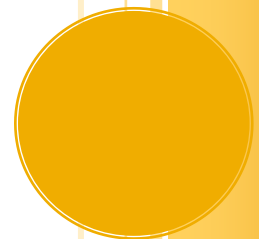


MAINE ENERGY JUSTICE SNAPSHOT



National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,
Environmental and Climate Justice Program

2/27/2017



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SUMMARY

Access to clean energy is not just an environmental issue, but also a civil right. Communities of color bear a disproportionate share of the burdens of a fossil fuel based energy economy. This is why the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program stands for just energy policies that will help protect our communities from harmful energy production processes and provide equitable access to the clean energy economy.

This Snapshot profiles Maine's energy portfolio, evaluates key state energy policies, documents state utility disconnection policies, and outlines opportunities in the clean energy economy. Nearly 90 percent of Maine is forested and wood products including biomass fuels are an important part of the state's rural economy. Additionally, Maine is one of the leaders in the wind and renewable energy industry. Almost half of Maine's net energy generation comes from renewable energy, which is the most in the nation.

It is critically important that NAACP leaders actively engage in discussions around renewable energy and the green economy to ensure that the community's needs motivate just energy policies. This snapshot provides information that will inform NAACP members on avenues for engagement.



ENERGY PORTFOLIO¹

Maine does not produce or refine petroleum. Most of the petroleum used by the state is imported from Canada. Maine's energy consumption is dominated by petroleum, because of the widespread use of fuel during the cold winter months. Maine has set a goal to reduce petroleum usage by 30% by 2030 and 50% by 2050 below its 2007 consumption level.

Five of Maine's ten largest electricity generation stations are fueled with natural gas. Maine is dependent on Canada for imported natural gas. Most of the non-renewable electricity generation

projects being planned revolve around natural gas production.

Currently, Maine only has one coal-burning power plant. However, it has a 103MW cogeneration plant at the Rumford Paper Mill and a 62.5 MW facility at Westbrook Paper Mill. These plants are primarily fueled by wood and waste but are also equipped to burn coal.

Maine’s net generation is 46.8 percent from renewables. In 2015, two-thirds of Maine’s net electricity generation came from renewable sources, primarily hydroelectric dams and biomass. Hydroelectric turbines produce nearly one-fourth of Maine’s net electricity generation, which is the largest share of any state east of the Mississippi River (except Vermont).

At the end of 2015, Maine added almost 200 additional megawatts of wind capacity online. The largest wind facility is 148MW and began operation in 2015. Maine has untapped wind resources along the Appalachian ranges and along its Atlantic Ocean. The Maine Legislature set goals for 2,000MW of wind by 2015 (which was not met), 3,000MW by 2020 and 8,000MW by 2030. These proposed wind projects have encountered local opposition and/or face financial issues.

Additional Resources

State Policy Opportunity Tracker

<http://spotforcleanenergy.org/state/maine/>

Renewable Energy in Maine

<http://www.acore.org/files/pdfs/states/Maine.pdf>

Energy Portfolio

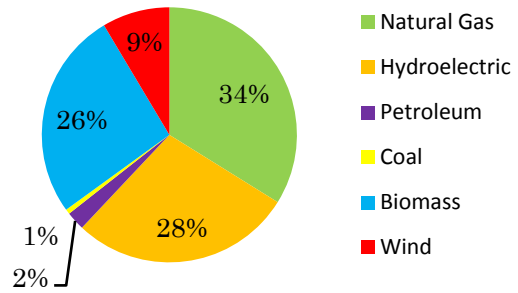


Figure 1. State Energy Consumption Profile

Renewable vs Non-Renewable Energy

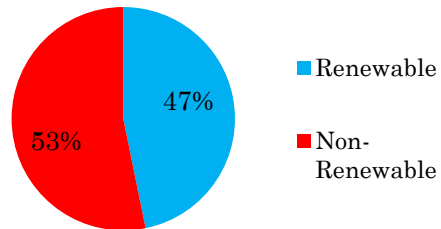


Figure 2. State Renewable vs. Non Renewable Energy consumption

For more detailed information and data on Maine's energy portfolio visit the U.S. Energy Information Administration's webpage, <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=ME>

