

Maine Climate Council

September Meeting



Sarah Curran
Council Co-chair

Melanie Loyzim
Council Co-chair



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
Policy Innovation
and the Future



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
Environmental Protection

September 25, 2025

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Highlights from the 132nd First Legislative Session
3. Federal Policy Update
4. Update from the Scientific and Technical Committee Co-Chairs
5. Updates from the Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA) and the Maine Department of Energy Resources (DOER)
6. Outreach, Communications, and Next Steps



Introductions: New Members and Staff

- **Luke Dyer**, Town Manager, Town of Van Buren
- **Samantha Pease**, Health & Sustainability Brand Lead, Hannaford
- **Hilary Landfried**, Climate Policy Advisor and Climate Council Coordinator, GOPIF



Highlights from the 132nd First Legislative Session

Federal Policy Updates

sk

uncil
and

ing

MAINE
WON'T WAIT

A FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION

sk

uncil
and

ing

MAINE
WON'T WAIT

sk

uncil
and

ing

MAINE
WON'T WAIT

sk

uncil
and

ing

MAINE
WON'T WAIT

sk

uncil
and

ing

MAINE
WON'T WAIT

sk

uncil
and

ing

MAINE
WON'T WAIT

A FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION

sk

uncil
and

ing

MAINE
WON'T WAIT

sk

uncil
and

ing

MAINE
WON'T WAIT

A FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION

sk

uncil
and

ing

MAINE
WON'T WAIT

A FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION



TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

We all rely on smartphones in our pockets, the navigation systems in our cars, and the weather forecasts across the country for products that sustain our humanity.

For over 50 years, the research is dedicated to understanding the Earth's climate system and its impact on human health.

Letter to the President of the United States
of Science Funding

To: The Honorable Members of the United States Congress

USDA reorganization will cut agricultural and forest research
One of the agency's largest and most forest research stations will be closed along with several other research facilities.

25 JUL 2025 • 5:30 PM ET • BY ERIK STOKSTAD

Far more environmental data is being deleted in Trump's second term than before
AUGUST 8, 2025 • 10:57 AM ET
Jeff Brady

The New York Times

Popular E.P.A. Database Is in Limbo Amid Science Cuts

The database helps companies calculate their greenhouse gas emissions. Its creator left the E.P.A. after being investigated for criticizing the Trump administration.

Trump administration pushes ahead with NOAA climate and weather cuts

Despite congressional resistance, agency aims to cut research and operations. 25 AUG 2025 • 4:30 PM ET • BY PAUL VOOLEN

Trump moves to shut down NASA missions that measure carbon dioxide and plant health

BDN

Reflecting on Maine Science in 2025

After 7 Decades of Measurements From a Peak in Hawaii, Trump's Budget Would End Them

Closing Mauna Loa and three other U.S. sites that track greenhouse gases would disrupt a decades-long record of the planet's changing atmosphere.

