
A FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION
MAINE
WON'T WAIT
MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL

Maine Climate Council

3rd Quarter Meeting: An Update on Funding and Finance to Advance the Goals of *Maine Won't Wait*

Melanie Loyzim
Council Co-chair

Sarah Curran
Council Co-chair

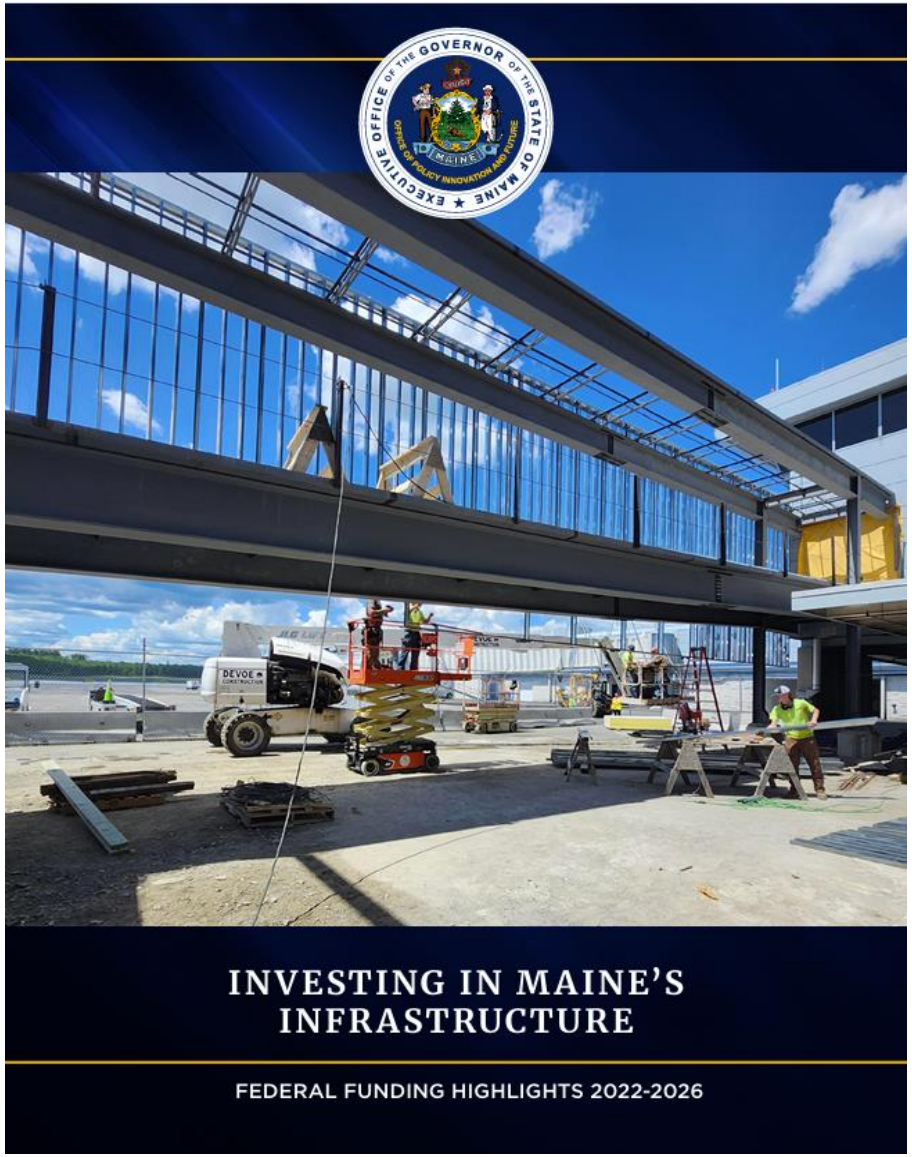
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
Policy Innovation and the Future

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
Environmental Protection

September 11, 2026

Agenda

- Welcome
- Funding and Finance presentations:
  - **Amanda Beal**, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry; Co-Chair, Natural and Working Lands Working Group
  - **Celina Cunningham**, Acting Commissioner, Department of Energy Resources; Co-Chair, Energy Working Group
  - **Michael Stoddard**, Executive Director, Efficiency Maine Trust
  - **Brian Ambrette**, Director, State Resilience Office, Maine Office of Community Affairs
  - **Hilary Landfried**, Deputy Director, Climate Planning and Community Partnerships, Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future & **HR&A consultants**
- Wrap up



THE STATE HAS BEEN AWARDED

$2.6 BILLION to upgrade and modernize transportation infrastructure

$974 MILLION to invest in infrastructure resilience and climate adaptation strategies

$901 MILLION to improve energy efficiency, harden grids, and meet clean energy goals

$92 MILLION to expand high-speed broadband across the state

Share Your Ideas

Scan this QR code to join the Mentimeter poll

Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

Amanda Beal, Commissioner

Morning fog on Aziscohos Lake
Credit: Jerry Monkman

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September 11, 2026

Strategy D: Protect Our Natural-Resource Industries

Strategy E: Protect Maine's Environment and Working Lands and Waters, Increase Carbon Sequestration

Natural & Working Lands

- **DACF Bureau of Resource Information & Land Use Planning**
  - **Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Program**
    - Since 1987, funded mainly through bonds and General Fund appropriations.
    - During the 132nd Legislative Session, a new source of funding from the Budget Stabilization Fund was approved
      - Anticipated annual income (when the BSF is fully funded) is approximately $7 million per year
      - Allows a foundation of stability for LMF and more predictability of workflow and resources for staff, board members, and applicants
      - MWW goal to increase total conserved land in Maine to 30% by 2030

Natural & Working Lands

- **DACF Bureau of Forestry/Maine Forest Service**
  - Backed by $9 million in federal aid from the USDA Forest Service, MFS launched the revamped WoodsWISE Resilience Program. This program directly translates climate goals into financial incentives, covering 60% to 90% of planning and implementation costs (up to $20,000 per private landowner) of practices that advance carbon stewardship, combat invasive species, and build climate resilience.

  - To maintain a robust forest economy alongside conservation, MFS and DACF have hosted international delegations (such as forestry stakeholders from the UK and Finland). These collaborations focus on expanding the forest bioeconomy, exploring carbon credit frameworks, and attracting private capital to support long-term natural resource financing and investment opportunities in the forestry sector.

