

A photograph of a forest floor. In the foreground, a large, gnarled tree trunk with prominent roots dominates the left side. The ground is covered in brown pine needles and small green plants. In the background, several other trees stand, and a body of water is visible through the trees.

nature of maine 2026 calendar



Cultivating a Maine That Unites Us

Now more than ever, community is essential if we're to continue making progress that ensures a clean and healthy Maine for all of us, for generations to come.

At times, it may seem that there is more that divides our world, our nation, and our state than unites us. Certainly, we can't all agree on everything all of the time, but clean air and water, vibrant forests, healthy wildlife, and places to get out and enjoy it all—there's no debating that these things are essential.

Fortunately, the NRCM community is as strong as ever. Together, we made tremendous progress this year advancing clean energy. We made gains in conserving Maine's North Woods, including our dwindling older growth forests—increasingly rare habitat essential for many species of high conservation concern. We took steps to protect water quality and to reduce food waste. We helped improve transportation options by supporting efforts to develop several new bike paths and by advocating successfully for legislation that improves our statewide public transit system to ensure expansion of service and better ride coordination.

Success like this doesn't happen by chance. People must be informed and willing to speak up. That's why community is so important—it lifts all voices. Like birds in a flock and schools of fish that swim as one, we are most impactful when we move together.

A major collective achievement was passing a bill requiring Maine to achieve 100% clean electricity by 2040. Research has shown such a move could save Mainers as much as \$1,300 annually on energy bills, and the benefits to the environment would of course be priceless. This victory was a shining example of the environmental community—NRCM supporters, coalition partners, clean energy business leaders, and legislators—working together to address the most pressing issue of our time: climate change.

Sometimes, an important part of our shared commitment means stopping bad things from happening. This year we saw the highest number of rollback bills in more than a decade. These attacks included proposals to overturn Maine's ban on single-use plastic bags, efforts to delay implementation of the packaging waste law, and attempts to create a loophole in Maine's Bottle Bill, repeal clean energy goals, and weaken mining laws that protect clean water. We remained strong, fortified by one another, and most of these harmful bills were defeated.

NRCM is making it a priority to cultivate a Maine that brings people together. With dedicated staff in Franklin County, the Midcoast region, and others who travel across

the state, we are hearing directly from more voices than ever. We redesigned our visual identity this year in part to signal that, as we reflect and build on the strength of our past, we are looking to the future, listening to those who have felt marginalized, unheard, or that their voices do not matter. To that end, other changes are in the works to ensure we hear and amplify as many Maine voices as possible.

NRCM has been a leading voice for Maine's environment since 1959, when a handful of concerned individuals put aside any differences so that, collectively, they could let decision-makers know they felt the Allagash was worth protecting. Since then, the NRCM family has been blessed with a pantheon of talented staff and board members, thousands of dedicated volunteer supporters, a wide range of coalition partners and funders, and an incredible number of organizations and businesses that share our passion for protecting Maine's environment.

The backbone of Maine's economy is our natural resources. Those resources provide the food and water that sustain us; the materials that build our homes; the trails we hike and ride; the waters we sail, paddle, and fish; and especially right now, the vistas that inspire us, give us joy, and lift us up. These resources must be protected.

Thank you for joining us in speaking with a strong, unified voice. That's the strength of NRCM—all of us coming together to speak up for Maine's environment.



Todd Garth
Interim Executive Director



Lucy Abbott
Chair, Board of Directors

In Their Own Words

NRCM Members Share Why They Support Our Work



“Even though we now live in Vermont, we come back to visit family and explore Maine as often as possible. We have continued to support NRCM because of the incredible work they do to protect all of the places that make Maine so special; work that is more important now than ever before.”

—Sara Lovitz, Hinesburg, VT (formerly of Fairfield, ME) (pictured: Zeke, Sara’s mom, Sara, Jon, and Gabe)



“As a former NRCM board member and safer chemical policy activist, I have seen first-hand how NRCM leads the way in protecting Maine’s natural resources from corporate interests. We’re so fortunate to have NRCM on the front lines, fighting for the health of our environment.”

—Elisa Boxer, Scarborough



“Maine’s natural beauty and wildlife cannot defend itself, it needs groups like NRCM to be its defenders.”

—David Preston, Katahdin Circle member, China Village

“The Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) plays a vital role in shaping Maine’s environmental policy. Renowned for its productivity and influence, NRCM continues to build upon its legacy by channeling both the concerns of citizens and the latest scientific research to the State Legislature. As a result, the organization has been instrumental in the creation and passage of a consistent body of environmental and climate change legislation over many decades.” —Laura Pope, Eliot, Maine



“I had no idea NRCM was concerned and connected to so many of our most important issues. You are clearly a critical organization for a positive, healthy future for Maine.”

