



Maine Office of  
the Public Advocate

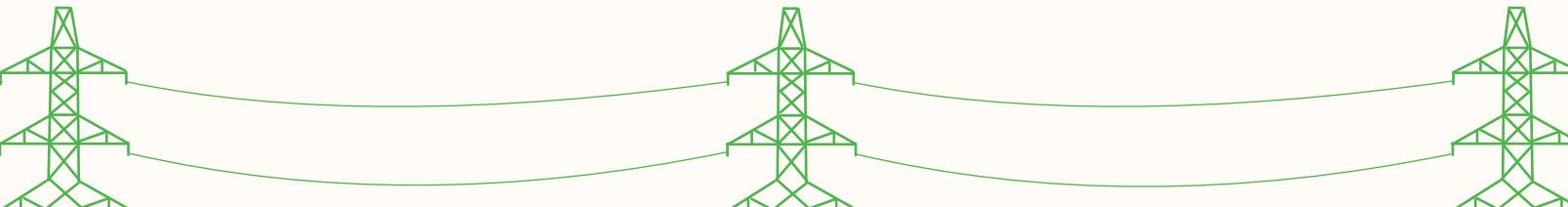
# Is Maine's CEP-Served Residential Retail Electric Supply Market Affordable?

January 2026



# Sources of information

- Publicly available data from the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration ("EIA").
- Confidential data provided to the Maine Office of the Public Advocate from the utilities Versant Power and Central Maine Power Companies, subject to a Protective Order issued by the Maine Public Utilities Commission.



# Data that moves us beyond averages

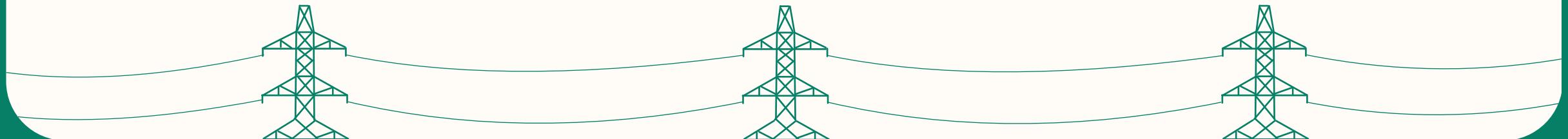
Data provided by the utilities allowed this analysis to:

- See a granular view of the actual kWh rates charged by each CEP to customers down to the zip code level for each of 8 particular months over the last 5 years.
- Distinguish between LIAP and non-LIAP customers within the data set.



# Limitations of this Study

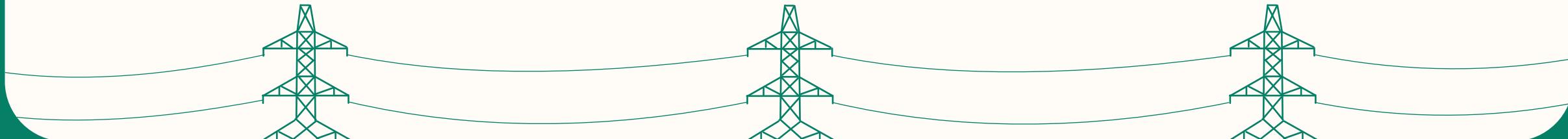
- No data was provided by CEPs themselves.
- No data was available to assign value to the differences between the supply products provided by CEPs and the standard offer (e.g. length of contract, discounts on other energy products, gift cards, etc.).
- No input was received from a Standard Offer supplier.



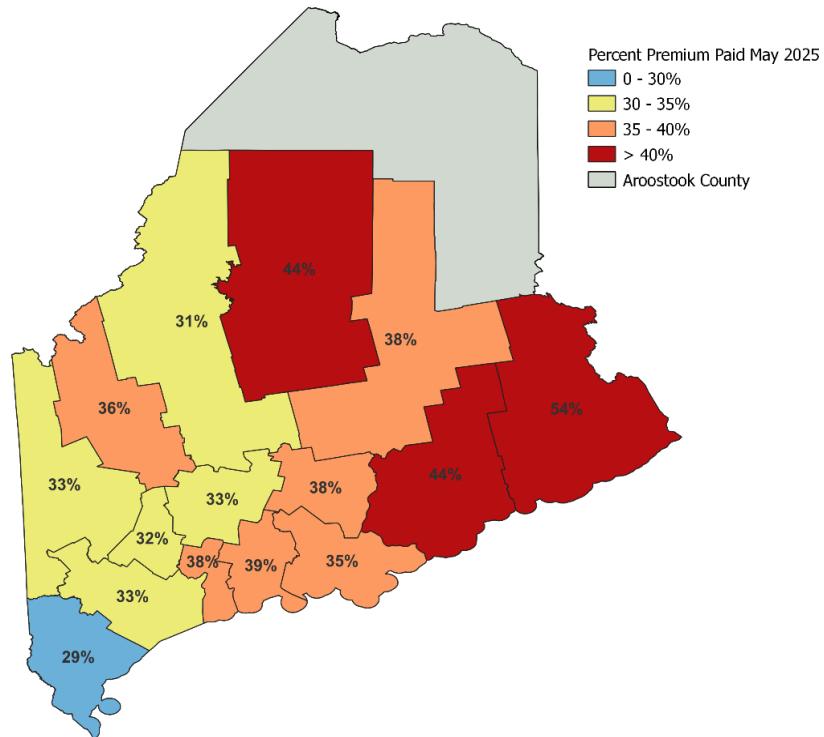
# CEPs Result in Higher Supply Costs for Mainers

Premium = Amount paid by CEP customer that is above the Standard Offer price during the same time period.

