



Move Forward on Solar Energy That Benefits All Mainers

Help people, businesses, and communities in every corner of the state lower energy costs by increasing solar power and creating good-quality new jobs.

It's time to keep energy dollars in Maine's economy by giving homeowners, local business owners, and communities the ability to generate their own solar energy.

Uncertainty and inaction on solar power have put Maine in last place in New England. Now is the time to move forward.

- Investments in solar power are increasing quickly in the Northeast and nationwide as the costs of solar have plummeted. However, Maine lags far behind the region in solar jobs and solar power because we lack a clear, effective, and fair solar policy.
- Unpredictability and arbitrary barriers—like a 9-person limit on community solar farms—have held back investment in solar in Maine.
- Maine is blessed with abundant, clean, local energy resources such as solar. Removing barriers to solar power development helps keep our energy dollars in Maine, benefiting the Maine economy.



This bill will significantly expand solar investment in Maine and help all Maine people capture the benefits of solar energy. The bill will:

- Provide long term predictability in energy costs for Maine businesses, towns, and households.
- Give businesses multiple options to invest in small, medium, or large-scale solar projects to reduce their energy bills.
- Allow municipalities across Maine to invest in clean, local, renewable energy projects, lowering their energy costs, and saving taxpayers money.
- Enable individuals, businesses, and municipalities to access solar with little to no upfront costs using leases or shares in a community solar project.
- Create hundreds of good quality jobs for electricians, builders and contractors.

This bill is carefully designed to:

- Use competitive markets to capture low-cost solar, and build on the innovative, bipartisan policy ideas developed in recent years between Maine consumer advocates, solar businesses, and others.
- Result in at least three hundred megawatts of medium-scale (up to 5 MW) solar installations for communities, municipalities, and businesses.
- Lift the community solar cap from the current arbitrary limit of 9 to allow up to 200 participants under net metering, with no limit on participants for community solar farms under a competitive process.
- Increase access to community solar, by instating specific targets and policies to assist low- and moderate-income families.

Support An Act to Benefit Maine Consumers, Businesses, and Communities through Expanded Renewable Energy

For more information, contact Dylan Voorhees, Natural Resources Council of Maine, 207-430-0112, dylan@nrcm.org or Beth Ahearn, Maine Conservation Alliance, 207-671-5071, beth@protectmaine.org



Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 34 environmental, conservation and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine communities can thrive.

Acadia Center	Maine People's Alliance
Appalachian Mountain Club	Maine Public Health Association
Atlantic Salmon Federation	Maine Rivers
Bicycle Coalition of Maine	Maine Wilderness Guides Organization
Conservation Law Foundation	Midcoast Conservancy
Environmental Health Strategy Center	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Environment Maine	Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter
Friends of Casco Bay	RESTORE: The North Woods
Islesboro Island Trust	Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions	Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative
Maine Audubon	The Ocean Conservancy
Maine Center for Economic Policy	The Trust for Public Land
Maine Conservation Alliance	The Wilderness Society
Maine Council of Churches	Toxics Action Center
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited	Upstream
Maine Interfaith Power & Light	350 Maine
Maine Lakes Society	
Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association	