

Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition and legislators worked hard during 2008 to keep the environment front and center. Here are some highlights of the 2008 legislative session:

Toxic Chemicals

Protecting Children from Exposure to Toxins

LD 2048: An Act to Protect Children's Health and the Environment from Toxic Chemicals in Toys and Children's' Products. This bill will require manufacturers to disclose the use of priority chemicals in kid's products and to authorize Maine to require safer alternatives, if available, effective and affordable.

STATUS: Enacted in House, pending final enactment in Senate.



Keeping Lead out of Toys

LD 2053: An Act To Ensure That Children's Toys and Products Are Free of Lead. With the approval of this bill, Maine became the fourth state in the country to ban lead in kid's products.

STATUS: Enacted in both bodies.

Energy Efficiency, Climate Change & Renewables

Establishing a Single, Uniform Building and Energy Code for Maine

LD 2257: An Act to Establish the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. This bill saves Maine families money and protects health and the environment by setting cost effective standards for our homes.

STATUS: Enacted in House, pending final action in Senate.



Placing Limits on Carbon Dioxide Pollution from Coal Gasification

LD 2126: An Act To Minimize Carbon Dioxide Emissions from New Coal-powered Industrial and Electrical Generating Facilities in the State. This law puts an end to Twin River Energy Centers' plans to build a gasification plant in Wiscasset and gives the Department of Environmental Protection three years to develop standards governing the emission and capture of carbon dioxide pollution – a major contributor to global warming.

STATUS: Enacted in both bodies and signed by Governor Baldacci.



Wind Power

LD 2283: An Act To Implement Recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Wind Power Development. This bill improves the permitting process for wind power projects, establishes expedited permitting areas, and requires projects to provide benefits to Maine people.

STATUS: Enacted in both bodies.

Restoring Native Fish Habitat

Alewife Passage in the St. Croix River

LD 1957: An Act To Restore Diadromous Fish in the St. Croix River. This amended bill will result in the opening up of one dam to alewives on the St. Croix, but not the more important Grand Falls Dam. We are disappointed in this outcome.

STATUS: Enacted in both bodies and signed by Governor Baldacci.



Combating Sprawl

Revitalizing Downtowns

LD 262: Act To Amend the Credit for Rehabilitation of Historic Properties. This bill creates a tax credit to aid downtown revitalization by adapting and reusing historic buildings as an alternative to new construction on farmland, forests and other open space.

STATUS: Included in 2008 supplemental budget and engrossed by the House.

