

An Update From Our Chapter Chair & Director

Dear members,

We have accomplished a lot already this year, but we must acknowledge that our work is never finished and new challenges continue to emerge. Our climate crisis is getting worse. The pandemic continues to rage on. And, systemic racism is a large and complicated obstacle in the way of solving both problems. As our colleague Hop Hopkins explained in the Sierra magazine article “Racism Is Killing the Planet,” when we treat areas of our planet as disposable, the people who occupy those areas are treated as disposable too. We won’t really solve the climate crisis unless we stop treating any of our fellow human beings (and the places they live) as disposable.

In our state, Black Mainers were 27 times more likely to be affected by COVID-19 than white Mainers. Simultaneously the Wabanaki people, the original inhabitants of what we now call Maine, are continuing to fight for their inherent sovereign rights. Across our country, Black, Indigenous, and the broader spectrum of people of color are disproportionately affected by wildfires, droughts, and environmental redlining.

Executive Director Michael Brune addressed this head on last year, recognizing that historically the Sierra Club and our founder John Muir played a substantial role in perpetuating white supremacy. Nothing can truly make up for our mistakes, but we are working diligently internally and externally to ensure a more equitable and just organization. In 2016, the national Sierra Club founded their first Department of Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (EIJ) in pursuit of a stronger environmental justice movement. Here in Maine, we have worked to establish our very first EIJ volunteer team and are creating our first ever three-year equity plan. The EIJ team has already been working hard to push our organization in new directions so that we are working for true climate justice for all.

This is just the beginning and we have a lot of work to do. Along with learning how to create a truly inclusive organization, our advocacy and action work to protect our environment and our climate continues with increased passion and fervor.

We are growing as a chapter and we invite you to be a part of it by becoming a volunteer and joining us on this journey.



Sue Levene
SUE LEVENE
Chapter Chair



Sarah Leighton
SARAH LEIGHTON
Chapter Director

Lawsuit Continues Against Army Corps of Engineers & Department of Energy

By Becky Bartovics, Sierra Club Maine Volunteer Leader

Sierra Club Maine is moving forward with our lawsuit filed in October 2020, seeking the appropriate level of environmental review for the massively destructive NECEC transmission corridor. We expect to brief the case for the district court in October but do not expect a decision until after the Citizens’ Initiative Referendum in November. Working with our partners, Appalachian Mountain Club and Natural Resources Council of Maine, we will continue to make the case that the Army Corps of Engineers’ (Corps) and the Department of Energy’s (DOE) decisions to permit the NECEC transmission line were unlawful.

The lawsuit against the Corps and DOE was filed for three reasons: lack of transparency, inadequate Environmental Impacts Analysis, and the extraordinary climate impacts of energy Canadian hydroelectric dams (megadams) it would supply. Although our opponents would like to dismiss our claims, federal law requires an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as was done for all the previous large scale transmission applications in other New England states including the most recent Northern Pass in New Hampshire. We began requesting an EIS in 2019, but the Corps and DOE have ignored that request.

Lack of transparency is evident in closed-door interchanges between the applicants and the agencies which offered little to no public input.

The Sierra Club was forced to file a lawsuit against DOE in order to require that agency to produce relevant records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. Moreover, DOE had promised Senator Susan Collins to hold a public hearing after its draft review for the Presidential Permit was completed, which DOE did not do.

Since the 1970’s the Clean Water Act has been key to protecting our waters from damaging development. Careful evaluation of this 53-mile corridor, which is in the largest contiguous forest east of the Mississippi with many stream and wetland crossings, should be in the interest of all parties. We believe the Corps arbitrarily limited its purview to a very narrow scope of the project, refusing to evaluate any associated impacts, such as forest fragmentation. Many sensitive and endangered species rely on this area for critical habitat. For instance, these streams provide some of the most important habitat for native brook trout in the eastern United States.



Photo by Neelkamal Deka

Lastly, the habitat destruction of megadams is widespread. The boreal forest, a major carbon sink in the northern hemisphere, has been irreparably harmed. Huge shallow reservoirs not only prevent the spring freshet from providing life-giving snowmelt downstream, but heat reservoir water that, when released, causes huge plumes of warmed water downstream and into the ocean. Additionally, the rise and fall of water levels cause enormous release of methane, in some cases as much as a coal fired power plant, while releases of methylmercury into the water poison the food chain. The extent of the mercury poisoning is so great that hydropower companies warn residents not to eat any local seafood. Their staple diet for thousands of years has been removed thus causing a significant social and environmental justice issue.

As we learn more about the timing of the court case this fall, we will alert members to possible court hearing opportunities via Zoom.

Ballot Initiatives

Make sure you are informed on the ballot questions on election day this November!

Of particular note, the Maine Chapter has endorsed Question 3, which would create a 'right to food.' See below for the questions. For the full language and up-to-date information please visit www.tiny.one/maineballot.

QUESTION 1: CITIZEN INITIATIVE

Do you want to ban the construction of high-impact electric transmission lines in the Upper Kennebec Region and to require the Legislature to approve all other such projects anywhere in Maine, both retroactively to 2020, and to require the Legislature, retroactively to 2014, to approve by a two-thirds vote such projects using public land?



