



Natural Resources
Council of Maine

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



PROTECTING THE NATURE OF MAINE TOGETHER WHILE APART



Early in 2020, I packed up 17 years of belongings and moved to a new home. I was excited to settle in, socialize with new neighbors, and I even started to adjust to a longer commute to NRCM headquarters in Augusta. But then COVID-19 hit, and everything changed. Following the governor's stay-safe-at-home order, we closed our office doors. The Legislature adjourned indefinitely. Our new challenge: Accomplish NRCM's mission in the midst of a pandemic.

COVID-19 closed much of Maine, but it did not shut down NRCM. We had just completed another successful Citizen Action Day when the lockdown hit. From there, we were looking

ahead to the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in April and a full suite of events around the state through the rest of the year. Staying in close contact with you is essential to our success. We never give that up—no matter what.

Our programming shifted from in-person presentations and meetings to podcasts, webinars, readings, videos, and other online activities. Tapping into even more of the internet's potential turned out to be a blessing. It allowed us to reach thousands more of you than we ever had before. In towns and cities across Maine and in states far and wide, it was an honor to be "invited" into your kitchens and living rooms to share with you the latest about our advocacy. We talked about alewives and other sea-run fish that are returning to our rivers in droves; shared stories about Maine birds; provided information about hiking trails, electric cars, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, and much more. If you were not able to tune in live, you can still watch these webinars through our website links.

There are always challenges ahead. A new mining threat has appeared in northern Maine, not far from Baxter State Park and Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. We are determined to defeat this proposal that could pollute waterways in the area for centuries. Central Maine Power (CMP) has spent tens of millions of dollars promoting its controversial transmission corridor through Western Maine. This project would damage a 53-mile stretch of Maine's woods and waters, including prime brook trout habitat. Maine people overwhelmingly oppose the project because it is a bad deal for Maine. Although the Maine Supreme Court concluded that the referendum question that would have terminated the project was unconstitutional, we are still actively

engaged in permit appeals and court actions aimed at stopping this ill-conceived project from being built.

Our staff are examining the damage done to the progress we had been making on Maine's sustainability initiatives now that we are in a pandemic. With implementation of Maine's ban on single-use plastic bags halted and other pollution policy put on hold, we are picking up where we left off.

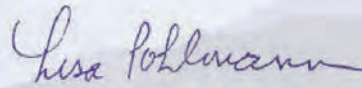
We have deployed seven staff members for the work of the Maine Climate Council, providing leadership on clean energy policy ideas to help move the state toward ambitious goals set by the 129th Legislature to reduce carbon emissions and advance renewable energy sources. We continue working on clean transportation and other energy-related issues as these must be a priority to protect our climate.

The Trump Administration attempts to weaken safeguards for our air, land, waters, and wildlife have not discouraged us from celebrating passage of the Great American Outdoors Act that ensures funding for land conservation and national park infrastructure across the land. We also cheered the 50th anniversary of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway's federal designation as a wild and scenic river. These are great reminders of how important it is to rejuvenate—now more than ever—in Maine's wild places.

NRCM staff continue to do our work remotely, but as I sit in the sunroom of my new home, I can imagine a brighter future for our state. Young people are speaking up. We honored six outstanding youth activists for their powerful work in their communities with our first-ever Brookie Awards. Their efforts set an example for us all.

As the country wrestles with the painful truths propelling the Black Lives Matter movement, we are working diligently to embrace those same principles here at NRCM. We have set up a task force to examine our work through a social justice lens and are working hard to amplify the voices of Black people and others of color. Most importantly, we are listening and learning.

I wonder what it will mean to return to "normal," given how much things have changed, including how we are doing our work. No matter what, our engagement with you will continue. You make our work possible, and your enthusiasm, advocacy actions, notes of encouragement, and financial support sustain us in every way. Thank you for staying nimble with us. We will get through this time together, and we look forward to seeing you in person again when it is safely possible. Meanwhile, "see" you online!



