



Maine Sierran

Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club

Fall 2020

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Joe Biden for President, Sara Gideon for U.S. Senate, and Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden for Congress.

Vote As If The Planet Depended On It. It Does!

There is always a good deal of hyperbole getting thrown around at election time, especially in a presidential election year. But it's hard to exaggerate the potential impact of Election 2020. As Sierra Club Director Michael Brune recently emphasized to members, this is likely the most consequential election in our lifetimes.

If we don't elect national and state leaders who will aggressively put us on a path to a clean energy economy and a carbon-free society, the planet is indeed in jeopardy.

We'll also be struggling to recover from the health and economic impacts of the current pandemic. If that weren't enough, we still face unjust and often devastating racial gaps in everything from income, to housing, to health.

The choice for president could not be more clear cut. As Sierrans, we're all well aware of the environmental disaster that is the Trump Administration. From the time he took office Donald Trump has acted with complete disregard for the climate crisis and protection of our public lands and wildlife. He pulled the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Agreement, approved the Keystone XL Pipeline, and has rolled back, or is in the process of rolling back, more than 100 environmental policies.

In addition, he and his administration have completely mismanaged the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to tens of thousands more deaths than needed to occur and an economic downturn that left almost 30 million Americans unemployed.

And rather than addressing the systemic racism plaguing the country, including the fact that Black and Indigenous communities continue to be disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, Trump's words fuel division and his actions adversely affect the lives of the most vulnerable. One example: Trump applauds fossil fuel projects that continue to dump toxic pollution into those communities.

All that stands in stark contrast to the Democratic ticket of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.

Biden would commit \$2 trillion to combat climate change, with special emphasis on ending environmental racism. He fully understands that solving the climate crisis represents an opportunity, not just to save the planet, but also to rebuild our economy in a way that is just and works for everyone.

He would also reverse Trump's rollbacks on sound environmental policy that protects our



U.S. Senate candidate Sara Gideon and presidential candidate Joe Biden will put the country on the right track for solving the multiple crises of climate, the pandemic, systemic racism, and economic inequity.

health, our water, our public lands, and our wildlife.

And unlike the current president, Joe Biden has a scientifically-based plan to address the COVID-19 pandemic, with justice and equity at the center of the recovery effort.

As Michael Brune recently wrote:

"With so much at stake, we need to fight like hell to get Joe Biden elected, along with down-ballot candidates who can push his agenda forward in Congress and statehouses."

Sara Gideon for U.S. Senate

The candidate who will push Joe Biden's agenda forward in the U.S. Senate is Sara Gideon.

First and foremost, Gideon has put forth a strong plan to address the climate crisis with commitments to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement, invest in a clean energy economy, modernize and upgrade our transportation system, and set aggressive carbon emission goals.

She recently said that addressing carbon emis-

sions "has to be the top thing we do." Her record backs up her words—as a Maine legislator and Speaker of the House she has consistently supported legislation to reduce CO2 emissions and promote clean energy.

Her commitment to the environment extends beyond a commitment to clean energy. She's been a strong advocate for clean air and water, including co-sponsorship of a resolution urging the U.S. Congress to protect the Clean Air Act. This past year she led efforts to pass a landmark bill improving water quality for Maine's tribal communities. And she has been a strong and consistent advocate for protecting our public lands.

As a Maine legislator, including four years as Speaker of the Maine House, Sara Gideon earned a sterling 97 percent environmental scorecard from the Maine League of Conservation Voters.

That rating is 36 points higher than Gideon's opponent, Susan Collins, who has an unimpressive

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Link to the
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"Tomorrow"

November 12: Panel Discussion
on Environment, Energy,
Democracy, and the Economy

Details at Upcoming Events on Page 7

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61 percent lifetime environmental scorecard. Interestingly, that rating has plummeted since Donald Trump became president. Of particular concern has been her support of numerous, extreme, Trump-appointed justices who put our fundamental environmental protections at risk and her lack of support for common sense environmental laws and policies.

In past elections, the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) consistently endorsed Susan Collins. But the long-time incumbent senator has changed, and in this election LCV is endorsing Sara Gideon.

So is Sierra Club Maine.

“The choice between Sara Gideon and Susan Collins is one of the most consequential decisions Maine voters will make in a long time,” said Chapter Political Team Chair Claudia King.

King noted that, in endorsing Gideon, the Political Team recognized that unenrolled, progressive candidate Lisa Savage has run a substantive campaign and is strong on many issues of importance to Sierrans.

“While we are urging our members to support Sara Gideon, we understand that some of our members may choose to rank Lisa Savage number 1,” King explained. If they do, it’s extremely important, under ranked choice voting, that they enter Sara Gideon as their second choice.”

King stressed the importance of staying focused on the goal—replacing Susan Collins and getting a forward-thinking majority in the U.S. Senate.

“Senator Collins has enabled Mitch McConnell’s complete failure to address the most urgent problems facing us all. We need to put the U.S. Senate on a path toward the kind of government, environment, and economy that will sustain us into the future.

“The choice is as clear as it could possibly be. When you vote, rank Sara Gideon #1.

Jared Golden 2nd Congressional District



When Sierra Club Maine endorsed Jared Golden for Congress in 2018, we were confident he would defend America’s environmental protections and support plans for a clean-energy economy.

Representative Golden has indeed proven himself to be strong advocate for the environment, earning a 97 percent environmental scorecard from the League of Conservation voters. That’s the exact same rating he had as a Maine legislator, where he was a strong advocate for protecting our water and our public lands.

In the past two years, Golden supported full funding of the EPA and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, both of which are keystone elements of a healthy future for Maine. He also backed a ban on off-shore drilling.

And last year he used his position in Congress to insist that the Army Corps of Engineers hold a public hearing on the controversial New England Clean Energy Connect transmission line—an important priority for Sierra Club Maine.

