## Maine Climate Council

### June Meeting



Melanie Loyzim Council Co-chair

Sarah Curran Council Co-chair



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF Policy Innovation and the Future



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

June 10, 2025

OUR YEAR PLAN FOR CLIMA PE

MAINE

WON'T WAIT

A AINE CLIMATE COUNCIL



- 1. Welcome
- 2. Key updates
- 3. Resilience programs
- 4. Efficiency Maine Triennial Plan
- 5. Scientific and Technical Subcommittee update
- 6. Upcoming meetings

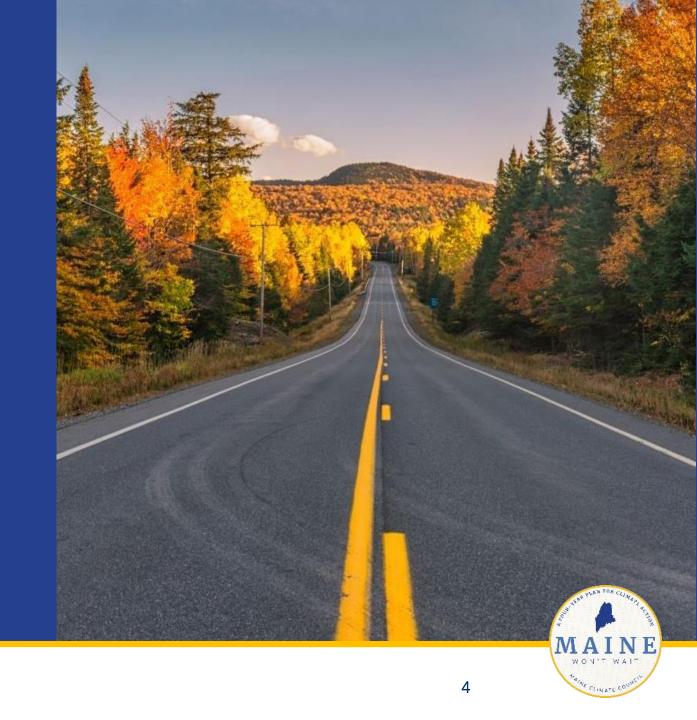


## Federal updates



## Resilience Programs & Updates

Brian Ambrette Director, State Resilience Office Maine Office of Community Affairs



### **Resilience Programs & Updates**

- 1. State Resilience Office Maine Office of Community Affairs
- 2. LD1: An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes and Infrastructure
- 3. Community Resilience Partnership
- 4. Infrastructure Rebuilding & Resilience Commission
- 5. NOAA grant Resilient Maine projects



## **MOCA Programs**

#### New programs created

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

### Existing, proposed to move

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

State Resilience Office and the Flood Ready Maine program: Established by LD 1

Biennial Budget, part D moves existing programs



## 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)

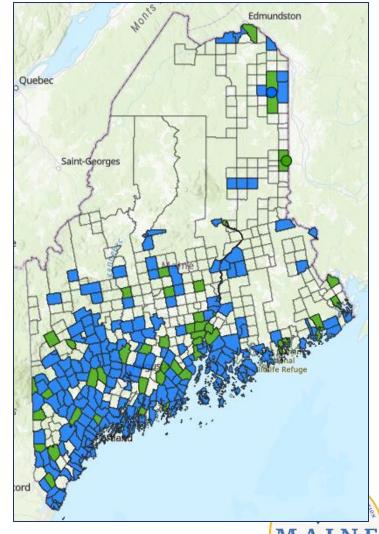
#### State Resilience Office and Flood-Ready Maine Initiative \$9.6 million

- 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)



## **2025 Community Resilience Partnership Grants**

- Goal: 80% of Maine communities by 2030
- > 263 participating communities, 53% of towns
- > \$8 million awarded on May 1
  - Projects in 166 communities
  - Largest grant round to date





## **Community Action Grant Round 6 Applications Now Open**

**Eligibility:** All enrolled communities are eligible for apply. Enrollment materials can be submitted simultaneously with a grant application.

Available Funding: \$4.7 million

**Max Grant Award:** \$75,000 for individual communities and \$175,000 for joint community projects.

**Expanded List of Community Actions:** 96 actions eligible for no-match grant funding.

Opportunity to work with a Service Provider to complete a vulnerability assessment.

