



Increase Maine's Energy Independence with Clean, Renewable Solar Power

Maine should take charge of our electricity by better helping homeowners and businesses develop their own clean, local solar power.

Maine people deserve access to an affordable way to generate their own power

- Prices for solar panels have fallen 75% in the last five years, making it a great option for producing electricity in Maine.
- States and nations with *less* sun than Maine are building huge amounts of rooftop solar. But our state has no vision or plan for how to make solar accessible to more Mainers.
- Solar power can be generated in every Maine town, urban or rural. It's *free* to produce but requires an up-front investment to install.
- Corporate utility monopolies are lobbying to limit solar power for Maine homes and businesses. They want to reduce how much Maine people get paid for the solar electricity they produce, and oppose policies to make solar more accessible to more Mainers. Mainers need to take charge of our own electricity.



Photo courtesy of Insource Renewables, Pittsfield, ME

Solar power is a renewable source of clean, pollution-free energy that Maine should invest in for clean air and a healthy environment

- Maine people support renewable energy because it reduces pollution and protects the environment.
- Power plants are a leading source of climate-changing pollution. It is important that we increase cleaner energy since climate change threatens Maine's economy and way of life in countless ways.
- Solar panels provide extra value because they produce clean power when we need it the most—on hot summer days when power from the electric grid is the most expensive and most polluting.

Maine is falling behind other states in solar energy, solar jobs, and cutting energy costs

- This bill establishes a vision and goals for investing in solar power, and asks agencies to focus more on supporting solar power development.
- All other New England states are doing more to help people develop and benefit from solar power, and they are creating a significant number of solar industry jobs. Massachusetts has six times more solar jobs *per capita* than Maine.
- Maine continues to send billions of dollars every year out-of- state to buy imported fossil fuels. The path to less dollar drain and more energy independence is more homegrown renewable energy.
- Distributed rooftop solar power is increasingly seen as a way to limit expensive transmission and distribution costs, which are driving up electric rates for Mainers.

**The Legislature should pass Sen. Eloise Vitelli's bill:
*LD 1652, An Act to Support Solar Energy Development in Maine***

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



Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 28 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.

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| 350 Maine | 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 |
| ENE (Environment Northeast) | Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter |
| Environment Maine | Product Policy Institute of Maine |
| Friends of Casco Bay | RESTORE: The North Woods |
| Maine Audubon | Sierra Club, Maine Chapter |
| Maine Center for Economic Policy | The Ocean Conservancy |
| Maine Conservation Alliance | The Wilderness Society |
| Maine Council of Churches | Toxics Action Center |
| Maine Council of Trout Unlimited | |
| Maine Interfaith Power & Light | |