

ENCOURAGE CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION IN MAINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LD 1902 will support equitable access to climate change education by funding professional development for Maine teachers through community partnerships.

Maine students must be prepared to respond to the climate crisis.

- We are experiencing a climate emergency, and many young people feel hopeless as they consider a future increasingly impacted by climate change.
- Youth need to understand climate science so that they are equipped to address the crisis, evaluate solutions, and enhance community resilience.
- Maine's clean energy economy is growing and offers significant job opportunities for young people primed to enter this field.

As a climate action leader, Maine has identified the need for climate education – but teachers need support.

- Maine adopted Next Generation Science Standards in 2019 that include climate education standards, and a Climate Action Plan in 2020 that recommends enhancing climate education opportunities.
- It is a uniquely challenging time to be a teacher. Maine teachers need support to deepen climate education and have identified a lack of professional development as a significant barrier to meeting articulated standards.
- Maine communities that have been historically marginalized are often also overburdened by environmental harms and most in need of professional development support for teachers.
- Federal programs to support climate education are in active development, and Maine must prepare itself to seek and receive those resources.

Climate education will provide Maine students the tools they need to propel Maine to a clean, green future.

- Through this bill, Maine's K-12 teachers can access training and funding to include climate education in their curriculum no matter what subject they teach.
- This bill will also fund partnerships between schools and community organizations to create unique educational opportunities that will excite students to see the world in a different way and empower them to make a difference.
- By supporting climate education community partnerships with under-resourced school districts, Maine schools will be better positioned to bring additional federal funds to where they are needed most.



Image courtesy of The Climate Initiative's Community partner, the Gulf of Maine Field Studies class, a collaboration of KCT, KHS, UNE and GOMI.

Support LD 1902. Fund climate education opportunities for Maine schools, students, and teachers.

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Environmental Priorities Coalition

Maine's **Environmental Priorities Coalition** is a partnership of 37 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations representing over 120,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs, and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to protect Maine's extraordinary environment so all Maine people and Maine communities can thrive.

