

The Allagash, the advocacy issue upon which NRCM was founded in 1959. (Photo by Jay Reighley)



# MAINE Environment

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## Report from the Frontlines: Adapting NRCM Advocacy in a Time of Pandemic-induced Change

On March 16, when I grabbed a pile of folders from my desk and abruptly left NRCM's headquarters due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I could not have imagined that our staff would still be working from home offices five months later. But here we are, connected via Zoom instead of in-person meetings, continuing our advocacy work remotely rather than commuting to Augusta, and adapting to the challenges unfolding daily due to the economic and health crises that remain.

We also could not have foreseen how the movement for Black Lives Matter and national reckoning on social justice would rapidly gain momentum after the killing of George Floyd, generating urgency in addressing systemic racism at all levels. Since early June, as many as 26 million people have participated in Black Lives Matter protests, making this likely the largest movement for change in U.S. history.

These are demanding, disorienting, and difficult times for us all, and we sincerely hope that you and your family are healthy and safe. Please know that we gain strength and inspiration from your continued support.

In this special report, we provide short essays from NRCM staff describing how we are continuing to press forward with our work to protect Maine's environment and address the threat of climate change. We are using new approaches and tools for staying connected with our members, supporters, and the public, while also yearning for the day when we are no longer so distant and can gather again in person.

Even as we mourn the loss of our previous lives and routines, we know that many things will never be the same—nor should they be. The pandemic and movement for racial justice have revealed flaws in our systems that demand attention. Strategies to address these flaws now seem to merge, creating new opportunities and vision for addressing climate change, job creation, social justice, and environmental protection simultaneously, provided we have the right leadership and sense of national purpose to do so.

Now more than ever, we are learning the importance of science and developing a society that is resilient in the face of disruptive forces. We are learning about the power of nature, both to harm and to heal. We are seeing how the pandemic has disproportionately impacted communities of color, and we know that climate change will deliver more harm to marginalized communities than to those who are more privileged in our society if we don't aggressively reduce the pollution caused by fossil fuels.

Although lawmakers departed Augusta in mid-March, Governor Mills directed the Maine Climate Council to continue working on a new Climate Action Plan, due in December. The governor also created an Economic Recovery Committee to develop strategies to address the widespread damage that has been caused to Maine's economy. At this writing, the U.S. Congress appears to be moving toward an additional economic stimulus package that could provide new funding for infrastructure and clean energy investments. These three efforts could provide a path for Maine to rebuild better, with energy and transportation systems that reduce climate-changing pollution and create new, prevailing wage jobs with benefits.

As each of us reflects on what really matters in our lives these days, we think about the people and places we love. We think about shared experiences and cherished parts of our natural world. We have discovered new trails, new ways of doing our work, and new routines as we juggle our duties at work and at home—which are one and the same, and yet different. Indeed, so much seems different, but our commitment to the work and mission of NRCM remains unchanged. Thank you for your support. Please stay healthy. —Pete Didisheim, Senior Director, Advocacy



**“Now more than ever, we are learning the importance of science and developing a society that is resilient in the face of disruptive forces.”**

**—Pete Didisheim, Senior Director, Advocacy**

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has curtailed how NRCM staff members carry out our organization's mission, we are continuing the good and necessary work of protecting Maine's environment from the safety of our home offices. This includes keeping our members informed and engaged as much as possible. We hope you enjoy these updates from NRCM advocacy staff. —Allison Wells, Editor



Attean Pond, from the Route 201 overlook in Jackman

Beth Comeau

## Analyzing CMP's Flawed Corridor

by Nick Bennett, Staff Scientist

My job these days is pretty much what it's been for the past two years: communicating as clearly as I can to as many people as I can the many flaws of CMP's proposed 145-mile transmission corridor through Western Maine forestlands.

I recently helped craft our appeal of the Department of Environmental Protection's illegal permit for the CMP corridor. I assisted in developing our lawsuit against the Bureau of Parks and Lands for illegally allowing the CMP corridor to cross public lands without securing a constitutionally required two-thirds vote by the Legislature. I've also continued to analyze and critique CMP's misinformation campaign about the project's climate benefits. Spoiler alert: they are fiction.

The CMP corridor is just a power line that would allow CMP and Hydro-Quebec to make billions of dollars by selling electricity to Massachusetts, which is willing to pay a premium for it. Hydro-Quebec would engage in a "shell game," shifting current sales from Canadian provinces, New York, and the Midwest (which pay Hydro-Quebec less) to Massachusetts. Those other places would need to replace the lost electricity with fossil fuel-powered generation, causing an increase in carbon dioxide emissions.

In other words, any potential emissions reductions in Massachusetts would result in a corresponding increase somewhere else, and Western Maine's forests and brook trout streams would get hammered.

While my work focus remains the same, I miss my routines of swimming, gathering with friends, and spending time with NRCM colleagues at the office. Zooming is fine, but it just isn't the same as sharing important, as well as trivial, moments in person.

## Connecting with Our Members

by Todd Martin, NRCM Outreach Coordinator

One of my favorite things about working at NRCM is meeting and speaking with our members at public events. Sadly, since mid-March we've had to cancel all sorts of planned gatherings. But staying connected with you remains extremely important to us, so we quickly shifted to online events and programming, and are continuing with these opportunities. While it's not quite the same, I've been heartened by the thousands of people who have joined our Zoom webinars.