Natural & Working Lands

- **DACF Bureau of Parks & Lands**
  - The Maine Trails Bond, passed by a strong citizens' vote in November 2024, is investing $30 million in recreational trails through four annual rounds of funding. The funded work will get people outside while ensuring the environmental sustainability of the state's growing trail system.
  - Non-profit partners, such as The Conservation Fund, Trust for Public Land, Appalachian Mountain Club, are key to accomplishing conservation projects. Additionally, important state and federal sources of funds include programs like LMF and USFS Forest Legacy Funds.
    - Recently or nearly completed conservation projects include:
      - 3,600-acre easement near Rangeley
      - 50,000-acre easement in the Upper Kennebec Valley
      - 10,700-acre Chadbourne Tree Farm easement near Bethel

Natural & Working Lands

- **DACF Bureau of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources**
  - Increased staff capacity to support institutional purchasing of Maine-grown and produced food, integrating 30% local food consumption goals into most grant RFAs, and developing a local foods metrics group to collect and analyze data related to production, consumption, market channels, etc.
  - Channeling significant investment of federal COVID-recovery funds to bolster Maine's agricultural infrastructure ($20 million).
  - Attempted Agriculture & Forestry Infrastructure Bond Bill in 132nd Legislative Session.
    - $45 million to existing programs (no new positions) such as Healthy Soils, Farmer Drought Relief, Agriculture and Forestry Infrastructure Investment

Department of Energy Resources

Celina Cunningham, Acting Commissioner

Maine Climate Council

September 11, 2026

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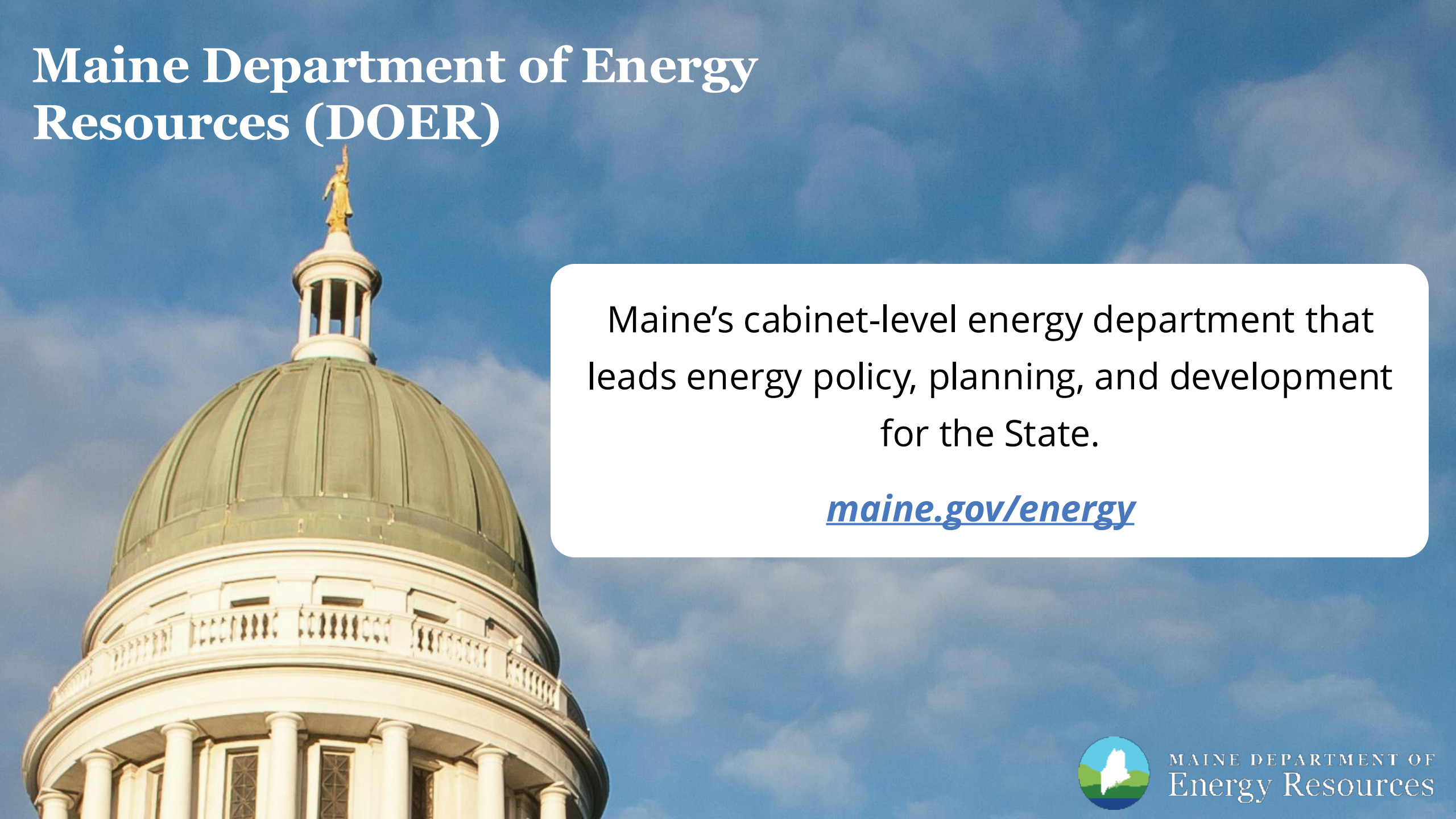
Energy Resources

Investing in Maine's Energy Future: Balancing Affordability and Reliability

Celina Cunningham, *Acting Commissioner*

September 11, 2026

Maine Department of Energy Resources (DOER)



Maine's cabinet-level energy department that leads energy policy, planning, and development for the State.

maine.gov/energy

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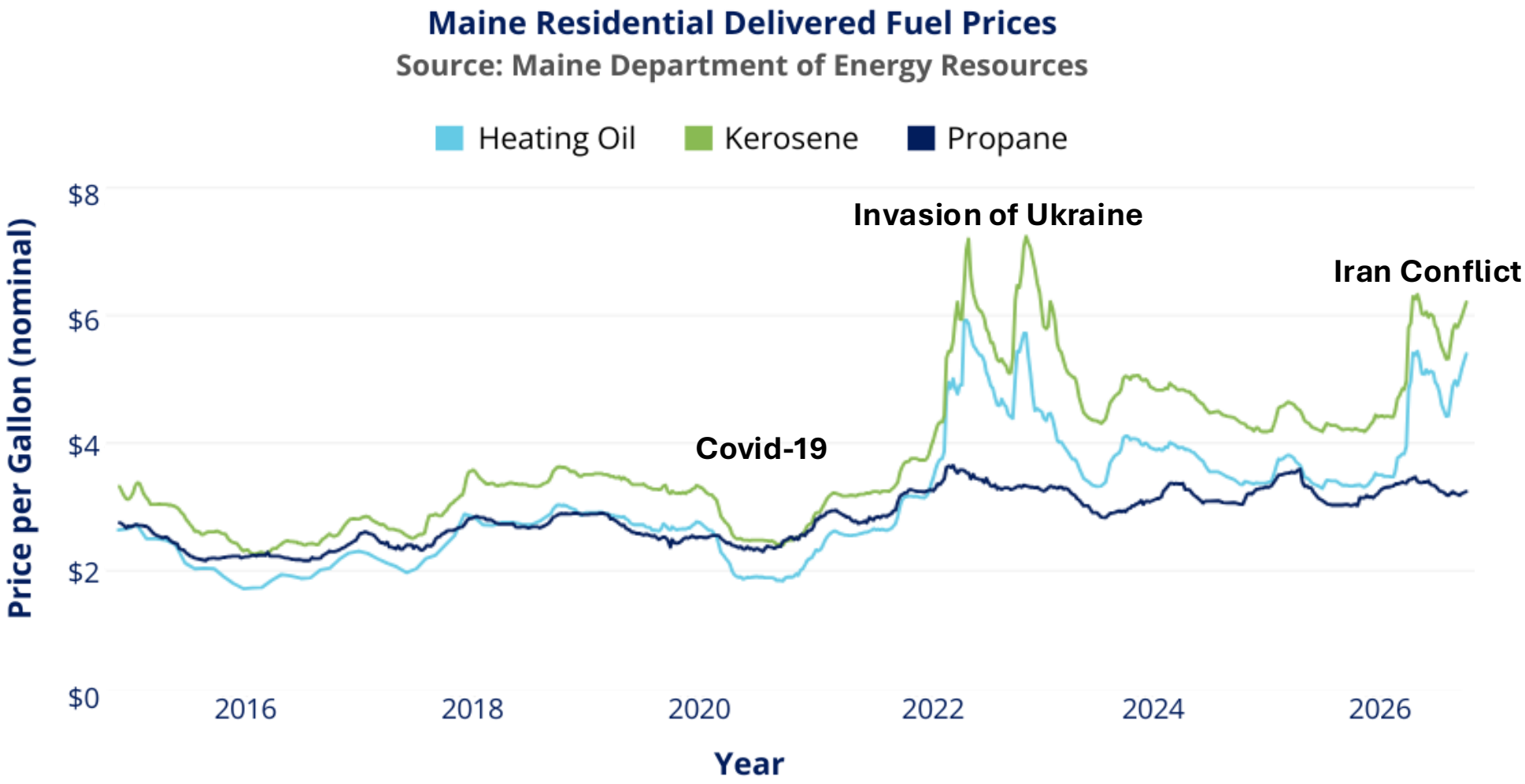
Global Events Shape Energy in Maine



