

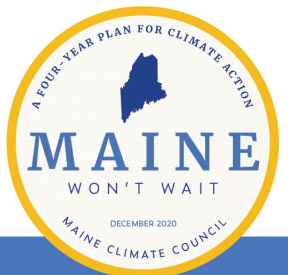


Climate Equity in Maine
Northeast Regional Ocean Council
October 28, 2021

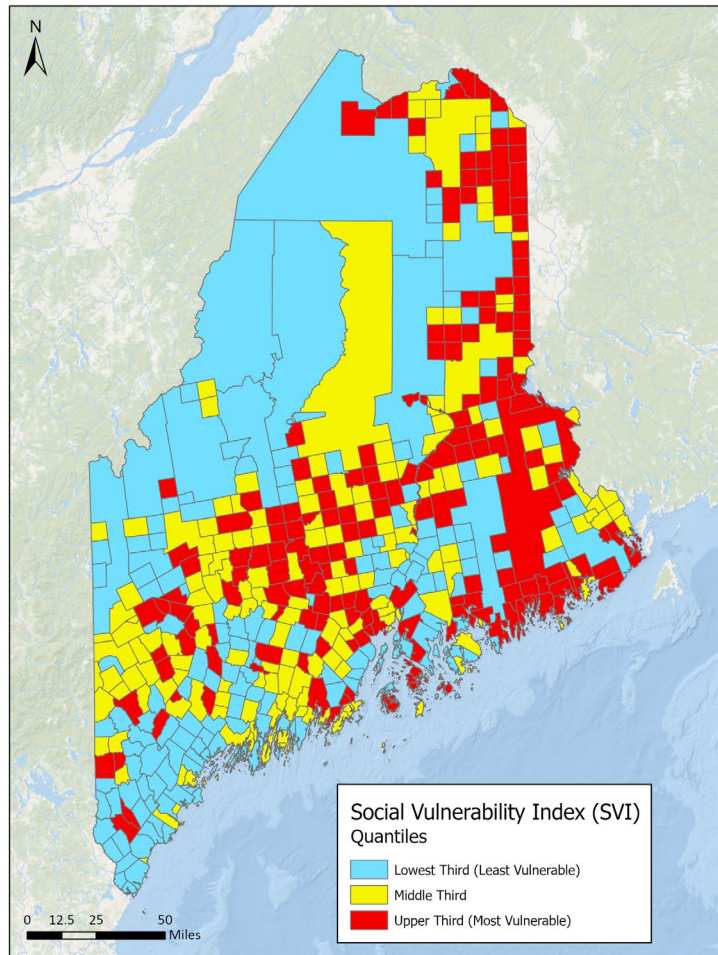
Jessica Scott
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Policy Innovation and the
Future

Outline

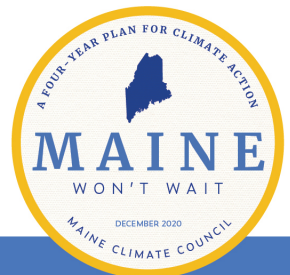
- Defining equity & vulnerable communities
- Maine Climate Council and the Equity Subcommittee
- Equity Framework
- Moving Forward
- Open Discussion/Questions



Climate Vulnerability



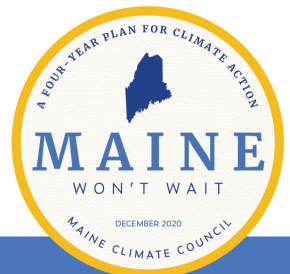
Historical and systemic discrimination, underrepresentation, and isolation have made some residents of Maine more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than others.



Frontline Communities



Low-income populations, people of color and indigenous communities, rural and geographically isolated communities, and other marginalized Mainers face the “first and worst” impacts from climate change and may be least able to adapt.



Equitable and Just Action

Equality



The assumption is that **everyone benefits from the same supports**. This is equal treatment.

Equity



Everyone gets the supports they need (this is the concept of "affirmative action"), thus producing equity.

Justice



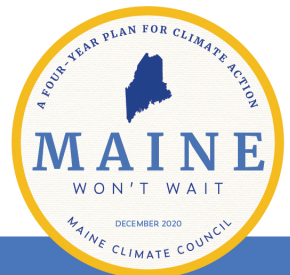
All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodations because **the cause(s) of the inequity was addressed**. The systemic barrier has been removed.

Equitable and just climate action seeks to provide increased resources to communities that experience marginalization and other socio-economic disadvantages and bear disproportionate impact of climate change, increasing wellbeing for all, addressing root causes of inequality, and ensuring that climate action benefits all Maine people.



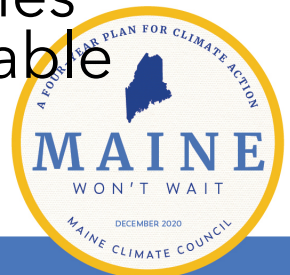
Climate Equity in Maine

- Equal distribution of resources is not enough
- An equitable system seeks to provide increased resources to marginalized and disadvantaged communities
- The risks and effects of climate change disproportionately fall upon people of color and low-income populations
- Policies should not exacerbate existing burdens
- Policies should increase wellbeing and address root causes of inequality






Components of Equity

- **DISTRIBUTIVE EQUITY** strategies target resources to adaption and mitigation affecting the most vulnerable communities and populations.
- **PROCEDURAL EQUITY** (*aka* equitable planning), focuses on the local level and ensures that local communities have the opportunity to provide input on policies that directly affect them. Equitable planning and implementation require that communities have a meaningful opportunity to participate.
- **CONTEXTUAL EQUITY** ensures that the development of mitigation and adaption strategies at statewide and local levels take existing disparities into account.
- **CORRECTIVE EQUITY** ensures that mitigation and adaption strategies provide communities with clear processes to hold the state accountable to its commitments to pursue equity.



