

August 5, 2020

CALL TO ACTION

Please Contact Your Congressional Delegation!

COVID-19 has presented Maine businesses with numerous challenges during the past few months. As a result, many companies in Maine have gone beyond the scope of their operations to begin producing products that help protect the health and safety of Maine citizens, health care workers, and employees. These businesses have continued to provide these much-needed services to our state during this time of crisis.

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce believes it is only appropriate that we provide these businesses with the ability to continue their efforts, without the threat of unreasonable or unprincipled liability or litigation. Due to the pressing nature of this issue, the Maine State Chamber has put together a statewide coalition, comprised of numerous associations representing thousands of businesses, to address this issue.

Right now, in the next stimulus recovery bill currently being negotiated, Congress is considering adopting time-limited, safe harbor protections for businesses to operate during the pandemic. This is *NOT* a done deal! Time is of the essence. The Maine State Chamber strongly urges Maine employers to contact your state congressional delegation and urge them to support legislation that adopts time-limited, safe harbor protection for businesses during this pandemic. Phone numbers to the Congressional offices in Washington D.C. are as follows:

U.S. Senator Susan Collins: (202) 224-2523

U.S. Senator Angus King: (202) 224-5344

U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree: (202) 225-6116

U.S. Representative Jared Golden: (202) 225-6306

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Caprara, senior government relations specialist for the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 106, or by emailing lcaprara@mainechamber.org. □

As Maine seeks to maintain relatively low virus spread, Governor Mills renews State of Civil Emergency

On August 5, Governor Janet Mills extended the State of Civil Emergency for 30 days through September 3. The Governor's decision to extend the emergency is in line with nearly every other state in the nation, which also have ongoing emergency declarations, according to the National Governors Association. The state of New Hampshire renewed its state of emergency last Friday.

"Maine people have taken the tough but necessary steps to protect the health and safety of us all, and it is their actions that are allowing our economy to reopen in a gradual and safe manner," said Governor Mills. "But we cannot let our guard down. This deadly virus is still with us, and while I am proud of the progress Maine has made, we are not immune from the surges we have seen in other states. We must all stay vigilant and stay safe."

A State of Civil Emergency allows Maine to continue to draw down critical Federal resources and to deploy all available resources to respond to COVID-19. This is Governor Mills' fifth extension of the State of Civil Emergency. Under Maine law, State of Civil Emergency Proclamations may only be issued in thirty-day increments.

As of August 3, adjusted for population, Maine ranks third lowest in the nation in terms of positive cases; eighth lowest in the nation in terms of deaths; fourth lowest in terms of patients ever-hospitalized out of the 36 states reporting; and fifth highest in the percentage of people who have recovered out of the 42 states reporting. □

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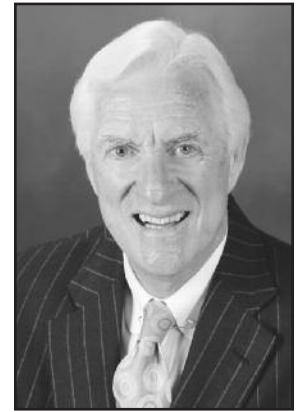
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About the Maine State Chamber of Commerce: Since 1889, the Maine State Chamber has been fighting to lower your cost of doing business. Through our Grassroots Action Network and OneVoice program, we work with a network of approximately 5,000 companies statewide who see the value in such a service and provide the financial support that keeps our access, advocacy, and assistance efforts going strong. As Maine's Chamber, we make sure that the business environment of the state continues to thrive. The Maine State Chamber of Commerce advocates on behalf of their interests before the legislature and regulatory agencies and through conferences, seminars, and affiliated programs.

A message from the President...

“Maine employers are standing in solidarity against racial and social injustice...”

by Dana Connors



We have been living through a transformational time. In addition to learning how to best operate in this pandemic, many Mainers are looking to engage in the conversation on racism and to take action around promoting racial equity and making their own workplaces more inclusive. The deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor were a catalyst for peaceful demonstrations and important conversations on racial and social injustice around the world. Maine companies, organizations, and communities are part of a global movement to address systemic racism and improve the quality of life, access to opportunities, and economic inclusion for Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

Maine business leaders understand that, when it comes to racial and social justice, silence is not an option. There is much to be done in this area – we have our own individual work to do, but also conversations to be had collectively as a community. The Maine State Chamber of Commerce is doing our part by convening businesses and employers in the hopes that they will commit to taking action to address racial and social injustice. We recognize that we have a responsibility to advocate for positive change and demonstrate our commitment to racial equity in our areas of influence, such as inclusive recruitment practices, addressing barriers to hiring and retaining foreign-trained professionals, and workplace programs to promote cross-cultural understanding.

In conjunction with several business leaders and the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce, we are committed to a strong and meaningful message from Maine's business community as we pledge our commitment and action around racial and social equity. Last week, we reached out to our membership to solicit additional support for this pledge, and it was signed by more than 100 employers committed to condemning racism of any kind, providing training and education to their workforce, and evaluating their own practices to ensure they are in line with values and standards that advance racial equity.

