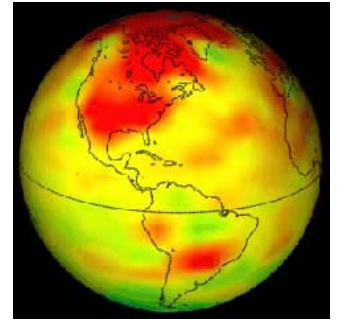


Promoting a Clean Energy Future

Maine's energy system is dangerous, costly, and unsustainable, and the Natural Resources Council of Maine is determined to do something about it. For the past decade, we have helped Maine reduce carbon pollution, increase energy efficiency, and expand clean energy. We helped implement the 2003 law that established Maine's climate reduction goals. We helped draft Maine's 2004 Climate Action Plan and the legislation guiding Maine's involvement in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. We also won victories on bills to promote clean cars in Maine, establish new energy efficiency building codes, and promote appropriately-sited wind power development. Most recently, NRCM played a central role in helping draft and win passage of a landmark energy bill in 2008 that consolidated Maine's energy efficiency programs into the Efficiency Maine Trust, and established ambitious state goals of weatherizing all Maine homes and half of Maine businesses by 2030. Now we are moving forward with a broad agenda to build on this momentum. Our work is more important than ever in light of the scientific community's increased warnings about the threat of climate change.



The Year Ahead



Photo Credit: Times Record

Addressing the Threat of Climate Change: The National Academy of Sciences recently concluded that climate change poses “serious, wide-ranging threats to human societies and natural ecosystems around the world.” The Academy calls for urgent global action involving “essentially all available options” for reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. NRCM will continue to lead a statewide coalition pressing for federal climate and clean energy legislation, but the U.S. Senate appears to have abdicated its responsibility by failing to act last summer. As a result, the place for action now shifts back to the states.

NRCM will defend Maine's involvement in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) – the nation's most significant regional climate pollution reduction program. Maine businesses already have received \$20 million in RGGI funds for energy efficiency investments. We also will work to strengthen RGGI with tighter carbon pollution caps and we will promote a broad-based clean energy strategy to reduce Maine's carbon pollution 10% below 1990 levels by 2020.

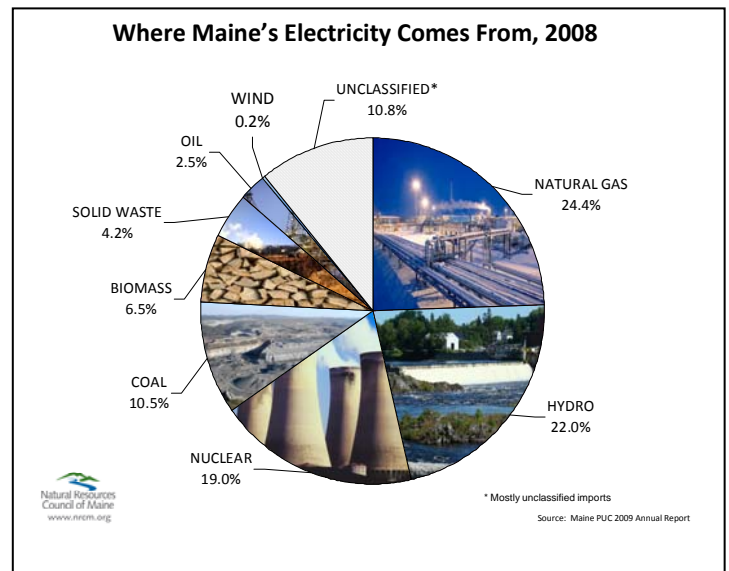
Public Education on Energy and Climate: During the year ahead, we will step up our efforts to educate the public about the economic, national security, and environmental impacts of our fossil fuel-dependent energy system. We will increase our communications about what the science is telling us about climate change and the imperative for action. We also will work to document and educate Maine about the clean energy jobs that can be created through energy efficiency and clean energy. Congress' failure to pass climate and energy legislation will cost Maine more than 12,000 jobs. We will press the economic benefits of moving away from our current dependence on oil, coal, and natural gas.



Expanding Energy Efficiency: Maine has huge potential to dramatically save money and reduce pollution through energy efficiency. According to the newly-established Efficiency Maine Trust, Maine consumers could save \$840 million, and our economy would get a \$1 billion boost, through enactment of the Trust's proposed three-year plan. But getting the plan adopted by the Legislature will be a major fight, since the plan's success will depend on additional funding. NRCM will marshal our lobbying and grassroots power to secure passage of a funding strategy that enables full implementation of the Efficiency Maine Trust's plan.



Boosting Clean Energy: According to the Maine Public Utilities Commission, we receive 36% of our electricity from natural gas, coal, and oil; 22% from hydro; 19% from nuclear; and 11% from biomass and solid waste (and 11% from unclassified sources). About 10% of Maine's electricity comes from coal-fired power plants located to our south, which burn five million tons of coal annually. NRCM is the leading advocacy group working to educate Maine people about the harm caused by our existing sources of electricity and about the need to support clean energy. We will continue to play a central role in the permitting process for land-based wind power projects as the state works toward its goal of 2,000 MW by 2015.



Building Coalitions for Clean Energy: Progress toward clean energy will require action at every level of society, and we know that we are up against massive opposition. The coal, oil, and natural gas lobbies spent more than \$175 million in 2009 alone to defeat federal climate legislation, more than eight times the level spent by environmental and clean energy groups. NRCM has invested a great deal of time and resources developing a network of businesses, activists, organizations, and elected officials who believe that Maine must reduce the

pollution from our current forms of power, develop sustainable systems for transportation, and make changes in our daily habits to save energy. During the year ahead, we will increase our outreach to clean energy businesses, create profiles of homeowners who are successfully reducing energy costs, expand our coalitions, and mobilize activists so that we not only maintain the momentum achieved in recent years, but increase it.