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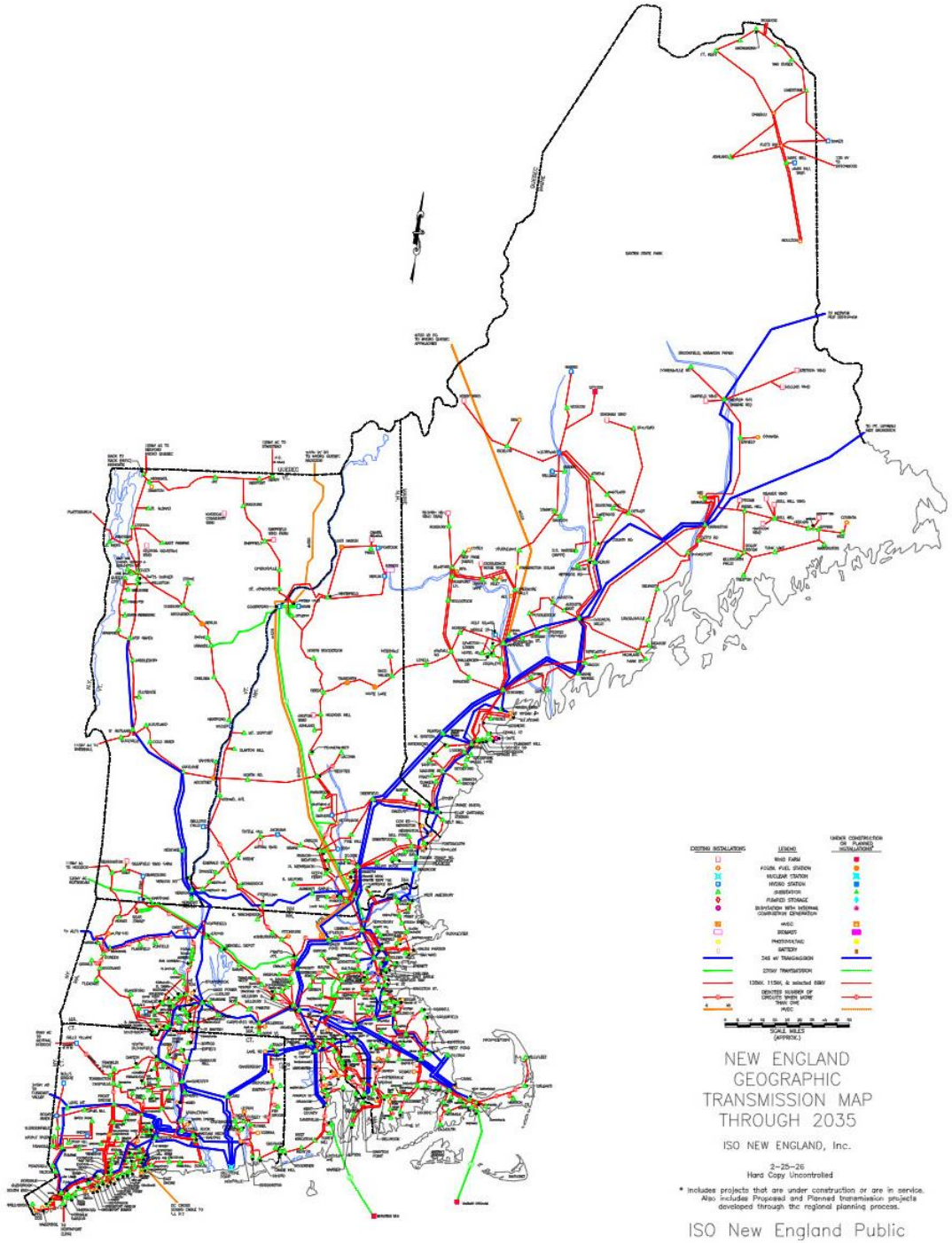
Electricity System

- Most of Maine shares an electricity grid with New England, managed by ISO-NE
- Northern Maine is connected to New Brunswick only, managed by Northern Maine Independent System Administrator
- Heavy reliance on natural gas to power the regional grid
- Natural gas, aging infrastructure, storm costs, and inflation all contribute to rising costs



