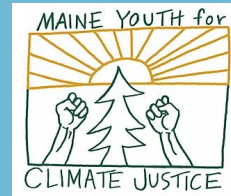


Equity Considerations for Proposal Criteria

Presentation to the Maine Climate Council
Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing Working Group
April 28, 2020

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Island Institute

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Maine Youth for Climate Justice
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

Island Institute

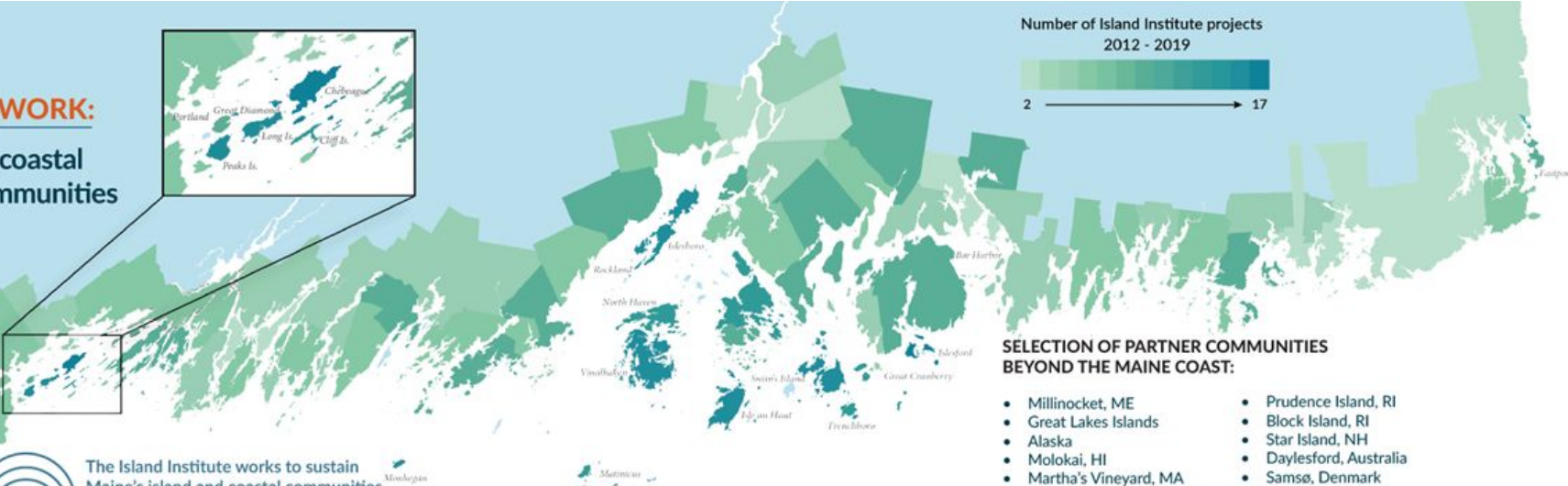


37-year old Rockland-based non-profit working to sustain Maine's island and coastal communities, and exchange ideas and experiences to further the sustainability of communities here and elsewhere.

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.

- Millinocket, ME
- Great Lakes Islands
- Alaska
- Molokai, HI
- Martha's Vineyard, MA
- Nantucket, MA
- Cuttyhunk, MA
- Provincetown, MA
- Rappahannock County, VA
- Prudence Island, RI
- Block Island, RI
- Star Island, NH
- Daylesford, Australia
- Samsø, Denmark
- Tokyo, Japan
- Plus statewide program replication and scaling with Maine partners (Broadband, Energy)

3. Equity Considerations within the Climate Council

Enabling Legislation Guides These Considerations

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.”