Todd Martin, NRCM

Todd Martin has helped NRCM welcome nearly 2,000 people to tune in to our webinars.

Since March, we have organized more than a dozen NRCM webinars on a wide range of topics: the proposed CMP corridor, reducing food waste, clean transportation, birding in Maine, plastic pollution, exploring Maine's trails, and many others. Nearly 2,000 people have joined these online program offerings to hear from NRCM staff and outside experts! If you've missed out, you can listen to our webinar recordings at your convenience on our YouTube channel, at [www.youtube.com/nrcmenvironment](http://www.youtube.com/nrcmenvironment).

All of us at NRCM look forward to seeing our members again in person when it's safe to do so. Until then, we will do our best to stay connected with you online, including through webinars that bring interesting topics, discussions, and experts directly to you. For more about these webinars and to sign up, be sure to visit NRCM's events page at [www.nrcm.org/events](http://www.nrcm.org/events).

## Empathizing with Small Businesses

by Bonnie Barclay, Climate Outreach Coordinator and Maine Brewshed Alliance Coordinator



These are challenging times for Maine people, businesses, families, communities, health professionals, educators—the list goes on and on. As small businesses struggle to stay open, each of us struggles with daily decisions about how to safely go about our daily business. We all miss the routines that have now become memories.

These trying times call for lots of empathy. While much of my focus right now is on connecting Mainers with the work of the Maine Climate Council, I also stay in touch with members of the Maine Brewshed Alliance, a coalition that NRCM launched last year to provide Maine brewers with opportunities to be advocates for clean water.

Maine's craft beer industry has been hit hard by the pandemic. Some breweries may not survive, though many are receiving strong community support through curbside sales and loyal patrons. Buying local is more important now than ever, as is thinking about our connections with each other, Maine's environment, and our collective work to create a better future. We can all play a part in helping our favorite Maine businesses get through the current crisis, through a pint or other purchases.

I am continually impressed by the entrepreneurial spirit of Maine business owners and our collective determination to build a sustainable economy for the future.

## Adapting to Federal Advocacy Work from Home

by Emmie Theberge, Federal Program Director



As the pandemic hit in mid-March, I was days away from flying to Washington, D.C., for a series of meetings with Maine's Congressional delegation. Our group consisted of a Maine business owner, a local elected official, an NRCM colleague, and me. Our purpose was to discuss how proposed environmental rollbacks at the federal level could harm Maine's economy, people, and environment. We also were to brief the delegation about the Maine Climate Council and how Congressional action could help Maine achieve its ambitious requirement of reducing carbon pollution by 80% by 2050.

The trip was cancelled, of course, yet communicating with Maine's Congressional delegation remains a top priority. As the pandemic worsened and cases of COVID-19 increased, the Trump Administration continued to propose new ways to weaken our environmental safeguards. The Environmental Protection Agency even pressed forward with a plan to restrict the use of science in decision-making about public health and the environment—at a time when science is so central to our ability to respond to the pandemic!

Unable to travel, we have adapted to holding meetings with Maine's Congressional delegation via Zoom. We have hosted webinars to keep our

members and the public informed of new environmental rollbacks and helped mobilize public comments in defense of the federal laws that Maine depends on. I am also focusing on ways that federal stimulus funding could support an economic recovery in Maine that "rebuilds better"—accelerating our path to a clean energy economy.

With two young children at home, I am constantly adapting to the competing demands of work and parenting. But my motivation to advocate for a better future for my family and state remains as strong as ever.

## Evaluating Impacts on Waste Policies

by Sarah Nichols, Sustainable Maine Program Director & Chrissy Adamowicz, Sustainable Maine Outreach Coordinator



In early March, Maine was on track to implement a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags. The state was also on the verge of becoming the first in the nation to adopt an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law that would require manufacturers of packaging to help fund municipal recycling programs. Momentum was building across a broad range of strategies to reduce plastic pollution in Maine.

Then the pandemic hit. The Legislature abruptly adjourned, leaving the package recycling bill in limbo. Governor Mills delayed implementation of the bag ban until January, and restaurants ramped up curbside take-out service with disposable to-go containers to help them stay in business.

Meanwhile, cash-strapped municipalities have scaled back or terminated recycling programs, and the dubious, over-hyped, \$90 million Coastal Resources of Maine waste processing facility located in Hamden, Maine, has now shut down, causing 100 towns to landfill their waste.

Our job these days is evaluating the significant damage that the pandemic has caused to policies, programs, and behaviors designed to reduce and recycle materials rather than sending them to landfills or letting them end up in the environment. We are determined to get Maine back on track as soon as possible.

In the near term, medical and public health professionals say it's safe to allow shoppers to use their reusable bags if they bag their own purchases. We are working with allies to revive policies based on science. We remain focused on passing the EPR for Packaging law, this year or next, so municipalities have the resources needed to keep their recycling programs intact during economic downturns like we're now experiencing.

Before the crisis, Maine was a leader in dealing with plastic pollution. We can and will get there again. That's our plan.

