

Economic Development Council of Maine

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
Policy Innovation
and the Future

February 27, 2024

Governor's Office of Policy Innovation & the Future was created by Governor Mills in 2019. The Governor said:

I am following the advice of writer Kurt Vonnegut, who said “Every government ought to have a Department of the Future.” And so my administration will create an Office of Innovation and the Future. This office will dive into major policy challenges, foster collaboration and propose concrete, workable solutions.

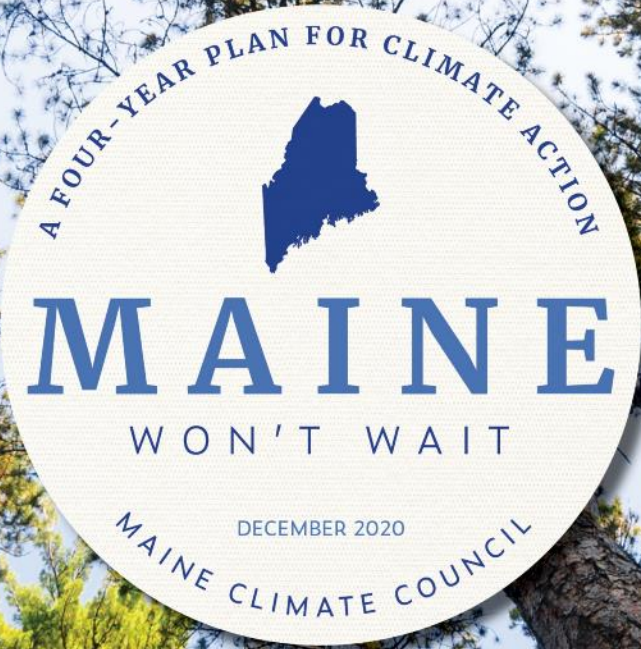
Mission: To foster collaboration and innovative solutions to help solve Maine's most important long-term challenges.



GOPIF Projects 2019 - 2024

- **Climate Planning:** The Maine Climate Council and *Maine Won't Wait* plan coordination and implementation, the Community Resilience Partnership Program, and state Lead by Example program.
- **Children's Cabinet**
- **Aging Cabinet**
- **Ending Hunger by 2030 Plan Coordination**
- **Opioid Response**
- **Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan**
- **Housing Policy Coordination**
- **Governor's Infrastructure Implementation Committee (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)**
- **New Initiatives:** Office of New Americans Plan, Office of Community Affairs





A FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION



MAINE

WON'T WAIT

DECEMBER 2020

MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL

January 23rd MCC Special Resilience Meeting



Photo credit: MaineDOT



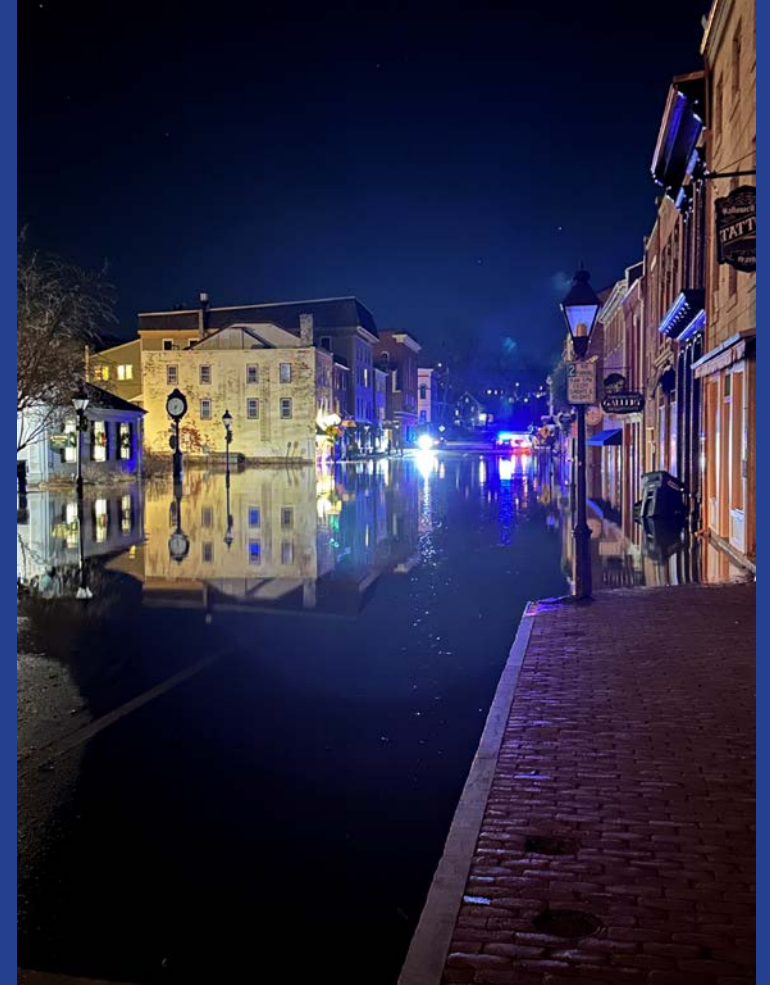
Photo credit: Maine Forest Service



Photo credit: Town of Stonington



Photo credit: DECD



Trends in Precipitation

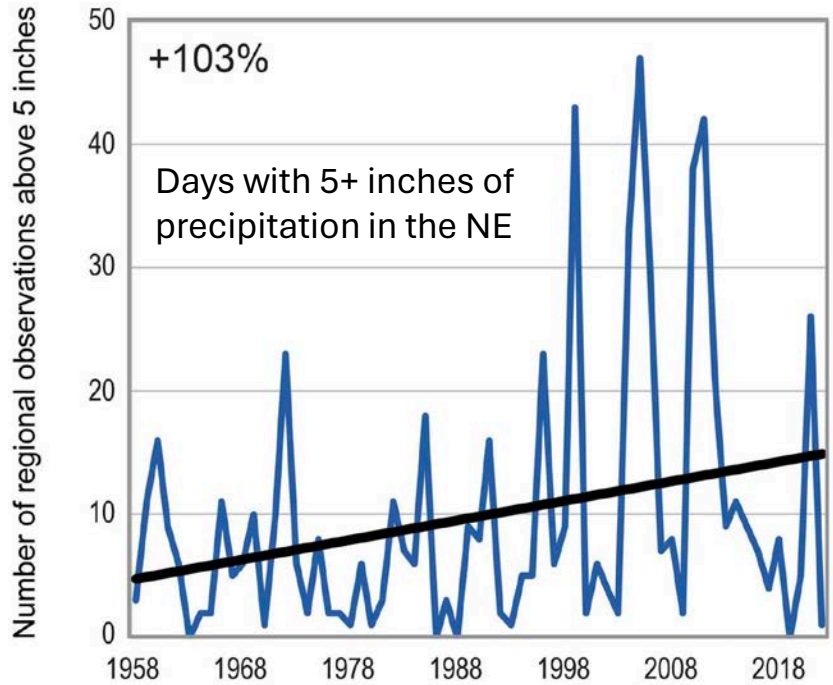
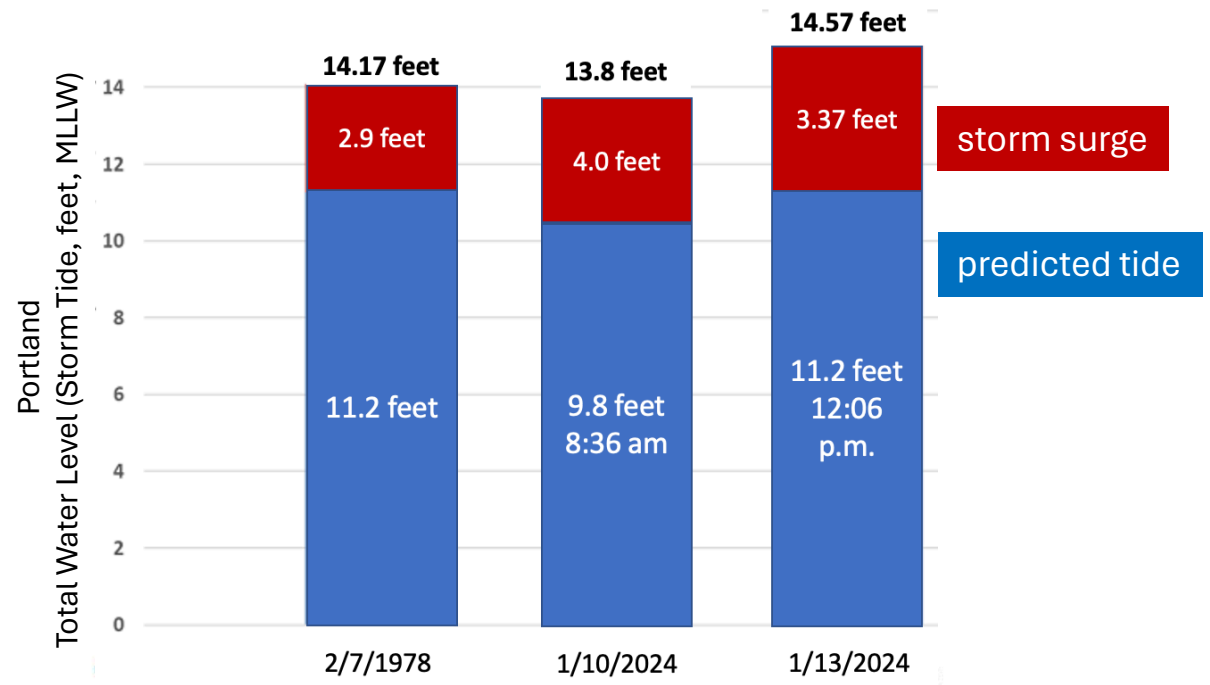


Figure credit: USDA Forest Service, Drexel University, NOAA NCEI, and CISESS NC.

Jan. 10 and 13, 2024 Events



Dec. 18, 2023 Event

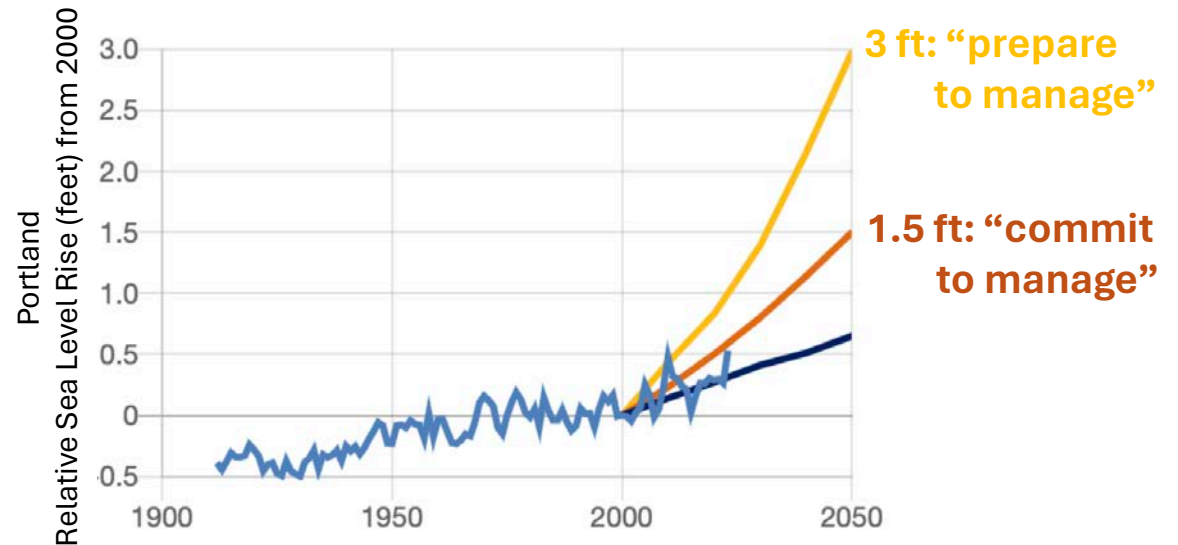
- heavy rainfall (5-7 inches in parts of W. Maine)
- high winds (over 70 mph gusts in some areas)

On top of:

- warmer winter kept ground from freezing
- higher soil moisture due to chronic increased wetness
- watersheds full and thawed

Credit: Susie Arnold, Island Institute

Trends in Sea Level Rise



CLIMATE COUNCIL GOALS



12.01.24

Updated Climate
Action Plan Due



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.



49%



21%



12%



12%



5%

TRANSPORTATION • RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL • ELECTRIC POWER

Data source: Maine Department of Environmental Protection 9th Biennial Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report.
International bunker fuels (1%) are not depicted in the graphic above.

In Maine, most carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion come from transportation, followed by residential, commercial and industrial sources.

Maine's 4 Climate Action Plan Goals



1. Reduce Maine's greenhouse gas emissions
2. Make Maine more resilient to the impacts of climate change
3. Foster economic opportunity and prosperity
4. Advance equity through Maine's response

Maine's 8 Climate Action Strategies



Embrace the Future of Transportation in Maine



Modernize Maine's Buildings



Reduce Carbon Emissions in the Energy and Industrial Sectors through Clean Energy Innovation



Grow Maine's Clean Energy Economy and Good Jobs



Protect Maine's Environment and Working Lands and Waters, Increase Carbon Sequestration



Build Healthy and Resilient Communities



Invest in Climate-Ready Infrastructure



Engage People and Communities in Climate Impacts and Program Opportunities



Tracking the Progress of *Maine Won't Wait*

This dashboard tracks numerical targets included in *Maine Won't Wait* to inform the public and help evaluate whether evidence-based adjustments, enhancements or replacements to policies are needed in pursuit of the plan's climate objectives. Over time, the dashboard will expand to include other key *Maine Won't Wait* metrics as updated data becomes available, new programs are established, and state and federal climate investments are realized.