—Susan Weems, Katahdin Circle member, Brunswick



“Its natural and unspoiled beauty sets Maine apart from other states. NRCM works to preserve that special sense of place.”

—Ignacio Pessoa, Mount Desert Island



“It’s not enough to say ‘I love Maine.’ Love is a verb. One of the ways I practice loving Maine is by supporting NRCM, which does so much to protect this region, her ecosystems, and therefore, us all.”

—Lucy Birkett, Freeport

Stay Informed & Socialize With Us!



Voices for Maine’s Environment
podcast with host Colin Durrant



Follow us!
@NRCMenvironment

Celebrating Our Time Together



▲ **Birthday Bash at Maine Beer Company** Many NRCM friends, staff, and board, current and former, gathered in Freeport to celebrate 66 years of protecting Maine's environment and building healthier communities. What an enjoyable time of reflection and looking ahead.



▲ **Fashion Forward** Special thanks to Aveda Institute (Augusta) and Acapello Salons (5 southern Maine locations) for raising funds during Earth Month in support of NRCM's work to protect clean water. The Institute held its super-fun Trashion Show, raising \$5,500, and Acapello held special activities that brought in \$1,250. Big thank you!

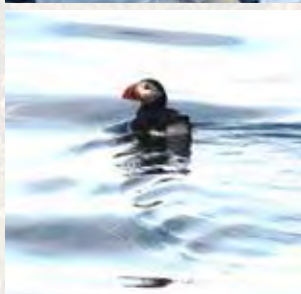


▶▶ **Member Action at the State House**

More than 100 of us gathered for NRCM's annual State House Action Day, where our members have the chance to meet with their elected officials. The presence of so many of our members in the halls of the State House made this one of our most impactful days of the legislative session—and one of our favorite events of the year.

◀◀ **Meeting Up at NWF Annual Meeting**

NRCM Federal Policy Advocate Anya Fetcher and Interim Executive Director Todd Garth represented NRCM at the National Wildlife Federation's meeting in Minneapolis. The program included lots of discussion about ways to engage with members.



◀◀ **Pointing Out Puffins** "One of our best puffin cruises ever," was how Project Puffin founder and trip narrator Dr. Stephen Kress described our most recent adventure to Eastern Egg Rock aboard the Hardy Boat. Atlantic Puffins appeared everywhere around the island—and our boat! We enjoyed views of seals and other seabirds as well, including several Roseate Terns, a species of conservation concern. All aboard our sold-out trip had a delightful evening.



▲ **Hiking in the Hills** We enjoyed several hikes together with our supporters in Hancock County. Members of Frenchman Bay Conservancy joined us to explore Day Ridges Preserve, and Blue Hill Heritage Trust members hiked with us up Blue Hill Mountain.



▲▶ **Meeting & Greeting around the State** NRCM staff traveled from Portland to North Haven, Blue Hill to Brunswick, and Orono to Kittery for a series of Meet & Greets with our members and supporters. What a great time we had being in so many communities, talking about our collective work to protect Maine's environment.



◀ **Coming Together in Response to Federal Cuts** Mainers, including fired federal workers, business and fishing groups, a veteran, and a SNAP participant, came together in Brewer to speak about the real-world harm being inflicted by the Trump Administration. Participants shared about the harm caused by blocking, freezing, and reversing critical federal investments and the elimination of staff positions at federal agencies.

▶ **Dipping, Dashing, & Donating** More than 240 people gathered at SMCC's South Portland campus for our 17th annual Dip & Dash, a 5K run/walk and icy dip into Casco Bay at Willard Beach. Together, we raised more than \$39,000 in support of NRCM's climate & clean energy work. Thanks to everyone who joined us. Our next Dip & Dash will be on Sunday, January 4, 2026, at the same location. Learn more at nrcm.org.



▲ **Power Maine Forward Day of Action** Mainers across the state joined us for Power Maine Forward: Clean Energy Day of Action, organized by NRCM and our partners to show lawmakers that their constituents want them to lead and pass the bill to achieve 100% clean energy by 2040. The event made a striking impression—and the bill passed!



▲ **Celebrating Action for Maine's Environment** Each year, NRCM recognizes several individuals or groups who have made significant, lasting contributions to safeguarding Maine's environment by presenting them with a Conservation Leadership Award. We honored our 2025 winners at our new annual event, Protecting What We Love, at Wolfe's Neck Center in Freeport, where we celebrated their collective accomplishments and heard their inspirational words about what motivates their work to protect the nature of Maine. We also celebrated all action-takers!