### **Application Deadline: August 29, 2025**

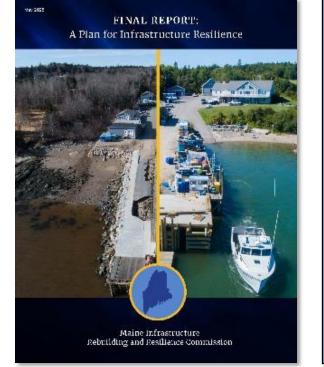
https://www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership



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### Infrastructure Rebuilding and Resilience Commission

### 2025 Infrastructure Resilience Plan: 3 Pillars, 11 strategies, 50+ actions



#### Strengthen Infrastructure and Reduce Disaster Risk

- Identify and strengthen vulnerable infrastructure
- Assist communities to reduce risk
- Increase energy resilience
- Protect working waterfronts

#### Improve Disaster Preparedness, Response & Rebuilding

- Enhance communication before and after emergencies
- Strengthen emergency coordination and rapid reaction
- Expedite permitting reforms for resilience
- Make buildings more resilient

#### Sustain Maine's Momentum though Strategic Investments

- Improve data and information sharing
- Maximize use of federal funding
- Develop long-term funding and financing strategies

### **\$69M NOAA grant - Resilient Maine**

**Build Enduring Community Resiliency** \$35.2M

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

Strengthening Resiliency of Working Waterfront Communities **\$10.6M** 





#### Maine Climate Council

June 10, 2025

**Reduce Climate Impacts** 

through Nature-based

Solutions and

Investments in Green

Infrastructure

\$19.3M



## **Triennial Plan VI**

Fiscal Years 2026-2028

Maine Climate Council Quarterly

### Major Programs

- 1. Commercial and Industrial 3. Retail & Distributor
  - **Custom Program** a.
  - **Prescriptive Initiatives** b.
- 2. Homes
  - Home Energy Savings a. Program
  - **Income-Eligible Homes** b.

- 4. Electric Vehicle Initiatives
- 5. Demand Management



### **Other Initiatives**

- 1. Non-Wires Alternatives
- 2. Thermal Energy Investment Program
- 3. School Decarbonization Program
- 4. Home Energy Score
- 5. Lead by Example

6. Efficiency Maine Green Bank

- a. Home Energy Loans
- b. Small Biz Energy Loans
- c. C-PACE

### 7. Strategic Initiatives

- a. Eval, Measurement & Verification
- b. Innovation
- c. Public Info & Outreach



### Key Features of the Plan

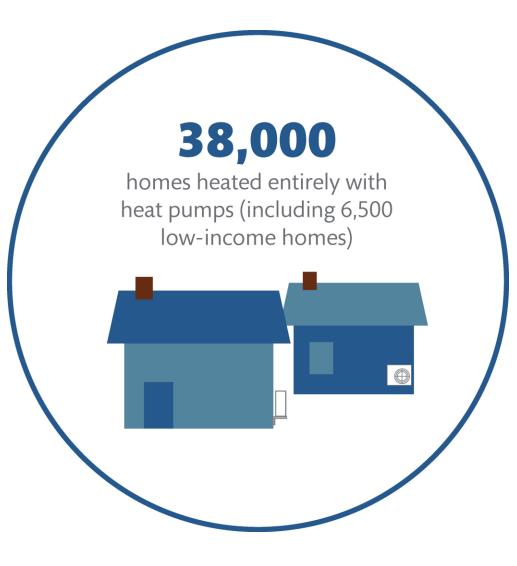
- Sustained commitment to heat pumps
- Expanded focus on low-income and multifamily
- Maintain weatherization trajectory
- Expand Efficiency Maine Green Bank
- Expand the Demand Management Program
- Targeted assistance for the EV transition



