

1. The Efficiency Maine Trust

1.1 Maine's Independent Administrator for Energy Programs to Reduce Energy Costs and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Efficiency Maine Trust (the Trust) is an independent, quasi-state agency established for the purposes of planning, coordinating and implementing certain energy programs in Maine.

The principal goals of the Trust's programs are, generally, to help Maine's homes and businesses reduce their energy costs and to improve the economic security of the State. In pursuing these goals, the Trust's programs advance the objectives, enumerated in statute, of:

- Reducing the cost of energy in Maine;
- Maximizing the use of weatherization and energy efficiency;
- Reducing economic insecurity from the inefficient use of fossil fuels;
- Increasing new jobs and business development to deliver affordable energy and energy efficiency products and services;
- Enhancing heating improvements for households;
- Facilitating consumer access to technical assistance and financial incentives relating to energy efficiency and alternative energy resources;
- Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

The Trust's programs provide financial incentives for the purchase of high-efficiency equipment and the implementation of conservation measures to help Maine customers save electricity, natural gas, and unregulated heating fuels (such as heating oil and propane). In addition to providing financial support, the Trust delivers public information, technical assistance, and quality assurance related to energy costs, conservation measures, efficient or alternative energy equipment, and installation.

Electric utilities and natural gas utilities are the primary source of Efficiency Maine's funding. Maine law requires that those utilities procure all energy efficiency resources that satisfy the standard of being cost effective, reliable and achievable. The utilities fund the Trust to develop and deliver that resource.

Additional funding comes from the sale of Maine's carbon allowances under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), from the Forward Capacity Market at ISO-New England, and from the occasional receipt of revenue from grants, voluntary payments, and other agreements.

1.2 Stakeholder Board of Trustees

The Trust is governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees, comprising:

1. The director of the Governor's Energy Office (*ex officio*);
2. The director of the Maine State Housing Authority (*ex officio*);
3. Seven other members appointed by the Governor, who "adequately represent the interests of commercial energy consumers, industrial energy consumers, small business energy

consumers, residential energy consumers and low-income energy consumers”¹ and among whom there is knowledge of and experience in financial matters, consumer advocacy, management, conservation fund programs, carbon reduction programs, or relevant policy.

Nominations to the Board are reviewed by the Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology (EUT) and confirmed by the Senate. Appointed trustees serve three-year terms.

The Board generally meets monthly in Augusta, and its meetings are open to the public.

1.3 Staff

Day-to-day operations of the Trust are managed by a staff of approximately 18 full-time employees. The staff handles program design and management, financial accounting and reporting, competitive solicitations and procurement, grant compliance, and various marketing and information sharing tasks. The staff also manages teams of contractors who may assist the Trust in implementing (or “delivering”) elements of programs. Elements of the Trust’s work that may be subcontracted out include market research, marketing, technical training of other contractors and suppliers, technical support and engineering analysis on specific energy projects. It may also include handling of inbound calls, application processing, calculation and payment of financial incentives, loan underwriting and servicing, program compliance, program evaluation, and financial auditing.

¹ 35-A MRS §10103(2)(A)