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## How is Maine Tackling Climate Change?

Heather Leslie

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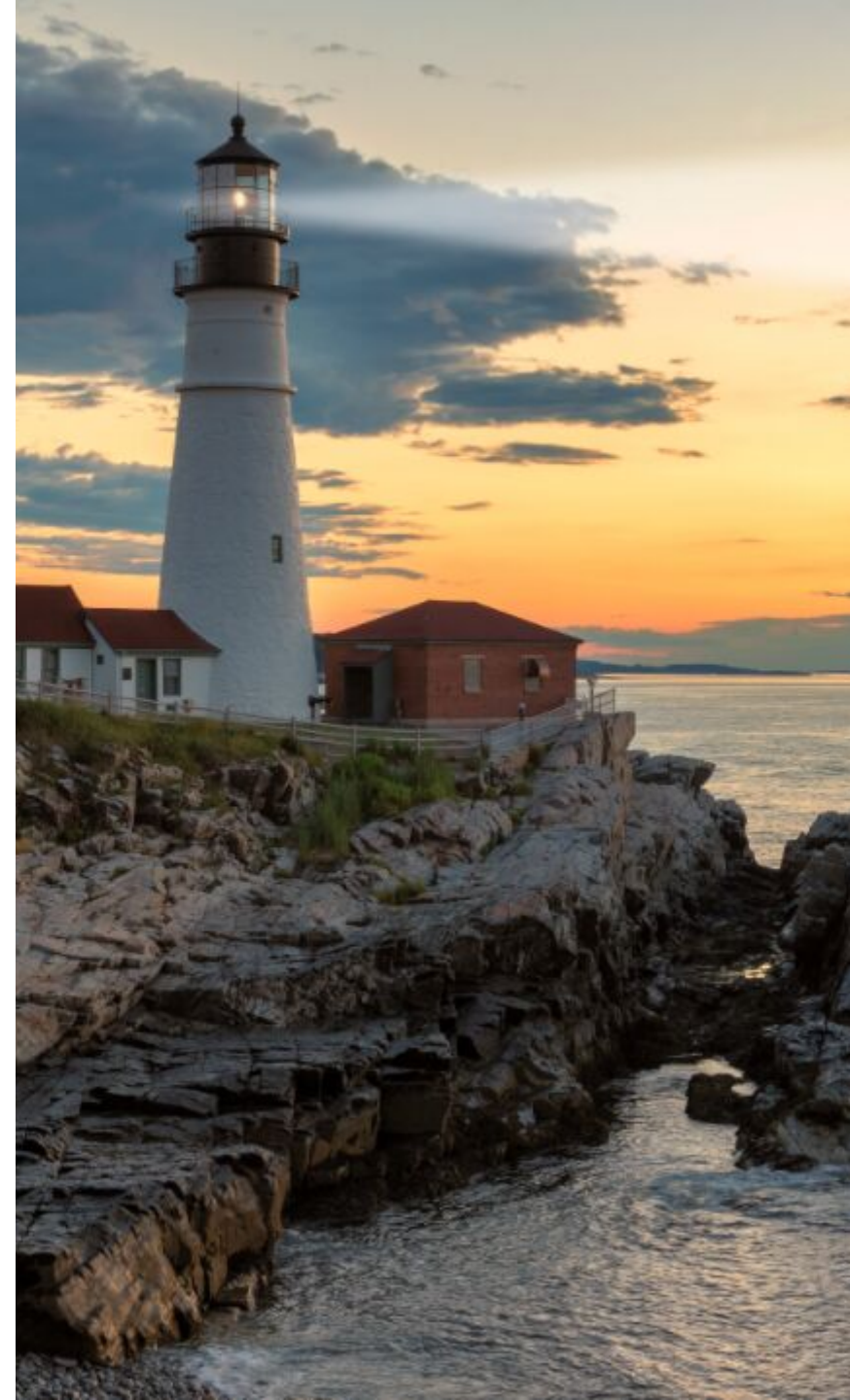
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# How is Maine tackling climate change?

