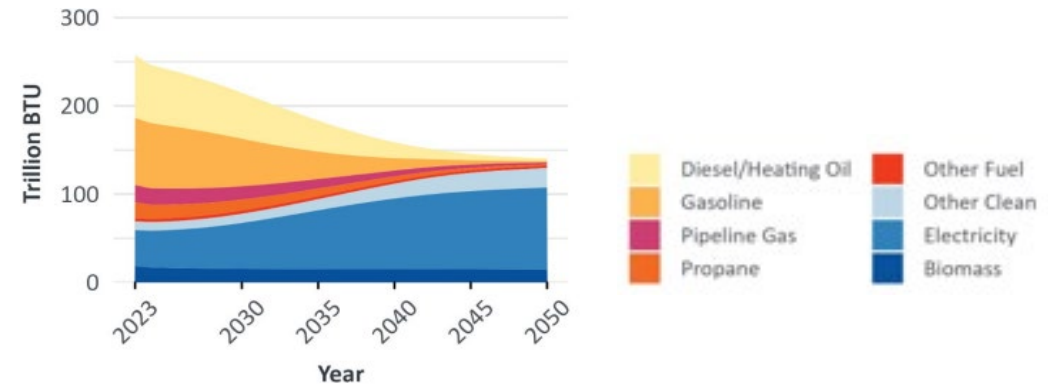
Objective D: Deploy efficient technologies to reduce energy costs

Strategy A: Advance beneficial electrification and weatherization to reduce energy costs and increase overall grid efficiency

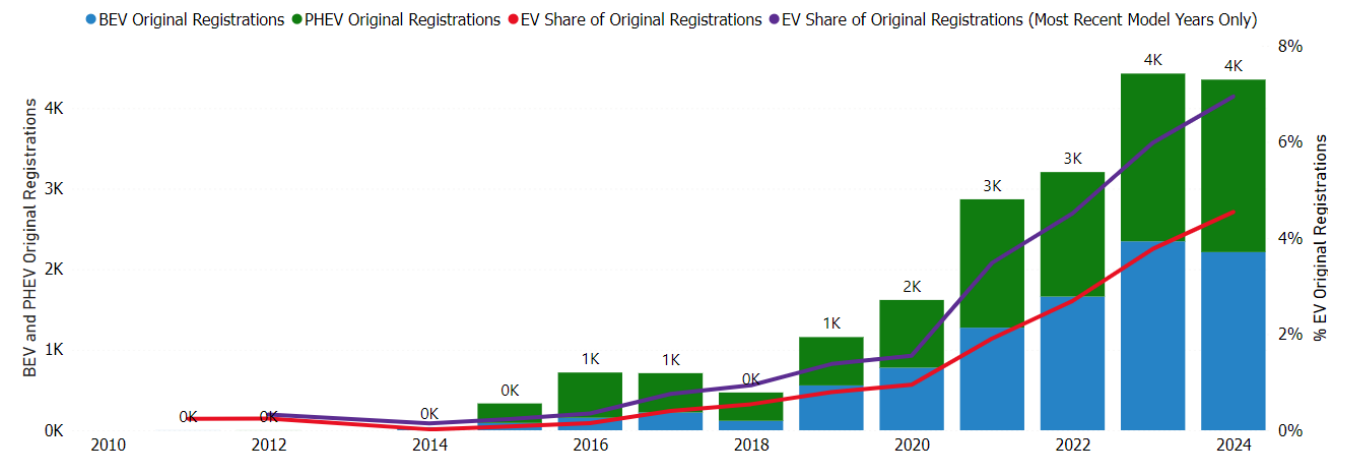
Strategy B: Leverage electrified technologies to unlock grid benefits to consumers

Strategy C: Expand Maine's EV charging network

Forecasted Overall Energy Use in Maine



Registrations of EVs and plug-in hybrids in Maine



Objective E: Expand clean energy career opportunities for Maine people and advance innovation

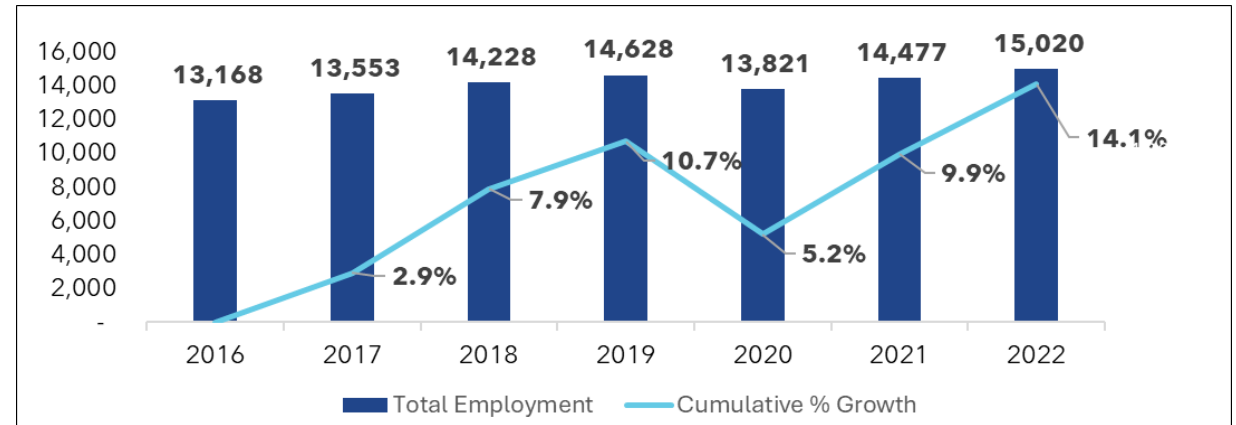
Strategy A: Raise awareness of clean energy careers and connect employers to the local workforce through the Clean Energy Partnership