12,369
Electric & Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles

Goal: 219,000 by 2030



459
Public EV Charging Stations

Up from 235 in 2019



115,442
New Heat Pumps since 2019

New Goal: 275,000 by 2027



12,705
Homes Weatherized since 2019

Goal: 17,500 by 2025



51%
Clean Energy Use

Goal: 80% by 2030



15,019
Clean Energy Jobs

Goal: 30,000 by 2030



22.2%
of Maine Land Conserved

Goal: 30% by 2030



174
Communities in Resilience Partnership



25%
Below 1990 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Updated Figure for 2019



75%
of the way to Carbon Neutral

Goal: 100% Carbon Neutral by 2045

(75% of Maine GHG emissions absorbed by Maine ecosystems)



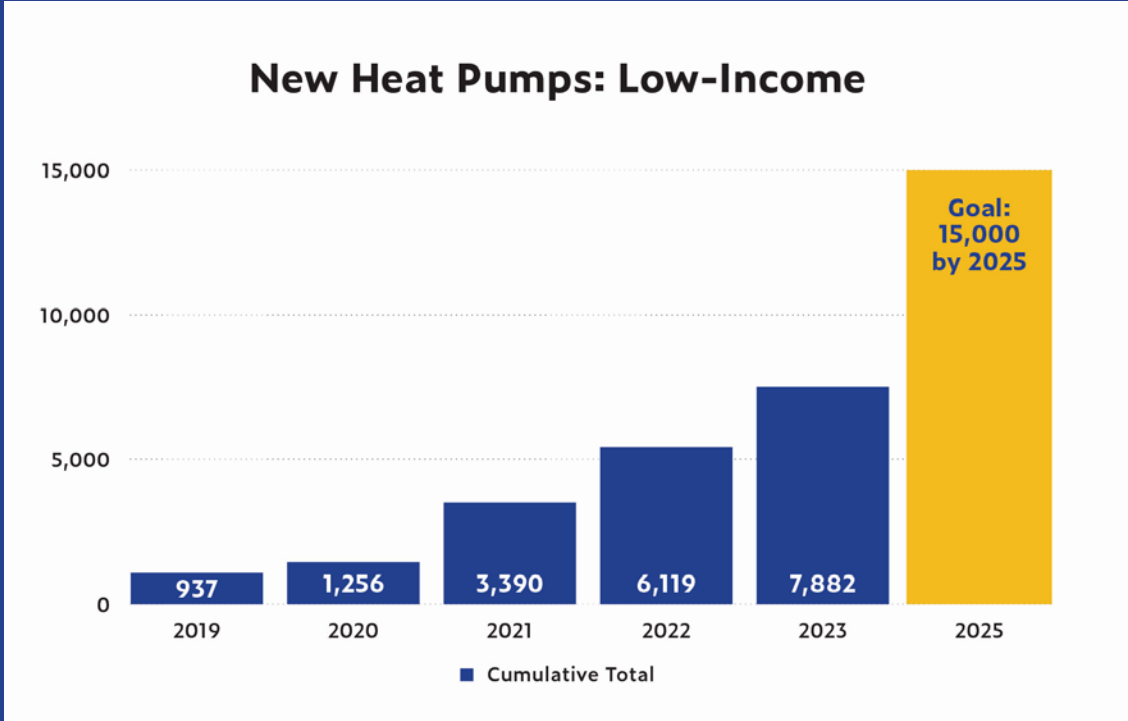
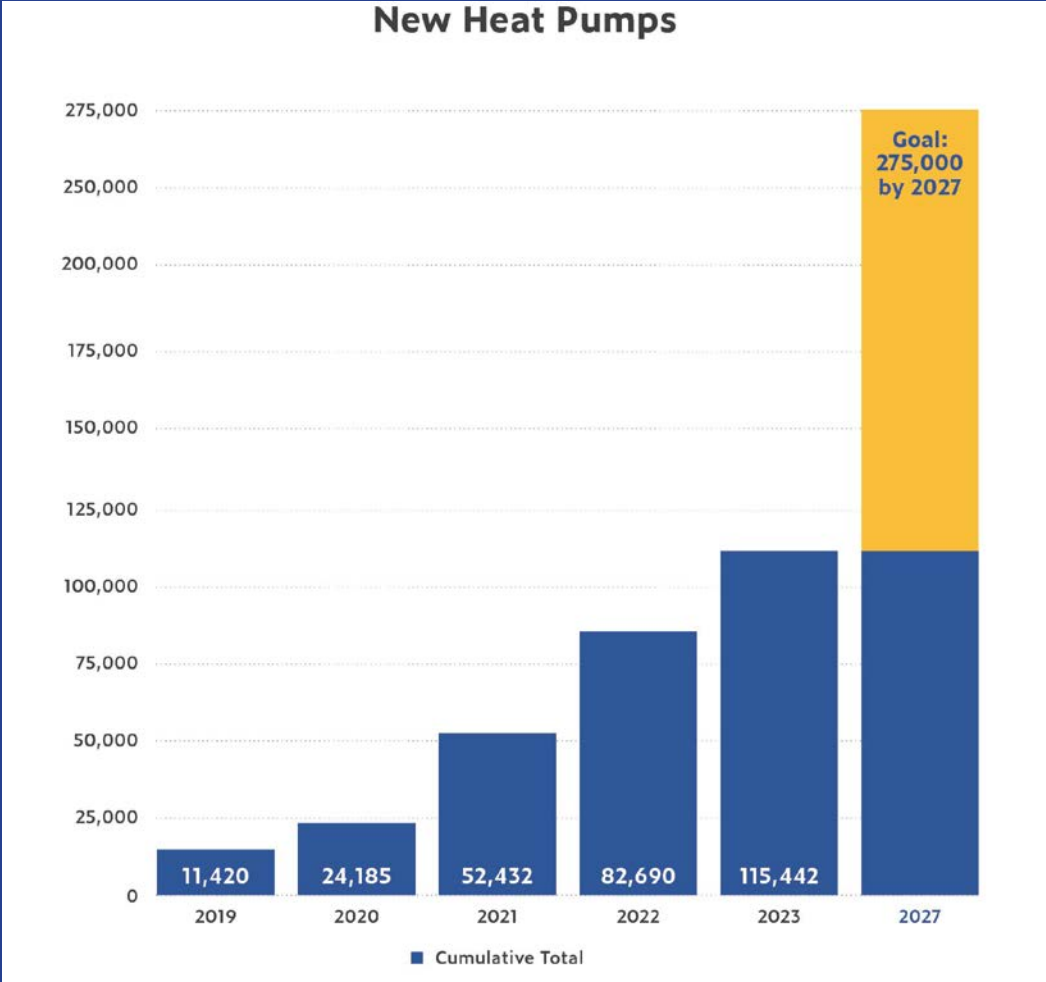
Visit our online dashboard to learn more:
maine.gov/climateplan/dashboard

