

Maine Climate Council

June 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

June 16, 2026

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Discussion: Reflecting on Progress
3. Legislative Updates and Recent and Upcoming Reports
 - MCC Co-Chairs
 - STS Co-Chairs
4. Looking Ahead: How Maine and Other States Can Meet the Moment
 - Maine Climate Council Co-Chairs
 - Casey Katims, Executive Director, U.S. Climate Alliance
5. Discussion: Where Can We Make the Most Progress? Focusing Maine Won't Wait for the Next Two Years
6. Reflections and Closing

June 16, 2026



Discuss at your tables

What are we most proud of from the last two years of *Maine Won't Wait* implementation?

- 10 minutes

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Highlights from the 132nd Second Legislative Session

The session advanced practical climate solutions that lower costs, expand access to clean energy, and further strengthen communities.

GOPIF is leading two new studies in support of *Maine Won't Wait* and *A Plan For Infrastructure Resilience*.

Study	Key Question
Resilience Funding and Financing	How can Maine better fund its resilience needs?
Economic Analysis of Climate Risk and Resilience	What are the economic risks of climate change and the benefits of investing in resilience?



STS released its latest Interim Climate Science Report.

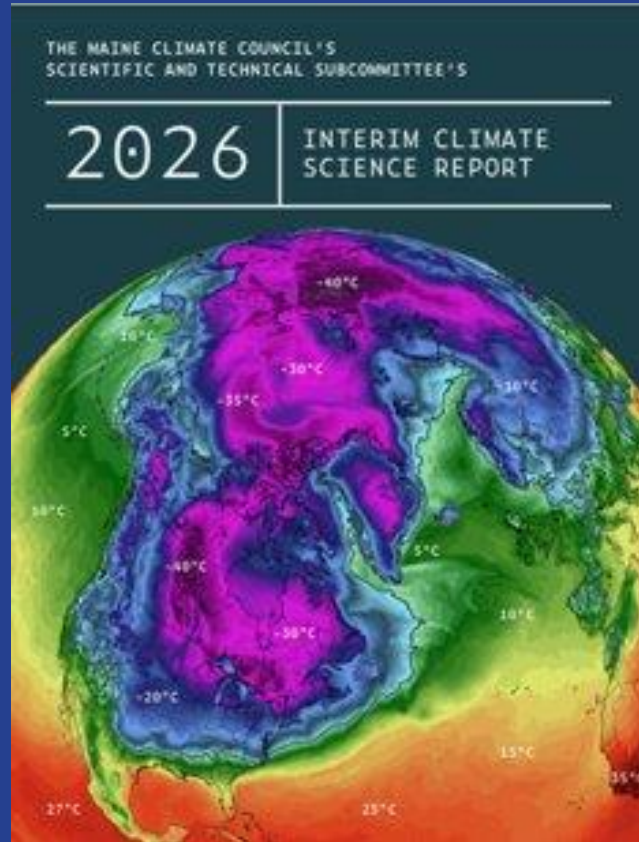


TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	8
BACKGROUND	10
01 ATMOSPHERIC TEMPERATURE	14
02 PRECIPITATION AND DROUGHT	17
03 WINTER STORMS	19
04 GULF OF MAINE TEMPERATURES	21
05 SEA LEVEL RISE IMPACTS TO COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS	24
06 SEA LEVEL PROJECTIONS	28
07 RECENT AND NEAR-TERM FUTURE SEA LEVEL AND COASTAL FLOODING	30
08 FOREST CARBON AND PRODUCTIVITY	33
10 FOREST BIODIVERSITY	39
11 SPECIES OCCURRENCE AND RANGE SHIFTS	42
12 SPECIES ENDANGERMENT STATUS	44
13 LAND CONSERVATION	47
14 WASTED FOOD IN MAINE	49
15 GROUNDWATER DROUGHT	51
16 STREAMWATER TEMPERATURE	53
17 FRESHWATER HABITS AND AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANTS	55
18 HUMAN HEALTH IMPACTS	58
19 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE	62
CLOSING THOUGHTS	64

June 16, 2026



MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Quarterly MCC Meeting Report
June 16, 2026





Scientific + Technical Subcommittee

Brief comments on:

- 1. The 2026 STS Interim Climate Science Report**
- 2. STS Co-Chairs Initial Investigation: Changing Federal Science Policy Impacts on Maine Climate Science Assets**





