

Maine Climate Council

Energy Working Group Meeting

Co-Chairs:

Celina Cunningham, Department of Energy Resources (DOER)

Ken Colburn, Symbiotic Strategies LLC



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
Policy Innovation
and the Future



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
Environmental Protection



June 10, 2026

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Legislative & Program Updates Advancing Strategy C of *Maine Won't Wait*
3. Updates and Success Stories from Working Group Members & Organizations
4. Maine Energy Plan
5. Administrative Matters & Next Meeting



Introductions

*Working Group Members:
Please share your name and affiliation*



Where we are today:

- Halfway through the implementation window for the 2024 update to *Maine Won't Wait*
- *Starting the process of drafting the 2026 Annual MCC Progress Report*
- *132nd Maine Legislature recently adjourned*
- *End of Governor Mills' Administration, transitions in state government*
- *New Department of Energy Resources*



Maine Department of Energy Resources (DOER)

- The Maine Department of Energy Resources (DOER) was established September 24, 2025, replacing the Governor's Energy Office per Public Law 2025, chapter 476 (L.D. 1270)
- DOER is the designated state energy office tasked with a wide range of activities relating to state energy policies, planning, and development
- DOER provides policy leadership and technical assistance, develops energy programs, monitors energy markets, and reports on heating fuel and energy prices.



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
Energy Resources

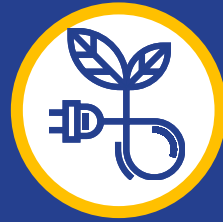




Legislative & Program Updates Advancing Strategy C: Transition to Clean Energy



Decrease energy burdens while transitioning to clean energy.



Actions:

- **Better understand energy burden** across all energy costs
- **Reduce capital and financial barriers** through expanded financing options and ownership models
- Launch an **energy navigator** program
- Ensure adequate funding for **energy assistance programs**



Legislative Advancements

PUC to develop “affordability metric” to assess how electricity bills affect household energy burden (L.D. 1949)

Interim report due Jan. 2027 and final report due Dec. 2027.

Legislative actions to remove barriers and facilitate Maine markets for Plug-in Solar & Community Choice Aggregation (L.D. 1730; L.D. 2112)

These bills reduce financial barriers to DERs and provide new options for consumer access to clean energy.

Maine Home Energy Navigator & Coaching Resource Hub established at DOER with \$100,000 seed funding (L.D. 2220)

DOER to launch a website and develop training and program materials to help communities build effective coaching programs.

\$7.5 million for the Low-Income Assistance Program through the Supplemental Budget (L.D. 2212)

For the first time ever, the legislature has dedicated ongoing general fund dollars to LIAP.

Program Advancements

Expansion of the state's
Low-Income Assistance
Program (LIAP)

Additional capitalization
of the Efficiency Maine
Green Bank

DOER + GOPIF
conducting energy and
resilient infrastructure
financing evaluations

Plan and build the infrastructure needed to achieve **100% clean electricity by 2040.**



Actions:

- Establish a **regular cadence of clean energy procurements** at least every two years
- Maximize use of **federal funds**
- **Develop community-informed resources** to assist Maine towns in supporting clean energy
- **Improve state policies** for permitting, siting and procurement of clean energy and transmission projects
- **Plan for future grid needs** in transmission and distribution
- Improve and **modernize the process of connecting clean energy projects to the grid**
- Invest in a sustainable, Maine-based **offshore wind industry**



Legislative Advancements

Completed the transition to DOER
(L.D. 2153)

Updated state law to ensure effective and orderly transfer of responsibilities from GEO to DOER

New requirement that State Energy Plan identify and assess emerging energy technologies
(L.D. 343)

Prioritizing carbon-free and lowest-emission technologies

DOER conducting a transmission study regarding the future of electric transmission infrastructure in Maine
(L.D. 197)

Study involves a stakeholder group with a report due Sept. 2026

Makes recommended changes to the state's Non-wires Alternative (NWA) process to increase transparency and clarify utility planning requirements
(L.D. 897)

Allows PUC rulemaking

Program Advancements

DOER published anticipated Competitive Solicitations Schedule for 2026

Anticipate filing RFP for 300 MW of new energy storage resources likely in June with PUC for approval.

First utility Integrated Grid Plans filed with Maine PUC

Plans represent important initial step toward better long-term planning to ensure safe, reliable, and resilient power in the face of Maine's changing climate.

Solar and Energy Storage Handbook for Maine Communities

New resource to help communities determine local priorities and responsibly manage projects while meeting local needs. Includes model ordinances.

Research Consortium

Research Consortium continues to advance stakeholder-identified baseline research projects.