Lisa Pohlmann, CEO

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

NRCM MEMBERS SHARE WHY THEY SUPPORT OUR WORK



“Serving on the NRCM Rising Leadership Team has meant getting to know other young Mainers and the nature of Maine in a deeper way. It has taught me about advocacy and how each of us has a voice in shaping Maine’s future. The next generation of Mainers are passionate about our environment, and serving on the Leadership Team is an opportunity to engage with them on a personal level so together we can protect Maine’s natural resources.” —Sarah Cotton, Hope



“Our annual membership dues are surely the best bargain anywhere for investing in protection of our natural resources and responsible environmental stewardship.”

—Ann Holland, Bangor



“I became a monthly donor because of NRCM’s passion for protecting wild places at a time when we’ve never needed them more. My daughter’s generation is counting on us to see beyond ourselves. Thanks to NRCM, more New Englanders will join the fight for wilderness and wild rivers.” —Partner in Maine’s Future member Zack Porter, Montpelier, Vermont



“NRCM simply stands for the same basic issues that are important to me, and more relevant, that are important to/for Maine.”—Neil Raymond, East Waterboro

“You are my people. You believe in everything I believe in, and you fight for it! I remember when I discovered you and how excited I was—several years after we moved here and quite by accident—a Eureka moment for sure.”—Katahdin Circle member Harriette Griffin, Harpswell



◀ **“Your commitment [to Maine’s environment] is so inspiring. We’re lucky to have such an able team working on our behalf.”** —Trink Wilder, Rockport



◀ **“We think you guys are running a great organization. We continue to be very impressed with your many undertakings and successes in matters we too believe are of great importance. Keep up the good work.”**—Joan and Jacob Meerman, Washington, DC, and Rangeley



“We need an organization like NRCM to protect our natural resources. I cannot do it as an individual. You’re dedicated, effective, and greatly needed.”—Jean Cobb, Saint Agatha

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ALLAGASH AWARD

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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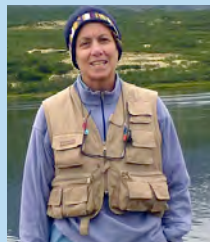
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AT HOME IN MAINE'S ENVIRONMENT



For most of us, the coronavirus has changed the way we interact with our homes. These days, for nonessential workers fortunate to continue in their jobs, the morning commute has become a shuffle to the desk or dining table rather than an excursion to the workplace. We are meeting via Zoom, with pets and children making the occasional appearance. More time at our houses has inspired many home improvement projects. Mostly in good ways,

and occasionally with strain, COVID-19 has intensified our relationships with home.

For Mainers, home is also found, in my mother's phrase, "out from under a roof." NRCM members and supporters find our dwellings in outdoor Maine, from windswept rocky ocean shores to placid lakes to fragrant forests and mountains.

Fortunately, we are once again enjoying these treasured Maine landscapes, accessing national and state parks, Public Reserved Lands, and land trust preserves safely, as we follow social distance guidelines. In August, my family gathered to go canoeing for a couple weeks in the North Woods. After COVID tests and sequestering, we launched a trip exploring Maine water with rich family history, and also some places new to us. We exhaled together in quiet, lovely campsites with moose, deer, herons, ducks—even a bear family—as neighbors.

I thought of NRCM often because, as you know if you were north, the water was

historically low in August. While no one dry summer can be linked directly to climate change, the increasing oscillations in our weather patterns generally are a signal of its impact. It is reassuring to know all the effective ways NRCM is working to address climate change, and to protect Maine's waters, forests, and the health of our people, COVID or no COVID.

Shifting our work online has made NRCM activity even more accessible to you as you tune in for webinars and podcasts, and more fully explore all that our website and social media channels have to offer. You are still taking other meaningful actions: writing letters to papers, engaging more citizens with our mission, communicating the urgency of environmentalism to legislators. You inspire us and each other.