YOUR IMPACT COUNTS

Restoring Maine's Rivers

9,039,2451 Another record-setting number of alewives and blueback herring that passed through Benton Falls this year to reach spawning habitat. This milestone shatters last year's record of 6,551,356 and was only possible because of the removal of Edwards Dam in Augusta. NRCM continues to make removal of the four dams above Waterville a high priority and is thrilled that a deal has been reached to sell the dams for removal.

5,926,084 Number of alewives that passed through Milford Fish Lift to reach upstream Penobscot River habitat to spawn. This vast number is the result of the Penobscot River Restoration Project that removed two dams and created a nature-like bypass at another. NRCM was a founding member of this project.

1,351
attended

61 events
NRCM held
throughout
the state

4,168 Online Advocacy Actions
Taken by NRCM Supporters

103
Bills NRCM
Testified On

52 Harmful Bills
NRCM Helped Stop

23 Bills NRCM
Helped Pass

Your Dip & Dash Support Adds Up

Once again, the brave-hearted and bucket-listers joined NRCM at Southern Maine Community College for a 5k dash and/or icy splash into Casco Bay in support of our work to address climate change in Maine. Here's how that support added up:

- 📍 **240 Registrations**
- 📍 **21 Fundraising Teams**
- 📍 **12 Volunteers**
- 📍 **10 Generous Event Sponsors**
- 📍 **\$39,039 raised for NRCM's Climate & Clean Energy program**

20,000 members and supporters
help make this work possible! Thank you!

Board of Directors

Lucy Abbott, *Board Chair*, Bethel
Sam Lavallee, *Board Vice Chair*, Brunswick
Karen Herold, *Secretary*, Cumberland²
Kevin Kobel, *Treasurer*, Cape Elizabeth

Gail Carlson, Waterville²
Sarah Cotton, Hope
Sam Day, Dresden

Anthony Eames, South Freeport¹
Maria Gallace, Cape Elizabeth¹
Francesca Galluccio-Steele, Portland
Marcia Harrington, Brunswick
Nancy Hasenfus, Brunswick
Norton H. Lamb, Jr., New Gloucester¹
Al Manville, Brunswick
Peter Millard, Belfast¹

Liz Rettenmaier, Bangor
Sarah Short, Portland²
Sarah Sindo, Millinocket²
David Schylling, Pemaquid¹
Bethany Woodworth, South Portland²

¹Completed Service, Summer 2025

²Elected, Summer 2025

National Advisory Board

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Gilbert Butler, New York
Adam Lee, Maine
Jane C. MacElree, Pennsylvania

C. W. Eliot Paine, Maine
Ralph T. Perry, Maine*
The Honorable Chellie Pingree, Maine
Thomas E. Stegman, Ohio*

Anna Marie Thron, Maine
Charles O. Verrill, Jr., Maine
Edward Z. Walworth, MD, Maine

*passed away in 2024-2025

Staff

Row 1

Nicole Beetle, Grants Manager
Gail Begin, Executive Assistant
Vanessa Berry, Sustainable Maine Program Manager
Carrie Bolduc, Human Resources Manager
Josh Caldwell, Climate & Clean Energy Policy Advocate and Outreach Manager
Beth Comeau, Web & Communications Manager
Pete Didisheim, Senior Director of Advocacy*
Colleen Donohoe, Events Manager
Colin Durrant, Strategic Communications Director

Row 2

Anya Fetcher, Federal Policy Advocate
Luke Frankel, Woods, Waters, & Wildlife Director
Todd Garth, Interim Executive Director*
Alden Hallett, Administrative & Operations Associate
Daniel Harris, Application Analyst, Constituent Engagement Systems
Nate Hathaway, Penobscot Bay-Frenchman Bay Regional Outreach Coordinator
Leisa Hodgkins, IT Manager
Kristin Jackson, Digital Strategist
Bronya Lechtman, Grassroots Outreach Manager

Row 3

Kate Phillips, Advocacy Associate
Codi Riley-Havu, Gifts, Records, & Stewardship Coordinator
Olivia Ruhlin, Franklin County Regional Outreach Coordinator
Rebecca Schultz, Senior Advocate, Climate & Clean Energy
Jack Shapiro, Climate & Clean Energy Director
Ella D. Tabasky, Membership & Partnerships Manager
Emmie Theberge, Outreach Director
Sierra Toomey, Digital Content Producer
Allison Childs Wells, Senior Director of Communications & Marketing*

