Equity Considerations for Proposal Criteria

Presentation to the Maine Climate Council
Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing Working Group
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College of the Atlantic
Outline

1. Presentation goals
2. Presenter introductions/background
3. Equity considerations within the Climate Council
4. How do buildings & efficiency inequities show up in Maine, particularly in rural areas?
5. Connections with Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice
6. Connections with natural resource–reliant communities
7. Applications with Working Group strategies
1. Presentation Goals
Presentation Goals

1. Ground the group in the enabling legislation and other foundational guidance for our work
2. Unpack key equity-related terms and indicators that are relevant to our proposals
3. Propose and demonstrate ways to incorporate these terms and indicators into our decision-making process

Scheduled around weather and the tides, a barge unloads spray foam insulation equipment on Monhegan Island, Maine. Photo credit: Portland Press Herald
2. Presenter introductions/background
Maine Youth for Climate Justice (MYCJ) is a coalition of over 250 youth activists (up to age 30) founded in February 2019 that fights for climate justice, bold and urgent climate action, and a just transition in Maine.
37-year old Rockland-based non-profit working to sustain Maine's island and coastal communities, and exchange ideas and experiences to further the sustainability of communities here and elsewhere.
Island Institute

WHERE WE WORK:
Maine's 120 coastal and island communities

The Island Institute works to sustain Maine’s island and coastal communities and exchanges ideas and experiences to further the sustainability of communities here and elsewhere.
3. Equity Considerations within the Climate Council
In establishing the Maine Climate Council, LD 1679 provides statutory language that calls for the explicit consideration of:

- “rural communities”
- “persons of low income and moderate income”
- “economic sectors that face the biggest barriers to emissions reductions”
- “vulnerable communities” and
- “natural resource-based industries”

... and for doing so “fairly and equitably” and for “ensuring equity for all sectors and regions of the State.”
4. Clean energy economy transition plan. The updated climate action plan under subsection 1 must include a clean energy economy transition plan that, as applicable, incorporates feedback from the Maine Climate Council working groups established under section 577-A, subsection 7 and which may incorporate feedback from other entities with expertise in education, training, apprenticeships, workforce and labor. The clean energy economy transition plan under this subsection must:

B. Highlight strategies for the State’s rural communities, workers and businesses as the State transitions to a low-carbon future that are designed to encourage good-paying jobs and long-term employment; and

7. Objectives. In identifying the mitigation strategies and adaptation and resilience strategies to include in the updated climate action plan under subsections 2 and 3 and in developing the clean energy economy transition plan under subsection 4, the council shall give consideration to the following objectives:

B. Pursuing actions that minimize deleterious effects, including those on persons of low income and moderate income, to public health and the environment and that support economic sectors that face the biggest barriers to emissions reductions and creating, when feasible, additional employment and economic growth in the State, especially in rural and economically distressed regions of the State; and

C. Ensuring equity for all sectors and regions of the State and the broadest group of residents benefit from the achievement of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction levels in section 576-A, with consideration of economic, quality-of-life and public health benefits.

Excerpts from LD 1679: An Act To Promote Clean Energy Jobs and To Establish the Maine Climate Council
8. Actions by council, subcommittee and working groups. The council shall consider and prioritize actions recommended by the subcommittee established in subsection 6 and the working groups established in subsection 7, and the actions of the subcommittee and the actions of the working groups, as applicable, are consistent with and include, but are not limited to, the following:

E. Ensuring that the State’s transition to a clean energy economy benefits all residents of the State fairly and equitably, with particular consideration given to sources of employment, income levels and historical experience. Development of mitigation and adaptation strategies must include consideration of how low-income residents of the State and residents of the State who are members of vulnerable communities will be affected by climate change and by the transition to a clean energy economy and how programs and incentives to address such effects can be designed to be accessible to all residents of the State regardless of income level, age, race or geographic location;

I. Assessing the impacts that climate change may have on agriculture, fishing, forestry and other natural resource-based industries in the State and how those industries might best adapt to preserve those industries and the communities they support;

Excerpts from LD 1679: An Act To Promote Clean Energy Jobs and To Establish the Maine Climate Council
Governor’s Office Includes These Criteria

In its draft guidance on evaluation criteria, the Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF) has further underscored these issues with the following question:

- “Does the strategy either benefit or burden low-income, rural, or vulnerable residents and/or communities? Please describe.”
Inclusion in Working Group

Who is missing from this (Zoom) room?

Why are you here? How do you make decisions in this group?