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

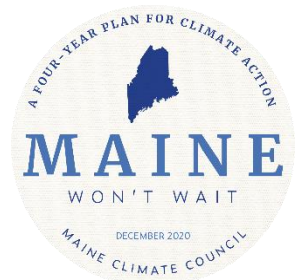


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Global Climate

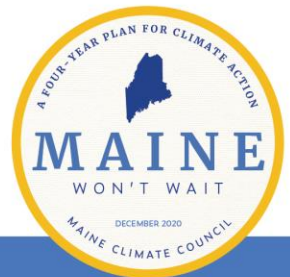
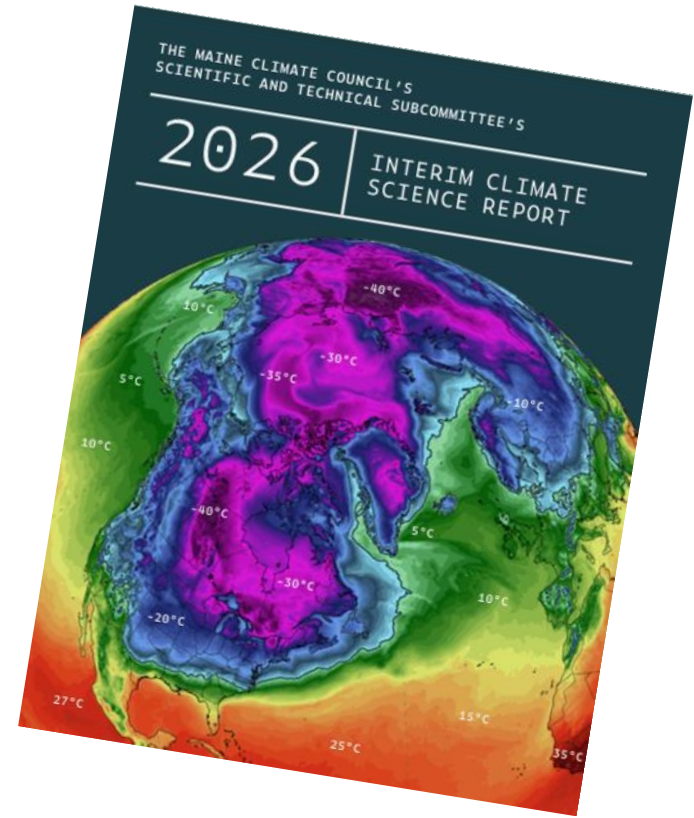


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	8
BACKGROUND	10
01 ATMOSPHERIC TEMPERATURE	14
02 PRECIPITATION AND DROUGHT	17
03 WINTER STORMS	19
04 GULF OF MAINE TEMPERATURES	21
05 SEA LEVEL RISE IMPACTS TO COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS	24
06 SEA LEVEL PROJECTIONS	28
07 RECENT AND NEAR-TERM FUTURE SEA LEVEL AND COASTAL FLOODING .	30
08 FOREST CARBON AND PRODUCTIVITY	33
09 FOREST HEALTH AND DIVERSITY	36
10 FOREST BIODIVERSITY	39
11 SPECIES OCCURRENCE AND RANGE SHIFTS	42
12 SPECIES ENDANGERMENT STATUS	44
13 LAND CONSERVATION	47
14 WASTED FOOD IN MAINE	49
15 GROUNDWATER DROUGHT	51
16 STREAMWATER TEMPERATURE	53
17 FRESHWATER HABITS AND AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANTS	55
18 HUMAN HEALTH IMPACTS	58
19 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE	62
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19 Indicators of a changing climate in Maine.



Hope and Reflections



HOW EACH INDICATOR IS ORGANIZED

A consistent template helps us understand the story behind each indicator.



01

INDICATOR TITLE

What is being measured and why it matters.



02

WHY IT MATTERS

Why this indicator is important for people, ecosystems, and Maine's future.



03

WHAT DO THE DATA TELL US?

Key findings and trends from the data.



04

WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

Actions underway to address or respond to this indicator.



05

CRITICAL SCIENCE ASSETS, ASSETS AT RISK, ASSETS NEEDED

Essential data/systems, what's at risk, and what's needed.