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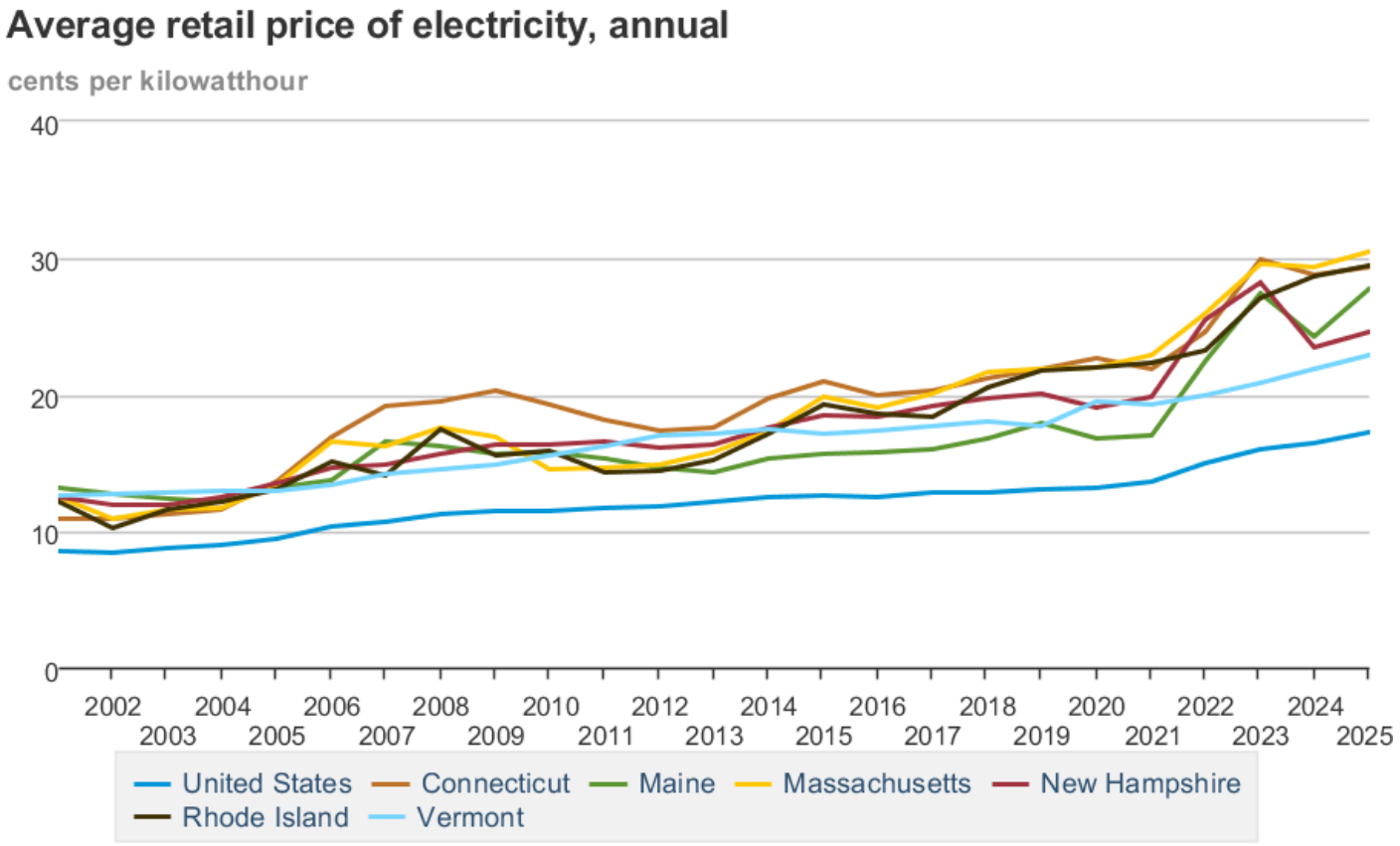
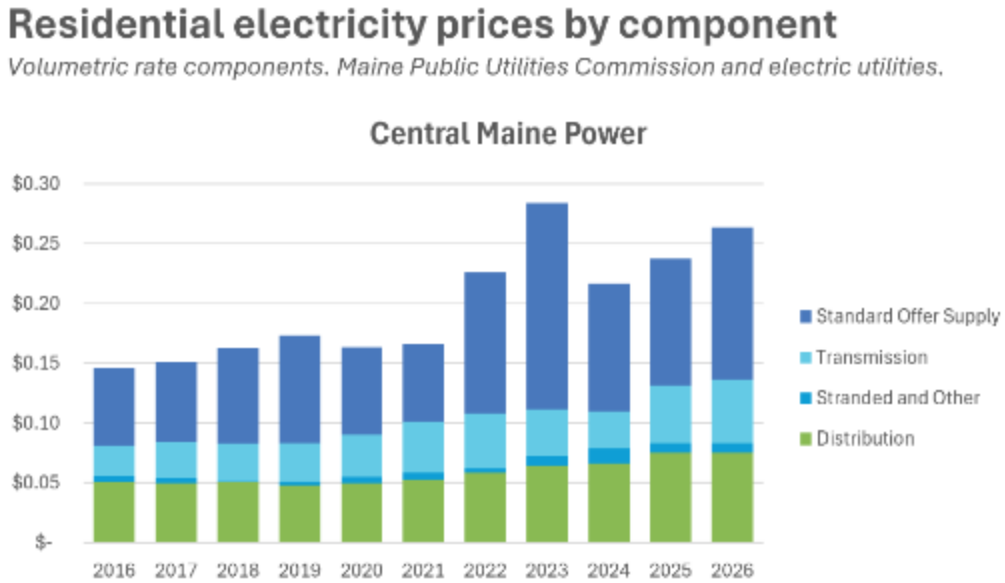
Electricity Prices in Maine and New England



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration



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Energy Procurements

Cross Town Energy Storage in Gorham. Plus Power photo

Goal: 400 MW energy storage by 2030

Current: 250+ MW

Affordability

Reliability

Flexibility

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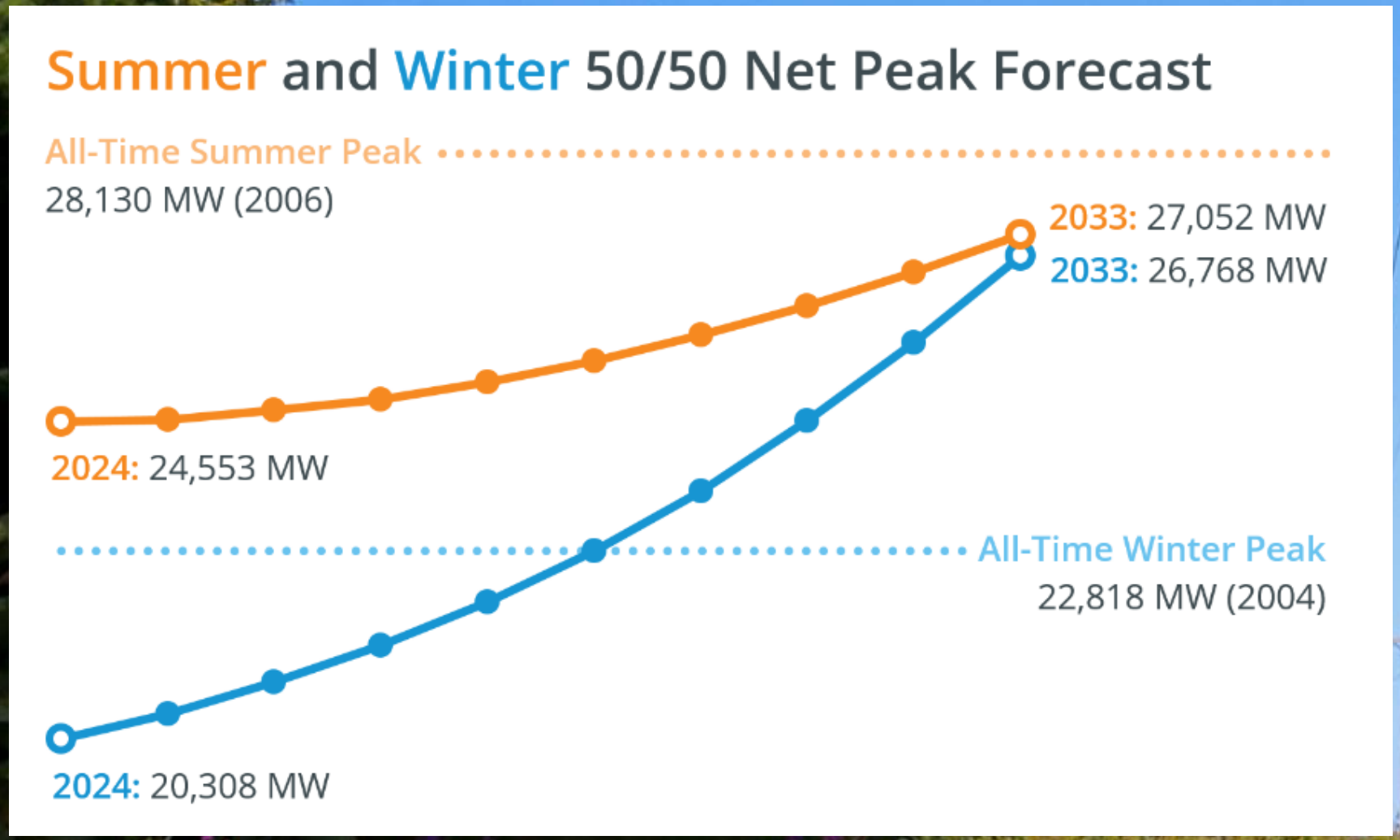
The Next Challenge: Maximizing Our Grid