QUESTION 2: BOND ISSUE

Do you favor a \$100,000,000 bond issue to build or improve roads, bridges, railroads, airports, transit facilities and ports and make other transportation investments, to be used to leverage an estimated \$253,000,000 in federal and other funds?

QUESTION 3:

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to declare that all individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to grow, raise, harvest, produce and consume the food of their own choosing for their own nourishment, sustenance, bodily health and well-being?

Considering
RUNNING FOR OFFICE IN '22?
Know someone who might?

Information here:
tiny.one/runforoffice



**TELL CONGRESS:
GO BIG & BOLD
ON CLIMATE & INFRASTRUCTURE!**

PUT YOUR DONOR ADVISED FUND TO WORK

Your gift from your donor advised fund to Sierra Club Maine will immediately be put to work protecting Maine's environment. Every year, we work with hundreds of committed volunteers across the state to have an even greater impact and return on your investment. Donor advised funds are made to the Sierra Club Foundation and are only designated to Maine if you instruct the Foundation to do so.

For more info, please contact Sarah:
sarah.leighton@sierraclub.org
207-761-5616

Maine Chapter Engages in Federal Organizing Efforts

*We believe that **change is powered by people**—that this country belongs to all of us, and we hold the power to create our shared future.*

Every person must have fresh air to breathe, clean water to drink, safe and healthy communities to live in, and equal access to and representation in our democracy no matter our race, age, identity, income, or zip code.

Congress has the opportunity and mandate to guarantee these rights for every person by passing two pieces of legislation: an infrastructure package on the size and scale of the crises we face and bold democracy reforms like the For the People Act and John Lewis Voting Rights Act. Action on neither can wait; our lives, our future, and our democracy depend on Congress fulfilling its duty.

One thing is clear: to achieve these goals requires the efforts of more than just any one person, politician, or organization. It requires a movement. Movements endure because of people—people like our members and supporters, our dedicated staff, and leaders across the country who have been fighting for environmental and racial justice for decades.

We have been meeting the opportunity of this unprecedented moment by engaging the Sierra Club's base of deeply engaged changemakers, leveraging new tools, and continuing to strengthen alliances with all those who are engaged in struggles for justice. We believe anything is possible when we take care of each other, hold firm to our

values, and work in solidarity to build a stronger progressive movement with justice at its core.

Our asks have been:

The Sierra Club, along with hundreds of partners, are pushing Congress to pass an infrastructure package that:

- Moves us to 100% clean energy through a Clean Electricity Standard and robust tax incentives
- Creates millions of good jobs and establishes a Civilian Climate Corps
- Improves access to public transit and produces union-built electric cars, trucks, and buses
- Ends fossil fuel subsidies
- Replaces 100% of lead pipes
- Retrofits and electrifies all public housing, schools, and hospitals
- Has strong equity, labor, and environmental standards to ensure investment in frontline and historically marginalized communities

We are also fighting for legislation to save our democracy and ensure every American has the ability to have their voice heard. We need the Senate to:

- Pass the For the People Act, John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and DC statehood
- Eliminate or reform of the filibuster

In Maine, staff members Ania Wright and Matt Cannon have been organizing for our campaign, Change Powered by People. So many of our members and volunteers have already been involved. We have met with the offices of Senator King and Representative Golden. We have led and coordinated public events with various individuals and organizations, including Maine People's Alliance, Maine Conservation Voters, Natural Resources Council of Maine, AFL-CIO, and more. And, we continue to amplify the stories of so many who are trying to ensure our elected leaders act on climate change.

Through LTEs, calls, rallies, and local action parties, we hope our elected officials have heard the will of their constituents and move our country forward.

As of August, we have seen more important votes on the packages, and we hope that the democracy reforms and infrastructure/climate bills are passed. If not, then we have more work to do!

This is our moment, and we have no time to waste. Let's do it together.

Meet Sierra Club Maine's Staff Team!

The Chapter warmly welcomed three new staff members in 2020. Meet them, along with longtime staffer Matt Cannon, below.



ANIA WRIGHT
Grassroots Climate
Action Organizer

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO SIERRA CLUB MAINE?

AW: Climate justice organizing has been a part of my life since high school. Before working at Sierra Club, I was involved in various student and youth-led initiatives in the State of Maine, including co-founding

the group Maine Youth for Climate Justice. I am honored to be able to continue organizing for a just and equitable future with the Maine Chapter!

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

AW: My favorite aspect to my role is empowering passionate folks to feel like they can truly make a difference. I am thankful every day to be a part of building a movement here in Maine that is centered around a just and equitable future where everyone can thrive.

WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE ARE YOU MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT?

AW: Hmm.. that's a tricky one! There are so many vital conversations happening in the environmental movement right now—but what feels most important to me is understanding the intersections of climate change with social, racial, and economic justice issues in our state.

HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME WHEN YOU'RE NOT WORKING?

AW: Hiking, biking, and paddling around Acadia National Park, where I live!



MARENA BACH
Communications &
Outreach Manager

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO SIERRA CLUB MAINE?

MB: I had been looking to get involved with an environmental organization for quite awhile. Sierra Club's mission and work stood out to me, so I started volunteering for our Advancement Team in June 2020.