Soon, we will be welcoming our first grandchild, a little boy. As I was fretting that I don't have the skills to sew a blanket or knit cozy crib toys for his home, my daughter turned to me and said, "Mom, just take him outside." Yes, we'll all do that—with our families, continue exploring inside our houses and also our outdoor homes. Perhaps someday soon, when the pandemic is no longer with us, I will meet you and your family out there. Until then, thank you for staying with us as we continue our good work together from a distance.

Patricia C. Hager

Patricia C. Hager
President, NRCM Board of Directors

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR IN-PERSON GATHERINGS



◀ **Dipping, Dashing, & Making a Big Splash** More than 200 brave souls, dipped, dashed, and/or splashed in Portland on a windy, snowy day, for our annual Polar Bear Dip & Dash. Snow pelted, the waves ran high—and we had tons of fun! Thanks to our participants, supporters, and sponsors, we raised nearly \$24,000 for our work addressing climate change in Maine.



▲ **Penobscot Paddle** NRCM partnered with the Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society for a paddle down 10 and half miles of Maine's mightiest river. Paddlers enjoyed undeveloped landscapes, great views of eagles, and a seal swimming nearby—what a great way to celebrate the successful completion of the Penobscot River Restoration Project!



◀ **Honoring Maine's Conservation Leaders** More than 100 people helped us honor our 2019 Conservation Leadership Award recipients in Portland. Awards went to (front row left to right) Aimee Ishimwe (SolaRISE); Jon Lund (Lifetime Achievement); Sandi Howard (People's Choice Award) and (back row left to right) Liz Caruso; Yusur Jasmin, Siri Pierce, and Lucia Daranyi of SolaRISE; and NRCM CEO Lisa Pohlmann.



▲ **Speaking Up for Responsible Packaging** We tapped leading packaging experts to speak at the Maine State House about the importance of Extended Producer Responsibility. Left to right: John Hite (Conservation Law Foundation), Victor Bell (EPI/Lorax), Isabelle LaFleche and Mathieu Guillemette, (eco-enterprises Quebec), Resa Dimino (Resource Recycling Systems), and Sarah Nichols, NRCM Sustainable Maine Director.



▲ **Hiking in Montville** Exploring Hidden Knoll Trail was a wonderful way to enjoy nature in autumn with our friends at the Midcoast Conservancy.

Our Work Together By the Numbers

Whether in person pre-pandemic or together while apart, our work together really adds up. Here's how you helped make a difference for Maine's environment:

You sent **5,858** emails to elected officials and other decisionmakers

You wrote **65** Letters to the Editors of local papers

5,872 of you tuned into **15** podcasts

69 blog posts were read **37,355** times



▲ **Meeting at the Capital** NRCM Federal Director Emmie Theberge (far right), Senior Director of Advocacy Pete Didisheim (left), and NRCM board member Sadie Lloyd Mudge spent some time in our nation's capital, where they met with Maine's Congressional delegation including Senator Angus King.



▲ **Leadership on Land and Water Conservation** NRCM CEO Lisa Pohlmann (right) thanked Congresswoman Chellie Pingree for her leadership on the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which all of Maine's delegation championed. They started in Wells at the Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge to highlight its importance for wildlife habitat and the local economy. Guests then moved to Maine Brewshed Alliance member Hidden Cove Brewing, where Congresswoman Pingree's praised brewers for getting involved in clean water protections.