He also understands that addressing the climate crisis and other environmental threats must be linked to equity and social justice. In that regard, he is an advocate for affordable health care, strong unions, and a fair electoral system.

We urge 2nd District Sierrans to rank Jared Golden Number 1 on their ballots.

Chellie Pingree 1st Congressional District



Maine is fortunate to have environmental champion Chellie Pingree represent its 1st Congressional District. Indeed few members of the U.S. Congress are more committed to addressing the climate crisis and protecting our air, water, and food supplies.

During her years in Congress and the Maine Legislature, Pingree has earned a lifetime environmental scorecard of 96 percent (including a perfect 100 percent rating in 2010).

Representative Pingree has co-sponsored numerous climate-related bills, including legislation prohibiting coastal drilling for fossil fuels. She was an early supporter of a Green New Deal, advocating for a 100 percent clean energy economy by 2050, with a commitment to equity and social justice.

And few politicians have been as outspoken in calling out the Trump Administration for its reckless and irresponsible assault on our air, water, and public lands.

On an issue very important to Maine, Pingree has been a strong advocate for sustainable farming and promoting locally-grown food.

“We are deeply grateful to Representative Pingree for her work to bolster our local farmers’ efforts,” said long-time Sierra Club Maine leader Becky Bartovics. “She is a true environmental champion who fights to protect Maine farms and our natural resources.”

Maine and America need Chellie Pingree in the U.S. Congress.



Graphic designed by rawpixel.com / Freepik

Some Useful Information About Voting in Maine

Vote Early by Absentee Ballot:

You can order your ballot at <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/index.html>. And you can vote absentee in person at your town hall from Monday, October 5 up until the Friday before Election Day (October 30).

You can also send your absentee ballot in by mail (ballots must be received before or on Election Day). If necessary, you can bring in your ballot (with envelope!) on Election Day in the event you don’t have a chance to return it sooner.

Or Vote In-Person

People are working very hard to make in-person voting in Maine available and safe. To find your voting location go to https://www1.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php

Register on or before Election Day:

For information on registering before Election Day check out the Voter Registration Guide at maine.gov.

Mainers can now register to vote on Election Day at their local polling place. Maine people worked incredibly hard to restore that right last year so be sure to spread the word! Here’s what to bring:

- If you voted in Maine before, you will not need to provide ID to vote.
- If you’re a first-time Maine voter and you registered by mail without providing a copy of a Maine drivers license, ID card, current utility bill, bank statement, or a government check or document, you may be asked to show one of these documents in order to vote.
- If you don’t have ID or proof of your residence, you can cast a “challenged ballot.” You may be asked to provide ID at some point afterward for your ballot to count.

Things you can do:

- Support and Contribute to Clean Election Candidates.
- Make Calls for Your Candidate: Whether you belong to a major party, a minor party or are fiercely independent, help a local candidate who shares your values run for office this year.
- Be a change-maker! Help us drive political change. Contact the Team’s Political Chair, Claudia King at maine.chapter@sierraclub.org to find out how you help our Team.

Write Letters-to-the-Editor.

All You Need to Know About Ranked Choice Voting

In the November 3rd general election, ranked choice voting (RCV) will be used for the U.S. Senate race and for both of the congressional races (where there are three or more candidates).

The question of whether RCV will be used in the presidential race has been the subject of months of litigation. On September 22, the Maine Supreme Court ruled that Ranked Choice Voting can be used on the 2020 presidential ballot. At the time the *Sierran* went to press, opponents were asking the Maine Supreme Court to put the decision on hold pending a possible appeal to the United States Supreme Court.

RCV will not be used in the general election in races for the Maine House and Senate. Maine’s constitution says that the general election winner is chosen “by a plurality of the votes,” and the Maine Supreme Court decided that RCV is inconsistent with that language. You can go to the State’s website (<https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming/rcv.html>) for a more complete explanation of why RCV applies to some races and not all.

How Ranked Choice Voting Works:

1. Voters rank the candidates for a given office by preference on their ballots.
2. If a candidate wins an outright majority of first-preference votes (i.e., 50 percent plus one), he or she will be declared the winner.
3. If no candidates win an outright majority of first-preference votes, the candidate with the fewest first-preference votes is eliminated.
4. All first-preference votes for the failed candidate are eliminated, lifting the second-preference choices indicated on those ballots.
5. A new tally is conducted to determine whether any candidate has won an outright majority of the adjusted voters.
6. The process is repeated until a candidate wins a majority of votes cast.



Sierra Club Maine 2020 Endorsements

Sierra Club Maine's Political Team has worked hard through the summer researching and reviewing questionnaires of candidates in Maine's various federal and state elections. Following several months of review and discussion, the team recommended the following endorsements which were subsequently approved by the Chapter's Executive Committee. Many thanks to the political team for their hard work. Now let's back their efforts by doing everything we can to get these forward-thinking, environmentally-friendly candidates elected on November 3.