Maine Leads the Nation in Heat Pump Deployment:



- Governor's 100,000 goal by 2025 met two years early
- New 175,000 additional heat pump goal set for 2027 - doubling the pace of progress (322,000 installed by 2027)
- Maine Community College has trained more than 550 installers since 2019, helped support small businesses
- Next phase will focus on increasing pace of low income, multi-family, municipal and school, and small business installations

Heat pump goal reached and new target set



Source: Efficiency Maine and MaineHousing.
Note: Efficiency Maine's reported numbers are aggregated to their fiscal year which runs from July 1 of the previous year to June 30 of the stated year. MaineHousing's reported numbers are based on a given calendar year.



Expanding EV charging networks

Recharge Maine

State initiative to create a convenient, reliable, and accessible EV charging network

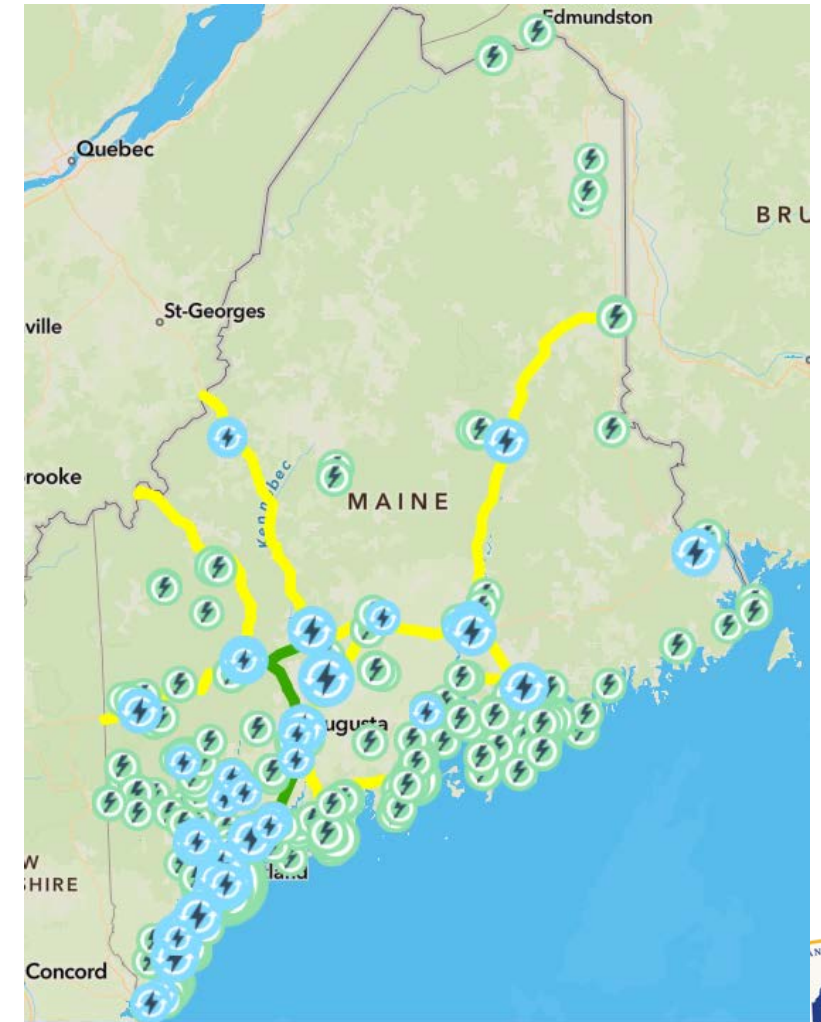
Expanding public level 2 and DC fast chargers

Funding available

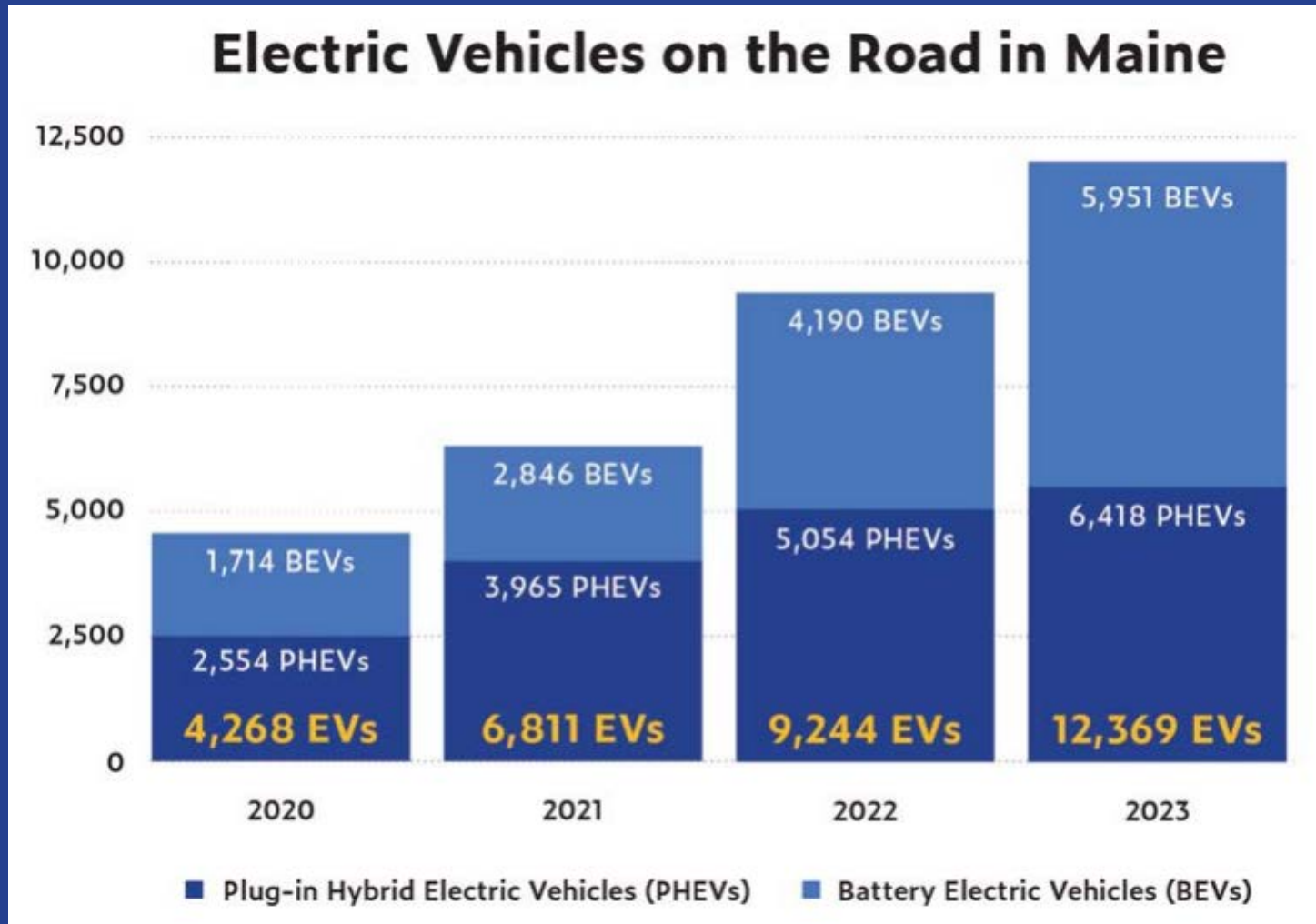
\$8 million from Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan (MJRP)

