

CLF MAINE

CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION

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For a thriving New England



Hot Topic:

LePage Administration

CLF Maine is dedicated to contesting the ongoing assault by the LePage administration on the state's environment and natural resources. Acting as a legal watchdog, we highlight and challenge the administration's efforts to dismantle the regulatory and statutory framework that protects Maine's wild places. Recent examples include the indefensible waiving of Maine's right to regulate water quality at Flagstaff Lake, and the state's fiscally and environmentally wrongheaded acquisition of Dolby Landfill. Maine's economy is built on its unique environment and quality of place; Governor LePage's attempts to roll back four decades of sound environmental regulations put both Maine's environment and economy at risk.

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From Baxter State Park to the vast North Woods and the rugged beauty of its rocky coast, Maine's natural resources have inspired residents and visitors alike for centuries. CLF's work in Maine strives to maintain a balance between harnessing these resources and restoring, preserving and improving them, for everyone today and in future generations.

The Challenges

Maine faces a number of pressing environmental issues: we have the largest percentage of homes in the United States that still heat with oil; our transportation sector is the state's single largest source of greenhouse gases; our ability to harness the Gulf of Maine for sustainable fisheries is decreasing; and we remain dangerously dependent on imported fossil fuels for our energy – fuels which pollute our air and water and whose prices are volatile. The status quo represents a serious economic and environmental risk to Maine communities and the people who use and treasure our natural resources.

The Solutions

Building a Clean Energy Economy

CLF is a part of the Maine Citizens For Clean Energy, a coalition of groups from the private and nonprofit sectors working to ensure that 20% of Maine's power will come from renewable energy sources such as solar and wind by 2020 and that Maine makes a significant investment in energy efficiency. This would reduce our reliance on oil and other fossil fuels, save money, and create thousands of well-paid, in-state jobs in the clean energy sector, all good for our environment and our economy.

Protecting our Waters

Safeguarding the integrity of our oceans, rivers and lakes, is central to CLF Maine's work. CLF has been a leader in cleaning Casco Bay and has pushed and implemented innovative approaches to addressing the pollution that comes from storm water in Maine's two biggest cities, Portland and Bangor. In the Gulf of Maine, CLF is focused on ensuring a sustainable fishery from the top to the bottom of the food chain – from the iconic cod to the tiny Atlantic herring, the region's most critical forage fish. CLF is at the table to ensure that what we harvest from the ocean today is sustainable for future generations. And where fresh water meets salt water, CLF is working to restore key habitats, removing outmoded dams or requiring fish passage, pushing for discharge limits to prevent algal blooms and holding regulators accountable.

Advancing Clean Transportation and Healthy Communities

CLF is advocating for policies and investments that end our reliance on ever-expanding highways and support clean, energy-efficient transportation, such as the Downeaster. Better planning and further investments in transit are essential to reducing global warming pollution and promoting vibrant, walkable communities.

KEY WORK

JOIN CLF TODAY!

Conservation Law Foundation relies on contributions from its members to do the work of protecting New England's environment: preserving our natural resources, building healthy communities and promoting a vibrant economy. To become a member of CLF today, use the "Donate" button at clf.org, or click "Support CLF" to learn about more ways to give. You can also contact: Devon Parish, dparish@clf.org

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Through strategic legal engagement and long-term commitment, CLF continues to ensure a thriving Maine environment. Some of our key work is highlighted below.

SUCCESS STORIES**Combatting Pollution in the Long Creek Watershed**

- We successfully petitioned EPA to curb stormwater pollution that washes toxins and chemicals from buildings, parking lots and other paved areas into the waters of Casco Bay.
- This result was achieved in collaboration with community groups, state and local governments and businesses – including many of the stormwater dischargers. The legal theory and collaborative approach we employed is being replicated across Maine.

**Promoting a Clean Energy Future for Maine**

- We successfully negotiated the inclusion of renewable energy transmission and non-transmission alternatives such as solar in the Maine Power Reliability Program (MPRP), the largest transmission project in Maine's history.
- We remain the most active and effective advocate for promoting renewable energy and holding transmission and distribution utilities accountable in proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission to ensure alternatives that decrease costs and increase alternatives for consumers.
- We have supported a number of wind power development projects where impacts to natural resources have been minimal and the projects have increased our ability to harvest Maine's wind resources.
- We have supported a number of innovative pilot projects involving kelp farms, tidal energy, distributed energy projects and combined sewer overflow control projects that benefit local communities and have potential for significant expansion.

**Saying 'No' to Unnecessary Development**

- We led a coalition of community and environmental groups and successfully prevented the construction of a highly-polluting coal gasification refinery in Wiscasset.
- We opposed the Calais LNG (liquefied natural gas refinery) on the shores of Passamaquoddy Bay, leading the financial backers to abandon the project and withdraw the application.
- We fought the fiscally wasteful and environmentally- and economically-damaging Wiscasset bypass project that was eventually shelved by the Maine DOT.