npr

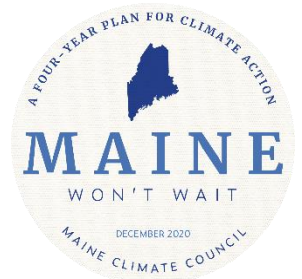


Scientific + Technical Subcommittee

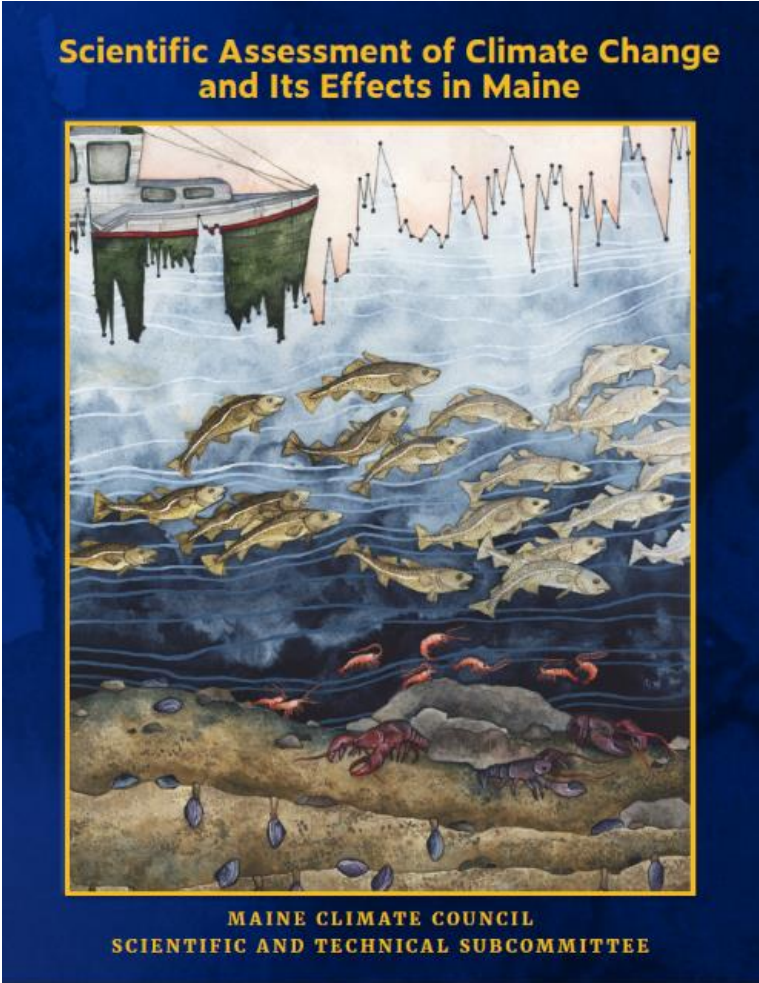
Roles + Responsibilities Post-Climate Action Plan

MONITOR CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS in
Maine and relevant climate science advances

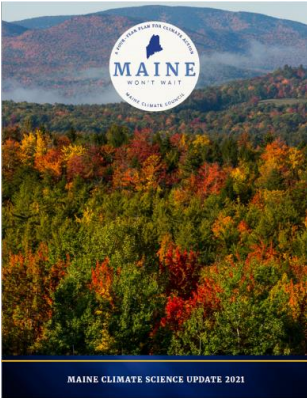
**HIGHLIGHT CRITICAL SCIENTIFIC DATA AND
MONITORING GAPS** in partnership with
Working Groups and stakeholders