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Maine's Next Energy Plan

Advancing Affordable, Reliable, Cleaner Energy for All Maine People

Priorities

- **Affordable**
- **Reliable**
- **Secure**
- **Clean**

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Public Engagement to Date

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Making Strategic Investments

$200 Million +

Federal funding awarded

- **Grid Resilience**
- **Energy Efficiency**
- **Workforce Development**
- **Innovation and Technology**

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Looking Ahead

Scan the QR code below or go to maine.gov/energy/plan

- Share feedback using the online survey
- Sign up for email updates
- Request a meeting or a presentation
- Read public comments

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Energy Resources

Thank You

doer@maine.gov

www.maine.gov/energy

Sign up for the DOER email newsletter

Efficiency Maine Trust

Michael Stoddard, Executive Director

Maine Climate Council

September 11, 2026

Maine's Future Prosperity is Burdened by Reliance on Imported Fuels

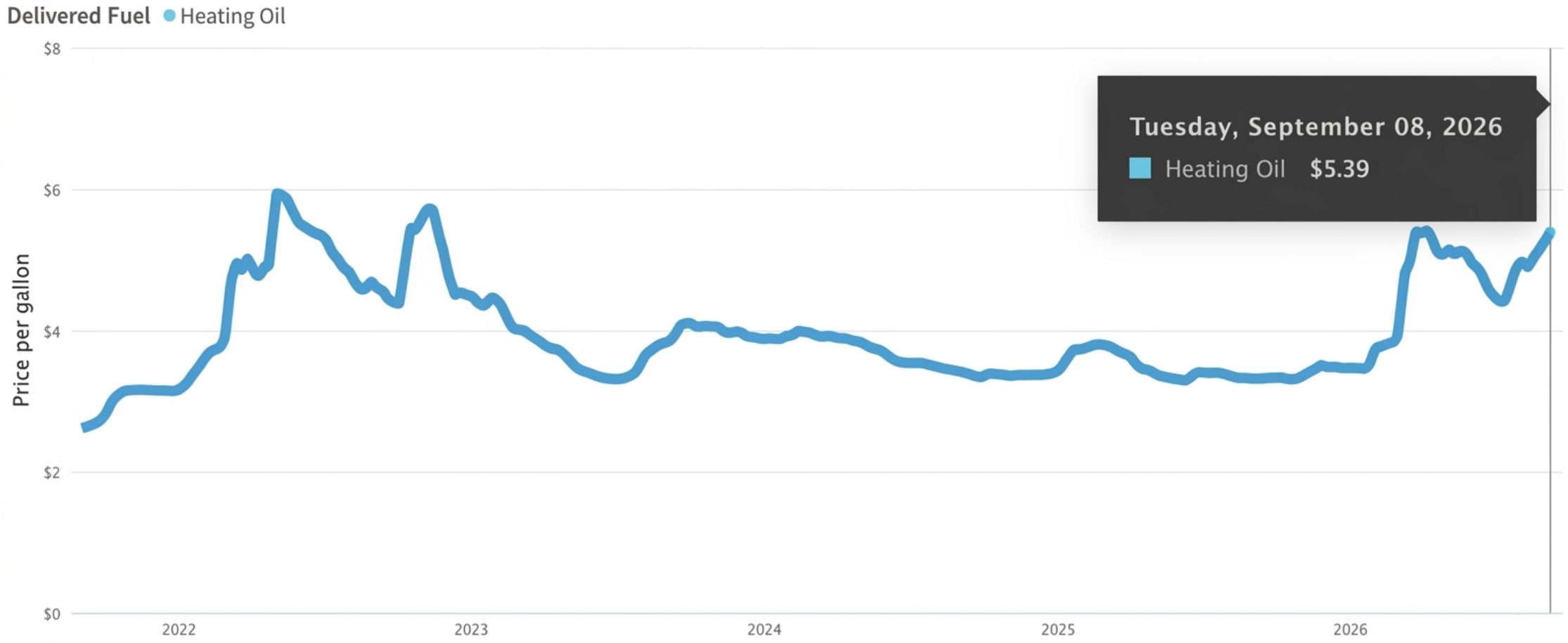
Programs Speeding The Transition to Electricity Offer A Pathway Out of This Rut

Michael D. Stoddard
Executive Director
9-11-2026

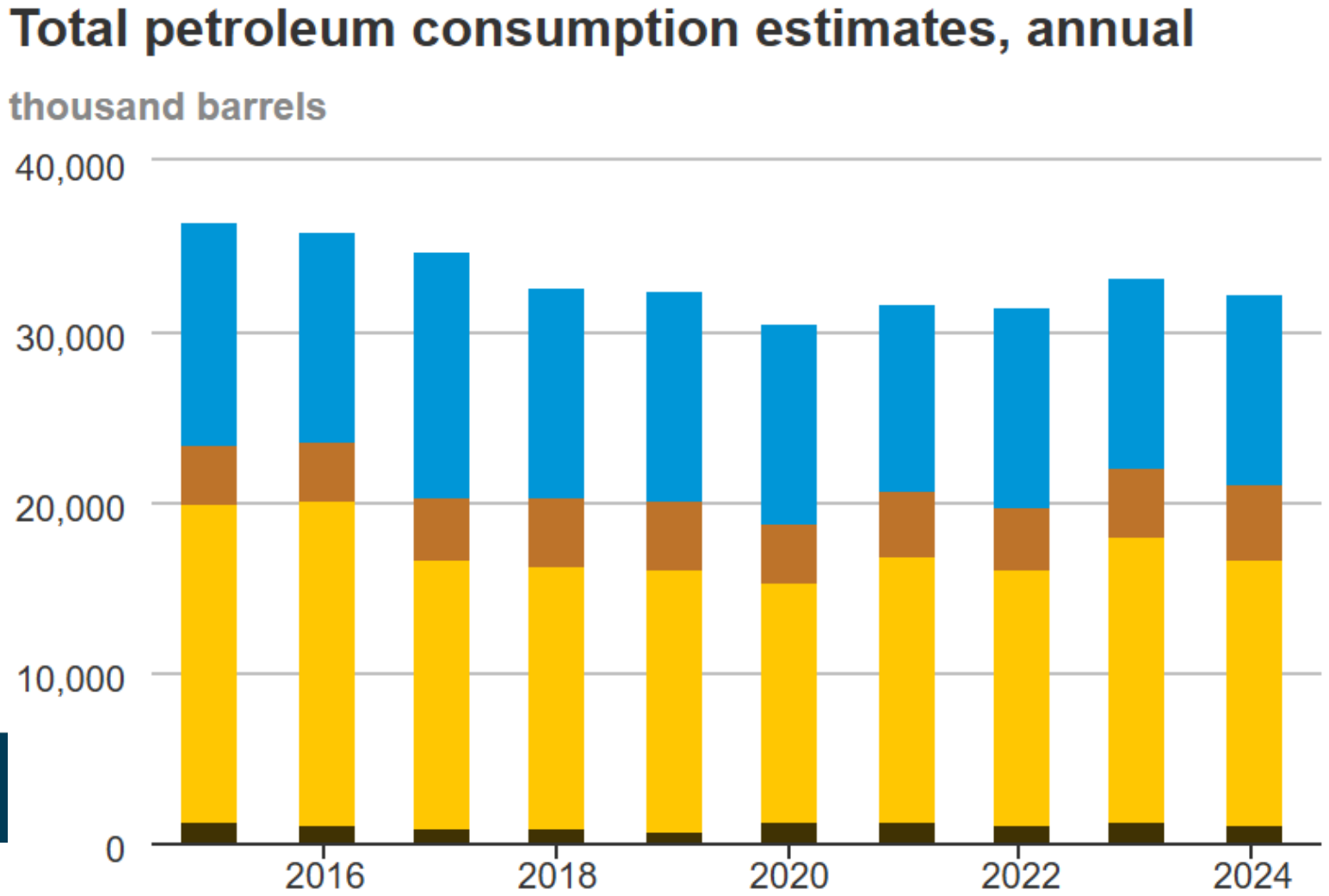
First… Some Context

Maine Heating Oil Prices (9/2021-9/2026)