## Envisioning a Bold Transportation Future

by Sue Ely, Clean Energy Policy Advocate and Staff Attorney

It's hard to find the silver lining amid the losses that we are all experiencing during these times—the loss of jobs, human connections, weddings, graduation parties, and for me, the ability to gather with my friends and family to celebrate the anticipated arrival of my first baby in early September. Just about the only positives that I've found so far are getting to wear

stretchy pants every day and not having to make my daily 90-mile round-trip work commute. Regaining an hour and a half of my day, while still being able to do most of my work online, has affected how I think about the future of transportation.

It's no secret that Maine's transportation system is broken. As a state, we spend just 85 cents per person per year on public transit. Most Maine communities don't have a public bus or shuttle, and those that do have to struggle with limited service. This leaves Mainers with essentially no option but jumping in their cars, for everything. Our car-dependency helps explain why more than 54% of Maine's greenhouse gas pollution comes from the transportation sector.

Envisioning our post-COVID future, I see better transportation systems that reduce climate emissions, improve public health, and help our economy become stronger and more resilient. Better broadband would provide more flexibility to avoid driving for work, school, health care, and other services. Better public transportation would allow more Mainers from both urban and rural communities to still get to work and school, while saving money. More electric vehicle (EV) charging stations would open the entire state to EVs. And more bike and walking paths would help Mainers safely get to local destinations and achieve better physical health.

The Maine Climate Council is wrestling with how to dramatically reduce transportation emissions in our state. We are urging the Climate Council to support walking, biking, and public transportation wherever possible and to make EV ownership easy and accessible. The way to fund this shift is for Maine to join the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), a regional collaboration of Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia that seeks to improve transportation, develop the clean energy economy of the future, and reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector. That's the better future that I'm envisioning for my newborn and all Mainers.



## Creating Original Content

by Colin Durrant, Media Relations & Advocacy Communications Director



Working at home with infant twin boys and an energetic six-year-old has forced me to be creative in how I juggle work and family responsibilities. And for NRCM, the pandemic has spurred all sorts of innovative thinking, especially in the realm of communications. Our first big burst of collaborative creativity came when we had to scrap our entire

program of in-person events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Instead, our fantastic team quickly created something totally new and completely different: an ambitious program of online podcasts, webinars, readings, videos, and activities that ended up reaching far more people, in more parts of the state and beyond, and likely had more impact than we ever could have achieved with our original programming. It also engaged more staff from across the organization in brainstorming and organizing than would have happened previously.

One of the highlights from our online pivot for Earth Week 2020 was our tapping of five Maine poets for a set of inspiring daily podcasts. These have received nearly 3,000 listens! We also created a podcast with the legendary outdoors journalist Bill Green that's been heard more than 350 times, and we hosted four Earth Week webinars that more than 1,000 people joined and enjoyed, based on the positive feedback we received.

Since mid-March, we've posted more than 40 blogs on our "Nature of Maine" web page and launched 17 videos and recorded programs to NRCM's YouTube channel; these have received more than 3,400 views. The six videos we produced and posted on NRCM's Facebook page have received about 25,000 views.

Out of necessity, we're continuing to create original content to reach our members and the public where you're at—which, for most of us, is still at home. That's where you'll find me these days (often changing a diaper), with twins who arrived last September, and our six-year-old daughter.

## Immersing Myself in the New Job

by Melanie Sturm, Forests & Wildlife Program Director

As NRCM's new Forests & Wildlife Program Director, my top priority since starting in February has been to immerse myself in the job—connecting with key partners, reading critical policy documents, exploring the North Woods, and absorbing lessons about Cathy Johnson's storied 29-year tenure in the job.



Mt Kineo, Moosehead Lake

The pandemic complicated my plans to visit Maine places that have been important for NRCM, but only a bit. Once Governor Mills announced an end to the stay-at-home order, I quickly ventured safely out. In the Moosehead Lake region, I hiked Mt. Kineo and Little Moose Public Reserved Land, camped at Lily Bay State Park, passed a moose on the road to Kokadjo, and visited key areas that were part of the long battle by NRCM to defeat the original, sprawling Plum Creek development plan of the mid-2000s. I met with local officials and experts in the region to discuss the petition by Weyerhaeuser (which merged with Plum Creek) to terminate the 11-year-old Concept Plan and begin a regional planning process.

In Bethel, I met with key NRCM allies, hiked to a vista with great views of the Western Maine mountains, and visited the new Maine Mineral & Gem Museum. On my trip to the Katahdin region, I visited the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and met with many of the tireless and valued partners in the area who helped persuade President Obama to establish the National Monument on August 24, 2016.

I realize that the immersion process has just begun. I look forward to the many wonderful opportunities ahead to embrace the people and places that comprise Maine's North Woods and the policies that protect this special place.