\$18 million from FHWA's National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program

Maine currently has **459** public EV charging stations, with over **1,000** charging ports, up from 389 stations in 2022



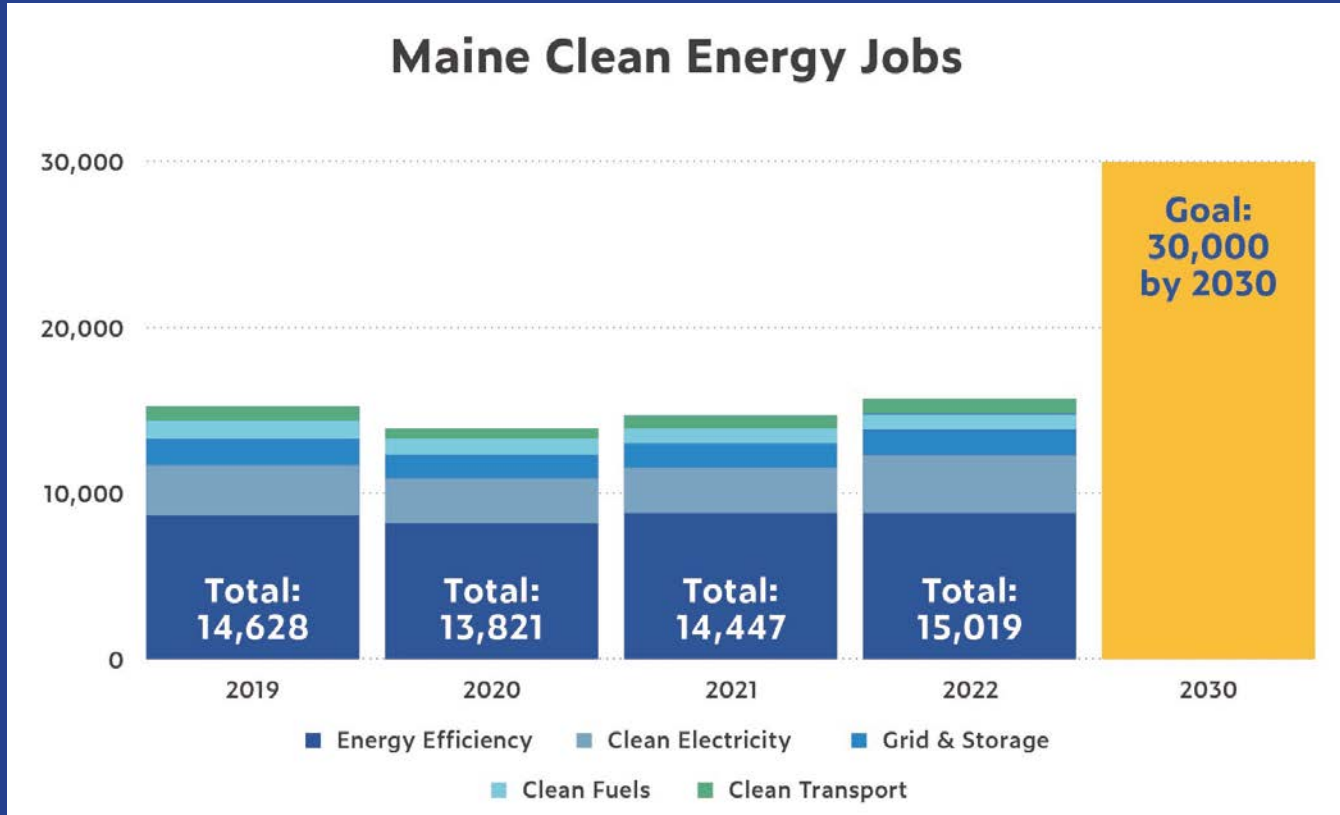
More EVs on the road



Maine Won't Wait goal:
Expand electric vehicle use in Maine toward target of having 219,000 on the road by 2030

