

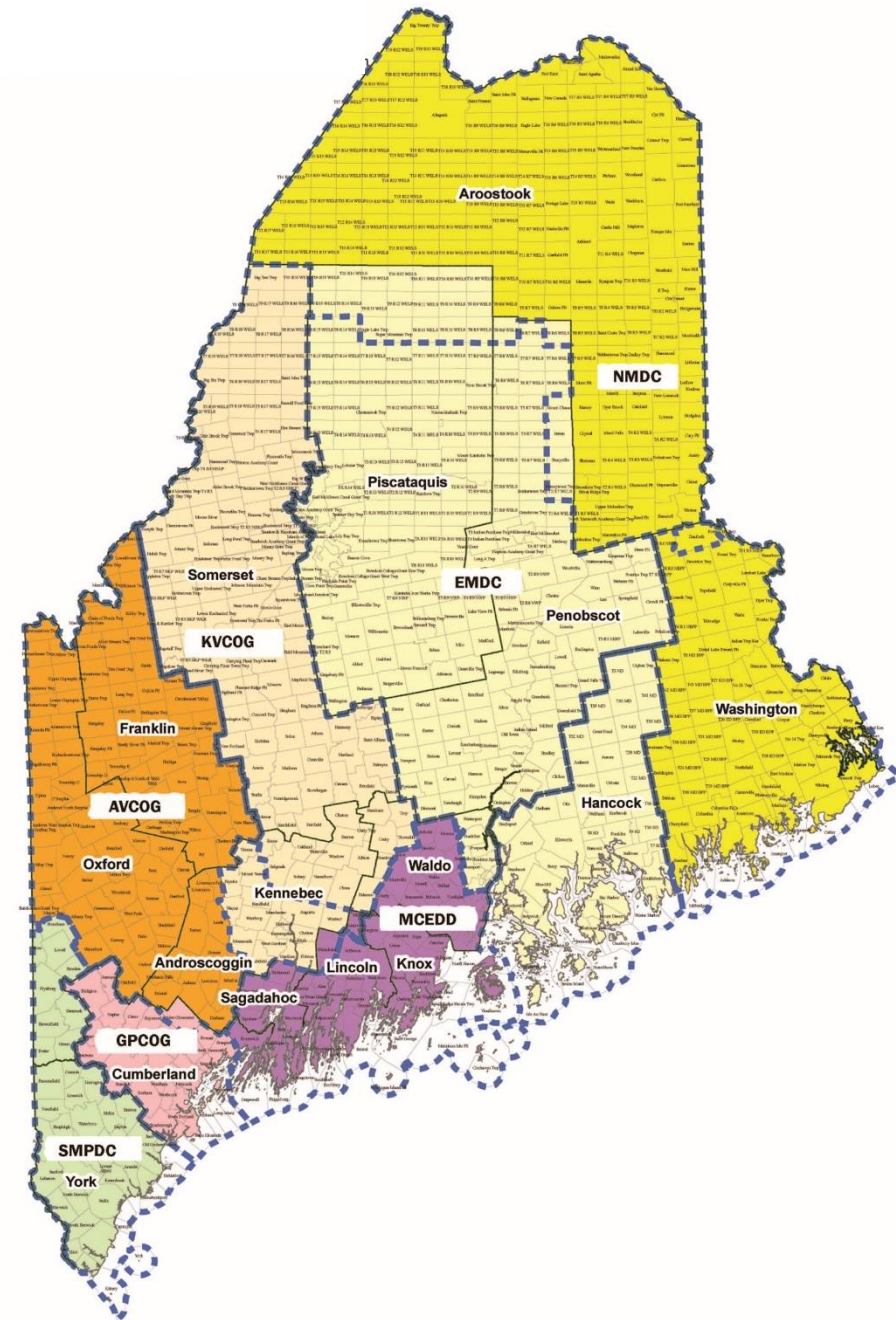
# Regional Climate Action Planning

Androscoggin Valley Council of  
Governments

Auburn, Maine

# Maine Economic Development Districts

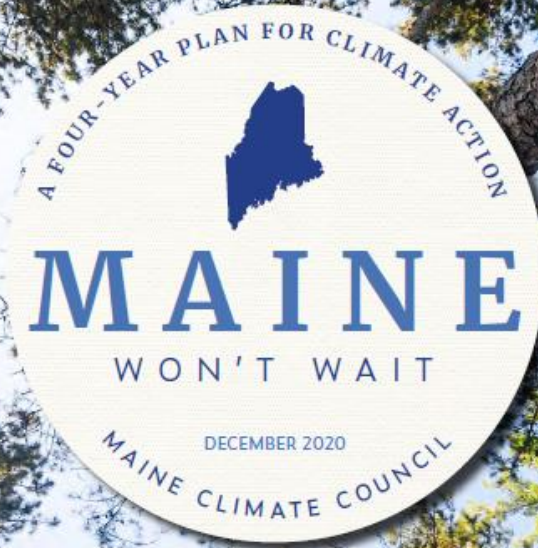
- ▶ Maine's 7 designated Economic Development Districts (EDDs) cover the entire state
- ▶ Within each EDD there are also state designated Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs)
- ▶ Some EDDs (like AVCOG) are both an EDD and an RPC
- ▶ The EDDs represent 499 municipalities and 251 unorganized territories
- ▶ Approximately 45% of the municipalities are under 1,000 in population





## Maine Climate Council

- ▶ In 2019, the Governor and Legislature created the Maine Climate Council, an assembly of scientists, industry leaders, bipartisan local and state officials, and engaged citizens to develop a four-year plan to address the impacts of climate change on Maine, build resiliency to climate effects, and meet state statutory targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- ▶ The Council and six working groups and a subcommittee — totaling more than 200 Maine people with a diverse set of experiences and backgrounds — was tasked with creating a four-year Climate Action Plan



## Maine Won't Wait

- ▶ Maine's four-year climate plan with actionable strategies and goals to emit less carbon, produce energy from renewable sources and protect our natural resources, communities and people from the effects of climate change.
- ▶ Maine Won't Wait was delivered to the Governor on December 1, 2020.
- ▶ Overall Targets:
  - ▶ Decrease greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030
  - ▶ 80% by 2050
  - ▶ Achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.
- ▶ By law, the Council must deliver an updated plan by December 1, 2024.

An aerial photograph of a town in Maine, showing a river winding through the center, surrounded by buildings and lush greenery. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. The image is slightly blurred to make the text stand out.

# Inspiring Climate Action for Maine

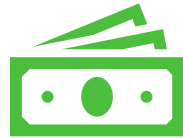


[#MaineWontWait](#)

