BIG WINS FOR MAINE’S ENVIRONMENT: YOU ARE THE DIFFERENCE

What an extraordinary year. The Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) plans our work carefully as we head into each legislative session. We work closely with businesses and organizations that share our values. We talk with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle. We push for bills that will protect Maine’s natural beauty and resources. But we know, from our 62 years of experience, that there will be disappointments. That’s why we celebrate every victory.

This year, we did a lot of celebrating.

Our biggest success, the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law, is not only a big win for Maine but also for the country. This first-in-the-nation law strengthens local recycling programs by requiring Amazon, Walmart, and other manufacturers of packaging material to share in the costs of managing that waste. This is not new; such programs are already in place in more than 40 jurisdictions around the world including right next door in Canada. It’s time waste producers do right by Maine and the nation.

This was, finally, the year land conservation received long-overdue support. Despite its popularity with the people of Maine, the Land for Maine’s Future (LMF) program was denied funding for almost a decade, until this year. Lawmakers included $40 million, over four years, for this landmark program within the state budget, which means it does not have to be approved at the ballot box this year. LMF has conserved land in all 16 counties. Legislators also provided $50 million for Maine State Parks infrastructure and facility improvements. NRCM and our coalition partners have made this funding a high priority. We now share a collective sigh of relief.

We were also thrilled that new laws will be put in place to protect drinking water by addressing the threat of pervasive “forever chemicals” to the health of people and wildlife. Meanwhile, investments in municipal wastewater infrastructure will help safeguard water quality in Maine lakes, rivers, and streams. We worked successfully with lawmakers to ensure energy efficiency was a high priority, and we could not be more pleased by the Legislature’s commitment to implementing many aspects of Maine’s Climate Action Plan.

There were other successes as well. The plastic bag ban we championed is now in effect—we expect that more than 450 million wasteful and unnecessary plastic bags will be kept out of Maine landfills and the environment in the first year alone. This past August marked the fifth anniversary of the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument. The occasion served as a powerful reminder of the intense effort it took so many for so long to realize the dream of the Monument.

The same could be said for all of NRCM’s work. Winning—at the Legislature, with state and federal agencies, and elsewhere—requires many voices, and that includes those that are not always heard. NRCM strives to evaluate all of the issues we work on through a broad lens that considers the needs and concerns of diverse and underserved communities across the state. NRCM is committed to the ideal of being an organization accessible to all Maine people.

We trust that you will move with us. There is still so much to do. We need your voice as we push for removal of four dams on the Kennebec between Waterville and Skowhegan that could decide the fate of the endangered Atlantic salmon. Our decision-makers need to hear your opposition to a proposal to allow a dangerous mine on lands near Baxter State Park and Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument that puts some of Maine’s most treasured lands at risk. A loophole in Maine law continues to allow out-of-state waste to fill up State-owned Juniper Ridge Landfill in Old Town, threatening sites of cultural, spiritual, and historical importance to the Penobscot Nation. Central Maine Power continues to spend millions on its disinformation campaign for its proposed energy corridor. Together, we must stop these harms to our land and waters!

We look forward to the time when we can gather with you in person once again. Some of us were fortunate to experience a few events this summer before the Delta variant of COVID-19 curtailed our plans. Although we don’t know how long we will need to maintain safety precautions, please know that we are committed to working with you on issues that matter to you. Your letters, emails, testimony, and phone calls send a strong message to our elected officials that you care about the kind of Maine we will leave to future generations.

Thank you for stepping up, speaking out, and staying with us.

Lisa Pohlmann, CEO
Maria Gallace, Board Chair
IN THEIR OWN WORDS

NRCM MEMBERS SHARE WHY THEY SUPPORT OUR WORK

“After living 30 years in Maine, working on environmental issues, mostly with children, I saw how vital NRCM was/is to life in Maine. Living now in New York State, I continue to support and admire your work!” —Doris Balant, Carmel, New York, Partner in Maine's Future member

“I support NRCM because I love everything about Maine's natural environment, starting with its unmatched beauty along mountains and rivers and coastline, and progressing to the variety of ways that Mainers and visitors use our natural world to improve their lives.” —Ryan Linn, Portland, NRCM Rising and Landmark Society/Partner in Maine’s Future member

“I support NRCM because the people of Maine need effective lobbying to protect the environment against corporate and private interests that only care about making a profit at the expense of everything else.” —Jason Langley, Orono, Landmark Society/Partner in Maine’s Future member

“I support NRCM because I want my grandkids to know what wild and free nature is, what wireless was before wireless was invented. Most importantly, I want them to learn to appreciate the land that blesses us with its natural glory. Therefore, I am a proud supporter of the Natural Resources Council of Maine. Their drive to keep Maine's focus on the importance of land conservation, sustainability, and creating networks of collaboration are personally very inspiring and hopefully beneficial for many generations to come!” —Nicole Hamlin, Augusta, Landmark Society/Partner in Maine’s Future member

“As a public health professional, I support NRCM because of the inextricable link between environmental health and our own health. NRCM's work to protect and conserve our environment and promote sustainable communities enables us to lead healthy lives. As a mother, I support NRCM's work so that my son can grow up in a state where he has green space to play, clean water to drink, and clear skies with clean air to breathe.” —Heather Drake, Cape Elizabeth, NRCM Rising Leadership Team member

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BE "SOCIAL" WITH US

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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!