Federal Offices

U.S. Senate: Sara Gideon

U.S. House of Representatives (District 1): Chellie Pingree

U.S. House of Representatives (District 2): Jared Golden

State of Maine Offices

Senate

SD 1: Troy Jackson, Allagash

SD 2: Mike Carpenter, Houlton

SD 4: David Zeimer, Sangerville

SD 5: James Dill, Old Town

SD 7: Louis Luchini, Ellsworth

SD 9: Joe Baldacci, Bangor

SD 12: David Miramant, Camden

SD 13: Chloe Maxmin, Waldoboro

SD 14: Shenna Bellows, Manchester

SD 15: Kalie Hess, Augusta

SD 16: Hilary Koch, Benton

SD 20: Ned Claxton, Auburn

SD 21: Nathan Libby, Lewiston

SD 23: Eloise Vitelli, Arrowsic

SD 24: Mattie Daughtry, Harpswell

SD 25: Catherine Breen, Falmouth

SD 27: Benjamin Chipman, Portland

SD 28: Heather Sanborn, Portland

SD 29: Anne Carney, Cape Elizabeth

SD 30: Stacy Brenner, Gorham

SD 31: Donna Bailey, Saco

SD 32: Susan Deschambault, Biddeford

SD 35: Mark Lawrence, Eliot

House

HD 1: Kristi Matthieson, Kittery

HD 2: Michelle Meyer, Eliot

HD 3: Lydia Blume, York*

HD 6: Tiffany Roberts, So. Berwick

HD 7: Daniel Hobbs, Wells

HD 11: Ryan Fecteau, Biddeford

HD 13: Lori Gramlich, Old Orchard Beach

HD 15: Maggie O'Neill, Saco

HD 16: David Durrell, Hollis

HD 20: Daniel Lauzon, Lebanon

HD 21: Cliff Krolick, Parsonsfield

HD 24: Mark Bryant, Windham*

HD 26: Maureen Terry, Gorham

HD 27: Kyle Bailey, Gorham

HD 29: Shawn Babine, Scarborough

HD 30: Rebecca Millet, Cape Elizabeth

HD 31: Lois Reckitt, South Portland

HD 32: Christopher Kessler, South Portland

HD 34: Morgan Rielly, Westbrook

HD 38: Barb Wood, Portland

HD 39: Michael Sylvester, Portland

HD 40: Rachel Talbot Ross, Portland

HD 41: Samuel Zager, Portland

HD 42: Benjamin Collings, Portland

HD 44: Teresa Pierce, Falmouth

HD 47: Art Bell, Yarmouth

HD 48: Melanie Sachs, Freeport

HD 49: Fred Horch, Brunswick

HD 50: Ralph Tucker, Brunswick

HD 51: Joyce McCreight, Harpswell

HD 53: Alison Hepler, Woolwich

HD 54: Denise Tepler, Topsham

HD 56: Seth Berry, Bowdoinham

HD 58: James Handy, Lewiston

HD 59: Margaret Craven, Lewiston

HD 60: Kristen Cloutier, Lewiston

HD 61: Heidi Brooks, Lewiston

HD 64: Bettyann Sheats, Auburn

HD 65: Misty Coolidge, New Gloucester

HD 66: Jessica Fay, Raymond

HD 68: Patrick Scully, Naples

HD 71: Ken Morse, Waterford

HD 82: Kent Ackley, Monmouth

HD 83: Thom Harnett, Gardiner

HD 84: Charlotte Warren, Hallowell

HD 85: Donna Doore, Augusta

HD 86: Adam Turner, Augusta

HD 89: Holly Stover, Boothbay

HD 90: Lydia Crafts, New Castle

HD 91: Jeffrey Evangelos, Friendship

HD 94: Victoria Doudera, Camden

HD 95: William Pluecker, Warren

HD 96: Stanley Zeigler, Montville

HD 98: Scott Cuddy Winterport

HD 110: Colleen Madigan, Waterville

HD 112: Peter Bourgelais, Weld

HD 114: Gregory Temple, Dixfield

HD 120: Richard Evans, Dover-Foxcroft

HD 127: Barbara Cardone, Bangor

HD 136: Antonio Blasi, Hancock

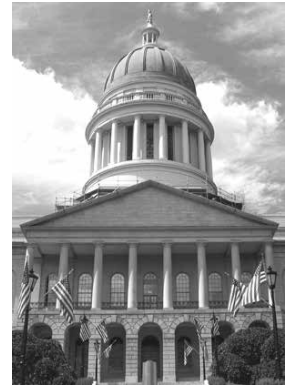
Legislative Update

The pandemic stalls action in Augusta.

There's not much to report in regards to Sierra Club Maine priority bills in the Maine Legislature. Little has gotten done since the onset of the pandemic and according to Chapter Legislative Team Leader Joanathan Fulford, not much is likely to get done for the remainder of the fall.

Looking toward a new Legislature convening in January, Sierra Club Maine's legislative top priorities remain the same:

1. Establish a Maine Public Power Delivery Authority (LD 1646): Legislation to establish a Maine public utility has faced stiff opposition from the big power companies. But the momentum for a public utility continues to build. Several options are being explored, including introducing new legislation for 2021 and, if necessary, a citizens initiative.



2. Climate Council Strategies: The Chapter will be working hard to ensure that any Maine Climate Council recommendations result in bold legislation and full funding by the Maine Legislature.

3. Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations: The Chapter strongly backs full legislative support for this commission and its goals to seek, promote, implement, and coordinate programs that create and improve opportunities and incorporate the goal of eliminating disparities for historically disadvantaged racial, indigenous and tribal populations. Look for further updates on these and other legislative action in our monthly E-News.

The Electoral College as an Environmental Issue

Just think where the U.S. might be in addressing the climate crisis if Al Gore had become president in 2000 and Hillary Clinton in 2016. Both of those candidates won a clear majority of the popular vote, but ultimately lost because of our undemocratic Electoral College system.

The presidency is the only office in the country where the popular vote does not determine the outcome of an election. The results of that are reflected in the state of our current climate crisis as well as issues of war and peace and social justice.

The shortcomings of the current system of electing the President stem from a "winner-take-all" system that is used in 48 states.

Maine is one of two states that does not strictly follow the winner-take all system. It awards one electoral vote to the winner of the popular vote in each of its two districts. The winner of the state-wide vote receives the remaining two electoral votes.

Eliminating the Electoral College is a long and difficult process, requiring a constitutional amendment. With our current, divisive political climate there is little chance of it happening soon. But there is another path.

As explained on the NationalPopularVote.com website, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) would guarantee the presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. It has been enacted into law in 16 states with 196 electoral votes. The NPVIC will go into effect when enacted by states with a majority of the electoral votes—that is, enough to elect a President (270 of 538). At that time, every U.S. voter will acquire a direct vote for a group of at least 270 presidential electors supporting their choice for President.