## Benefits of Triennial Plan VI – Select Metrics

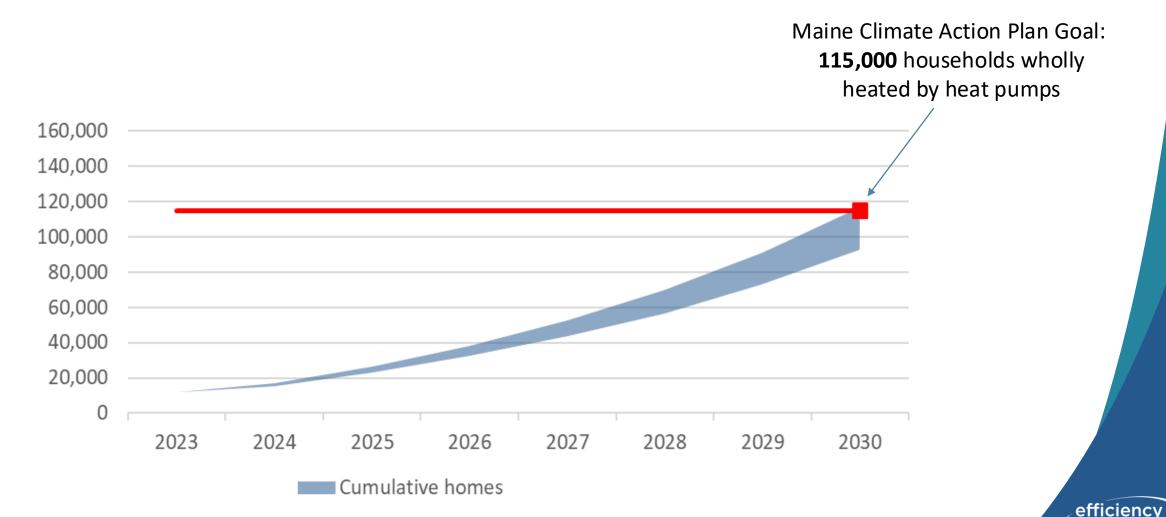


### **Beneficial Electrification of Space Heating**



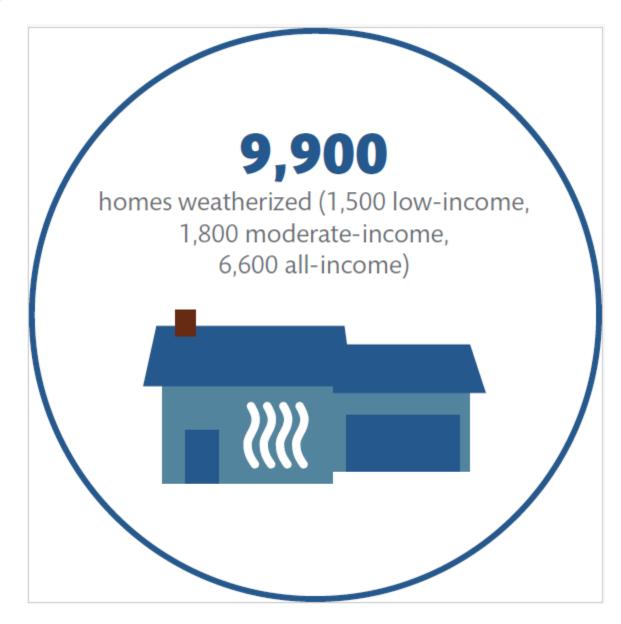


### Progress to Goal – Heat Pumps Serving Whole Home





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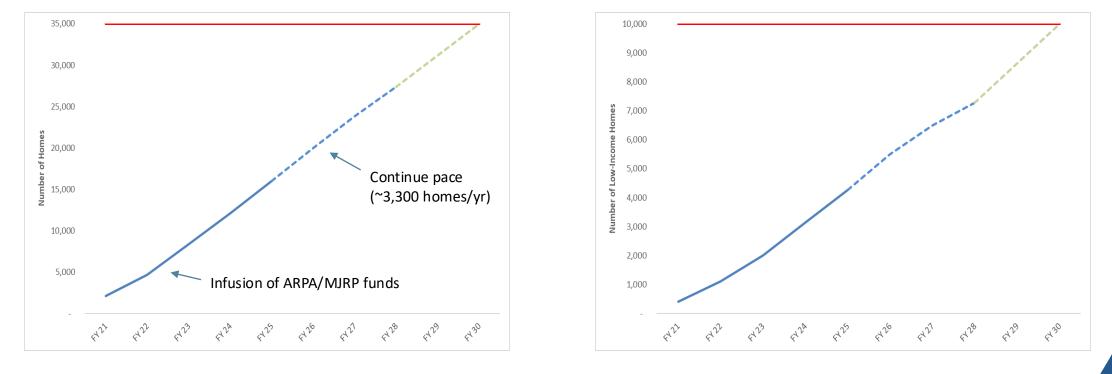
Reducing home heating costs and improving comfort