8. Actions by council, subcommittee and working groups. The council shall consider and prepare recommendations by the subcommittee established in subsection 6 and the working groups established in subsection 7. The council, subcommittee and working groups, as applicable, are consistent with and include, but are not limited to, the following:

fairly and equitably

low-income residents

vulnerable communities

F. Ensuring that the State's transition to a clean energy economy benefits all residents of the State **fairly and equitably**, with particular attention 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 will have on the State and how those industries, including other **natural resource-based industries** in communities they support;

regardless of income level, age, race or geographic location

natural resource-based industries

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

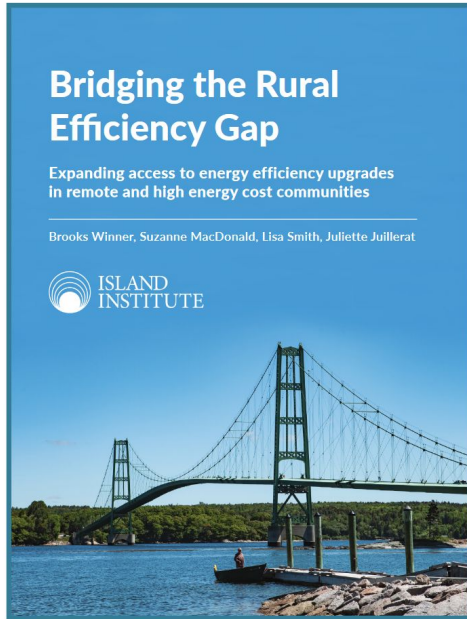
Who is missing from this (Zoom) room?

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

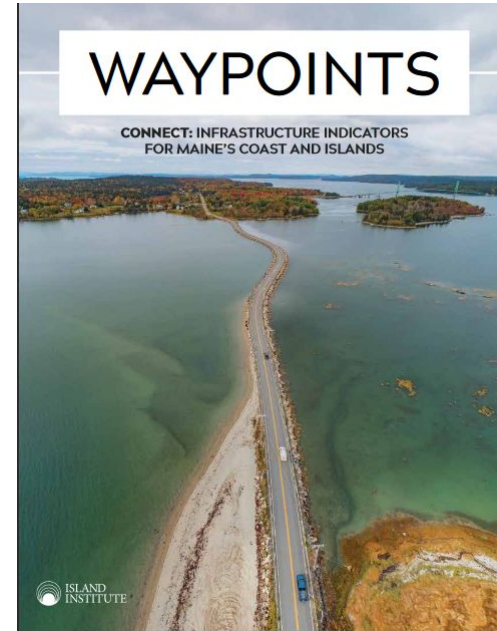
How does the work of this working group connect with vulnerabilities in Maine?

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

Maine is the most rural state in the nation with **61%** of residents living outside of urban areas.