*An update  
on the Coastal & Marine Working Group  
of the Maine Climate Council*

Dr. Heather Leslie  
17 January 2020



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## MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL (LD 1679)

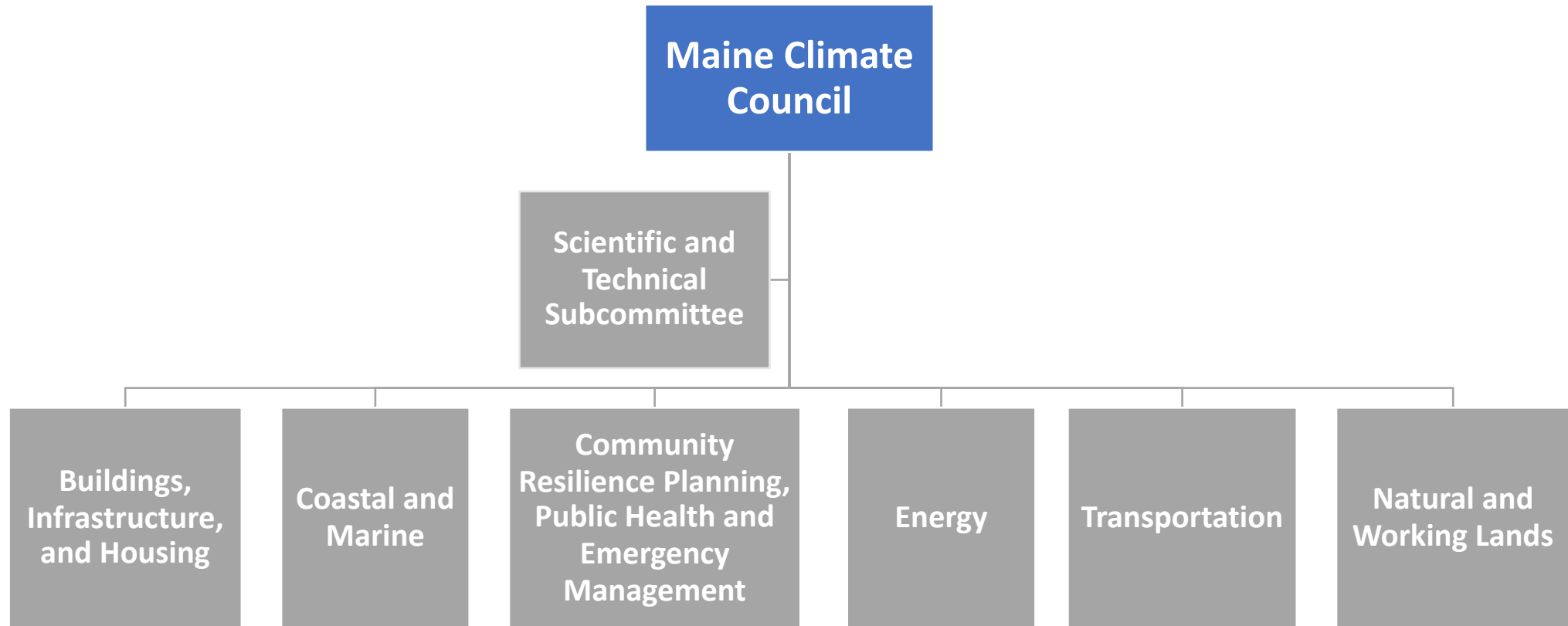
Governor's Bill, sponsored by Senator Woodsome (R)

- Sets reductions in law: 45% reduction in Maine's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and 80% by 2050 (relative to 1990 levels)
- Creates Maine Climate Council to advise the Governor and Legislature on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for and adapt to the consequences of climate change
- State Climate Action Plan update due by December 1, 2020



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# MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL ORGANIZATION CHART AND ROLES



More info at <https://www.maine.gov/future/initiatives/climate>

## COASTAL & MARINE WORKING GROUP

- Produce actionable, prioritized recommendations for mitigating and adapting to climate change in the coastal and marine realm that address the goals and criteria of the Maine Climate Council (MCC); and
- Provide recommendations towards implementation of those strategies, including funding options, responsible parties, a suggested timeline, methods for monitoring progress and a transition plan. Strategies can be both regulatory and non-regulatory.





