



JANET MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

DAN BURGESS
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNOR'S
ENERGY OFFICE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Ensure a Just and Equitable Energy Transition to Maine's Workforce

L.D. 1420

**GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE
April 16, 2025**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology (EUT): My name is Caroline Colan, and I am the Legislative Liaison for the Governor's Energy Office (GEO).

The GEO testifies neither for nor against L.D. 1420.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this proposal. LD. 1420 establishes a thirteen-member commission to "ensure a just and equitable energy transition for Maine's workforce." The Resolve directs the commission to meet six times to review and evaluate the state's current workforce; consider how to meet the expected demand for clean energy workers needed to meet the state's energy goals; consider salary and benefits associated with these jobs; to review efforts to support the transition of workers from one industry to another; to consider the economic impacts of the energy transition; to consider the benefits of a well-compensated workforce; and to examine how a statewide efforts to establish greater coordination on this topic may be beneficial to advancing the objectives of the commission.

Should this bill be passed, it would likely become effective in late September or early October, at which point appointments to the commission must be made within 30 days. A final report to the EUT Committee must be submitted by February 1, 2026. Within these constraints, the commission will likely have November through January to conduct their review, develop recommendations, and deliver the final report to the Legislature. Given the limited number of meetings and timeframe to complete the work as outlined in this bill, the Committee should carefully consider what existing information the commission may seek to inform recommendations, what original information the group may wish to pursue, and whether conducting this work and advancing the objectives of the proposal through an existing forum could yield more fulsome results, avoid duplicative efforts, and provide adequate time to consider available and new information to make recommendations.

The appendix of this testimony contains a brief description of Maine's energy employment landscape today, a list of some pertinent existing research and forums where information on these topics can be gathered, and information about a few of the existing committees and structures in state government



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

JANET MILLS
GOVERNOR

DAN BURGESS
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNOR'S
ENERGY OFFICE

that support work in-line with the objectives of the commission described in L.D. 1420. GEO would be happy to provide additional information on these items for the work session if requested.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caroline Colan".

Caroline Colan, Legislative Liaison
Governor's Energy Office



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

JANET MILLS
GOVERNOR

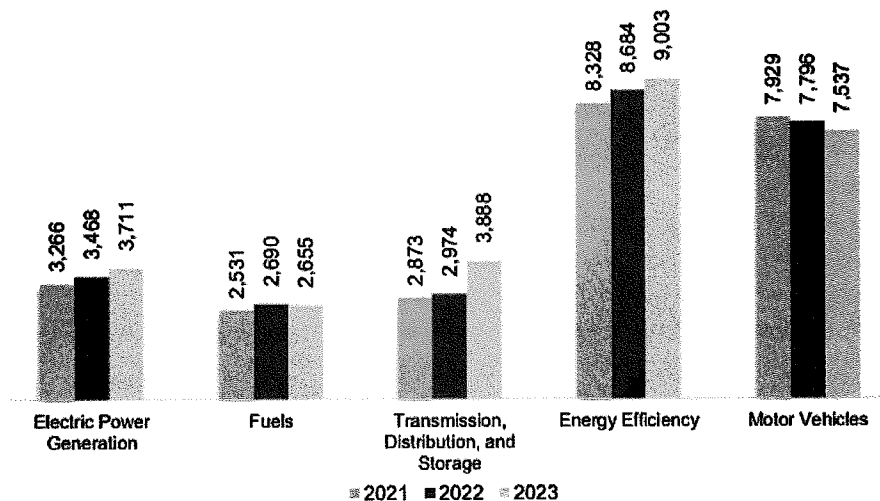
DAN BURGESS
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNOR'S
ENERGY OFFICE

Appendix:

Maine's Energy Employment Landscape

- The 2024 U.S. Energy & Employment Jobs Report (USEER)¹ finds the following for direct energy employment in Maine:
 - Maine had 26,795 energy workers statewide in 2023, representing 0.3% of all U.S. energy jobs. Of these energy jobs, 3,711 are in electric power generation; 2,655 in fuels; 3,888 in transmission, distribution, and storage; 9,003 in energy efficiency; and 7,537 in motor vehicles. From 2022 to 2023, energy jobs in the state increased 1,183 jobs, or 4.6%. The energy sector in Maine represents 4.2% of total state employment.

Figure ME-1. Employment by Major Energy Technology Application



- GEO's 2024 Clean Energy Industry Report² finds that Maine had 15,557 clean energy workers in 2023, representing approximately 60% of all direct energy employment. The largest clean energy technology sector in Maine's clean energy economy is energy efficiency, employing almost three-in-five (58%) clean energy workers. Approximately 2,600 establishments in Maine were involved in clean energy-related activities by the end of 2023, representing 4.3 percent of all establishments in the state. Over the last five years, clean energy employment in Maine has increased by 6.3%, the highest growth rate of clean energy employment among all New England states.