This is a start in our effort to find ways the business community can play a role in promoting racial equity throughout Maine. In the coming weeks and months, we hope more will join us in this critically important effort – a step toward making a lasting impact on our state. We encourage our colleagues, our community partners, and each of our neighbors to join us as we promote racial and social justice throughout Maine. If you'd like to join that pledge, please contact Mark Ellis by emailing mellis@mainechamber.org.

With openness, humility, and respect, we can learn from each other and from the communities where we live and work. There is much work to be done on many fronts, but together, we are certain we can make a difference. □

Diamond Offshore Wind, RWE Renewables join the University of Maine to lead development of Maine floating offshore wind demonstration project

On August 5, the University of Maine announced that it will collaborate with New England Aqua Ventus, LLC (NEAV), a joint venture between Diamond Offshore Wind, a subsidiary of the Mitsubishi Corporation, and RWE Renewables, the second largest company in offshore wind globally, to develop UMaine's floating offshore wind technology demonstration project off the coast of Maine.

As the developer, NEAV will own and manage all aspects of permitting, construction and assembly, deployment and ongoing operations for the project. UMaine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center will continue with design and engineering, research and development and post-construction monitoring.

The project will consist of a single semisubmersible concrete floating platform that will support a commercial 10–12 megawatt wind turbine and will be deployed in a state-designated area 2 miles south of Monhegan Island and 14 miles from the Maine coast. The purpose of the demonstration project is to further evaluate the floating technology, monitor environmental factors and develop best practices for offshore wind to coexist with traditional marine activities. It will supply clean, renewable electricity to the Maine grid.

Construction, following all permitting, is expected to be completed in 2023.

U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King and U.S. Representatives Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden issued a joint statement on the partnership announcement: "For generations, Maine has been a national leader when it comes to using our natural resources sustainably to create jobs, protect our environment and power our economy. The University of Maine's floating deep-water offshore wind project carries on that tradition. We have strongly supported UMaine's development of the Aqua Ventus project. We are proud to see the project's progress and applaud the \$100 million public-private partnership launched today, which will

accelerate UMaine's development of its innovative technology and create jobs. Maine's offshore wind resource potential is 36 times greater than the state's electricity demand, making this project so significant for Maine's clean energy future."

An immediate priority for the new development team is to engage with the fishing industry, other maritime users, coastal communities and other interested parties on how to ensure this new renewable energy source can optimally provide economic growth to Maine and work with maritime industries.

Since 2008, the University of Maine has researched floating offshore wind technology as a solution to Maine's overdependence on imported fossil fuels. After winning funding from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the university worked with Maine-based construction firm Cianbro to build and deploy the first grid-connected offshore wind turbine in the U.S. in 2013, a one-eighth scale prototype of its VoltturnUS floating hull technology. The success of the project led to additional funding from the DOE to further advance the VoltturnUS technology, which has been issued 43 patents to date. The university and Cianbro sought to partner with a world-class offshore wind developer to further demonstrate this technology on a commercial scale. UMaine will continue to own its VoltturnUS floating hull intellectual property and license it to NEAV for this project.

"Diamond Offshore Wind and RWE Renewables bring global expertise in offshore wind project development and construction, and we look forward to working with them to demonstrate UMaine's floating hull technology in Maine waters," says Habib Dagher, executive director of UMaine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center, where the VoltturnUS hull technology was invented. "Our design is ideally suited for deepwater deployment

Continued on Page 7...

Taxation committee hears Governor's recommendations on tax conformity

The Joint Standing Committee on Taxation met via zoom on Thursday, July 30 to discuss the Administration's proposal on tax conformity, which is presented as an amendment to **LD 2010**, *An Act to Update Reference Contained in the Maine Revised Statutes to the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986*. The tax conformity bill currently sits on the special appropriations table and was carried over to a special session.


The tax conformity bill (LD 2010) is submitted annually for the purpose of updating references to the United States Internal Revenue Code that primarily affects the states income tax laws. The function of the bill is to determine if the state wants to conform to any or all federal taxation changes. This year, there were numerous changes made to the tax laws at the federal level - specifically this spring amid the COVID-19 pandemic with the Congress' passage of the CARES Act, the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), and other federal tax credits and bills. Because Maine's legislature adjourned before passage of LD 2010, federal tax conformity is in limbo.

The Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services has released a chart (legislature.maine.gov/doc/4385) that outlines the Governor's proposal and the revenue estimates by tax items. Governor Janet Mills is proposing to conform to most of the items except for the increase in the interest expense that businesses can deduct and limit on non-corporate losses.

Continued on Page 6...

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BSOOB Transit joins Maine State Chamber's "This is ME Counting on You" public awareness campaign in Saco

Campaign encourages Mainers and visitors to do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce visited the Saco Transportation Center on Friday, July 24 as part of the Maine State Chamber's "This is ME Counting on YOU" public awareness campaign encouraging Mainers and visitors to our state to do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Maine State Chamber President Dana Connors and Biddeford Saco Old Orchard Beach (BSOOB) Transit's Craig Pendleton were on hand to talk about how following recommended health and safety guidelines, such as wearing a mask and practicing social distancing, will help

keep people safe, and ensure Maine's economy reopens and recovers safely and successfully.