## STRATEGY AREAS OF THE COASTAL & MARINE WORKING GROUP

- Ports, Marine Transport & Working Waterfronts
- Ocean Renewable Energy
- Ecosystem Conservation & Restoration
- Fisheries & Aquaculture
- Coastal Community Resilience
- Monitoring



## MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- To meet reduction levels:
  - 45% below 1990 gross annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030
  - 80% below 1990 gross annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2050
  - Net zero by 2045
- Use the latest scientific and technological information
- Analyze technical feasibility and cost-effectiveness of potential solutions
- Emphasize clean energy economy plan and opportunities for good job creation and how to ensure impacts on Maine's people and communities are considered

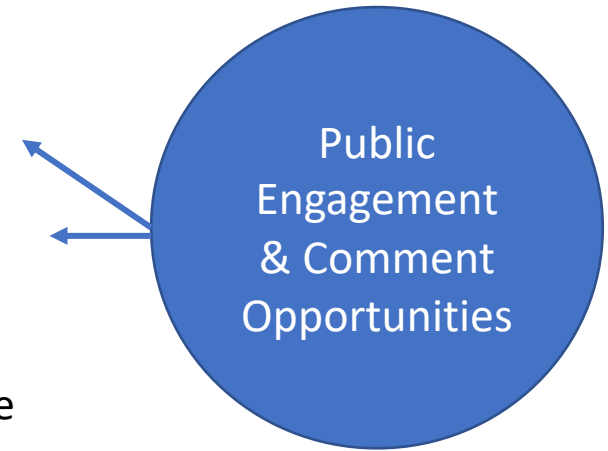
## ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

- Focus on how to improve resiliency of Maine's communities, people, and industries to climate impacts
- Prioritize the welfare of Maine citizens – especially the most vulnerable communities
- Foster the value of the State's natural resources and natural resource industries and their ability to support resilience
- Encourage diversity, inclusion and equity of all Maine communities and people
- Build upon existing good work happening in communities
- Encourage investments that mitigate risk
- Utilize the most recent science and technical information and measure progress



## TIMELINE

- Council kick-off September 26, 2019
- Working groups develop, model, and recommend strategies from October 2019 until summer 2020
- Summer/Fall 2020 - Maine Climate Council considers and prioritizes strategies for Action Plan
- State Climate Action Plan delivered December 1, 2020. The plan will be **updated every 4 years.**
- Legislature and DEP pass legislation and initiate rulemaking
- Council and working groups continue to meet to monitor progress
- DEP reports on state greenhouse gas emissions every 2 years