# Maine People Strongly Support Climate Action and Clean Energy

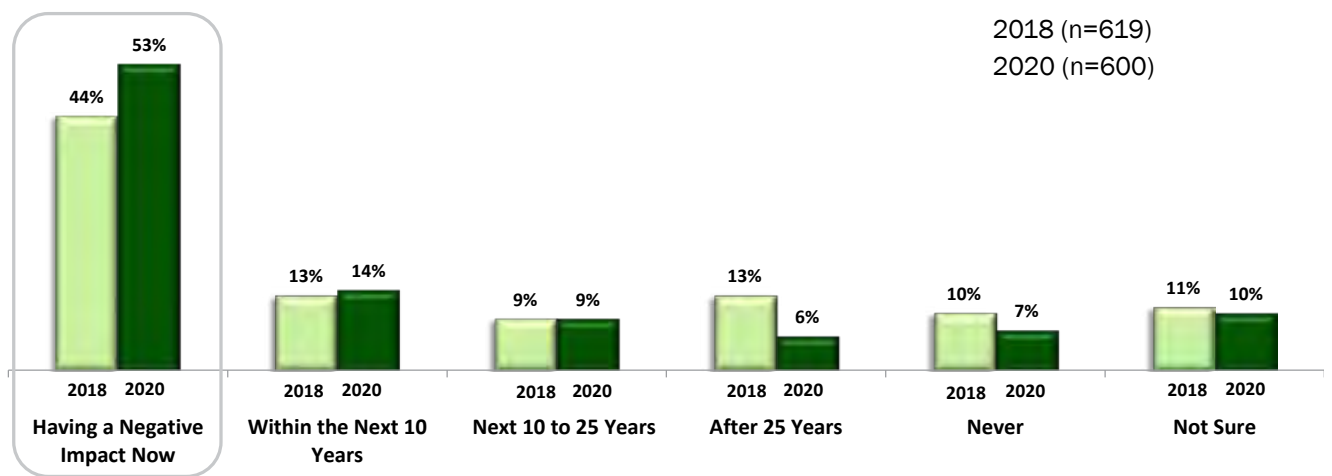
In mid-May, NRCM released a public opinion survey demonstrating that a strong majority of Maine voters support bipartisan action on clean energy and transportation to address climate change, even as the state faces the coronavirus pandemic. The survey was conducted in March and April by the Portland-based research firm Critical Insights.

The survey shows that Maine voters are increasingly concerned about the impacts of global warming. More than 80% support reducing pollution by expanding solar energy and creating a statewide public transportation network connecting cities and towns with bus service. Mainers want their elected officials to work across party lines to address global warming and to support the ongoing work of the Maine Climate Council to develop a strong Climate Action Plan.

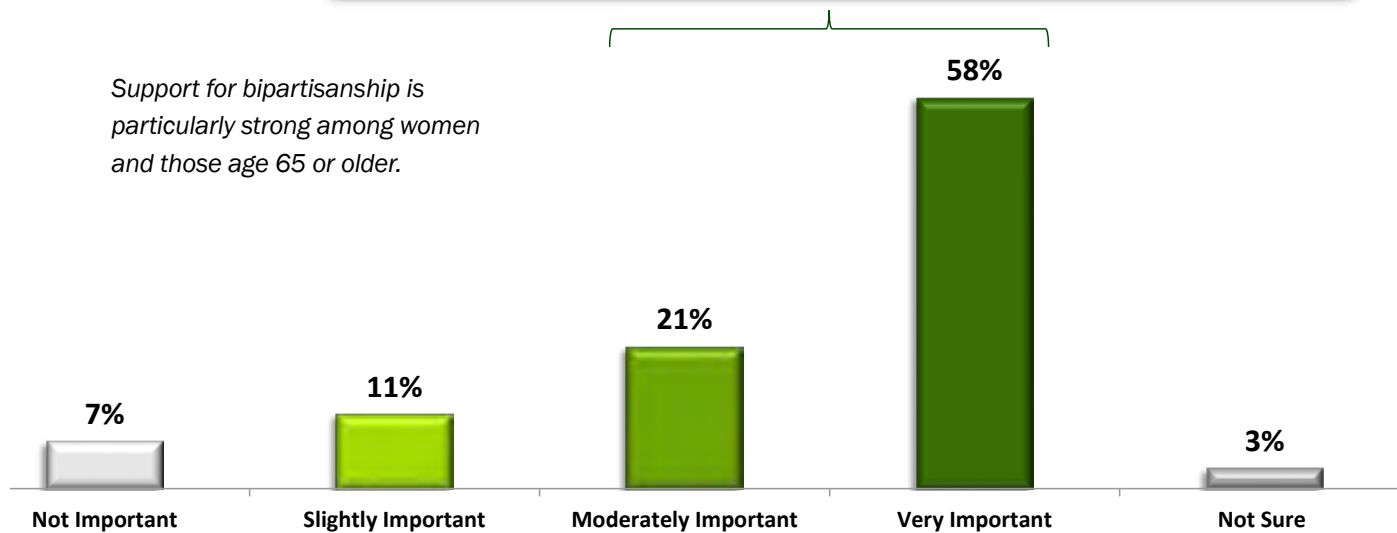
Below are a few of the survey results. The full results can be viewed at the NRCM website: [tinyurl.com/cleanenergysupport](https://www.nrcm.org/cleanenergysupport)

## Timing of Global Warming's Impact on Maine

Half of voters in Maine believe global warming is *currently* harming the state. Mainers are now more likely to believe global warming is having a negative impact on Maine than they were just two years ago.



