

# **Maine Won't Wait - ME's Climate Action Plan** **Coastal/Marine Recommendations**

Coastal and Marine Working Group Co-chairs: Kathleen Leyden, DMR and Heather Leslie, University of Maine



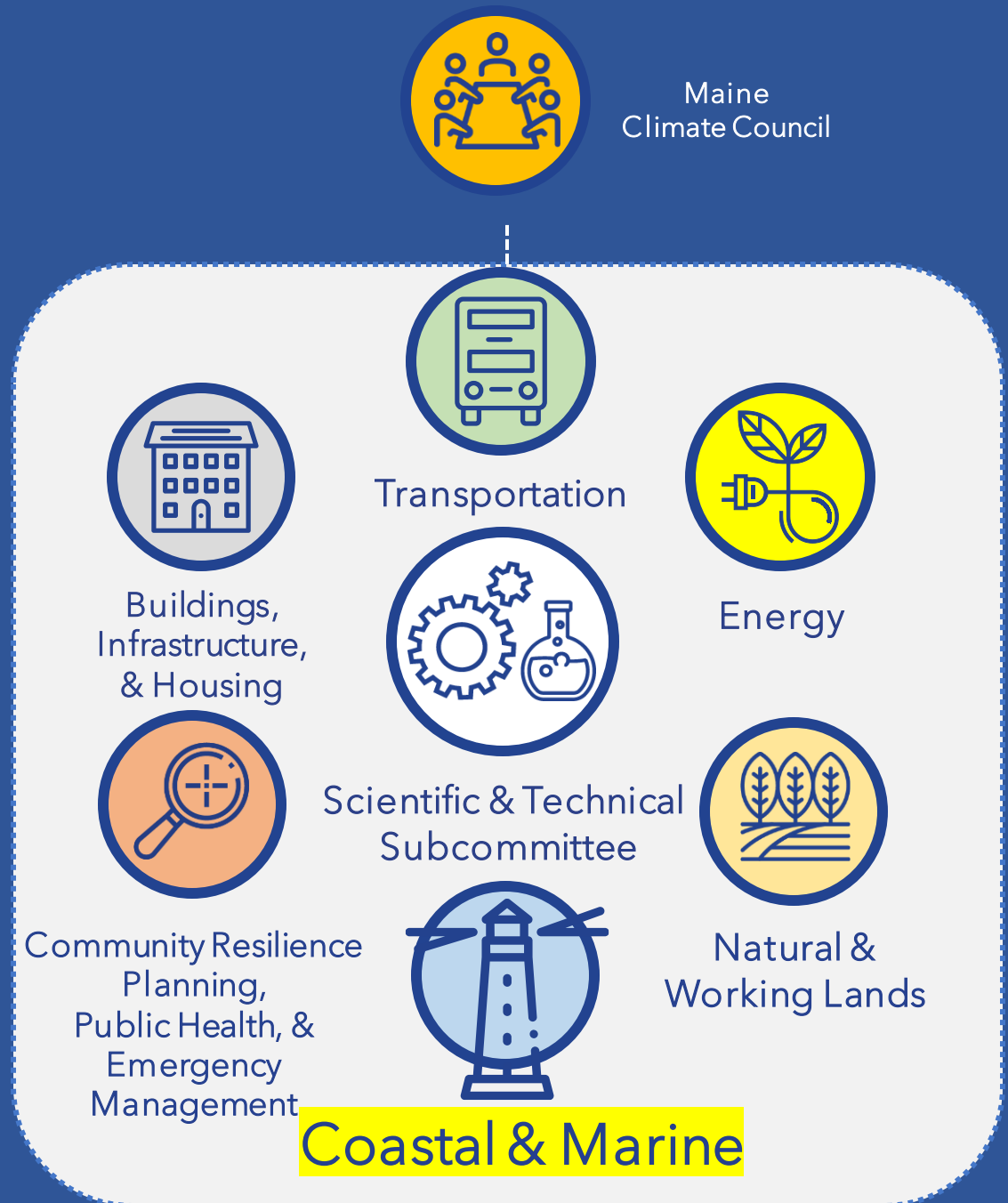
*Credit: Island Institute*

Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources  
January 2021

The **39-member Maine Climate Council**, an assembly of scientists, industry leaders, bipartisan local and state officials, is responsible for developing a **Climate Action Plan** for Maine.

