



ENVIRONMENT/CLIMATE CHANGE

Governor Mills and Democrats in the Maine Legislature have enacted policies and legislation aimed at making Maine a leader nationally and globally in terms of combating climate change.

- **Climate Adaptation Funds.** Gov. Mills awarded a [\\$4.15 million grant](#) to the town of Boothbay Harbor for infrastructure projects to better protect Boothbay Harbor's wastewater treatment plant from sea level rise and storm surges. The grant is part of the governor's [Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund](#).
- **Banning “forever chemicals.”** Maine became [the first state](#) to ban the use of toxic “forever chemicals” called perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in carpets, rugs, and fabric treatments by 2023 and eliminate them in almost all other products by 2030. Gov. Mills and legislators also passed legislation to create a [\\$60 million PFAS fund](#) to support Maine farmers affected by the crisis and to [ban the spread](#) of fertilizer containing PFAS.
- **Carbon neutral ahead of goal.** At a UN Climate Action Summit in 2019, Governor Mills [pledged](#) that Maine would be carbon neutral by 2045. In July 2022, a Maine Department of Environmental Protection [report](#) found that Maine is on track to meet that goal ahead of schedule.
- **Renewable energy.** With strong bipartisan support, Gov. Mills [enacted](#) a Public Utilities Commission scorecard to modernize the energy grid, improve efficiency, electrify transportation and heating, and provide schools with pilot programs for climate education. Other initiatives include repealing a tax on [rooftop solar panels](#) enacted under the previous administration.
- **Reduce emissions from transportation.** Gov. Mills created a [Clean Transportation Roadmap](#) to promote the increased use of electric vehicles by 2030. Other initiatives will increase the number of electric vehicle charging stations across the state and
- **Greener state government.** In her first year in office, Gov. Mills developed a [“Lead By Example”](#) plan for Maine’s state government, charging agencies with developing plans to curb state agencies’ greenhouse gas emissions, transition state electricity use to 100% clean power by 2024, and purchase 100% electric vehicles for the state fleet by 2030.
- **Divesting from fossil fuels.** In 2021, Maine became the first state to [require the divestment](#) of its state pension and treasury systems from the fossil fuel industry by 2026. The move is expected to have positive financial implications for retirees who participate in the state’s pension program by phasing out financially risky investments in coal, oil, and gas companies.

- **Land for Maine's Future.** In 2021, Gov. Mills signed into law a bill to infuse \$40 million in new funding to the [Land for Maine's Future](#), an effort to conserve working forests, farms, and commercial waterfronts, public access to woods and waters, the protection and management of wildlife, including deer wintering habitat.
- **Sustainability in Public Facilities.** In June, 2022, Gov. Mills introduced a \$15 million [initiative](#) from the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan to help towns and cities, schools and Tribal governments to increase energy efficiency and cut costs, and [\\$20 million more](#) to support infrastructure—ocean and river flooding, stormwater and wastewater systems, and energy availability during severe storms—benefitting many communities, including Boothbay Harbor.