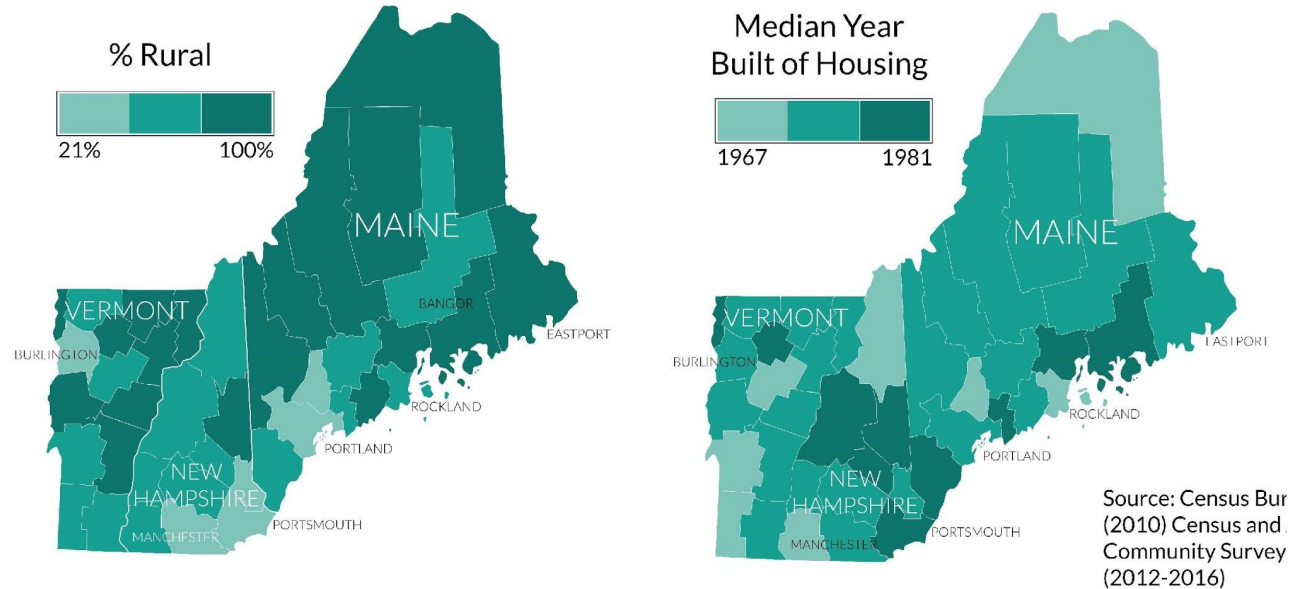


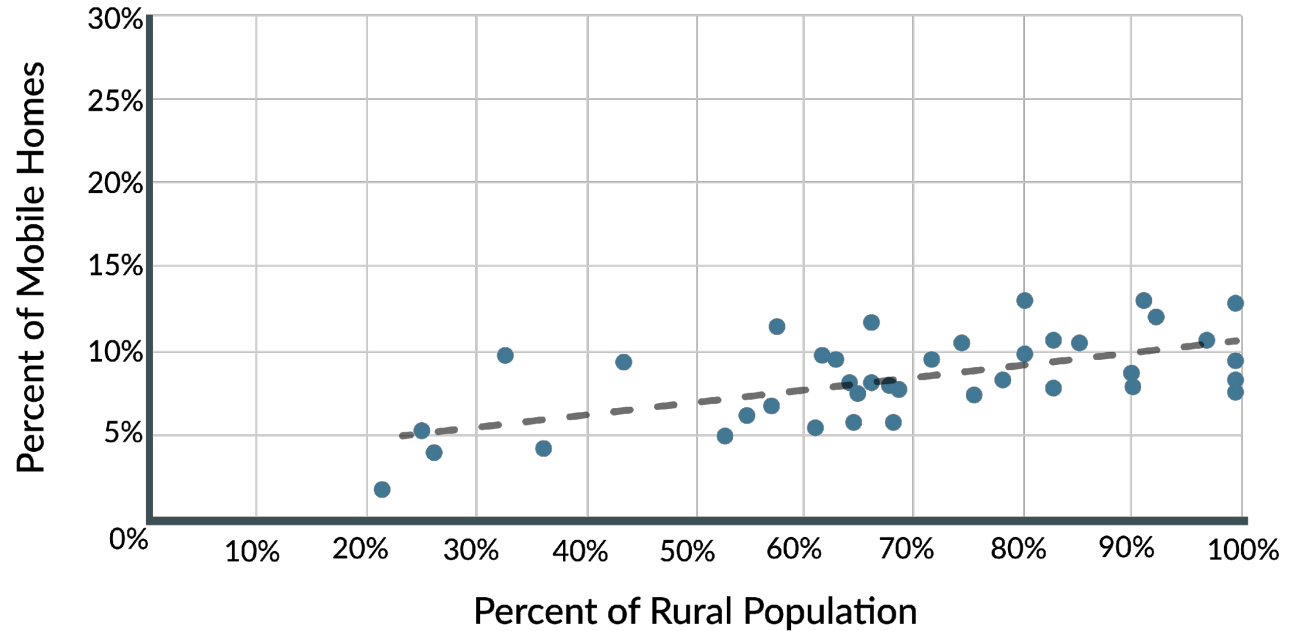
Figure 4. Percent rural residents by county (left) vs. median year built of housing (right) in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont
Source: Census Bureau (2010) Census and American Community Survey (2012-2016)



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)