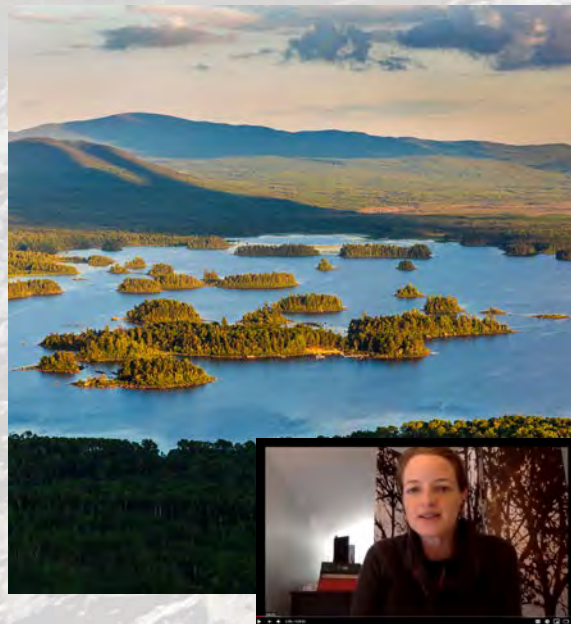
EVEN WHILE APART, WE STAYED TOGETHER

As Maine—and the nation—moved online in response to the coronavirus, we continued to celebrate, enjoy, & protect Maine's environment together.



▲ **Celebrating Maine's Sea-run Fish** Staff Scientist Nick Bennett delivered an inspiring presentation about Maine's sea-run fish and NRCM's successful dam removal work on the Penobscot, Kennebec, and Sebasticook Rivers. He was joined by Deb Wilson of the Damariscotta Mills Fish Ladder Restoration Project. Thanks to dam removal efforts, Maine's sea-run fish are making a comeback.

► **Birding in Maine** More than 200 bird enthusiasts logged into our webinar with bird experts Jeff and Allison Wells. Jeff (National Audubon) and Allison (NRCM) shared their extensive knowledge of Maine's birds, birding around the state, conservation threats and opportunities, and a fun Q&A with bird calls, too!



▲ **Keeping You Informed about the CMP Corridor** The harm caused by the proposed CMP corridor continues to be a top concern of people throughout Maine. Staff Attorney Sue Ely and other NRCM staff have kept our members and supporters informed through ongoing webinars.

NRCM fulfilled **309** publication requests

2,200 people joined us for **16** webinars, viewing them more than **9,000** times

The **22** videos NRCM produced have been viewed more than **40,600** times.

16,550 fans follow us on Facebook

And who helps make all our work possible?

More than 26,000 members and supporters!

Thank you!

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- 1 Completed Service, Fall 2019
- 2 Elected, Fall 2019

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NRCM staff, left to right: Top row: Lisa Pohlmann, Kathy Hyttel, Allison Wells, Marlisa Simonson, Pete Didisheim **Second row:** Fiona Gordon, Sue Ely, Toby Kilgore, Chrissy Adamowicz, Todd Martin **Third row:** Nick Bennett, Levi Hahn, Bonnie Barclay, Colin Durrant, Leslie Burhoe **Fourth row:** Sarah Nichols, Melanie Sturm, David Costello, Daniel Harris, Abben McGuire **Fifth row:** Beth Comeau, Joyce Gracie, Leisa Hodgkins, Nancy Murray, Emmie Theberge, Kirsten Brewer

NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL OF MAINE

Statement of Activities

For the fiscal year ending March 31

	FY 2020	FY 2019
Operating Revenue, Gains & Other Support		
Contributions, membership gifts, and grants received - NRCM	\$2,503,442.00	\$2,646,779
Contributions, membership gifts, and grants received - Action Fund	\$-	\$27,000
Events, merchandise, and other revenues	\$15,336.00	\$18,172
In-kind contributions	\$23,523.00	\$81,076
Investment appropriated for operations	\$378,500.00	\$243,590
Total Operating Revenue, Gains & Other Support	\$2,920,801	\$3,016,617
Operating Expenses		
Program Services		
Climate & Clean Energy	\$503,759.00	\$528,526
Sustainable Maine	\$235,333.00	\$200,692
Forests & Wildlife	\$191,920.00	\$257,469
Healthy Water	\$166,109.00	\$190,773
Lobbying	\$71,988.00	\$17,809
Emerging Issues	\$329,796.00	\$388,418
Communications	\$407,533.00	\$385,290
Outreach and Education	\$208,999.00	\$171,782
Federal/Action Fund	\$222,127.00	\$245,563
Action Fund	\$5,938.00	\$34,751
Total Program Services	\$2,343,502	\$2,421,073
Supporting Services		
Management and general	\$322,186.00	\$331,059
Development and Fundraising	\$254,562.00	\$257,128
Total Supporting Services	\$576,748	\$588,187
Total Operating Expenses	\$2,920,250	\$3,009,260
Change in Net Assets from Operations	\$551	\$7,357
Non-operating Income		
Capital campaign contributions net of expense	\$1,216,335.00	\$2,959,127
Contributions restricted for Tomorrow's leaders	\$35,000.00	\$-
Contributions board-designated	\$222,002.00	\$250
Change in value of gift annuities and donations	\$(8,971.00)	\$7,834
Net investment income gains (losses)	\$(1,203,522.00)	\$31,626
Total Non-operating Income	\$260,844	\$2,998,837
Total Change in Net Assets	\$261,395	\$3,006,194
Net Assets		
Beginning balance	\$11,820,199.00	\$8,814,005
Ending balance	\$12,081,594.00	\$11,820,199