*Executive Team



Natural Resources Council of Maine

Statement of Activities

For the fiscal year ending March 31

Operating Revenue, Gains, & Other Support

	FY 2024	FY 2025
Contributions - NRCM	\$2,890,048	\$2,403,783
Contributions - AF	\$-	\$102,500
Events, Merch, and other	\$661	\$8,025
In-kind contributions	\$36,144	\$47,220
Investment appropriated for operations	\$806,649	\$1,048,478
Total Operating Revenue, Gains, etc	\$3,733,502	\$3,610,006

Operating Expenses

Program Services

Climate & Clean Energy	\$658,639	\$766,212
Sustainable Maine	\$333,735	\$195,791
Forests & Wildlife	\$233,704	\$326,151
Healthy Waters	\$393,242	\$268,089
Lobbying	\$58,687	\$78,884
Emerging Issues	\$313,599	\$184,849
Communications	\$536,538	\$552,513
Outreach and Education	\$398,440	\$336,363
Federal Issues	\$147,600	\$124,035
Action Fund	\$9,517	\$108,613
Total Program Services	\$3,083,701	\$2,941,500

Supporting Services

Management and General	\$485,277	\$568,099
Development and Fundraising	\$292,044	\$309,501
Total Supporting Services	\$777,321	\$877,600

Total Operating Expenses

	\$3,861,022	\$3,819,100
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Change in Net Assets from Operations

	\$(127,520)	\$(209,094)
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Non-operating Income

Capital campaign contributions net of expense	\$-	\$-
Contributions board-designated	\$673,329	\$590,569
Change in value of gift annuities and donations	\$-	\$(7,737)
Net investment income gains (losses)	\$1,016,703	\$(565,559)
Total Non-operating Income	\$1,690,032	\$17,273

Total Change in Net Assets

	\$1,562,512	\$(191,821)
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Net Assets

Beginning Balance	\$16,667,596	\$18,230,108
Ending Balance	\$18,230,108	\$18,038,287

Statement of Financial Position

For the fiscal year ending March 31

Assets

	FY 2024	FY 2025
Total Current Assets	\$1,329,926	\$1,025,907
Net Property & Equipment	\$272,882	\$259,844
Investments	\$17,047,485	\$17,009,140
Other Assets	\$26,470	\$26,470
Total Assets	\$18,676,763	\$18,321,361

Liabilities and Net Assets

Total Liabilities	\$446,655	\$283,074
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Net Assets

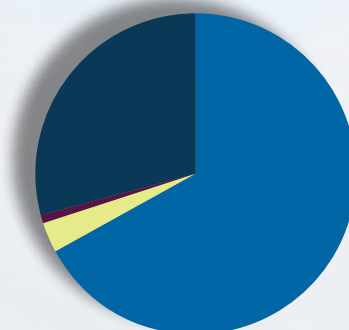
Without donor restrictions	\$15,520,030	\$15,509,148
Donor restricted	\$2,710,078	\$2,529,139

Total Net Assets

	\$18,230,108	\$18,038,287
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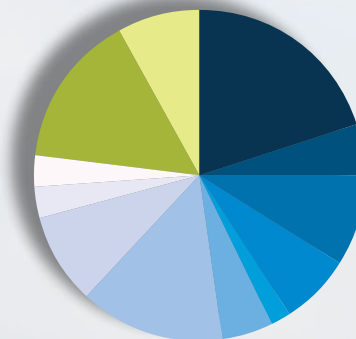
Total Liabilities and Net Assets

	\$18,676,763	\$18,321,361
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Operating Revenue, Gains, & Other Support

- 67% Contributions, membership gifts, and grants - NRCM
- 3% Contributions - Action Fund
- 1% In-kind contributions
- 29% Investment appropriated for operations



Operating Expenses

Program Services 77%

- 20% Climate & Clean Energy
- 5% Sustainable Maine
- 9% Forests & Wildlife
- 7% Healthy Waters
- 2% Lobbying
- 5% Emerging Issues
- 14% Communications
- 9% Outreach and Education
- 3% Federal Issues
- 3% Action Fund

Supporting Services 23%

- 15% Management and general
- 8% 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. Percentages do not always total 100 because of rounding.



Natural Resources Council of Maine
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Protecting the Nature of Maine

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Augusta, ME

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Project Assistant: Beth Comeau, Communications Manager
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Project Intern: Ander Erickson
Front Cover: Older growth forest in Nahmakanta Ecological Reserve, by NRCM supporter Nathaniel Child
Back Cover: Popham Beach, Phippsburg, by NRCM staff member Kristin Jackson

Protecting the Nature of Maine

Our Mission

The Natural Resources 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. Since 1959, NRCM has harnessed the power of the law, science, and the voices of nearly 20,000 supporters statewide and beyond to protect the places and way of life that make Maine so special. Together, we are making a difference.