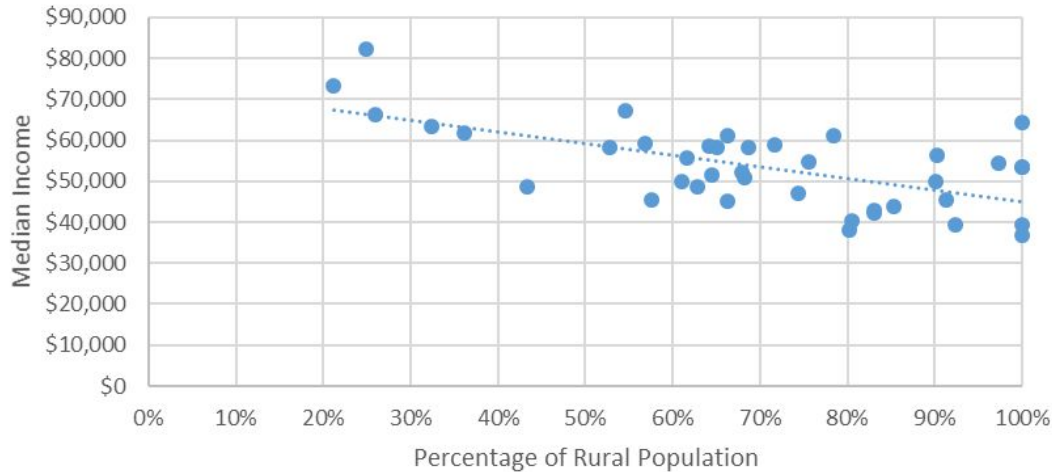


[Bridging the Rural Efficiency Gap](#), 2018



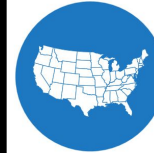
Financial Barriers: Lower Incomes, Higher Energy Burden

Percent Rural Population vs. Median Income in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont Counties



[Bridging the Rural Efficiency Gap](#), 2018

PERCENT OF MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME THAT GOES TO HOME HEATING AND ELECTRICITY



3%
U.S.



