

SUMMARY OF KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Table of Contents

Oversight Entities..... 1
Legislature..... 1
Public Utilities Commission..... 2
State Offices, Agencies, and Partners 3
Department of Energy Resources 3
MaineHousing 3
Department of Transportation 4
Department of Environmental Protection 4
Department of Health and Human Services 4
Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future 5
Office of the Public Advocate 5
State Stakeholder Groups and Initiatives 5
Maine Climate Council 5
Recharge Maine 6
Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code Board 6
Electric Ratepayer Advisory Council 6
Environmental & Energy Technology Council of Maine (E2Tech) 6
Maine Real Estate & Development Association 6
Regional/National Groups and Initiatives..... 7
Association of Energy Services Professionals 7
Consortium for Energy Efficiency..... 7
Green Bank 50 Coalition 7
Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships..... 7

Oversight Entities

Legislature

The Trust’s committee of jurisdiction in the Maine Legislature is the **Energy, Utilities and Technology (EUT) Committee**. On December 1 of each year, the Trust submits to the EUT Committee the Annual

Report of the prior year's activities, results, and financials. On January 30 and July 30 of each year, the Trust also submits to the EUT Committee year-to-date financial updates and the operating budget. By practice, the Trust typically also provides a briefing on the annual report and plans for the year ahead to the EUT Committee early in the year for each legislative session. Periodically throughout a session, the Trust provides briefings, written information, analysis, and testimony about energy issues, especially those issues that impact the Trust's programs and goals. Occasionally, when relevant, the Trust offers similar input in other legislative committees, such as the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, Transportation Committee, and the Appropriations Committee. When a Triennial Plan is under development, the Trust provides an opportunity for the members of the EUT Committee to ask questions and give input. The Trust also annually provides a summary financial report to the Speaker and the Senate President, as is required of all quasi-state agencies.

Public Utilities Commission

The Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC) regulates electric, natural gas, telecommunications, and water utilities to ensure that Maine consumers have access to safe, reliable services at rates that are just and reasonable for both consumers and utilities. Like a court, the PUC adjudicates cases and it may take testimony, subpoena witnesses and records, issue decisions or orders, hold public and evidentiary hearings, and encourage participation by all affected parties, including utility customers. The PUC also initiates investigations and rulemakings, resolves procedural matters, and responds to legislative directives.

The PUC has oversight of the Trust's program planning and administration, and must approve the Triennial Plan. The PUC's oversight includes reviewing performance of the programs and ratifying the performance metrics if the metrics conform with the statute's principles of program administration and are in the public interest. The PUC may open an investigation and issue appropriate orders to address concerns of non-compliance. The PUC is also empowered to establish a fund to cover the costs of its oversight responsibilities. On or before December 1st of each year, the Trust must submit its Annual Report to the PUC detailing the prior year's activities, results, and financials. On or before March 1st of the first two years of the Triennial Plan period, or as needed to request a Significant Change to the Plan, the Trust must file an Annual Update with the PUC. The Annual Update must describe and document all Significant Changes and Non-Significant Changes.¹

In addition to the Triennial Plan dockets, the Trust staff also engages in other proceedings at the PUC that it determines may have an impact on the Trust's programs and goals.

¹ "Significant" and "Non-Significant Changes" are terms defined by the PUC in Attachment A - *Annual Update and Significant Change Process for the Fifth Triennial Plan of the Efficiency Maine Trust* of the Order Approving Triennial Plan V.

State Offices, Agencies, and Partners

Department of Energy Resources

The Department of Energy Resources (DOER) is a cabinet-level state department responsible for state energy resource planning, policy development, and coordination.² The Commissioner of DOER is an ex-officio member of the Trust's Board.