Installed Renewable Energy Capacity, 2013	
Solar PV	2.8 MW
Hydropower	733 MW
Biomass	609 MW
Wind power	431 MW
Biodiesel	2 mGy
Marine power	0.24MW
Totals	1776MW; 2mGy

State Energy Policies

Policy Type	NAACP Recommended Policy Standards	Maine Policy Details
Net Metering	<p>Net Metering Standards require utility companies to provide retail credit for new renewable energy produced by a consumer.</p> <p>Capacity Limit Recommendation: 2,000 kW (minimally), per system</p> <p>Mandatory/Voluntary: Mandatory</p>	Maine has a mandatory net metering policy requiring electric utility companies to provide retail credit for systems with capacities of up to 660kW per system with a statewide cap at 1,500 MW.
Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)	<p>A RPS requires electric utility companies and other retail electric providers to supply a specific minimum amount of customer load with electricity from eligible renewable energy sources.</p> <p>Recommended Standard: Minimally 25% renewable by 2025</p> <p>Mandatory/Voluntary: Mandatory</p> <p>Allowable Sources: Wind, solar, geothermal, ocean/wave energy</p>	Maine has a mandatory renewable energy standard of 40% by 2017.
Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS)	<p>A EERS establish a requirement for utility companies to meet annual and cumulative energy savings targets through a portfolio of energy efficiency program.</p> <p>Recommended Standard: Minimally 2% annual reduction of each previous year's retail electricity sales.</p> <p>Mandatory/Voluntary: Mandatory</p>	Maine has a voluntary energy efficiency standard of 20% overall reduction by 2020 from 2013 levels, or about 1.6% annually.
Local Hire Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra renewable energy credit multipliers for in-state installation and in-state manufactured content • Renewable energy credits for utility providing incentives to build a plant in-state • Renewable energy credit for utility that makes an investment in a plant located in-state • Quota for government assisted construction project employers to hire a percentage of workers locally • Bidding Preferences for companies that hire a percentage of their employees in-state for state-funded public works projects and service contracts 	Maine's Community-Based Renewable Energy Pilot Program encourages in-state renewable energy development by incentivizing projects under 10 MW that are at least 51% locally owned by Maine residents.
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training opportunities • Notify DBEs of state business opportunities • Set-aside funds for DBEs 	Maine has a DBE in Transportation that certifies minority business enterprises and women owned businesses for work on federally assisted state transportation projects.

Utility Disconnection Policies

Notice	Written notice must be provided fourteen days before the scheduled disconnection. Utility must attempt personal notice during the winter protection period.
Date Based Protection	Yes. November 15–April 15 no disconnections for low-income customers who enter into a payment plan.
Temperature Based Protection	None.
Payment Plan	Yes.
Reconnection Fee	Yes.
Disconnection Limitations	No disconnections on Fridays, weekends, legal holidays or the day immediately before a legal holiday. Disconnections must take place between 8:00am–3:00pm on scheduled day.
Other Protections	Postponement of disconnection for thirty days with medical certification. Certification may be renewed twice during a twelve-month period. Utility must not accept more than three medical emergencies during a twelve month period.
<p><i>Utility shut-offs have a disproportionate impact on low-income and African American communities. Check out the NAACP report, “Lights Out in the Cold” for more information.</i></p>	



Access to energy is not a luxury, it's a necessity. With exposure to both extreme heat and extreme cold, folks should not be forced to choose between paying for medications or their energy bill. Public officials have implemented some policies that protect consumers from the life-threatening practice of utility disconnection (As outlined to the left). However, energy justice advocates must continue to hold utility companies and regulators accountable to human rights and basic but life-saving protections.

*More disconnection policy details are available at the **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program State Disconnection Policies** webpage:*

<https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/Disconnect/disconnect.htm>

Action steps: Meet with the Public Utilities Commission or your local utility company to advocate for the adoption of the following:

- Temperature based protections
- Restriction on reconnection and disconnection fees
- Stronger limitations on disconnections
- Expanded protection for vulnerable populations

Hot Topics: Energy Bills

Revisions to Maine's Net Metering Policy: Maine's Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) approved a notice of rulemaking on Chapter 313, the Customer Net Energy Billing Rule. Beginning January 2017, for new customers signing up over the next 10 years the transmission and distribution portion of the bill will be gradually reduced to reflect changes in the costs of small renewable generation technology. The net metering supply portion of the bill will remain unchanged. The size capacity for customer facility is proposed to increase by 50 percent from 660kW to 1,000kW. Existing net energy billing would remain unchanged for 15 years.²