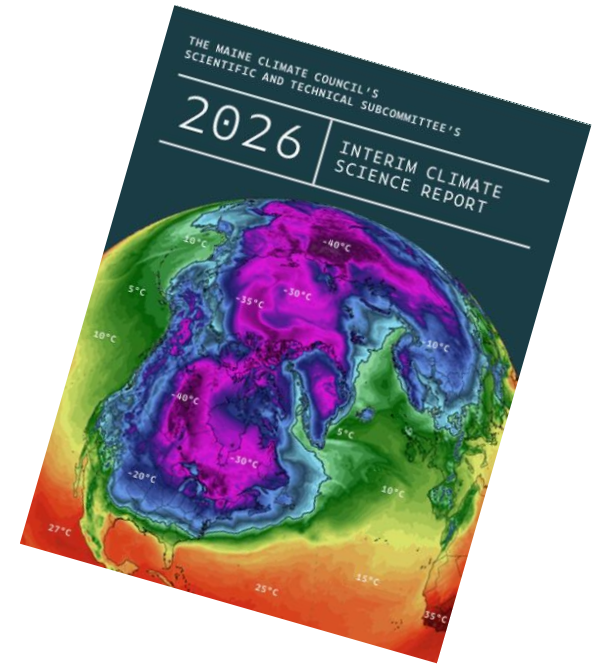


06

WHAT TO WATCH

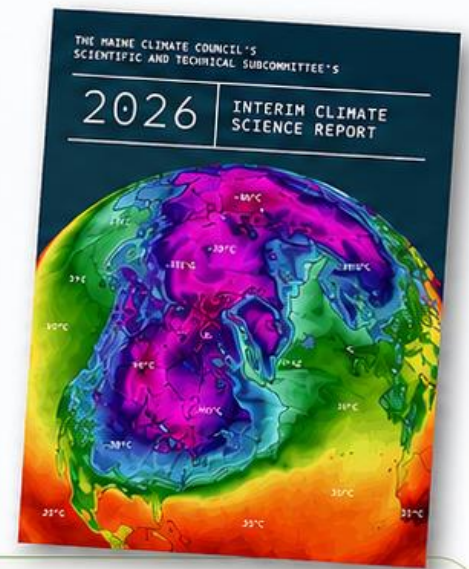
What to look for in the near future.

These six sections provide a consistent framework for all 19 climate indicators.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Maine's climate is changing—and the evidence is clear.
Impacts are here. Solutions exist. Our choices matter.



KEY TAKEAWAYS: THE EVIDENCE IS CLEAR



CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING

Maine has warmed ~3.5°F since the late 1800s.



WETTER, MORE EXTREMES

Precipitation up ~15%.
Sea level rising.



OCEANS & ICE ARE CHANGING

Warmer oceans.
Declining sea ice.
Rising seas.



ECOSYSTEMS UNDER STRESS

Forests, wildlife and coral reefs are at risk.



EXTREMES ARE INCREASING

More frequent wildfires, storms and disasters.



MAINE IS TAKING ACTION

Communities, governments and partners are building resilience.



SOLUTIONS ARE SCALING



Solar and wind met global electricity demand growth in H1 2025.



Global investment in clean energy is now 2x that of fossil fuels.



EV sales exceeded 20% of all vehicles sold in 2024.



Maine is 30% below 1990 GHG emissions and 91% of the way to carbon neutrality.

BY THE NUMBERS: GLOBAL REALITIES



3

OF THE 3 WARMEST YEARS ON RECORD WERE IN THE PAST 3 YEARS



+1.5°C

2024 WAS LIKELY THE FIRST YEAR ABOVE 1.5°C GLOBALLY



↑15%

MORE ANNUAL PRECIPITATION IN MAINE



10TH

LOWEST SEPTEMBER ARCTIC SEA ICE ON RECORD



4TH

GLOBAL CORAL BLEACHING EVENT



\$146.8B

AVERAGE ANNUAL COST OF U.S. WEATHER & CLIMATE DISASTERS (2020–2025)



THE BOTTOM LINE: *The science is clear. Impacts are here. Progress is real—but we must accelerate action.*

Sources: WMO, NOAA, Pan et al. 2026, Yin et al. 2026, Climate Central, Ember, IEA, Maine Climate Council





