



PENOBSCOT CLIMATE ACTION

PCA Committee

October 9th, 2025

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Location: Zoom

Objectives

- Get updates on local climate related activities.
- Receive updates from the ongoing working groups and provide essential feedback and support to advance their current initiatives.
- Develop strategies for the PCA Committee to facilitate participant learning and engagement in regional affairs, thereby supporting the Committee's future work.

Minutes

1) Opening

- Facilitator Maddie Jensen (BACTS) explained the Agenda and reviewed the Committee Objectives.

Name & Affiliation (if applicable)
Government Representatives
Megan Hess, Town of Orono
Organization Representatives
Erik daSilva (Bicycle Coalition of Maine) Kristen Settele (EMDC)
Individuals
Karen Marysdaughter Gerry Gross Geoffrey Gordon Isabel Nykamp Mary Kellogg Sonia Leone
Meeting Facilitator
Maddie Jensen, BACTS

2) Catch-Up



PENOBSCOT CLIMATE ACTION

- The following local updates were provided by attendees.
 - Karen Marysdaughter: The Bangor Tree Board has created a plan to address the City's tree management. They have developed a plan to treat a portion of Bangor's street trees for Emerald Ash Borer which has been confirmed in the region. A larger treatment may occur in the future.
 - Sonia Leone: Rural Resilience Champion position has been created under UMaine Associate Professor Dr. Sharon Klein to conduct outreach to rural communities in Aroostook and Penobscot County to support community resilience.
 - Kristen Settele: EMDC received a Service Provider grant through the State of Maine's Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) to help Brewer enroll in the CRP and to assist Veazie with a community Vulnerability Assessment.
 - Erik daSilva: Bicycle Coalition of Maine is working with EMDC and the Department of Labor to provide e-bikes to individuals in a recovery and workplace placement program. A reliable form of transportation is crucial to participating in the workforce.
 - Erik daSilva: Bicycle Coalition of Maine has a fleet of ebikes which can be requested by groups interested in hosting an ebike demonstration event. Many of these events have taken place in the region to expose people to ebikes and on the road riding.
 - Maddie Jensen: BACTS is developing demonstration projects through the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant. These projects will be focused on improving intersection and corridor safety, specifically for bicyclists and pedestrians.
 - Maddie Jensen: BACTS is nearing completion with their Regional Culvert Inventory and Assessment. Maddie will share findings with the group at a future meeting.
 - Erik daSilva: Bicycle Coalition of Maine has two programs that they encourage folks to share with their networks.
 - Fix-a-Bike: Teaches people how to maintain and fix their own bike to encourage confidence and independence should issues arise.
 - Earn-a-Bike: Targeted at low income individuals or families. Participants will leave the program with a refurbished bike and the knowledge necessary to continue its maintenance.
 - Gerry Gross: The Bangor Chapter of the Citizen's Climate Lobby works to educate and advocate for climate mitigation. Their primary focus recently includes advocating for the adoption of a national carbon tax and working with Bangor High School students to make their school more energy efficient.

3) Working Group Update

- The two active working groups shared the goals they are working towards and any group feedback they were looking for.
 - Public Advisory Working Group: The group released a survey to individuals that have previously been engaged in PCA work to better understand how we can continue to engage them. The survey had 40 responses and a majority consensus around an email newsletter format; monthly-quarterly frequency; and topics including general climate education, ways to get involved, and local updates. The Working Group members will be pursuing this direction in the coming months with a goal of releasing the first newsletter in early 2026. We are asking the Committee to reach out to Maddie if you have information that should be included in this newsletter or if you know of someone who might have information to share.
 - Resilience Hub Working Group: This group is working on a survey to support the information/data needs outlined in the Resilience Hub Toolkit. We received feedback that



PENOBSCOT CLIMATE ACTION

the survey's first draft was too long and broad so the group is working on refining the survey goal. The group is also conducting more outreach to those that are doing emergency management work in the area to see what information they want to prioritize.

4) Education/Information Sessions

- Those who attended the July tour of the Municipal Waste Hub facility expressed interest in continuing to explore education and engagement opportunities through Committee meetings. Possible topics to explore include our stormwater management, municipal water and sanitary sewer management, emergency management, municipal code/ordinance development and updates, and an ebike ride highlighting friendly and unfriendly infrastructure in the region. Participants preferred to incorporate this into Committee meetings or schedule an additional time if it is in-person or unable to fit into our typical meeting schedule.

5) Other Business

- No other business was discussed.

6) Closing

- Upcoming Meetings:
 - Maddie will send out a doodle poll to assess everyone's availability for Committee meetings in 2026.