Construction of State's largest solar array in Portland, ME: Portland City Council voted unanimously to build one of the state's largest municipal solar power arrays on the Ocean Avenue Landfill. The City Manager, Jon Jennings, will negotiate an agreement with ReVision Energy LLC at approximately \$25,000 per year for the first six years. The 660 kilowatt array can generate enough renewable energy to power City Hall and Merrill Auditorium. It is expected to save the city more than \$3.2 million in energy costs over its lifetime.³

DEVELOPING THE BLACK-GREEN PIPELINE

The NAACP Black-Green Pipeline Initiative promotes the equitable inclusion of communities of color into the green economy to address unemployment in our communities and to increase the voices and influence of our communities in the green economy.

Overall, African Americans and Latinos suffer from higher unemployment and poverty rates. According to the 2015 Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national rate of unemployment for African Americans was 9.6 percent. In Maine, the average for unemployed African Americans is 10.1 percent.⁴ African Americans are inadequately represented in the clean energy sector. The green economy offers an opportunity for communities of color to join a career-level field with opportunities for upward mobility. The green job field is diverse with 45 percent of all green jobs in the United States being held by workers with a high school diploma or less. It is the goal of the Black-Green Pipeline Initiative that African Americans have increased representation across all sectors of the clean energy economy.

To subscribe to the Black-Green Pipeline Initiative Weekly Digest send a blank email to:
naacp-bgp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

The Green Labor Market and Communities of Color

Maine has an average concentration of energy employment with 8,060 traditional energy workers statewide. This accounts for 1.4 percent of total state employment, which is below the 2.4 percent national employment average. However, Maine has an additional 8,084 jobs in Energy Efficiency, which accounts for 0.4 percent of all energy efficiency jobs nationwide.⁵

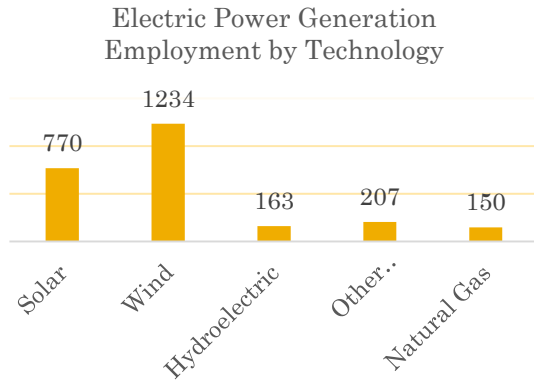


Figure 3. Electric Power Generation employment in ME

In Maine, the electric power generation segment employs 2,537 workers, with wind making up the largest segment with 1,234 jobs, followed by solar generation with 770 jobs. In 2015, the Solar Foundation reported that thirty-three states, including D.C. saw a positive growth in solar jobs.⁶

Solar Workers by Project Scale

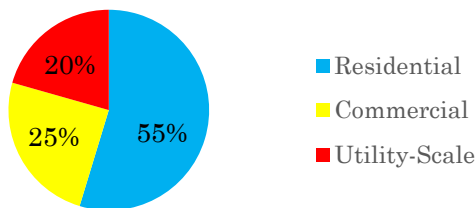


Figure 4. Solar workers in ME

In 2016, the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) reported that recent solar capacity additions in the United States have been predominately commercial and utility-scale projects. However, in 2016 over half of the nation's solar workers were at work on residential solar projects. This imbalance is attributed to the fact that utility-scale generation typically produces more megawatts per labor unit installed compared to distributed generation.⁷



Figure 5. Wind energy projects and manufacturing facilities in ME

Figure 5, pictured above, shows the online wind projects and manufacturing facilities (the gears) in Maine. Investing in wind adds jobs in operations, maintenance, construction, manufacturing and support sectors. In 2016, the wind industry added 1,000 to 2,000 direct and indirect jobs to the energy job sector.

TAKE ACTION!