I was thrilled to join the chapter as Communications & Outreach Manager that September!

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

MB: The creative allowance that comes with my role is what I enjoy most. As a graphic designer, I love being able to use my visual communication skills to help elevate our work. Whether it's designing an appeal, formatting visuals for social media, or creating marketing materials that help folks better understand our goals and achievements, it's always refreshing to get to be creative.

WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE ARE YOU MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT?

MB: Tough to choose just one! Each of our priorities are vital to combating the climate crisis and ensuring a healthy, livable future. One issue in particular that I am passionate about is eliminating fossil fuel use in order to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Instead, we need to focus on clean, renewable energy—wind and solar.

HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME WHEN YOU'RE NOT WORKING?

MB: Outside of work I can be found walking the beach with my dog, working on various art projects, camping, pressing flowers, and volunteering for animal rescue and advocacy organizations.



SARAH LEIGHTON
Chapter Director

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO SIERRA CLUB MAINE?

SL: I have a long history of working for nonprofit organizations in different capacities. In August 2019 I started volunteering for Sierra Club Maine because I wanted to help combat climate change. Shortly thereafter I joined the

Executive Committee and then was asked if I would consider becoming the Chapter Director when the opportunity arose. The rest is history!

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

SL: First and foremost, I love working for an organization that isn't afraid to take a stand for what is right. We always take the position that will have the greatest impact. Specific to my role, I love the variability. No two days are the same. One day I might be working with volunteers or meeting with a donor. The next day I might be facilitating a strategic planning session or meeting with other Chapter Directors to strategize on issues such as offshore wind.

WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE ARE YOU MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT?

SL: I am passionate about anything that will help us combat climate change. It is the biggest threat facing humanity and I want to do anything to slow its progression. Specifically, I love advocating for renewable energy including solar and offshore wind and educating Maine people on converting from fossil fuels to electric so in the future we can all be powered by the renewable energy we generate.

HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME WHEN YOU'RE NOT WORKING?

SL: When I'm not working I enjoy spending time with my family, hiking, sailing, and doing fiber art. My grandmother was a rug hooker and now I am continuing her legacy and the tradition of rug hooking in a more contemporary style.



MATT CANNON
Campaign & Policy
Associate Director

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO SIERRA CLUB MAINE?

MC: I feel compelled to do everything I can to protect this planet and solve our climate crisis. After working in land conservation, I started volunteering for the MA Chapter after attending an advocacy training. I wanted to start

using my power to influence legislators, and Sierra Club gave me that opportunity. After moving to Maine, I volunteered for the Legislative Team and then was hired as staff!

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

MC: I love interacting with people from across our country. As a national organization, with local focus, I can learn from and work with folks from different campaigns/states, and try to tailor those lessons to Maine.

WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE ARE YOU MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT?

MC: Climate Change, of course. However, I think we need to focus on land use planning in Maine. We have to find the right balance between development and nature. Everyone should have access to the outdoors, clean water, and healthy food. And, we need to maintain biodiversity for a healthy, resilient planet. More comprehensive planning will ensure that we protect most of our land/water and sustainably develop.

HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME WHEN YOU'RE NOT WORKING?

MC: In the summer, I spend most of my time in the water or on a mountain. Surfing and hiking are my top outdoor activities. I like to read, garden, do yoga, listen to music, hang out with friends, and explore Maine.

TAKE THIS TWO QUESTION SURVEY!

- ➔ **Do you want to save Maine's environment while reducing your taxes?**
- ➔ **Are you at least 70½ years or older?**

If you answered YES to the questions above, consider a charitable IRA rollover!

Use your required minimum distribution (RMD) for good. If you are at least 70½ years or older, you can satisfy your RMD and save on taxes by making a gift to support Sierra Club Maine's charitable programs through the Sierra Club Foundation directly from your IRA.

With an IRA Charitable Rollover, you can see the impact your gift has in protecting Maine's environment throughout your lifetime.

Funds remaining in retirement accounts after your lifetime are heavily taxed if left to someone other than a spouse. Many donors choose to use their IRA resources for charitable giving, while leaving other less tax burden assets to family and friends.

Designating your gift to "Sierra Club Maine" will protect Maine's environment for generations to come.

For more information, please contact Sarah:
sarah.leighton@sierraclub.org | 207-761-5616



DONATE YOUR OLD CAR, BOAT, MOTORCYCLE, OR RV

Donating an old car, boat, motorcycle, or RV to Sierra Club Maine has a lasting impact on our work advancing climate solutions, fighting for clean air and water, and keeping our wild places wild.

Donating is easy and someone will come to you to pick up your donation for free. Simply call 855-337-4377 or visit online at www.sierraclubfoundation.careasy.org and make sure to designate your donation to "Sierra Club Maine."

Vote for the Open 2022 Sierra Club Maine Executive Committee Member Positions

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 ensure a clean and just economy, elect pro-environment candidates, and protect Maine's woods and waters for generations to come.

There are currently five open positions for two-year terms starting in 2022. Voting for Executive Committee positions will occur between Sept 15th and Oct 15th and can be done at www.sierraclub.org/maine/chapter-elections or by calling 207-761-5616.