The Maine Climate Council

- 39-member assembly of scientists, industry leaders, bipartisan local and state officials, responsible (by law!) for developing a Climate Action Plan for Maine every 4 years
 - Nearly 300 volunteers between 8 working groups & subcommittees supporting the MCC
- The plan recommends ways to:
 -  Reduce Maine's greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs)
 -  Help Mainers and ME environments adapt and be more resilient to climate change's impacts
 -  Advance equity through climate action
 - Support economic opportunity and prosperity



Maine Won't Wait , the State Climate Action Plan



Embrace the Future of Transportation in Maine



Build Healthy and Resilient Communities



Reduce Carbon Emissions the Energy and Industrial Sectors through Clean Energy Innovation



Modernize Maine's Buildings



Protect Maine's Environment and Working Lands and Waters, Increase Carbon Sequestration



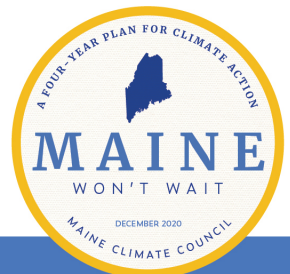
Engage People and Communities in Climate Impacts and Program Opportunities



Grow Maine's Clean Energy Economy and Good Jobs



Invest in Climate-Ready Infrastructure



Maine Climate Council Equity Subcommittee



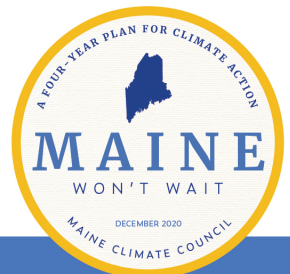
Setting equity outcomes for climate strategies



Making recommendations to the council to ensure that climate programs and benefits reach all Maine people

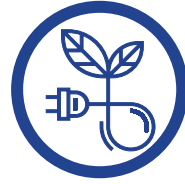


Monitoring progress



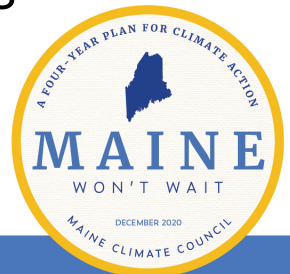
Draft Equity Recommendations

- 10 meetings since February 2021
- Recommendations for each climate plan strategy
- Refined in conversation with the public



Equity Inventory Framework (1)

1. Who are the most marginalized populations affected by this issue? Does the recommendation adequately serve these populations?
2. Does the program, practice, or policy ensure both short- and long-term equitable outcomes?
3. Is there adequate access to data from across State of Maine departments and partner organizations statewide to understand the issue, the populations affected by it and potential ways to address it?
4. Has public health been fully considered and factored into recommendations?
5. What are the implications of this recommendation on Maine's emissions accounting?



Equity Inventory Framework (2)

6. Are there barriers to access, participation, or decision making that have not been accounted for?"
7. What cultural or mindset considerations are essential to the success of this recommendation?
8. Is there a way to address historical inequities in this recommendation and if so, how?
9. If this action is taken, are the impacts to people outside of Maine understood and adequately factored into the recommendations



Clean Transportation Equity Recommendations

The state should develop programs which address the following:

1. Low-income Mainers require additional grants, rebates, or loans to be able to buy a new electric car.
2. Renters should be able to buy an electric vehicle, but currently they have no place to charge their vehicle overnight.
3. My school district should purchase cleaner school buses, and needs additional funding and support to do this.
4. The state should invest in better public transportation and safer places to bike, which is especially important for Mainers who don't own a car.



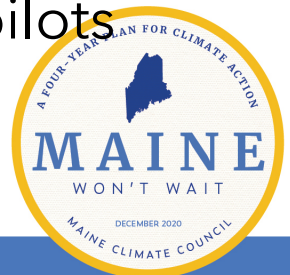
General Equity Recommendations

1. The climate plan needs to work for all Mainers, including low-income Mainers. Cost should not be a barrier to taking action on climate change.
2. When the state makes decisions about climate change, my voice should matter. I would like to be able to participate in the process.
3. My neighbors may have many other household concerns that are more important to them than climate change.
4. It is important to simplify applications for climate change or energy efficiency programs/funding, and to make them accessible in languages other than English.



What's next?

- **Equity Subcommittee:** develop equity metrics to track implementation (2022)
- **LD 1682 (Maine):** directs the state to apply equity in agency decision making through the adoption of a definition of environmental justice (EJ), environmental justice populations, and frontline communities, and to apply those definitions to agency decision making (Feb 2022)
- **Justice40 (Federal):** directs Federal agencies to work with states and local communities to deliver at least 40 percent of the overall benefits from Federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities (pilots underway)





Thank You!

<https://www.maine.gov/future/initiatives/climate/climate-council/equity-subcommittee>