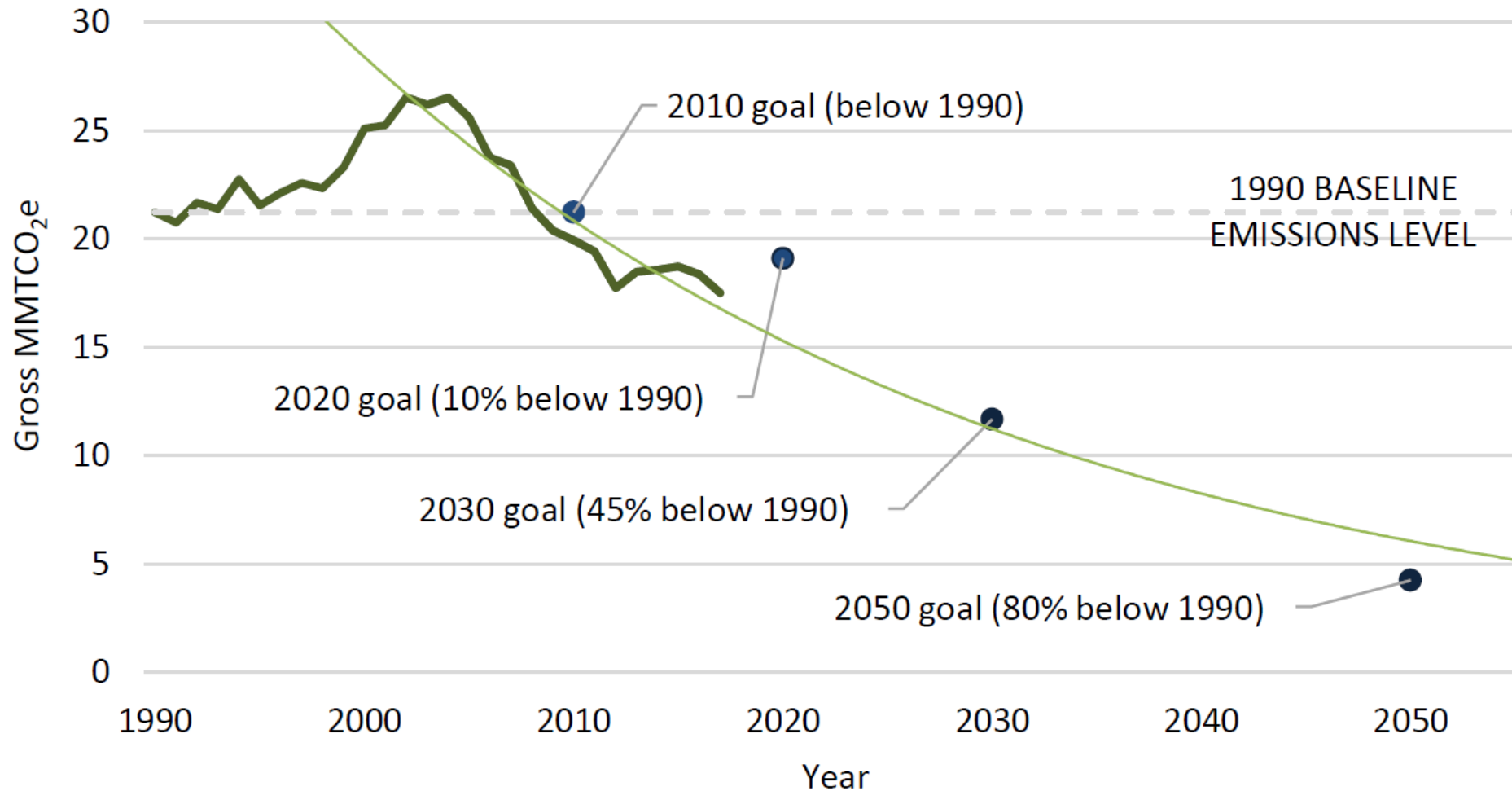


## WAYS TO ENGAGE

- Kick-off meeting videos are available online via the Maine Climate Council's YouTube channel.
- Working groups are meeting monthly, meetings will be open to the public. Meeting details can be found at <https://www.maine.gov/future/initiatives/climate>
- Hearing from Maine people is crucial and opportunities for public input will happen throughout the process through working group meetings, online, and via public listening meetings (details coming soon!)
- Direct questions and comments and press inquiries to the Council staff at [maineclimatecouncil@maine.gov](mailto:maineclimatecouncil@maine.gov)

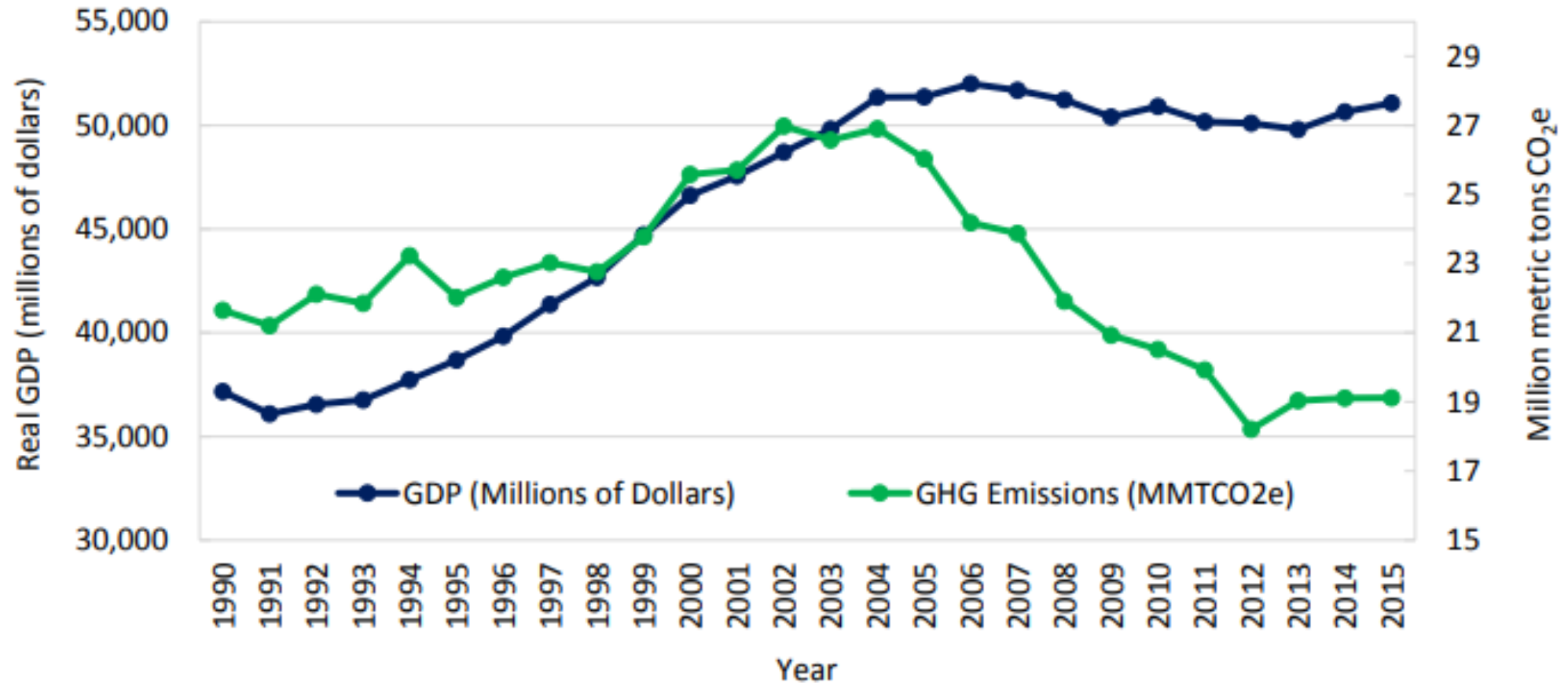
Please contact [Heather.Leslie@maine.edu](mailto:Heather.Leslie@maine.edu) if you would like more details on the Coastal & Marine Working Group

