



# Maine Climate Council

## December Meeting



**Sarah Curran**  
*Council Co-chair*

**Melanie Loyzim**  
*Council Co-chair*



Mentimeter

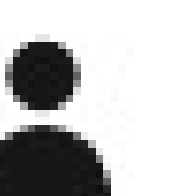


GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
**Policy Innovation  
and the Future**

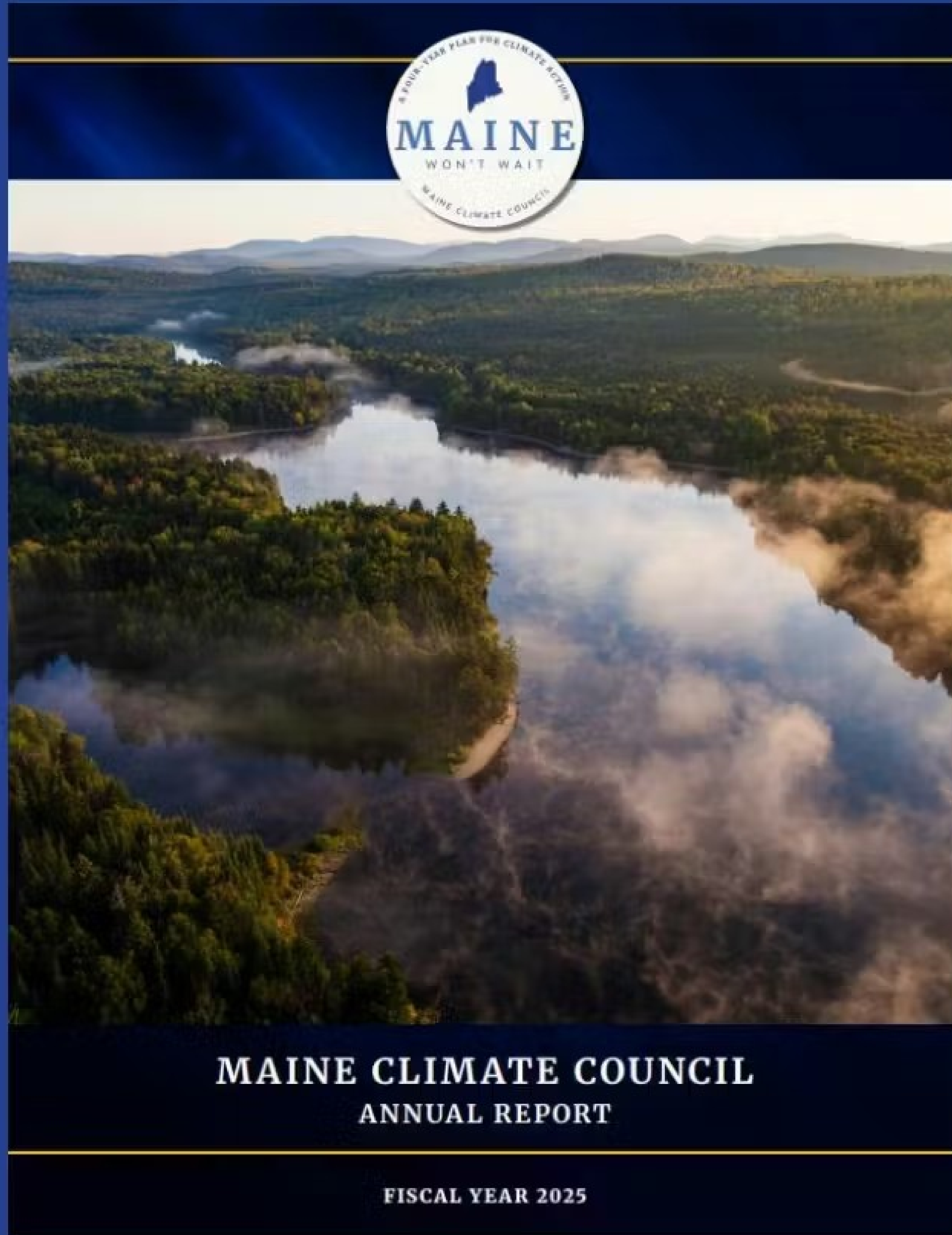


MAINE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Environmental Protection**

**December 1, 2025**



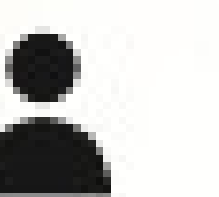
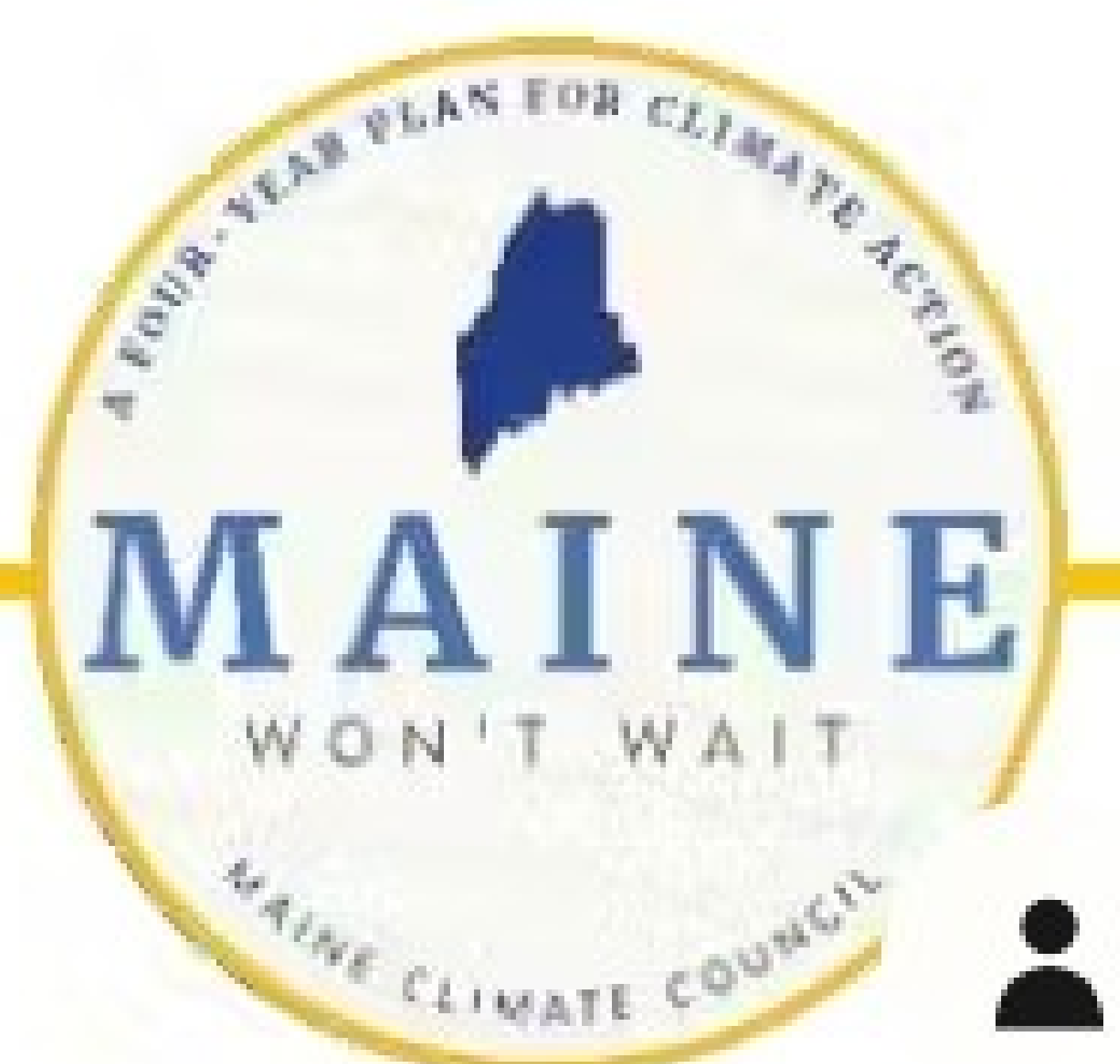