8.8%
MAINE

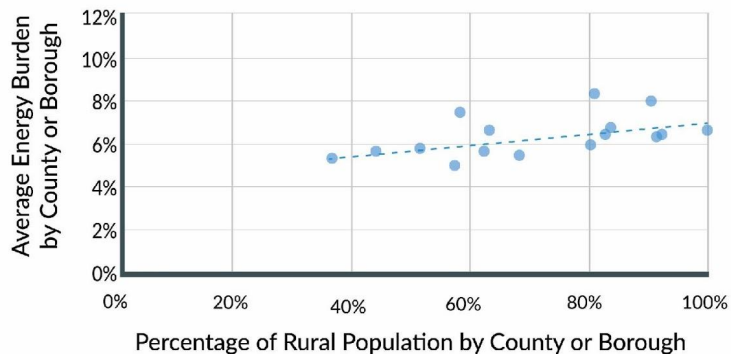


16-18%
UNBRIDGED
ISLANDS

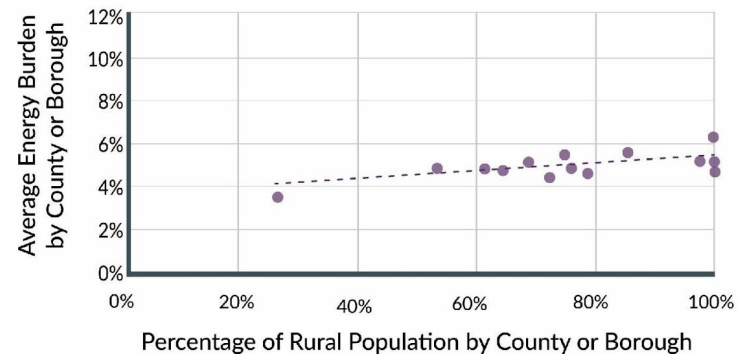
[Waypoints: Livelihoods](#), 2017

Energy Burden vs. Percent Rural Population

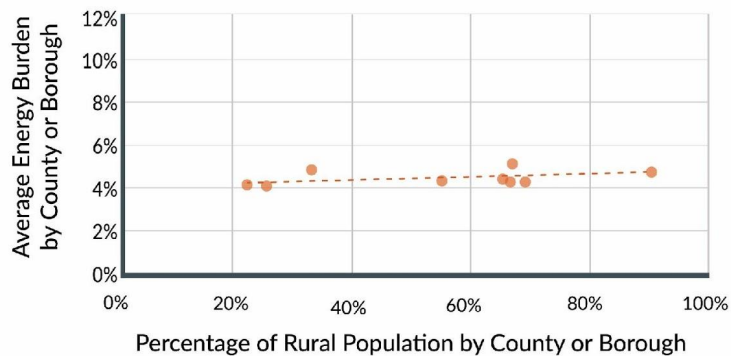
Maine



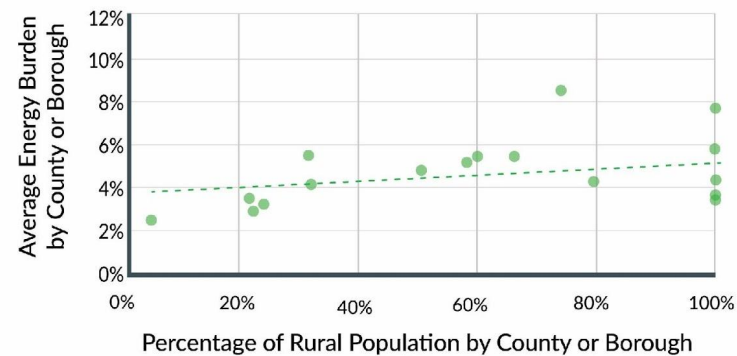
Vermont



New Hampshire



Alaska



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

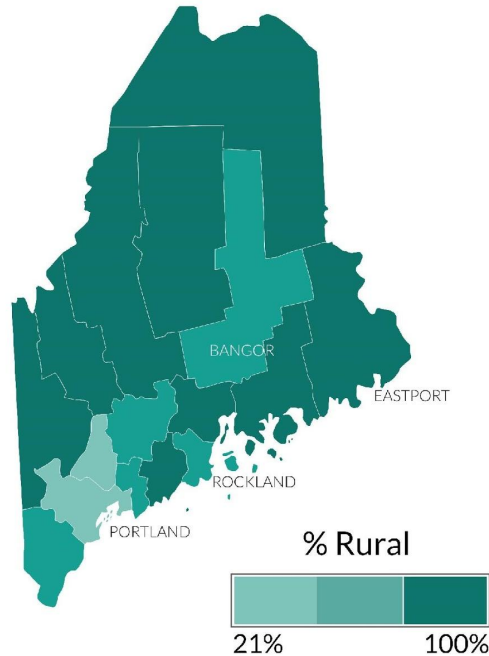
- At least 83,000 homes in the state lack the physical ability to connect to high speed, reliable internet (*ConnectMaine Authority*)
- A dramatic gap exists between rural and urban counties

MAINE HOUSEHOLD DATA 25/3 MBPS			
County	Total households	Households with less than 25/3 Mbps	% of households with less than 25/3 Mbps
Maine	722,106	83,144	11.5
Piscataquis	7,572	5,826	76.94
Franklin	11,684	6,196	53.03
Hancock	23,748	8,290	34.91
Waldo	16,820	5,395	32.07
Washington	14,065	4,399	31.28
Oxford	20,723	5,498	26.53
Somerset	21,376	4,917	23.00
Aroostook	29,852	5,080	17.02
Lincoln	15,021	1,385	9.22
Penobscot	61,787	5,461	8.84
Sagadahoc	15,613	1,366	8.75
Knox	16,813	1,276	7.59
Kennebec	50,829	1,047	2.06
York	82,588	972	1.18
Cumberland	117,871	1,068	0.91
Androscoggin	44,747	318	0.71