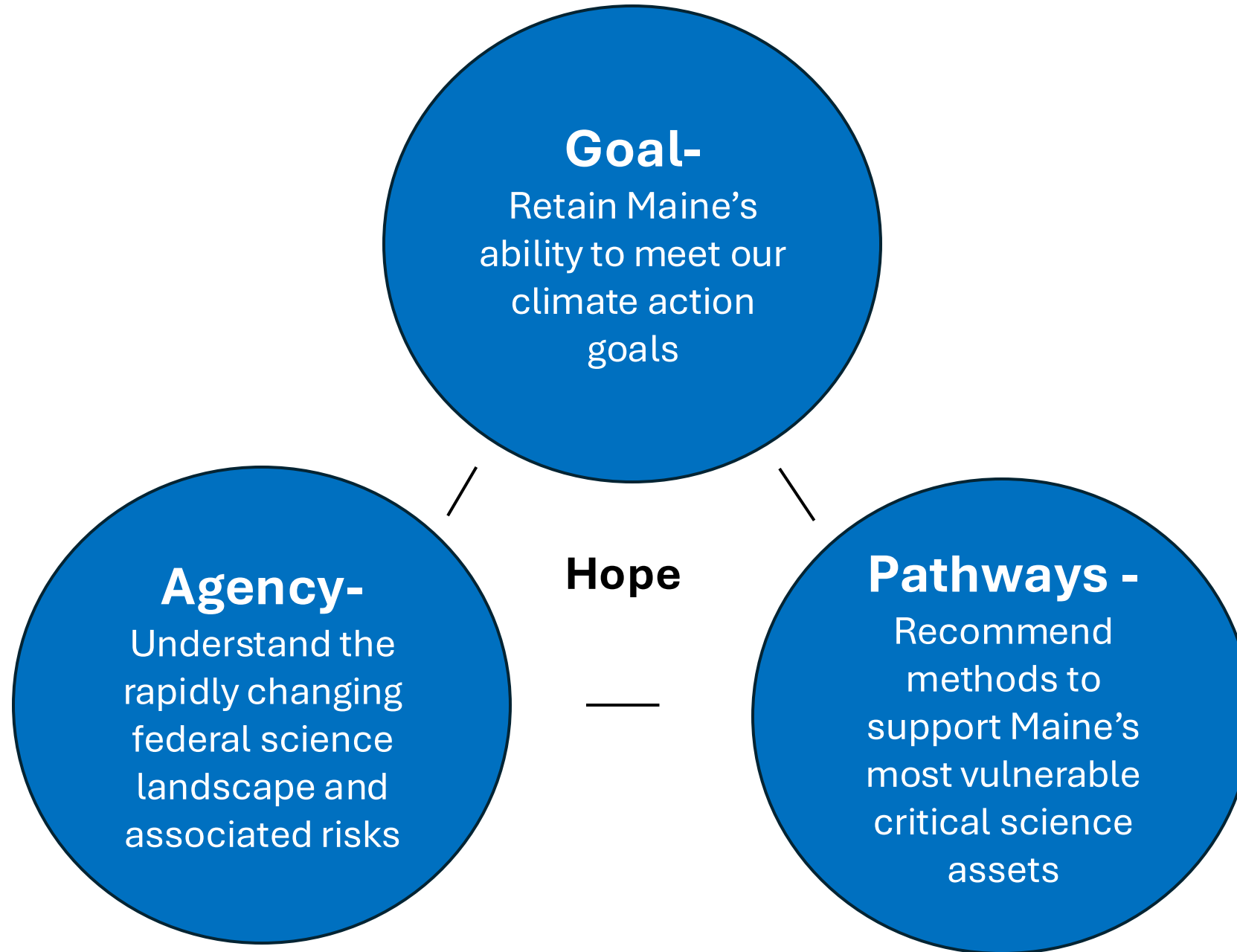
CLOSING THOUGHTS

As Co-Chairs of the Maine Climate Council's Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, we think often about how science and technology inform decision-making — and how they offer powerful tools to help us address the challenges of a rapidly changing world. In our [2024 full assessment update](#), we closed the report for the first time with a short chapter on “hope” — not the emotion, but the science of hope, which tells us that hope arises from setting personally meaningful goals, having the agency and determination to pursue solutions, and having a plan to get there. We believed Maine people have that determination, and we believed [Maine Won't Wait](#) offered meaningful climate goals and cost-effective, science-informed pathways to achieve them. We still believe this is true.

As we release this interim report for Earth Day 2026, our timing coincides with a remarkable human achievement: the NASA [Artemis II](#) mission, which launched April 1st and — for the first time since Apollo 17 in 1972 — carried astronauts beyond Earth's orbit to the far side of the Moon. The mission embodied what humanity can accomplish when we bring together the best available science, a diverse crew and ground team, and an international partnership united by a common goal. The images of Earth returned from the Orion spacecraft echo the profound shift in perspective that came from the [Earthrise](#) photograph taken by Apollo 8 in 1968 and the [Blue Marble](#) image from Apollo 17 in 1972 — moments that awakened us to the fragility of our planet and our shared responsibility to protect it. This is the only home we have. Science is not the whole answer to climate change, but it is an indispensable part of the toolkit. Every scientific success for the betterment of humans and the planet is an opportunity to show that the future we want is possible.

Dr. Susie Arnold, Island Institute
Dr. Ivan Fernandez, University of Maine
Co-Chairs, Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

2. STS Co-Chairs Initial Investigation: Changing Federal Science Policy Impacts on Maine Climate Science Assets



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Actions underway to address or respond to this indicator.



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CRITICAL SCIENCE ASSETS, ASSETS AT RISK, ASSETS NEEDED

Essential data/systems, what's at risk, and what's needed.



06

WHAT TO WATCH

What to look for in the near future.

Gulf of Maine Temperatures

CRITICAL SCIENCE ASSETS

Critical assets include: [NERACOOS](#) buoys, [NOAA OISST v2](#) (Optimum Interpolation Sea Surface Temperature), [GLORYS12v1 Ocean Reanalysis](#), [MOM-6 COBALT model for the Northwest Atlantic](#), [eMOLT](#) (Environmental Monitors on Lobster Traps), [DMR Boothbay Harbor Environmental Monitoring Program](#) sea water temperature record, [Gulf of Maine North Atlantic Time Series](#) (GNATS), NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center's bottom trawl surveys and ecosystem monitoring surveys.