**Six working groups** comprised of 230+ volunteer members recommend strategies to the Council for achieving Maine's climate goals.

An expert **Scientific and Technical Subcommittee** is responsible for identifying the impacts of climate change in Maine.



# CLIMATE COUNCIL GOALS



**12.01.20**  
Climate Action Plan  
Delivered



ACHIEVE STATE  
CARBON NEUTRALITY BY  
**2045**

REDUCE MAINE'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS  
BY TARGETS OUTLINED IN STATE LAW

**45%**  
BELOW 1990 LEVELS  
BY 2030

**80%**  
BELOW 1990 LEVELS  
BY 2050



ENSURE MAINE PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES, AND COMMUNITIES  
ARE RESILIENT TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.



## OUR STRATEGIES: CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES

### Mitigating and adapting to climate change creates new opportunities for Maine coastal communities and marine-dependent businesses

Technical assistance delivers information businesses and towns need to plan and adapt



Nature-based solutions protect communities, create jobs, preserve green space, save \$



New and emerging seafood opportunities



Climate resilience creates new jobs, products for Maine ports





## STRATEGY 1. Track climate impacts to support decision making

- Establish a state-level Climate Collaborative for Coastal and Ocean Monitoring
- Collect, assess, and share information on how climate change is affecting Maine's coastal and marine areas to support adaptive decision making
- Leverage existing programs led by the state, non-profits, academic communities and citizen scientists.



*Credit: C. Enterline, J. Anderson*



## STRATEGY 2. Provide technical assistance and outreach

- In coordination with the monitoring collaborative...
  - The **Coastal and Marine Information Exchange** will provide coastal and marine stakeholders with accessible, relevant information and decision support tools
  - The **Maine Seafood Business Council** will provide Maine's seafood harvesters, shoreside businesses, and working waterfronts with information and tools to support operational decisions, capital investments, and long-range planning to implement climate adaptation and mitigation strategies



*Credit: B. McGreavy*



## STRATEGY 3. Enhance mitigation by conserving and restoring coastal habitats

- Determine blue carbon stocks and mitigation values by conducting a comprehensive coastwide survey.
- Encourage blue carbon habitat conservation and restoration through formal carbon sequestration incentives or carbon permit program
- Achieve blue carbon mitigation by managing, conserving and restoring tidal marsh, eelgrass, and seaweed habitats



*Credit: J Hagan  
Back River saltmarsh  
between Georgetown and Arrowsic*



## STRATEGY 4. **With nature-based solutions, promote climate-adaptive ecosystem planning and management**

- Foster climate-adaptive planning in marine, coastal, and inland areas for the State and municipalities
- Promote nature-based solutions for climate challenges that impact coastal rivers, shorelines, and coastal and marine habitats
- Conserve and restore ecosystems to foster resiliency
- Strengthen stormwater management tools



*Credit: S. Moore*





## STRATEGY 5. Manage for resiliency of Maine's fisheries and aquaculture industries

- Information support
- Market support and business resilience
- Evaluate how regulations can better address environmental change while recognizing the need for stability



*Credit:  
J Waller, J. Hagan*



## STRATEGY 6. Climate-Ready Working Waterfronts

- Develop ways to finance infrastructure improvements.
- Invest public funds wisely.
- Improve guidance and technical assistance for municipalities and business owners.
- Reform and improve regulatory and non-regulatory approaches for waterfront redevelopment.
- Continue conversations about marine emissions, Green Ports, renewable energy



photo: Maine Marine Trades Association



photo: Island Institute, Islesford solar array

# Additional Resources

Maine Won't Wait - A Four Year Plan for Climate Action,  
December 2020

[https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov.future/files/inline-files/MaineWontWait\\_December2020.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov.future/files/inline-files/MaineWontWait_December2020.pdf)

Maine Climate Council - Coastal and Marine Working Group,  
Full Report, June 2020

[https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov.future/files/inline-files/CoastalMarineWG\\_FinalStrategyRecommendations\\_June2020.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov.future/files/inline-files/CoastalMarineWG_FinalStrategyRecommendations_June2020.pdf)