Data source: Maine DEP and Atlas Public Policy

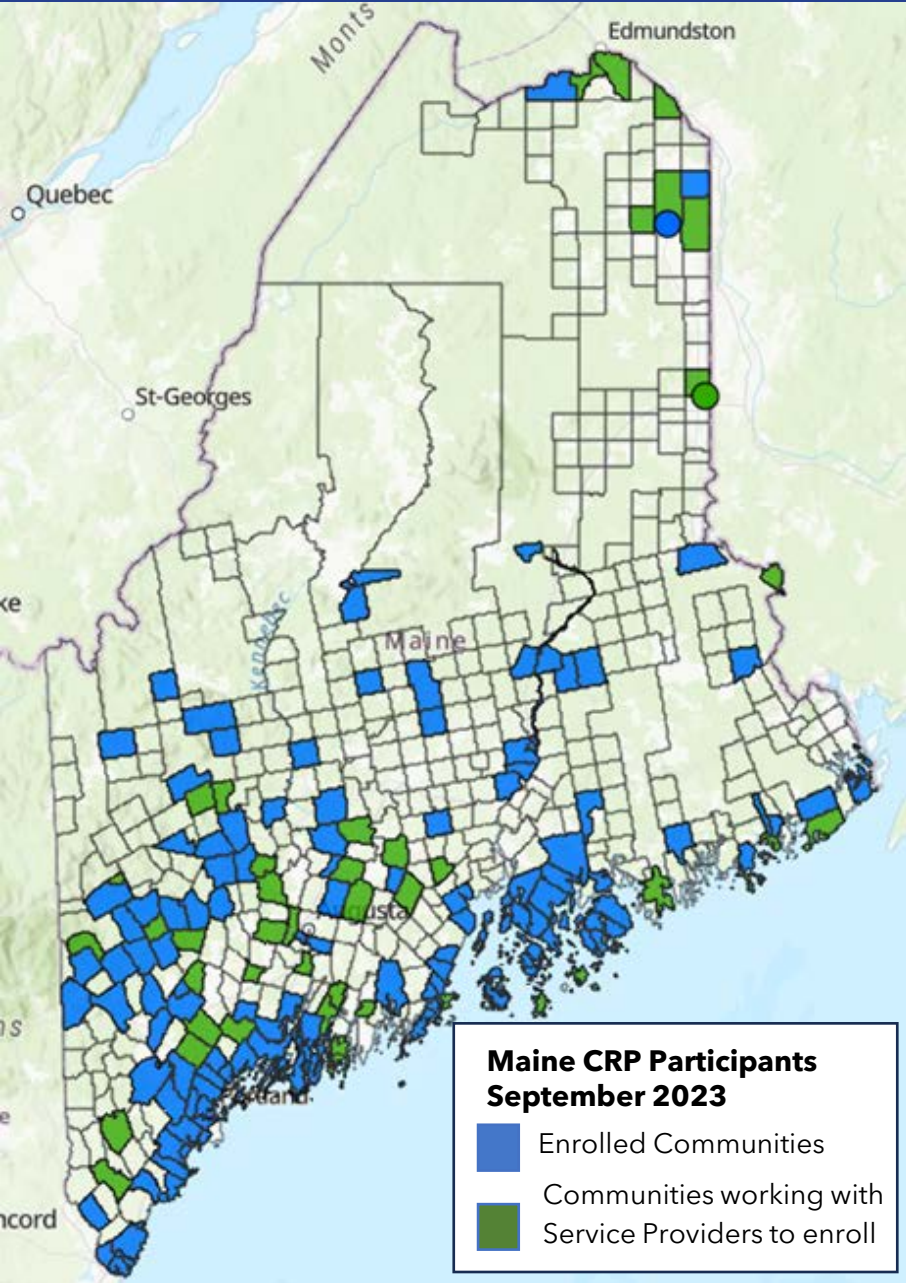
Clean Energy Jobs



Maine's Clean Energy Partnership has awarded **\$2.5 million** in grants to nine entities to advance clean energy workforce development.



Source: 2022 US Energy and Employment Report



Providing technical assistance and funding for local climate action through the Community Resilience Partnership

- 175 participating communities
 - 129 fully enrolled and 45 working to enroll with service provider support
- Focus on increasing enrollment from Maine's socially vulnerable communities
- \$3 million dollars/year in state grants for climate planning, emission reduction and resilience actions
- Additional federal dollars



Community Resilience Partnership

Current Grant Opportunities

- **Community Action Grant:**

- Grants to communities for priority projects that reduce energy use and costs and/or make their community more resilient to climate change effects, such as flooding, extreme weather, drought, and public health impacts
- Deadline March 29, 2024

- **Service Provider Grant:**

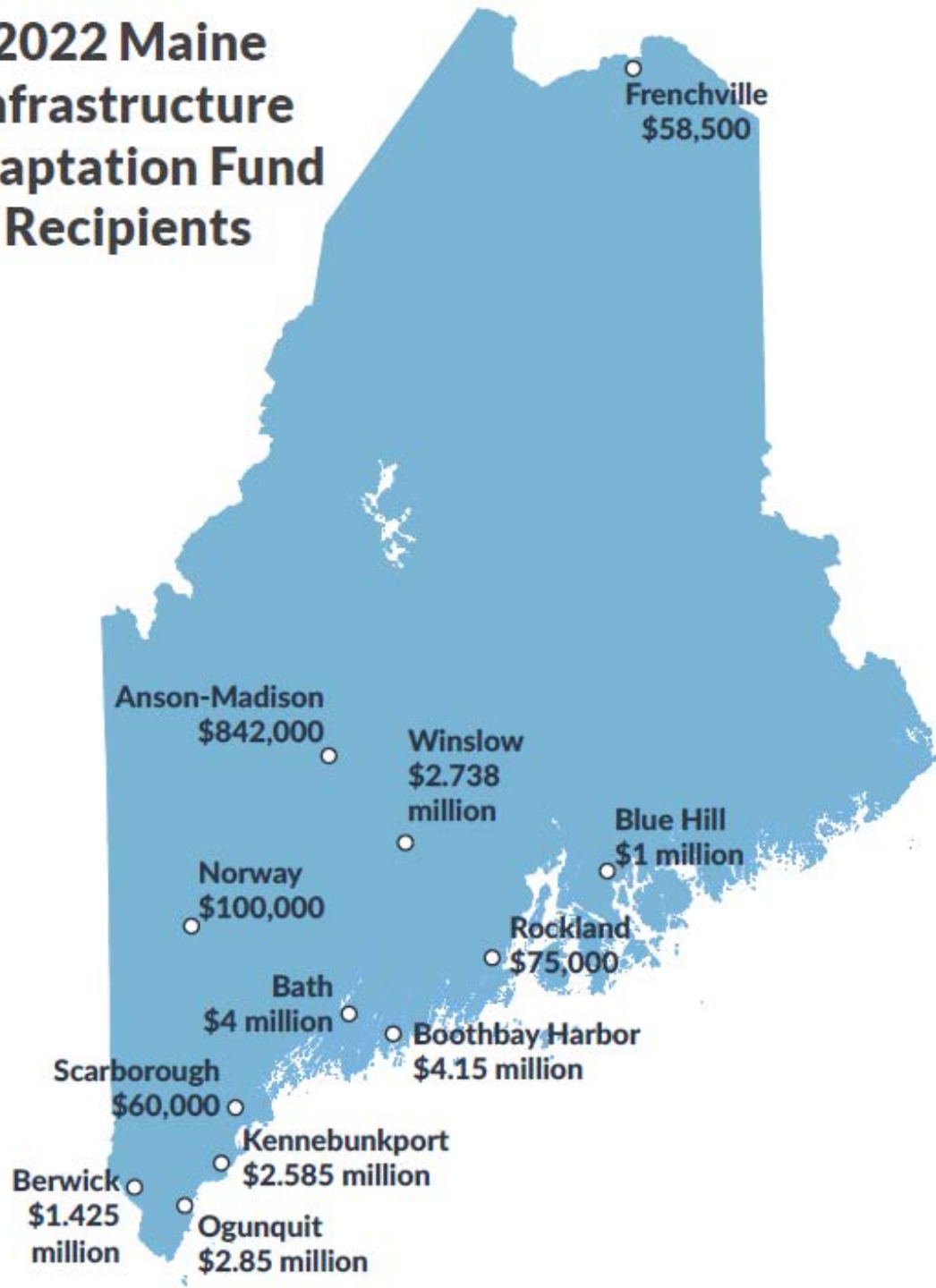
- Grants to regional service providers who recruit groups of two to five communities to join the Partnership, complete the enrollment steps, and apply for Community Action Grants and other funding opportunities to implement community energy and climate priorities.
- Grant applications currently under review.