Sierra Club supports the National Popular Vote. The Maine House narrowly defeated NPVIC in 2019. It needs to be revisited by the new Legislature in 2021.

For an up-to-date list of Chapter endorsements please visit our website: sierraclub.org/maine

Sierra Club Maine's newest staff member, Ania Wright, will help coordinate the chapter's climate efforts.

Ramping Up on Climate Action

Sierra Club Maine's climate efforts got a major boost this past summer with the addition of recent College of the Atlantic graduate Ania Wright to the chapter staff. Ania will help coordinate the Chapter's climate action teams (CATs), providing support, resources, and guidance. She'll also work to develop more connections and collaboration with other Maine groups that are working on climate issues.

"We're so pleased to have Ania working on climate action for the chapter," said Becky Bartovics, a former Sierra Club Maine chair and current member of the Climate Action Advisory Team.

She emphasized that Ania brings dynamic representation and valuable experience from her work in the youth climate movement—a powerful force in climate work.

"We all look forward to working with Ania to support existing CATs as well as to develop new teams. She'll also be helping with climate justice, inclusion, and diversity—which are really important priorities to all of us in the Sierra Club at this time.

"With Ania joining our new director, Sarah Leighton, and Associate Director Matt Cannon, we now have a really strong and dedicated staff in place."

Although she just graduated from college in June, Ania already has impressive experience in climate work. Her commitment to climate action was bolstered in her third year at COA (where she focused on environmental policy and law) with the opportunity to attend the 2018 United Nations Climate Conference in Poland.

"It was a fantastic opportunity," she said. "That's when I really got hooked on climate work—in particular on climate justice."



Inspired by the conference, Ania began working with Maine Youth for Climate Justice, a group of over 250 students and other young people from around the state. As a representative of that group, she had the opportunity to speak in favor of the bill to form the Maine Climate Council. The folks forming the council were so impressed that they asked Ania to join them as the Council's youth representative. She agreed and also recruited other young Maine climate activists to serve on the Council's working groups.

Ania thinks it's extremely important that young people be included in decisions about climate issues.

"Young people are really having a moment in the climate movement," she noted. "We're inheriting this Earth and I think, because we have so much of our lives ahead of us, we see things differently than the older generations. We can see things from a new and

fresh perspective. We're not immersed in careers and not yet invested in the system. We can see clearly that change is needed at a systemic level."

Ania's work will be aided by the fact that she's a Maine native. Growing up in Falmouth, she developed an early interest and love of the nature that led her to a semester at the Chewonki Institute during her high school years.

She continues that love of the outdoors as a current resident of Mount Desert Island, where she spends much of her free time hiking and biking.

With the Sierra Club office closed indefinitely and a ban on in-person meetings, Ania will continue her climate work from home for the foreseeable future. She believes working "virtually" presents both challenges and opportunities.

"From an organizing perspective there are both advantages and disadvantages," she said. "The big limitation, of course, is that we can't have meetings in person. And there are also limitations on the actions we can take. On the other hand,

I've been able to meet with many more people, and more often, online than I could have in-person. And all the webinars have been really helpful and have brought in new people."

Ania believes that, even with all the restrictions caused by the pandemic, things are still moving forward in addressing climate issues. She pointed to the Climate Council's work as one example.

"Even though we meet virtually, we've still met every deadline," she said. "And the Chapter's climate action teams also are continuing their work. For example, just last week the Portland Climate Action Team and I had a virtual meeting with the Portland mayor.

"Things are getting done. There is still opportunity to create change."

Council Finalizing Its Climate Action Plan for Maine

Sierra Club Maine will continue its push for bold strategies that get Maine to carbon neutrality by 2045.

The Maine Climate Council is finalizing Maine's first Climate Action Plan to determine how the state will meet its climate change goals over the coming years. The Council's 30 or so members have been compiling all their working group's recommendations and thousands of public comments to create a plan to meet our climate goals. It will be delivered to the Governor on December 1.

Governor Mills and the Legislature created the Maine Climate Council, an assembly of scientists, industry leaders, bipartisan local and state officials, and engaged citizens in June 2019. The Council was asked to develop a four-year plan to put Maine on a trajectory to reduce emissions by 45 percent by 2030 and at least 80 percent by 2050. By Executive Order of Governor Mills, the state must also achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

The Council's dedicated working groups have been meeting since January, submitting their recommendations in June. This past summer, Sierra Club Maine, our coalition partners, and the Governor's Office of Policy, Innovation, and the Future have made a strong effort to get public feedback on the recommendations.

In September, Council leaders met several times to review strategies. Many environmentalists expressed disappointment that those strategies would not get Maine to carbon neutrality by 2045. Sierra Club Maine staff member (and Council member)



Warming Waters

On August 14, the Gulf of Maine recorded its hottest single day temperature. The Gulf is warming faster than 99 percent of world's oceans with serious implications for the coastal economy and marine life and ecosystems. The North Atlantic right whale is one of the species threatened. (NOAA photo)

Ania Wright noted that the current proposed strategies would leave Maine 2.3 million metric tons above the 2030 emissions target and three million tons above the 2050 target.

Council leaders responded by explaining that the strategies were just a starting point from which the Council will further develop its final plan. Many more meetings will take place this fall.

"I think, in the end, the Council will craft an acceptable and viable plan," said Chapter Policy and Campaigns Associate Director Matt Cannon. He explained that a good deal depends on whether the

Council takes up funding as part of the plan.

"If the Council can recommend funding, they should. They should recommend everything that needs to be done," Cannon said "If that includes funding strategies, great. We'll have to pay for this, and the state budget is strained. But all options should be on the table—we need bold action now!"