- **May 2025- Initial STS-wide survey regarding Maine federal climate science assets at risk**
- **June 2025, September 2025 presentations to MCC**
- **Identified private foundation to fund position**
- **January 2026- Dr. Nicole Spaulding starts to work with STS co-chairs**
- **April 2026- MCC-wide survey regarding climate science assets**
- **Currently underway- risk assessment and synthesis of findings**



FEDERAL POLICY AND THE RISKS FOR SCIENCE

Three policy shifts that weaken the scientific foundations states rely on.

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR SCIENCE

Administrative priorities, funding streams, and data systems are shifting in ways that weaken scientific support for states.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE REALIGNMENT & EXPERTISE ATTRITION



Climate missions are deprioritized



Technical positions and advisory capacity shrink



Modeling, extension, and research networks weaken



Grant and hiring filters disrupt the talent pipeline



STATE EFFECT:
Less expert support for planning and regulation.

2. REDUCED FISCAL INVESTMENTS IN SCIENCE



Climate-focused grants are cut or redirected



Agricultural and resilience funding declines



Disaster aid becomes less predictable



Innovation pipelines slow as funding instability grows



STATE EFFECT:
More fiscal pressure and slower project delivery.

3. TECHNOLOGICAL & ARCHIVAL TRANSITION



Federal data systems and archives become less stable



Key observing missions and datasets face cuts



Climate information becomes harder to find and access



States need mirrored data and independent repositories



STATE EFFECT:
A weaker evidence base for policy and legal defense.

STATE-LEVEL CONSEQUENCES



Weaker decision support



Higher implementation risk



Reduced legal defensibility

Need for autonomous capacity

CORE MESSAGE: The result is not simply slower progress, but a broader decision-support crisis in which states may retain formal climate goals while losing the technical and fiscal infrastructure needed to carry them out. These pressures fall especially hard on smaller and rural communities that rely most heavily on shared federal resources.



CLOSING THOUGHTS

“Science is not the whole answer to climate change, but it is an indispensable part of the toolkit. Every scientific success for the betterment of humans and the planet is an opportunity to show that the future we want is possible.”

Dr. Susie Arnold, Island Institute
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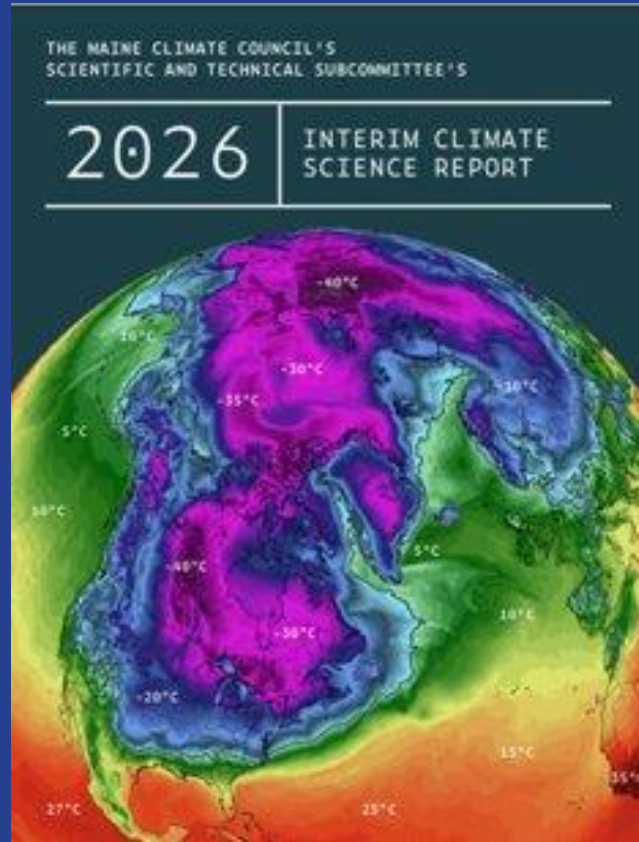