# 2025 Annual Progress Report

# Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Governor's Remarks
3. Panel Discussion - The Value of Climate Action: Building Stronger, Sustainable, and Resilient Communities
4. Collaborative Session
5. Panel Discussion - Staying the Course: Challenges and Opportunities for Implementing *Maine Won't Wait* in 2026
6. Collaborative Session
7. Closing and Networking





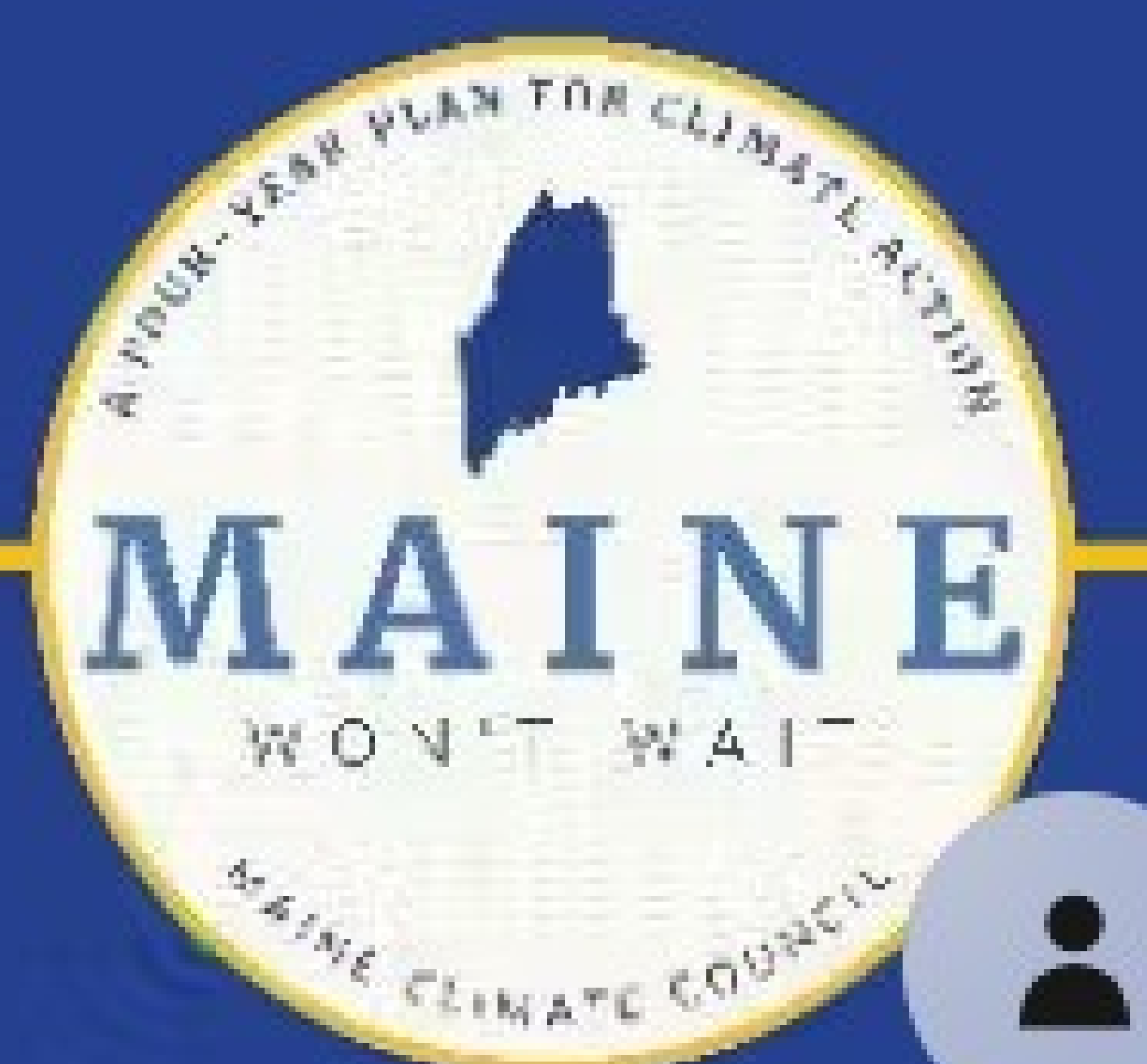




# The Value of Climate Action: Building Stronger, Sustainable, and Resilient Communities

- **Luke Dyer**, Town Manager, Van Buren, and MCC Member
- **Johannah Blackman**, Executive Director, A Climate to Thrive
- **Emily Rabbe**, Executive Director, Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission

*Moderator: **Ashley Krulik**, Community Resilience Partnership Program Manager, State Resilience Office*





# Van Buren Community Garden



Before and after photos of the Van Buren Community Garden site  
Credit: Luke Dyer





# Community-Driven Climate Action Toolkit

## Local Leads the Way



Getting  
Started



Building  
Capacity



Longevity



Plug &  
Play



Resource  
Index





# Alna's Battery Lending Program Kit Inspection

Left to right: Alna CAC Member Sherry Lyons, Alna Fire Chief Mike Trask, LCRPC Community Resilience Planner Laura Graziano, Alna CAC Member Scott Budde

Photo Credit: Karen Rose, Alna CAC Chair (10/29/2025)