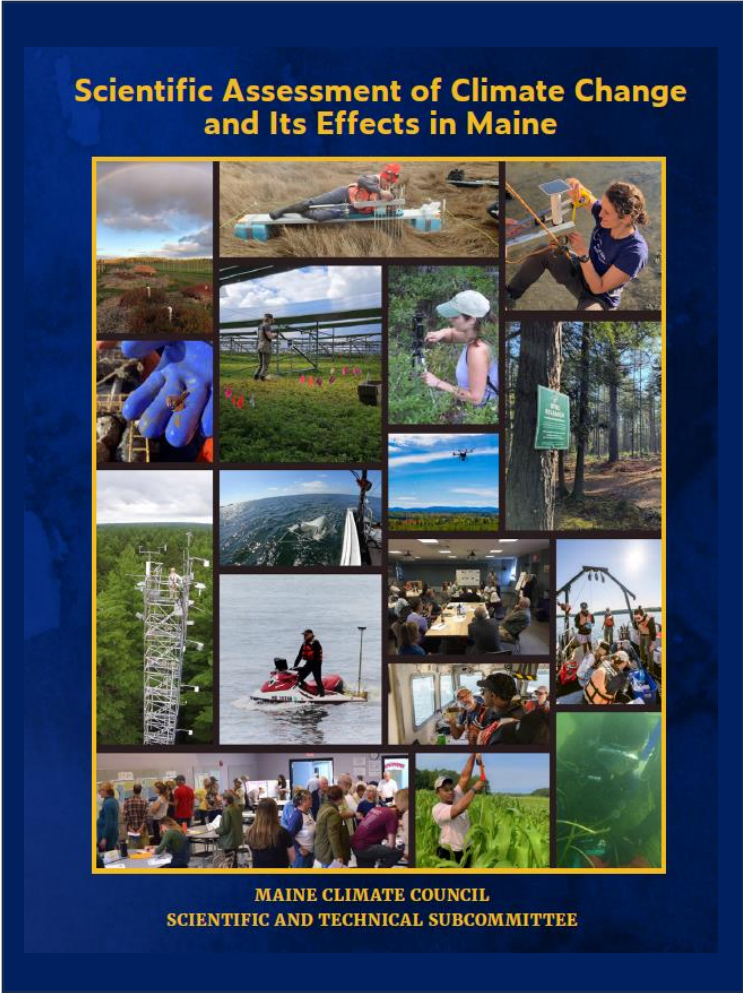
Maine Climate Science Assessment by STS



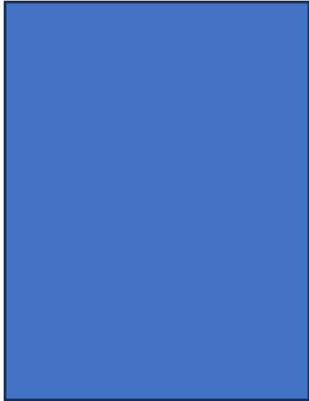
2020



2021



2024

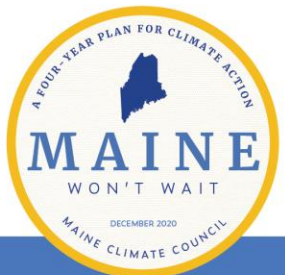


2026



What we want to convey to the MCC today?

1. Changes, and the pace of change, in federal support for science calls for continued tracking and analysis of the status of science assets (research, monitoring, data).
2. This information is critical to:
 - A. **Prioritize** critical science assets (research, monitoring, data) lost or diminished, and
 - B. **Explore**, based on that prioritization, how to support the most critical science assets for the continued science-informed implementation of *Maine Won't Wait*.



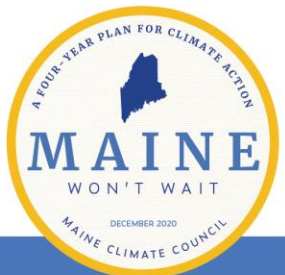
Scientific Asset Questionnaire

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

Enter your answer

2. 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



Summary of Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STS) Internal Questionnaire Regarding Federal Budget Cut Impacts on Maine's Scientific Assets and Climate Work

The following narrative is not a formal research survey and is highly sensitive to the time of the data input given the rapidly changing federal landscape of science funding in 2025. The summary includes the June 27, 2025 snapshot of federal impacts released by the University of Maine System, informal input from STS in preparation for a June 5, 2025 in-person meeting of the STS in Augusta, Maine, followed by additional input from STS members primarily through June 20, 2025. This is not intended to be an all-encompassing, ongoing inventory of federal impacts on Maine science, but rather to provide insights into the kinds of lost science capacity that can have direct impacts on Maine's ability to respond to climate change.

Overall Impact Scale as Reflected in University of Maine System Example

As of June, the UMaine System alone had to cancel 21 research awards worth \$12.1 million, pause 15 awards worth \$18 million, and pause and resume 50 awards worth \$41 million. These impacts threaten UMaine's science research and education workforce and infrastructure, and in turn, its prestigious status as the state's only Carnegie-classified R1 institution.

Examples of Scientific Asset Loss Already Impacting Maine

U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station: Early staff retirements since February 2025 have diminished the capacity for forest science collaboration with Maine, including critical work on wildland fire, climate change, forest pathology, forest inventory analysis (FIA), and monitoring of emerging forest pests like emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, and beech leaf disease.

EJSCREEN Environmental Justice Tool: EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool was removed from EPA's website on February 5, 2025. This tool was essential for ensuring equitable representation of environmental justice communities in studies and resource allocation decisions.