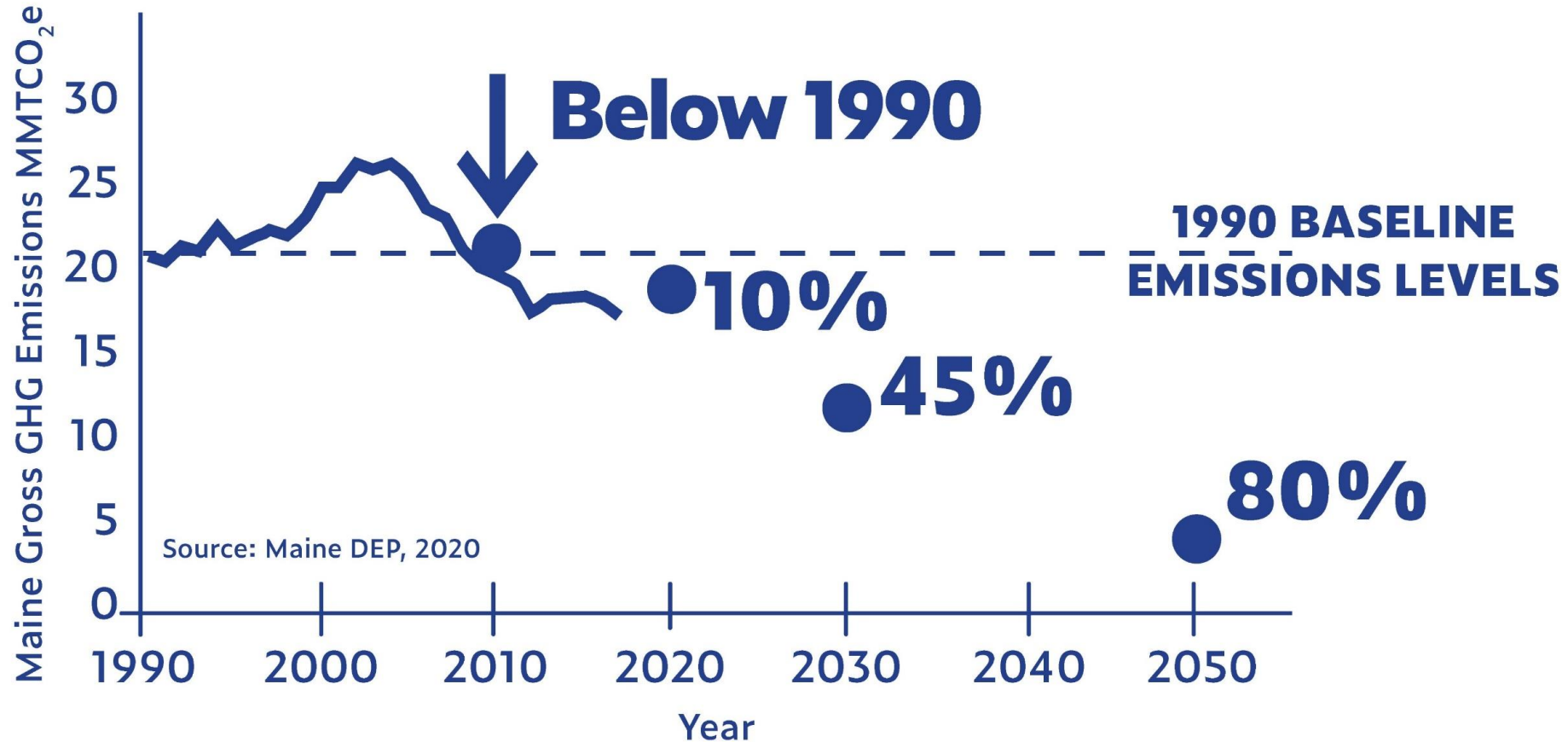
TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	8
BACKGROUND	10
01 ATMOSPHERIC TEMPERATURE	14
02 PRECIPITATION AND DROUGHT	17
03 WINTER STORMS	19
04 GULF OF MAINE TEMPERATURES	21
05 SEA LEVEL RISE IMPACTS TO COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS	24
06 SEA LEVEL PROJECTIONS	28
07 RECENT AND NEAR-TERM FUTURE SEA LEVEL AND COASTAL FLOODING	30
08 FOREST CARBON AND PRODUCTIVITY	33
10 FOREST BIODIVERSITY	39
11 SPECIES OCCURRENCE AND RANGE SHIFTS	42
12 SPECIES ENDANGERMENT STATUS	44
13 LAND CONSERVATION	47
14 WASTED FOOD IN MAINE	49
15 GROUNDWATER DROUGHT	51
16 STREAMWATER TEMPERATURE	53
17 FRESHWATER HABITS AND AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANTS	55
18 HUMAN HEALTH IMPACTS	58
19 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE	62
CLOSING THOUGHTS	64

June 16, 2026



Maine Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions + Reduction Goals



Data source: Maine Department of Environmental Protection

June 16, 2026





Looking Ahead: How Maine and Other States Can Meet This Moment

- **Melanie Loyzim**, Maine Climate Council Co-Chair
- **Sarah Curran**, Maine Climate Council Co-Chair
- **Casey Katims**, Executive Director, U.S. Climate Alliance

June 16, 2026



UNITED STATES
**CLIMATE
ALLIANCE**

Looking Ahead: How Maine and Other States Can Meet the Moment

Maine Climate Council Meeting

June 16, 2026

A scenic view of a white lighthouse on a rocky coastline. The lighthouse is tall and cylindrical with a black lantern room. To its left is a white house with a red roof. The foreground is dominated by large, layered grey rocks. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a clear, light blue. The word "Agenda" is overlaid in white text on a blue rectangular background.