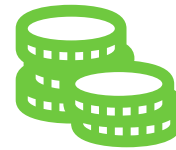
# Maine's Climate Action Plan Goals



Reduce Maine's  
Greenhouse Gas  
Emissions



Avoid the Impacts  
and Costs of Inaction

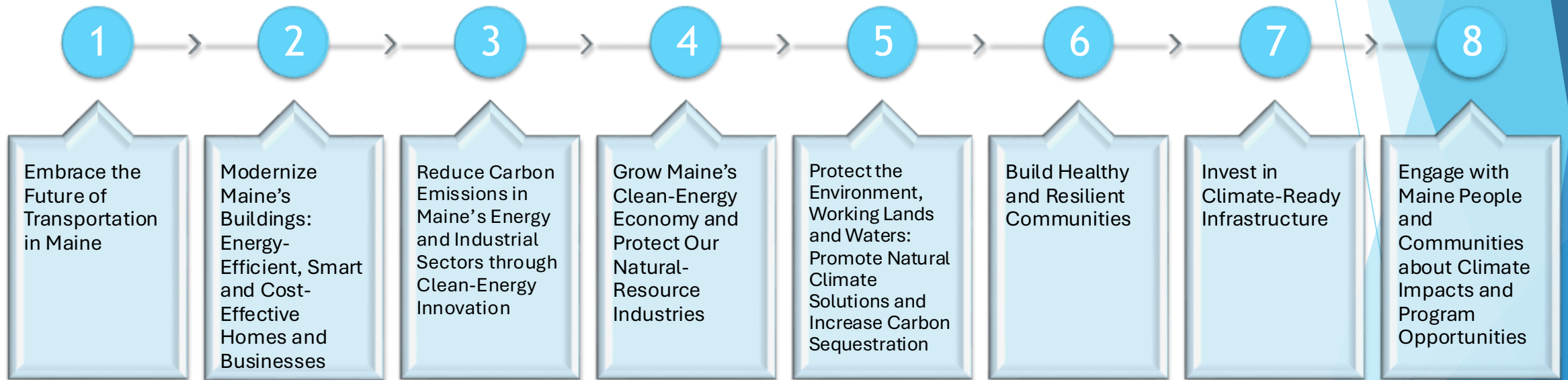


Foster Economic  
Opportunity and  
Prosperity



Advance Equity  
through Maine's  
Climate Response

# State Strategies





# Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

## Empower Local and Regional Community Resilience Efforts

Provide state leadership for robust technical assistance and funding to communities by 2024 to support local and regional climate-resilience initiatives.

- ▶ Enhanced coordination of assistance and funding for community resilience will require meeting the needs of Maine's diverse communities, including small towns, large cities, and coastal and inland communities.
- ▶ Expansion of guidance products that help communities evaluate climate risk, understand their options, and prioritize actions.
- ▶ Maine should ensure that the lowest capacity and most vulnerable communities are able to participate.





▶ **Support for Communities**

- ▶ **Service Provider Grants** support service provider organizations to assist communities with climate action, energy and resilience planning.
  - ▶ Track 1 Community Enrollment Service Provider Grants enable organizations to assist two to five Communities to prepare for and enroll in the Community Resilience Partnership and then apply for grant funds to undertake priority climate and energy projects.
  - ▶ Track 2 Community Vulnerability Assessment Service Provider Grants enable organizations to assist two to five enrolled/enrolling Communities to complete community vulnerability assessments that identify vulnerable community members, infrastructure, and assets, and then utilize that data to further prioritize climate action projects and apply for grant funds.
- ▶ **Regional Coordinator Pilot** to provide capacity to communities participating in the CRP beyond enrollment and pursuing a Community Action Grant and other grant sources.

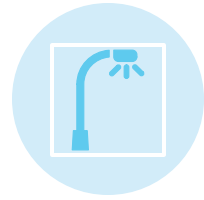


- Community Action Grants can support two categories of climate action by communities: 1) actions from the **List of Community Actions**, an approved list of climate mitigation and adaptation activities that align with the strategies of Maine Won't Wait, and 2) other projects proposed by a community that support capacity building, planning, and implementation projects.
  - Up to \$50,000 for a single community award.
  - Up to \$175,000 for a multi-community award.
  - Some types of projects require NO MATCH from the community, see the “List of Community Actions” provided by GOPIF for these projects.
  - Other projects not on that list will require either a 10% or 20% match depending on the community population and assessment threshold

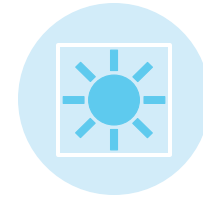
# Types of Community Actions



**Transportation** - purchase/lease electric vehicles, install EV chargers in public parking areas, bike and walking infrastructure, adopt a telework policy or complete streets policy;



**Building modernizing** - Weatherization, energy efficient lighting, heat pump or VRF system, streetlight upgrades, adopt energy efficiency stretch building code, Code Officer training;



**Reduce emissions** - conduct baseline for energy usage, track emission indicators, adopt renewable energy ordinance, install renewable energy project (solar, wind, geothermal, anaerobic digestion, etc.);