Examples of Critical Priority Scientific Assets at Risk

Climate Data Infrastructure: Climate.gov, the federal gateway to climate data and information,

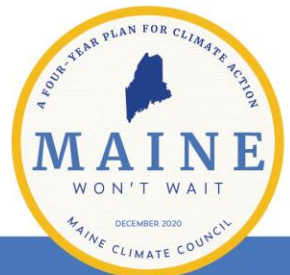
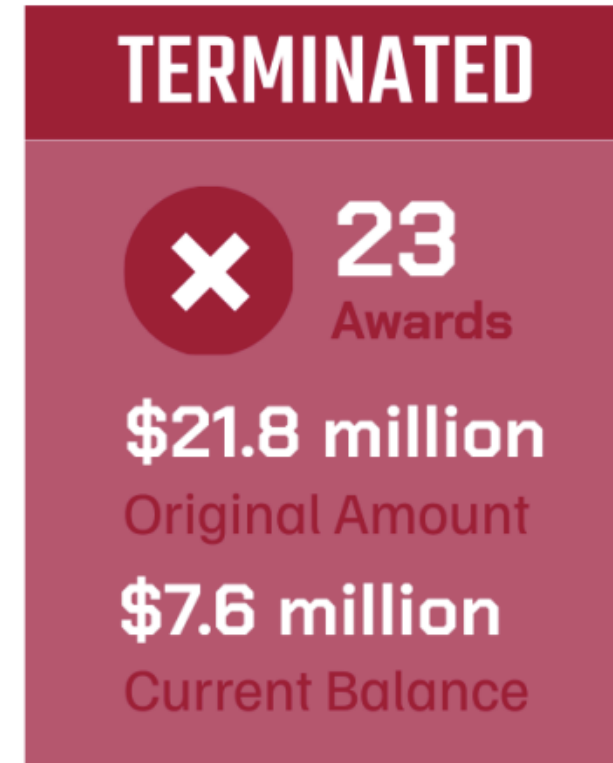
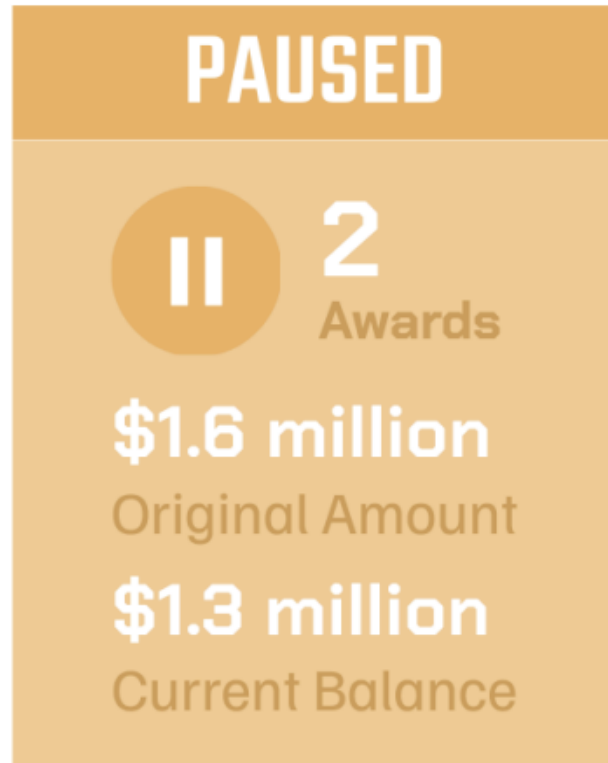


University of Maine System

Federal Impact Snapshot - Aug. 28, 2025



Currently Impacted Federal Awards



STRATEGY E

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

2

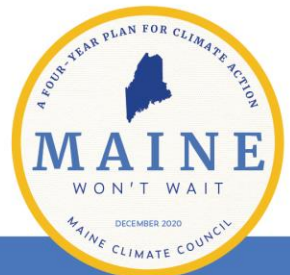
Develop new incentives to increase
forest carbon storage

Scientific Asset Lost or At-Risk

Large personnel cuts and early retirements from USFS and NASA have occurred. The impacts of these cuts continue to accumulate and risk the erosion of our capacity to manage, monitor, and research carbon sequestration and other ecosystem services from our forest.

Impact on Maine Won't Wait Goals

Forests cover 89% of Maine and currently sequester 91% of our annual greenhouse gas emissions. Our ability to meet conservation, carbon, biodiversity, and a long list of forest landscape resource objectives will be impacted.

