



# Fall Report

## Defending the Clean Power Plan

### Your support builds energy for climate action

This summer, the Environmental Protection Agency finalized its historic plan to limit carbon pollution from dirty power plants, America's largest source of global warming pollution—but fossil fuel interests and their allies in Congress are doing all they can to block the measure before it's implemented.

Environment Maine and our allies continue to work hard at convincing Maine's congressional delegation to stand up against attacks on the Clean Power Plan, while urging our leaders to create strong plans to implement the Clean Power Plan here in Maine.

### Giving life to climate change facts

The strength of Maine's economy and livelihoods depends on our natural resources. And our natural resource-based industries—lobstering and fishing, farming, and tourism—are especially vulnerable to the impacts of global warming. This summer, Environment Maine launched our intergenerational storytelling project to bring the impacts of climate change “close to home” and demonstrate widespread support for implementing the Clean Power Plan in Maine.

Our project is focused on youth collecting stories from elders in their community about the changes they've seen in Maine's environment over the decades, the traditions they want to pass along to future generations, and their hopes for the future. We've been so inspired by the hundreds of conversations we've held. Stories move people, and these stories have staying power.



Credit: Staff

▲ Activists joined Environment Maine and our allies at Sandy Beach in Rockland for a Clean Power Plan Day of Action in July.

### Maine can lead by example

Maine is well-positioned for the final Clean Power Plan, largely because of our participation over the last decade in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the first cap-and-trade program in the country. Maine is also rich in renewable energy resources.

Maine has an opportunity to lead by example in a speedy shift to renewable energy. And the United States has an opportunity as well: The Clean Power Plan will help set the stage for an international agreement to tackle global warming in Paris, where world leaders will convene to address this global threat in December.



Credit: Staff

### take action

Learn more about our work on global warming and take action to support the Clean Power Plan online at: [www.EnvironmentMaine.org](http://www.EnvironmentMaine.org).

◀ Mainers voice their support for climate action



Credit: Staff

## To our members

This time last year, Environment Maine staff and volunteers were out knocking on thousands and thousands of doors across the state, holding conversations with voters about electing candidates who would stand up for Maine's environment.

This fall has involved less door-knocking, but we're just as resolved to work hard at defending our environment. And we're making progress from the announcement of EPA's Clean Water Rule and Clean Power Plan, enormous steps forward for clean water and our climate, to the tremendous momentum we're building for local food and community-based solar power. It's not easy, and it's only possible with you, our members, standing up for our environment.

Thank you for all you do—from talking with your neighbors, to coming to meetings, to making the phone call before a critical vote. You are the reason we're making progress.

Taryn Hallweaver  
State Director

## Recent action

### Mainers oppose offshore drilling

The Gulf of Maine is a natural treasure, and supports Maine's critical fishing, lobstering, and tourism industries. It is far too precious to put at risk from offshore drilling. Yet, last winter, Gov. Paul LePage joined a coalition of governors supporting offshore drilling and exploration for oil and gas.

Although thankfully the geography of the Gulf of Maine isn't very suitable for drilling, proposals to drill further south in the Atlantic Ocean would put the area at risk, as ocean currents can carry spilled oil northward.

This past summer, Environment Maine was thrilled to stand together with Surfrider Foundation, Sierra Club and 350.org Maine for our "Hands Across the Sand" rally at Higgins Beach to oppose Gov. LePage's move. This fall, we'll continue to call out Gov. LePage's support for offshore drilling, and work to demonstrate public support for protecting our coastline from the risks associated with drilling for oil and gas.

### Momentum builds for solar in Maine

More and more Mainers are going solar, meeting their energy needs with clean, local and independent energy. Yet, Maine remains the only New England state that lacks a clear policy promoting solar development.

Like the rest of the country, momentum is building on a local level in Maine for solar, with homeowners and communities increasingly seeking out solar power as an energy source. Community solar projects are moving forward in towns like Freeport and Bar Harbor, and South Portland and Portland are not far behind. And, a proposal in Winslow will pave the way for a solar farm 20 times larger than the biggest one in the state.

Now, it's time for the state of Maine to follow these towns' example. As important federal tax credits are set to expire at the end of this calendar year, state-level policy will become even more important. In the coming year, we'll be advocating for policies that make solar more accessible and affordable to homeowners, businesses and municipalities.



Credit: Amanda Shattuck

## Toward a greener future

Environment Maine and Environment Maine Research & Policy Center gratefully accept bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work to build a cleaner, greener, healthier future.

For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 x312 or send an email to: [PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMaine.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMaine.org).