**79% Consider Bipartisanship To Be at Least *Moderately* Important in Addressing Global Warming and Promoting Clean Energy.**

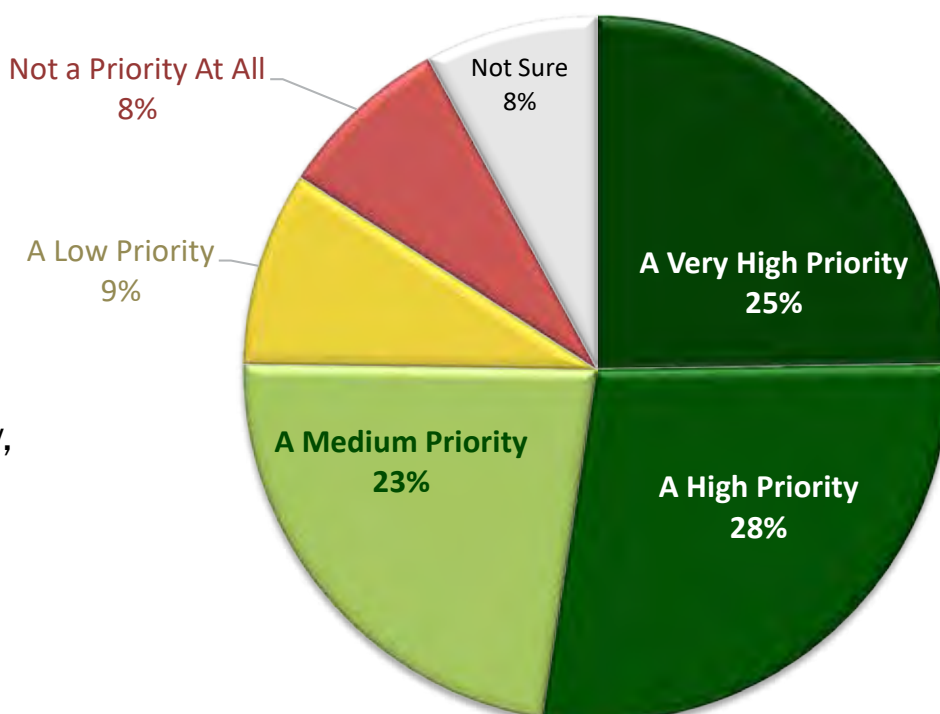


## Importance of Bipartisanship in Addressing Global Warming

Eight out of ten voters in Maine believe it is important for the state's lawmakers to work across party lines to address global warming and clean energy. Six out of ten feel such bipartisanship is very important.

## Views Toward the Maine Climate Council

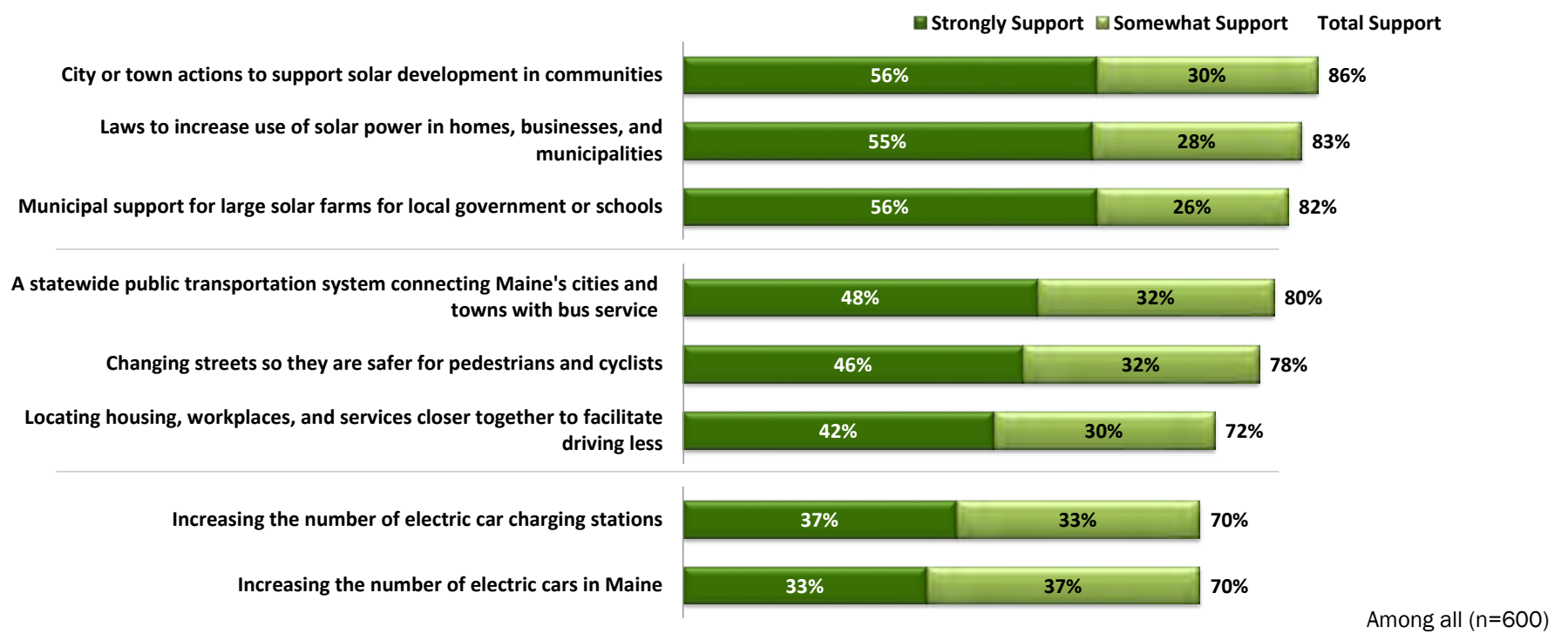
Three out of four voters in Maine believe the work of the Maine Climate Council should be a priority, with half believing it should be a *high* or *very high* priority.