My Advocacy Story By Susan B. Inches—Author, Educator, Environmental Advocate



Does the idea of testifying before a Legislative committee make you sweat? Until I started doing it for a living, that's how I felt too!

I started my career in marketing, creating grand opening sweepstakes for Hannaford, a supermarket chain.

I'd hire elephants and arrange to give away a car when we opened a new store. I always knew I wanted to be in communications, and advertising and marketing seemed an obvious path.

But unexpected things happened, as they always do. Hannaford "downsized" in the early 1990s slump, and I was left with no job and few prospects.

I ended up taking a marketing job at a state agency, the Maine Department of Marine Resources. My job there was to market Maine seafood. There I was exposed to the lobbying and activism of Maine fishermen. It was compelling to watch as fishermen testified before the Legislature and met with the Governor to defend their industry. If they could do this, why couldn't I?

Next thing you know I was off and running, working to preserve waterfront access for Maine fishermen.

Fish piers and boatyards were being taxed at extremely high rates, as if their land was being sold for vacation homes. There were only 25 miles of working waterfront left in Maine!

I helped found a coalition and we amended the state constitution to allow fish piers to be taxed at "current use," a much lower rate than vacation homes. We also created a way for fish piers to sell their development rights to conservation groups, allowing fishermen to retire, while their property remains forever as working waterfront. Several hundred fishing piers have now been preserved.

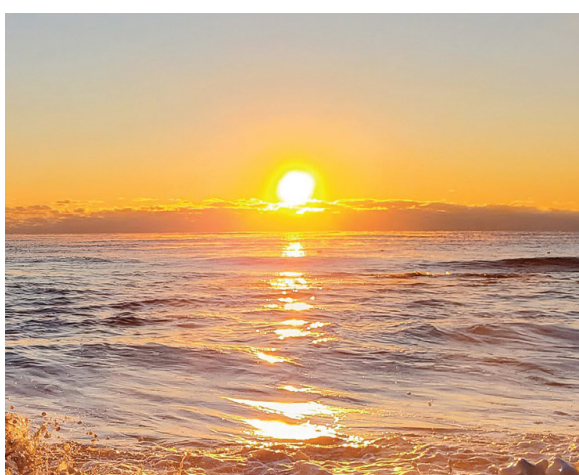
From that experience, I learned how rewarding it can be to work for people, for communities, for fairness, and for a clean and healthy environment. I've never looked back.

I've organized and worked on many issues since. Among other things, I'm currently working to establish environmental rights in an initiative called "The Pine Tree Amendment." This would add the right to clean air, clean water and a healthy environment to our state constitution. It's hard to imagine that we don't have these basic human rights in the books. But we don't. And because we don't, laws can be passed and permits issued that are dangerous to our health.

During Covid, I found myself with time on my hands, so I began to write up the many lessons I'd learned as an advocate. The result is my new book, *Advocating for the Environment, How to Gather Your Power and Take Action*, just published by North Atlantic Books. This is the book that I wished I'd had, when I started my advocacy career. In it I share with readers what works and what doesn't, strategies, advice, and many advocacy stories from my personal experience.

We are at a crossroads. People need to care much more for each other and for the earth if we are going to survive on this planet. It will take mass collective action to shift our economy, governments and culture to one based on affirming life. Not everyone has to be a citizen lobbyist or a community organizer, though. If you're an artist, you can advocate for the environment in your art. If you're a cook, you can use local organic ingredients and explain why. Everyone in their own way can be an advocate for the environment!

In my book you'll learn what it takes to be an effective advocate and why that's important. Please join me in creating a healthier future for our children and grandchildren. Ask for *Advocating for the Environment* at your local bookstore, or order online at Amazon.com.



WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

August was National Make-A-Will Month. Did you celebrate by making a will to take care of your family and the environment that you love? Writing a will is one of those tasks that can fall by the wayside—but luckily, you can use online services like www.freewill.com to create yours in under 20 minutes.

Everyone needs a will, whether you're 18 or 80. And, there's no better moment than now to find some peace of mind in planning for the future. While you're writing your will, you'll also have

the opportunity to join the amazing people who have helped Sierra Club Maine by including legacy gifts in their wills.

There is no greater commitment to nature than to ensure it's cared for after you're gone. Whatever legacy you create during your lifetime can continue, in your name, with a bequest to Sierra Club Maine through the Sierra Club Foundation.

For more information, please contact Sarah at sarah.leighton@sierraclub.org or 207-761-5616.

Finfish Aquaculture: Weighing In

By Minot Weld, Sierra Club Maine Volunteer
 Editorial & Content Assistance by Holly Faubel and Jim Merkel

In recent years there has been an unprecedented push to establish industrial finfish aquaculture facilities in Maine, with five proposals currently working their way through the permitting process. These projects are expensive, harmful to the environment and ecosystem, and not in line with the state's climate goals. Better alternatives exist, so promoting massive, polluting, carbon intensive facilities is the wrong way to go.

Total investment for these projects will exceed \$1.2 billion¹. Four of the facilities will raise Atlantic Salmon with a total a projected annual output of 210 million pounds (this is over five times the amount produced in the entire country in 2017, the most recent year for which production figures are available).² The fifth facility will grow kingfish, non-native to Maine.