Source: Maine DOER



Maine consumes more than 30 million barrels of heating oil, propane, kerosene, gasoline & diesel annually



= 1.3 billion gal. of petroleum products

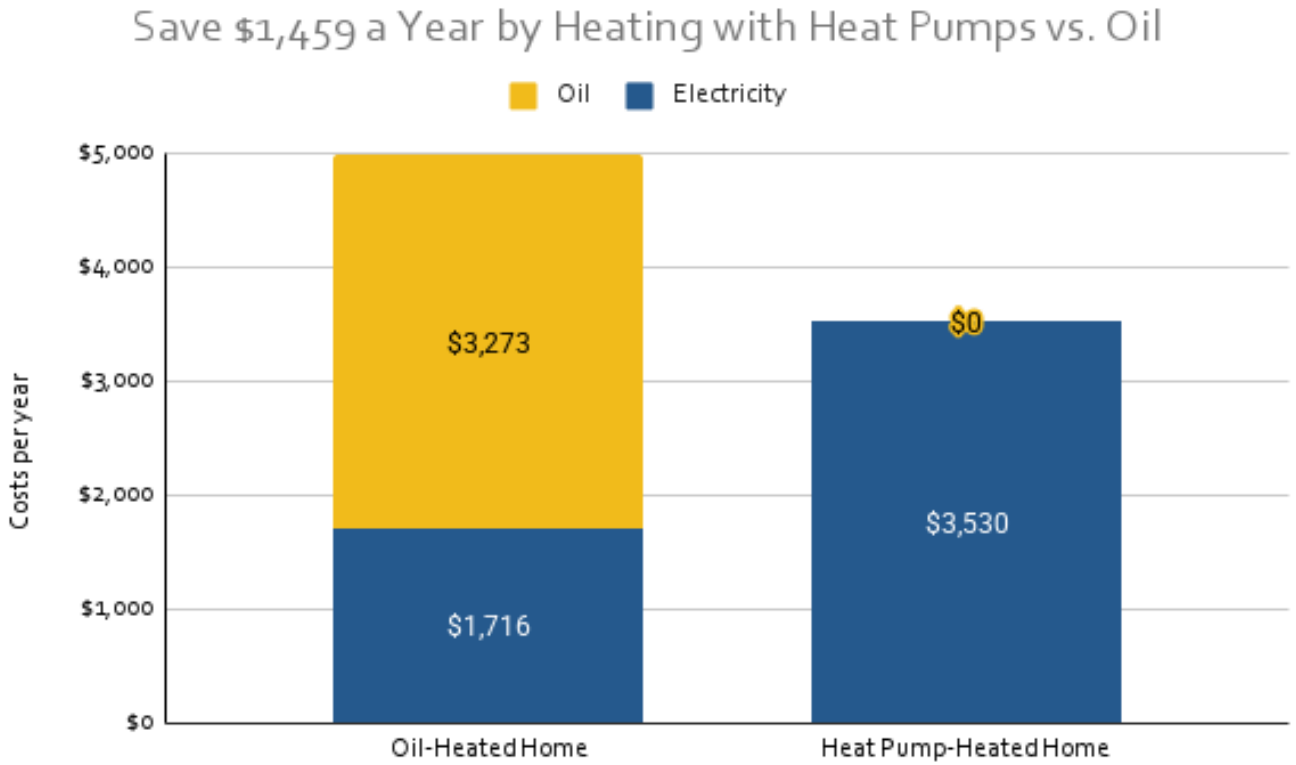
Heating Oil & Diesel

Propane

Gasoline

Kerosene & Other

Using today's prices, a typical Maine home switching from an oil boiler to a heat pump system would save more than $1,450/year*



The cost to heat your home with HPs is equivalent to using oil at $2.63/gal

Source: Efficiency Maine Trust.

* Prices as of 8/2026.

Efficiency Maine Programs Promote Alternatives to Imported Fuels

- Heat Pumps
- Heat Pump Water Heaters
- Electric Vehicles
- Batteries
- Weatherization

Heat Pumps & HP Water Heaters ($ millions)

Sector	FY27 Budget	FY28 Budget	Notes
Industrial/Custom	0.9	0.9	RGGI
Commercial & Multifamily	23.6	13.6	$16.8M Federal (mostly for LI affordable housing); 10M RGGI
Low Income	19.9	23.2	Electric Utility; $3M Federal; $2.5M NECEC
Mod Income	12.9	12.7	Electric Utility
Any Income	16.7	16.4	Electric Utility; $8M RGGI
HPWH	15.5	16	$29.5 Federal (CPRG)
TOTAL FUNDING	**89.5**	**70.1**	
TOTAL EST. SAVINGS	**724**	**614**	NPV of savings achieved over the full lifetime of the measures installed during the program year

Weatherization, EVs & Grid Flexibility ($ millions)

Sector	FY27 Budget	FY28 Budget	Notes
Commercial & Multifamily Wx	0.6	0.6	RGGI
Low Income Wx*	4.9	4.5	RGGI
Mod Income Wx	4.5	4.1	RGGI
Any Income Wx**	8.9	8.2	RGGI
EV	0.9	1.1	All FCM, Electric Utility Funding may be used if demand rises
Grid Flexibility (Batteries, DR, etc.)	4.8	6.5	Electric Utility & RGGI
TOTAL FUNDS	**24.6**	**25.0**	
TOTAL EST. SAVINGS	**92.3**	**98.7**	NPV of savings achieved over the full lifetime of the measures installed during the program year

* Does **not** include MaineHousing funds for WAP and LIHEAP Wx. **Includes pellet boilers.

Signs of Progress in 2026

30 Chevy Brightdrop commercial vans purchased by Maine businesses this summer

The top weatherization installer in Maine reports FY2026 was the company's best year on record.