The Trust works closely with DOER to report energy data and program results to the Maine Legislature, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Maine's federal delegation, ISO-New England, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), and other non-profit and academic initiatives seeking energy data from Maine. The Trust confers with DOER on legislation pending at the Legislature and certain dockets pending at the PUC. The Trust and DOER also collaborate on various issues and initiatives, including activities related to the Maine Climate Council, the Maine Climate Council's Industrial Innovation Task Force, Maine's Plan for EV Infrastructure Deployment (PEVID), the Lead by Example Initiative to spur energy upgrades at state properties. The two entities also confer on existing management and potential future investments of federal funds. DOER is the primary recipient of two U.S. DOE awards – the IRA Home Energy Rebates program and the Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund Capitalization Grant Program – both of which are implemented by the Trust (as the subrecipient).

MaineHousing

The Maine State Housing Authority (MaineHousing) is an independent authority created by the Maine State Legislature to address problems of unsafe, unsuitable, overcrowded, and unaffordable housing. MaineHousing administers a number of federal housing-related programs for the State. The Director of MaineHousing is an ex-officio member of the Trust's Board.

The Trust confers with MaineHousing on developing updates to its annual plan for the U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Weatherization and Central Heating Improvement Program (CHIP) initiatives. Every year, MaineHousing briefs the Trust's Board, at a public meeting, on the elements of the coming year's weatherization plans. This briefing gives the Trust the opportunity to ask questions and provide input regarding lessons learned, best practices, and ways to ensure that similar initiatives at the Trust are complementary and not duplicative.

The Trust also coordinates with MaineHousing on heat pump programs. In recent years, MaineHousing has allocated a portion of its federal HEAP funds for heat pump installations in support of the state's heat pump goals. It has also received other federal grant funds to pursue heat pump installations in low-income homes. MaineHousing bases the portions of its heat pump program design elements on the Trust's existing equipment criteria, installation requirements, and inspection training protocols. As with

² Prior to 2025, the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) – part of the Executive Department – served this function. GEO was elevated to a cabinet-level department through An Act to Establish the Department of Energy Resources (Public Law, chapter 476), enacted July 1, 2025.

weatherization initiatives, the two organizations worked to develop programs that are complementary and not duplicative.

Department of Transportation

The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) is a cabinet-level state department with primary responsibility for statewide transportation by all modes of travel. The Trust works closely with the MaineDOT on a number of issues and initiatives related to EVs and EV charging infrastructure.

The Trust manages MaineDOT's \$8 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)/Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan (MJRP) allocation to expand publicly accessible EV charging stations, providing the agency with periodic updates on the initiative performance metrics required for federal reporting. The Trust also collaborated with MaineDOT on a successful application for nearly \$15 million through the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program in FY2023. The Trust and MaineDOT also partner with DOER, GOPIF, and DEP to manage "Recharge Maine," the State's initiative to develop a statewide network of public, high-speed EV chargers. The group makes an annual update the Maine Plan for EV Infrastructure Deployment (PEVID), which is submitted to the FHWA as a condition of Maine's \$19 million funding allotment through the National EV Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program.

Department of Environmental Protection

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is responsible for protecting and restoring Maine's natural resources and enforcing the state's environmental laws.

DEP is Maine's administrative liaison to RGGI Inc., the non-profit entity that manages the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Every year, the Trust and DEP, together with the PUC and DOER, prepare an annual report for the Legislature on RGGI activities and results in Maine. The Trust's Executive Director and the DEP Commissioner also serve as co-chairs of the Maine Climate Council's Industrial Innovation Task Force. The Trust also administers a small initiative (using DEP funds) to assist residents of manufactured (mobile) homes in disposing of their old oil tanks after transitioning to a whole-home heat pump system.

Department of Health and Human Services

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provides health and social services to approximately one third of the state's population, including children, families, older Mainers, and individuals with disabilities, mental illness, and substance use disorders. It operates several state and federal programs for which low income and/or limited assets are criteria for eligibility (e.g., the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for food assistance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families for cash assistance, and MaineCare for medical insurance coverage). The Trust works closely with DHHS to verify which individuals are participating in these income-eligible programs, while maintaining confidentiality, to determine eligibility for Trust administered initiatives that are aimed at helping low-income Mainers.

Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future

The Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF) was created by Governor Janet Mills to collaborate across State agencies, stakeholders, and public to recommend innovative policy solutions for critical issues facing Maine. Its areas of focus include climate change, workforce development, housing, issues facing youth and older Maine people, the opioid crisis, and Maine's long-term economic prosperity.

The Trust collaborates with GOPIF on a variety of issues and initiatives. Many of these also involve DOER, and are outlined above (e.g., activities related to the Maine Climate Council, the Maine Climate Council’s Industrial Innovation Task Force, Maine’s Plan for EV Infrastructure Deployment [PEVID], the Lead by Example Initiative to spur energy upgrades at state properties, and existing/potential investments of federal funds).

Office of the Public Advocate

The Office of the Public Advocate's (OPA’s) primary responsibility is to represent the interests of Maine utility consumers. Its attorneys advocate for rates, services, and practices to benefit utility customers in regulatory and court proceedings, primarily at the PUC.

The OPA is a key intervenor in the Trust’s Triennial Plan proceedings. The Trust also collaborates with the OPA on the Arrearage Management Program – the electric utilities' program intended to help reduce the number of low-income customers in arrears on their electric bills and, therefore, lower the “bad debt” burden to ratepayers that is associated with customers who fail to pay their utility bills. The Trust also works with OPA on the Non-Wires Alternatives (NWA) assessment process. The NWA law established a formal, independent process for the consideration of NWAs by the PUC, and an NWA coordinator (NWAC) position within the OPA to review annual plans and individual project proposals. As part of the process, the Trust was assigned to develop and deliver all customer-sited NWA resources (such as energy efficiency or energy storage) that are determined to be more cost-effective than the proposed transmission and distribution system investments.

State Stakeholder Groups and Initiatives

Maine Climate Council

In late FY2019, the Legislature passed a bill establishing the Maine Climate Council to develop a four-year climate action plan that would put Maine on a trajectory to reduce emissions by 45% by 2030 and at least 80% by 2050.¹⁰¹ The Council and its working groups comprise scientists, local and state officials, a wide range of stakeholders, and engaged citizens. The executive director of the Trust holds an ex-officio seat on the Council and serves as co-chair for the **Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing Working Group**. Over the course of 2019 and 2020, the working groups developed, analyzed, and recommended strategies to inform the Council’s plan to mitigate emissions and support resilience in Maine’s various sectors.

The Council compiled the various recommendations from all working groups and released *Maine Won’t Wait: A Four-Year Plan for Climate Action* in December 2020. (They released an updated plan in 2024.)

The plan identified the Trust as the “lead agency” on several of the plan’s key strategies (e.g., heat pumps, weatherization, EVs). Another strategy identified in the climate action plan is for Maine to create an **Industrial Task Force** through which industry and stakeholders can collaborate to study and pilot innovations and incentives to reduce carbon emissions from Maine’s industrial processes. The Trust worked with DOER and DEP to launch the Industrial Task Force in 2021, and continues to play an active role in its meetings.

Recharge Maine

In 2023, the Trust collaborated with MainedOT, DOER, GOPIF, and DEP to brand “Recharge Maine,” the state’s initiative to expand availability of public EV charging infrastructure. This group developed Maine’s Plan for EV Infrastructure Deployment, which was submitted to the FHWA as a prerequisite to receiving Maine’s \$19 million allotment of funds through the NEVI Formula Program. It also collaborated on the \$15 million application to the FHWA’s CFI Discretionary Grant Program. The Trust continues to support EV infrastructure planning through the Recharge Maine initiative.

Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code Board

Maine statute designates the Trust’s executive director as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the MUBEC Technical Board. Duties of the board are to adopt and amend the MUBEC, identify, and resolve conflicts of the building code and life safety codes. This board convenes to periodically update the statewide building codes to match newer editions of the International Code Council set of codes as appropriate.