**2021 Awardees Celebrating 20 Years of Generosity**

| Anonymous (3) | Ms. Jaki Ellis and Dr. Andrew Cook | Hellmut J. Juretschke | William and Charlene M. Mushero |
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| Alysse E. Becker | Charlotte P. Gulezian | Marcia S. Kola | Marianne H. Pinkham |
| Dr. Ruth Bennett | Martin R. Haase | Jerri W. Leconte | Lisa Pohlmann |
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| John F. and Anne S. Winchester | | | |

**20 YEARS AGO... Clean-up of Wyman Station**

Working with local residents, we gathered more than 2,500 petition signatures demanding action to ensure clean-up of the Wyman Station power plant in Yarmouth. The plant had violated its pollution permit 348 times in 7 years. More than 200 people attended a hearing in Augusta. In 2001, the Board of Environmental Protection voted unanimously to require a clean-up plan for Maine’s most polluting power plant.
Anonymous (10)
Alan and Victoria Adams
Sandy Agrafiotis and Carl Pehrsson
Madeline L. Alexander
Daniel S. Alexander
Sue Allen and Tom Keller
Eleanor D. Andrews
Cindy K. Angerhofer
Mary E. Atchison
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Linda S. Young
Roger and Madalynne Zimmerman
Leah Zuch

*Passed away in FY 2021 or later
"The Allagash Wilderness Waterway is one of the great river trips in the United States, through territory that is much like it was 100 years ago. I love paddling the Waterway and knowing that it will be there for generations to come.

Helping to protect this river was not only NRCM's first major achievement, but stands with the great accomplishments of this extraordinary organization."

—Brownie Carson, former NRCM Executive Director and 31-year Allagash member
Maine’s environment is treasured beyond measure. Thank you for helping us make a difference this past year for the environment we love.

Thank you!

**14,568**
Number of messages NRCM supporters sent to state and federal lawmakers.

100% of Maine legislative districts represented

**3,031**
Signatures on NRCM petitions

**22,272**
Number of social shares of 82 NRCM blogs

**42,819**
Number of views of our online Explore Maine map featuring special places for outdoor adventures.

33% increase in use

**10,031**
Number of NRCM podcast plays—205% increase from last year

**25,000+ members and supporters** who help make our work possible!

First state to reform recycling by requiring corporations like Amazon & Walmart to pay Maine towns to manage wasteful packaging.

$17 Million in savings to Maine communities

30 Municipalities representing more than 340,000 Mainers supported this bill!

256.8 Million
Estimated number of foam food containers saved from needless use in year one of Maine's foam ban.
21 Million every month

427.7 Million
Estimated number of plastic shopping bags kept from needless use in year one of Maine's bag law.
35 Million every month

53%
Number of reservation-only State Park campsites booked for the 2021 season before the summer season even started

$50 Million
Included in Maine state budget for funding for State Parks infrastructure and maintenance

$40 Million
Included in Maine state budget for Land for Maine’s Future program over four years—first time funded since 2012

$100 Million
Projected lifetime savings from $50 million in energy efficiency upgrades provided by the Maine Legislature

7,190,001
Number of river herring that passed through fishways on 9 Maine rivers this year, as counted by the Department of Marine Resources

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42,819
Number of views of our online Explore Maine map featuring special places for outdoor adventures.

33% increase in use

10,031
Number of NRCM podcast plays—205% increase from last year

265
Number of bills that NRCM tracked at the Maine Legislature

7,190,001
Number of river herring that passed through fishways on 9 Maine rivers this year, as counted by the Department of Marine Resources
The Katahdin Circle is our program to thank and recognize members who give $1,000 or more during our fiscal year (April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021) in support of our mission. We thank these Katahdin Circle donors.

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FOUN DR I ON S A ND ORGANIZATIONAL GRANTS OF $1,000 OR MORE

IN-KIND GIFTS OF $1,000 OR MORE

LIFE INCOME, BEQUESTS, AND OTHER PLANNED GIFTS

BUSINESS SUPPORT OF $1,000 OR MORE

*Passed away in FY 2021 or later
Honoring Conservation Leadership Although our annual Conservation Leadership Awards had to be held virtually in 2020 due to the pandemic, it was our privilege to honor this year’s recipients. The celebration included short videos of two of our inaugural Brookie Award winners, NRCM member Kristen Lindquist reading her poem, “Rapture,” and a chance to hear from this year’s Conservation Leadership Award winners: Aram Calhoun, Cathy Johnson (Lifetime Achievement), Vaughan Woodruff, and Eric Sherman (People’s Choice Award).

