



Build Maine's solar economy & improve energy security

Reduce barriers and spur investment in solar power

Maine people and businesses deserve the energy choice, independence, and economic boost that comes from greater access to generating their own power with solar

Maine is falling behind on solar, losing opportunities for job creation and energy security

- Prices for solar panels have fallen 50% in the last five years. It's now economical for homes and businesses to produce their own power and increase energy security.
- Despite this good news, Maine is falling far behind the region and the U.S. on solar installations and job creation.
- Without greater energy diversity and more choices, Maine homeowners and businesses face volatile and rising prices.
- Unnecessary restrictions and other barriers limit access to solar for Mainers.
- The price of solar is increasingly competitive; however all of the cost needs to be paid up-front.



Solar offers Maine homeowners and businesses an affordable way to generate their own power

- Maine has an excellent solar resource—better than the global leader in solar, Germany—and it offers a way for Mainers to take control of their own energy costs.
- In states that are encouraging solar and reducing barriers, the vast majority of solar is installed in middle-class neighborhoods.
- Unlike oil or natural gas, solar has no fuel costs that fluctuate beyond our control.
- Solar offers many benefits to Maine, including: stabilizing energy costs; employing Maine workers with good-paying jobs; and reducing pollution that threatens our climate and oceans.

To better capture the opportunity of solar, Maine needs to reduce its financial and regulatory barriers to solar

- The Solar Power for Maine Bill makes solar power more accessible for Maine people, businesses, and communities by reducing the current barriers, including the arbitrary limit on the number of people who can co-own a solar project.
- The Solar Power for Maine Bill spurs the market for solar by helping to lower upfront costs so the state can catch up on solar installations and job creation. It emphasizes rooftop solar, community/shared solar, and other opportunities for solar, such as at landfills or farms.
- The Solar Power for Maine Bill puts the state on the path for steady growth in solar. It builds on existing, successful Maine policies like net-metering and the Renewable Portfolio Standard and recognizes the full value Maine receives from solar energy.

Pass the Solar Power for Maine Bill

An Act to Create Jobs and Promote Investment in Maine's Economy through Increased Access to Solar Energy
Sponsored by Representative Sara Gideon

For more information, please contact Dylan Voorhees, (207) 430-0112 or dylan@nrcm.org



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's economy 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	