Sierra Club Maine will be active in supporting full funding for the Council's final plan and will also work to ensure that, through the enactment of laws and regulations, we stay on track to a 100 percent clean energy future.

"We have a moral obligation to act now," stressed Chapter Director Sarah Leighton in a recent op-ed column. "For decades, policymakers have put forth piecemeal, incremental suggestions that fail to make the necessary changes to truly decarbonize....The choice is ours—will we act boldly now, or will we let this opportunity slip away?"

Sierra Club members can still get involved by attending the Council's public meetings. Learn more by visiting <https://www.maine.gov/future/initiatives/climate/climate-council>

Exposing The Dark Side of Canadian Hydropower

Sierra Club and the North American Megadam Resistance Alliance provide testimony at federal hearing.

By Meg Sheehan

Hydro-Quebec (HQ) is trying to greenwash its dirty, megadam-generated hydroelectricity. The company is promoting it as clean and renewable, even as it continuously and permanently destroys carbon sequestering river systems, forests, biodiversity, wildlife, and Indigenous lands and culture. Perversely using the climate crisis as a marketing tool, HQ's efforts are reaching a shrill pitch as it is desperate for U.S. profits. Now that the Northern Pass transmission corridor through New Hampshire failed, Hydro-Quebec is promoting the falsely labeled New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) corridor through Maine and many regulators and politicians (most notably Governor Janet Mills) are buying the greenwash.

This summer, the North American Megadam Resistance Alliance (NAMRA) exposed the dark side of this greenwashing scheme to the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC).

In its investigation, Renewable Electricity: Potential Effects of Increased Commitments in Massachusetts, the ITC held a hearing and took testimony in July and August. NAMRA and Sierra Club challenged claims by the Canadian government and hydropower industry. (For a complete summary of the investigation, visit northeastmegadamresistance.org.)

One hundred years of Canadian hydropower has permanently destroyed hundreds of thousands of square miles of land and rivers, eliminated natural flow regimes, and caused toxic water pollution. In many communities water is unfit for drinking and swimming, wildlife has lesions, and fish like sturgeon are nearly extinct as shown in testimony from Canadian Senator Mary Jane McCallum, an Indigenous woman from Barren Lands First Nation



Hydro-Quebec's Barrage Daniel-Johnson Dam on the Manicouragan River in Quebec Province.

and Tataskweyak Cree Nation. Senator McCallum described environmental racism, while asking, "how can we call it clean and renewable, or most importantly ethical?"

The investigation revealed HQ cannot support claims of "zero carbon" power—a false representation by NECEC—or even "low carbon" claims. About half of HQ's hydropower has greenhouse gas emissions on par with fossil fuels. HQ is a significant contributor to the climate crisis.

Sierra Club called HQ's sworn testimony—that it receives no government subsidies—"unequivocally false." It also described HQ's numerous fallacious and misleading claims about the impacts of its operations and contracts, and noted Maine legislators' concerns about HQ's deceptive practices.

Of course, there's also a major environmental justice issue involved. A large portion of HQ's hydropower is from dams and reservoirs built on ancestral Indigenous lands without consent or knowledge. This was clearly explained by three First Nations in their August 27, 2020 opposition to NECEC and the Quebec corridor to the Maine

border. As reported in *Cision* at newswire.ca:

"Currently, 36 percent of the total hydroelectric power installed by Hydro-Québec comes from Innu, Atikamekw, and Anishnabeg traditional territories, protected by ancestral and treaty rights that have never been respected. In total, 33 production structures, 130 dams and dikes, 10,400 square kilometers of reservoirs, tens of thousands of kilometers of transmission, distribution, and road lines have been illegally installed. These facilities continue to be operated by Hydro-Québec in violation of the rights recognized by the Constitution Act of 1982 and the jurisprudence of the Supreme Court of Canada."

The ITC decision is due in January 2021. Trade law prohibits false marketing so the ITC could easily confirm that HQ is illegally greenwashing.

Meg Sheehan is volunteer coordinator of North American Megadam Resistance Alliance. The Alliance's mission is to protect rivers and communities by resisting megadams and their transmission corridors. Email: coordinator.namra@gmail.com

Despite Setbacks, Opposition to CMP's Transmission Corridor Will Continue

By Becky Bartovics

Sierra Club Maine has opposed the Central Maine Power (CMP) transmission corridor project since it was first proposed in 2017. Our opposition is in line with the Club's 60-year history of opposing large-scale hydroelectric projects. We're especially concerned about the overall environmental impacts of this enormous project in Maine.

Rather than requiring a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which is required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), it appears that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will make a finding that this massive project has "no significant impact" on Maine's environment. Such a finding would be contrary to scientific evidence and plain common sense.

The reality is that due diligence on the part of all of the permitting agencies, federal and state, has simply not been done. There are too many questions about the economic and long-term environmental impacts of this transmission corridor. For example, its adverse impacts on significant vernal pools and numerous streams and wetlands, along with the last stronghold of native brook trout habitat, are well-documented.

While CMP claims to have altered its plan in keeping with environmental concerns, there is little assurance that it will be able to comply with those statements. Nor is there adequate oversight available in Maine to hold CMP and Hydro-Quebec, the Canadian corporation responsible for providing the electricity, accountable.

Scientific controversy over the impacts is one key



element in requiring an EIS. Economic hardship on associated communities is another major concern. That's why so many affected towns oppose the project.

In addition there has been inadequate analysis of the mitigation proposed by CMP and whether it actually replaces the environmental values that will be lost due to this project.

And there is mounting expert opinion that the energy this project is going to provide Massachusetts is neither clean nor green.

The preparation of an EIS for the project would be consistent with the original proposed transmission corridor from Canada to Massachusetts in New Hampshire (known as Northern Pass). And the environmental impacts of CMP's transmission line are greater than those of the Northern Pass—under no circumstances should this proposed project move forward without an EIS.

