

MINUTES -SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 26,2026 ZOOM

1. **Call to order** -4PM

2.**Roll Call** – Marjorie Katz. David Nosnik , Robin Millward and Paul Breen

A quorum was noted.

3 **Review of Committee Minutes - February 26. 2026**

The review of these minutes will be conducted at the next meeting.

4.**Presentation** - Josh Caldwell from the National Research Council of Maine reviewed the NRCM's environmental policies and accomplishments.

The National Research Council is a nonprofit organization and obtains funds from grants and fund raisers.

Priority issues -Climate and clean water issues

The Climate and Energy Group is comprised of 10 Experts.

Review of accomplishments.

4.1.**Climate Change Damage** -NRC conducted studies to show that Climate Damage is caused by 100 million metric tons of CO placed by large companies into the environment .

4.2 **New Superfund**-NRC supported the passage of Maine Law LD 1270 which established a Climate Superfund which will require that polluters pay for the cleanup of pollution.

4.3.**Regional cap and trade agreement** – NRC supported a regional cap and trade agreement which has been integrated into the Maine environmental program.

4.4. **New Public Authority to build new Transmission Lines** -NRC supported a program which proposed to establish a new public authority which would build new transmission lines potentially reducing risk.

4.5.**New solar capability**- A new product known as balcony plug-in solar allows for a solar panel to be placed on a porch, the electricity produced and connected into a home's electrical network .The energy produced is low with 400 Watts produced by each solar device .

4.6.**Transmission Line Study** – NRC recommended the establishment of transmission lines between remote solar collectors to the grid.

4.7.**Lake Restoral and Purchase of Farm Conservation Land** -NRC recommended a change to the surplus bottle deposit account to support lake restoration and purchase of farm conservation land.

4.8.State Budget Entry for Conservation Land Purchase - NRC supported the incorporation of a new budget entry into the state budget which provided an annual amount to support the purchase of conservation land.

4.9.AI Data Centers- AI data centers are energy intensive and a one-year moratorium on these centers has been supported by NRC while new guidelines are developed to address who will pay for the new energy sources for AI data centers.

4.10.Repair of Electronic Products-Electronic Products sold in Maine will require that companies provide access to repair data for purchasers of those products

4.11.Battery Recycling Program-A battery recycling program has been developed.

4.12. Sovereignty of 4 Maine Tribes – NRC recommended that the sovereignty of four Maine tribes be established like the other tribes in the US.

4.13.Tidal Power Use -Studies of Tidal Power have shown that that this technology is not ready for implementation.

4.14. Proposed increased Maine residential electrical rates- NRC offered objection to increased residential electrical rates proposed by Maine energy companies.

4.15. High Cost of Maine residential electrical rates -The cost of Maine residential electrical rates are the highest in the country. NRC’s response was that the use of wind and solar will produce the leveling of the electrical costs over the next few decades.

5 .Beach Updates

Beach grass has been installed in the dunes .Fencing has been installed around planted areas to limit access to those areas where the beach grass has been planted

6 .Comment from the public - none

7 .Next Meeting- April 23 ,2026

8 .Adjournment -This meeting adjourned at 5PM.