Strategy B: Advance clean energy curricula development, technical training, and experiential learning

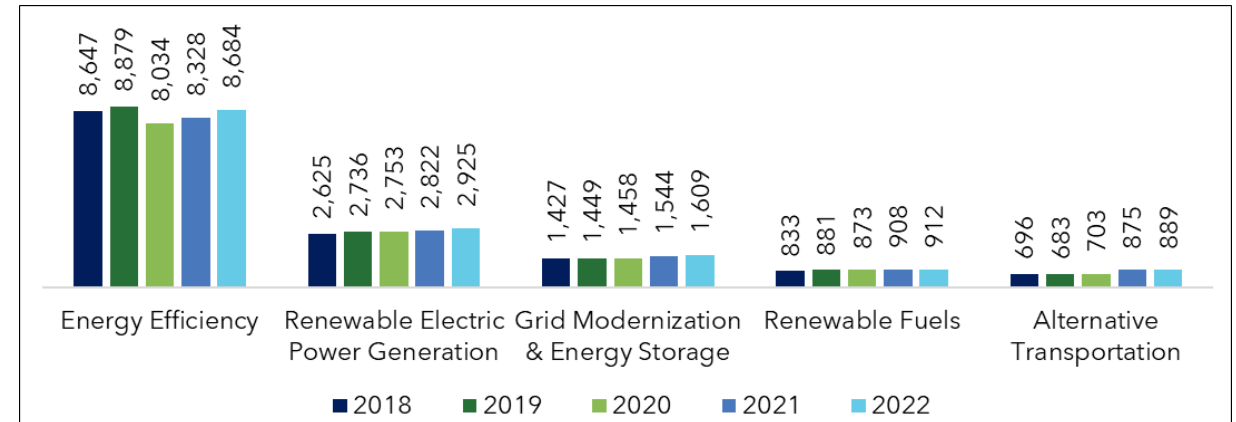
Strategy C: Coordinate with educational institutions, technical and vocational training centers, labor unions, and employers to expand and promote clean energy career pathways

Strategy D: Expand pilot programs, technical assistance, and funding for clean energy innovation and foster partnerships with research, education, and innovation institutions and the private sector to advance clean energy innovation

Clean Energy Job Growth in Maine



Clean Energy Jobs in Maine by Sector



**Clean energy jobs
have surpassed
15,5000 and the
sector contributes
nearly \$3 billion to
Maine's economy
annually.**

www.maine-clean-energy-jobs.com



MAINE GOVERNOR'S
Energy Office

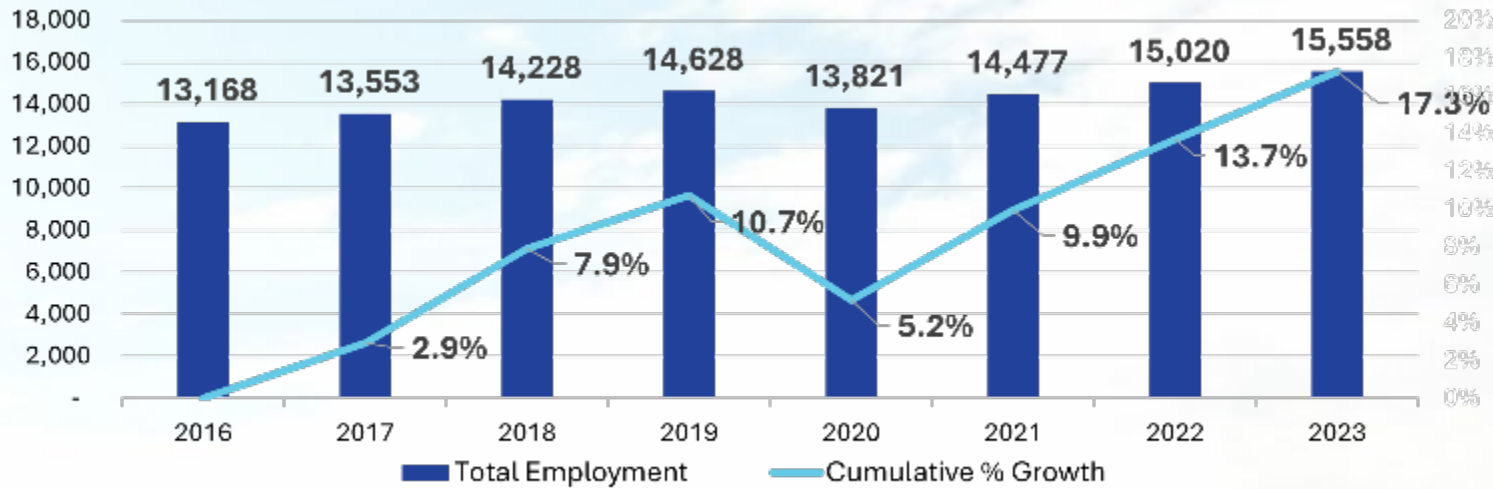
2024 MAINE

CLEAN ENERGY

INDUSTRY REPORT



Growing Maine Clean Energy Careers



15,558
*Clean Energy
Workers in 2023*

4%
*+538 jobs
Job Growth from
2022 - 2023*



MAINE GOVERNOR'S
Energy Office



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Energy Office

Thank You

dan.burgess@maine.gov

www.maine.gov/energy

**Sign up for the
GEO email
newsletter**



Break (5 minutes)

Federal Funding Update

2025 Maine Climate Council Meetings

- Tuesday, June 10, 9AM-12PM - TBD
- Thursday, September 25, 9AM-12PM - TBD
- Monday, December 1, 1PM-4PM - TBD

Working Groups: Meet 2x/year to monitor climate plan progress and implementation.