**76% Consider The Climate Council to Be a Priority.**

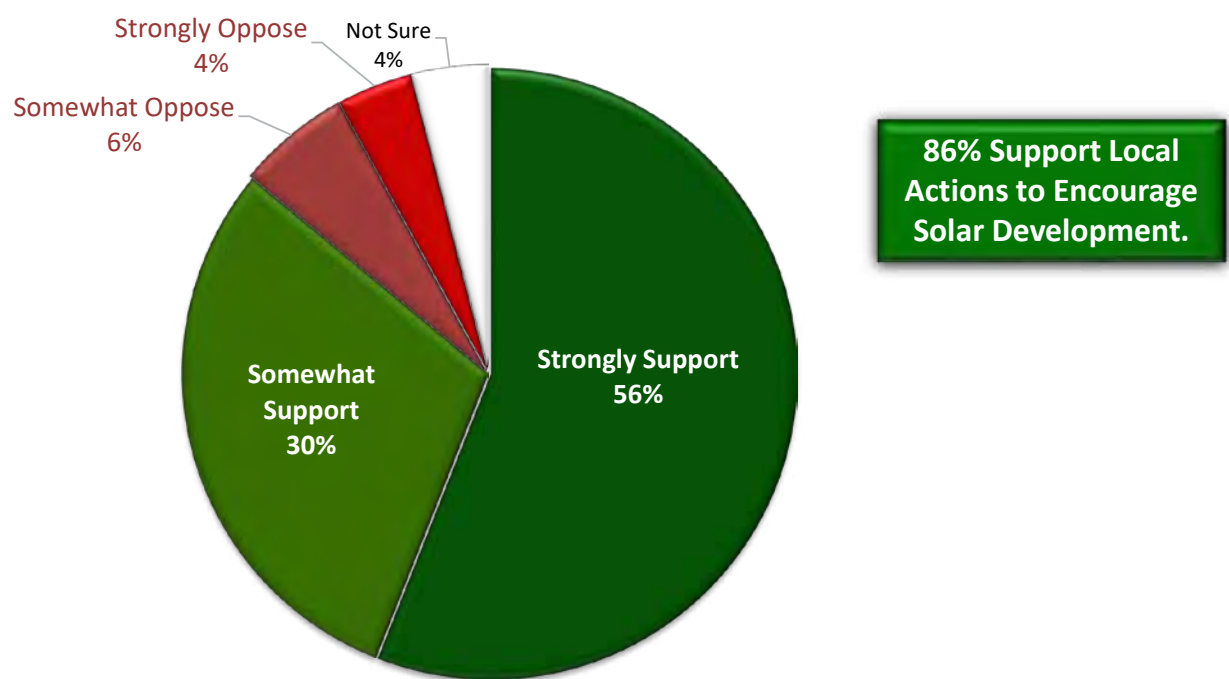
### Support for Policy Proposals

Large majorities of Maine voters would support a variety of energy and transportation policies to promote sustainability in the state. Development of solar options is particularly popular.



### Support for Solar Development in Communities

Almost nine out of ten Mainers would support actions to encourage solar development in their communities; nearly six out of ten would *strongly* support such community action.



January 2020 meeting of the Maine Climate Council at the Augusta Civic Center

ETheberge/NRCM

### *Zooming into the Climate Council* by David Costello, Climate & Clean Energy Program Director

When I was hired by NRCM in early April to assume the role that Dylan Voorhees held for 14 years, the rest of the staff were already settled into their home offices and holding Zoom meetings daily. Since then, I have joined more than 120 Zoom sessions, so I understand the meaning of Zoom fatigue. But I also greatly appreciate Zoom as a technology platform that enables us to stay connected, offer webinars for our members, and observe the work of groups such as the Maine Climate Council and the Governor's Economic Recovery Committee.

Over the past three months, I have closely tracked progress of the six Maine Climate Council Working Groups, through their Zoom sessions and by dissecting their work products, presented to the Climate Council in mid-June. Working with allies across Maine's conservation community, I am developing a detailed analysis of the Working Group materials—all 600 pages worth, including 35 strategies and 300-plus strategy-related actions and sub-actions.

I'm cataloguing and evaluating the projected climate benefits, economic benefits, implementation details, feasibility issues, and other factors for each proposed strategy. This work already has become vital for our continued advocacy for the Maine Climate Council to adopt the strongest possible Maine Climate Action Plan by their December 2020 deadline.

After a couple months in my new position, I finally visited my office in Augusta, and have now met about one-third of the staff in person—at a distance, of course. In time, I hope to see everyone in person, outside of the Zoom room.



## The Future of Maine's Environmental Movement

BY FIONA GORDON, NRCM LEADERSHIP GIVING DIRECTOR

**Y**oung people are rising up across Maine to use their creativity, passion, and experience to protect the state's waters, woods, and wildlife. Our new statewide awards program aims to elevate and engage their unique voices as a part of Maine's evolving environmental movement. The Brookie Awards, hosted by NRCM Rising, the young member arm of the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM), was created to honor the impact and amplify the work of Maine's young environmental leaders.