Agenda

1. U.S. Climate Alliance Introduction
2. The Moment We're In
3. Coalition-Wide Progress



Our Impact

Alliance members' bold action on climate change is collectively delivering:



Air Pollution
Reductions



Economic
Growth



Emissions
Reductions



Good Paying
Jobs



Disaster
Preparedness



Reliable
Clean Energy



Cost
Savings



Consumer
Choice

Highlights from Gov. Mills's Climate Leadership

- Joined the U.S. Climate Alliance soon after being sworn-in in 2019
- Served as the Alliance's first non-founding-state co-chair in 2023 alongside Gov. Inslee
- Inspired and helped launch a coalition-wide target of collectively quadrupling heat pump installations, to achieve 20 million heat pumps installations across coalition by 2030
- Led Maine to surpass its own goal of installing 100,000 heat pumps by 2025 — two years ahead of schedule



The Moment We're In





**All Alliance
members are facing
similar national
headwinds**

- Rollbacks of key federal climate rules and programs
- Closure of federal scientific bodies and dismantling of foundational data services
- Undermining of established scientific consensus
- Termination of federal investments putting additional strain on state capacity
- Growing challenges with federal disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts
- Efforts to constrain deployment of clean energy and clean technologies
- Attempts to preempt state authority
- Many competing priorities requiring attention alongside climate and energy (e.g., public safety, election integrity, healthcare, civil rights)

Every amount of progress matters

- U.S. on a much lower emissions pathway today than previously expected — thanks to technological advances, shifting market trends, and federal and state policy advancement
- Global transition to cleaner energy and technologies accelerating and likely irreversible
- Clean transition in U.S. has continued throughout second Trump administration, albeit at slower pace, and expected to continue despite headwinds
- Every fraction of a degree of avoided warming helps to safeguard lives and livelihoods today and decades into the future



Coalition-Wide Progress

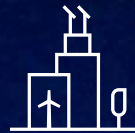


Policy Priorities

Together, Alliance members are advancing high-impact policies, actions, and regulations across 10 key policy areas:



GHG Targets
& Governance



Buildings



Climate
Finance



Electricity



Industry



Just Transition
& Equity



Natural &
Working Lands



Pricing Carbon
& Valuing
Damages



Resilience



Transportation



GHG Targets & Governance

- Tracked and monitored progress toward existing targets
- Identified opportunities to sustain and raise ambition through progress reports and updated climate action plans

PROGRESS ACROSS THE COALITION:

Delaware's 2025 Climate Action Plan

Last year, Delaware released its 2025 Climate Action Plan – the state's playbook for climate action – highlighting the critical link between climate change resilience and GHG emissions. The plan includes a **new chapter on land use** that explores how local land use decisions can play a role in mitigating climate change.





Buildings

- Adopted next-generation equipment standards
- Advanced more efficient building codes and standards
- Accelerated heat pump deployment
- Pursued utility planning and innovation

PROGRESS ACROSS THE COALITION: Colorado & Washington's Building Performance Standards

Both Washington (2019) and Colorado (2021) have adopted building performance standards requiring commercial, multifamily, and public buildings over 50,000 sq. ft. to annually benchmark energy use and meet emissions reduction targets. Both programs **incentivize energy efficiency improvements** like upgrading heating systems and insulation to meet compliance deadlines. Washington's progressive building codes have also positioned the state as a national leader in building decarbonization, with other states including Colorado adopting similar energy code updates.





Climate Finance

- Leveraged public and private investments and innovative financing tools to support state climate mitigation and resilience efforts
- Maximized benefits of federal climate investments that remain available and continue to be implemented

PROGRESS ACROSS THE COALITION:

Washington's Re-investment of Climate Commitment Act Proceeds

Between 2023 and 2025, Washington's cap-and-invest program generated over \$3 billion which has supported critical climate and air quality projects, including those that reduce energy bills for low-income households and small businesses and provide free ferry, bus, and other clean transit rides for youth. Nearly 60% of this spending benefitted vulnerable populations in overburdened communities, surpassing the law's required minimum of 35%.





Electricity

- Developed policy pathways and programs to decarbonize the electricity grid
- Advanced innovative technologies like plug-in solar and battery storage
- Maximized federal clean energy incentives
- Delivered near-term energy bill relief for customers today while improving energy affordability in the long run

PROGRESS ACROSS THE COALITION:
**Illinois' Clean and Reliable Grid
Affordability Act**

In January, Illinois enacted SB25 which will lower costs by driving the development of new energy resources, enacting new regulatory powers to support consumers, and **creating and enhancing consumer cost-saving programs**. This includes directing the procurement of **3 GW of energy storage by 2030**, creating “Virtual Power Plant” programs, extending clean energy siting reforms to storage projects, promoting energy equity, and encouraging community-driven clean energy projects, among many other measures.