### **Commitment to Weatherization**

#### Progress to Goal: Total Number of Homes Weatherized: **35,000**

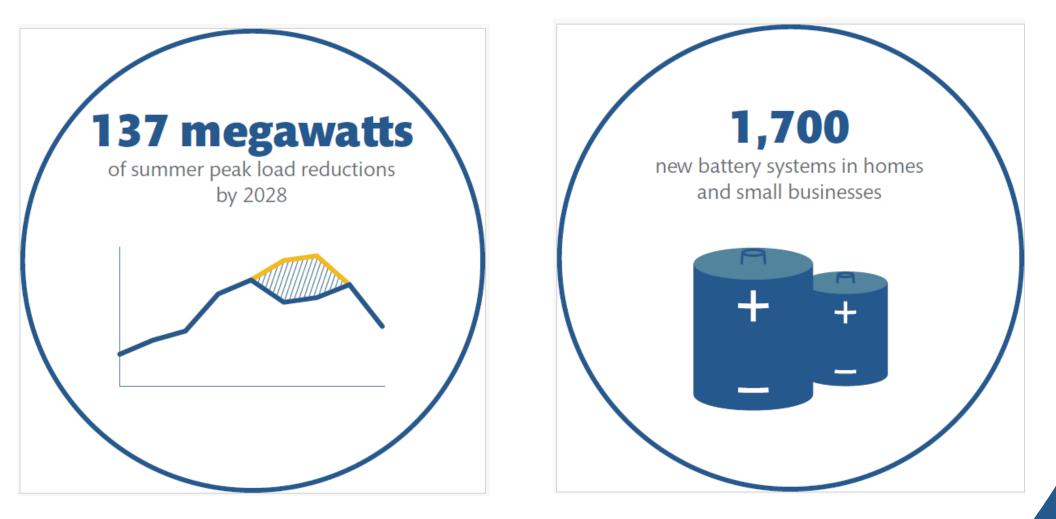
#### Progress to Goal: Total Number of Low-Income Homes Weatherized: **10,000**



Note: Graphs reflect homes weatherized through both EMT and MaineHousing programs. The graph showing the number of low-income homes weatherized is a subset of the total number of homes weatherized.

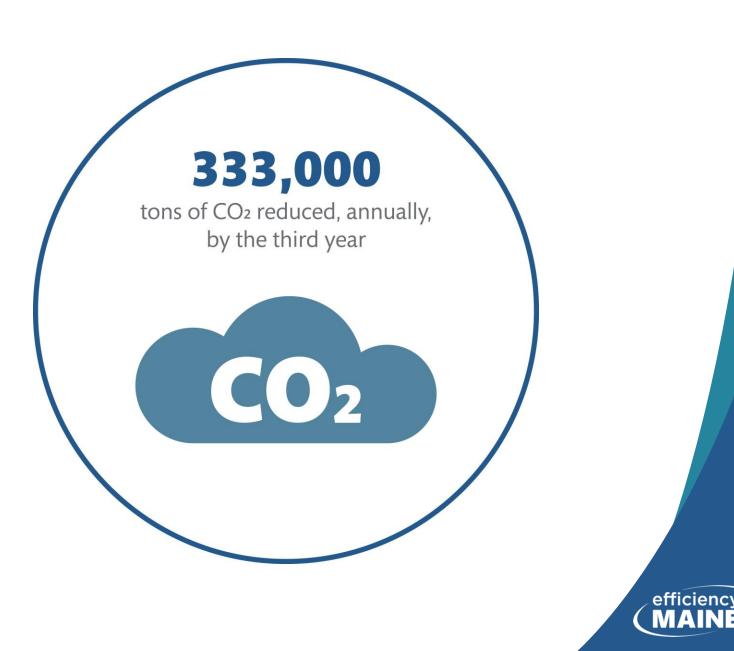
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### Improving grid efficiency, flexibility, and resiliency





# Reducing air pollution



Making more efficient use of the grid and suppressing rates

- By spreading the costs of the electric grid across more usage, without adding new costs, utilities can charge lower rates to meet their revenue requirement.
- Increased usage from heat pumps and EVs, in the right circumstances, is both cost-effective <u>and</u> will reliably reduce rates over the life of the equipment.

\$492 million

suppression of electricity rates due to beneficial electrification programs





# The Plan is highly cost-effective

- The ratio of total benefits to total incremental project costs exceeds the minimum threshold of 1.0.
- Total costs includes the financial contribution of both the consumer plus the program.
- Total benefits excludes reduced retail costs of transmission & distribution charges.