Millions of gallons of effluent, containing nitrogen, phosphorus, fish odors and, potentially, pathogens and parasites will be pumped into coastal waters from Belfast to Jonesport daily.³ This will imperil already fragile marine ecosystems, impacting the lobster fishery and the restoration of wild fish runs.⁴

Four of the operations, if successfully permitted, will be on land. Fish will be raised in tanks, employing Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) technology. RAS's were originally designed to be zero effluent, making them water efficient and able to be located inland, closer to market. The systems proposed here in Maine are designed to be 'partially open,' requiring coastal or riverside location for effluent disposal. This will include waste from unvaccinated kingfish, known to harbor pathogens injurious to wild fish.⁵

The fifth facility, to be located on Frenchman Bay, off of Bar Harbor and Gouldsboro, will use largely experimental, 'partially open' closed-pen technology on a scale never before attempted.⁶ Water will be pumped from the depths of the bay at a rate of 180 cubic feet per second (calculated at four billion gallons per day).⁷ 'Partially filtered' water will be discharged directly into the bay.

These five fish facilities will have massive carbon footprints.⁸ Both RAS and closed pen systems require significant energy for constant pumping. Additional carbon emissions will be generated in storage and transport, and the embodied carbon in facilities measured in football field equivalent is enormous. It is particularly ironic that the state is championing this development while at the same time claiming climate leadership.

These (mostly foreign) investor-driven projects are initiating yet another iteration of the extraction industry in Maine. They have hired lawyers and national consultants who have carefully coached them in public presentations. They claim impressive job creation as well as direct and secondary economic benefit. The state is rolling out the red carpet and even bending rules, or attempting to, to help get this done.⁹

Climate and environment-friendly alternatives exist. Bluetech Systems, for instance, has developed a scalable, economically viable, zero-effluent RAS technology.¹⁰ This is what the state should be supporting. Scalable, carbon neutral, zero-effluent, zero chemical systems, integrating fish and greenhouse production, have been proven profitable.¹¹ Lower cost, lower barrier to entry systems would enhance the vitality of working waterfronts. Maine's business development efforts should be brought into line with its climate goals. Viable climate and environment alternatives exist. This should be the minimum standard.



Photo by Sirawich Rungsimanop



1. Nordic @ \$500 million: www.penbaypilot.com/article/state-approval-belfast-salmon-farm-appealed-city-planning-board-oks-project/141976. Kingfish @ \$110 million: www.bangordailynews.com/2021/06/29/news/down-east/company-behind-110m-jonesport-fish-farm-gets-key-state-approval/. American Aquafarms @ \$250 million: [www.aquaculturenorthamerica.com/big-plans-for-innovative-salmon-venture-proposed-for-maine/?custnum=&CUSTNUM;&title=&*URLENCODE\(&TITLE;\)&utm_source=&PUB_CODE;&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=&*URLENCODE\(%7B%7B*JobID%7D%7D\)&oly_enc_id=14,61B8065134B4V](http://www.aquaculturenorthamerica.com/big-plans-for-innovative-salmon-venture-proposed-for-maine/?custnum=&CUSTNUM;&title=&*URLENCODE(&TITLE;)&utm_source=&PUB_CODE;&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=&*URLENCODE(%7B%7B*JobID%7D%7D)&oly_enc_id=14,61B8065134B4V). Whole Oceans @ \$250 million: www.feednavigator.com/Article/2018/04/20/Whole-Oceans-looks-to-expand-traceable-salmon-farming-in-the-US. Aquabanq @ 100 million (extrapolated. Full production will equal 1/2 of Whole Oceans output). 2. Nordic @ 77.7 million pounds per year: www.cityofbelfast.org/DocumentCenter/View/3883/Site-Plan-Permit-FOF---COA---12-22-20-Last?bidid=. Whole Oceans @ 44 million pounds: www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/permits/2018/finalme0037478permit.pdf. American Aquafarms @ 30,000 MT = 66 million pounds (1 metric tonne = 2,204.6 pounds): [www.aquaculturenorthamerica.com/big-plans-for-innovative-salmon-venture-proposed-for-maine/?custnum=&CUSTNUM;&title=&*URLENCODE\(&TITLE;\)&utm_source=&PUB_CODE;&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=&*URLENCODE\(%7B%7B*JobID%7D%7D\)&oly_enc_id=14,61B8065134B4V](http://www.aquaculturenorthamerica.com/big-plans-for-innovative-salmon-venture-proposed-for-maine/?custnum=&CUSTNUM;&title=&*URLENCODE(&TITLE;)&utm_source=&PUB_CODE;&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=&*URLENCODE(%7B%7B*JobID%7D%7D)&oly_enc_id=14,61B8065134B4V). Aquabanq @ 10,000 MT = 22 million pounds: www.aquaculturenorthamerica.com/made-in-maine/77.7+44+66+22=209.7;36.4 million pounds produced in 2017; 209.7 / 36.4 = 5.76. 3. Each effluent discharge permit will list N & K content: www.maine.gov/dep/ftp/projects/nordic/staff-recommendations&comments/MEPDES-WDL/0%231%20%20Draft%20Board%20Order%20MEPDES%20permit%208-13-2020.pdf. 4. www.int-res.com/abstracts/meps/v598/p85-97/. 5. www.kingfish-maine.com/about; www.sciencedirect.com/topics/neuroscience/infectious-pancreatic-necrosis-virus. 6. [www.aquaculturenorthamerica.com/big-plans-for-innovative-salmon-venture-proposed-for-maine/?custnum=&CUSTNUM;&title=&*URLENCODE\(&TITLE;\)&utm_source=&PUB_CODE;&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=&*URLENCODE\(%7B%7B*JobID%7D%7D\)&oly_enc_id=14,61B8065134B4V](http://www.aquaculturenorthamerica.com/big-plans-for-innovative-salmon-venture-proposed-for-maine/?custnum=&CUSTNUM;&title=&*URLENCODE(&TITLE;)&utm_source=&PUB_CODE;&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=&*URLENCODE(%7B%7B*JobID%7D%7D)&oly_enc_id=14,61B8065134B4V). 7. 2 leases x 15 pens each x 136.9 million gallons per day each www.maine.gov/dep/ftp/projects/american-aquafarms/applications/meps/FB01%20Long%20Porcupine%20Outfall%20Information%20Form%20with%20Attachments.pdf. 8. For instance: https://8774567e-61ab-4355-a629-8a49a81506a2.filesusr.com/ugd/207e52_325649afaad2439c8316a864d2f24979.pdf?index=true. 9. For instance: www.maine.gov/dep/ftp/projects/kingfish/applications/MEPDES/DECED%20Statement%20on%20Economic%20Impact%20Kingfish.pdf; "Governor's Bill" LD 1473: <https://legislature.maine.gov/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0476&item=1&num=130>. 10. www.bluetechsystems.co.uk. 11. Professor Michael Ben Timmons has such a system under development in Florida <https://bee.cals.cornell.edu/people/michael-timmons/>. Maine has an example that approached this ideal www.springworksfarm.com.