Manage the impact of **buildings, vehicles, and industry** on the grid with **innovative demand management and load flexibility strategies.**



Actions:

- **Adopt software and technologies that enable signals** based on electricity grid conditions to manage demand and supply
- **Help customers to participate** in demand management through policies, programs, markets, and regulatory mechanisms
- **Ensure equitable access and benefits** from demand management programs
- Provide **meaningful education and communication** around the opportunities and benefits of demand management

Legislative & Programmatic Advancements

EMT to lead outreach and education campaign on demand response/peak reduction programs (L.D. 2140)

New initiative to complement existing efficiency and weatherization programs

EMT relaunch of small battery program

PUC time-of-use docket progressing

DOER evaluating demand management procurement



Grow Maine's clean energy economy with a goal to support 30,000 clean energy jobs by 2030.



Actions:

- Support ongoing **state workforce initiatives**
- Support **clean-tech innovation** programs and partnerships
- **Expand apprenticeships** and other earn-and-learn models
- Maintain an online **clean energy jobs and training database**
- Create tools, resources, trainings, and apprenticeship programs to **support disadvantaged students and job seekers**
- Identify **pathways into clean energy careers** for workers most impacted by climate change

Program Advancements

Maine has nearly 15,600 clean energy jobs and counting!

The Maine Clean Energy Jobs Network reached over 33,000 people in 2025.

Clean Energy Partnership grants supporting clean energy workforce readiness at several Adult Ed programs.

***Boosting Cleantech Innovation:** Innovation programs supported with grant funding from the Clean Energy Partnership served nearly 2,000 individuals and at least 28 small and startup businesses in the cleantech sector in Maine.*

*\$1.2 million in grant awards to three organizations to support **energy efficiency workforce and upskilling training programs** across Maine.*

*passivhausMAINE delivering **energy code trainings** across the state.*

***Clean Energy Career Navigator** position established at the **Maine Department of Labor** has reached more than 2,900 jobseekers and 300+ employers.*





POWERING CLEAN ENERGY JOBS IN MAINE



MAINE GOVERNOR'S
Energy Office

What can we help you find?

How would you describe it?

SEARCH

[Login](#)

[Sign Up](#)

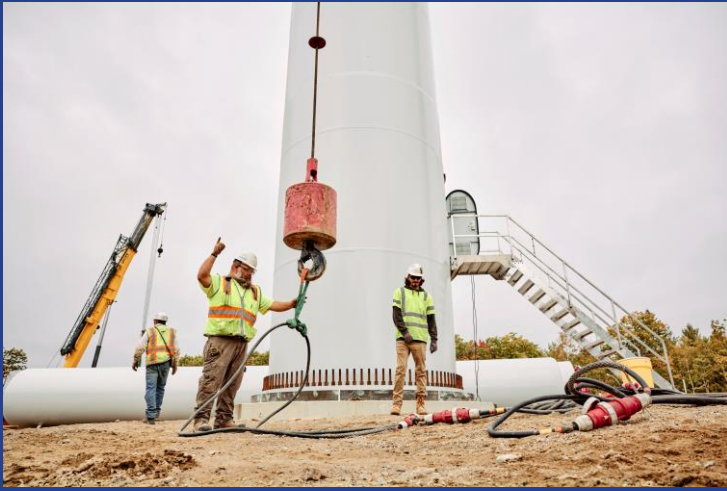


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Feedback from Energy Working Group Members & Public Attendees