- **Energy Efficiency Priorities Grant:**

- **\$1 million, one-time grant offering** through the Community Resilience Partnership to distribute federal funds to disadvantaged communities for projects that improve energy efficiency and implement clean energy systems.
- Grant applications currently under review.



2022 Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund Recipients



Investing in Climate Ready Infrastructure through the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund

- In 2022, awarded nearly \$20 million to 12 communities to protect vital infrastructure
- 2023-2024 biennial budget: \$7 million in new funding for culverts, project development, and cost-share grants
- Additional state and federal investments in infrastructure, including wastewater and drinking water programs (approximately \$188 M in total)

Recent Major Federal Funding Laws

2021: American
Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

\$1.9 trillion

~\$1b for the Maine Jobs &
Recovery Plan (MJRP)

**Workforce Development,
Business Supports,
Infrastructure Upgrades**

2021: Bipartisan
Infrastructure Law (BIL)

\$1.2 trillion

~\$2.5b available to ME

**Transportation,
Environment &
Resiliency, Energy,
Broadband**

Many initiatives targeting
community infrastructure

2022: Inflation
Reduction Act (IRA)

\$394
billion

Clean Energy

Much in form of incentives
for individuals and private
firms (tax credits, loans,
grants)

2022: CHIPS &
Science Act (CHIPS)

\$280
billion

**Semiconductors
manufacturing & Science
R&D**

Incentives for semiconductor
manufacturers, plus significant
funding for research and
workforce institutions

Big Investments in Maine's Heritage Industries

- **Maine Seafood Dealer and Processor COVID-19 Response and Resilience Grant Program** Committed nearly \$16 million in federal funds, including \$10 million from the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan (MJRP) to helping seafood dealers and processors recover from the pandemic, administered by Maine Technology Institute (MTI)
- **Seafood Economic Accelerator (SEA Maine)** developing a roadmap to create economic growth and resilience in Maine's seafood economy
- **Forestry Recovery Initiative:** Provided \$20 million in MJRP funding to provide recovery grants to Maine forestry and wood products businesses administered by MTI
- **Agricultural Infrastructure Investment Program:** Provided \$20 million in MJRP funding and administered by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) to support a variety of infrastructure needs, including harvesting, processing, and manufacturing or packaging and handling equipment.
- **Maine Farmer Drought Relief Grant Program** established at the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) to support Maine farmers in identifying and accessing new water sources to overcome the adverse effects of climate change

Federal “Tech Hub” Designation

- Maine’s **“Forest Bioproducts Advanced Manufacturing Tech Hub”** named as one of 31 “Tech Hubs” awarded nationally
- Opens the door for significant Federal investment in Maine’s forest bioproducts sector
- Will help accelerate research and development of wood fiber bioproducts that can sequester carbon and replace plastics and toxic chemicals – from building products to packaging materials



Credit: Tanbark Molded Fiber Products

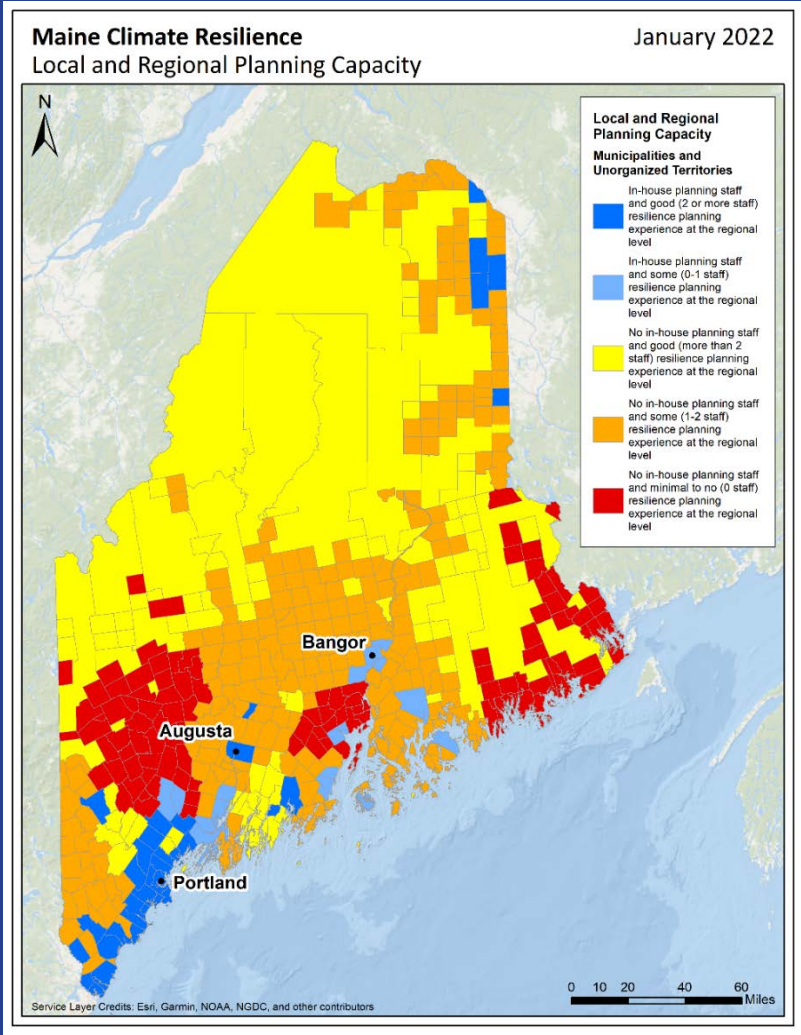
L.D. 1934, Resolve, to Improve the Coordination and Delivery of Planning Grants and Technical Assistance to Communities in Maine

Report to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government and the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs



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Maine communities are facing complex challenges, and many lack local planning and implementation capacity to address them.



To access technical assistance, planning support, and funding opportunities from the state, communities must currently navigate a variety of programs managed across several agencies, such as:

- **Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**
- **Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future**
- **Department of Marine Resources**
- **Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**
- **Department of Community and Economic Development**
- **Office of the State Fire Marshall**



Maine communities feel strongly that reorganizing existing state programs under a new standalone office would more effectively provide the robust planning support, technical assistance, and funding opportunities they need and ensure coordinated and coherent communication.

