



# Maine Won't Wait – A Four-Year Plan for Climate Action: Summary November 21, 2024

## Introduction

On November 21, 2024, the Maine Climate Council and Governor Janet Mills released an ambitious [State Climate Action Plan, \*Maine Won't Wait 2.0\*](#), following a national election that may wipe out climate priorities and incentives at the federal level and on a day where international climate talks struggled for meaningful progress to achieve global goals.

The new state plan sets strategies to accelerate the transition to clean electricity and transportation, smarter and more efficient buildings, technology and infrastructure investments, and a growing economy with concerted and coordinated climate action. Its recommendations seek to protect natural lands and waters and the communities and workers that depend on them in their personal and professional lives. The updated plan is unique and will continue to serve as a model for the rest of the country. But it also needs an action-oriented push to harness the tremendous influence of the private, public, and nonprofit sectors for a carbon-constrained future.

Climate change poses a serious threat to our state's economy and environment - and that means it directly impacts the livelihoods and well-being of all Mainers. It is not simply an environmental issue; it represents a transformative economic challenge for all. Private, public, and nonprofit entities can and must do their part, by capturing opportunities and changing the way we build, heat, and transport things. ClimateWork Maine was created for this very purpose – to help Maine businesses grow and communities and people succeed in a carbon-constrained economy.

In 2025, CWM will expand and enhance its efforts to strengthen and support a more resilient economy, helping to create and keep good jobs making Maine a vibrant participant in the low-carbon future. CWM looks forward to working with state, business, and community leaders to be a coordinating, unified, mobilizing force to highlight the urgency of climate action, explain how investment and innovation can leverage private capital and drive job creation, and underscore the importance of Maine leadership in the global low-carbon economy.

## Current Climate Targets & Goals

### Goals

- Reduce Maine's greenhouse gas emissions
- Make Maine more resilient to the impacts of climate change
- Foster economic opportunity and prosperity
- Advance equity through Maine's response

### Targets 2030 – 2050

- 2030 - Reduce Maine's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 45 percent below 1990 levels
- 2030 - Electricity use in Maine – 80 percent
- 2030 - Clean energy jobs created – 30000
- 2040 – 100 percent clean energy
- 2045 – Achieve State carbon neutrality
- 2050 – Reduce Maine's GHG emissions by 80 percent below 1990 levels

## Strategies

### Embrace the Transportation Future

- Accelerate Maine's Transition to Light-Duty Electric and Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles
- Accelerate Maine's Adoption of Zero-Emission Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles (MHDVs)
- Invest in Public, Active, and Shared Transportation
- Improve the resilience of Maine's transportation system

### Modernize Buildings

- Continue progress on making homes and businesses more energy efficient by investing in weatherization and heating systems
- Build and renovate more housing that is affordable, energy efficient, and close to vibrant community centers
- Establish strong systems to support rapid adoption of and compliance with increasingly climate-friendly building codes and standards
- Promote the manufacture and use of climate-friendly building products
- Accelerate decarbonization technologies in industrial processes
- Continue to lead by example in publicly funded buildings

### **Transition to Clean Electricity**

- Decrease energy burdens while transitioning to clean energy
- Plan and build the infrastructure needed to achieve a resilient and 100 percent clean electricity grid by 2040
- Manage the impact of buildings, vehicles, and industry on the grid with innovative demand management and load flexibility strategies
- Grow Maine's clean energy economy with a goal to support 30,000 clean energy jobs by 2030

### **Create Jobs & Grow Maine's Economy**

- Advance innovation and leadership in technologies that help reduce emissions and increase resilience to climate impacts
- Help Maine businesses and natural resource industries succeed in the global climate and clean energy economy
- Build on historic investments by strengthening and diversifying Maine's climate-ready workforce

### **Protect the Environment and Natural & Working Lands & Waters**

- Increase the total acreage of conserved Natural and Working Lands in the state to 30 percent by 2030.
- Develop new incentives to increase forest carbon storage
- Increase the amount of food consumed in Maine from state food producers to 30 percent by 2030
- Reduce food loss and waste 50 percent by 2030
- Support Maine's farming, forestry and fisheries industries in adapting to climate change
- Monitor and increase the resilience of inland and coastal and marine ecosystems
- Reduce and capture methane emissions from Maine's waste sector

### **Build Healthy & Resilient Communities**

- Increase local capacity for climate resilience
- Enhance the State's ability to prepare for and recover from natural disasters
- Expand access to funding and financing for climate adaptation and emissions reduction
- Help Maine people prepare their homes and businesses for climate changes
- Protect critical working waterfront infrastructure
- Strengthen Public Health Monitoring, Education, and Prevention

- Increase awareness and action on the mental health impacts of climate change
- Promote and incentivize land use strategies that help communities avoid future transportation emissions, conserve natural and working lands, create affordable housing, and meet the state's clean energy goals
- Measure and reduce emissions across the lifecycle of products that Maine people buy and use
- Increase capacity of and access to waste prevention and diversion services

### **Engage with People on Climate Action**

- Increase participation and program engagement from underserved Maine people and communities
- Expand broad climate and energy education and outreach for individuals, businesses, local governments, and nonprofit organizations
- Continue to engage with Maine youth to support climate actions
- Increase education offerings related to climate change, clean energy, and climate-related careers in PreK-12 schools and higher education