Maine has the highest per capita installation of HPWH in the US

Sales of HPs slowed after repeal of federal tax credit, but Iran War caused a rebound

State Resilience Office, Maine Office of Community Affairs

Brian Ambrette, Director

Maine Climate Council

September 11, 2026

State Resilience Office

Putting Funds to Work

Maine Climate Council

September 11, 2026

MOCA
Maine Office of Community Affairs

SRO
State Resilience Office

Funding Sources at SRO

- State general funds & LD 1
- NOAA CRRC (3 years remaining)
- Other federal grants

MOCA Maine Office of Community Affairs

SRO State Resilience Office

Supporting Decision Makers

Climate Resilience & Risk Data Hub
LD 1 + FEMA BRIC + NOAA CRRC

Flood mapping for under-mapped areas
LD 1

Inland flood risk modelling
LD 1 + NOAA CRRC

User's guide for Coastal Flood Risk Model
NOAA CRRC

Integrating resilience into local Capital Improvement Planning
NorthLight Foundation + NOAA CRRC

MOCA
Maine Office of Community Affairs

SRO
State Resilience Office

Building Capacity

CRP Regional & Tribal Coordinators
NOAA CRRC

Resilience Finance Coordinators
NOAA CRRC

Regional Floodplain Management Assistance Partnership
LD 1

Enabling Planning and Action

Community Resilience Partnership

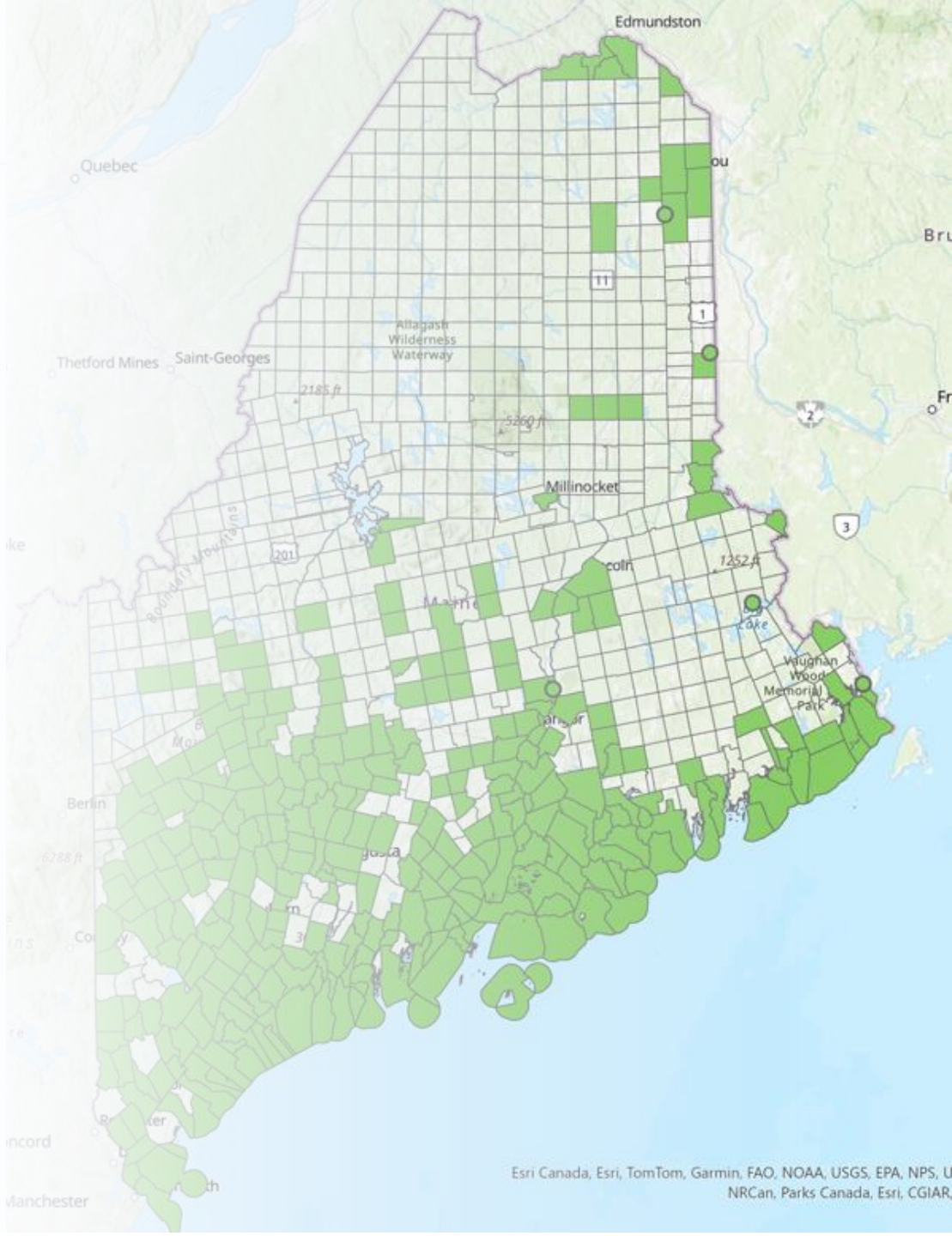
- Expanded eligible activities to 95
- Added service provider support for vulnerability assessments

2025-2026 grants (two rounds)

- 169 Community Action Grants totaling $12 million
  - **$7.7 million state + $4.3 million federal (NOAA CRRC)**
- 11 Service Provider Grants to assist 68 communities with enrollment and vulnerability assessments

Since inception

- 405 Community Action Grants totaling $25 million
- 308 participating communities
  - 62% of municipalities and Tribes (goal: 80% by 2035)
  - 81% of state population
- 30% of communities have or are completing vulnerability assessments (goal: 50% by 2035)



Simplifying access to federal funding

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (DOE)

- Energy efficiency improvement grants – 14 communities
- Energy audits and plans for municipal buildings – 14 communities / 28 buildings
- Energy conservation planning guidebook for towns

Congressionally Directed Spending - Sen. King (HUD)

- Energy resilience design and installation for rural communities – 10 communities

Climate Regional Resilience Challenge (NOAA)

- Nature-based engineering assistance – 15-20 communities

MOCA Maine Office of Community Affairs

SRO State Resilience Office

Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future

Hilary Landfried, Deputy Director, Climate Planning and Community Partnerships

Maine Climate Council

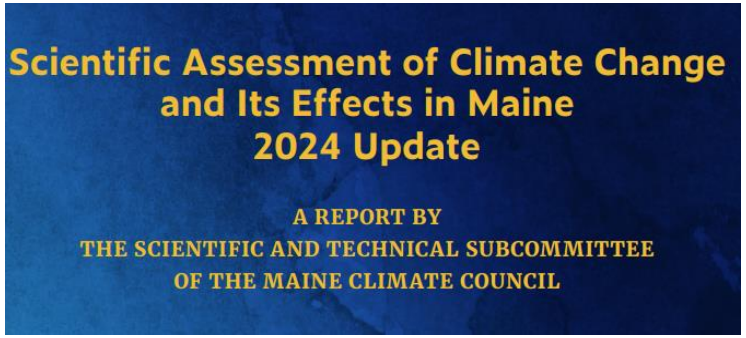
September 11, 2026

Impetus for this work

Builds upon the MCC and IRRC work and responds to recommendations to expand access to funding and financing for resilience.

MWW calls for **sustained investment in climate resilience** across public and private assets and to study the feasibility of financing strategies.

Maine's first comprehensive infrastructure resiliency strategy recommends **developing long-term funding and financing strategies**.



Climate Council reports establish an understanding of **climate risk** and **economic exposure** across sectors and hazard types, quantifying the costs of inaction

Funding and Financing Gap

Maine's **climate needs are accelerating faster than available funding**, requiring a deliberate strategy to close that gap.