**Total Premiums paid by CEP customers  
from 2016-2024:  
\$156 million**

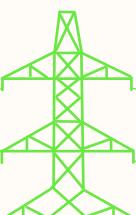
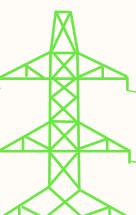


# County-level results (May 2025)



Lowest income parts of the state pay the highest percent premium to CEPs

\* Aroostook County has very few residential CEP customers (between 8 and 36 customers during the period of the study) so it has been excluded from the analysis. See Appendix 2.



## Consumers Facing a Loss Consistently Outnumber Consumers with a Gain

Year	Month	# of Consumers with Loss	# of Consumers with Gain	Ratio Loss to Gain
2021	Dec	60,375	6,094	9.9
2022	May	45,597	22,378	2.0
2022	Dec	47,950	13,774	3.5
2023	May	35,294	31,938	1.1
2023	Dec	39,179	39,060	1.0
2024	May	64,533	10,310	6.3
2024	Dec	58,158	6,142	9.5
2025	May	51,472	8,459	6.1

Table 13 Number CEP customers experiencing losses and gains.<sup>39</sup>

## LIAP Participants are a Growing Percentage of CEP Customer Base

Year	Month	Total CEP Customers	LIAP Participants	Non-LIAP Participants	Percent LIAP
2021	12	66,469	3,667	62,802	5.52%
2022	5	67,975	3,890	64,085	5.72%
2022	12	61,724	3,706	58,018	6.00%
2023	5	67,232	4,661	62,571	6.93%
2023	12	78,239	5,639	72,600	7.21%
2024	5	74,843	6,414	68,429	8.57%
2024	12	64,300	5,243	59,057	8.15%
2025	5	59,931	4,950	54,981	8.26%

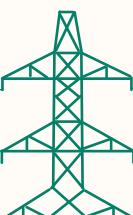
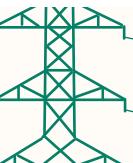
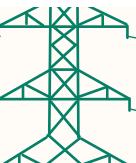
Table 17 LIAP participants are a growing percentage of CEP customer base.<sup>48</sup>

## Average Overcharge per LIAP Customer by Study Month and CEP

CEP_ID	Dec 2021	May 2022	Dec 2022	May 2023	Dec 2023	May 2024	Dec 2024	May 2025
5	-\$5.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10	\$22.26	\$27.63	\$4.92	\$26.36	\$18.33	\$18.22	\$20.96	\$16.33
15	\$9.70	\$43.46	\$16.96	\$72.75	\$10.73	\$24.89	\$29.69	\$17.90
20	\$4.20	\$3.83	\$3.42	\$4.44	\$2.85	\$14.85	\$31.18	\$21.88
25	-\$23.91	\$11.82	-\$10.79	-\$0.22	-\$17.81	\$8.35	\$6.94	\$2.34
30	-\$16.89	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18.00	\$25.50	\$4.00
40	-\$85.29	\$23.00	\$3.50	\$31.20	-\$6.17	\$28.29	\$29.60	\$17.75
45	\$21.41	\$35.10	\$9.52	\$33.93	\$13.88	\$33.73	\$40.33	\$27.82
50	-\$25.54	\$28.31	\$18.53	\$31.13	-\$11.45	\$13.22	\$19.48	\$16.59
55	\$5.08	\$34.00	\$15.40	\$93.23	\$6.12	\$15.44	\$15.92	\$14.86
60	-\$27.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.93	\$1.88	\$0.00
70	\$2.87	\$33.61	\$6.87	\$20.29	\$1.88	\$15.61	\$19.39	\$15.62
75	\$9.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
80	\$36.58	\$46.48	\$19.14	\$62.15	\$59.38	\$32.93	\$32.16	\$21.67
85	-\$1.78	\$35.00	\$11.03	\$38.99	\$11.84	\$3.39	\$21.64	\$10.95
90	-\$29.61	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7.00
95	-\$11.33	\$31.83	\$6.62	\$10.96	-\$4.11	\$11.50	\$12.00	\$0.50
105	\$0.00	\$44.89	\$25.75	\$49.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Table 20 Average monthly losses per LIAP customer.<sup>53</sup>

In nearly every month, and with nearly every CEP, LIAP customers paid more than the standard offer.

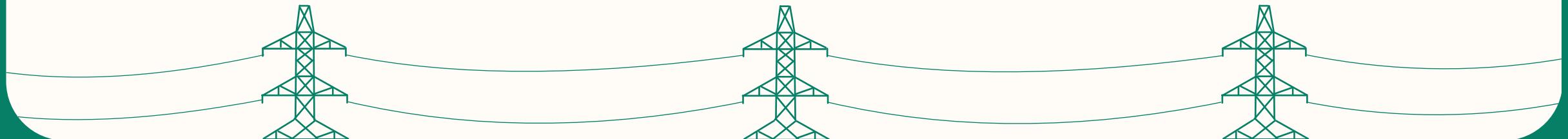


# Implications for LIAP Budget

## Estimated Annual Excess Payment by LIAP Customers

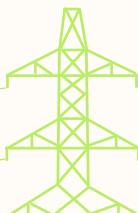
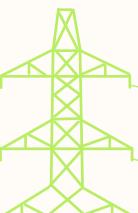
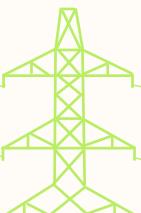
12-Month Period	Estimated 12-month Overpayment
2021-2022	\$1,003,209
2022-2023	\$1,294,417
2023-2024	\$834,202
2024-2025	\$1,209,061

Table 21 Estimated annual excess payment by LIAP customers.<sup>54</sup>



# ERAC Recommendation

Enact policy to ensure that no LIAP-enrolled utility customer is charged more than the standard offer rate for their electricity supply.





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**Thank You**