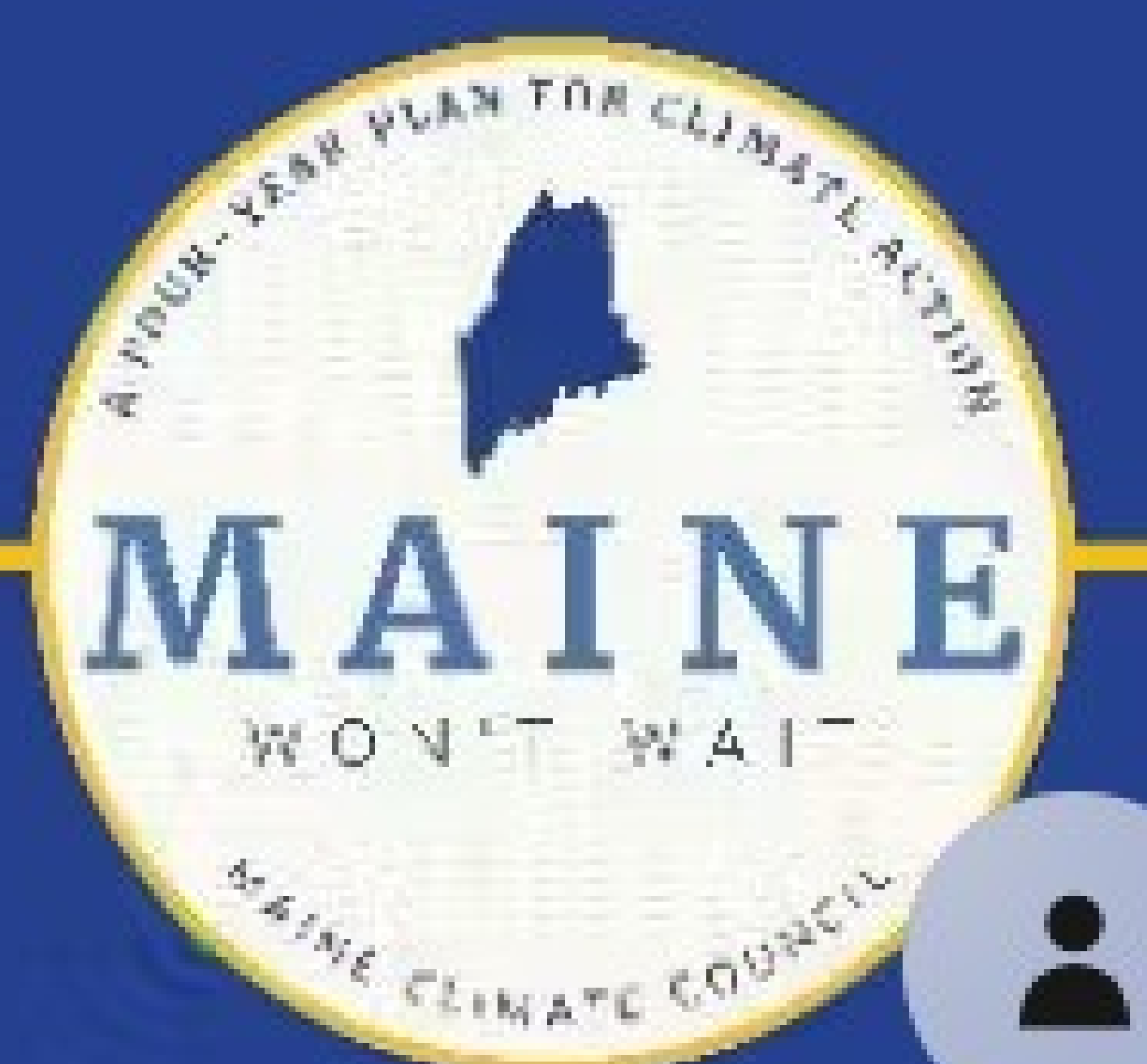




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What were you most proud of in your implementation of *Maine Won't Wait* this year?

Community  
collaboration

EV charger installation

Increasing momentum on  
wildfire prevention and risk  
reduction in communities

Implementing sea level  
rise standards at the  
State level

Promoting investment in  
active transportation and  
public transportation

Developing solar project

Continued support by  
the Community  
Resilience Partnership.

Getting my town to  
finally join the CRP!



# What were you most proud of in your implementation of *Maine Won't Wait* this year?

Inclusion of strong electricity demand management provisions in MWW's latest revision.

Sharing York's Energy Coach model with other Maine communities and working to establish a statewide network of energy coaches

Passing the 100% by 2040 clean energy standard into law

We continue our work while navigating federal changes. We are still approaching climate work to meet the States ambitious goals.

On-campus thrift shop

Working with Municipalities on Climate resiliency efforts!

Still working on credits toward the purchase of an electric vehicle for volunteer drivers to help solve the mobility challenge for rural communities.

MEDMR working to improve and expand our monitoring programs to make sure we understand climate change impacts on fisheries



# What were you most proud of in your implementation of *Maine Won't Wait* this year?

A range of initiatives to support enhanced resilience planning

Passing 100x2040 and Dept of energy legislation

Ensuring CMP and Versant adopt strong grid plans that help achieve Maine's climate and clean energy goals

Growing partnerships to increase resilience at local, regional and state levels

I'm proud that Maine is hewing to its course in these difficult times politically and financially.

Hiring staff in multiple agencies to do the important work of increasing conserved lands!

Significant progress toward installing renewables to offset municipal energy consumption (~80%)

Starting a new company focused on accelerating climate-positive impact in the built environment!



# What were you most proud of in your implementation of *Maine Won't Wait* this year?

enacting stronger protections for sensitive / biodiverse habitats (e.g., vernal pools!)

The ability to give municipalities the opportunity, through funding, to create valuable upgrades to infrastructure projects that make a difference to the community.

Significant collaboration and celebration of resilience initiatives from multiple sectors

Maine Compost School-A strong program in compost education that has remained relevant for the past 28 years.

Coordinating with partners/building cohorts

Enrolling two communities in CRP!!

Significant community-level action in working waterfront needs.

Installation of sea water heat/cooling recovery at DMR Boothbay Harbor facility. 4th largest users of oil in State facilities. 1/3 saving on oil as a result.



# What were you most proud of in your implementation of *Maine Won't Wait* this year?

Maine Service Fellows in Volunteer Maine have their first cohort working on community and climate resilience projects in van buren, deer isle/stonington, Dover foxcroft, machias, and cherryfield

About to launch a community guidebook for extreme temperature response

The grants that drive action in communities

Green Schools Symposium. Amazing attendance and high quality presentations.

MLCC is organizing Man. Home Park residents to get whole home heat pumps into their homes.

