

Summary Notes from Maine Climate Council

June 16, 2026

Overview:

The Maine Climate Council met for three and a half hours on June 16, 2026 at the Augusta Civic Center to mark the midpoint between the development of the 2024 update to *Maine Won't Wait* and the start of the planning process for the 2028 update, reflect on what is working and what the challenges have been; and consider how the Council can continue to make progress before the next planning process. Roughly 110 participants gathered in person for the meeting, along with another 50 viewers online via Zoom. Agenda items included:

- Table discussion: reflecting on progress
- Legislative updates and recent and upcoming reports
- Looking ahead: how Maine and other states can meet this moment
- Table discussion: where to focus efforts for the next two years

See full meeting video here: [Link](#). See full slides here: [Link](#). Below is a high-level summary of the meeting.

Welcome and Overview

Maine Climate Council Co-Chairs Sarah Curran, Director of the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF), and Melanie Loyzim, Commissioner of Maine's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), welcomed council members, working group members, and other participants. Melanie welcomed two new members of the Climate Council, Tim Peabody, Acting Commissioner for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and Celina Cunningham, the Acting Commissioner for the Maine Department of Energy Resources.

Using real-time polling, attendees weighed in on what they were most proud of from the last two years and their priorities for the upcoming two years. Results of the polls, which reflect attendees' individual input rather than any official position of the Council, are attached in Appendix A.

Legislative Updates and Recent and Upcoming Reports

Sarah Curran, Co-Chair Maine Climate Council

Ivan Fernandez and Susie Arnold, Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Melanie Loyzim, Co-Chair Maine Climate Council

Sarah Curran highlighted recent legislative outcomes, and the Co-Chairs of the Scientific and Technical subcommittee presented key findings from their [latest Interim Climate Science Report](#). Melanie Loyzim provided an update on DEP's Eleventh Biennial Report on Progress Toward Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals.

How Maine and Other States Can Meet This Moment

Sarah Curran, Melanie Loyzim, Co-Chairs Maine Climate Council

Casey Katims - Executive Director, U.S. Climate Alliance

The Council co-chairs reflected on navigating a landscape with shifting federal support and emerging barriers to climate action. Casey Katims' presentation highlighted how states in the [U.S. Climate Alliance](#) that are adapting and continuing to make progress across ten key policy areas.

Table & Plenary Discussions: Focusing *Maine Won't Wait* for the Next Two Years

At their tables, participants identified priority actions in *Maine Won't Wait* that were ripe for progress over the next two years, before reconvening in a plenary session to synthesize promising ideas. Participant feedback was captured in the real-time poll attached in Appendix A. Results of the poll reflect attendees' individual input rather than any official position of the Council.

Next Steps

The Maine Climate Council will reconvene virtually in September. In December, the Maine Climate Council and Working Group members will meet in person to celebrate 2026 progress and look to the year ahead.

Appendix A: Mentimeter Poll Results

What should Maine's focus be for climate action for the next two years?



What are we most proud of from the last two years of MWW?

✦ 9 groups found



Clean Energy Initiatives

22 responses

"Creating DOER and regular clean energy procure...



Community Resilience

18 responses

"Community Resilience Partnership", "Community r...



Public Engagement

10 responses

"Community engagement", "community engagem...



Climate Adaptation Funding

9 responses

"Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund", "State init...



Collaborative Partnerships

8 responses

"Interagency partnerships", "Partnerships that feel ...



Infrastructure Improvements

2 responses

"Culvert program", "Planning allowed fast action o...



Youth Engagement

2 responses

"Expanded collaborations and youth engagement..."



Nature-Based Solutions

2 responses

"Progress on nature based strategies", "Clearly dra...



What's one word of inspiration from this discussion?



What is one particularly promising area for action in the next 2 years?

✦ 8 groups found



Renewable Energy Expansion

15 responses

"Increase locally based renewable energy", "Build ...



Resilience Planning

9 responses

"Resiliency planning", "Resilience", "Home resilienc...



Transportation Solutions

6 responses

"Transportation", "Transportation Infrastructure an..."



Implementation Focus

6 responses

"Implementation", "Balancing implementation and ..."



Collaborative Partnerships

5 responses

"Partnerships", "Partnerships to fill data gaps", "Re...



Community Engagement

4 responses

"Community engagement/ resilience in smal com...



Education and Outreach

3 responses

"Outreach for EV and solar panels systems", "Educ...



Funding Mechanisms

2 responses

"Creative funding", "Storytelling that utilizes code-...