Host a Bridging the Gap: Connecting Black Communities to the Green Economy Roundtable

- The NAACP ECJ Program is committed to advancing a meaningful dialogue and concerted action on engagement of communities of color in the green economy.
- To start taking action, organize a multi-stakeholder roundtable with socially responsible energy business leaders, historically black colleges and universities, environmental groups, civil rights organizations, labor unions, and others to discuss developing and implementing a strategy to ensure that policies/laws/regulation, research initiatives, community level practices, corporate social responsibility measures, etc. are in place to ensure greater engagement of communities of color in the green economy.

Implement a demonstration project such as a community solar garden or rooftop solar project

- Interested in taking a direct role in implementing clean energy practices in your community? Install rooftop solar or community solar.
- There are several rebates and incentives available to residents interested in pursuing renewable energy projects. Visit energy.gov for a list of renewable energy incentive program available on the state and federal levels.
- You can also check out incentives offered through Efficiency Maine for renewable energy projects.

Launch a Just Energy Policies Campaign

- Identify one or more of the focal policies outlined in this snapshot and documented more extensively in the Just Energy Policies to champion.
- Build a coalition with likeminded energy justice advocates and other local and state allies to build power and momentum.
- Host a town-hall to educate the community about the policy and get input from members on their needs, priorities, and perspectives.
- Set up lobby trainings and coordinate a lobby-day with elected officials.

Make public the NAACP energy justice platform and engage the public through media

- Develop and place an op-ed by NAACP Unit President or ECJ Chair in a local newspaper
- Participate in a radio interview, TV interview, podcast
- Be quoted in a local newspaper
- Post an article or blog to an online platform

CLOSING

With the repeal of several federal environmental laws, it has become imperative to make a just transition to clean renewable energy. States like Maine have become leaders in energy transition and demonstrate that our energy systems can be both clean and just.

Embracing a transition to clean renewable energy sources will not only provide significant environmental and health benefits for Maine, but will also diversify and strengthen the state's renewable energy economy. NAACP just energy leaders should advocate on behalf of a strong Renewable Portfolio Standard, Energy Efficiency Resource Standard, and Net Metering standards. In addition, Maine should ensure that policies are in place to ensure equity in energy enterprise such as local hire provisions and disadvantaged business enterprises.

Although there is a little debate as to whether or not Maine should transition to a clean energy economy, the path to 100% renewable is still being paved. Maine has made some major strides in renewable energy generation, but the state still faces decisions that will determine how and if it can meet this goal. At stake is the fundamental question of whether power should be generated from the top-down or bottom-up. Will customers be able to seize control of energy generation through distributed power generation or will utility companies maintain a monopoly that prevents the equitable distribution of power, ownership, and economic rewards of the electricity system?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Maine Renewable Energy Association
<http://www.renewablemaine.org/>

Maine Interfaith Power & Light
<http://www.meipl.org/>

Wind For Me
<http://www.windforme.com/>

Solar for Me
<http://solarforme.org/>



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¹ "U.S. Energy Information Administration - EIA - Independent Statistics and Analysis." Connecticut - State Energy Profile Overview - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). June 15, 2017.

² Kaften, Cheryl. "Maine PUC Issues Proposed Rule on Retail Net Energy Billing." Energy Manager Today. September 15, 2016. <https://www.energymanagertoday.com/maine-puc-issues-proposed-rule-on-customer-net-energy-billing-0127093/>.

³ Billings, Randy. "Portland, South Portland approve plans to put solar farms on closed landfills - Portland Press Herald." Press Herald. February 23, 2017. <http://www.pressherald.com/2017/02/22/portland-finalizes-plan-to-convert-old-landfill-into-a-solar-farm/>.

⁴ "Unemployment rates for African Americans by state in 2015 : The Economics Daily." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. March 04, 2016. <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2016/unemployment-rates-for-african-americans-by-state-in-2015.htm>.

⁵ The U.S. Energy Employment Report (2017) U.S. Energy Information Administration, November 2016 Monthly Energy Review. https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/01/f34/us_energy_jobs_2017_final.pdf

⁶ *The Solar Foundation's National Solar Jobs Census 2015*. Publication. The Solar Foundation. 2016. 1-65.

⁷ "Solar Market Insight Report 2016 Year In Review." Solar Energy Industries Association. 2016. <http://www.seia.org/research-resources/solar-market-insight-report-2016-year-review>.