



Portland Can Benefit From More Clean Energy

Across Maine, clean energy is booming – reducing pollution, cleaning our air, creating jobs and saving money. Contributing to the boom is the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative – America’s best regional clean air and climate program – which is limiting pollution and generating funding for clean energy programs.

But we can do much more. We have the tools to power our society entirely with clean energy sources like the wind and the sun, while also using energy more efficiently. Clean energy can help protect Portland from the worst impacts of global warming, such as sea-level rise, and build a healthier and more prosperous future.

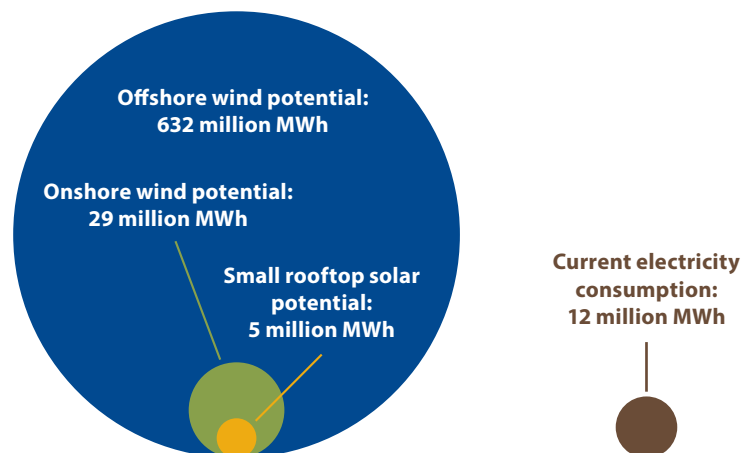
To accelerate our progress, Maine and other New England states should double the strength of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to help create an even stronger market for clean energy.

Here’s how more clean energy can benefit Portland – and Maine:

Maine Has Immense Renewable Energy Potential

Maine could generate 55 times more electricity with solar and wind power than it uses in the course of a year. Tapping even a fraction of that potential could enable Maine to power itself entirely with clean energy.

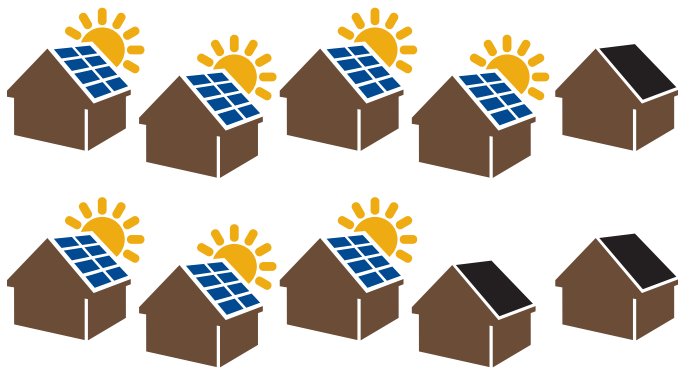
Comparison of Renewable Energy Technical Potential and Current Consumption in New England



Portland Can Benefit From More Clean Energy

Clean Energy Can Replace Dirty Fuels

Maine has the potential to generate **140 times more electricity from wind and solar than is currently produced by polluting fuels**, like gas, in the state.



Portland's Rooftops Can Generate Clean Electricity Locally

More than **7 out of 10 small buildings in Portland have the potential to host rooftop solar panels** - providing reliable electricity for residents and reducing dependence on fossil fuels, according to data from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Maine Has Tremendous, Untapped Wind Energy Potential

Maine has the potential to produce enough power with onshore and offshore wind turbines to **power all of the homes in Maine more than 100 times over**.



Offshore wind, pictured here in Denmark, is currently undeveloped in Maine.

Portland Can Benefit From More Clean Energy

Energy Efficiency Is Saving Money and Cutting Pollution

Energy efficiency programs implemented in 2015 in Maine saved enough energy to power nearly all of the homes in Portland.



Clean Energy Creates Jobs

Ocean and wind power in Maine employ more than 3,600 workers in the state.

Renewable Energy is Good Business

Businesses and organizations in Portland and across Maine benefit from a **growing clean energy economy**. For example, Oxford Networks, an information technology company, added advanced efficiency technology to its data center in Maine, partially cooling the center with Maine's brisk outdoor air. The project was made possible by the state's energy efficiency utility, Efficiency Maine, with partial funding from the state's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. The project reduced Oxford Networks' energy costs by as much as \$5,000 per year.



Portland Can Benefit From More Clean Energy

Stronger Action Will Make Us Healthier

Clean air means better health. In its first six years, the **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative** saved **10 lives in Maine** and prevented 770 missed work days due to respiratory illness, according to Abt Associates. Cutting pollution faster would save even more lives and improve public health in Maine.



Stronger Action Will Boost Our Economy

Between 2009 and 2014, the **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative** boosted Maine's economy by **\$218 million**, according to reports by Analysis Group. Doubling the strength of the program as part of a larger climate change program could reduce energy bills in the nine participating states by \$25 billion and create nearly 60,000 new jobs, according to a report by the Sierra Club.



Maine Should Take the Lead

Maine has set strong goals on clean energy and fighting climate change - now it's time to achieve them. **Governor LePage should double the pace at which Maine is cutting pollution and investing in clean energy.** In 2017, the state should strengthen the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to cut carbon pollution by 5 percent per year - and persuade neighboring states to do the same.



For more information and citations, please visit www.EnvironmentMaine.org/RGGIPortland

Photo credits: Page 1—Flickr user Corey Templeton; Page 2—European Wind Energy Association; Page 3 (from top)—CC-BY-2.0/Mike Mozart via Flickr, DeepCwind via Flickr, Wikimedia user Pbadeau; Page 4 (from top)—CC-BY-2.0/Alan Levine via Flickr, iStock.com, Andrew Lachance via Flickr.