

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
**Policy Innovation and the Future**

GOVERNOR'S  
**Energy Office**



## **Update on *Maine Won't Wait* Funding, Legislation and Projects**

**Aug. 9, 2021**

-----

This year, the Mills Administration and Maine Legislature advanced significant, bipartisan legislation and funding to support goals of the state's four-year plan for climate action, [\*Maine Won't Wait\*](#), which was released on Dec. 1, 2020.

*Maine Won't Wait* outlines strategies to achieve nation-leading targets for curbing greenhouse gas emissions and expanding renewable energy in Maine enacted by Gov. Janet Mills with bipartisan support of the Legislature in 2019. These targets include reducing emissions by 45 percent by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050 and transitioning to using 80 percent renewable energy in Maine by 2030 and 100 percent by 2050.

Funding for climate and energy priorities of *Maine Won't Wait* was included in the state biennial budget and the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan, the plan by Governor Mills to allocate nearly \$1 billion from the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

### **Funding that supports *Maine Won't Wait*:**

- Creation of the Maine Connectivity Authority to expand broadband Internet access, using **\$150 million** in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. Expanding broadband will create greater access to virtual work, education, and health care, and help reduce commuting miles and costs.
- **\$50 million** from the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan for energy efficiency programs, such as residential weatherization and efficiency upgrades, matching funds for municipal efficiency projects, and industry and business efficiency incentives.
- **\$50 million** from the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan for affordable housing, which includes assistance for communities, developers, and builders to encourage construction or production of affordable, energy efficient housing units close to service and employment centers and to reduce commuting time and transportation costs.

- **\$40 million** in the biennial budget for land conservation, which contributes to Maine’s fight against the climate change by maximizing carbon storage, supporting working farms and forests, and ensuring valuable ecosystems remain in place for future generations.
- **\$20 million** from the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan to support adaptation and resilience of local infrastructure vulnerable to climate change.
- **\$8 million** from the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan for advancing clean energy partnerships and initiatives to grow workforce and innovation in Maine’s clean energy sector, in support of Governor Mills’ goal of 30,000 clean energy jobs in Maine by 2030.
- **\$8 million** from the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan to expand municipal and public electric vehicle charging.
- **\$5 million** from the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan for workforce transportation pilot projects to expand public transportation, ride-sharing programs, and develop innovative public transportation options in rural areas to reduce commuting miles and costs.
- **\$4.75 million** from the biennial budget for local and regional planning grants to prepare for climate change effects, reduce carbon emissions, and transition to renewable energy.
- **\$3.1 million** from the biennial budget for studies, research, and staff to support power sector transformation, grid modernization and offshore wind.
- **\$3 million** from the biennial budget to upgrade municipal culverts at stream crossings.

**Legislation that aligns with *Maine Won’t Wait*:**

- LD 99 – An Act To Require the State to Divest Itself of Assets Invested in the Fossil Fuels Industry
- LD 226 – An Act To Limit the Use of Hydrofluorocarbons To Fight Climate Change ([Factsheet](#))
- LD 336 -- An Act To Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry
- LD 340 – An Act To Allow for the Establishment of Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs
- LD 347 -- An Act To Facilitate Maine's Climate Goals by Encouraging Use of Electric Vehicles
- LD 437 – An Act To Establish the Maine Healthy Soils Program
- LD 528 -- An Act To Advance Energy Storage in Maine
- LD 593 -- An Act To Restore Eelgrass Mapping and Enhance Salt Marsh Vegetation Mapping in the State
- LD 597 -- An Act To Establish the Wood Energy Investment Program
- LD 609 -- Resolve, To Establish a Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions
- LD 722 -- Resolve, To Study the Establishment of the Maine Climate Corps

- LD 815 -- An Act To Support School Decarbonization
- LD 820 -- Resolve, To Convene a Working Group To Develop Plans To Protect Maine's Agricultural Lands When Siting Solar Arrays
- LD 936 -- An Act To Amend State Laws Relating to Net Energy Billing and the Procurement of Distributed Generation
- LD 937 -- Resolve, To Facilitate the Provision of Incentives for Soil Carbon Storage
- LD 940 -- An Act To Establish Appliance Energy and Water Standards
- LD 1053 -- An Act to Allow Microgrids in the Public Interest
- LD 1100 -- An Act To Support the Continued Access to Solar Energy and Battery Storage by Maine Homes and Businesses
- LD 1484 -- An Act To Enhance the ConnectMaine Authority's Capacity To Provide World-class Internet
- LD 1572 -- Resolve, To Analyze the Impact of Sea Level Rise ([Factsheet](#))
- LD 1659 -- An Act To Create the Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator
- LD 1682 -- An Act To Require Consideration of Climate and Equity Impacts by the Public Utilities Commission
- LD 1710 -- An Act To Require Prompt and Effective Use of the Renewable Energy Resources of Northern Maine

### **Current *Maine Won't Wait* initiatives and projects**

The Mills Administration is currently acting on multiple other initiatives recommended by *Maine Won't Wait*, including:

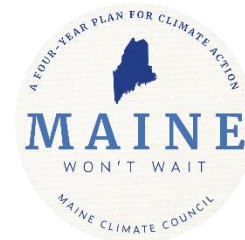
- Accelerating the installation of energy efficient heat pumps in Maine homes through incentives from the Efficiency Maine Trust and MaineHousing.
- Awarding [the first regional grants for climate planning to eight communities in Cumberland, Sagadahoc and Aroostook counties](#), to develop model climate planning processes for communities across Maine.
- Releasing the first [Lead-By-Example targets for state agencies](#) to reduce emissions in their operations.
- Starting a [Clean Transportation roadmap](#) to plan for the expansion of electric vehicles, electric vehicle charging, and other electrified transit options as recommended by the climate action plan.
- Convening an [Equity Subcommittee](#) to ensure shared benefits from climate action and policy across diverse populations in Maine.
- Launching a [Forest Carbon Task Force](#) to develop incentives for forest and woodland owners to use their lands to sequester carbon emissions.
- Convening an [Agricultural Solar Stakeholder Group](#) to make policy recommendations to balance the need to protect Maine's farmland against the need to develop sources of renewable solar energy.

- Starting [Maine's Offshore Wind Roadmap](#) to create an economic development plan for an offshore wind industry in Maine.
- Launching a [Clean Energy Innovation Challenge](#) with the Maine Technology Institute to grow early-stage companies and entrepreneurs in Maine with new clean energy technologies.

Moody's Investors Service also cited [Governor Mills' climate actions](#) in its [reaffirmation of Maine's strong credit rating](#), noting how it will help mitigate the risks climate change presents to Maine.

### **About the Maine Climate Council & *Maine Won't Wait***

The development and implementation of *Maine Won't Wait* plan is overseen by the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and the Maine Climate Council, an assembly of scientists, industry leaders, bipartisan local and state officials, and engaged citizens working to address climate change on Maine.



For more about the Maine Climate Council or to view the state's four year climate action plan, visit [climatecouncil.maine.gov](https://climatecouncil.maine.gov), or visit the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future at [maine.gov/future](https://maine.gov/future).

For more about the Governor's Energy Office, visit [maine.gov/energy](https://maine.gov/energy).

###