"Maine businesses and organizations like BSOOB Transit take very seriously their role in keeping their employees and patrons safe and preventing the spread or a resurgence of COVID-19," said Dana Connors, president and CEO of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce. "We hope 'This is ME Counting on YOU' serves as a reminder that every one of us also has an important role to play in defeating COVID-19. We are all in this

Continued on Page 6...



This is ME counting on You

The Maine State Chamber is excited to share that as part of our "This is ME Counting on You" public awareness campaign to help stop the spread of COVID-19, we now have "thank you" cards for businesses to give to customers, patrons, guests, and visitors thanking them for practicing responsible behaviors.

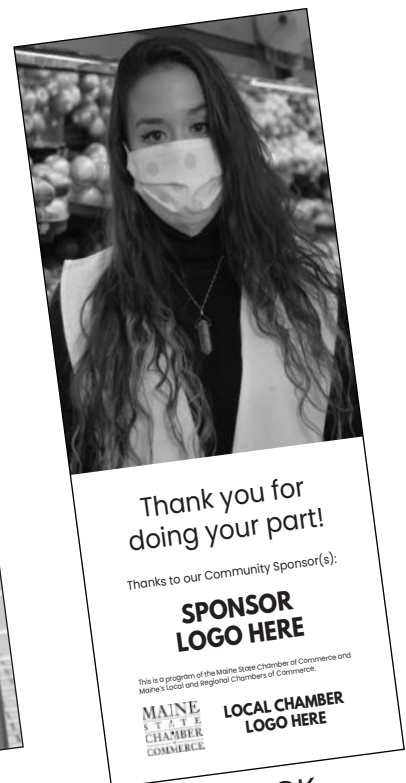
They also serve as a reminder of the continued need for safe practices, and are available on the website for co-branding, customizing and printing.

Please visit www.MEcountingonYou.org/thankyoucards to view the ten available designs. Contact Mark Ellis at (207) 623-4568 ext. 109 or mellis@mainechamber.org for details about the cards or to become a Community Partner.

Actual cards are in color. Pictured is the Merchant Theme card.



FRONT



BACK

Tax Conformity...

(Continued from Page 3...)

A huge issue to Maine businesses was whether the state would conform to the forgiveness of the PPP loans. If Maine did not conform, the loans forgiveness could have been taxable as cancellation of debt income. The governor is proposing to conform to the feds.

The Taxation committee is taking public comments regarding this proposal online at www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/TaxConformity.aspx. The committee is expected to address LD 2010, if the Legislature convenes for a special session. If you have any questions regarding Maine's tax policy proposals, please contact Linda Caprara by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 106, or by emailing lcaprara@mainechamber.org. □

This is ME Counting on YOU!...

(Continued from Page 5...)

together and are counting on each other to act safely and responsibly. That is the best way we can support one another, our communities, and Maine businesses and employers so our economy can get back on track."

"As an organization that interfaces with the public every day, we are committed to making sure our transportation centers, buses and trolleys are safe for our riders and employees," said Craig Pendleton, director of external affairs at Biddeford Saco Old Orchard Beach Transit. "We have implemented many more safety measures due to the challenges COVID-19 has presented. We appreciate the support of the Maine State Chamber's 'This is ME Counting on YOU' campaign to help us keep our area residents and visitors safe by providing important reminders of responsible health practices in our public spaces." □

"This ME Counting on YOU" provides free resources on its website, www.MeCountingOnYou.org, including floor stickers and printable posters for businesses and organizations to place in their establishments and work places reminding people to practice social distancing, wear masks, and more. The campaign's PSA is airing on Maine Public and cable television stations across Maine. The initiative is also on Facebook with the hashtag #MECountingOnYou.

The Maine State Chamber is working with its members, local and regional chambers of commerce, and other organizations throughout Maine to spread the "This is ME Counting on YOU" message. For more information about "This ME Counting on YOU," please visit www.MeCountingOnYou.org. For more information about BSOOB Transit, please visit www.BSOOBTransit.org. □



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“EN-ROADS” model for comparing climate policy

New England Aqua Ventus... (Continued from Page 3...)

EDITOR'S NOTE: The editorial below was authored and submitted by Peter Dugas, a volunteer with the Maine Citizens Climate Lobby. He can be reached directly by emailing dugas3@gmail.com. We are sharing the editorial below for informational purposes only; it does not reflect the position of the Chamber. For more information, please refer to the EN-ROADS model at <https://en-roads.climateinteractive.org/scenario.html?v=2.7.6> and the “Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act” at www.energyinnovationact.org.

For generations, my wife’s family had a New Year’s tradition of buying wholesale Maine shrimp and then gathering as a family to shell and freeze the harvest. Like most winter traditions, it was a great opportunity for chatting and joking between generations – productive but also a party. When our daughter was old enough to help, the picture of three generations of Mainers at work was fit for a Norman Rockwell painting (even if the smell was not).