How does the work of this working group connect with vulnerabilities in Maine?
4. How do buildings & efficiency inequities show up in Maine, particularly in rural areas?
Digging into the Data

Bridging the Rural Efficiency Gap, 2018

Waypoints: Connect, 2020
Rural Housing Stock Tends to be Older

Figure 4. Percent rural residents by county (left) vs. median year built of housing (right) in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont

Source: Census Bureau (2010) Census and American Community Survey (2012-2016)

Bridging the Rural Efficiency Gap, 2018
More Rural Areas Have More Mobile Homes

Figure 5. Relationship between percent of mobile homes and percent of rural population in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont counties

Source: Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2016)

Bridging the Rural Efficiency Gap, 2018
Financial Barriers: Lower Incomes, Higher Energy Burden

Bridging the Rural Efficiency Gap, 2018

Waypoints: Livelihoods, 2017
Energy Burden vs. Percent Rural Population

Maine

Vermont

New Hampshire

Alaska

Source: DOE Low-Income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD) Tool (2015)

Bridging the Rural Efficiency Gap, 2018
Barriers to Energy Efficiency in Rural Communities

● Geographic
  ○ Geographic isolation & dispersed population
  ○ Lack of energy efficiency contractors

● Financial
  ○ Upfront cost
  ○ Lower incomes, higher energy burdens
  ○ Credit access and debt aversion

● Awareness & Access
  ○ Lack of access to traditional marketing channels
  ○ Lack of awareness or skepticism of existing resources
Broadband Access

- At least 83,000 homes in the state lack the physical ability to connect to high speed, reliable internet (ConnectMaine Authority)
- A dramatic gap exists between rural and urban counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Total households</th>
<th>Households with less than 25/3 Mbps</th>
<th>% of households with less than 25/3 Mbps</th>
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<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>722,106</td>
<td>83,144</td>
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<tr>
<td>Piscataquis</td>
<td>7,572</td>
<td>5,826</td>
<td>76.94</td>
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<td>Franklin</td>
<td>11,684</td>
<td>6,196</td>
<td>53.03</td>
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<td>Hancock</td>
<td>23,748</td>
<td>8,290</td>
<td>34.91</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waldo</td>
<td>16,820</td>
<td>5,395</td>
<td>32.07</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
<td>14,065</td>
<td>4,399</td>
<td>31.28</td>
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<td>Oxford</td>
<td>20,723</td>
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<td>Somerset</td>
<td>21,376</td>
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<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>29,852</td>
<td>5,080</td>
<td>17.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>15,021</td>
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<td>Penobscot</td>
<td>61,787</td>
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<td>Sagadahoc</td>
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<td>1,366</td>
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<td>Knox</td>
<td>16,813</td>
<td>1,276</td>
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<td>Kennebec</td>
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<td>1,047</td>
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<td>York</td>
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<td>972</td>
<td>1.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>117,871</td>
<td>1,068</td>
<td>0.91</td>
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<tr>
<td>Androscoggin</td>
<td>44,747</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>0.71</td>
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Program Participation Impacts

Percent rural population (left) vs. Efficiency Maine participating households per housing unit by county (right)

Sources: Efficiency Maine Home Energy Savings Program and Affordable Heat Initiative Participating Households for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017; Census Bureau (2010)

Source: US Census

Source: Efficiency Maine

Bridging the Rural Efficiency Gap, 2018
Program Participation Impacts

● Islands top the list of heat pump participation, with the highest number of incentivised installations per total housing units along the coast.

● Many island communities have successfully utilized collective purchasing programs to make it easier and more affordable to install heat pumps.
5. Connections with Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) Connections

1. There are communities in Maine that have already been impacted by and continue to be impacted by climate change.
2. Some of these communities have already taken significant action to reduce their emissions and adapt to climate change.
3. Every community in Maine has its own unique expertise and history and that expertise and history should be used and respected as Maine transitions to a clean energy future.
4. The necessary transition to a clean energy economy has the potential to exclude and disenfranchise vulnerable communities if not pursued equitably.
5. Equity is established when all stakeholders have access to their respective necessary resources, power, and decision-making processes.
6. Not all stakeholders have the same risk to the impacts of climate change, access to power or opportunities during the transition to a clean energy economy. These vulnerable communities include but are not limited to the Wabanaki people, Maine’s immigrant communities, Maine’s communities of color, Maine’s low-income communities, Maine’s youth and elders, and Maine’s natural resource and tourism-based industries. Each community has unique vulnerabilities and community-specific concerns that need to be addressed directly.
Social Vulnerability Higher in Rural Maine

Social Vulnerability: A dimension of place-based vulnerability; shaped by dynamics of poverty, agency, age, race, economic diversity, housing density, and dependence upon infrastructure.

