Natural Resources
Council of Maine
2019
annual report

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS AND THE POWER OF YOU

Today, Maine is once again a place of optimism and opportunity for those of us who value the environment. In the eight years leading up to 2019, much of NRCM's staff time was spent on keeping bad things from happening to the environment—and we were largely successful. Still, we did gain some important milestones, like passage of the toughest metallic mineral mining law in the country, expansion of Maine's Bottle Bill with the addition of "nips" liquor bottles, and a new national monument for our state. But we couldn't make headway on solar and climate policy because it was repeatedly thwarted by an antagonistic governor and his allies.

Fast forward and we have now completed the most productive legislative session for the environment in more than 20 years. With Governor Janet Mills' leadership, Maine has quickly leapt ahead on clean energy. One year ago, it was impossible to imagine that Maine legislators would put into place a goal to meet 100 percent of the state's energy needs from renewables by the year 2050. But they just did! Now Maine can take advantage of solar opportunities for all Mainers, and reap the benefits of good, home-grown jobs in the renewable sector. We can finally start catching up with our New England neighbors. That's progress!

Governor Mills' climate law requires establishment of a Maine Climate Council, mandates a new statewide Climate Action Plan, and steers Maine on a path toward an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. It also serves as a powerful reminder that the years of hard work our climate and clean energy staff poured into leading coalitions, meeting with legislators, and building support among businesses and other allies was not for nothing. In fact, it readied our state for this moment.

We also rode the sea-change sweeping across Maine, the country, and the world calling for an end to single-use plastics and the associated plastic pollution now damaging our waters and wildlife. Governor Mills signed into law the country's first ban on foam food packaging, starting January 1, 2021, and I was proud to stand with her as she signed into law a bill phasing out single-use plastic shopping bags as of April 22 (Earth Day), 2020. NRCM's Sustainable Maine staff members have been working for the last six years in communities around Maine that have made it a priority to address plastic pollution.

These shining moments would not have been possible without bipartisan support in both the Maine House and Senate. It was so refreshing that elected officials worked together to solve problems, cordially, and with respect for the wishes of their constituents.

Despite these successes, there were areas where we could not come to agreement with the majority of our lawmakers. The Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) initiated changes to existing protections for Maine's North Woods that we do not support, but the legislative majority did. We also believe that the massive transmission line proposed by CMP for Massachusetts that would traverse Maine's western mountains would irreparably harm critical wildlife habitat (including for brook trout) and spoil the nature-based economy that's so important for people in that area —without providing the climate benefits touted by CMP and Hydro-Quebec.

Our members are at the heart of all of this work. You are using your powerful voices to speak up about the need to address climate change, plastic pollution, and the ongoing protection of our forests, wildlife, and waters. Over these last 60 years, our members, staff, and Board of Directors have grown this organization to include diverse points of view, income brackets, and life experiences. We are making a concerted effort to engage the next generation, through our school grants program, NRCM Rising, and our robust college internship program.

There will always be more for NRCM to do. But let's just pause to celebrate the environmental progress we made together this year. These are your victories.

Lisa Pohlmann

Lisa Pohlmann, CEO

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

NRCM MEMBERS SHARE WHY THEY SUPPORT OUR WORK

Victoria Simon at Student Climate Strike with her grandchildren

"The list of legislative accomplishments is an astounding victory for all Mainers and an inspiration and motivation for those of us grassroots activists working on these issues in our towns. Many, many thanks to NRCM for all its work. "
—NRCM Landmark Society member Victoria Simon, York

"Thank YOU!
--For your hard work on the front lines in Maine over the last 8 years.
--For never saying 'uncle.'
--For your national collaborative efforts in the last two years.
It hasn't been easy and I appreciate how your staff keeps fighting hard on behalf of our natural resources, Maine's wildlife, and on behalf of us."
—NRCM member Medea Steinman, Franklin

"NRCM Rising outing trips are always a blast. I've gone cross-country skiing on the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, kayaking to Fort Gorges in Casco Bay and attended sustainability talks at Maine Beer Company in Freeport with NRCM Rising. It's a great way to meet like-minded people and do cool things while supporting an organization whose mission is to help protect Maine's environment."*—NRCM Rising member Katie Wood, Portland*

"I support NRCM because it promotes intelligent environmental policy in Maine in a non-strident, cooperative way."
—NRCM Landmark Society member Robert Harlow, Washington, DC

"NRCM plays an important role in protecting our environment to make a better future for our children." *—NRCM member Nathan Tsrukoff, Gray*

Pam with her granddaughter, Stella Martin, and son, Todd Martin

"Thank you for everything you do for our beautiful planet!" *—NRCM supporter Pam Mundy, Portland*

"It is an honor to serve such a great cause. Few states do as much to preserve the precious resources as the members of NRCM do. Clearly inspired by dedication, a strong belief in preservation and love, I am proud to share a small spot with all of you." *—NRCM Landmark Society member Christine Mindur, Rhinebeck, New York*

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In 2014, we established the Allagash Award to honor individuals, families, and organizations who have supported our work for 20 years or more. Congratulations to the following members, and thank you for providing financial support that has helped us protect the nature of Maine!

