



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
Policy Innovation and the Future

Factsheet on U.S. and Maine's Greenhouse Gas Emissions targets

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What is a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) goal?

Nationally Determined Contribution goals, or NDCs, are national climate plans highlighting climate actions, including climate related targets, policies and measures governments aim to implement in response to climate change and as a contribution to global climate action.

In the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, NDCs were agreed upon as the central element for implementing climate action by the 196 countries that signed.

What did President Biden announce today?

To greatly reduce the United States' contributions to greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) and fight climate change, [President Biden today set a new, aggressive NDC of reducing net U.S. greenhouse gas emissions](#) (GHGs) by 50-52% from 2005 levels by 2030.

In addition, President Biden announced a goal of reaching carbon neutrality or “net-zero” emissions by 2050. Carbon neutrality occurs when the amount of carbon either being sequestered or removed from the atmosphere becomes equal to gross GHGs.

What are Maine's goals for GHG emissions reductions?

In 2019, Gov. Mills signed legislation, with broad bipartisan support, to put these ambitious GHG reductions targets into Maine law: Cutting gross GHG emissions by 45% from 1990 levels by 2030, and at least 80% from 1990 levels by 2050.

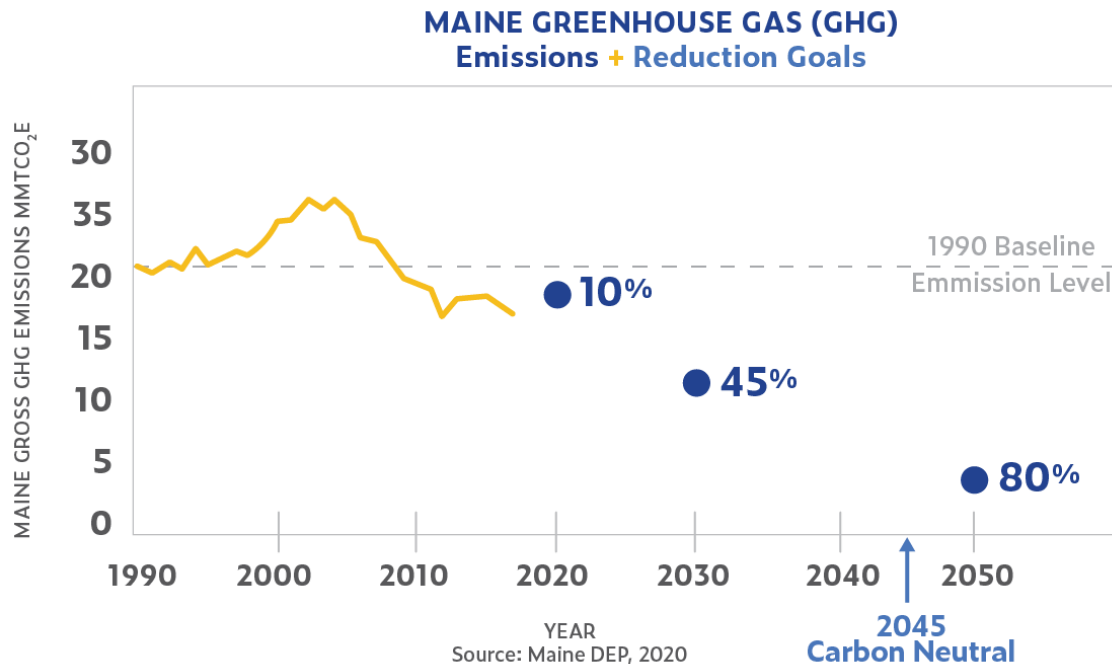
Also in 2019, Governor Mills signed an executive order requiring Maine to reach carbon neutrality by no later than 2045.

Who tracks GHG emissions in Maine?

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) tracks Maine's GHGs, and currently has data on gross emissions from 1990 to 2017. DEP will be estimating the state's progress towards carbon neutrality in their 9th biennial GHGs report in 2022.

How does the new NDC relate to Maine's goals?

The goals announced by President Biden today brings the United States into line with Maine's aggressive GHG reductions targets. While U.S. NDC targets are based on net emissions from 2005 levels, Maine's targets are based on gross emissions from 1990 levels. The 9th biennial GHGs report in 2022 will calculate net emissions to estimate Maine's progress toward carbon neutrality, based on a new method the agency recently published.



Is it better to use either a 2005 or 1990 baseline?

No, both 1990 and 2005 are common baseline years used for calculating emissions. The U.S. government uses 2005 as its baseline, while most New England states use 1990 as part of regional emissions coordination.

