

# Buildings, Infrastructure & Housing Working Group

## Maine Climate Council

Meeting Summary

*Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 1:00pm - 3:00pm*

Efficiency Maine Trust Office

151 Capitol St., Suite 4, Augusta, ME 04330

### Meeting Purpose

The Working Group convened to:

- Share member updates and relevant developments in the buildings sector.
- Receive an update on the New England Heat Pump Accelerator.
- Discuss ongoing work related to resilient building codes.
- Review findings from Efficiency Maine's research on whole-home heat pump performance.
- Identify future topics for Working Group meetings.

### In attendance:

- Pat Stanton, retired, on the board of Efficiency Maine and NASEO
- Tom Twist, Bates College, Green Campus Consortium
- Sheldon Perkins, Efficiency Maine communications
- Ellen Belknap, SMRT
- Molly Siegel, Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF)
- Naomi Beal, passivhausMAINE
- Rozanna Patane, York Ready for Climate Action
- Matthew Pitzer, architect with SGH specializing in building enclosures.
- Ross Anthony, Department of Energy Resources (DOER)
- Todd Rothstein, AVESTA
- Celina Cunningham, acting commissioner at DOER
- Ania Wright, Center for an Ecology Based Economy (CEBE)
- Lauren Scott, Efficiency Maine
- Michael Stoddard, Efficiency Maine

### Legislative Updates

- [LD 2037](#) amends the amount of carbon dioxide **emissions allowances** the State may auction as a participant in the regional greenhouse gas initiative. It also eliminates requirements for establishing and developing carbon dioxide offset project categories.
- [LD 2212 supplemental budget](#)

- provides ongoing funding of **\$7,500,000** annually for **low-income electric ratepayer assistance**. [adopted from LD 995 An Act to Provide Funding for Low-income Electric Ratepayer Assistance, Sachs]
- [LD 1730](#) establishes requirements for **plug-in photovoltaic systems** and plug-in battery systems for offsetting on-site electricity consumption.
- [LD 2140](#) requires the Efficiency Maine Trust to encourage electricity customers to reduce their **consumption of electricity during periods of peak demand** to help lower their electric bills and improve grid reliability.
- [LD 2220](#) provides one-time funding of **\$100,000** for the development and maintenance of standardized training curriculum and program materials for a **Home Energy Navigator and Coaching Resource Hub**
- [LD 2225](#) adds the International Code Council and Modular Building Institute 1200-2021 Standard for Off-site Construction: Planning, Design, Fabrication and Assembly to the list of codes that make up the **Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code**, amends the training requirements for code enforcement officers to include **training on industrialized housing**; and directs MOCA to conduct a 3-year pilot project to promote, incentivize and support the adoption of **regionalized approaches to code enforcement** by municipalities (funded in the supplemental budget).
- [LD 2212 supplemental budget](#)
  - Provides one-time funding of **\$1,000,000** for a three-year pilot project to provide **regionalized building code enforcement** funded by a transfer from the Budget Stabilization Fund.

### **New England Heat Pump Accelerator**

Sign up to receive updates here: <https://www.energymaine.com/new-england-heat-pump-accelerator/>

- Midstream incentives for heat pump water heaters (HPWH): Efficiency Maine is using funding to extend existing incentive program for the next three years
- Innovation Hub:
  - State-level pilot projects will be administered by Efficiency Maine through its Innovation Program. Pilot novel applications of whole-home heat pump systems and HPWH to demonstrate their performance and economics in Maine's climate.
  - Community Grants: VEIC will be administering the grants, they will be available in the next couple of months. Energy coaching and navigation are a priority for Maine. The priority is to overcome barriers that are more pronounced in lower-income and rural parts of the state.

- Other priorities: market transformation, workforce training, energy coaching and navigation.
- Funds will be subject to federal flow down requirements.

### **Whole Home Heat Pump Assessment**

- Ian Burnes from Efficiency Maine gave a presentation on recently collected data comparing homes using whole-home heat pump installations as the primary heating system compared to homes using heat pumps as a supplemental heating source (i.e., heat pumps that are not sized to be able to heat the entire home). Metering data from the study show that homes with whole-home heat pumps are using their heat pumps more, they are operating more efficiently, and fewer users are turning their heat pumps off at low outside temperatures. However, the data show that a significant portion of homes are continuing to use varying amounts of supplemental heat sources (e.g., fossil fuels, wood) in addition to heat pumps, which tends to reduce the financial benefits to the homeowner and the carbon reductions. Efficiency Maine is exploring program designs, training and education that will help homeowners maximize the cost savings and carbon reductions from their heat pump systems.

### **Building Codes**

- Postponed resilient building codes presentation to next meeting due to lack of time.
- MA recently saw whole-building air leakage becoming a part of the building codes, and still seeing a big gap in general understanding of the codes.

### **Discussion of topics for next meeting**

- York Energy Coaches- air to water heat pumps
- Consider water-based energy systems such those being studied in Boston Harbor and Toronto. SMRT can identify folks to provide value.
- Microgrid neighborhood-scale geothermal
- Energy storage and demand management, what's happening around the country (SMUD)
- Maine Transactive Energy Pilot
- Denver pilot project using sewer system as a heat source
- Materials codes, lower embodied carbon