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BOOMEAU/NRCM

On July 10, we celebrated our Allagash Award members at a special gathering at Wells Reserve, Laudholm Farm. Special thanks to these members!

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PARTNERS PROTECTING MAINE'S ENVIRONMENT

My husband Brad and I recently returned to Maine from a canoe trip in Canada's Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Whenever we visit the boreal forests and tundra to our north, we are healed, and also humbled, by the vastness of waters; by the deep quiet; by the health of the fisheries; by the persistence, against increasing odds, of musk oxen, caribou, grizzly bears, wolves, and an astonishing variety of winged inhabitants.

Of course, we brace ourselves as we head home. Yet I'm surprised that in fact it hasn't been so hard readjusting in Maine. While it's not on the same scale as the Canadian boreal—one of the world's largest untouched forest regions—it is easy to find wildness in our state. Just as in Canada, we watch Bald Eagles sailing over a river. We listen to loons calling in clear ponds. Sandhill Cranes startle us along ridges nearby. Native trout reside in lovely remote pools. And we can get ourselves good and lost in forests all over the state. Even near our cities, in Maine all of us can make our way outside and once again find ourselves restored. Against so many threats to the health of our state throughout our history, Mainers have managed to protect these priceless natural treasures. Time and again, citizens have gathered themselves to defend our waters and forests. It's worth reminding ourselves how we do this!

We study the legacy of visionary environmental leaders in Maine, among them Henry David Thoreau for his inspiration; Percival Baxter for his remarkable gift of land forever protected, and the founders of NRCM who gathered in 1959 to combine their volunteer talents in defense of Maine: Charles Bradford, Ezra Briggs, Russell DeGarmo, Jean Faulkner, Alonzo Garcelon, Wendell Hadlock, Christopher Packard, Robert Patterson, Charles Peirce, Clarence Roth, and Dorothy Rowe.

We put science at the heart of our decision-making. NRCM's leadership in this regard is unmatched. Legislators and citizens often turn to the expertise of our staff on technical matters, from water quality in rivers to the impact of metal mining.

During the legislative session, we seemingly live at the State House. Our staff are highly respected among members of both political parties because they bring such deep knowledge of both issues and legislation, and because they are trusted for their ethical standards in their advocacy for priority legislation. Rather than going it alone, we build and join effective coalitions among partner organizations committed to environmental activism, bill by bill.

Most important, as citizens we act together. I often hear from our staff and also from members of government that NRCM is so remarkably powerful because our supporters truly care passionately about Maine's health, and take the kind of effective action reflected in this report, educating ourselves, asking good questions, writing to government officials, showing up for hearings, contributing financially as we can, and gathering neighbors and friends in the effort, especially those new to advocacy, and especially the next generation of young environmental leaders.

All of us on the NRCM Board of Directors thank you for your engagement as partners in this work. We wish you lots of time in Maine's special places that move you.

Patricia C Hager

Patricia C. Hager
President, NRCM Board of Directors

EVENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

BCOMEAU/ NRCM

A Toast to the Kennebec July 1, 2019 marked the 20th anniversary of the removal of the Edwards Dam in Augusta that blocked fish passage for more than 160 years. NRCM, members of the Kennebec Coalition, and others gathered at Mill Park in Augusta to toast the abundant return of wildlife to the Kennebec.

TMARTIN/ NRCM

Pints & Policy NRCM Rising members enjoyed beer and conversation with legislators at an event at Governor Hill Mansion in Augusta. Pictured, left to right, Elisabet Dahlstrand, Jesse McMahon, and Michael McMahon.

Clean Water is Beautiful NRCM's Beth Comeau (far left) helped judge Aveda Institute's 2019 Trashion Show. The event, in which all fashions are made from recycled materials, raised more than $3,000 for NRCM's work protecting clean water.