# MAINE GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS AND REDUCTIONS GOALS



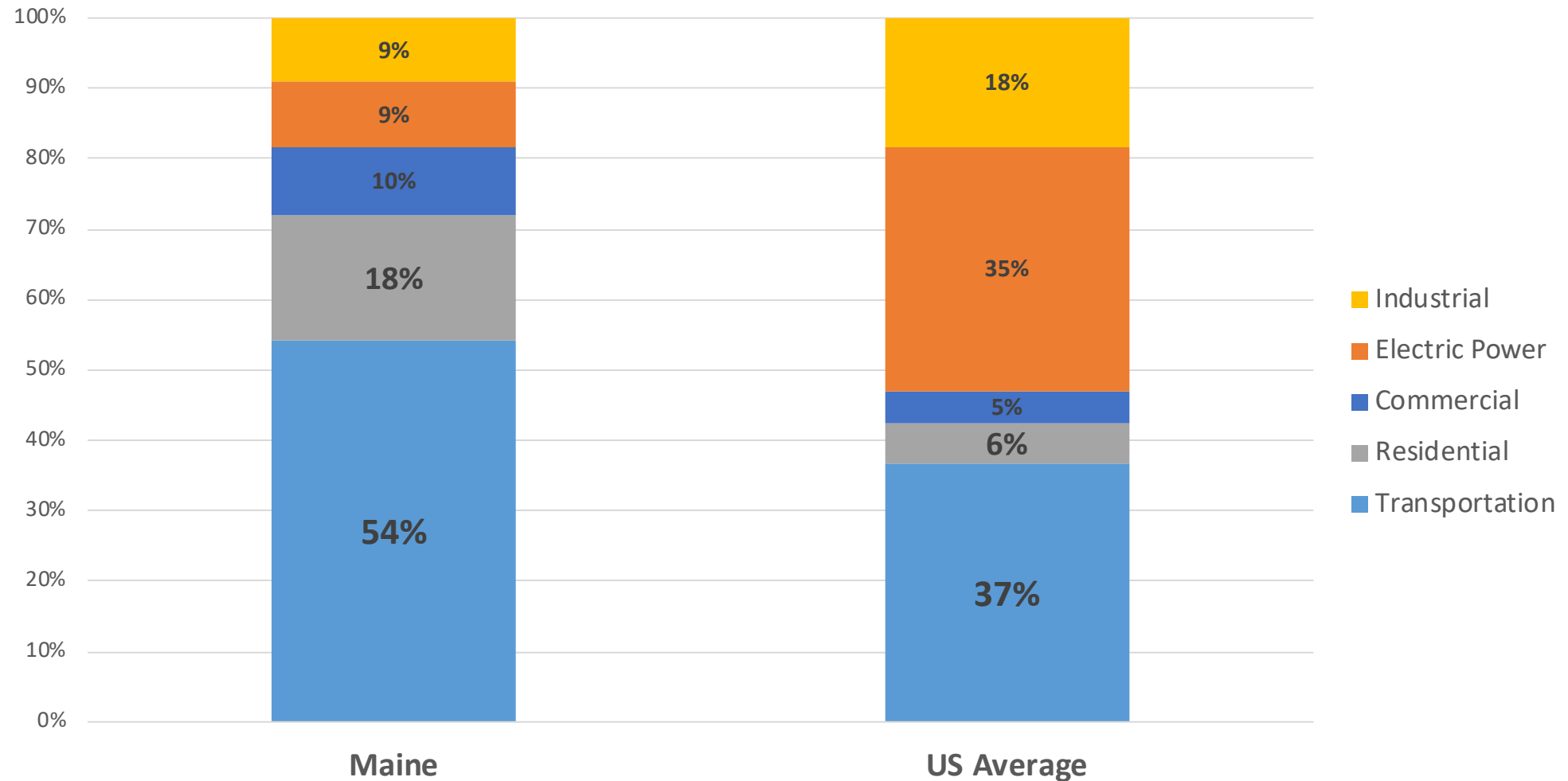
Maine's greenhouse gas emissions 1990-2017 with 2020, 2030, and 2050 reduction and emissions goals. Source: Maine DEP, 2020 GHG Progress Report

## TOTAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)



Source: Maine Department of Environmental Protection

## PERCENTAGE OF EMISSIONS BY SECTOR FOR US AND MAINE (2016)



Source: EIA, SEDS Database



# Maine's Legacy of Action on Climate Change

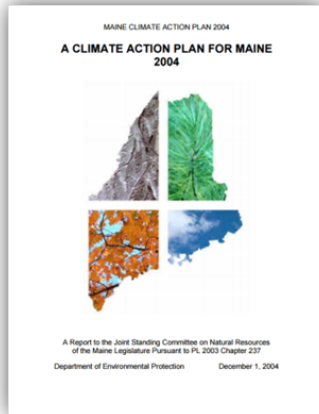
Mitigation

Impact Assessment

Adaptation

Preparedness

Unified

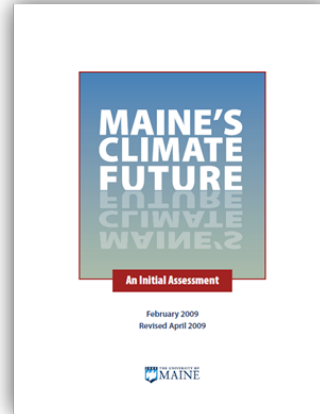


Climate Action Plan  
2004

Sector specific adaptation planning >

*Progress every 2 years*

**LD 845** An Act To Provide Leadership in Addressing the Threat of Climate Change (2003)

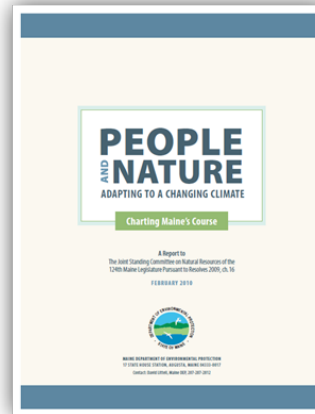


Climate Future  
2009

Transportation

*Update 2015  
Coastal 2018*

**LD 460** Resolve to Evaluate Climate Change Adaptation Options for the State (2009)

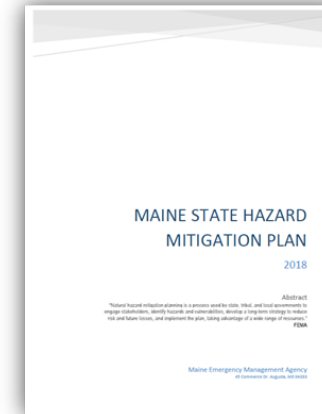


Adaptation Plan  
2010

Health Interagency Wildlife

*Sector Specific  
Planning*

**LD 825** Resolve to Study Climate Change and Implement the Recommendations of the Department of Environmental Protection Report on Climate Change (2013)



Hazard Mitigation Plan  
2018

*1<sup>st</sup> 1987  
Update every 5 years*



Unified Climate  
Action Plan 2020

*Progress every 2 years  
Update every 4 years*

**LD 1679** An Act To Promote Clean Energy Jobs and To Establish the Maine Climate Council (2019)