

# Build Maine's solar economy & improve energy security

Reduce barriers and spur investment in solar power

***Maine people and businesses deserve the energy choice, independence, and economic boost that comes from greater access to generating their own power with solar***

## Maine is falling behind on solar, losing opportunities for job creation and energy security

- Prices for solar panels have fallen 50% in the last five years. It's now economical for homes and businesses to produce their own power and increase energy security.
- Despite this good news, Maine is falling far behind the region and the U.S. on solar installations and job creation.
- Without greater energy diversity and more choices, Maine homeowners and businesses face volatile and rising prices.
- Unnecessary restrictions and other barriers limit access to solar for Mainers.
- The price of solar is increasingly competitive; however all of the cost needs to be paid up-front.



## Solar offers Maine homeowners and businesses an affordable way to generate their own power

- Maine has an excellent solar resource—better than the global leader in solar, Germany—and it offers a way for Mainers to take control of their own energy costs.
- In states that are encouraging solar and reducing barriers, the vast majority of solar is installed in middle-class neighborhoods.
- Unlike oil or natural gas, solar has no fuel costs that fluctuate beyond our control.
- Solar offers many benefits to Maine, including: stabilizing energy costs; employing Maine workers with good-paying jobs; and reducing pollution that threatens our climate and oceans.

## To better capture the opportunity of solar, Maine needs to reduce its financial and regulatory barriers to solar

- The Solar Power for Maine Bill makes solar power more accessible for Maine people, businesses, and communities by reducing the current barriers, including the arbitrary limit on the number of people who can co-own a solar project.
- The Solar Power for Maine Bill spurs the market for solar by helping to lower upfront costs so the state can catch up on solar installations and job creation. It emphasizes rooftop solar, community/shared solar, and other opportunities for solar, such as at landfills or farms.
- The Solar Power for Maine Bill puts the state on the path for steady growth in solar. It builds on existing, successful Maine policies like net-metering and the Renewable Portfolio Standard and recognizes the full value Maine receives from solar energy.

## Pass the Solar Power for Maine Bill

*An Act to Create Jobs and Promote Investment in Maine's Economy through Increased Access to Solar Energy*  
Sponsored by Representative Sara Gideon

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