MUSKIE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE

TMARTIN/ NRCM

The Power of You

This past legislative session was one the most successful in Maine's recent history. Together, we helped pass more than two dozen bills that will protect our land, air, waters, and wildlife. Success like this can only happen when caring people like you take action. In 2019—our 60th anniversary year—your engagement made a big impact. Here are some of the ways you made a difference. Thank you for helping make 2019 a spectacular year for Maine's environment!

Number of you who:

Emailed messages to your elected officials and other decision-makers using NRCM's online engagement tool:

17,473

Signed an NRCM petition:

11,464

Listened to our Frontline Voices podcasts:

3,807

Key to Success NRCM CEO Lisa Pohlmann keynoted this year's Muskie School of Public Service graduation. With two Muskie graduate degrees in public policy (a Master's and a PhD), Lisa still serves on the Muskie Advisory Committee.

An Evening on the Water The Timberwind schooner played host to a special sailing trip with NRCM Rising members on Casco Bay.

NRCM

Celebrating 60 Years We were delighted to enjoy time together at the Bernard Langlais Sculpture Garden in Cushing. More than 200 NRCM members, board, and staff attended this celebration of NRCM's 60 years of protecting the nature of Maine. Pictured, John and Maria Stone with their sons.

SLAKEMAN/ NRCM

Greening It Up at Greenfest Two of NRCM's young supporters helped out at our table at Portland Greenfest in Monument Square. NRCM spoke with hundreds of people interested in our Sustainable ME project.

BOOMEAU/ NRCM

An Inside Look at the Session In April, NRCM's Pete Didisheim updated our members on environmental issues in Augusta and Washington, DC. More than 80 people attended the event, co-sponsored by NRCM, Cathance River Education Alliance, Highland Green Steps, and the Topsham Public Library.

NRCM

Clean Water, Great Beer In March, NRCM launched the Maine Brewshed Alliance with breweries around the state who want to ensure protection for the clean water that means great beer. Pictured, NRCM's Kristin Jackson at the launch party at Maine Beer Company in Freeport.

◀ **Climate and Agriculture** NRCM joined Rep. Chellie Pingree at a press conference at Bumbleroot Farm, Windham. At the event, Congresswoman Pingree unveiled a five-point plan to support farmers in the fight against climate change. Left to right: Nathan L'Etoile, New England Regional Director of American Farmland Trust; Emmie Theberge NRCM Federal Director; Amanda Beal, Commissioner, Maine's Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry; Dave Herring, Executive Director, Wolfe's Neck Farm; Juan Hernandez, State Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Melissa Law, Co-owner, Bumbleroot Organic Farm.

Attended an NRCM event:

More than 1,000

Participated in Citizen Action Day 2019 and met with your legislator:

65

Follow NRCM on Facebook

More than 15,500

Provided testimony in support of solar energy and climate action bills:

More than 280

Wrote a letter to the editor of your local newspaper:

More than 50

Generously donated funds to make this work happen:

More than 12,000

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Allison Childs Wells, Senior Director of Public Affairs & Communications

NRCM staff, from left to right:
Top row: Lisa Pohlmann, Gail Thompson, Kathy Hyttel, Gabrielle Grunkemeyer, Dylan Voorhees, Pete Didisheim **Second row:** Fiona Gordon, Sue Ely, Toby Kilgore, Chrissy Adamowicz, Sophie Janeway **Third row:** Phaeng Southisombath, Nick Bennett, Levi Hahn, Gretta Wark, Colin Durrant, Leslie Burhoe **Fourth row:** Joyce Gracie, Sarah Lakeman, Allison Wells, Cathy Johnson, Kristin Jackson, Stacie Haines **Fifth row:** Todd Martin, Abben Maguire, Leisa Hodgkins, Nancy Murray, Beth Comeau, Emmie Theberge

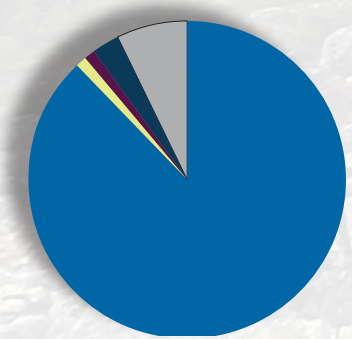
NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL OF MAINE