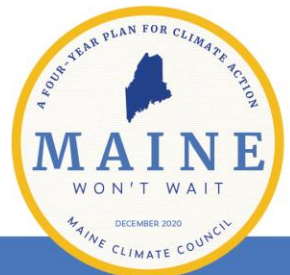


To Review-

- The pace of change is overwhelming.
- This is just our attempt to track what was already in place (resources that were already committed), not what is coming in the months and years ahead and the potential losses that may bring.

Next Steps-

- Continued advocacy. The fate of so many scientific assets critical to the implementation of *Maine Won't Wait* will depend on federal decisions in the months and years ahead.
- Consider a more directed/coordinated effort to track the loss of capacity and direct the focus and investment.



DISCUSSION



Panel: Continuing State Leadership in Climate Action

- **Amanda Beal**, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry
- **Dan Burgess**, Acting Commissioner, Department of Energy Resources
- **Anne Fuchs**, Director, Mitigation and Recovery, Maine Emergency Management Agency



Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

Amanda Beal, Commissioner



Natural & Working Lands

Overarching considerations

- USDA position cuts/deferred resignations/voluntary retirements/reorganization
- Overall federal funding stability



Natural & Working Lands

Develop new incentives to increase forest carbon storage

- BPL continues to discuss opportunities for climate-friendly forestry with the New England Forestry Foundation. BPL has submitted a proposal to NEFF, focused on the Round Pond Public Lands Unit, that is awaiting approval of federal funds.
- MFS will be launching a new cost-share incentive program for private landowners, which will provide \$5M toward practices to enhance forest carbon and \$4M toward climate-resilient practices.



Natural & Working Lands

Increase the total acreage of conserved Natural and Working Lands in the state to 30 percent by 2030

- 2026 Land and Water Conservation Fund allocation \$3.8 million (up from \$2.5) *
- Currently about 22.5% conserved lands:
 - BPL is currently working with partners on 8 conservation projects totaling more than 150,000 acres across the state
 - Relatedly, a collaboration of non-profits is working to conserve 78,000 acres in Western Maine, known as the Magalloway Project
- Preliminary conversations underway to create a Farmland Action Plan
- Replenishment of Land For Maine's Future Funds is critical



Natural & Working Lands

Increase the amount of food consumed in Maine from state food producers to 30 percent by 2030

- Local Foods Purchasing Assistance (LFPA) federal program funding was discontinued; federal legislation has been introduced to reestablish this important initiative under the new name, *Local Farmers Feeding our Communities Act*
- Maine Harvest Bucks & Farm Fresh Rewards programs – the last biennial budget established an ongoing allocation of \$600,000 annually to match federally funded nutrition benefits, which multiplies the buying power of SNAP when spent on Maine-grown foods
- Preliminary conversations underway about creating a Maine Food Plan



Maine Department of Energy Resources

Dan Burgess, Acting
Commissioner



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
Energy Resources

September 25, 2025

Energy-focused federal grants to Maine

>\$215 million

Awarded directly to GEO to implement or subgrant to partners:

- State Energy Program: \$3.6 million
- Flexible Interconnections and Resilience for Maine (FIRM) (Grid Resilience and Innovative Partnerships): \$65 million in collaboration with CMP and Versant
- Solar for All: \$62 million
- Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR): \$35.7 million to be administered by EMT
- Home Energy Rebates (HER): \$35.9 million to be administered by EMT
- Grid Resilience Program: \$6.6 million
- Assistance for Latest and Zero Building Energy Code Adoption: \$7.6 million
- Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund: \$863k to be administered by EMT
- Energy Auditor Training: \$815k
- State Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training (TREC): \$1.3 million

>\$700 million

In energy-related funding awarded to regional partners or other entities in Maine:

- New England Heat Pump Accelerator Coalition: \$450 million (\$45 million to Maine in collaboration with EMT)
- Transmission Facilitation Program: \$425 million to CMP
- Power Up New England (Grid Resiliency and Innovative Partnerships): \$389 million (\$147 million to Maine)
- Weatherization Assistance Program: \$31 million to MaineHousing
- Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas: \$10 million to EMT
- Hydroelectric upgrades: \$35.7 million to 23 facilities across Maine
- Various awards to communities and businesses via the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant and Rural Energy for America Programs

