



**Environmental
Priorities
Coalition**

2026

ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition (EPC) is an inclusive statewide alliance of 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.



Make Climate Polluters Pay for Climate Damages

The climate change-driven winter storms of 2023-2024 caused \$90 million in damage to public infrastructure and untold more to private property, while oil companies made near-record profits. The largest fossil fuel corporations have contributed significantly to our changing climate and should pay their fair share to fix the damage.



Protect Mainers and Lower Skyrocketing Utility Costs

Extreme weather, the soaring price of natural gas, and current utility policies have made electricity unaffordable for too many Mainers. Maine can take big steps toward affordable and accessible electricity by preventing utilities from passing on unnecessary costs to ratepayers and eliminating unfair shutoff rules.



Recognize Wabanaki Self-Determination

Self-determination is the right of indigenous nations to govern themselves and regulate affairs on tribal land. The Wabanaki Nations have a more restrictive status than all other federally-recognized tribes in the US, which research shows has resulted in lagging economic growth for Wabanaki Nations and for surrounding rural Maine communities.



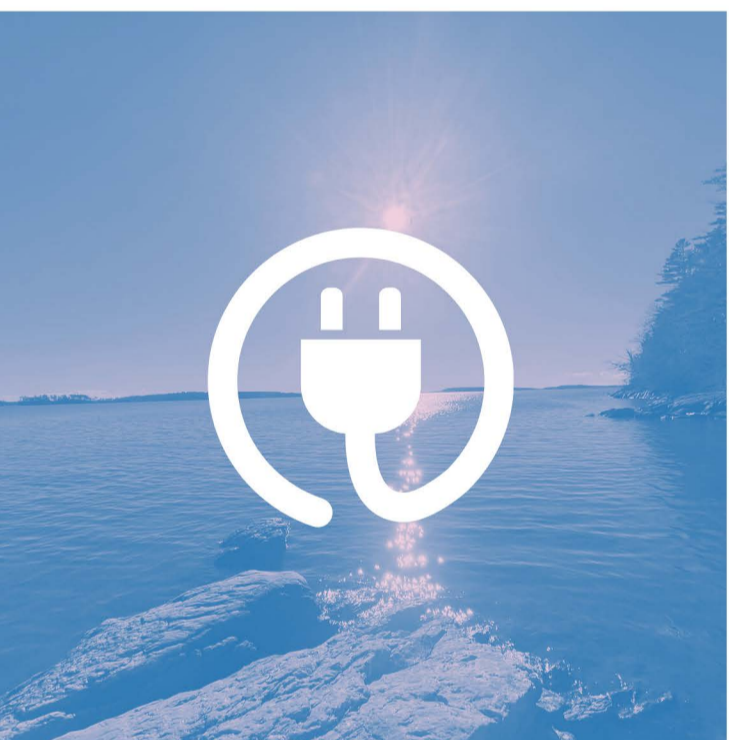
Fund Land for Maine's Future

Land conservation is the most basic step we can take to fight climate change and over nearly four decades, the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program has delivered benefits across all 16 Maine counties. LMF has committed nearly all its funding yet the need remains. Every dollar spent by the popular, effective LMF program must be matched, doubling its impact.



Protect Waterways in Maine by Addressing Stormwater Pollution

Stormwater carries a toxic slurry of pollution into waterways, making them unhealthy for fishing, recreation, and aquatic life. This bill will create a Stormwater Study Commission to build on existing assessments of stormwater pollution, evaluate current laws, and recommend new strategies to prevent and treat stormwater pollution.



Expand Access to Clean, Affordable Solar Energy

This bill updates Maine laws to allow residents to use small, portable plug-in solar devices, making clean energy ownership accessible to renters, low-income households, and families whose homes aren't suitable for traditional solar. This would help them lower electricity bills and reduce demand on the grid at a time of steep utility price increases.



Provide Critical Funding for the Lakes and Farmland of Maine

Maine's lakes and farms are vital to our economy and heritage, but the health of both are under threat from pollution, climate change, and development pressure. This bill would dedicate public funds from unclaimed bottle deposits to lake and farmland conservation programs that would protect water quality, farms, and wildlife.