Credit: Elena Elisseeva/Shutterstock

# Expanding access to fresh, local food in Maine

Farms in Maine, particularly organic farms and farms run by young farmers, have taken off in the last 10 years. We've seen incredible growth in farmers markets, farm stands, and direct farm-to-consumer sales like Community Supported Agriculture. Those markets are becoming saturated, however, and there's a big need to expand access to fresh, local food for many more Mainers.

Environment Maine is working to do just that. One of the best ways to expand the market for local agriculture is by helping large institutions, like colleges and hospitals, to understand the value in supporting Maine farmers—and convincing them to shift their purchasing policies accordingly.

## Maine food for the UMaine system

This year, the University of Maine System's 10-year food contract with Aramark, the national food service giant, will expire. Their previous contract has required little to no purchasing of local or sustainably-grown food.

Considering how far Maine's farms have come over the last decade, the upcoming contract offers a tremendous opportunity for the University of Maine System to take advantage of, and further catalyze, our local foods movement. Environment Maine has partnered with organizations including Farm to Institution New England, Maine Farmland Trust, and Real Food Challenge to highlight this opportunity and convince the University System to make a serious commitment to local and "Real Food."

Our coalition worked with farmers and producers, students and faculty, and other members of the local foods community to put together recommendations for the University of Maine System's new contract. Our recommendations were backed by nearly 200 Maine producers, 1,500 students and University of Maine System community members, and 20 other organizations, and reflect a shared vision for what Maine's public university system can achieve.

## Committing to "Real Food"

Our recommendations place particular emphasis on making commitments to Maine food and "Real Food" (20 percent each by 2020). Real Food is defined as food that nourishes producers, consumers, communities and the environment, which is used to guide and track institutional involvement with local food at 193 colleges and universities nationwide.

In addition to commitments to local and Real Food, our recommendations also called for transparency and tracking in contracts, a commitment to partnering with farmers, and sustainable practices like composting and waste reduction measures.

The University of Maine System will begin accepting bids for their new food contract late this fall, and we look forward to seeing many of our recommendations implemented.

The future of agriculture in Maine looks much brighter when our institutions—especially those training the next generation of farmers and producers—support farmers and organic growing practices.



▲ The UMaine System's food contract expires this year.



## Grassroots outreach to save the bees

Millions of bees are dying off, with alarming consequences for our environment and our food supply. One culprit? A class of bee-killing insecticides known as neonicotinoids, or "neonics." Unfortunately, the plants we put in our own gardens may be pre-treated with these pesticides without our knowledge, even if they're labeled as bee-friendly.

This past legislative session, Environment Maine supported a bill that would have prohibited retailers from labeling plants and products that had been treated with bee-killing pesticides as "pollinator-friendly." Unfortunately, the bill did not pass.

So this summer, we built public support for reducing pesticide use and ensuring the plants that are sold at major retailers aren't harming pollinators. We visited dozens of farmers markets across the state and talked with hundreds of shoppers about the impact of pesticides on our environment and health. We also called on national chains Ace Hardware and True Value to follow the example of Lowe's and Home Depot and remove neonic-treated plants from their shelves.

The public is becoming increasingly aware of the plight of our pollinators. Now we need to take that knowledge and concern to decision-makers and put policies in place that protect bees and butterflies.

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Credit: Staff

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142 High St., Ste. 624  
Portland, ME 04101  
(207) 253-1965

# Environment Maine

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## Fall Report

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### Environment Maine

#### Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research, and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind Environment Maine, Inc, a project of Environment America, Inc. We focus on protecting Maine's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

Credit: Staff

## Biggest clean water victory in a decade

In the biggest step forward on clean water in ten years, and thanks to your support, the Obama administration finally closed loopholes in the Clean Water Act that had left 55 percent of Maine's streams and the drinking water sources of one in three Mainers unprotected from pollution. But now polluters and their allies in Congress are taking steps to derail this historic action.

This past summer, Environment Maine's citizen outreach team talked to tens of thousands of Mainers about the importance of restoring Clean Water Act protections. We also enlisted the support of more than 20 Maine-based breweries, who know that you can't brew good beer without clean water, as well as 75 small businesses that depend on clean water for their livelihoods.

"The waterways we love and depend on are only as clean as the small streams, tributaries and wetlands that feed and filter them," said Taryn Hallweaver, director of Environment Maine. "We need our Senators Susan Collins and Angus King to stand up to polluters and fight for clean water."



### Support our efforts

Help us protect the Clean Water for America rule.  
Donate at: [www.EnvironmentMaine.org](http://www.EnvironmentMaine.org)

◀ The Run of the Mill Public House and Brewery was one of more than 20 breweries across Maine that joined Environment Maine in support of the Clean Water Rule.