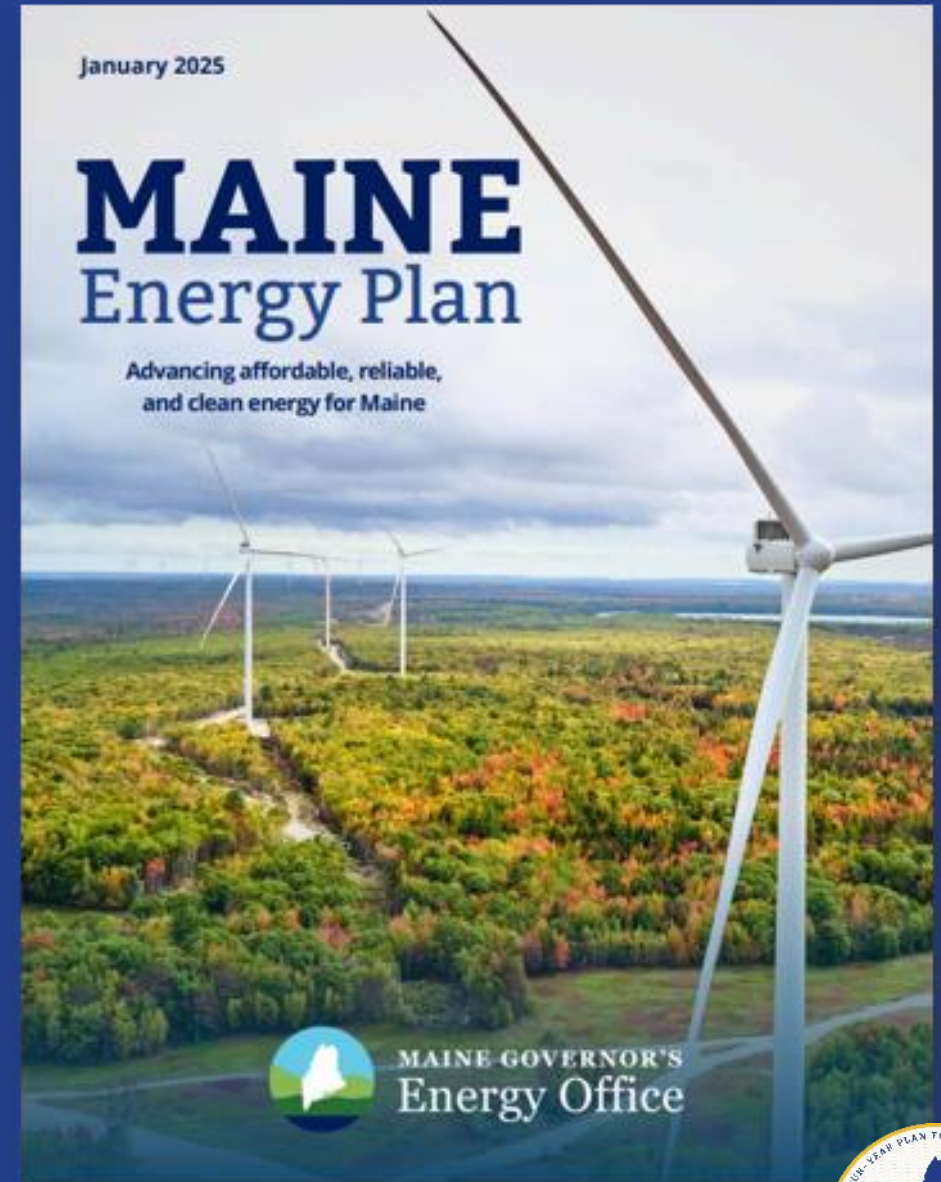


Where are you and your organizations seeing progress and success advancing the elements of Strategy C of *Maine Won't Wait*?



Updating The Maine Energy Plan

Due January 2027



Affordable

- The Maine Energy Plan will document the energy spending that occurs today, exploring how that spending impacts Maine people, and identifying strategies to lower total energy costs over time.

Reliable

- The Maine Energy Plan will identify and compare reliability trends and explore ways to increase reliability in the face of new challenges.

Secure

- Maine relies on energy that travels into and throughout the state through an interconnected system of physical infrastructure, transportation, and communications.

Clean

- Maine is required by law to increase the portion of electricity sold in the state that comes from renewable and clean sources until that share reaches 100 percent by 2040.

Planning Priorities





**Energy Plan
Update: Kickoff**
March 2026

Overview of Maine's current Energy Plan, progress updates on key Objectives, and how to engage in the update process.

**Request for
Information**
*March-April
2026*

Sought feedback, priorities, and information to inform the Energy Plan update.



Administrative Matters

- One more EWG this calendar year
- New Climate Council Members will be appointed later this year
- If you do not wish to continue to serve on the EWG in the future or have suggestions for new members, please reach out!
- We'll welcome a new staff support for the EWG in the near future. For questions about the EWG in the interim, please reach out to Ken or Celina.
 - kcolburn@symbioticstrategies.com
 - Celina.Cunningham@maine.gov



Upcoming Meetings:

Maine Climate Council Quarterly Meeting

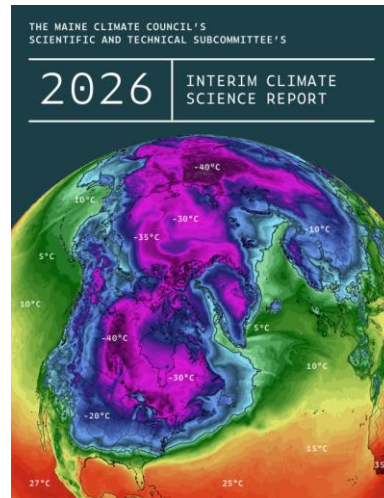
June 16 @ the Augusta
Civic Center

In-person attendance
encouraged!

Please **RSVP using the
[online form](#)**

Scientific & Technical Subcommittee 2026 Interim Science Report

Public Webinar TBD



Energy Working Group

Stay tuned for a fall
meeting!