# Find the full Plan, with appendices, at: <u>https://www.efficiencymaine.com/triennial-plan-vi/</u>

## MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Quarterly MCC Meeting Report June 10, 2025

### **Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

In 2019, Public Law Chapter 476 established the Maine Climate Council and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STS) within the Council "to identify, monitor, study and report out to the council and to the working groups...findings and recommendations related to climate change in the State and its effects on the State's climate, species, marine and coastal environments and natural landscape and on the oceans and other bodies of water."



## STS Planning for '25 – '26



## The Basis of Our Assessment

New, peer reviewed Maine science that is relevant to MCC strategy update and development.

New and updated analysis of quality-assured data relevant to Maine.

Priority information needs that persist, were overlooked, or have emerged since 2024.

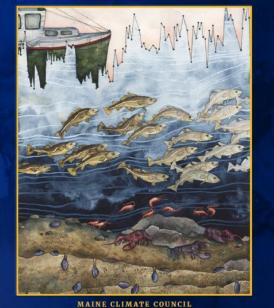
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New national and global science of particular importance to MWW strategy implementation.



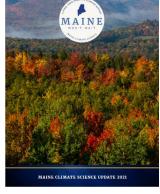
## **Maine Climate Science Assessment**

Scientific Assessment of Climate Change and Its Effects in Maine



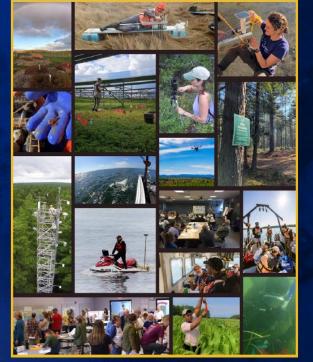
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

2020



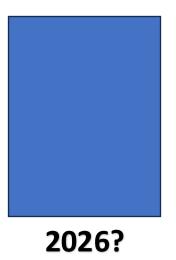
2021

Scientific Assessment of Climate Change and Its Effects in Maine



MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

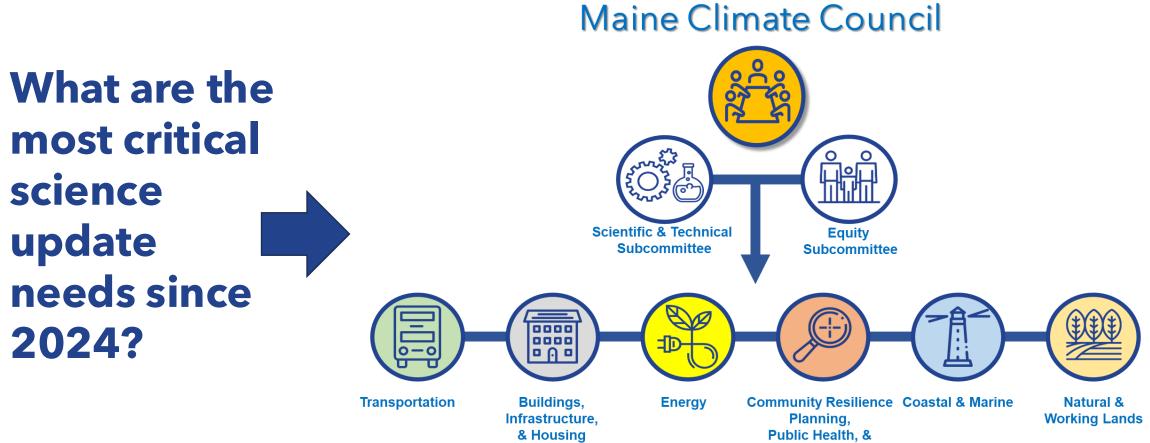
2024





www.maine.gov/future/climate/council/sts

## **Asking for Your Science Priorities**



**Emergency Management** 



## Reflecting on Maine Science in 2025



### **Scientific Asset Questionnaire**

1. List critical scientific assets at risk (or already reduced or lost) that could impact Maine's climate work here:

Enter your answer

Provide a tangible example (250 words or less) of how a scientific asset lost or at risk of being lost could impact the scientific community and Maine's people and/or our economy (see example in the email).