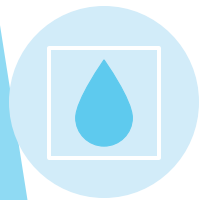
**Natural Resources and Jobs** - adopt policies incentivizing local food production and consumption including community gardens, adjust procurement policies, incentives for clean energy industry/business to locate in community, brownfield redevelopment into clean industry site;



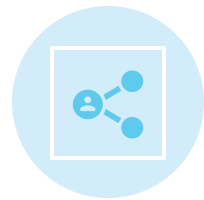
**Promote Natural Climate Solutions** - Increase green space and shade trees, conservation of land, create/update a watershed plan, inventory habitat, conserve or revegetate floodplains and river buffers, restore shorelines, preserve climate-threatened natural areas;



**Build Resilient communities** - Conduct a community vulnerability assessment, early warning systems/ evacuation plans, storm debris management plan, a couple options related to flood insurance program, extreme temperatures emergency plan, school programs to educate on tick and mosquito borne disease.



**Climate-Ready Infrastructure** - Vulnerability assessment, develop a Capital Investment Plan, improvements to water and wastewater treatment facilities, green infrastructure/stormwater management;



**Engage People** - Engaging people and at-risk populations, engage business community, initiate bulk purchasing program to provide low-cost equipment such as heat pumps and solar for interested residents and businesses.

# NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge Grant

- ▶ State of Maine awarded \$69 million climate resilience grant through NOAA's highly competitive Climate Resilience Regional Challenge Grant.
- ▶ \$35 million dedicated to Community Resiliency
  - ▶ Increase participation in the Community Resilience Partnership from 174 communities to 225 communities (of Maine's 482 communities).
  - ▶ Create a statewide Resilience Collaborative- expanding the regional coordinator pilot to support municipal, tribal, and regional climate projects.
    - ▶ Regional assistance providers (14 full-time equivalents [FTEs]), including Maine's EDDs and RPCs who will receive subawards to work directly with communities to provide project development and management, technical assistance, community engagement support, process guidance, and grant writing and management services for identified resilience projects. Assistance providers will seek to leverage regional and state funding opportunities that will provide co-benefits to communities by considering transportation, housing, and other fields impacted by climate change

# Tracking the Progress of *Maine Won't Wait*



**12,369**  
Electric &  
Plug-in Hybrid  
Vehicles

Goal: 219,000  
by 2030



**459**  
Public EV  
Charging  
Stations

Up from 235  
in 2019



**51%**  
Clean  
Energy  
Use

Goal: 80%  
by 2030



**15,019**  
Clean  
Energy  
Jobs

Goal: 30,000  
by 2030



**25%**  
Below 1990  
Greenhouse Gas  
Emissions

Updated Figure  
for 2019



**75%**  
of the way to  
Carbon Neutral

Goal: 100%  
Carbon Neutral  
by 2045

(75% of Maine GHG  
emissions absorbed by  
Maine ecosystems)



**115,442**  
New Heat Pumps  
since 2019

New Goal:  
275,000 by 2027



**12,705**  
Homes  
Weatherized  
since 2019

Goal: 17,500  
by 2025



**22.2%**  
of Maine  
Land  
Conserved

Goal: 30%  
by 2030



**174**  
Communities  
in Resilience  
Partnership

# Maine Won't Wait 2.0!

## CLIMATE COUNCIL GOALS



**12.01.24**

Updated Climate Action  
Plan Due



Achieve State Carbon  
Neutrality by

**2045**

REDUCE MAINE'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY  
TARGETS OUTLINED IN STATE LAW

**45%**

BELOW 1990 LEVELS  
BY 2030

**80%**

BELOW 1990 LEVELS  
BY 2050



ENSURE MAINE PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES, AND COMMUNITIES ARE RESILIENT  
TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

## **More Information**

Maine Won't Wait - <https://www.maine.gov/climateplan/>

Community Resilience Partnership

<https://www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership>

**Amy M. Landry**

Executive Director

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