Introducing the **READY FOR 100 ACTIVIST TOOLKIT**

The most powerful change starts with the grassroots.

By engaging with your community, you have the power to change your town or city, and inspire others to join your movement. Grassroots organizing allows you to speak to what you know best—your community. It allows you to directly share your stories and needs with decision makers, and to create change that works for the people in your community, not corporations or people in power. Grassroots efforts have the power and advantage of knowing the people, culture, and environment in their area to create change that will lead to a better future for all!



Sierra Club learned from local campaigns across the nation to build a one-stop shop for helping your community reach 100% clean, renewable energy. Sierra Club has launched the Ready For 100 Activist Toolkit—a blueprint for starting, and winning, grassroots clean energy campaigns. You can find it online at www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100-toolkit.

The Ready For 100 Activist Toolkit will help YOU drive this kind of change in your community. In the Toolkit, you'll find a step-by-step roadmap on how to build, launch, and win a campaign that centers the voices of communities most affected by the climate crisis. To get started building your team, reach out to us at maine.chapter@sierraclub.org.

Chapter Thanks Summer Interns, Kevin and Cam!

This summer Sierra Club Maine hosted two interns—Kevin Murphy, law student at Boston College, and Cam Anderson, student at Bates College.

Kevin's legal internship culminated in two overarching projects: filing an appeal to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection over the approval of a wastewater permit for an aquaculture facility in Jonesport and submitting comments to Efficiency Maine on their draft Triennial Plan. Cam's internship focused on writing a policy paper about Maine's plans for offshore wind turbines. You can read about Kevin's and Cam's experiences below.

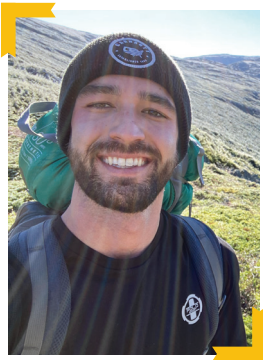
Kevin's and Cam's contributions to the Maine Chapter and the Maine environmental movement were immense. We thoroughly enjoyed working with them and look forward to seeing great things from them in the future. Thank you, Kevin and Cam!



Photo by Dennis Schroeder, National Renewable Energy Laboratory 40389

Legal Internship In Review

By Kevin Murphy, Legal Intern



This fall I'll be a second year law student at Boston College Law School. My internship this summer with Sierra Club Maine has been so valuable, both for the professional experiences I've had and for the connections I've made being part of this wonderful Sierra Club

community here in Maine. My summer internship culminated in two overarching projects: filing an appeal to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection over the approval of a wastewater permit for an aquaculture facility in Jonesport and submitting comments to Efficiency Maine on their draft Triennial Plan.

In the appeal, one of the arguments I made was that the decision to allow wastewater to be pumped into the bay near Jonesport is antithetical to the Maine Won't Wait climate action plan because

the wastewater would degrade the water quality for eelgrass, an important species for wildlife habitats and carbon sequestration. While I'm unsure if the DEP will overturn their decision, it was exciting to file this appeal because it serves as a test of the goals and promises outlined in Maine Won't Wait. This experience really helped me see a gap in the environmental movement between the climate goals that the government has and how these goals are implemented. After law school, I hope to find a career in pushing the government to actually implement and enforce their climate goals.

