

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 10 FY 19/20
DATE September 23, 2019

**AN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN MAINE'S ECONOMY
AND ACHIEVE CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2045**

WHEREAS, climate change is having negative impacts on Maine and if not addressed will have devastating effects on the state;

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Maine is the second fastest-warming portion of the world's oceans, impacting the state's marine life, environment and commercial fishing;

WHEREAS, the growing seasons in Maine have become unpredictable with erratic frosts, hotter and drier summers, and more severe precipitation events that disrupt agriculture operations;

WHEREAS, the Maine economy is heavily dependent on natural resources including forestry, fisheries, maple sugaring, agriculture and tourism associated with outdoor recreation;

WHEREAS, Maine has abundant forests and working lands that are central to the natural resource-based economy, soil health and quality of life, and their sustainable management can meaningfully improve carbon sequestration;

WHEREAS, clean energy development, energy efficiency, innovation and carbon sequestration through the state's natural resources represent significant opportunities for Maine's economy;

WHEREAS, Maine's universities can produce leading research on climate change, offshore wind, wood-based composites, and biofuels, and Maine's community colleges can provide effective job training for businesses and employees engaged in a growing clean energy economy;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, pursuant to *Me. Const. Art V, Pt 1, Secs. 1 and 12*, do hereby Order as follows:

I. PREFACE

Maine recently established mandates to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 45 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050; and a renewable energy mandate of 80 percent renewable energy by 2030 and a goal of 100 percent by 2050. Maine also recently established the Maine Climate Council responsible for Maine's Climate Action Plan to achieve emission reductions and clean energy targets as well as adaptation strategies by December 1, 2020 and to update that plan every four years. Finally, Maine recently joined the United State Climate Alliance, a bipartisan coalition of 25 states committed to addressing climate change.

II. POLICY GOAL

To further the work that is recently underway, Maine shall strive to achieve a carbon neutral economy no later than 2045. The Maine Climate Council shall provide recommendations required to meet these goals in its first report to be issued no later than December 1, 2020, and in every report thereafter.

III. COORDINATING EFFORTS AND INITIATIVES

All policies and programs undertaken to achieve carbon neutrality shall be implemented in a manner that aims to grow the state's economy, protect natural resources, and achieve positive impacts for the people of Maine. The Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future shall coordinate the efforts of the Governor's Energy Office, the Departments of Environmental Protection, Economic and Community Development, Labor, and Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The Office shall coordinate the development of policies to advance the sequestration of carbon emissions and grow the clean energy economy in Maine.

IV. REPORTING

The Department of Environmental Protection shall develop a framework for accounting and tracking progress on greenhouse gas reduction, and report on such progress every other year.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date of this Order is September 23, 2019.



Janet T. Mills
Governor