



Building Thriving Communities

Promoting Local Actions in Maine Communities
Challenging Climate Change



Registration and Coffee/Tea	8:00-8:30
Welcome: Bill Price , Field Organizing Manager, Sierra Club	8:30-8:45
Keynote Speaker: Gus Speth	8:45-9:45
Breakout Session A: Organizing for Action	10:00-11:00
Lightning Rounds I: Climate Change: Impacts and Actions	11:15-12:00
Our Waters Laura Sewell	
Forestry Ivan Fernandez	
Health Dr. Janis Petzel	
Lunch Speakers: Commissioner Amanda Beal Rep. Chloe Maxmin	12:00-1:00
Lightning Rounds II: Climate Change: Impacts and Actions	1:00-1:45
Economics Scott Vlaun	
Agriculture Ellen Griswold	
Energy David Gibson	
Breakout Session B: Local Impacts & Solutions – Health, Agriculture and the Economy	2:00-3:00
Breakout Session C: Identifying Next Steps for the Future in Forests, Water and Energy	3:10-4:10
Final Plenary - Highlights and Intentions	4:15



Breakout Session A

Organizing for Action

10:00 – 11:00am

Local Grassroots Organizing 101

Organizing for local action. This session introduces basic grassroots organizing approaches, strategies and methods to develop a local Climate Action Team (CAT) which includes equality, inclusion and justice practice.

Presenters:

Bill Price, Sierra Club

Anne D. Burt, Sierra Club Maine, Climate Action Advisory Team

Allen Armstrong, Portland Climate Action Team (PCAT)

Getting Ready for a 100% Clean Energy Future

Mobilizing public support to convince leaders of their cities, businesses and institutions to be powered by clean energy; to accelerate clean energy and energy savings in homes, buildings and cars and promote powering our communities with 100% renewable energy by 2050 or before.

Presenters:

Judith Colla, Sustainable Hanover Energy Comm., Ready for 100%

Ed MacAbee, Ready for 100%, York Maine

Joe Blotnick, A Climate to Thrive, Director

City/Community Government Action for a Clean Energy Future

Learn about how rural communities can use best practices for resolving conflict and engaging diverse people in productive decision making that supports sustainable communities around climate change and examples of successes implementing climate solutions in the urban environment.

Presenters:

Tora Johnson, University of Maine, Machias

Troy Moon, Sustainability Coordinator, City of Portland

Vaughn Woodruff, Insource Renewables. Bangor Solarize

Northeast Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) and CMP Transmission Line Organizing for Non-Transmission Alternatives (NTA)

Organizing against the Transmission Line and possible alternative solutions.

Moderator: Sandi Howard – Say No to NECEC

Presenters:

Steve Crowley, VT Sierra Club

Duane Hanson, Say No to NECEC

Matt Wagner, Say No to NECEC

Roberta Benefiel, Great Riverkeeper Laborador, CANADA



Breakout Session B

2:00pm-3:00pm

Local Impacts and Solutions - Health, Agriculture and the Economy

Health Issues and Climate Change

Examining how physical and mental health is affected by climate change and finding local solutions.

Moderator: Dr. Janis Petzel

Presenters:

Paul Weiss, Former Maine CDC

Richard Thomas, Psychologist

Sergio Cahueque, Environmental Health Strategy Center

The Economy of Climate Disruption

Demonstrating how climate will affect our economy just as the economy has affected our climate and opportunities for new directions.

Moderator Scott Vlaun

Presenters:

Brad Sherwood, Mid-Maine Community Investment Initiative

Doug Johnson, Manager Belfast Food Co-op

Alex Jackimovicz, Co-Founder, Alliance for Economic Democracy

Building Community Through Sustainable Agriculture & Local Food Self Reliance

Learning about regenerative agricultural methods and feeding Mainers through local self reliance.

Moderator: Ellen Griswold-Maine Farmland Trust

Presenters:

Jesse Labbe-Watson, MidCoast Permaculture Design

Jim Gerritson, Wood Prairie Family Farm

Muhidin Libah, Director, Somali-Bantu Community Gardening



Breakout Session C

3:10pm-4:10pm

Identifying Next Steps & Best Practices for the Future

Managing Maine's Forest Resources while Adapting to Climate Change – Challenges

Demonstrating methods for improving forest stewardship.

Moderator: Ivan Fernandez - Climate Institute UMO

Presenters:

Kathryn Miller, Plant Biologist, Acadia National Park

Rachel Smolker, BioFuel Watch

Morton Moesswilde, Retired State Forester

Denny Gallaudet, Cumberland Climate Action Team-Sierra Club Maine

Terrestrial, Estuarine & Marine Water Bodies-Challenges as Storm Intensity increases and Sea Level Rises

Identifying key issues and local sustainability efforts to educate, advocate and take local action.

Moderator: Laura Sewall, Bates College

Presenters:

Gayle Bowness, Gulf of Maine Research Institute

Shri Verrill, Wetland Ecologist, Downeast Salmon Federation

Susan Colvin, Unity College, AWSM

Community Energy: Laying the Groundwork for a Clean Energy Future

Implementing innovative projects that enable people and business owners to reap the financial and social benefits of transitioning away from fossil fuels.

Moderator: David Gibson

Presenters:

Chris Johnson, Former State Senator

Barry Woods, ReVision Energy

Michael Maines, MainesCraft Homes + Renovations

Elise Brown, Evergreen Home Performance Energy Efficiency