Sadly, this ended six years ago when warming Maine waters forced the shrimp fishery to close. For us, it was the end of a long family tradition, but as a 13.7-million-dollar industry at its recent 1998 peak, for many it was the end of their livelihood. Our daughter’s probing questions forced us to address uncomfortable truths: how many thousands of years shrimp lived in Maine’s waters, how it is unlikely to ever re-open, and how climate change sets us on a trajectory to lose a whole lot more than shrimp.

The fact that earth’s climate is warming primarily due to human activity is no longer seriously disputed. Nor is the fact that it will cost more to do nothing and continue our current climate climb than it would be to take action to avoid the worst-case projections.

What *is* disputed is how we should address this threat. With so many “solutions” available what should our priorities be? What would be most beneficial and least costly? Would it be best to increase rebates on electric vehicles? Perhaps it would be better to install more renewable power capacity like hydro, wind and solar? Or maybe it makes the most sense to prioritize better forest management or follow a recent proposal and plant one trillion trees? Scientists, politicians, and business leaders will continue to debate these options as they weigh relative effectiveness in reducing carbon emissions and cost of implementation. With so many options and so much confusion as to what to do, it is almost understandable that this debate continues.

Thankfully, there are now tools available to compare climate policies. One of the easiest and most engaging to use is “EN-ROADS,” a multi-disciplinary creation by MIT’s Sloan School of Management and Climate Interactive, which previously created the tools used for the 2015 UN climate negotiations. With over 1,600 interacting equations, EN-ROADS provides a real-time visual representation the effectiveness various policy actions in limiting temperature increases. While easy to use, EN-ROADS is a very sophisticated model incorporating systems dynamics modeling using the most current data. Image 1 (top) on page 9 is what the model looks like when you find it online.

On the upper left, the model shows global energy sources over the past 20 years and projections for the next 80. On the right it shows the global temperature increases over the past 20 years and projected increases for the next 80. We can see that as the century progresses the use of oil (red) is projected to wane while renewables (green) and coal (black) will continue to increase globally. This may be surprising, as we have heard a lot about the diminishing coal market in this country, but globally coal will continue to be plentiful and cheap. Below the graphs is an interactive area where one can slide one of those black dots right or left to increase or decrease the labeled action. These actions are divided into addressing energy supply on the bottom left, transportation and building design in the center, and land use and carbon removal on the bottom right. The model above shows where we will be with “business as usual.” Our current temperature trajectory, which has already climbed 1.3° C above pre-industrial levels, will continue to climb through the century to 4.1° C by 2100. The dotted horizontal lines of 1.5° and 2.0° C increases were established by the UPCC scientists to avoid the worst-case scenarios, including the potential

Continued on Page 9...

anywhere and has the potential to play a significant role in global efforts to decrease dependence on fossil fuels.”

Diamond Offshore Wind and RWE Renewables, with years of collective offshore energy experience and success, will invest \$100 million to build the project and help demonstrate the technology at full scale. Combined, the two new partners are responsible for nearly a quarter of the world’s offshore wind capacity.

“We are pleased to see the University of Maine continuing to make progress and that new private sector partners recognize the great potential of this project,” says Daniel Simmons, assistant secretary of energy efficiency and renewable energy for the U.S. Department of Energy. “This complements the investment of research, development and demonstration funding from DOE to advance innovation in a floating design for offshore wind.”

Under the Mills administration and with a long history of bipartisan support, Maine has moved boldly ahead on renewable energy and offshore wind development, including enacting legislation authorizing approval by the Maine Public Utilities Commission of the power purchase contract for Aqua Ventus, and initiating a study of the port at Searsport as a potential site to support and develop offshore wind. The governor also accepted the invitation for Maine to join the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force, along with New Hampshire and Massachusetts, which is charged with facilitating coordination related to renewable energy activities in federal waters in the Gulf of Maine.

“The strength of Maine’s economy, the preservation of our natural resources, the long-term health and well-being of our communities and of future generations depend in great part on our transitioning to clean energy and tackling the threat of climate change,” says Gov. Janet Mills.

Continued on Page 8...

New England Aqua Ventus... (Continued from Page 7...)

“This new public-private partnership joins world-class offshore wind developers and the University of Maine and puts us on track to be home to the nation’s first floating offshore wind project, reflecting the major economic growth opportunity of the clean energy economy. I am pleased this project is moving forward and encouraged by the partners’ strong commitment to work collaboratively with Maine fishermen to protect and support our traditional industries as we chart a greener future for our state.”

“This is a significant milestone for the University of Maine, the offshore wind research team and the state of Maine,” says UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. “As Maine’s research university, UMaine is continually advancing its broad land grant, sea and space grant mission. The path from fundamental research to economic realization is complex, and success takes incred-

ible innovation, persistence and strategic partnerships. Many faculty, staff and students have participated in the development of this technology and will continue to support the energy and marine economy as this project transitions to the private sector. This collaboration exemplifies our role and commitment to creating and supporting the future of Maine.”