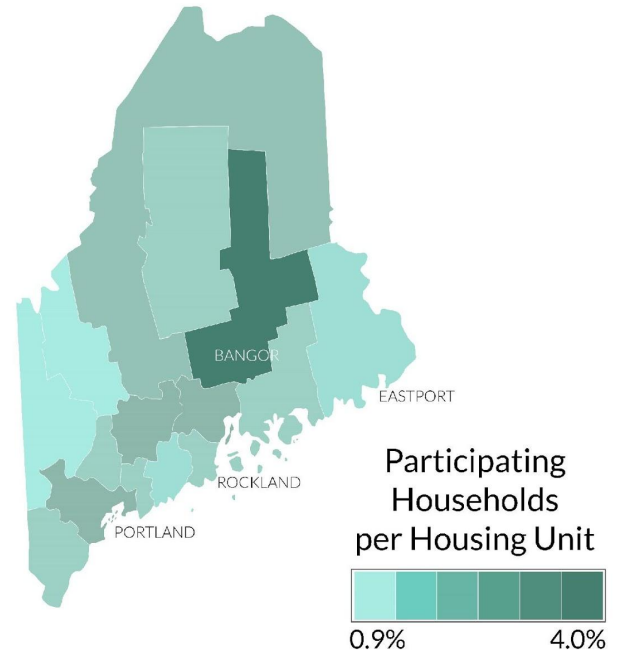
Program Participation Impacts

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

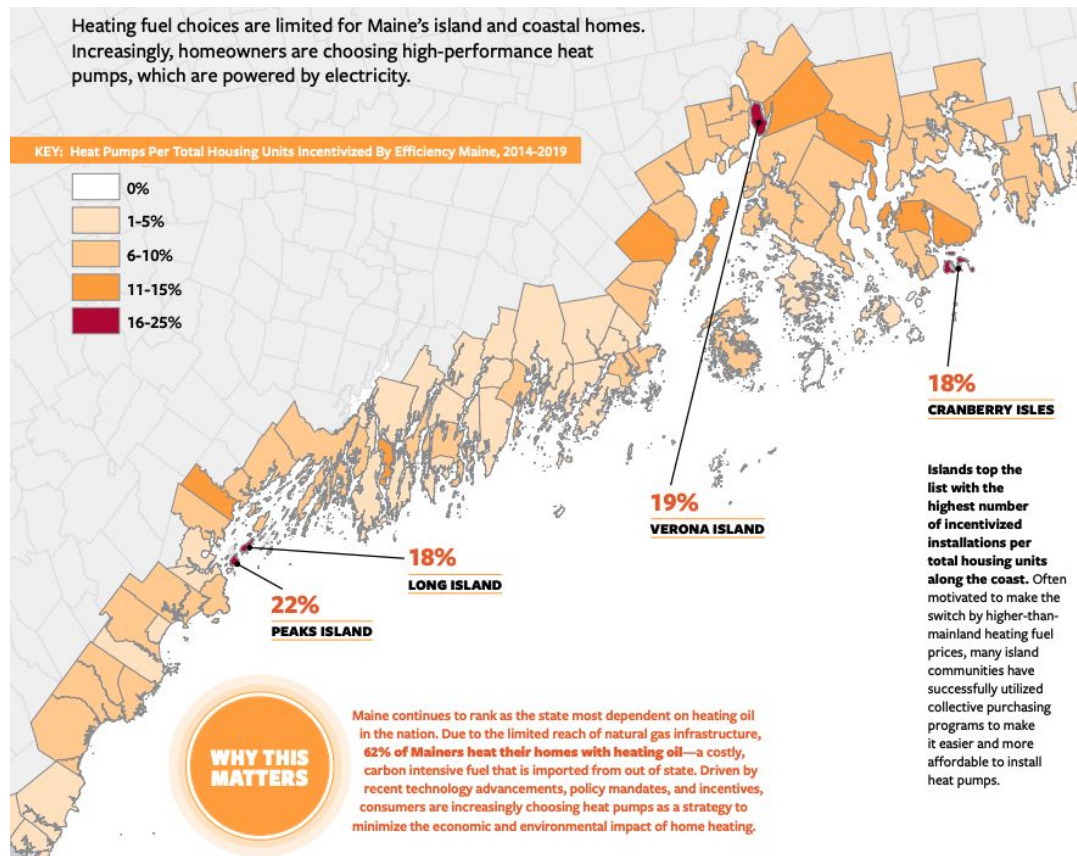


Source: Efficiency Maine



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

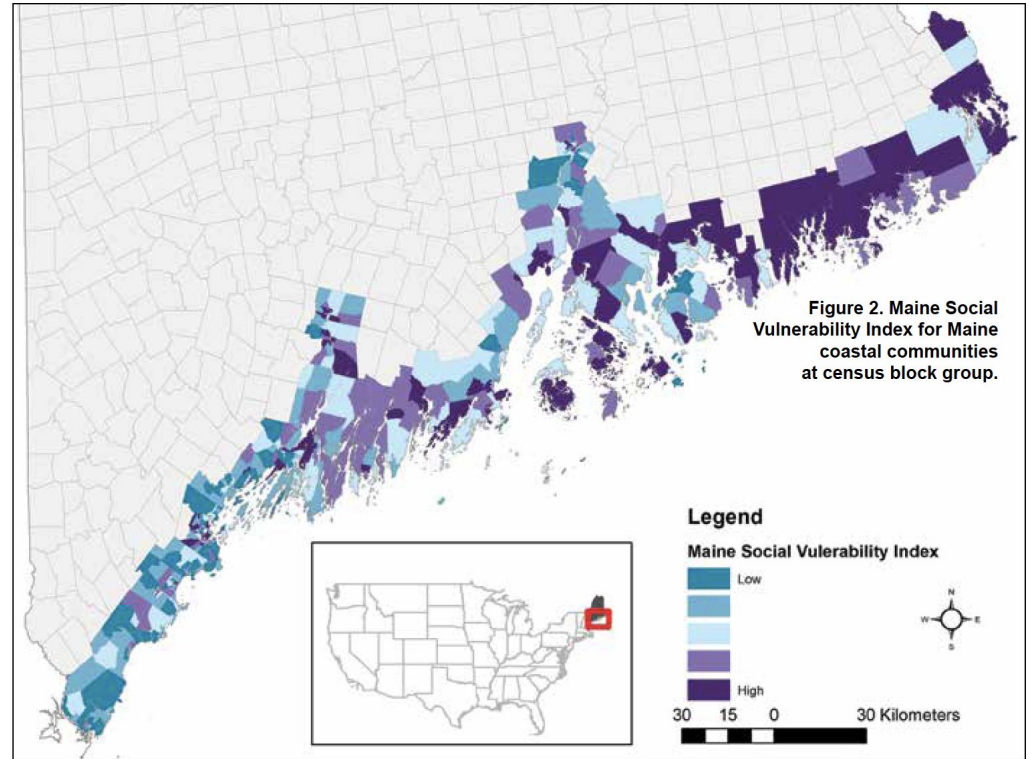
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) Connections

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

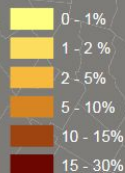
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF LOBSTER

- 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



LOBSTER
HAUL IN MILLIONS
TOWN
% OF RESIDENTS WITH
COMMERCIAL
LOBSTER
LICENSES

\$20 M
BEALS
29%

\$12 M
TREMONT
7%

\$62 M
STONINGTON
17%

\$13 M
ROCKLAND
7%

\$39 M
VINALHAVEN
21%

\$18.5 M
S. THOMASTON
11%

\$22 M
HARPSWELL
6%

\$21 M
FRIENDSHIP
14%

\$21 M
SAINT GEORGE
6%

\$16.6 M
PORTLAND
1%

4,500

ESTIMATED ACTIVE LOBSTER