Statement of Activities

For the fiscal year ending March 31	FY 2019	FY 2018
Operating Revenue, Gains, & Other Support		
Contributions, membership gifts, and grants received - NRCM	$2,646,779	$2,844,849
Contributions, membership gifts, and grants received - Action Fund	$27,000	$181,605
Events, merchandise, and other revenues	$18,172	$15,149
In-kind contributions	$81,076	$159,540
Investment appropriated for operations	$243,590	$-
Total Operating Revenue, Gains, & Other Support	**$3,016,617**	**$3,201,143**
Operating Expenses		
Program Services		
Climate & Clean Energy	$528,526	$375,787
Sustainable Maine	$200,692	$201,366
Forests and Wildlife	$257,469	$302,461
Healthy Waters	$190,773	$273,788
Lobbying	$17,809	$54,784
Emerging Issues	$388,418	$327,889
Communications	$385,290	$374,039
Outreach and Education	$171,782	$127,952
Federal/Action Fund	$245,563	$256,125
Action Fund	$34,751	$120,613
Total Program Services	**$2,421,073**	**$2,414,804**
Supporting Services		
Management and general	$331,059	$260,011
Development and Fundraising	$257,128	$326,195
Total Supporting Services	**$588,187**	**$586,206**
Total Operating Expenses	**$3,009,260**	**$3,001,010**
Change in Net Assets from Operations	**$7,357**	**$200,133**
Non-operating Income		
Protecting the Nature of Maine contributions net of expense*	$2,959,127	$579,348
Contributions restricted for Tomorrow's Leaders	$-	$25,666
Contributions board-designated	$250	$21,497
Change in value of gift annuities and donations	$7,834	$(613)
Net investment income gains (losses)	$31,626	$619,429
Total Non-operating Income	**$2,998,837**	**$1,245,327**
Total Change in Net Assets	**$3,006,194**	**$1,445,460**
Net Assets		
Beginning balance	$8,814,005	$7,368,545
Ending balance	$11,820,199	$8,814,005

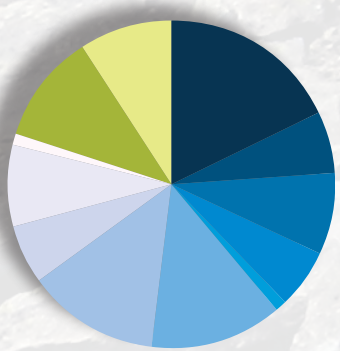
Statement of Financial Position

for the fiscal year ending March 31	FY 2019	FY 2018
Assets		
Total current assets	$2,355,260	$1,825,253
Net property and equipment	$433,264	$474,768
Investments	$8,454,213	$6,569,112
Other assets	$885,823	$225,777
Total Assets	$12,128,560	$9,094,910
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Total Liabilities	$308,361	$280,905
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restictions	$7,985,510	$7,250,702
Donor Restricted	$3,834,689	$1,563,303
Total Net Assets	**$11,820,199**	**$8,814,005**
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**$12,128,560**	**$9,094,910**



Operating Revenue, Gains & Other Support

- 88% Contributions, membership gifts, and grants received - NRCM
- <1% Contributions, membership gifts, and grants received - Action Fund
- <1% Events, merchandise, and other revenues
- 3% In-kind contributions
- 7% Investment appropriated for operations



Operating Expenses

Program Services 80%

- 18% Climate & Clean Energy
- 6% Sustainable Maine
- 8% Forests and Wildlife
- 6% Healthy Waters
- 1% Lobbying
- 13% Emerging Issues
- 13% Communications
- 6% Outreach and Education
- 8% Federal/Action Fund
- 1% Action Fund

Supporting Services 20%

- 11% Management and general
- 9% Development and Fundraising

Notes to Financial Statements

The Natural Resources Council of Maine is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

**In 2017, NRCM launched Protecting the Nature of Maine, a special campaign to raise $6 million to build our restricted and non-restricted endowmment and to increase our outreach activities.*

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member Steve Cartwright

Back cover: Owls Head State Park,
a My Maine This Week photo by NRCM
Landmark Society member Jayne Winters

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Protecting the Nature of Maine

Our Mission

The Natural Resources Council of Maine is our state's leading nonprofit membership organization protecting, restoring, and conserving Maine's environment, now and for future generations.

NRCM works statewide to improve the quality of Maine's rivers, lakes, streams, and coastal waters; promote sustainable communities through initiatives that reduce toxic pollution and waste; decrease air and climate-changing pollution through energy efficiency and renewable sources; conserve Maine lands and wildlife habitat, including our treasured North Woods; and defend the federal environmental policies and programs that help protect Maine. We harness the power of science, the law, and the voices of more than 25,000 members and supporters across Maine and beyond to protect our air, waters, forests, and way of life. Since 1959, NRCM has led efforts to keep Maine a special place. Together, we are making a difference.