

**We Can Get There from Here:
Climate and Energy Planning Will Help Maine's People and Wildlife Thrive**

What can happen if Maine starts addressing energy use and climate change in planning statewide? We can build cleaner buildings and cities, protect important wildlife habitat, and improve public transportation options.

But that's not where Maine's going now: Climate change and energy costs are two of the greatest challenges confronting our state, yet Maine does not require considering them in state permitting or land-use planning. With every new project we risk locking in high energy costs and pollution for decades to come.



Bill (LD 1333) (HP 937)

The proposed “Maine Climate and Energy Planning Act” would ensure that new public and private development is as clean and energy-efficient as possible. With this tool Maine can meet its goal to substantially reduce, by the year 2050, the use of fossil fuels that contribute to global warming.

What we build today will determine our fate tomorrow. Maine must plan ahead, now.

- New buildings will last 50 years or more. What, where, and how Maine builds over the next 10 years will determine how much energy we're using and pollution we're creating at mid-century—.
- To do so, we'll need to modernize the state's public infrastructure, develop more efficient buildings, design new public transportation systems, and more.
- Infrastructure that is built to last many decades must take into account a changing climate.
- Climate and energy planning now will make that possible.

Climate and energy planning is cost-saving for Maine taxpayers.

- When growth is badly planned and sprawling, people drive (and pollute) more, and costs increase for schools, local governments, and fire and ambulance districts.
- Smart planning will help Maine get these costs back under control.
- It also will reduce the economic impacts of Maine's reliance on imported fuels.
- It will avoid expensive retrofits and renovations necessary due to changing sea level, stream flow and storm frequency.

We need this for Main Street—and where there are no streets.

- With the impacts of climate change bearing down on Maine's wildlife, it's essential to direct Maine's growth in ways that protect large areas of habitat and allow streams to flow naturally so that fish and other wildlife flourish.

The Climate and Energy Planning Act will give state decision-makers tools they need—tools they need now, but don't have.

They'll be able to:

- Consider reasonably foreseeable, long-term climate-change impacts in planning, activities, and project development;
- Develop rules to oversee climate review for activities requiring a license or permit;
- Integrate bicycle and pedestrian pathways into state and local transportation projects;
- Review the impacts of development in territories under the jurisdiction of Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) including impacts to climate change and traffic increase impacts on private roads;
- Incorporate climate change effects into local and regional planning rules.
- Encourage growth in development districts and reduce growth in protection and management districts under LURC jurisdiction; and
- Maintain and repair roads and stream crossings in ways that allow streams to flow naturally and animals to retain access to large blocks of connected habitat.



Utilizing an established list of greenhouse gas reduction measures the act will grant permitting waivers for projects integrating climate and energy planning from the outset. This will reduce paperwork, reward smart development, and achieve solutions faster.

Sponsor: Speaker PINGREE of North Haven

Cosponsor: Senator DAMON of Hancock
Rep. DUCHESNE of Hudson
Rep. EBERLE of S. Portland
Senator GOODALL of Sagadahoc
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