

# LD 1730: EXPAND ACCESS TO CLEAN, AFFORDABLE SOLAR ENERGY

Support access to affordable, clean energy solutions to relieve Maine households from soaring electricity costs.

## Electricity prices are soaring for families and individuals across our state.



- Maine households saw a 36.3% electricity price increase between May 2024–May 2025. Our state's households face some of the highest electricity rates in New England.
- Rising costs hit low- and moderate-income families, renters, and seniors hardest. Low-income families in Maine spend twice the recommended share of income on electricity.
- Solar energy is a cost-effective, clean energy source that can reduce households' energy burden, but rooftop arrays are not always a viable option for renters, apartments, or some older homes.

## Federal support for clean energy has dried up, leaving rooftop solar out of reach for too many Mainers.

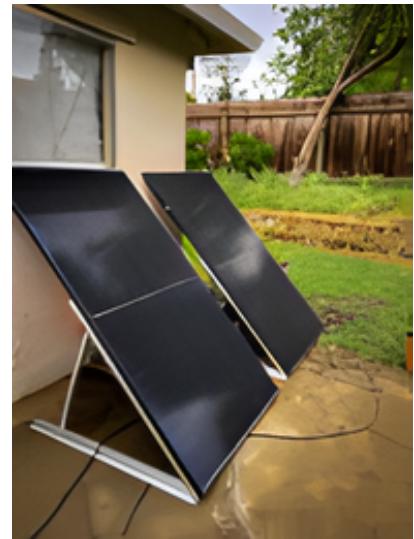
- Federal programs and tax credits supporting the expansion and adoption of rooftop solar have been eliminated, putting rooftop solar out of reach for more families, small businesses, and individuals.
- Mainers need immediate relief from skyrocketing electricity costs, with access to affordable clean energy solutions.



Plug-in solar array (Bright Saver)

## Plug-in solar is the affordable, clean energy source Maine needs to expand clean energy access, lower electricity bills, and strengthen communities' climate resilience.

- LD 1730 updates Maine's rules to allow residents to use small, portable plug-in solar devices without the burdensome interconnection requirements designed for large rooftop arrays.
- This reform makes clean energy ownership accessible to renters, low-income households, and families whose homes aren't suitable for traditional solar, helping them lower electricity bills at a time of steep utility price increases.
- These systems are even portable, meaning if a resident moves they can unplug their system and take it with them to a new residence, keeping their investment and continuing to save money.
- By enacting LD 1730, Maine has a chance to lead in energy equity and resilience without subsidies, without fiscal impact, and with enormous public benefit.



Plug-in solar array (Bright Saver)

**Expand access to solar energy. Lower prices and fight climate change.**

For more information, please contact:

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# Environmental Priorities Coalition

Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition is an inclusive statewide alliance of 40 conservation, climate action, and public health organizations. Each year we collectively identify a slate of policy priorities to act on the climate crisis, further environmental justice, protect land, water, and wildlife, and cultivate healthy Maine communities.



Acadia  
Center



BICYCLE  
COALITION  
OF MAINE



Conservation  
Law Foundation



Gateway Community Services Maine

MAINE  
AUDUBON



Maine Medical  
Association



Maine Public Health Association



MAINE  
Unitarian Universalist  
State Advocacy Network



MIDCOAST  
CONSERVANCY



SIERRA CLUB  
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Union of  
Concerned Scientists  
Science for a healthy planet and safer world