NEAV will continue to involve Maine companies in permitting, construction and assembly, deployment, and ongoing operations and maintenance of the project. In addition, NEAV has committed to working with the University of Maine on research, development and design to take the technology elsewhere in the U.S. and the world. The concrete hulls are designed to be built in communities adjacent to potential projects, generating local construction jobs and other benefits during the building and assembly phase.

The project is projected to produce more than \$150 million in total economic output and create hundreds of Maine-based jobs during the construction period.

“Cianbro has been a founding mem-

ber of the Aqua Ventus team for over 10 years, and we remain deeply supportive and committed to the development of offshore wind in Maine,” says Pete Vigue, chair of The Cianbro Companies. “We look forward to working with the NEAV team and all related stakeholders to complete the initial demonstration unit.”

The developers also will work with the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and Maine Maritime Academy to attract K-12 students to science, engineering and business programs, prepare college students and help to create a skilled workforce in Maine with the technical skills necessary to support offshore wind development and operation.

“We are pleased to partner with the university to bring its ideas for floating offshore wind to fruition,” says Chris Wissemann of Diamond Offshore Wind. “This project south of Monhegan is a perfect opportunity to demonstrate a new technology that can be built in Maine, create jobs in Maine, and demonstrate how fishing

Continued on Page 11...

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IMAGE 1

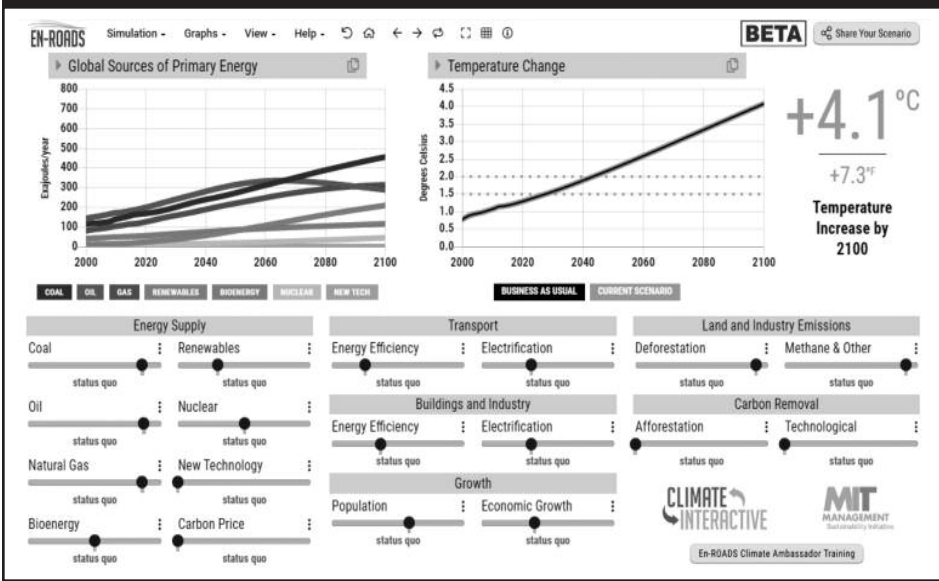


IMAGE 2

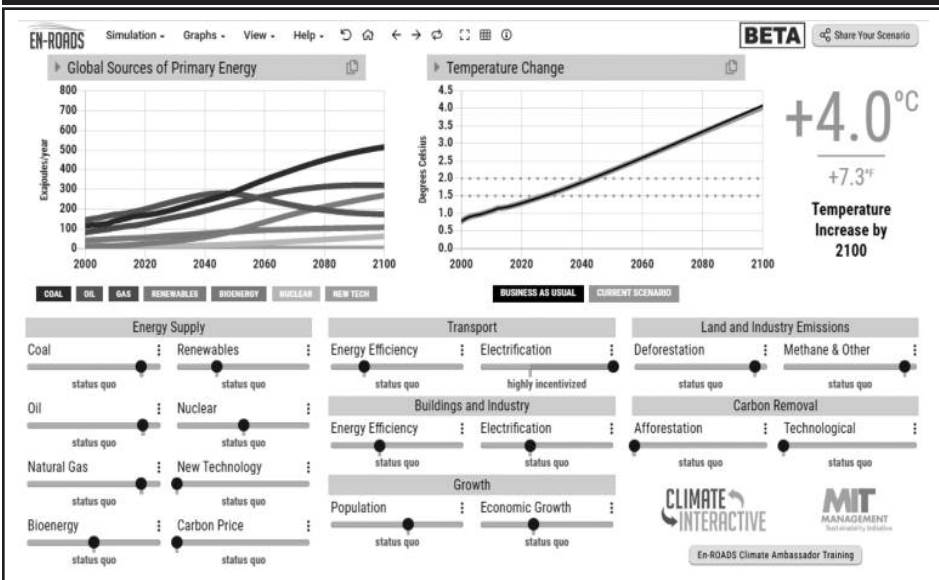
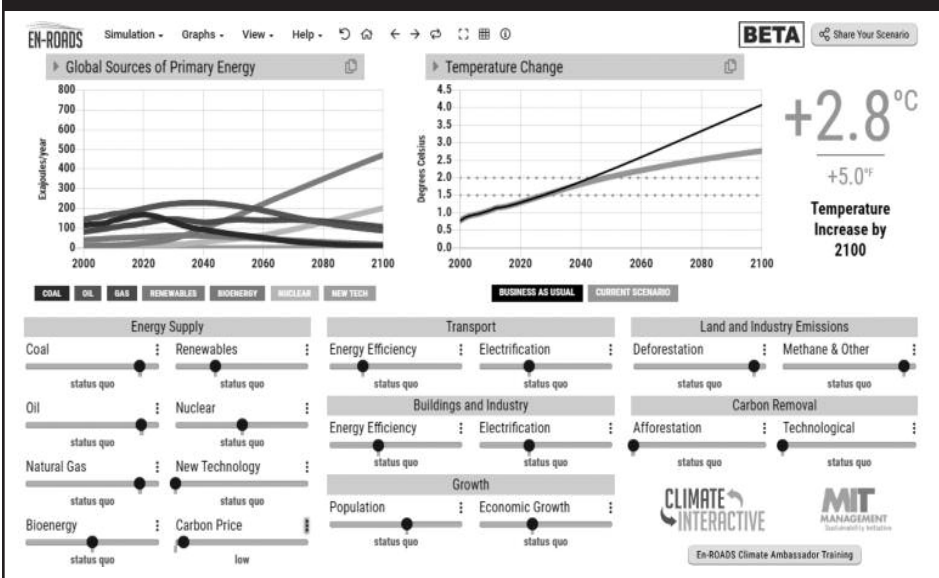