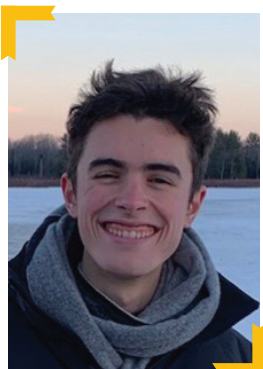
I also worked on submitting comments to Efficiency Maine on their draft Triennial Plan. It was really interesting to learn about all the programs that Efficiency Maine offers and it was a great experience to be a part of the process of shaping their plan for the next three years. Apart from advocating for more electrification and more accessibility to the Efficiency Maine Programs, it was great to collaborate with other environmental groups in Maine.

Along with my professional experiences with the Sierra Club, it was also great to get to know and work with the staff and volunteers. This is the first time I've had an internship with an organization specifically focused on the environment and it was so motivating to sign on to work everyday and exchange ideas with the staff and volunteers on climate change, conservation, and renewable energy. This experience really solidified my desire to commit my career to environmental law and policy.

My experience this summer was truly rewarding, and honestly it went by way too fast! Thank you to everyone who made it so great. I look forward to crossing paths with you all again as we fight together for a clean, sustainable, and equitable future.

Offshore Wind Internship in Review

By Cam Anderson, Intern



I've been working as an intern for Sierra Club Maine for the past two months and I'll be starting my sophomore year at Bates College this fall. I hope to major in politics (with a minor in history), and I'm part of the college's debate team and environmental action group.

My main assignment this summer, and the one that occupied nearly all of my time working for the chapter, was to write a policy paper about

Maine's plans regarding offshore wind turbines. These plans were hatched in 2008 under Governor Baldacci, and have progressed with the help of turbine research from UMaine, the changing political calculus in our state, and federal and corporate investment. These plans are near-complete, and although it seems now that offshore turbines will be constructed in a few years, conflicting interests and political turbulence makes this conclusion far from certain.

After my two months of research, I've written about several reasons offshore wind should be brought to Maine: among these are that it is a powerful way to combat climate change (it will

save emissions itself and pioneer offshore wind in the US) and that it will bring massive economic benefits to our state.

I also want to thank the staff of our chapter: they have suggested ways that I could write different sections, helped with post-writing paper edits, and generally, been fantastic people to work with and talk to. I hope to be in touch with all of you—staff, members, and others—as we work towards a more sustainable world.

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Review of the 2021 Legislative Session

By Robert S. Howe, MPA, Sierra Club Lobbyist

The First Regular Session of the 130th Maine Legislature was unlike any other. It followed the abrupt adjournment of the 2020 legislature on March 17th, six days after the World Health Organization declared a pandemic. The state house in Augusta was closed and the peoples' business was conducted via Zoom, except for a few sessions of the full House and Senate.

Lawmaking and lobbying was more difficult without the ability to negotiate issues through in-person contact in the hallways, likely contributing to fewer compromises and more bills coming out of committees along strictly party lines.

Despite all this, the 2021 session saw major advances in protections to the environment and public health, and in combating global warming, including these:

- LD 99 prohibits the State Treasurer and the Maine Public Employees Retirement System from investing in fossil fuel stocks or other securities.
- LD 1682 adds reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to the purposes of the Public Utilities Commission and requires certain state agencies to develop equity considerations in decision making.
- LD 155 prohibits the use of neonicotinoids on lawns, turf or ornamental vegetation, except to combat invasive species.
- LD 163 places new restrictions and reporting on air emissions from petroleum storage facilities.
- LD 528 establishes a state goal for energy storage system development of 300 megawatts by 2025 and 400 megawatts by 2030.

• LD 1659 creates the Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator to support development of clean energy and sustainability projects and infrastructure through loans and other financial and risk mitigation products, administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust.

• Action on Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution—LD 264 sets up a state framework for the prohibition of the use of PFAS. LD 1503 requires manufacturers to report the presence of PFAS in their products. LD 1505 restricts the use of PFAS in firefighting foam. LD 1600 adds new PFAS reporting and testing requirements.

• On July 12, 2021, Governor Mills signed LD 1541 into law, making Maine the first state in the nation to pass an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging law in response to a steady increase in packaging materials, including those from online retail, that is driving up costs for local cities and towns.

Other successes were the defeat of 'bad' bills:

- LD 39 would have repealed the ban on single-use plastic bags in retail stores.
- LD 101 would have banned the development of offshore wind power.
- LD 249 and LD 583 would have eliminated net energy billing that encourages solar power.
- LDs 988, 1089 and 1097 together would have seriously weakened the review of land use development applications at the DEP. Another 'bad' bill, LD 1415, was rewritten to direct the DEP to identify their staffing needs. Permitting delays caused largely by insufficient staff prompted most of these bills.



We also suffered some defeats, including:

- LD 125 would have banned the aerial spraying of glyphosate or other synthetic herbicides in silviculture. Gov. Mills' veto of the bill was sustained.
- LD 1708 would have asked voters to force the sale of Maine's two investor-owned electric utilities and create a consumer-owned utility operated by a non-profit, state-created company. Gov. Mills' veto of the bill was sustained. Supporters now intend to start a ballot initiative.