Dot Kelly, Excom member and Energy Team co-chair, has been a stalwart intervenor in the application before the Public Utilities Commission. In addition, the Chapter has been engaged with Earthrise Law Center attorney, Kevin Cassidy, for the last two years to provide extensive comments to the Corps on the project. However, the Corps has voluntarily

released little information about its analysis of the project to the public. We have been forced to file numerous Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to the Corps, EPA, and the U.S. Department of Energy to obtain relevant documents. The Department of Energy has yet to fully respond to our FOIA request we sent last January.

We're all aware of the unpopularity of the CMP transmission corridor. More than 80 thousand Mainers signed a petition to require a public referendum on the project. Sadly, that referendum question was declared unconstitutional.

Meanwhile, CMP, and its huge international parent companies, are working with the Corps behind closed doors and receiving tips to correct the project's application problems.

We've been pleased to work with and support allies, like Say No to NECEC, the Natural Resources Council of Maine and the Appalachian Mountain Club, in opposition to this project. It is a true grassroots effort.

Another group we've been working with is North American Megadam Resistance Alliance (NAMRA) in regard to the serious environmental justice issues created by Canadian megadams (see article at the top of this page). Sierra Club Maine has applied to the Coalition of Northeastern Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers to speak with these governors about the impacts of the dams on the Indigenous communities.

We're pursuing these efforts to protect the interests of our members who live near, and/or use and enjoy the unique and ecologically important area of Maine where this transmission line will be constructed. We must hold the Corps accountable for complying with the Clean Water Act and NEPA, and for acting in the public interest, not in the interest of international corporations. The chapter welcomes member support as we go forward with our efforts to oppose this harmful and unpopular project.

2020 Sierra Club Maine Executive Committee Nominations



SIERRA CLUB
MAINE CHAPTER

The Sierra Club Maine Executive Committee, composed of up to 11 volunteers, sets the long term goals and strategies for the Chapter's important work to protect the Maine environment.

Currently we have an outstanding slate of eight candidates to fill six two-year terms. The Chapter welcomes additional nominations, which can be submitted any time prior to October 25. You can find out more about the procedure for submitting a nomination by emailing Becky Bartovics at bbartovics@gmail.com (or call at 207-390-0393).

Voting for the executive committee slate will occur between November 1 and December 5. There will be instructions for voting at our website, sierraclub.org/maine.

Here's some background on the current slate of nominees:

Julianna DiTomasso

Julianna has been a climate justice activist and organizer for over eight years. She grew up in Southern Maine, working at her family's restaurant before heading west to study environmental policy and energy policy at Western Washington University (WWU). While at WWU, she was president of Students for Renewable Energy and engaged in campaigns for fossil fuel divestment, opposing North America's largest proposed coal export terminal, and advocating for oil train safety, to name a few.

Julianna was a field organizer during the 2016 elections and spent three years as a community organizer working with commercial fishermen. She has served on the Network Team of Food Solutions New England and the National Coordination of the US Food Sovereignty Alliance. Julianna resides in Biddeford.

Gary Friedmann

Gary is president of Gary Friedmann & Associates, a nonprofit consulting firm on Mount Desert Island. He has a long and impressive record as a public servant and environmental activist including: nine years as a member of the Bar Harbor Town Council, 12 years on the Bar Harbor Conservation Commission, treasurer of Friends of Acadia, president of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, and co-founder of Climate to Thrive (a community group working to achieve energy independence for Mount Desert Island).

Gary has been a Sierra Club member since age 16 and has worked with the Maine Chapter on various projects over the years.

Jonathan Fulford

Jonathan, a carpenter, lives in Belfast where he's served on the Belfast Energy Committee for five years. He is a current Sierra Club Maine Executive Committee member and the leader of the Chapter's Legislative Team. Jonathan helped organize the May 2019 Building Thriving Communities Climate Conference and represents Sierra Club on the Maine Climate Action Now coalition.

David Gibson

Current Executive Committee member David Gibson has over a decade of experience implementing climate solutions. Most recently, he was the primary organizer of last June's green bank online summit.

For five years, David led the development of Envision's 'Project ReCharge', a training program for middle and high school students. From 2014-2016, he implemented efficiency programs statewide in Nevada for the Governor's Office of Energy, where he helped create a program for low-income seniors, and developed over \$50 million in self-funding performance contracting projects for public buildings. David, a resident of Morrill, now designs solar and heat pump systems for ReVision Energy.

Jim Merkel

Jim, a self-described "recovering engineer," is the author of *Radical Simplicity: Small Footprints on a Finite Earth*. The book reflects his move from designing industrial military systems to becoming an advocate for simple living. Since 1989, Jim has dedicated himself to trying to reduce his personal impact on the environment while encouraging others to do the same.

He founded the Alternative Transportation Task Force in San Luis Obispo, California and served as conservation chair, and chair of the Santa Lucia chapter of the Sierra Club.

In 1995, Jim founded the Global Living Project and continues to serve as its director. In April 2005, Dartmouth College appointed him its first Sustainability Director. He has taught at Unity College, Vermont Community College, Antioch and The University of British Columbia. Jim lives in Belfast.

Beverly Roxby

Beverly Roxby has served on the Chapter's Executive Committee for the past four years. A retired teacher, she lives in Belfast, where she is part of the city's climate crisis committee. She was a lead organizer for the Building Thriving Communities Conference and for several Common Ground Fairs. Bev is also part of the Sierra Club Maine Climate Action Advisory Team, and is currently organizing a base of volunteers in the Midcoast Maine area.

Riley Stevenson

Riley is a senior at Lincoln Academy in Newcastle, Maine. She moved to Maine at age 10, and has grown up in the woods of Waldoboro, gaining a love and appreciation for Maine's outdoors. She is also a climate activist, serving as the Outreach Director for Maine Youth Climate Strikes and as a core member of Maine Youth for Climate Justice.