BOAT CAPTAINS, REPRESENTING
80% OF THE 5,652 COMMERCIAL
LOBSTER LICENSES ISSUED BY
THE STATE FOR 2015

8,000 - 10,000

JOBS ON LOBSTER BOATS

\$500 MILLION

IN DIRECT SALES AT THE DOCK

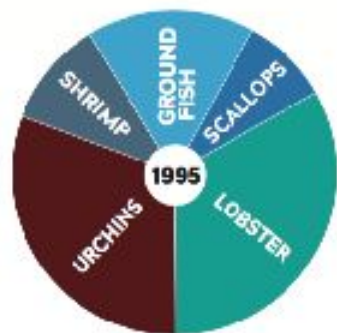
\$1.5 BILLION

ESTIMATED ECONOMIC IMPACT

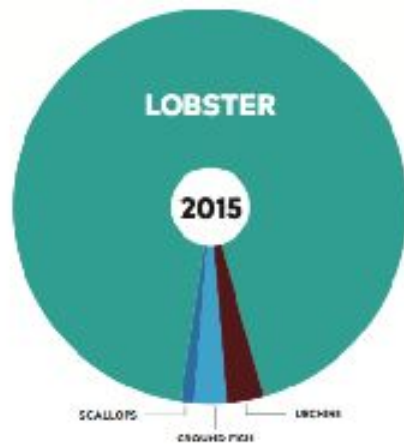
Over 25% of year-round residents hold a commercial lobster license on Matinicus, Frenchboro, Islesford and Isle au Haut (4 of the islands with smallest populations).

Lobster landings have increased throughout the state, but have increased the most in eastern Maine. York county is the southernmost in the state, Washington county is the easternmost.

LOBSTER LANDINGS (POUNDS)	1995	2015	CHANGE
YORK COUNTY	2,288,242	3,859,671	1.69X
WASHINGTON COUNTY	2,538,271	21,077,810	8.3X
TOTAL IN MAINE	37,208,324	121,083,418	3.25X



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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