¹ <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/USEER%202024%20States%20Final.pdf>

² <https://www.maine.gov/energy/sites/maine.gov.energy/files/2025-03/2024%20Maine%20CEIR%20Final%20Version.pdf>

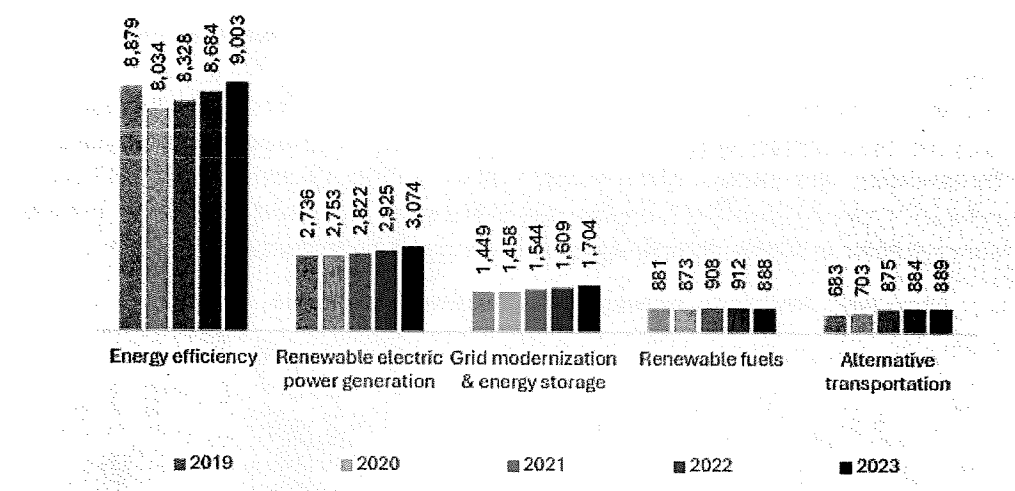


STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

JANET MILLS
GOVERNOR

DAN BURGESS
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNOR'S
ENERGY OFFICE

Figure 4. Clean Energy Employment in Maine by Technology Sector, 2019-2023



- GEO is not aware of an official policy position taken by the state or a statutory definition of a “Just Energy Transition” at this time. State reports have recognized though that implementation of emissions reductions strategies, low-emissions technologies, and associated policy decisions will create new economic opportunities for Maine while at the same time recognizing the need to consider other impacts across the workforce related to these changes
- The Maine Department of Labor (MDOL) administers a Rapid Response Program³ which assists workers facing job loss due to downsizing or closures of any size businesses. GEO and MDOL have also partnered to offer Clean Energy Career Navigation services through MDOL’s Career Centers, which can help workers find employment in clean energy jobs based on their existing skills and backgrounds.

Existing research and forums where information on these topics can be gathered:

- U.S. Energy and Employment Reports, available for 2024 and each year since 2016
- Maine Clean Energy Industry Report, available for 2024, 2023, and 2022
- Maine Clean Energy Workforce Analysis⁴, conducted in 2022 with update currently in progress
- Maine Energy Efficiency Contractor Needs Assessment⁵, conducted in 2024

³ https://www.mainecareercenter.gov/docs/Rapid_Response.pdf

⁴ <https://www.maine.gov/energy/sites/maine.gov.energy/files/inline-files/2022%20Maine%20Clean%20Energy%20Workforce%20Report.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.maine.gov/energy/sites/maine.gov.energy/files/inline-files/BPA%20Maine%20EE%20Workforce%20Report%20Final.pdf>



JANET MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

DAN BURGESS
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNOR'S
ENERGY OFFICE

Existing committees/structures that could support the objectives of the commission:

- MDOL, GEO, the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF), the Maine Department of Education (DOE), the Maine Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) each contribute subject-matter expertise and conduct work on issues related to workforce policy, including some work that specifically focuses on infrastructure workforce.
- GEO - Clean Energy Partnership: Maine's Clean Energy Partnership was established to advance Maine's clean energy, climate, economic development, and workforce goals – including the Governor's goal of doubling Maine's clean energy and energy efficiency jobs by 2030. GEO has created an Advisory Group to work with leading experts to sustain attention and promote collaboration to address emerging needs, build new and expand existing supply chains, and support opportunities for Maine in these fast-growing fields.
 - Since 2022, GEO has awarded federal grant funds through the Clean Energy Partnership for clean energy workforce development and training programs. Programs have been launched across the state to support and prepare thousands of Maine people for careers in the state's rapidly growing clean energy sector, attracting new workers to the clean energy and energy efficiency workforce, providing career training and upskilling, and facilitating entry into the clean energy job market.
- Governor's Workforce Cabinet: The Governor's Workforce Cabinet convenes representatives from the MDOL, DECD, DOE, DHHS, GOPIF, and the University of Maine and Maine Community College System on workforce-related topics to foster collaboration and ensure alignment of efforts. The priority areas of focus of the Cabinet include growing local talent with a focus on the New Mainer community, attracting new talent with a focus on defining specific populations and aligning policy and programs to support those communities, and aligning systems to inform a coordinated response to budgetary, funding & policy shifts, or new opportunities.
- MDOL Infrastructure Workforce Alignment – Working Group: An inter-agency working group that seeks to collaborate around investing in and strengthening our infrastructure workforce to 1) advance our climate resiliency, clean energy, and economic development goals and 2) take advantage of federal funding by staying in touch on potential funding opportunities with an infrastructure workforce lens, aligning on shared workforce priorities, and identifying opportunities to leverage and strengthen ongoing workforce development efforts.
- The Maine Climate Council and the Equity Subcommittee: In June 2019, Governor Janet Mills signed LD 1679 into law, with strong bipartisan support from the Maine Legislature, to establish increased greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirements of 45% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% by 2050. Additionally, LD 1679 established the Maine Climate Council and charged it with developing a four-year Climate Action Plan to put Maine on a trajectory to meet these requirements. The Equity



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

JANET MILLS
GOVERNOR

DAN BURGESS
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNOR'S
ENERGY OFFICE

Subcommittee of the Maine Climate Council was established to help support ongoing planning and implementation of Maine's climate strategies to ensure shared benefits across diverse populations of Maine people and to understand any concerns for implementation.