Rural Maine communities face greater vulnerabilities due to the physical isolation of rural residents, aging populations, substandard housing, and limited resources to mitigate against the impacts of climate change.

6. Connections with Natural Resource–Reliant Communities
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF LOBSTER

- Lobster landed pounds and value have increased in recent decades throughout the state and the percent of residents working in the lobster fishery is now very high in some communities.
- A number of factors, including warmer water temperatures and fishery conservation measures, have contributed to this growth. (See pg. 18 for more info)
- Lobster landings were reported for 60 communities in 2015; 18 other communities had reported landings during the last 8 years. (For confidentiality reasons, landings are reported only if 3 or more dealers buy lobster in a community)
- The 10 communities with the highest landed value in 2015 are highlighted here. Together, they account for 49% of the state total in 2015.

PERCENT OF RESIDENTS WITH LOBSTER LICENSES

- $62 M STONINGTON 17%
- $39 M VINALHAVEN 21%
- $13 M ROCKLAND .7%
- $12 M TREMONT 7%
- $20 M BEALS 29%

LOBSTER LANDINGS (POUNDS)

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<th></th>
<th>1995</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>CHANGE</th>
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<tr>
<td>YORK COUNTY</td>
<td>2,286,242</td>
<td>3,859,671</td>
<td>1.69X</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASHINGTON COUNTY</td>
<td>2,538,271</td>
<td>21,077,810</td>
<td>8.3X</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL IN MAINE</td>
<td>37,208,324</td>
<td>121,083,418</td>
<td>3.25X</td>
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</table>
1995:
- SHRIMP: 13
- URCHINS: 37
- GROUND FISH: 9
- SCALLOPS: 8
- LOBSTER: 80

2015:
- SCALLOPS: 22
- URCHINS: 27
- GROUND FISH: 11
- LOBSTER: 88

123 MILLION POUNDS TOTAL
37 MILLION POUNDS OF LOBSTER

138 MILLION POUNDS TOTAL
121 MILLION POUNDS OF LOBSTER
7. Applications to Working Group Strategies
Ways to Consider Equity in Working Group Strategies (particularly for rural & low-income)

- Consider possible gaps in access to qualified contractors, and whether your policy requires additional workforce that can be more difficult to access in more rural and remote areas.
- Design or pair your recommendation with financial models that lower or eliminate up-front costs, with consideration for demographics with debt aversion or limited access to credit.
- Build in targeted outreach methods that go beyond traditional marketing channels; consider how to partner with trusted messengers.
Ways to Consider Equity in Working Group Strategies (cont.)

- Develop recommendations that include resources to support communities to comply and benefit by addressing limitations in local capacity
  - How can small communities where building codes don’t apply benefit from the desired outcome of policies related to building codes?
- Add flexibility where program design could increase burden on already vulnerable populations
- Include targets that will specifically track progress on existing inequities
  - Vermont examples: Energy burden data by town, geographically-equitable program evaluation criteria
- Support efforts that expand access to broadband
  - Emphasize strategies that connect unserved populations
Summary Prompts for Assessing Proposals

1. Does this proposal promote equity in the state of Maine?
2. Does this proposal unequally serve a certain industry, company, or economic class?
3. Does this proposal help rural communities, people of low income and moderate income, economic sectors that face the biggest barriers to emissions reductions, vulnerable communities, and/or natural resource-based industries?
4. How can we best reach these groups during stakeholder outreach?
Working Group stakeholder outreach must include:

- Rural communities
- Low income and moderate income (including renters, homeless residents)
- Economic sectors that face the biggest barriers to emissions reductions
- Vulnerable communities (low income, homeless, youth, people of color, Maine tribes, gender oppressed, immigrant and differently-abled peoples)
- Natural resource-based industries
Example: Accelerate Maine’s transition to high-performance heat pump technology for residential space heating

1. Does this proposal promote equity in the state of Maine?
2. Does this proposal unequally give advantage to a certain industry, company, or economic class?
3. Does this proposal help rural communities, people of low income and moderate income, economic sectors that face the biggest barriers to emissions reductions, vulnerable communities, and/or natural resource-based industries?
4. How can we best reach these groups during stakeholder outreach?
Thank You!

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