Industry

- Invested in facility-level clean technology solutions
- Drove demand for low-carbon products
- Limited the release of high global warming-potential gases
- Improved data collection, monitoring, and reporting

PROGRESS ACROSS THE COALITION:

Colorado's Landfill Methane Regulations

Colorado finalized its landfill methane regulation in December 2025, which will subject up to 32 municipal solid waste landfills to **stricter emissions controls**. Key components of the rule include: a stricter emissions standard than federal rules; requirements for closed landfills to install biofilters; additional methane monitoring with advanced tools like satellites and planes; and a phased ban on open flaring.





Just Transition & Equity

- Pressed forward on equity-centered policies
- Directed significant investments to frontline communities
- Accelerated the development of a diverse, equitable, and inclusive climate-ready workforce

PROGRESS ACROSS THE COALITION:

Massachusetts Clean Energy & Climate Tech Workforce Development

In March, Massachusetts awarded \$7 million to **grow training pathways** within the state's climate-critical workforce, environmental justice communities, underrepresented businesses, and students and young adults. Funding recipients are focused on supporting training for new geothermal drilling careers; piloting a Coastal Field Technician Academy training program; supporting increased coordination and industry-informed HVAC curriculum across the community college system, and strengthening clean energy career awareness for high school students, among other initiatives.





Natural & Working Lands

- Increased planning and investments in natural and working lands to combat climate change impacts and ensure healthy and resilient lands and waters continue to support climate solutions.

PROGRESS ACROSS THE COALITION:

Rhode Island's Ocean State Climate Adaptation & Resilience Fund Program

Last year, Rhode Island launched this collaboration between the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, and Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, which will provide \$4 million in grants for **adaptation and resilience projects on public lands that protect or enhance coastal or riverine habitats**, including projects that provide public access to shorelines and riverbanks





Pricing Carbon & Valuing Damages

- Considered the cost of climate change in policy decision-making
- Established programs to make polluters pay for climate damages resulting from their actions
- Expanded programs that cap pollution and generate revenue that can be reinvested into communities and climate solutions

PROGRESS ACROSS THE COALITION:

Vermont's Climate Superfund Act

Enacted in 2024, Vermont's Climate Superfund Act provides for the state to recover costs from fossil fuel companies for the impacts of climate change to Vermont. The state is currently **evaluating the adaptation costs** to "respond to, avoid, moderate, repair, or adapt to negative impacts caused by climate change and to assist human and natural communities, households, and businesses in preparing for future climate-change-driven disruptions." Recovered funds will support climate change adaptation projects across the state.





Resilience

- Strengthened governance and resilience planning efforts
- Invested in climate resilience projects
- Implemented community-led resilience projects
- Adapted insurance frameworks to help the country better withstand and recover from extreme events

PROGRESS ACROSS THE COALITION:

Connecticut's Resiliency Improvement Districts

In 2025, Connecticut enacted bipartisan legislation that modernizes local and state planning processes, expands flood risk disclosure requirements, and creates funding mechanisms for climate-ready infrastructure. By authorizing the creation of Resiliency Improvement Districts, municipalities will be able to fund and implement infrastructure projects that reduce climate risks, support economic development, and provide more housing opportunities. Connecticut Green Bank is now partnering with the Resilience District Incubator to help pilot communities move to stable, long-term funding to reduce risk.





Transportation

- Accelerated deployment of cleaner fuels and vehicles
- Expanded fast, affordable charging infrastructure
- Improved multimodal transportation, consumer choice, and land use planning

PROGRESS ACROSS THE COALITION:

Colorado's "Enterprise" for Electric Transportation Investment

In 2021, Colorado enacted SB21-260, creating new sources of **dedicated funding** and new state "enterprises" to preserve, improve, and expand existing transportation infrastructure, including for transportation electrification. Through fees on retail deliveries and rides provided by companies like Uber and Lyft, over \$220 million has been invested in **EV incentives, public fast charging, transit electrification, and e-bike programs**, among others.





Ingredients for Success

- Early, forward-looking planning and regular progress tracking
- Strong industry engagement and effective partnerships with stakeholders
- Sustained progress toward existing goals
- Uplifting wins and progress in the right direction, no matter how small or incremental
- Building on what works — expanding programs and solutions with a record of success
- Willingness to innovate and pivot to new strategies and approaches

Discussion

Morning fog on Aziscohos Lake
Credit: Jerry Monkman

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On Break

June 16, 2026



Table Discussion

Where Can We
Make the Most
Progress?
Focusing MWW
for the Next Two
Years

30 minutes at your tables

1. Select a notetaker
2. Individual reflection (2 mins)
3. Share an idea at the table, then discuss:
 - a) Why is this action particularly ripe for progress in the next 2 years?
 - b) What related ideas might also be priority opportunities?
4. Share another idea. Ask the same qs
5. Review Notes: spend the final 3-5 minutes reviewing your notes

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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)
- **July – November | annual reporting process**
- **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

Midpoint
discussion

Funding and
financing

Celebrating
progress





June 16, 2026