Financing

Funding



# What's top of mind as we head into 2026?

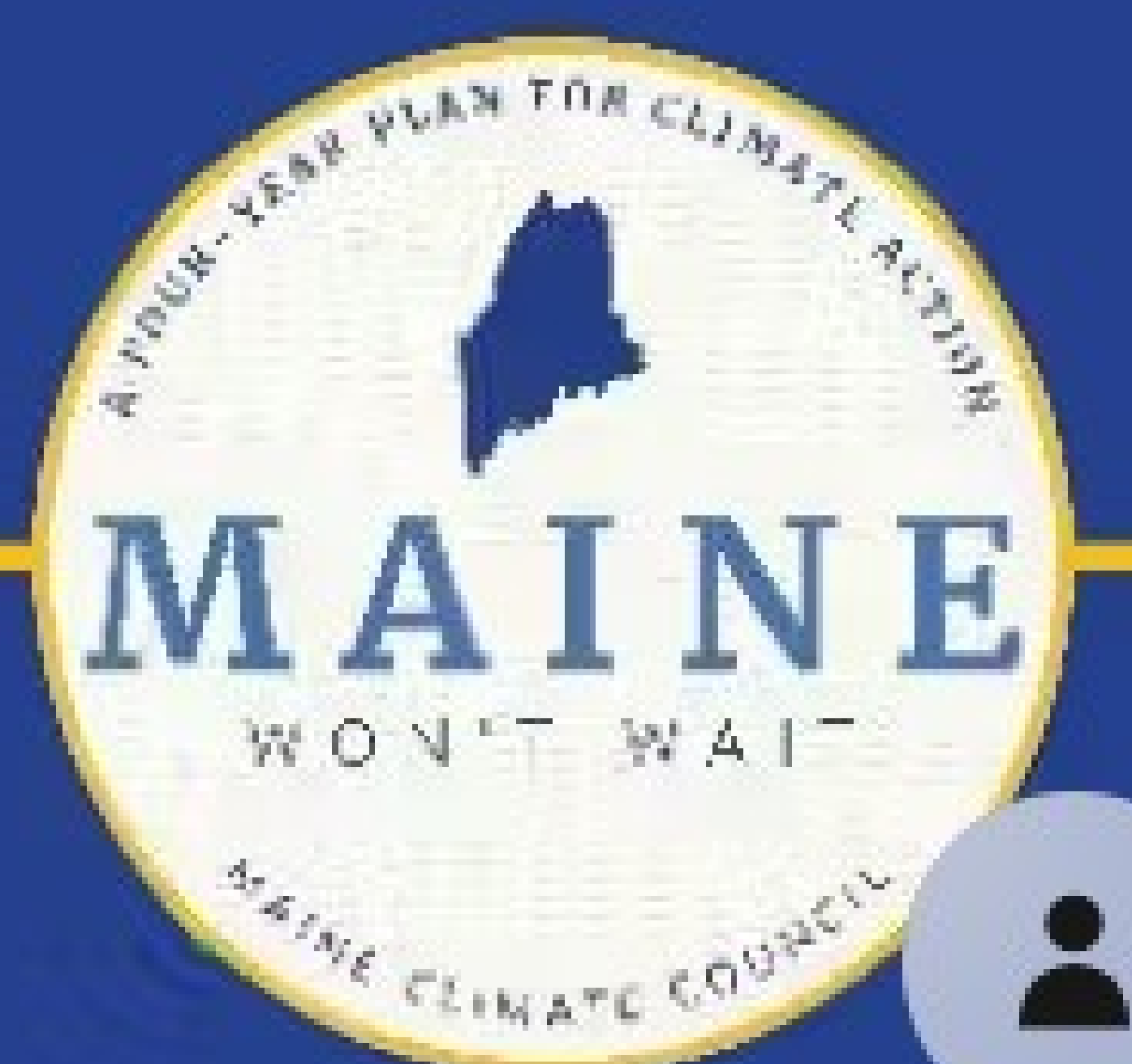




# Staying the Course: Challenges and Opportunities for Implementing *Maine Won't Wait* in 2026

- **Dan Burgess**, Acting Commissioner of the Department of Energy Resources
- **Michael Stoddard**, Executive Director of Efficiency Maine Trust
- **Joyce Taylor**, Deputy Commissioner of the Maine Department of Transportation
- **Dr. Thiery Va**, Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control
- **Brian Ambrette**, Director of the State Resilience Office

Moderator: **Sarah Curran**, MCC Co-Chair and Director of the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future