Enter your answer



**Examples from the STS survey that could impact implementation of Maine Won't Wait** 

### STRATEGY E

### PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS AND WATERS IN MAINE



#### Support farming, forestry, and fisheries industries in Maine in adapting to climate change

List critical scientific assets at risk (or already reduced or lost) that could impact Maine's climate work here:

Provide a tangible example (250 words or less) of how a scientific asset lost or at risk of being lost could impact the scientific community and Maine's people and/or our economy

We lost \$1.5M of funding from the USDA that supported the Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Fellowship program - which supported ~50 farmers and ~50 ag advisors who were writing agriculture and agroforestry climate adaptation and mitigation plans.

Farmers are increasingly reliant upon climate forecasts and reliable weather reports. These going away is going to have a tangible impact on adaptation in agriculture. Loss of scientific funding = lack of ability to bring on graduate students = a generation of scientists not being trained = deferred impact on science in general, including climate science.





#### Better monitor inland and coastal and marine ecosystems to increase resilience

"The state should continue to enhance monitoring and data collection of natural and working lands and waters to better understand the impacts of climate change, identify future trends, and monitor economic and social conditions."

List critical scientific assets at risk (or already reduced or lost) that could impact Maine's climate work here:	Provide a tangible example (250 words or less) of how a scientific asset lost or at risk of being lost could impact the scientific community and Maine's people and/or our economy
NERACOOS buoys	Deep water temperature and salinity measurements are the best indicators of changes in water masses. Those buoys give early warning signals for changes in the ecosystem like whale foraging patterns and lobster movements.



**Q&A** THANK, You.

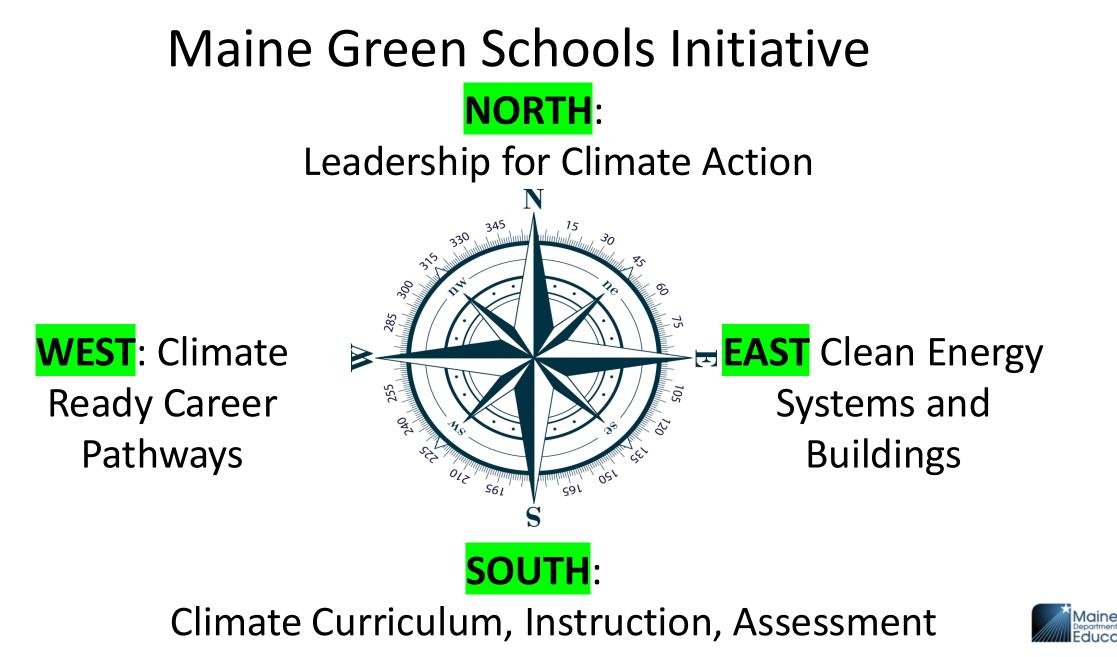
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Maine Climate Council – Green Schools

Presented by: Glenn Cummings & Teddy

Lyman | Office of Innovation - June 9, 2025





# **Moving Forward**

#### **Progress**

•39 School Administrative Units (SAUs) using Heat Pump System, Geothermal Air and/or Water Source

Largest sized schools and enrollment highest in these schools
significant and growing minority of students