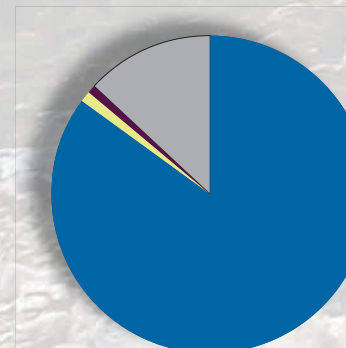
Notes to Financial Statements

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.

Statement of Financial Position

for the fiscal year ending March 31

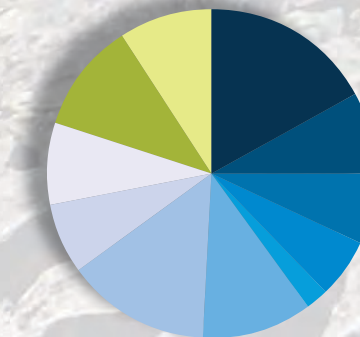
	FY 2020	FY 2019
Assets		
Total current assets	\$2,511,349.00	\$2,355,260
Net property and equipment	\$450,763.00	\$433,264
Investments	\$8,553,093.00	\$8,454,213
Other assets	\$868,175.00	\$885,823
Total Assets	\$12,383,380	\$12,128,560
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Total Liabilities	\$301,786	\$308,361
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$8,518,000.00	\$7,985,510
Donor Restricted	\$3,563,594.00	\$3,834,689
Total Net Assets	\$12,081,594	\$11,820,199
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$12,383,380	\$12,128,560



Operating Revenue, Gains & Other Support

- 86% Contributions, membership gifts, and grants received - NRCM
- 1% Events, merchandise, and other revenues
- 1% In-kind contributions
- 13% Investment appropriated for operations

Note: Percentages do not always total 100 because of rounding.



Operating Expenses

Program Services 80%

- 17% Climate & Clean Energy
- 8% Sustainable Maine
- 7% Forests & Wildlife
- 6% Healthy Waters
- 2% Lobbying
- 11% Emerging Issues
- 14% Communications
- 7% Outreach and Education
- 8% Federal/Action Fund

Supporting Services 20%

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

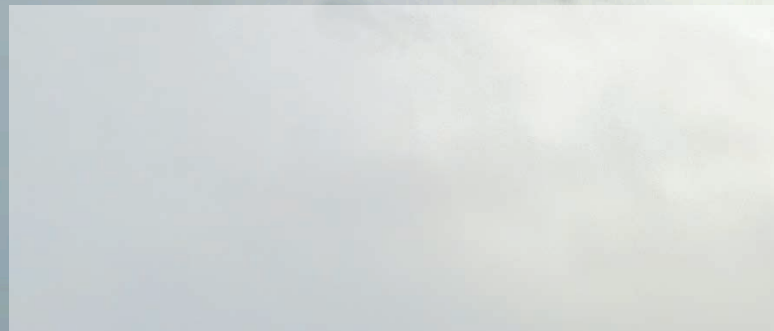


Natural Resources Council of Maine

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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, renewable sources, and electric transportation; 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 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.