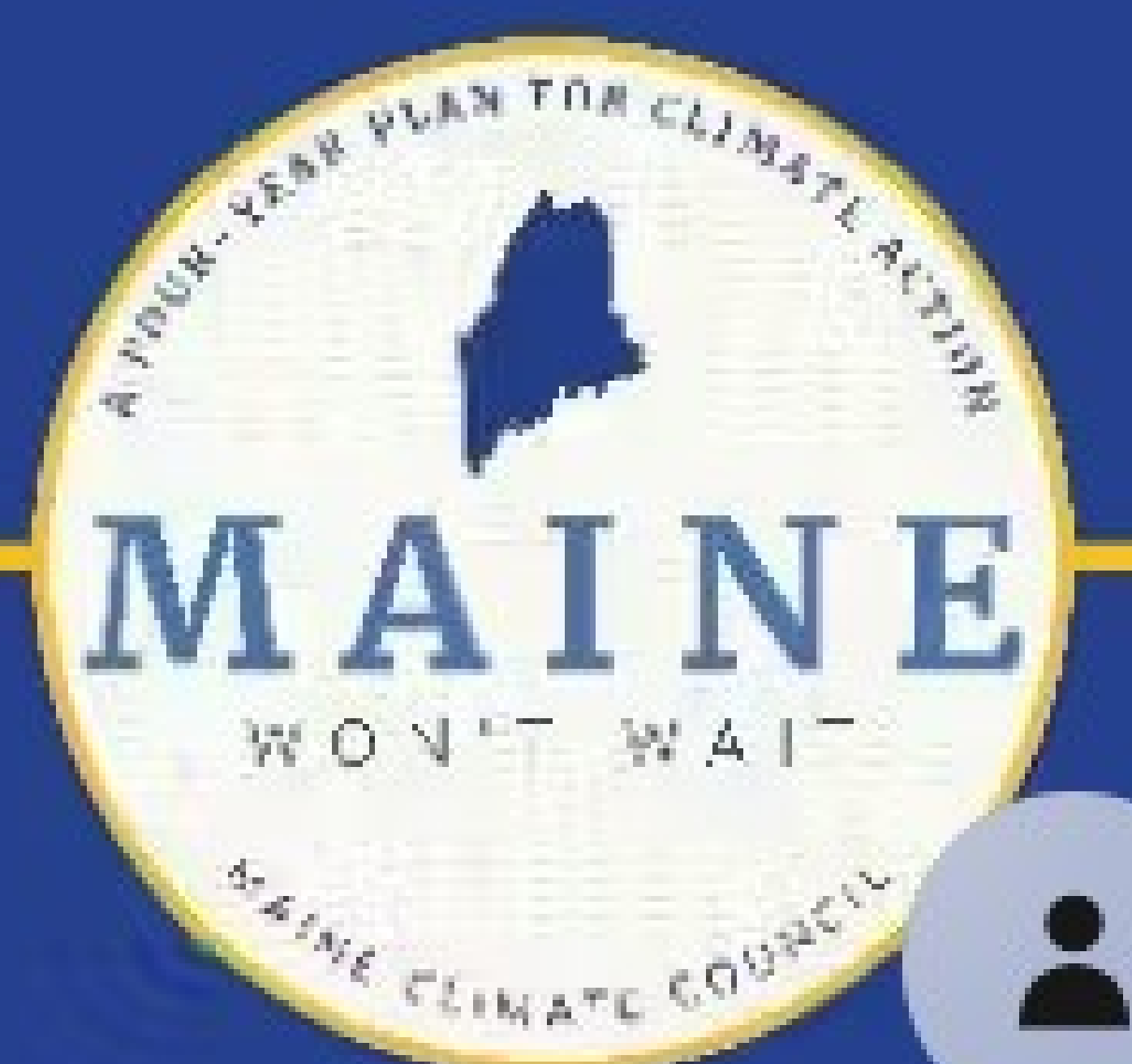
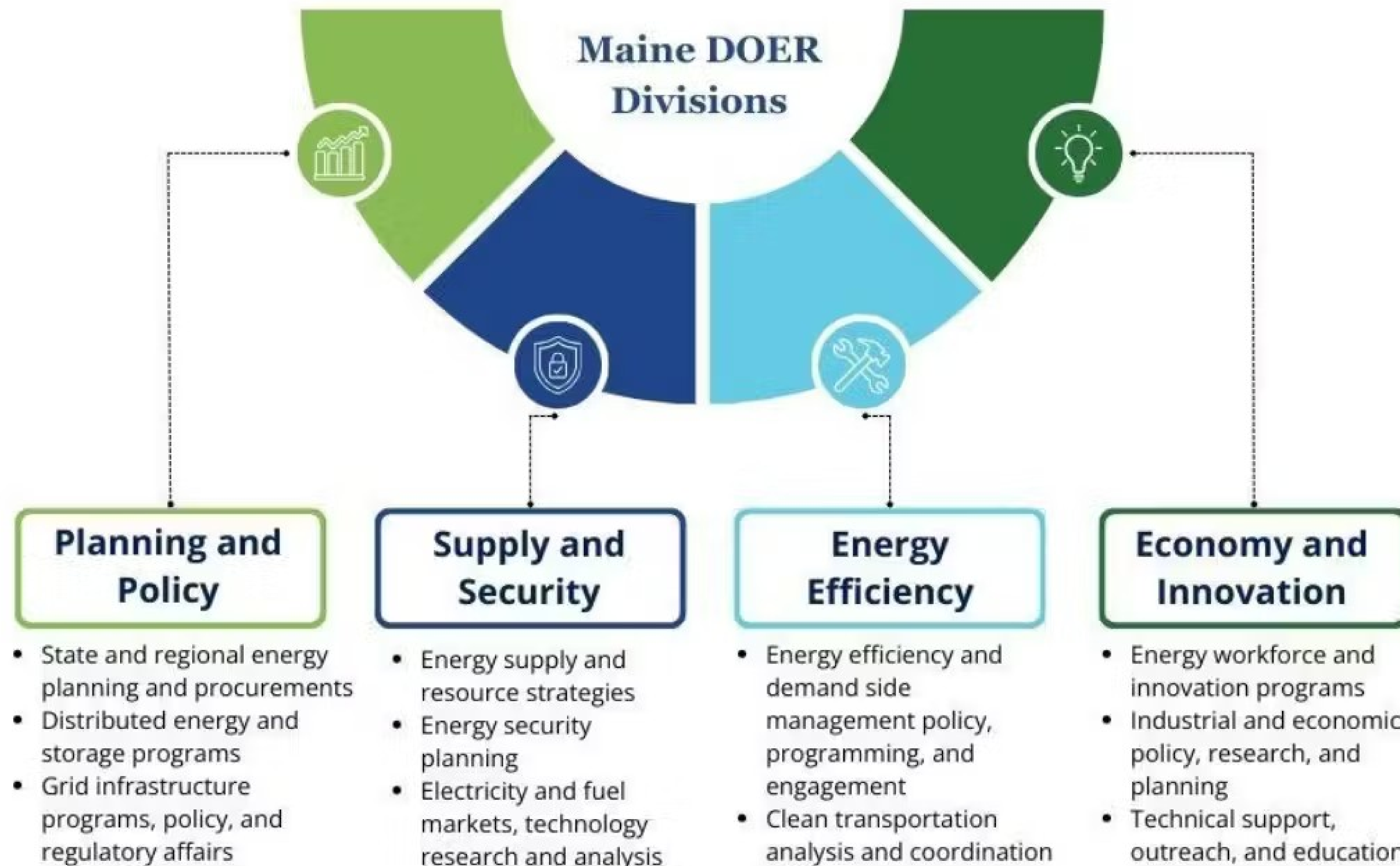






# MAINE DEPARTMENT OF Energy Resources

Working to ensure affordable, reliable, cleaner energy for Maine people and businesses