Action on other key bills was deferred until the 2022 legislative session, including:

- LD 489 would ask the voters to amend the state constitution to establish a right to a healthy environment.
- LDs 687, 983 and 1702 would authorize the issuance of bonds for land conservation and other measures.
- LDs 218, 517, 1084 and 1094 would authorize the issuance of bonds for various efforts at making buildings more energy efficient.
- LD 1429 would implement many of the recommendations of the Maine Climate Council.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Sierra Club Maine has been working with communities across the state for over 40 years.

As a volunteer-run, grassroots organization **we believe in the power of people working together to make change happen.** That's why we need your help! Your passion, skills, and experiences will help us continue to:

- Fight the climate crisis
- Promote clean air and renewable energy
- Elect pro-environment candidates
- Hold public officials accountable
- Protect and enjoy Maine's woods and waters
- Ensure a clean and just economy

Volunteers of all levels are encouraged to join!

To get started, please complete our volunteer interest form at www.sierraclub.org/maine/volunteer. Once complete, someone will follow up with you for next steps. If you have any questions, contact us at maine.chapter@sierraclub.org or 207-761-5616.



“From climate change, to biodiversity loss, to the accumulation of toxic chemicals in our environment, to threats to our democracy; we face daunting problems in the world today. It is easy to feel helpless in the face of challenges of this magnitude.

Volunteering with the Sierra Club has provided me the support and structure to make a real difference on these issues in Maine. Come volunteer with us! Together we can have an even bigger impact.”

—Patricia Rubert-Nason, Volunteer



Reconvening in October: **COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS!**

Join us Tuesdays at 12pm for virtual presentations and discussions on a variety of topics. This is a great way to engage on important issues in the comfort of your own home!

View our lineup and register today at sierraclub.org/maine/community-conversations

Stay informed about other upcoming events including our annual celebration by visiting

sierraclub.org/maine/events



DONATE STOCK FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Did you know you can donate stock to support Maine's environment? Donating stock shares is a win-win-win situation because your gift is tax deductible and you avoid paying capital gains while helping us to continue our mission to explore, enjoy, and protect the environment.

Do you want to support our legislative work? You may also make a non-tax deductible donation of stock to support us in championing pro-environment laws and policies in Augusta.

For more information on making either tax or non-tax deductible donations of stock please contact Sarah at 207-761-5616 or sarah.leighton@sierraclub.org.

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Sierra Club Maine

PO Box 1374, Yarmouth, ME 04096
207-761-5616
www.sierraclub.org/maine
maine.chapter@sierraclub.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John Brautigam	Falmouth	maine.chapter@sierraclub.org
Julianna DiTomasso (Vice Chair)	Biddeford	maine.chapter@sierraclub.org
Jonathan Fulford	Belfast	jonathan.fulford@gmail.com
Gary Friedmann	Bar Harbor	gary@garyfriedmann.com
David Gibson (Vice Chair)	Morrill	davidgibson1@gmail.com
Kelsey Halliday Johnson	Cape Elizabeth	kelseyhalliday@gmail.com
Sue Levene (Chair)	Phippsburg	suelevene@gmail.com
Jim Merkel	Belfast	jimimerkel@gmail.com
Beverly Roxby (Secretary)	Belfast	maine.chapter@sierraclub.org
Riley Stevenson	Waldoboro	stevensonriley3@gmail.com
Luke Truman	Portland	maine.chapter@sierraclub.org

STAFF

Sarah Leighton, Chapter Director
sarah.leighton@sierraclub.org

Matt Cannon, Campaign & Policy Associate Director
matthew.cannon@sierraclub.org

Ania Wright, Grassroots Climate Action Organizer
ania.wright@sierraclub.org

Marena Bach, Communications & Outreach Manager
marena.bach@sierraclub.org

TEAMS AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS

ADVANCEMENT TEAM

Sarah Leighton: sarah.leighton@sierraclub.org*

CLIMATE ACTION TEAMS

Becky Bartovics: bbartovics@gmail.com

Luke Truman: maine.chapter@sierraclub.org

Ania Wright: ania.wright@sierraclub.org*

CONSERVATION TEAM

Matt Cannon: matthew.cannon@sierraclub.org*

ENERGY TEAM

Matt Cannon: matthew.cannon@sierraclub.org*

EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND JUSTICE TEAM

Kelsey Halliday Johnson: kelseyhalliday@gmail.com

Ania Wright: ania.wright@sierraclub.org*

EVENTS TEAM

Marena Bach: marena.bach@sierraclub.org*

LEGISLATIVE TEAM

Jonathan Fulford: jonathan.fulford@gmail.com

Matt Cannon: matthew.cannon@sierraclub.org*

OUTINGS TEAM

Sue Levene: suelevene@gmail.com

Marena Bach: marena.bach@sierraclub.org*

POLITICAL TEAM

Claudia King: seekingcking@gmail.com

Matt Cannon: matthew.cannon@sierraclub.org*

CHAPTER TREASURER

Corrine Adamowicz: ckucirka@gmail.com

COUNCIL OF LEADERS REP

Becky Bartovics: bbartovics@gmail.com

*Staff Support

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SIERRA CLUB STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

"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."