

6.4 Other Initiatives

The Trust has not yet completed the drafting of this section. This section will expand on the following outline.

During the period of Triennial Plan IV, the Trust will remain engaged in various state, regional, and national forums and initiatives that advance the purposes for which the Trust was established. The outline of these forums and initiatives is as follows:

6.4.1 Track and Participate in State Initiatives

- a. Maine Legislature
 - i. Provide information, analysis and testimony on matters relating to the Trust, energy conservation and alternative energy
- b. Governor's Energy Office (GEO) Initiatives
 - i. Work with the GEO, as required by statute, in the development of the comprehensive state energy plan:
 - 1. due every two years;
 - 2. identifying opportunities and recommending actions to lower the total cost of energy to consumers;
 - 3. including a section that must specify the State's progress in meeting the Oil Dependence Reduction Targets¹ and recommendations, if needed, for actions to meet the reduction targets to:
 - a. reduce the use of oil across the state economy to achieve the targets of reducing oil consumption in Maine from 2007 levels by at least 30% by 2030 and by at least 50% by 2050;
 - b. focus on near-term policies and infrastructure changes that set the State on a reasonable trajectory to meet the targets;
 - c. prioritize the improvement of energy efficiency and the transition to the use of alternative energy sources for heating and transportation.
 - ii. Provide GEO with information about Trust programs for reporting to US Department of Energy and other national and regional information systems
- c. MaineHousing
 - i. Collaborate with MaineHousing on developing updates to its annual plan for the US Department of Energy (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the Low Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Weatherization and Central Heating Improvement Program (CHIP) initiatives
- d. Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Proceedings
 - i. File all necessary testimony, evidence, comments, briefs and exceptions related to the development, review and approval of the Trust's Triennial Plan IV, Annual Updates, and related dockets
 - ii. Non-Wires Alternative (NWA) Cases
 - 1. Develop and/or provide data, analysis, testimony about the opportunity for distributed energy resources (such as energy conservation) that may

¹ 2 MRS Sec. 9(5)(A).

- serve as lower-cost alternatives to proposed transmission or distribution system upgrades;
 - 2. Develop cost-effective NWA resources, where approved by the PUC, as in the Boothbay Harbor Pilot Project.
 - iii. Other utility filings that relate to the Trust’s programs and purposes
 - iv. Avoided Costs; Cost-Effectiveness Cases
 - 1. Track and participate in cases that may determine the values used in the calculations of “benefits” and “costs” associated with energy efficiency and alternative energy
 - v. Rulemakings
 - 1. Participate in rulemakings, if any, where the programs and procedures of the Trust may be implicated.
 - vi. Collaborate on reporting related to Maine’s participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)
 - e. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
 - i. Collaborate on reporting related to Maine’s participation in RGGI
 - ii. Collaborate on issues related to mitigation of environmental impacts of leaking fuel tanks
 - f. Workforce Development
 - i. Share the Trust’s understanding of the capacity and needs of workforce development as it pertains to the upgrading of building envelopes and the installation and maintenance of high-efficiency equipment used for heating, hot water, lighting, air conditioning, refrigeration, compressed air, and certain manufacturing processes.
 - g. Codes and Standards
 - i. Share the Trust’s understanding of the baseline status of buildings and building systems in Maine for forums considering policies to revise building energy codes or equipment standards.

6.4.2 Track and Participate in Regional and National Initiatives

- h. The Efficiency Maine Trust Act provides that: “The trust shall monitor conservation planning and program development activities in the region and around the country ...” and “The trust may coordinate its efforts under this section with similar efforts in other states in the northeast region...”²
- i. ISO New England
 - i. Aggregate resources for delivery in the Forward Capacity Market (FCM)
 - ii. Collect and provide data, forecasts, certifications of measurement and verification protocols, financial assurance, and reports as necessary to participate in the FCM
- j. Energy Conservation Forums
 - i. The Trust shares data and analysis in forums focusing on strategies and results of energy conservation programs, such as the DOE, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP), and the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE).

² 35-A MRS Sec. 10110(2)(D) and (I).

- k. Grid Modernization
 - i. States such as New York and Rhode Island are developing processes to compare costs and benefits of future grid upgrades with the costs and benefits of non-wires alternatives
 - ii. The Internet of Things (IoT) concerns the development of technology that allows grid operators and energy users to monitor and manage electricity usage (load) in real time. Energy conservation programs, such as those run by the Trust, are increasingly engaged in promoting the installation and use of end-use equipment and systems that can take advantage of the emerging capacity to cost-effectively provide real-time monitoring and management.
- l. Climate Change Plans and Greenhouse Gas Reductions
 - i. The Trust provides data, analysis and program recommendations on Maine's efforts, as requested, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to various state, regional and national initiatives, such as for the NEG-ECP initiatives:
 - 1. The Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG-ECP)
 - a. NEG-ECP Climate Change Action Plan set regional targets for 2030 to reduce GHG by 35-45% below 1990 levels and for 2050 to reduce GHG by 75-85% below 2001 levels. Resolution 39-1: Resolution Concerning Climate Change, August 31, 2015. Resolution 39-1 further resolved:
 - i. That the [Governors and Premiers] recognize the importance of all efforts being made at the state, provincial and federal levels to address climate change; and
 - ii. The [Governors and Premiers] ask the Committee on the Environment to identify strategies, policies and measures through which the region can achieve the 2030 reduction marker and the 2050 target
 - 2. Strategic Electrification
 - a. Continued involvement with Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) Strategic Electrification Initiative
 - i. The Trust provided data and analysis to a regional study on the potential impact of air source, ductless heat pumps and heat pump water heaters on regional goals to reduce greenhouse gases through increased electrification of heating systems and transportation
 - b. The Trust is working with the Maine Department of Transportation, the Maine DEP, and the GEO in the development of a strategic plan to use funds, from the settlement of legal claims against Volkswagen, to reduce NOx and carbon emissions by promoting electric vehicle infrastructure in Maine.