

Maine Climate Council

March 2026 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

March 24, 2026

Agenda

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. MCC Survey Results: State of Maine Won't Wait Implementation - 2026**
- 3. Panel - A Changing Landscape: Climate Impacts and the Trends Shaping
Everyday Life in Maine**
- 4. Discussion**
- 5. Reaching All Mainers: Climate Communications in 2026 and Discussion**
- 6. Closing and Next Steps**



MCC Meetings and Work Plan for 2026

- **Mar. 24, 2026 | 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.** (virtual)
- **June 16, 2026 | 1 - 4:30 p.m.** (in person, Augusta Civic Center, MCC and Working Group members)
- **Sep. 11, 2026 | 1 - 3 p.m.** (virtual)
- **Dec. 1, 2026 | 1 - 4:30 p.m.** (in person, TBD, MCC and Working Group members)

Costs of living

Reaching all
Mainers

Tracking
implementation

Funding and
financing

Celebrating
progress



State of *Maine Won't Wait* Implementation Survey

The purpose of the survey was to understand MCC members and Working Group Co-Chairs' insights about:

1. How the implementation of *Maine Won't Wait* is moving forward,
2. Where implementation may be running into challenges, and
3. What topics should shape Council and working group priorities for the year.



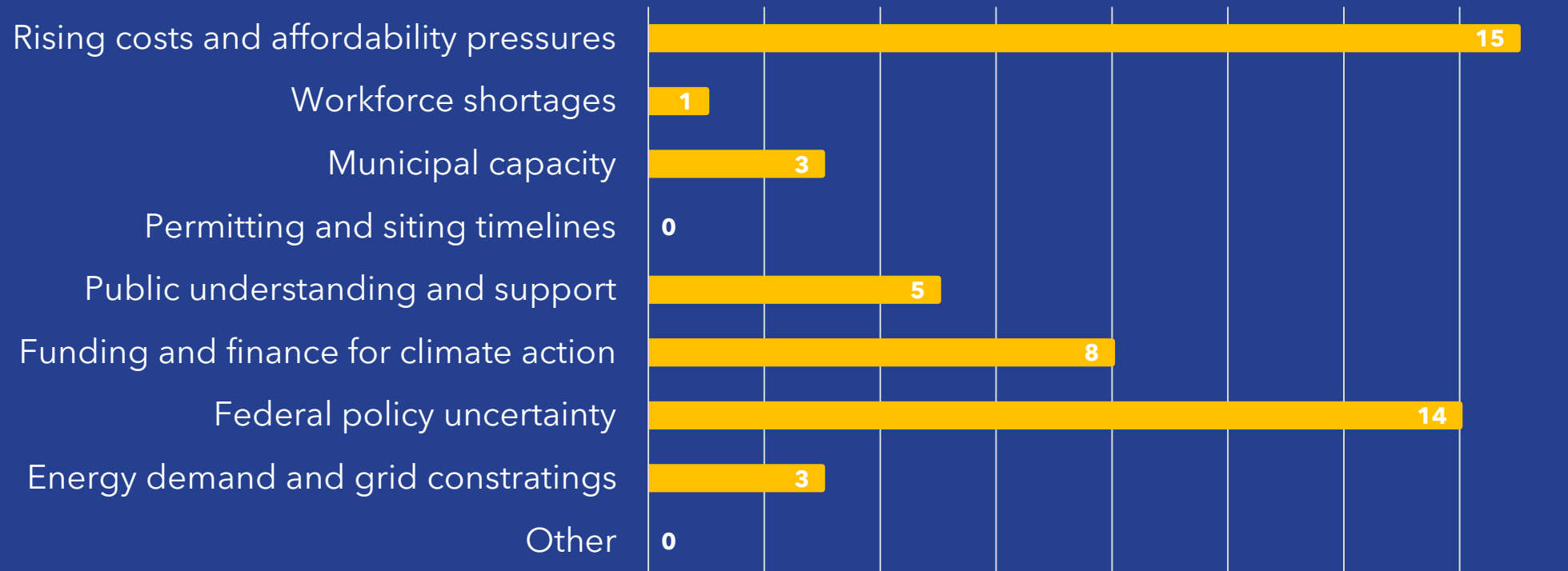
Where are you seeing the most meaningful progress in implementing *Maine Won't Wait*? (select up to 3)