The inaugural school of Brookies was announced in June 2020, selected for their leadership and effective approaches to protecting the nature of Maine. The geographically diverse group includes students, artists, and scientists ages 15 to 30 who are creatively implementing solutions to environmental challenges ranging from climate action to bird conservation, and protection of shellfisheries.

These young leaders are using their energy and unique perspectives to protect what we all love about Maine. They lead not just with powerful words but with effective action that brings Mainers together to create long-lasting change from which we all benefit.

The Brookie Awards will honor six of Maine's young environmental changemakers every two years. Recipients receive a cash prize and an invitation to a nature-based skill building retreat aimed at fostering knowledge-sharing across generations and movement-building by more deeply connecting these outstanding individuals to the nature of Maine.

Are you a future Brookie? Or do you know someone who should receive a Brookie? The next Brookie Awards application cycle begins in October 2021.

The Brookie Awards are made possible by the generous partnership of the Quimby Family Foundation. To learn more about the Brookie Awards visit [www.brookieawards.org](http://www.brookieawards.org).



**Gabrielle Hillyer** of Orono is project coordinator and co-developer of the Maine Shellfish Learning Network, where she works to protect the health of regional shellfisheries by bringing shellfish harvesters, coastal towns, researchers, state agencies, and other partners together. Gabrielle is the designer of the Bucket Drifter, which is being used to measure the tides and other river water data to understand an estuary's ability to get rid of bacteria that is harmful to shellfish.



**Sirohi Kumar** of Bar Harbor is youth representative to the Bar Harbor Task Force on Climate where she helped play a leadership role in the town's climate emergency declaration and wrote a how-to guide for declaring a climate emergency in any Maine town.

## Advocacy Staff News

### Fond Farewells



This spring we were sorry to say goodbye to our intrepid clean energy advocate **Dylan Voorhees**, who left NRCM after 14 years to start a new position as Senior Consultant at VEIC, a non-profit energy consulting firm. During his tenure directing NRCM's Climate and Clean Energy program, Dylan played a central role in shaping Maine's policies to reduce energy costs through energy efficiency investments; increase development of renewable energy, particularly solar energy; and reduce climate-changing carbon pollution. Dylan earned the respect and confidence of lawmakers on all sides of the aisle, energy policy experts from business and academia, advocates from dozens of organizations, and all of us at NRCM. Over the past two years in particular, Dylan helped put Maine on a new trajectory that will deliver hundreds of megawatts of clean energy to Maine.



We also said goodbye to **Sophie Janeway**, Climate & Clean Energy Outreach Coordinator, who is starting a master's program this fall at the Yale School of the Environment. Sophie began her career at NRCM as an intern during her senior year at Colby College. We then we hired her to work with our members, supporters, and the public to support clean energy policies under consideration at the State House. Sophie brought an infectious enthusiasm to all of her outreach work, connecting people with each other and with the policy ideas that can help create more clean energy, clean energy jobs, better transportation systems, and strategies to address climate change.

### Welcome, New Staff!



We are pleased to have brought **David Costello** as our new Clean Energy & Climate team leader. David brings more than 25 years of senior-level government management and policy experience to NRCM. Most recently, he directed two non-governmental climate change projects in Maryland and served as Deputy Secretary at the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE). Prior to that, he served concurrently as Director of the Governor's Delivery Unit (GDU) and Director of Maryland's Office of Smart Growth. He has been Director of the Mayor's Office of Community Investment in Baltimore City and held positions with the U.S. Agency for International Development. A native of Old Town, Maine, David attended the University of Maine and is graduate of The George Washington University and the London School of Economics. He lives in Brunswick with his wife, two kids, and "obstinate beagle Stella."



As our new Forests & Wildlife Director, **Melanie Sturm** will continue NRCM's long history of keeping Maine's remote places wild by monitoring development in the North Woods and ensuring that the state's natural character is protected for years to come. This includes serving as NRCM's point person for the Land for Maine's Future program. Prior to joining NRCM, Melanie worked at the Natural Resources Defense Council in San Francisco as well as for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the American Sportfishing Association in Washington, D.C. Melanie earned a master's degree in Biology and Society from Arizona State University. Having grown up primarily in Pennsylvania, Melanie has a deep appreciation for forested environments. Melanie lives in Brunswick and enjoys hikes in the mountains and reading by a quiet lake.

# Meet our 2020 Brookie Award Recipients

## Congratulations to all!

Fish River Falls by Ann Flewelling



**Logan Parker** of Palermo is founder of the Maine Nightjar Monitoring Project, a monitoring program that mainstreams the collection of data on the Eastern Whip-poor-will and the Common Nighthawk, two species that face major threats throughout the entirety of their breeding ranges. This initiative also serves as a model for regional field naturalism.



**Riley Stevenson** of Waldoboro is the outreach director for Maine Youth Climate Strikes and founder of the Coastal Youth Climate Coalition where she is building a statewide network to connect youth climate organizers and activists.