- Existing federal, state, and local sources have often been time-limited
- Status of sources is highly uncertain or no longer available
- Need for proactive investment is growing

$499M

State and federal climate infrastructure and resilience investment (FY2021-FY2025)

>$90M

In damage to public infrastructure from the December 2023 and January 2024 storms alone

Source: Maine Won't Wait – Maine Climate Council Annual Report (FY2025)

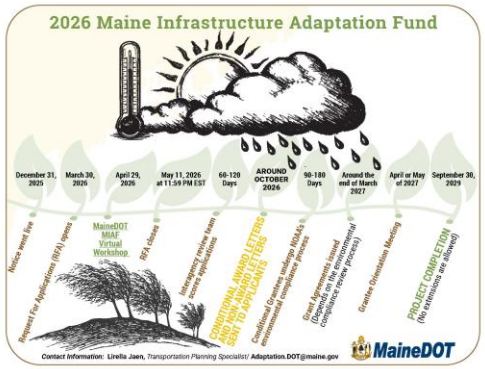
Maine's Investments in Resilience

Maine is already taking action to advance resilience and proactively mitigate climate impacts.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

Provides technical assistance and grants to municipalities for local climate, energy, and resilience planning and action

LD 1 invested $39 million in resilience, creating the State Resilience Office and the Home Resiliency Program, seeded the Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund, recapitalizing the Disaster Recovery Fund, and launching Flood Ready Maine



The Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund provides direct capital grants to public to adapt critical infrastructure to reduce climate vulnerability

The Municipal Stream Crossing Grant Program provides grants to municipalities for replacement or upgrade of undersized or failing culverts that cause road flooding and limit aquatic connectivity

Source: Maine Won't Wait – Maine Climate Council Annual Report (FY2025)

Funding and Financing Community Resilience in Maine: Challenges, Tools in Use, Opportunities for Greater Access

- Provides an overview of the most pressing resilience challenges at a community level
- Describes how communities are currently funding and financing their needs
- Shares opportunities to expand communities' access to funding and financing for resilience investments

Resilience Funding and Financing Study Goals

- Map Maine's **climate resilience funding and finance needs** across public and private asset types.
- Evaluate the landscape of **existing state, federal, local, and private funding sources** and programs and identify gaps.
- Develop a menu of tailored **funding, financing, insurance, and risk mitigation strategies** to close identified gaps.
- Prioritize high-impact strategies and advance **actionable recommendations.**

Overview of Advisory Committee

The project is guided by an Advisory Committee, who have been asked to bring their expertise to guide the development of resilience funding and financing strategies, including advising on barriers, opportunities, and realistic pathways to implementation in Maine's context.

Climate Resilience Funding and Finance Study

9/11/26 Maine Climate Council

Project Team

GOPIF and the SRO engaged the HR&A Team, who brings deep experience in translating climate risk and policy goals into implementable funding, financing, and governance strategies.

STATE OF MAINE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF POLICY INNOVATION AND THE FUTURE & STATE RESILIENCE OFFICE

Jonathan Meyers
Partner-in-Charge

Hannah Glosser
Project Manager

Ignacio Montojo, Partner
Infrastructure Funding and Financing Advisor

Hilary Ho
Senior Analyst

Tupelo Sullivan
Research Analyst

PFM | PUBLIC FINANCE ADVISORY

pfm

CEI | PLACE-BASED LENDING ADVISORY

CEI
Coastal Enterprises

INNSURE | INSURANCE ADVISORY

InnSure

Project Scope & Timeline

This work is organized in three phases:

Summer 2026	*Fall 2026*	*Winter 2026 -2027*
1. Identify and Categorize Needs and Funding Gaps	**2. Develop Funding, Financing, Insurance, and Risk Mitigation Strategies**	**3. Assess Priority Strategies and Create Implementation Plans**
Define a clear analytical framework, which will then be applied to identify and evaluate order of magnitude climate resilience funding needs, available resources, and funding gaps.	Develop a set of funding, financing, insurance, and risk mitigation strategies that directly address the funding gaps identified. The strategies will be aligned to the distinct ownership structures and financing Maine conditions.	Assess a set of priority funding, financing, insurance, and risk mitigation strategies and develop implementation roadmaps.

Project Outcomes

By the end of this study, Maine will have:

1. A shared understanding of the **scale of Maine's resilience funding needs** and the funding gap

2. Identified a set of **strategies that can support addressing the funding gap**

3. **Implementation-ready recommendations** for priority strategies **with a defined pathway to act**, for policymakers and the Maine Climate Council

Approach

Our methodology seeks to understand the **pathways for addressing the state's funding and financing need** arising from climate impacts. To do so, we will first need to understand how climate resilience is funded in **today's context**.

Phase 1

Climate Impacted Infrastructure Funding and Financing Need

- *How do projects get funded today?*
- *Who pays and who benefits (directly and indirectly) from this investment?*
- *How are climate hazards impacting the asset, its function, and costs?*
- *What resources (funding and programs) are available and do they meet needs?*

Phase 2

Pathways for Addressing the Need

Option 1: Use existing sources
Are existing sources applicable, effective, accessible, and adequately funded to meet the climate resilience funding need?

Option 2: Create new sources
Do we need to consider new resources? If so, what are the financing and funding tools to help us do so?

Option 3: Revisit existing programs
Do existing program structures need to change in order to meet climate resilience funding needs?

Phase 1: Approach

We are assessing climate resilience funding and finance needs across **three primary asset types** that reflect Maine's distinct ownership structures and financing conditions.

1. State-Managed Critical Infrastructure

Examples:

- Transportation systems
- Buildings and facilities
- Piers, docks, and wharves

2. Community & Municipal Infrastructure

Examples:

- Culverts
- Roads
- Wastewater treatment plants
- Civic buildings

3. Private Property

Examples:

- Residential properties
- Commercial properties
- Industrial facilities
- Natural and working lands

Phase 2: Funding & Financing Solutions

This study will explore a range of strategies designed to address the specific types of **capital needs, barriers, and constraints** identified across Maine's resilience landscape, including but not limited to:

1

Funding and Programmatic Strategies

E.g., low- or no match-grant programs for smaller municipalities

2

Financing Mechanisms & Institutional Approaches

E.g., resilience banks

3

Insurance & Risk Transfer Mechanisms

E.g., parametric insurance for public infrastructure

4

Incentive-Based Funding Models

E.g., performance-based grants

Emerging Climate Resilience Funding Needs

Preliminary analysis has uncovered four major takeaways about the state of existing resilience funding.

Climate resilience programs are oversubscribed. MIAF drew $105.94M in requests against a $14M 2026 budget (7.6x oversubscribed) and CRP Community Action Grants drew $10M in requests against a $4.6M Round 7 budget (2.2x oversubscribed).

Requests for these programs are growing. Over the CRP's 7 rounds, requests have grown nearly 700% (from $1.2M in Round 1 to $10M in Round 7) and MIAF requests grew roughly 5,000% (from $2.1M in 2024 to $106M in 2026), as programs have become more well-known and there has been more outreach to support applications.

Even with this gap, current demand is likely an underestimate, as local matches and staff capacity often deter smaller municipalities from applying.

The funding base is largely variable. CRP Community Action Grants, state funded $3 million a year, also partially rely on a NOAA CRRC grant ending in 2029, and MIAF was originally seeded by one-time ARPA funds with no dedicated ongoing revenue source since.

Climate Resilience Funding and Finance Study

9/11/26 Maine Climate Council

Share Your Ideas

Scan this QR code to join the Mentimeter poll

2026 Maine Climate Council Schedule

Tuesday, December 1, 1 - 4:30 p.m. – Location TBD

- Yearly progress report

Working Groups: Meet 2x/year to monitor climate plan progress and implementation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