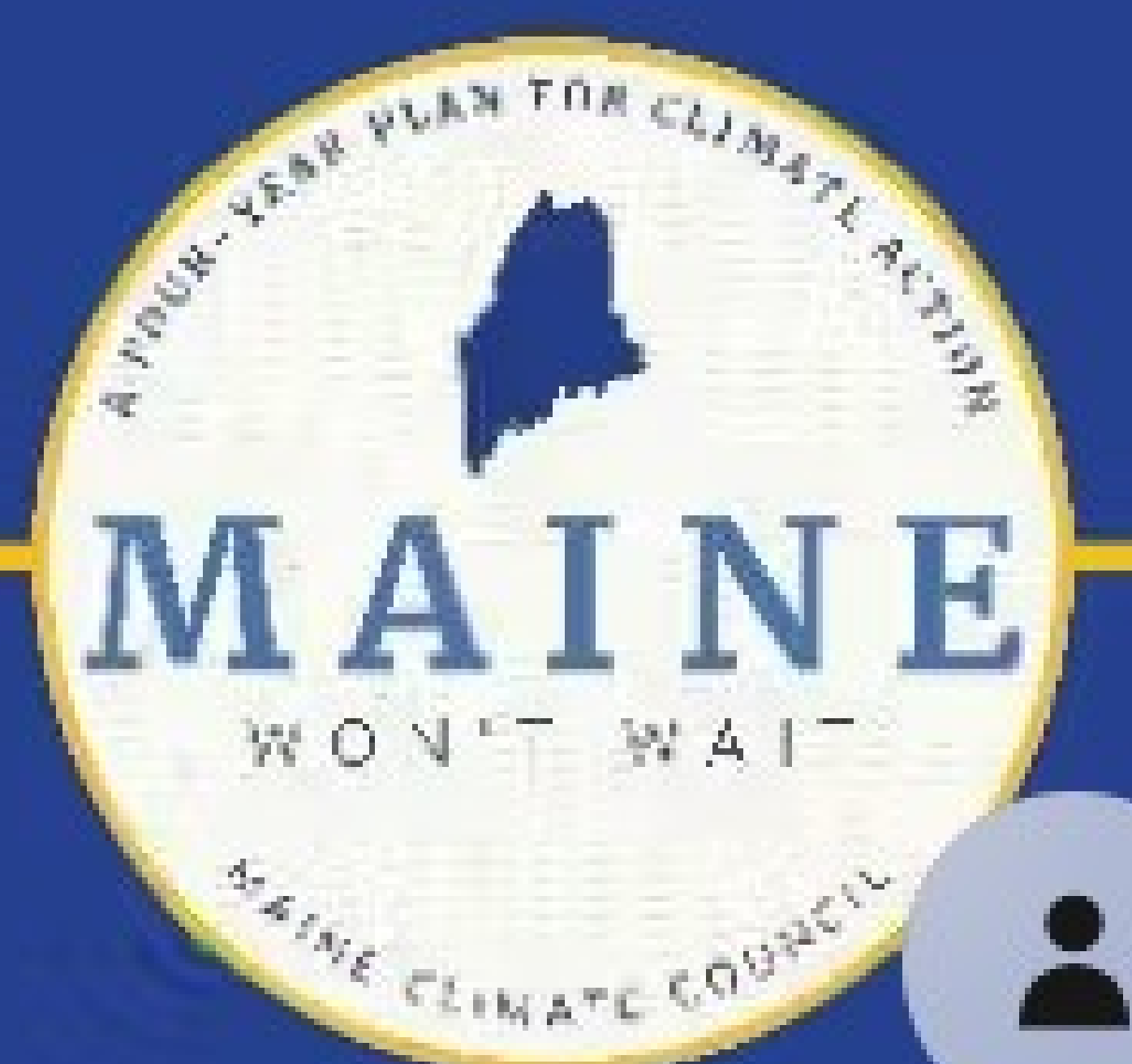




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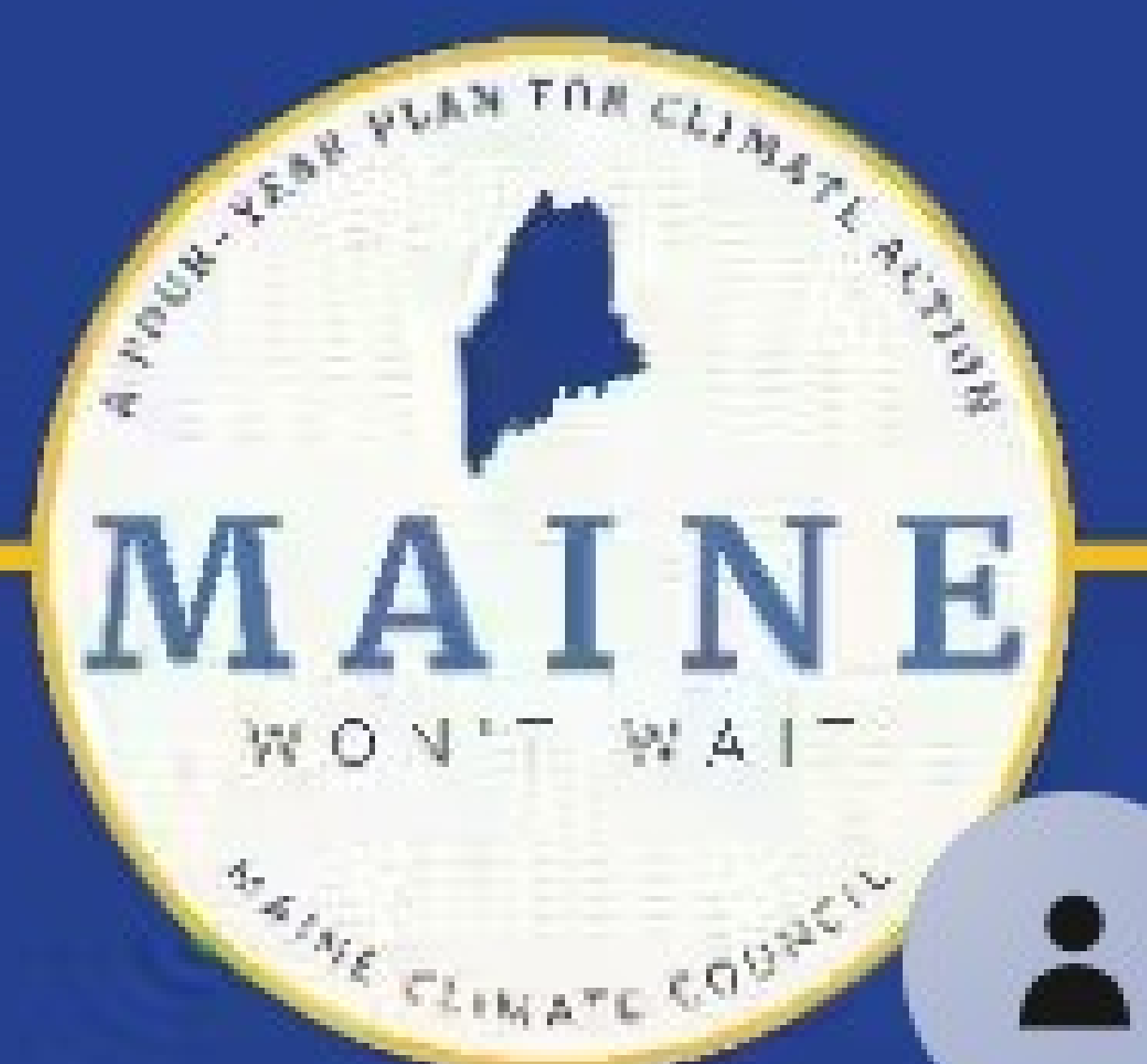
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What should the Climate Council  
and its working groups focus on in  
the next year?