IMAGE 3



EN-ROADS Model... (Continued from Page 7...)

collapse of human civilization.

To get an idea of how the model works, let us compare two ideas in isolation. Image 2 (center) on page 9 is the model where electric vehicles are heavily subsidized.

Notice the dot under “Transport Electrification” has been moved all the way to the right but the projected temperature increases are barely decreased from 4.1° to 4.0° C. The driving factor is seen when this is carefully compared with the previous graph of “business as usual” and we see that coal consumption increases if all we do is electrify vehicles. Electric vehicles are an important action, but it is certainly not a silver bullet especially if globally we still get most of our electricity from coal.

It does not take a long time playing with EN-ROADS before one realizes that there is no single policy step that will fix this crisis. It becomes very apparent that we need several concurrent actions. In other words, there is no “silver bullet”, only “silver buckshot.”

I will leave you with what the model shows to be the most effective single measure: carbon pricing.

In Image 3 (bottom) on page 9, the model shows the effects of carbon pricing, specifically as prescribed by the “Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (HR763).” This bipartisan bill applies a \$15/ton of CO₂ that increases by \$10 every year until we reach 10% of 1990 emission levels. Because this carbon pricing is applied across the entire economy, CO₂ emissions become predictably and persistently more expensive, driving renewables up, and coal, oil and gas down. While not a “silver bullet,” carbon pricing is the most effective single action to mitigate carbon pollution. Coupled with increased efficiency incentives and mitigation of industrial methane emission, we get close to the sub-2.0° C target.

Furthermore, the specifics of HR763 mandate that all the net proceeds from the carbon price be re-distributed to every taxpayer as an equal dividend check. This carbon dividend would be a net financial gain to low- and middle-income earners (below 70% income levels) while higher-income earners should be incentivized to reduce emissions since they have the

Continued on Page 11...

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Maine State Chamber invests in Maine students and Maine's future

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce began investing in JMG students back in 2003, and the organization's generosity means more than ever this year. With so many Maine students facing hardships due to COVID-19, JMG is especially grateful to the Chamber's commitment. For the 17th consecutive year, the Maine State Chamber is investing in the future of Maine students by providing college scholarships to three deserving JMG students, from proceeds from its annual Scramble for Scholars golf tournament.

"JMG is the only nonprofit in Maine that supports students from sixth grade all the way through post-secondary education, and into careers," says Dana Connors, president of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce. "Our members, Maine's employers, know that investing in JMG students is a smart investment in Maine's future workforce."

During the past 17 years, the Chamber has generously awarded more than 40 schol-

arships to JMG students headed to colleges in Maine. This spring, Dana Connors awarded the first of three 2020 scholarships to Kayla Kalloch, a senior at Skowhegan Area High School who is going to the University of Maine at Farmington. After a painfully rough start in high school, Kayla enrolled in JMG where she made new friends, began exploring careers, and decided to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse.

"Supporting dreams and career aspirations is something the Maine State Chamber has been doing for our students for years," says Craig Larrabee, president and CEO of JMG. "And, through these scholarships, the Chamber is increasing the number of Mainers who pursue and attain post-secondary credentials. These awards ultimately support the emerging workforce, Maine's students."

The second award was given to a young woman from Caribou High School

Continued on Page 12...

EN-ROADS Model... (Continued from Page 9...)

means to address their carbon footprint. Over 3500 independent economists from all political stripes support carbon fee and dividend because it is predicted to be a boon to the economy, creating 2.1 million new jobs and getting the U.S. to exceed our Paris Protocol goals within 8 years while remaining revenue neutral and avoiding increased government oversight.