Shifting federal energy policy

- Climate and energy regulations have been rolled back on emissions thresholds, appliance standards, and vehicles
- Federal tax credits have been cut for home energy efficiency measures and several forms of clean energy generation
- New Energy Priorities



Maintaining Progress & Seeking New Opportunities

- **Advancing state leadership through legislation**
 - DOER Established to ensure durable state policy - *LD 1270*
 - 100% Clean Energy - *LD 1868*
 - Expedited procurement of renewable resources - *LD 597*
- **Advance clean energy procurements to maximize federal tax credits**
 - Maine PUC selected 5 cost effective clean energy projects totaling 257 MWs
- **Strengthening regional partnerships to advance shared goals**
 - Both in the Northeast and with our neighbors in the Eastern Canadian Provinces
- **Engaging with federal government**
 - We continue to share information and coordinate closely with NASEO and Maine's Congressional delegation
- **Burgeoning opportunities with the U.S. DOE**
 - Geothermal, energy storage, nuclear, transmission, load growth and permitting



Maine Emergency Management Agency

Anne Fuchs, Director,
Mitigation and Recovery



Shifting Federal Emergency Management Policy and Programming

- **FEMA Mitigation Planning Policies Changes**
 - FEMA no longer requiring plans to address climate change, underserved communities, or socially vulnerable populations
 - Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide (FP 206-21-0002, effective April 11, 2025)
 - State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide (FP 302-094-2, effective May 19, 2025)
- **FEMA Mitigation Grant Changes**
 - Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) grant program cancelled
 - The Benefit-Cost Analysis discount rate has been adjusted by OMB from 3.1% to 7%
 - FEMA/OMB creating metrics for states to prove need & ability to effectively utilize future HMGP funding
 - Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund NOFO's remain in review status
- **FEMA Staffing and Structure Changes**
 - FEMA has lost significant staffing
 - Executive Order 14180; Council to Assess the Federal Emergency Management Agency
 - H.R. 4669 – Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act of 2025



MEMA's Continued Progress

- **L.D.1 - An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes, & Infrastructure**
- **Biennial Budget Successes**
 - Reduced reliance on federal grants for certain staffing
 - Further investment in emergency management
- **September proclaimed “Preparedness Month” in Maine**
- **Executive Order #1 FY25/26 – *An Order Updating the State of Maine Emergency Response and Disaster Recovery Teams***



DISCUSSION



Maine Office of Community Affairs

Samantha Horn, Director



Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA)

"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."



MAINE OFFICE OF
**Community
Affairs**

Maine Office of Community Affairs

- Status of Office
 - September 24th was official date of mergers
 - Moving staff, hiring support staff, and LD1 staff
 - Federal funding in place
- Services Coming in November
 - Phone line
 - Funding portal
 - Program collaboration well underway
- Key Legislative Updates
- Sample of New Initiatives
 - TA hub
 - Network directory
 - Collaborating with Regional Councils to increase efficiency and coordination
 - Cross-department and cross-grant collaboration
 - Code enforcement capacity building



Maine Department of Energy Resources

Dan Burgess, Acting
Commissioner



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
Energy Resources

September 25, 2025

Maine Department of Energy Resources (DOER)

Transition: Pursuant to Public Law 2025, chapter 476 (L.D. 1270), the Governor's Energy Office has become the Maine Department of Energy Resources as of September 24, 2025.



