



# It's time for a surge in solar power and jobs in Maine

Pass the new comprehensive bill to reduce barriers and lower the cost of solar

***Maine families, businesses, and communities should have every opportunity to generate their own power and increase their energy security with solar***

## **Solar power offers tremendous benefits, but Maine is missing out**

- Solar power is undergoing an astonishing revolution around the country as prices keep dropping and the amount of solar being built keeps increasing.
- Maine is the only state in New England without a comprehensive solar policy. As a result, we lag far behind on the amount of solar being installed and the number of solar jobs being created.
- Distributed solar power reduces costs for our electric grid and lowers energy bills for all ratepayers.



## **This bill would dramatically expand solar power and solar jobs in Maine**

- Ensures a huge ramp-up of solar installations – from rooftops to solar farms
- Increases the amount of solar power installed in Maine ten-fold over five years: from less than 20 MW today to more than 270 MW by 2022. The new solar program would generate enough to power to supply more than 40,000 homes.
- Accelerates rooftop solar for Maine homes and small businesses while opening up new opportunities for larger-scale solar for businesses, communities, colleges, and even grid-scale.
- Creates at least 800 new jobs, tripling Maine's solar workforce with good-paying jobs across the state
- Provides a huge boost for community solar farms by eliminating current barriers that inhibit community solar projects in Maine - hundreds of people could participate in a single community solar project.
- Reduces electricity rates for everyone in Maine by creating a way to capture, account for, and monetize the many benefits of solar power.

## **Offers a win-win solution in the Maine tradition**

- This bill is the result of six months of intense work by a diverse group of stakeholders, who came together to try and solve the problem of how to advance solar power in a way that works for all.
- This bipartisan bill is strongly supported by Maine solar installers, environmental groups, community leaders, and utilities. It has the strong backing of Maine's Public Advocate because it is designed to ensure a net reduction in electricity rates.
- It balances innovation with continuity, building on what is working and adapting and expanding it so that more Maine people can go solar and all Maine ratepayers can benefit from that growth. The bill allows existing net-metering customers to continue to use net-metering, has multiple built-in adjustment mechanisms, and will require enactment of major substantive rules before key aspects move forward.

## **Support LD 1649 *An Act To Modernize Maine's Solar Power Policy and Encourage Economic Development***

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## Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 31 environmental, conservation and public health organizations representing over 100,000 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 make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine communities can thrive***

Acadia Center	Maine Lakes Society
Appalachian Mountain Club	Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Atlantic Salmon Federation	Maine People's Alliance
Bicycle Coalition of Maine	Maine Rivers
Conservation Law Foundation	Maine Wilderness Guides Organization
Environmental Health Strategy Center	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Environment Maine	Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter
Friends of Casco Bay	RESTORE: The North Woods
Islesboro Island Trust	Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions	The Ocean Conservancy
Maine Audubon	The Trust for Public Land
Maine Center for Economic Policy	The Wilderness Society
Maine Conservation Alliance	Toxics Action Center
Maine Council of Churches	Upstream
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited	350 Maine
Maine Interfaith Power & Light	