•Over \$8m invested in Heat Pumps in Maine Schools

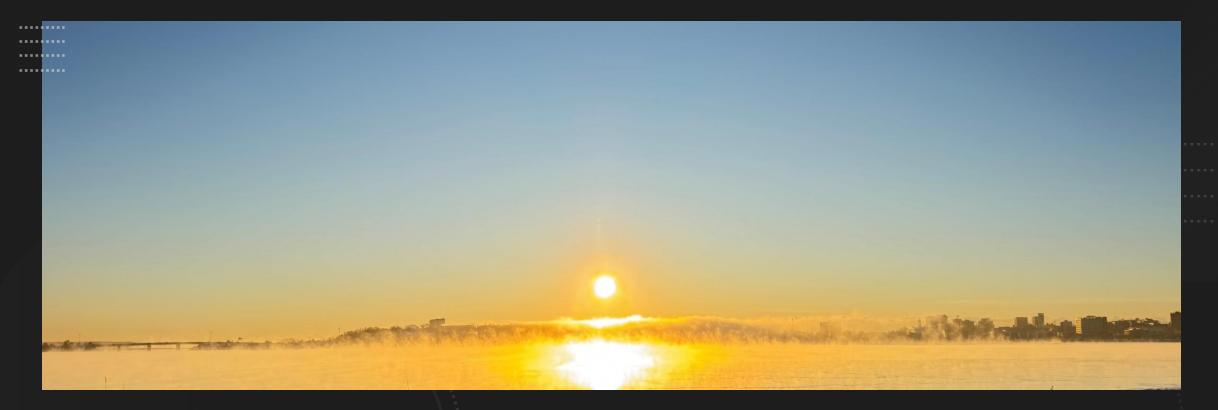
#### **Challenge**

•66% of Maine Schools use oil burners

•5 still use Kerosene

•Local Funds limited and School Construction and Renovation Funds can't meet demand





New Levels of Energy Efficient, Cost Saving, Pollution Reduction for Maine Schools:

\* Technical Consultants for Energy Analysis and Planning

\* Consulting for District Sustainability Plans \* Green Schools Network

\* Maine Green Schools Symposium November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

\* "Getting Started" Energy Reduction Guides to be Released this Fall for all Maine School Districts (SAUs)

\* Working with ME Dept of Labor on Career Pathways K-16 Project Green Schools: National Green Schools Difference Maker Award Washington DC, May 15, 2025

#### National Recognition for Maine DOE and GOPIF for Green Schools Program

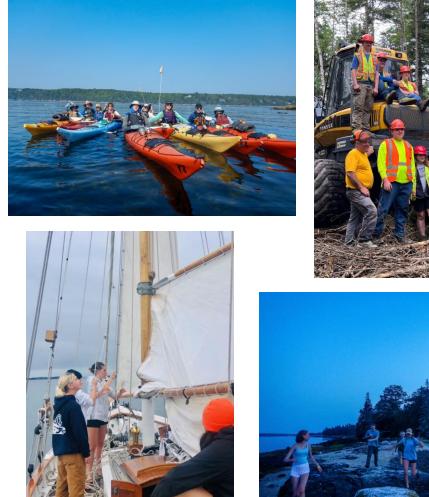






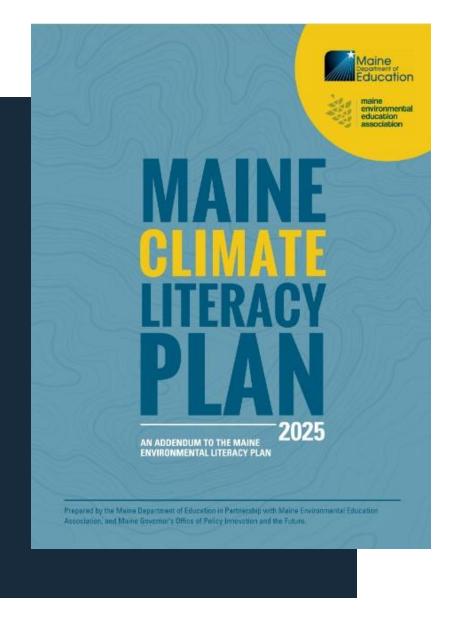
#### Maine Outdoor Learning Initiative

- Over 150 programs to increase outdoor/nature-based learning
- Nearly 15,000 students reached between 2021-2024
- Funded through the Governor's **Emergency Education Relief Fund**
- **Outdoor Learning Pavillion on** Mackworth Island
- Ongoing support for outdoor/nature-based learning in partnership with community-based organizations throughout the State.