Propagating climate knowledge through increased use of tools like EN-ROADS will help us engage our political and community leaders in pragmatic and equitable solutions to the climate crisis. There will be opportunities for well-informed business leaders to benefit from insightful models like EN-ROADS. With smart choices and an engaged public, perhaps our children will have a different conversation with their children than I had with mine. Perhaps our children will talk about our success stabilizing the climate instead of adding countless vanishing assets to list that currently contains Maine shrimp. □

New England Aqua Ventus... (Continued from Page 8...)

and offshore wind can co-exist. Together with RWE, our engineers conducted an extensive due-diligence review of UMaine's VolturnUS floating wind technology, and believe it is a world leader in floating wind that reduces costs and creates local jobs. We are really focused on creating economic opportunities for Maine as this new carbon-free economy emerges."

"We see great potential for floating wind farms worldwide, especially in countries like the U.S., with deeper coastal waters," says Sven Utermöhlen, chief operating officer, Wind Offshore Global of RWE Renewables. "This innovative project combines the University of Maine's knowledge with the state's maritime heritage, allowing RWE Renewables to gain the experience that can help us provide future opportunities to grow local economies and produce clean, renewable power." □

Congratulations!



**2020 Maine State Chamber
Scholarship Winner
Cheyenne Cormier
Caribou High School**

Congratulations!



2020 Maine State Chamber
Scholarship Winner
Kayla Kalloch
Skowhegan Area High School

Congratulations!



2020 Maine State Chamber
Scholarship Winner
Katy Rice
Nokomis Regional High School

MSCC / JMG Scholarships...
(Continued from Page 11...)

who survived a childhood of abuse, anxiety, and depression. Today, Cheyenne Cormier says, "JMG saved me; gave me hope and a purpose in life." Thanks to the Chamber, Cheyenne is looking forward to studying Medical Assisting at Northern Maine Community College.

The third scholarship winner is a senior at Nokomis High School who says becoming president of her JMG program this year gave her the chance to show her classmates that JMG can help young people build a better future. Katy Rice has enrolled at Kennebec Valley Community College, where she plans to join JMG's College Success Program – a bridging, retention, and attainment program designed to ensure more students attain post-secondary credentials. Katy says, "I'm grateful to the Maine State Chamber, not only for the scholarship, which is going to make a big difference, but for believing in me. I can't thank them enough." □



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25th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament
Scramble for Scholars 2020



Friday, September 11
 Samoset Resort, Rockport

The Maine State Chamber's annual Scramble for Scholars golf tournament brings Chamber members together in a unique and enjoyable way, providing networking and increased visibility through a day on the greens. Held at the picturesque Samoset Resort, the tournament is the Chamber Scholarship's largest fundraiser. Since 1995, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce has proudly assisted 109 students through the generosity of its members. Including our 2020 awards (see page 11), these scholarships represent a total of \$157,500 in tuition assistance to date.

There is still **room for two foursomes to register** for the 25th Annual Scramble for Scholars. To register your team or secure your preferred sponsorship level, please contact Melody Rousseau by calling (207) 623-4568, ext. 104, or emailing melodyr@mainechamber.org. *The Chamber will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and take all appropriate measures, as the tournament date approaches, to preserve the health and well-being of participants.*

The following **sponsorship opportunities remain available**. Please consider one of the following sponsorship levels to fund our annual scholarships:

- ♦ **Par Sponsorship** (\$2,000) includes a hole sponsorship; one golfer entry (sponsors may add additional golfers \$180 each); a half-page program advertisement; prominent listing on all promotional material; and, opportunity to place a promotional item in the goodie bags.
- ♦ **Scholarship Fund Donation Sponsorship** (\$1,500 or above) includes one golf tournament entry (sponsors may add additional golfers \$180 each); prominent listing on promotional materials and program booklet; opportunity to place a promotional item in the goodie bags; and recognition in the event wrap-up edition of our newsletter, *Impact*.
- ♦ **Scholarship Fund Donation Sponsor** (under \$1,500) includes prominent listing on promotional materials and program booklet; opportunity to place a promotional item in the goodie bags; and recognition in the event wrap-up edition of our newsletter, *Impact*.

In addition, **donations for the goodie bags and raffle items** are needed. If you are interested in this unique marketing opportunity, please make arrangements by August 30 to include branded items in the golfers' goodie bags or in the tournament raffle by contacting Melody Rousseau by telephone at (207) 623-4568, ext. 104, or by email at melodyr@mainechamber.org. □

**Thank You to Our
 2020 Scramble for
 Scholars Sponsors!**

We are overwhelmed by your support this year! Through your generous sponsorships, we are able to hold our Scramble for Scholars and continue providing scholarships to Maine students aspiring. **List current as of publication deadline.*

Exclusive Sponsor:

Charter Communications

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Ace Golf Ball Sponsor: KeyBank Maine

Eagle Sponsors: Casella Waste Systems, Inc. (cart); Central Maine Power Company (hat); Procter & Gamble-Tambrands (towel)

Birdie Sponsors: Poland Spring Water Company (breakfast); Reed & Reed (luncheon)

Refreshment Cart Sponsor:

AAA-Northern New England

Driving Range Sponsor: Comcast

Event Photographer:

Bowman Constructors

Print Sponsor: First Choice Printing

Car on the Course: Shepard Chevrolet-Pontiac-Buick

Special Events Sponsors: Bangor Savings Bank (scoreboard); Samoset Resort (tote bag); Woodard & Curran Inc. (closest to the pin); VHB (raffle)

Par Sponsors: AT&T; Eaton Peabody; Norman, Hanson, & DeTroy, LLC; Sargent Corporation; Waste Management Disposal Services of Maine, Inc.