“Municipal officials spend tremendous amounts of often unpaid time trying to meet the obligations on the ground and would benefit from both a single point source for data but also cross-municipal collaboration between and inside departments at the state level.”

- Maine Municipal Association

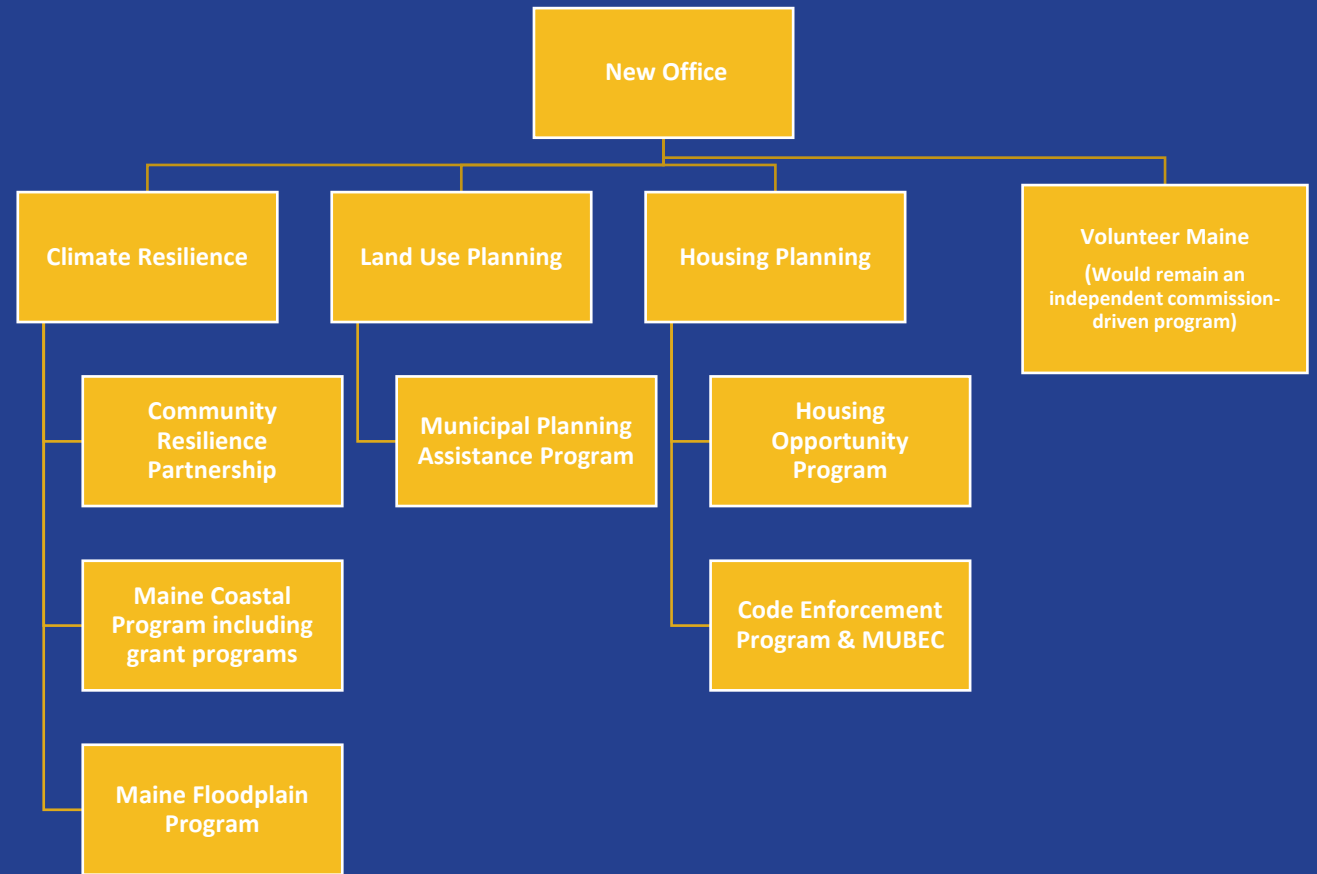




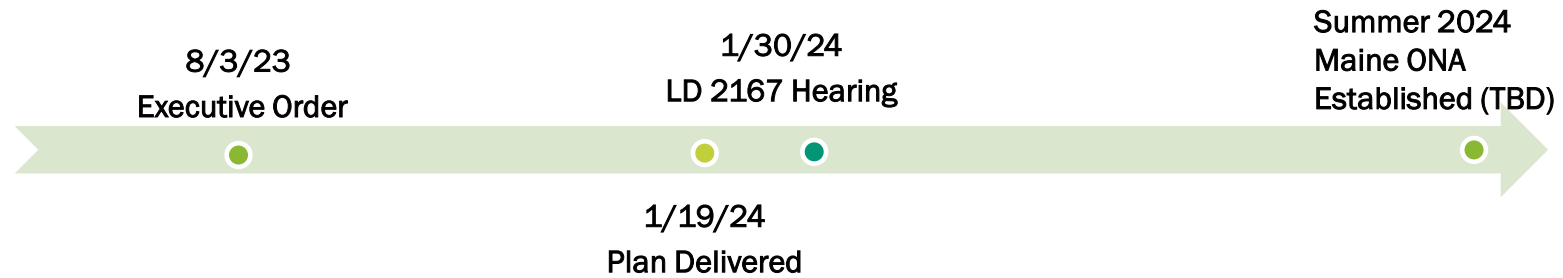
The complexity of housing, land use, climate resiliency and other challenges facing communities demands greater coordination across state agencies to maximize unprecedented federal funding opportunities that now exist.



The proposed office would work in partnership with communities and regional organizations to navigate these complex challenges and pursue comprehensive solutions.



OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS PLANNING PROCESS



STATS:

- 113 meetings
- 890 individuals
- 16 Counties
- Largest: 109
- In-person meetings include
 - Sanford
 - South Portland
 - Portland
 - Westbrook
 - Auburn
 - Augusta
 - Bangor
 - Cherryfield
 - Presque Isle
- Stakeholders asked to weigh in on the **mission**, **structure** and **scope of work** of a Maine ONA

Recommended Priorities for the Maine Office of New Americans:

1. Expanding and strengthening **English language acquisition** opportunities
2. Building **workforce pathways** and **entrepreneurship supports**
3. Resources for **communities** and **employers**
4. Intergovernmental and statewide **coordination**

Maine became the 19th state to join **the Office of New Americans State Network**, a forum for state policy leaders to drive positive change that supports immigrant and refugee integration into the workforce and economy. In 2023, WI, ND, and UT also joined, and PA joined this month, making the network 20 states.

Questions?

