



ENERGY PATHWAY FOR MAINE:

Guiding principles to move us forward

The market for clean energy is expanding rapidly, as technologies advance and prices become cost-competitive and attractive in comparison to traditional energy choices. Many states and countries have started to make a major energy transition, recognizing the opportunity to reduce energy costs, promote economic competitiveness and innovation, and promote responsible resource use. Maine currently exports \$5 billion per year from the state economy to import fossil fuels, while abundant local energy resources remain untapped and our buildings remain inefficient. We have a chance to keep our energy dollars in state by investing in an energy future that will fuel a 21st-century economy: one that is dynamic, competitive, and clean.

Mainers, including fishermen, farmers, University of Maine scientists, policymakers, business owners, individuals, and families recognize that a changing climate poses significant risks to Maine's economy, environment, and public health. Many segments of our economy and population remain vulnerable, not only to climate change but also to unaffordable energy, housing, and transportation. Maine has the opportunity to better harness its resourcefulness and entrepreneurial capacity to build a forward-looking economy.

For that to happen, we call on Maine's political, business, and municipal leaders to come together to act anew. We endorse six guiding principles that should guide development of specific solutions. These may not be entirely new ideas—most Mainers might embrace them intuitively—but they deserve focused attention now as the foundation upon which new policies and programs can be designed and implemented.

Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
East Brown Cow Management, Inc.
Geiger
GrowSmart Maine
Island Institute
Maine Affordable Housing Coalition
Maine Beer Company
Maine Coast Fishermen's Association
Maine Council of Churches
Maine Equal Justice Partners
Maine Public Health Association
Maine Renewable Energy Association
Mt. Abram Ski Area
Natural Resources Council of Maine
The Nature Conservancy in Maine
Pika Energy
Reed & Reed
ReVision Energy
Sargent Corporation
Shellfish Growers Climate Coalition,
Maine Members

For more information or to sign-on your organization or business, visit EnergyPathwayMaine.com



1. **Maine must act to benefit from significant energy transitions under way around the world.**

As the cost of renewable and clean energy technologies drop rapidly, homeowners, businesses, utilities, and governments around the region and entire world have shifted their investment strategies to these systems. Businesses and governments see a future in clean energy because they no longer need to choose “cheap” or “clean”; they can have both. Maine is not keeping pace as states all around us head down this path, but we can still benefit from this energy transition if we act now with the right policies and investments.

“**Global investment in renewables is taking off. It’s time for Maine to embrace much greater investment in clean energy and infrastructure by creating a predictable and stable regulatory climate.**”

—*Jack Parker, Reed & Reed*

“**The costs of solar and wind have plummeted over the last decade; batteries and electric cars are getting cheaper fast. Clean energy is cost-competitive today and getting better all the time.**”

—*Phil Coupe, ReVision Energy*

2. **Maine’s economy is tied to its environment, a connection that is part of our history and the opportunities ahead.**

Whether we consider an aging workforce, the need to modernize infrastructure, or improving public health, the challenges we face are interrelated. Energy issues cut across them. Maine’s economy depends on a clean environment, and a strong economy helps us protect the health of Maine people and our environment. Maine’s advantage and opportunities to create jobs come in part from abundant local energy resources that can increase prosperity and sustainability. Sound clean energy development creates large, long-term environmental and health benefits and sometimes smaller local impacts that must be managed.

“**Maine has hundreds of renewable energy jobs today – from installers and operators to construction contractors, environmental specialists, and other professionals. Growth in this sector will strengthen Maine’s ability to attract and retain productive workers.**”

—*Jeremy Payne, Maine Renewable Energy Association*

“**From lumber to lobsters, Maine’s economy has long benefited by taking our natural resources to market. We need to take the next step by allowing Maine’s entrepreneurial spirit to lead again, an absolute necessity if the state is going to grow and thrive.**”

—*Herb Sargent, Sargent Corporation*

3. Climate change is causing Maine people to experience significant disruptions in their daily lives and bottom line. They want practical ways to do their part to ensure a safe climate for Maine people today and in the future.

Maine's established goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions are aligned with sound science, and consistent with goals being set by cities, states, major corporations, and the international community. These goals include reducing emissions 40% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. Maine will thrive and be competitive if we recognize climate disruption and our policies are designed to achieve these long-term carbon reduction goals.

“**Maine's fishermen rely on a healthy Gulf of Maine, but unfortunately, climate change is putting our efforts to build sustainable fisheries in jeopardy. Fishing and seafood are an integral part of Maine's heritage and economy, so it is imperative that we act now to reduce emissions.**”

—Ben Martens, *Maine Coast Fishermen's Association*

“**Climate change is the most serious threat to Maine's environment, and poses enormous risks to the health of Maine people and our economy. The rest of the world is acting and we must act, too.**”

—Dylan Voorhees, *Natural Resources Council of Maine*

4. Innovation and competitive markets offer the fundamental solutions to our energy challenges and take advantage of Maine's entrepreneurial and resourceful spirit.

Our creativity and work ethic are hallmarks of our history. The private sector can make efficient investments and will provide the lowest-cost solutions if we establish clear policies and programs that are stable over the long-term. To the greatest extent possible, our policies should focus on outcomes and fundamental objectives, not pick individual technologies. With that policy foundation, Maine entrepreneurs will drive the clean energy solutions that create jobs.

“**With clear and sensible clean-energy policies in place, we can welcome vital investment capital to Maine, supporting entrepreneurial innovation and spurring critical business growth.**”

—Tim Soley, *East Brown Cow Management, Inc.*

“**Maine businesses are ready to invest in clean energy, and we are ready to invest in them.**”

—Betsy Biemann, *Coastal Enterprises, Inc.*



DAVE CLEVELAND, MAINE IMAGING



REED & REED



GRETA RYBUS



5. Maine needs a long-term energy plan that benefits all Mainers, rural and urban, and across income levels.

Maine people want control of their future and the means to thrive in their communities. An energy transition that does not account for fairness and equity risks leaving some behind. Through policy and market solutions, a smooth transition is possible for people across all income levels, in all corners of the state, and for all types of businesses. Energy policy solutions must be intentionally designed to help those who pay higher shares of their income on energy benefit from this transition. Likewise we should identify strategies that benefit rural Maine and take advantage of its unique opportunities.

“ Low-income households spend a much higher proportion of their income on energy. We can and must create a clean energy transition that works for all Mainers.”

—Christine Hastedt, Maine Equal Justice Partners

“ God has entrusted us with the care and protection of the environment, and our children are counting on us to act now as faithful stewards of this fragile earth.”

—Rev. Jane Field, Maine Council of Churches

6. Mainers are concerned about the cost of energy. Reducing energy costs is one of many important objectives for greater prosperity and quality of life in Maine.

Energy efficiency is the foundation for lowering energy costs. Wind and solar have become some of the lowest-cost energy resources, and a long-term strategy of encouraging their development has helped drive costs lower. We should carefully consider all long-term costs and benefits of energy choices, not just short-term market prices. Maine needs high-quality analysis and solutions, and should recognize we will always have limited control over energy supplied from outside our state and region.

“ Affordable housing is energy efficient housing. To control long-term costs, Maine must put more effort into energy efficiency—and solar—for new and existing housing.”

—Greg Payne, Maine Affordable Housing Coalition

“ Maine’s rural communities have a high energy burden and yet many are leading the way with practical, creative, community-based solutions that benefit both the economy and the environment.”

—Brooks Winner, Island Institute