# Instructions

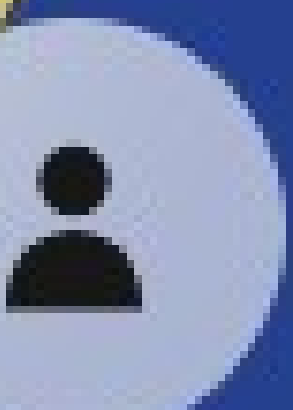
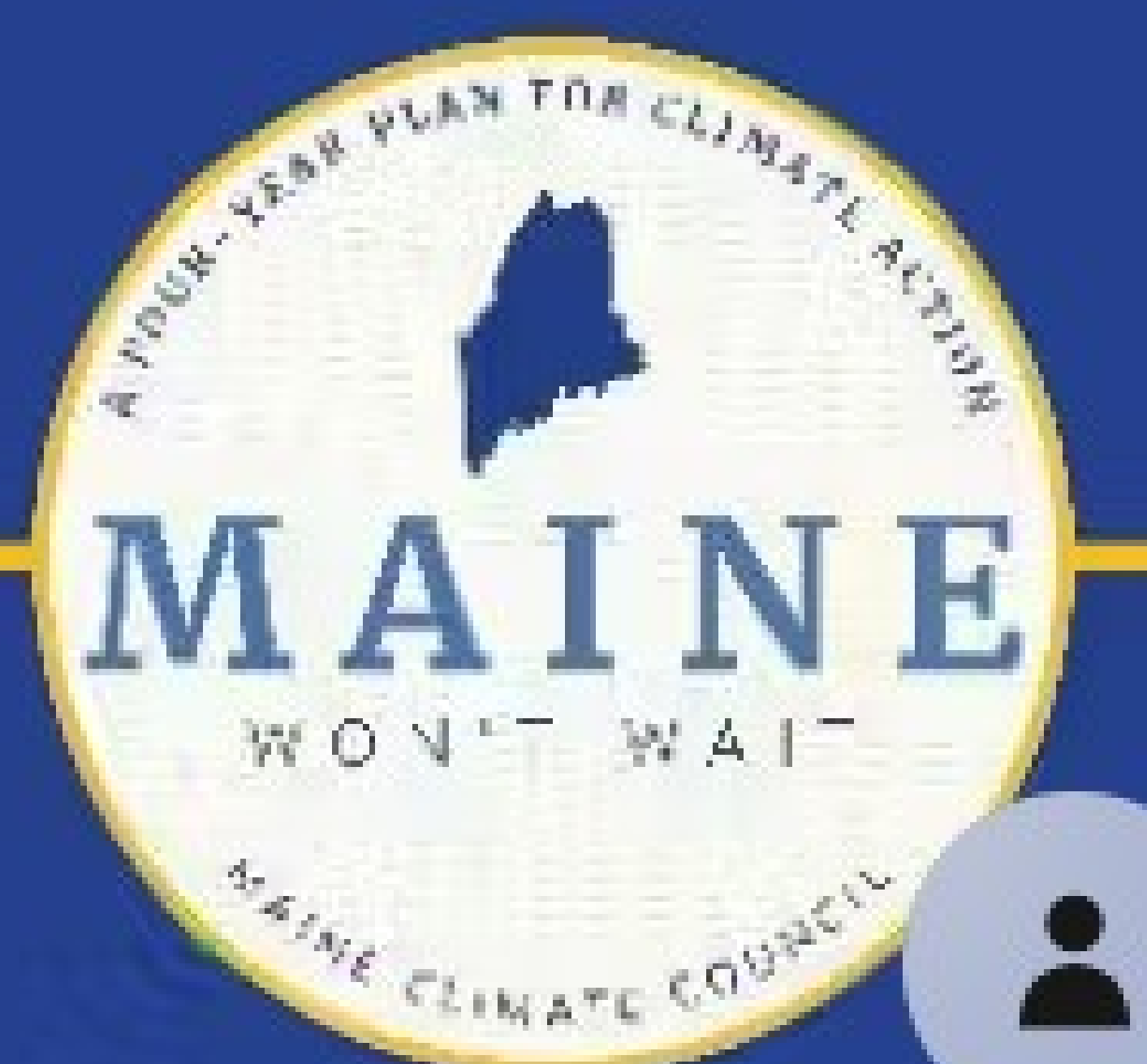
1. Reflect on yourself and write down your answer – **60 seconds**
2. Turn to your neighbor and share ideas, then choose one idea to prioritize – **2 mins**
  - Online – send your idea using the chat function
3. Join with another pair, listen to both ideas, then choose one to prioritize – **4 mins**
4. Designate one person to type your answer into Mentimeter