Electric Ratepayer Advisory Council

In 2022, the Maine Legislature enacted LD 1913, An Act To Create the Electric Ratepayer Advisory Council. The stated goal of the council is to evaluate measures to make electricity more affordable in Maine, and to advise the OPA on these potential measures. The statute placed the Trust’s executive director (or their designee) as one of five ex-officio members of the 18-member council.

Environmental & Energy Technology Council of Maine (E2Tech)

E2Tech is a member-based organization comprised of individuals, businesses, and organizations that seek to build Maine’s environmental and energy technology economy. They hold events to share knowledge and foster connections and support a portfolio of research, development, and demonstration projects. The Trust’s executive director sits on the E2Tech Board, and Staff routinely helps organize and present at E2Tech events of interest to the Trust.

Maine Real Estate & Development Association

The Maine Real Estate & Development Association (MEREDA) is a non-profit entity whose mission is to promote an environment for responsible development and ownership of real estate throughout the state of Maine. MEREDA accomplishes its mission through legislative advocacy, regulatory oversight, sponsorship of programs and conferences, and by serving as a unified and proactive representative for real estate and economic development interests. MEREDA members are eligible to participate in

conferences and events as a part of their membership. Before MEREDA began requiring their conference participants and sponsors to be members, Efficiency Maine regularly attended MEREDA events.

Regional/National Groups and Initiatives

Association of Energy Services Professionals

Association of Energy Services Professionals (AESP) is a nonprofit, membership-based association of individuals and organizations interested in the delivery and implementation of energy efficiency, demand-side management, distributed energy resources and demand response programs. Examples of members include utilities (investor-owned, municipal and cooperatives); energy marketers; consultants; manufacturers and suppliers; federal and state government officials; public benefits agencies; and end-users. AESP members gain access to discounted or free courses and workshops; participation on topic committees and with regional chapters; a library of energy-related resources and “best practices”; and opportunities to post job announcements and network with others in the energy field. FY2022 was the first year the Trust joined as a group member.

Consortium for Energy Efficiency

The Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE) is a nonprofit trade association of energy efficiency program administrators like Efficiency Maine. CEE develops initiatives for its North American members to promote the manufacture and purchase of energy-efficient products and services. CEE prepares national studies, delivers workshops, and conducts analyses to help energy efficiency program administrators perform their duties and improve their performance. CEE’s goal is to induce lasting structural and behavioral changes in the marketplace, resulting in the increased adoption of energy-efficient technologies. CEE members, including Efficiency Maine Trust, are eligible to participate in committees and workshops as part of their membership. Efficiency Maine has been a CEE member for more than 13 years. Staff regularly attends workshops and reviews reports that provide valuable information about program results from other jurisdictions and lessons learned about best practices in program administration.

Green Bank 50 Coalition

The Green Bank 50 (GB-50) is the leading network of nearly 50 mission-driven non-profit, public, or quasi-public financing institutions from across the country. The network’s goal is to build the capacity and amplify the impact of green banks by coordinating and sharing best practices, implementation guidance, technical services, and key stakeholder engagement. The GB-50 aims to maximize its members’ climate and equity ambitions; use the best financial strategies to make the most of their capital; and deliver on the project pipeline of the communities they serve. The Efficiency Maine Green Bank is an active member of the GB-50. EMT’s Senior Program Manager for Finance Initiatives (James Neal) serves as Chair of the Northeast Regional Subcommittee and Vice Chair of the Board.

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) is a non-profit organization that has been working to share information about energy efficiency in the northeast for decades. Its mission is to “Accelerate

regional collaboration to promote advanced energy efficiency and related solutions in homes, buildings, industry, and communities.” EMT has participated in select NEEP initiatives in the past where there is a value-added opportunity to the Trust, its mission, and programs. This opportunity is present where discussions are being held about new technologies, research, market trends, or policies that will have implications for the EMT programs. The NEEP Allies Program supplements EMT’s other channels as a way to keep informed about regional efficiency trends and important topics and to participate in events with a regional network of efficiency leaders and stakeholders.