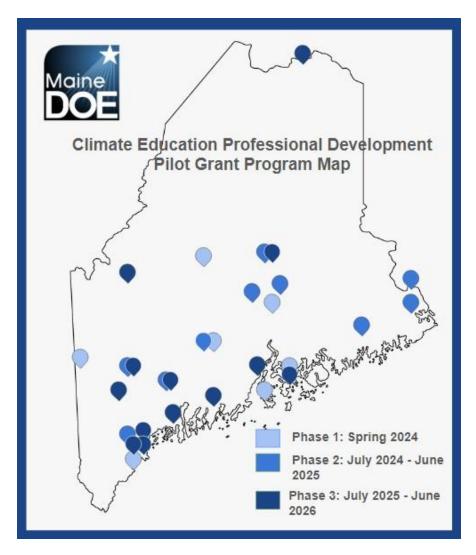
## **Climate Literacy Plan**

- 4-Year Plan for statewide climate literacy
- 30 statewide task force contributors (educators, leadership, industry, higher ed, youth)
- + 4 focus groups
- 2 Overall Strategies
  - Increase Capacity Building for Advancing Climate Literacy in Maine Schools
  - Develop a Holistic Maine Green Schools Program
- 7 Recommendations with detailed action steps, supporting links, and info



#### Climate Education Professional Development Grant Pilot Program

- 13 New Programs for 2025-26 SY for Phase 3
- 30 total programs with \$1.6 million contracted to schools to develop climate education
- Phase 1 Assessment:
  - 128 teachers from 50 schools reaching 4000+ students this year.
  - Climate education experience from 5.45 to 8.8 out of 10 after program.
  - 89% of educators formed new professional relationships.





### MAINE WON'T WALT

OUR YEAR PLAN FOR CLIMA PE PCH

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MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL

# Maine's New Building Codes

#### What Communities Need to Know

Molly Siegel Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future









GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF Policy Innovation and the Future

June 10, 2025



**Establish strong** systems to support rapid adoption of and **compliance** with increasingly climate-friendly building codes and standards



**Maine Climate Council** 

June 10, 2025

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# **Building Codes**

- Currently housed in the State Fire Marshal's Office
- Future: Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA)
- Training and outreach supported by Governor's Energy Office (GEO) and Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF)



## MUBEC

- Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code
- Statewide building and energy code
  - International Code Council (ICC)
  - American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)
  - American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)
- Governed by the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board (Board)
- Applies to all buildings constructed or renovated in Maine
- Required to enforce in municipalities with a population of 4,000 or greater
  - Municipalities with a population less than 4,000 may choose whether to enforce





## **MUBEC (Con't)**

#### • 25 §2372

- Established the Division of Building Codes and Standards to provide technical support to the Board
- 10 MRSA §9722 6.B
  - Required to ensure that both the ICC and ASHRAE codes are either the most recent edition or the edition previous to the most recent edition
- 10 MRSA §9722 6.O
  - Required to adopt a voluntary code that contains energy conservation and efficiency requirements that exceeds the energy code requirements established; "stretch code"





### MUBEC (Con't)





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# **Building Codes**

#### Why are they important?

- Greater energy efficiency
- Safer buildings
- Healthier indoor air quality
- Consistency statewide

#### What are the benefits of the new codes?

- \$978 (est.) in energy cost savings in the first year
- Life-cycle cost savings of over \$23,000 (est.)
- Payback period of less 5 years

#### Is training available?

- Yes!
  - <u>https://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/ener</u> <u>gy-efficiency/building-codes</u>
  - <u>https://www.maine.gov/dps/fmo/building-</u> codes/calendar



### Resources

- Office of the State Fire Marshal: <u>https://www.maine.gov/dps/fmo/building-codes</u>
- GEO: <a href="https://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/energy-efficiency/building-codes">https://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/energy-efficiency/building-codes</a>
- Clean Energy Partnership (GEO): <u>https://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/cep</u>
- MOCA (Fall 2025): <u>https://www.maine.gov/moca/</u>





# **2025 Maine Climate Council Schedule**

- Thursday, September 25, 9AM-12PM TBD
- Monday, December 1, 1PM-4PM TBD
   Yearly progress report
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) deliverables to EPA - August 2

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



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