# What should the Climate Council and its working groups focus on in the next year?

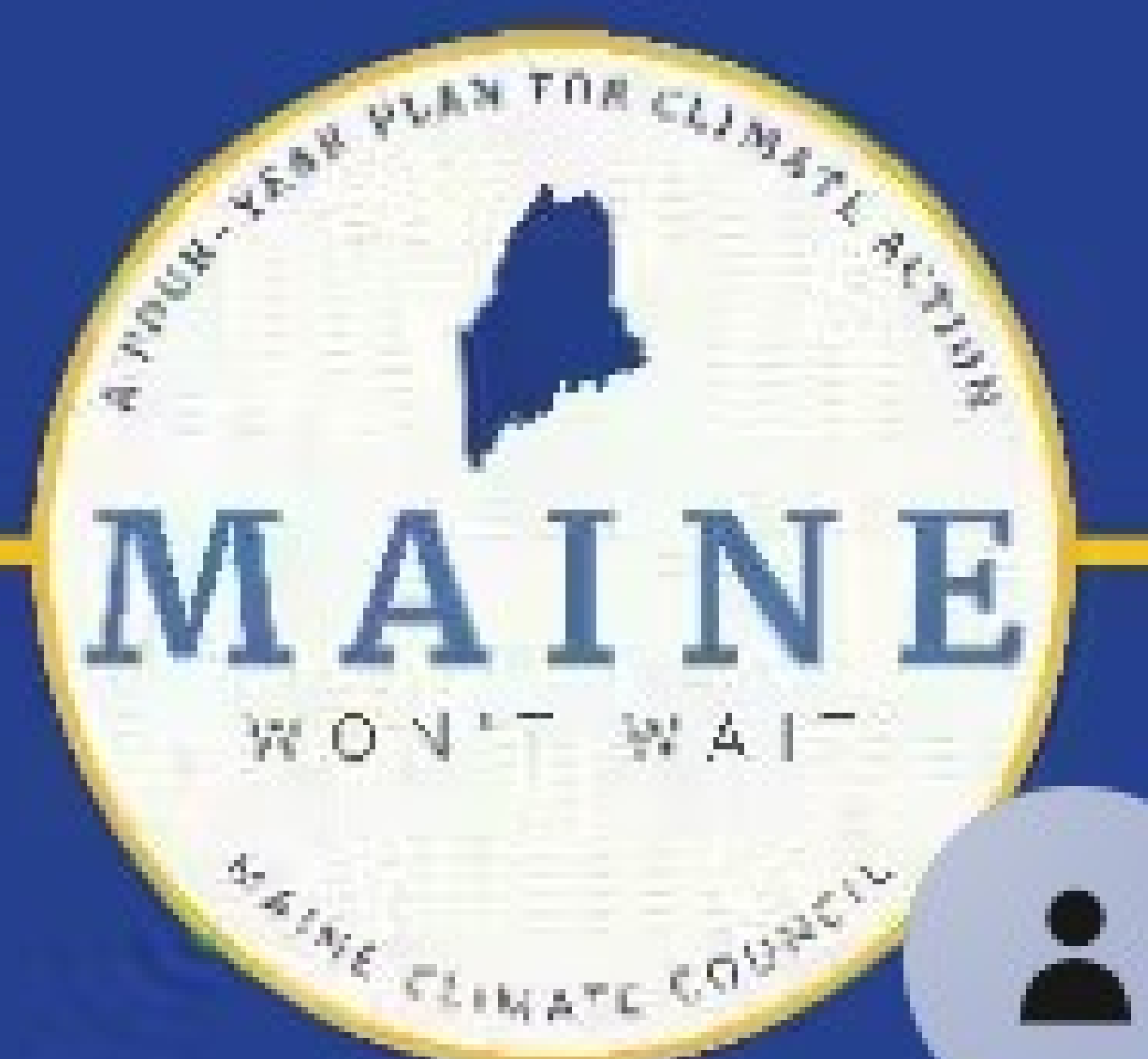
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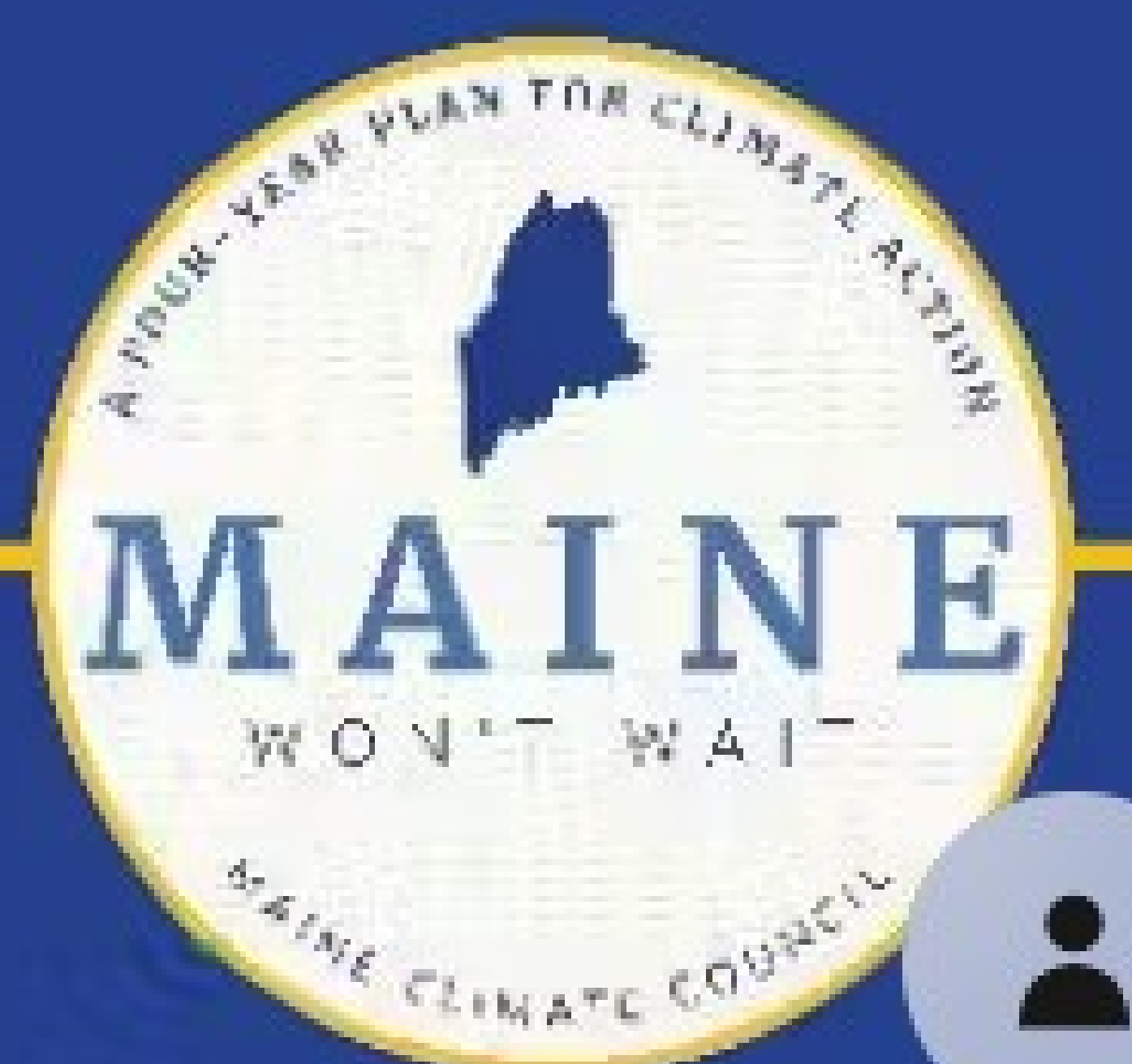
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# What should the Climate Council and its working groups focus on in the next year?

- Join with another pair, listen to both ideas, then choose one to prioritize – **4 mins**





# What should the Climate Council and its working groups focus on in the next year?

Creative funding and financing for filling the federal gap to further aspects of the different working groups

20

Popular

Electricity affordability

19

storm resilience and recovery

18

Refocusing efforts and solutions on challenges and resources at the community level - how to prioritize issues and how to leverage resources and braid funding to solve multiple local problems

15

Education and engagement across generational and political divides

14

Increasing resiliency (food, energy, built environment) through Maine-based and Maine-focused solutions.

14

Establish regional resiliency coordination centers

13

Finding effective pathways to complete efficient community vulnerability assessments and then communicate the outcomes and next steps to community members and leaders.

13



# What should the Climate Council and its working groups focus on in the next year?

Communicating cost saving and affordability opportunities to communities

13

Prepare the foundation of the plan to ensure transition to next administration.  
Specifically, Where will the climate action plan live in the next administration?

12

Preparedness and equity

11

Fast track putting in place Long term sustainable financing when / if federal sources disappear

10

Secure funding for the Land for Maine's Future program, as we are not on track to meet the goal of conserving 30% of our land base by 2030.

9

Refocus on land conservation and use to improve carbon storage and offset to meet the Maine Won't Wait targets.  
funding LMF

8

Focus on what we put in the MCC plans and the things that are not getting done

6

Highest and best use for the individual

5



# What should the Climate Council and its working groups focus on in the next year?

Solve rural transportation needs for elderly/disabled by providing extended EV credits

1