Riley is the founding Executive Director of the Coastal Youth Climate Coalition, a youth climate group in the Midcoast and Downeast regions of Maine. She is a member of the MEEA Changemakers Network, co-chair of the NBEC Climate Education Taskforce, and active in several school clubs, including her school's climate action club.

Kelsey Halliday Johnson

Kelsey is an organizational strategist, interdisciplinary curator, artist, and writer from Philadelphia, living in Cape Elizabeth. Presently, Kelsey serves as the Executive Director of SPACE in Portland, Maine and is excited to bring some of her financial management and organizational skills from her day job to the Sierra Club Maine Chapter. When not reading books or getting outside, Kelsey is passionate about volunteering for queer and reproductive justice. She also serves on the Collections Committee of the Portland Museum of Art, the Cultural Steering Committee for the City of Portland, and recently finished her first term on the Chapter's Executive Committee.

WE HAVE THE CAUSE, YOU HAVE THE EFFECT!

Volunteers Still Needed!

Although the ongoing pandemic restricts in-person meetings, actions, and activities, Sierra Club Maine continues its work to protect our environment. You can help from the safety of your own home. Volunteers are needed to help get pro-environment candidates elected this November, as well as other areas. Email— maine.chapter@sierraclub.org

MaineShare

Support Sierra Club Maine through payroll deduction

MaineShare gives you an easy way to support more than 40 organizations working to make Maine a better place to live.

Enroll your workplace for the current campaign online at www.maineshare.org or contact us directly.

P.O. BOX 2095, Augusta, ME 04338
Telephone: 207-622-1050
Email: giving@MaineShare.org

Give Your Vehicle a New Purpose. Donate It.

Support Sierra Club of Maine and you may receive a tax deduction.

SIERRA CLUB MAINE CHAPTER

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Donated Cars Benefit Sierra Club's Important Work

Your car donation to the Sierra Club Foundation will not only clear up space at your home, it will help support our work to protect the planet. Vehicle donations are a great way to add another tax deduction to your list.

Donate now by calling (844-674-3772) or visit <http://scfch.careasy.org/HOME.html> to fill out our secure online form. Our partners at CARS Inc. will handle the rest—including picking up your vehicle from any location, no matter its condition. CARS accepts trucks, trailers, boats, RVs, motorcycles, and more.

Upcoming Events

Eco-Anxiety and the Pandemic (final session)

Monday, October 5—5:30 to 6:30



In the final session of this 9-week course, we'll review what we've learned and discuss how we can take effective action moving forward. The session will include several environmental activists (including Sierra Club Maine staff member, Ania Wright) who will share their experiences and provide information on ways to get involved.

Even if you have not attended the earlier classes, you're welcome to register for this wrap-up session (by October 3) at zendowneast.org.

Eco-Anxiety and the Pandemic is co-sponsored by Sierra Club Maine, EcoSattvas DownEast, and the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine.

Community Conversations

Tuesday, October 27—7 p.m.

A presentation and discussion on the deals made, the money involved, and the lack of transparency in pursuit of Big Hydro. Our guests will be Meg Sheehan, Coordinator of NAMRA; Mark Kresowik, Eastern Region Deputy Director, Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign; and Kevin Cassidy, Senior Staff Attorney, Lewis and Clark Law School, Earthrise Law Center.

To register go to <https://www.sierraclub.org/maine/events>

Sierra Club Maine Annual Celebration



The theme of this year's virtual annual celebration is "Dinner and a Movie." All participants will be provided with a link to view "Tomorrow," an inspiring documentary about what individuals around the world are doing to help fight current environmental problems

(trailer available here: <https://tinyurl.com/tomorrowmovie>).

After viewing the film, we will come together on November 12th from 6-7:30 p.m. for an engaging panel discussion around the themes of the movie—energy, agriculture, education, democracy, and economy. Among our special guests will be Maine State Senator Shenna Bellows.

Here's the address to register: <https://tinyurl.com/scmaine> You can also register by visiting the events page on the website at <https://www.sierraclub.org/maine>

This is an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow Sierrans around the issues that are so important to all of us. Please join us!

Stay informed about upcoming events by visiting the events page at:

sierraclub.org/maine

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Statement of Purpose of the Sierra Club

"To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the Earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives."

Visit Us On Facebook



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/sierra-club-maine/chapter/181279771922933>

Building Strong Coalitions to Address the Climate Crisis

Inclusion and environmental and social justice are key.

Sierra Club is coordinating efforts with diverse groups to build lasting grassroots power to address the climate crisis. Our recent coalition work expands beyond established environmental groups—environmental/social justice and inclusion are now primary drivers.

Through these various coalitions both the national Sierra Club and the Maine Chapter are using our organizational capacity to support diverse groups and justice-based outcomes. By working with labor, Indigenous groups, environmental justice groups, and others, we are building an effective movement to address the climate crisis.

Locally, through Renew New England, our coalition around the Climate Council (Climate Maine is not a public-facing entity), the Maine Climate Action NOW! coalition, and the Environmental Priorities Coalition, we are building grassroots power and ensuring a just and sustainable future in Maine.

Nationally, we are highlighting these four important coalitions:

1. U.S. Climate Strike Coalition:

This coalition is made up of a youth coalition and



adult movement partners and was the driving force behind the 2019 September 20th climate strikes and the 2020 Earth Day Live programming.

2. Equitable and Just Climate Forum:

The Equitable and Just National Climate Platform was developed by a group of environmental justice and national environmental group advocates who participate in the Climate Forum. The Climate Forum was launched in October 2018 by the Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy, the Center for American Progress, and the Natural Resources Defense Council, with support from the Midwest Environmental Justice Network and the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance. The forum aims to achieve the following goals:

- Support progress toward building trust and collaboration between environmental justice and national group leaders.
- Develop national climate policy ideas that environmental justice and national groups can jointly support.
- Identify pathways for more inclusive national

climate policy development that will support environmental justice and national group advocates working together to advance shared policy goals and ideas.