Some F.U.N. at the S.E.A. Fair NRCM CEO Lisa Pohlmann went to Camden to share information about NRCM’s advocacy at the Stewardship Education Alliance fair. Sixteen local nonprofits were featured at this family-friendly event.

Virtually Dipping & Dashing This year’s Polar Bear Dip & Dash was as chilling and thrilling as ever, but rather than gather on East End Beach in Portland, participants had a two-week window in which to dip, dash, or both in an ice-cold waterbody near them. Dippers dipped along the Midcoast, on Matinicus Island, at Popham and Willard Beaches, and many other locations, raising nearly $20,000 for our climate and energy work.

Some F.U.N. at the S.E.A. Fair NRCM CEO Lisa Pohlmann went to Camden to share information about NRCM’s advocacy at the Stewardship Education Alliance fair. Sixteen local nonprofits were featured at this family-friendly event.
NRCM Rising hosted a full moon hike at Robinson Woods Preserve in Cape Elizabeth (a Land for Maine’s Future site). They also co-hosted, with Rubbish! Portland, a litter clean-up at Thompson’s Point in Portland. More than 70 people gathered at Bissell Brothers Brewing to learn about NRCM’s work on plastic pollution and EPR laws—and left Thompson’s Point considerably cleaner than how they found it.

Online Events Despite the pandemic, we held more than 25 events, albeit online. These included everything from legislative updates to the CMP corridor issue, protecting the Arctic Refuge to removal of four Kennebec dams. The most popular webinar, “Birds of Maine,” engaged more than 350 bird enthusiasts.

Lobbying for Recycling Reform NRCM activists and members arrived at the State House in June to lobby their legislators on the Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging bill, which became law in July! This will ensure that manufacturers of packaging waste will be required to help cover the cost of municipal recycling programs in Maine.

Puffins & People Our first in-person event in 2021 was our annual Hardy Boat cruise to see the puffins on Eastern Egg Rock in Muscongus Bay. The weather was mild, the sea was calm, and the puffins put on a spectacular show, against the backdrop of a stunning sunset. Project Puffin founder Dr. Steve Kress was on board to narrate our trip.
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Levi Hahn, Social Media & Creative Services Manager
Daniel Harris, Application Analyst, Constituent Engagement Systems
Leisa Hodgkins, Advocacy Assistant and IT Coordinator
Kathy Hyttel, Senior Director of Finance & Administration
Kristin Jackson, Digital Outreach Manager

Toby Kilgore, Grants Manager
Abben Maguire, Administrative Assistant/Accounts Payable Coordinator
Todd Martin, Grassroots Outreach Coordinator and NRCM Rising Director
Nancy Murray, Administration & HR Manager
Sarah Nichols, Sustainable Maine Director
Lisa Pohlmann, CEO
Codi Riley-Havu, Records & Gifts Coordinator
Rebecca Schultz, Senior Advocate
Veronica Scofield, Membership Manager
Jack Shapiro, Climate & Clean Energy Director
Marlisa Simonson, Senior Director of Philanthropy
Melanie Sturm, Forests & Wildlife Director
Emmie Theberge, Federal Director
Allison Wells, Senior Director of Public Affairs & Communications

NRCM staff, top to bottom, left to right: top row: Lisa Pohlmann, Chrissy Adamowicz, Nick Bennett, Kirsten Brewer; second row: Josh Caldwell, Beth Comeau, Pete Didisheim, Colin Durrant, Fiona Gordon, Levi Hahn; third row: Daniel Harris, Leisa Hodgkins, Kathy Hyttel, Kristin Jackson, Toby Kilgore, Abben Maguire; fourth row: Todd Martin, Nancy Murray, Sarah Nichols, Codi Riley-Havu, Rebecca Schultz, Veronica Scofield; fifth row: Jack Shapiro, Marlisa Simonson, Melanie Sturm, Emmie Theberge, Allison Wells

1 Completed Service, Fall 2020
2 Elected, Fall 2020
3 Completed Service, Fall 2021
4 Elected, Fall 2021
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.
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 with our members, businesses, and policymakers 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 climate-changing pollution through energy efficiency, renewable sources, and clean transportation solutions; conserve Maine lands and wildlife habitat, including our treasured North Woods; and secure federal environmental policies and programs that benefit Maine. We harness the power of science, the law, and the voices of more than 25,000 supporters across Maine and beyond to protect our air, waters, forests, and communities. Since 1959, NRCM has led efforts to inspire people to appreciate and protect all that makes Maine special. Together, we are making a difference.