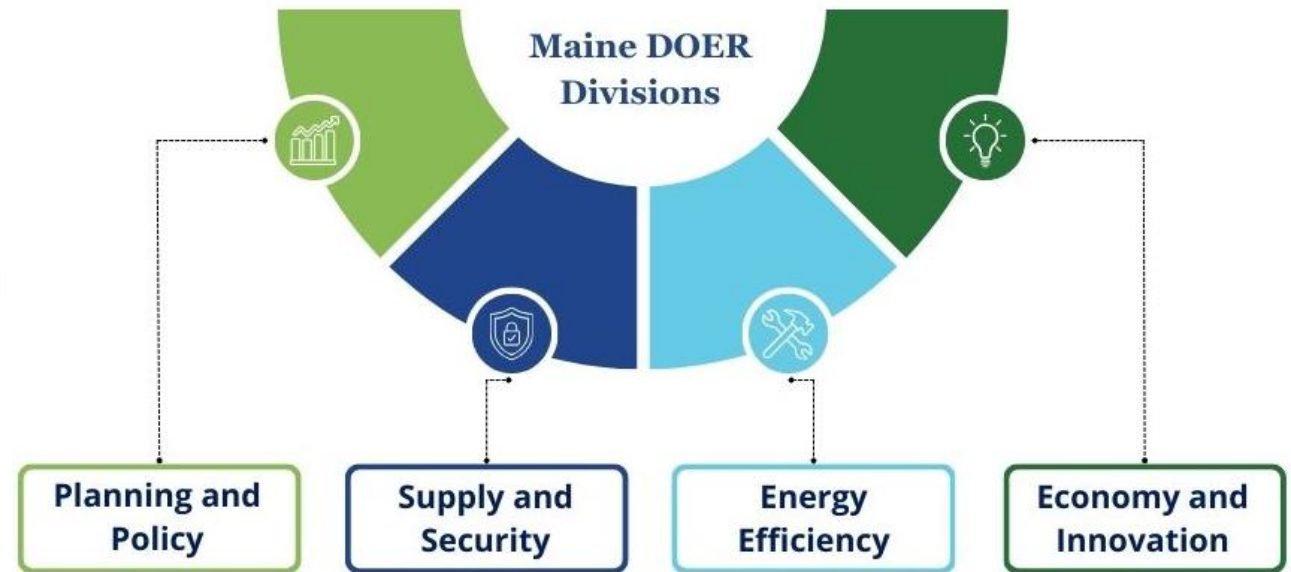
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
Energy Resources



Maine Department of Energy Resources

- Planning & Identification of Resource Needs
 - Prepare a comprehensive State Energy Plan every 2 years
 - Develop procurement schedule, initiate and conduct procurements for energy, RECs, and other services
 - Prepare and maintain State Energy Security Plan
- Coordination of State Energy Policy
 - Designated State Energy Office
 - Advise Governor, Legislature, Agencies on energy matters
 - Serve as Board Member of Efficiency Maine, MTI, and RGGI with Maine DEP
- Energy data collection, analysis, and dissemination
 - Monitor and report on heating fuel prices, electricity prices, petroleum inventories
 - Review and report on implementation

- Program Development & Delivery
 - State Energy Program
 - Clean Energy Workforce & Innovation
 - Distributed Solar & Storage



DISCUSSION



MAINE WON'T WAIT
CLIMATE COUNCIL

GREEN SCHOOLS
PROGRAM UPDATE
9/25/25



FIRST MAINE GREEN SCHOOLS SYMPOSIUM

Over 100 youth, educators, and community members immediately registered for the
Maine Green Schools Symposium
November 7th at Thomas College in the
month of August. Approx 300 expected.



PHASE 3 OF THE CLIMATE EDUCATION
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 3-YEAR PILOT
GRANT PROGRAM HAS AWARDED 13
PROGRAMS AND OVER \$500,000 FOR
PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE STATE FOR THE
2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR. THE OVERALL PROGRAM
HAS NOW REACHED OVER 1,000 TEACHERS,
100-PLUS SCHOOLS, ENGAGED WITH 40
COMMUNITY PARTNERS, AND IMPACTED
THOUSANDS OF MAINE STUDENTS.

MAINE GREEN SCHOOLS PROGRAM PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ON EMBEDDING THE STRONGEST PRACTICAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FOR STATE-FUNDED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTIONS PROJECTS. THIS ALIGNS WITH THE GOVERNOR'S LEAD BY EXAMPLE EXECUTIVE ORDER AND THE MAINE WON'T WAIT 2024 UPDATED GOALS FOR ALL MAINE PUBLIC BUILDINGS.



THANK YOU

Glenn Cummings, Director
Maine Green Schools Program
207-838-7705
Glenn.Cummings@maine.gov



2025 Maine Climate Council Schedule

- Monday, December 1, 1PM-4PM – TBD
 - Annual progress report

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