N=17



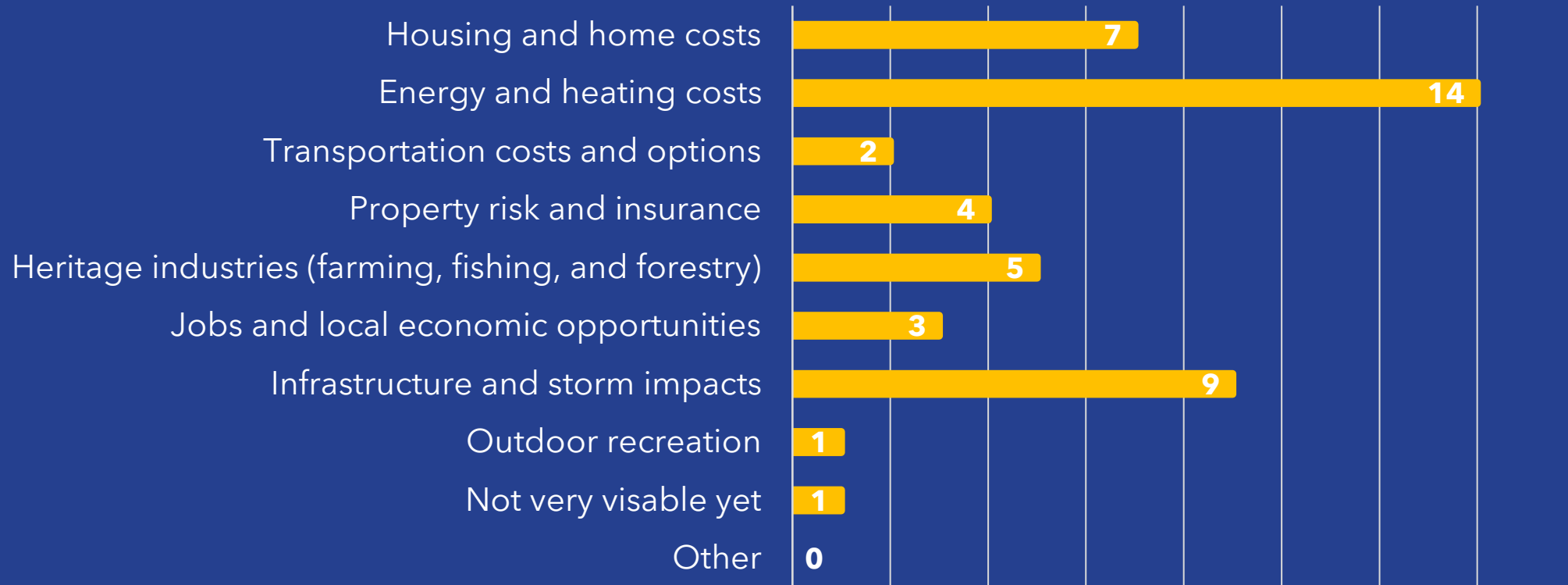
What is becoming harder in 2026 as implementation moves forward in Maine? *(select up to 3)*



N=17



Where are you seeing climate-related change show up most in people's daily lives? *(select up to 3)*



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Who is actively engaging in climate action right now, and who is harder to reach or slower to participate?

Theme: Engagement is concentrated among state and local government, nonprofits, and advocates, people whose jobs and expertise connect them to policy or environmental work.

Theme: The broader public is harder to reach. Climate action can feel abstract, and economic pressures, political beliefs, or a lack of a direct connection to climate action can prevent engagement.



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Looking ahead to the next 12-18 months, what concerns you and what gives you confidence about continued progress on *Maine Won't Wait*?

Key Concerns	Reasons for Confidence
Federal uncertainty	Strong state and local leadership
Upcoming elections	Established infrastructure for climate planning and action
Energy affordability	Public, private, and nonprofit sectors actively investing
Sustaining programs and momentum	Demonstrated progress and practical solutions
Inflation and costs of living slowing adoption	Growing awareness and support

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What is an important climate-related issue or trend that is not getting enough attention right now?



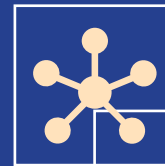
Underrecognized Impacts

- Winter warming
- Drought
- Biodiversity loss
- Invasive species



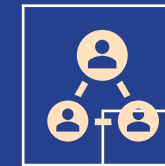
Economic realities

- Rising costs of living
- Under-communicated benefits



Systemic barriers

- Financing
- Permitting
- Supply chains
- Energy demand growth



Differing capacity

- Limited resources in communities
- Uneven across the state



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A Changing Landscape: Climate Impacts and the Trends Shaping Everyday Life in Maine

- **Greg Payne**, Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future
- **Melissa Law**, Bumbleroot Organic Farm, MCC Member
- **Curt Brown**, Bold Coast Seafood, Coastal and Marine Working Group Co-Chair
- **Ethan Tremblay**, Maine Department of Energy Resources
- **Noël Bonam**, Maine AARP, MCC Member and Equity Subcommittee Co-Chair
- **Rebecca Boulos**, Maine Public Health Association, Community Resilience Working Group Co-Chair



Discussion





Reaching All Mainers: Climate Communications for 2026

Keith Carson, Maine
Conservation Voters



Discussion



Next Steps

- Next meeting is June 16, 2026, from 1 – 4:30 p.m.
 - Location: Augusta Civic Center
 - MCC and Working Group members)
- STS Interim Report (expected April)
- DEP *Biennial Report on Progress toward Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals* (expected Summer)
- GOPIF Analyses
 - Resilience Funding and Finance Study (proposals due April 9th)
 - Economic Analysis of Climate Risk and Resilience in Maine