**Jordan Parks** of Portland is a sustainable materials artist who uses art as a medium to cultivate connections between people and places and to encourage activism. She developed and curated two outdoor interactive art exhibitions, *Surface First Tilts West* and *Windward Exhibition*. Jordan's passion for spreading environmental awareness has been a result of her work as an environmental and outdoor educator.



**Ania Wright** of Bar Harbor is the Youth Representative to the Maine Climate Council and founding member of both Maine Youth for Climate Justice and Downeast Climate Emergency Action Coalition. Ania is co-author of the Climate Justice Syllabus.



## Tune in to Celebrate!

**New 5-minute Video Celebrates 50th Anniversary of the Allagash's Wild & Scenic River Designation**

Enjoy some "wild" stories from our members about their adventures on the Allagash! Read stories and view photos, too, all at our website:  
[www.nrcm.org/programs/forests-wildlife/allagash-wilderness-waterway](http://www.nrcm.org/programs/forests-wildlife/allagash-wilderness-waterway)

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[www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org)

## New at Our Nature of Maine Blog:

- **Reusable Bags are the New Comeback Kids**  
by Sarah Nichols, Sustainable Maine Director
- **Climate Action Recommendations for a Healthier, Stronger Maine** by David Costello, Climate & Clean Energy Director
- **Your Stories from the Allagash** by Melanie Sturm (Forests & Wildlife Director) & NRCM members
- **You'll Head to the Allagash after You Read "Allagash Explorer"** by George Smith, legendary sportsman & writer
- **Explainer: Why the CMP Corridor is a Bad Deal for Maine and the Climate** by Sue Ely, Climate & Clean Energy Policy Advocate and Staff Attorney
- **Be a Tourist in Your Own Home** by NRCM Rising Leadership Team member Dana Wilfahrt
- **Rebuilding Stronger from COVID-19 with Clean, Green Recovery for Rural Communities and All Mainers** by Bonnie Barclay, Climate Outreach and Maine Brewshed Alliance Coordinator
- **Allagash River Trip: 9 Advantages to Choosing a Guide for Your Adventure** by Kevin Slater & Polly Mahoney, Mahoosuc Guide Service
- **Better Broadband Connects Mainers to Cleaner Air and a Stronger Economy** by Sue Ely

## New to Our Member Discount Program!

NRCM members receive discounts at participating sporting camps and guide services. We're pleased to welcome two new Maine businesses to our program:



### Mahoosuc Guide Service

Based in Newry (Oxford County), Mahoosuc Guide Service offers canoeing vacation options and excursions to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, the East and West Branches of the Penobscot River, and more, including a "Way of the Wabanaki" trip and immersion into the

Penobscot First Nation's culture. In winter, they offer dog-sledding adventures. Visit their website for a full list of services and vacation packages available at [www.mahoosuc.com](http://www.mahoosuc.com). Read a blog from owners/guides Kevin Slater and Polly Mahoney ([www.nrcm.org/blog/allagash-river-trip-9-advantages-choosing-guide-for-adventure](http://www.nrcm.org/blog/allagash-river-trip-9-advantages-choosing-guide-for-adventure)) about the advantages of hiring a guide for your next Maine outdoor adventure. Discount: 10%



### Spencer Pond Camps

Located in Greenville (Piscataquis County), guests choose from among six remote lakeside log cabins with spectacular views of Little Spencer Mountain. Spencer Pond is classified by the state as a highly valued, protected body of water due to its scenic mountain

views, wildlife, remoteness, and undeveloped shoreline. Located in East Middlesex Township, bordered by Maine public lands, private conservation lands, and an ecological reserve, camp guests can easily explore the North Woods, Moosehead region, Baxter State Park, and the Appalachian Trail. Learn more at [spencerpond.com](http://spencerpond.com). Discount: 20% when booking two or more nights during 2020 season or 25% of stays over 10 nights.

View our full list of participating camps at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org).

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Natural Resources  
Council of Maine

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[nrcm.org](http://nrcm.org)



## Now Accepting Nominations for NRCM's 2020 People's Choice Award

Would you like to honor someone who has gone above and beyond to protect the environment in your community? NRCM is currently accepting nominations for our 15th annual People's Choice Award! Perhaps you know someone who has helped safeguard a special place, or worked to stop pollution from contaminating our state—a volunteer who has devoted their time and effort to helping ensure future generations will enjoy the kind of Maine we know and love today.

### Make your nomination by Thursday, August 13

We'll compile the nominations and post finalists on our website by Thursday, August 20. Then, through noon on Friday, September 18, you, your friends, and family (and everyone else) can vote for the person of choice. Note that we cannot consider someone currently sitting on a regulatory board or who is in the Legislature, or who is or was serving in a paid position while carrying out the work. The People's Choice Award honors volunteers. *NOTE: If you nominated someone in the past and they were not selected, please feel free to nominate them again.* The winner will be honored at our Conservation Leadership Awards event, taking place online this fall. Send us your nomination today!

Your name, phone number, & email address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe why you believe this person deserves the 2020 People's Choice Award (include any of the nominee's organizational affiliations related to the work). Please be as specific as possible and use a separate sheet if needed. Mail to the attention of Beth Comeau, NRCM 3 Wade St, Augusta, ME 04330. You can also email your nomination to [beth@nrcm.org](mailto:beth@nrcm.org) or nominate online at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org)

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