3. US Climate Action Network:

Its mission is to build trust and alignments among members to fight climate change in a just and equitable way. It envisions a powerful, inclusive, and trusting network of U.S. organizations who worked together to meet the global goals in the Paris Climate Agreement and exceed the U.S. targets outlined in that agreement.

4. BlueGreen Alliance:

The BlueGreen Alliance unites America's largest labor unions and its most influential environmental organizations to solve today's environmental challenges in ways that create and maintain quality jobs and build a stronger, fairer economy.

The BlueGreen Alliance designs public policies, performs research, and runs public education and advocacy campaigns to advocate for practical solutions. It also facilitates dialogue among environmentalists, union members and other stakeholders and provides information to workers and others about the economic and environmental impacts of climate change as well as the job-creating opportunities of environmental protections. Its work is centered around three key objectives: clean jobs, clean infrastructure, fair trade.

As we transition to a renewable energy economy, we need to ensure jobs for workers in the fossil fuel industry.

All solutions to our climate crisis must address systemic injustices and ensure representation from all affected groups. The Sierra Club looks forward to continuing building coalitions to achieve that goal.

Sierra Club is sponsoring or co-sponsoring community gatherings, webinars, and courses.

Staying Informed and Connected During the Pandemic

As we all deal with the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic, Sierra Club Maine has worked hard to provide safe opportunities for its members and supporters to stay connected and engaged with the important issues facing Maine, the region, and the country. The Chapter has developed, sponsored or co-sponsored a number of online activities and events to help folks stay informed and cope with all that is happening.

Back in April, long-time chapter volunteer Joan Saxe wanted to find a way to bring people together for "kitchen table" type discussions about the Chapter's priorities. Soon after, Community Conversations was launched.

"With in-person gatherings no longer an option, I wanted a way to keep people involved," Saxe explained. It's important for just staying connected socially and also to keep people actively involved with Sierra Club's important work."



Meg Sheehan

The response to the Community Conversations has been excellent. Saxe believes that is largely due to the fact that the Chapter is able to draw such prominent guest presenters.

For example, the first Community Conversation on April 21 featured Chair of the Maine House Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee, Seth Berry, who made a strong case for a Maine Public Power Delivery Authority.

Several weeks later, attorney Meg Sheehan, coordinator of the North America Megadam Resistance Alliance, convincingly dispelled the myth that large-scale hydropower is clean and green. Sheehan returned as part of a July 29 panel discussion on why the Champlain Hudson Power express is a bad deal for New York State.

Other Community Conversations have included:

- May 5: Discussion of a Maine Green Bank with

Chapter Executive Committee member and solar expert David Gibson.

- June 2: Discussion of the development of a solar and storage / generator hybrid micro-grid system, designed to replace the aging underwater cable supplying Isle au Haut with energy.

- June 16: Maine Representative Chloe Maxmin discussed her advocacy for a Green New Deal for Maine.

- June 30: A discussion of the Transportation and Climate Initiative with Director of Sierra Club's Transportation for all Campaign, Morgan Ellis and Mike Williams of the BlueGreen Alliance.

- July 14: State Senator Shenna Bellows talked about the future of the state in the face of the pandemic, the recession, injustice, and the climate crisis.

All past Community Conversations are available online at <https://www.sierraclub.org/maine/community-conversations>. And there are more to come. On October 27, an expert panel will discuss the huge sums of money and lack of transparency in pursuit of Big Hydro.

Green Bank Summit

Nearly 100 people took part in the Chapter's Green Bank Summit via Zoom on June 25. The group included legislators, government officials, nonprofit leaders, business people, and many members of the public.

Summit organizer David Gibson (a Chapter Executive Committee member) set the tone for the event by noting the systemic problems created by a fossil fuel economy. "Green banks can help us build a better world," Gibson said, adding that the time for a Maine Green Bank has arrived.

Featured speakers included: Abe Wapner of the Coalition for Green Capital; Steve Clemmer of the



Shenna Bellows

Union of Concerned Scientists; Hannah Pingree, Director of the Governor's Office of Policy, Innovation, and the Future; and keynote speakers Bryan Garcia and Bert Hunter of the Connecticut Green Bank.

To watch the entire Green Bank Summit go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN7w-1G_5IpdSwF5t_VJm1CA.

Eco-Anxiety and the Pandemic Course

Co-sponsored by Sierra Club Maine, this free nine-week on-line course, has been held Mondays since early August and will conclude with the final class on Monday, October 5. Over 130 people registered for the course.

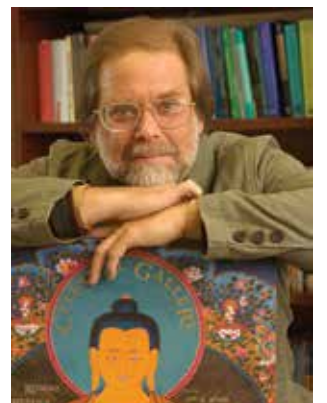
The first class featured the well-known Buddhist teacher, climate activist, and author, David Loy. Loy presented a candid look at our environmental crisis and its interconnection with the pandemic, while also providing inspiration for all of us to take action for a better world.

Other classes addressed the mental and physical health issues associated with our current multiple crises, looked at the impacts of the eco-crisis in New England, and explored ways of dealing with challenging times with newfound resiliency and creativity.

The course was developed and organized by Zen Downeast.

Sierra Club Maine Annual Gathering

Our first ever "virtual" annual gathering will take place in November. Check the details under Upcoming Events on page 7. You can register by visiting the events page on the website at: <https://www.sierraclub.org/maine>



David Loy