Scholarship Fund Donation Sponsors:

Bernstein Shur; Bowman Constructors; Brookfield Renewable Energy; Cross Insurance; Curaleaf; Hannaford Supermarkets; MaineHealth; The Sheridan Corporation; United Insurance; Unitil; University of New England

Continued on Page 15...

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WORKPLACE WELLNESS

HEALTHY EMPLOYEES MAKE CENTS!

August National Health Observances: Immunization, Children’s Eye Health and Safety, and Breastfeeding

EDITOR’S NOTE: The following blog was posted by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) on July 27, 2020, at <https://health.gov/news/202007/august-national-health-observances-immunization-childrens-eye-health-and-safety-and-breastfeeding>. We are reprinting it here for your information.

Help spread the word about National Immunization Awareness Month, Children’s Eye Health and Safety Month, and National Breastfeeding Month in August.

Each month, we highlight a selection of National Health Observances (NHOs) to spread the word about important health issues that affect Americans every day. August’s NHOs help raise awareness about immunization, children’s eye health and safety, and breastfeeding.

Below, you’ll find links to resources that will help you spread the word about these NHOs — use them to join the conversation!

National Immunization Awareness Month...

Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Immunization Month is an opportunity to highlight the importance of vaccination. Use CDC’s promotional materials, available at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/partners/index.html, to encourage people to stay up to date on recommended vaccines. You can also share MyHealthfinder’s vaccine resources at health.gov/myhealthfinder/topics/doctor-visits/shots-vaccines to help people of all ages learn about the vaccines they need to stay healthy. And to read about national objectives to increase immunization rates, check

out the Healthy People 2020 topic area at www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/immunization-and-infectious-diseases?_ga=2.232517149.30228064.1596818387-1289310034.1596818387.

Children’s Eye Health and Safety Month...

The American Academy of Ophthalmology This link is external to health.gov. sponsors this NHO with the goal of protecting and maintaining children’s eye health. The National Eye Institute (NEI) has lots of kid-friendly resources, available at www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/nei-for-kids, to help children learn about eye health. Find out about national objectives for improving the visual health of all Americans from the Healthy People 2020 topic area at www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/vision?_ga=2.26044223.30228064.1596818387-1289310034.1596818387. Finally, be sure to check out and share MyHealthfinder’s resource at health.gov/myhealthfinder/topics/doctor-visits/screening-tests/get-your-childs-vision-checked-with-parents to help them care for their children’s eyes.

National Breastfeeding Month...

Since 2011, the United States

Continued on Page 15...

Providing Books to Maine Students

Maine educators were recently surveyed about critical needs of their students. Books were highlighted as a top priority for students of all ages. Supporting reading is essential for students to continue to thrive in schools. Making certain that our students, particularly our youngest readers, have easy access to books during the end of the school year and throughout the summer is crucial for preventing summer slide.

Even with yeoman-like efforts by Maine teachers and a hands-on approach from the Maine Department of Education to ensure all Maine students have been able to continue learning remotely during the pandemic, we know that learning over these past few months has inevitably been disrupted. In addition to the school year disruption, student achievement often widens during the summer, an outcome referred to as summer slide. Summer slide accounts for as much as 85 percent of the reading achievement gap between lower income students and their middle- and upper-income peers. Providing students with appropriate books will help address this challenge. Not only does summer reading enable students to continue practicing foundational skills, but it opens the world to students through stories and knowledge building around topics of interest. We need your help to ensure students across our 16 counties have access to books, an essential commodity. Here are a few ways you can support Maine students:

- 1 **2020 Maine Books Challenge:** Educate Maine is leading this initiative to provide students with books while supporting local bookstores. You can purchase an online or physical gift card at one of Maine's independent bookstores. Every \$10 donation provides a book for a Maine student. Every donation will be matched by the Law Offices of Joe Bornstein up to \$5,000. Teachers across Maine will help coordinate book distribution to students. If interested in supporting this effort, please email Katherine at katherine@educatemaine.org.
- 2 **Scholastic Books:** This company has offered significant discounts to help get books to Maine students. For example, a \$1,000 donation can support 300 books for 100 students. A \$5,000 donation can support 1,500 books for 500 students. If interested in supporting this effort, please email Megan Diver at mdiver@mainechamber.org.
- 3 **Community Book Donations:** Gently used books are also needed across Maine. We are seeking community drop off spots at local employers throughout the 16 counties. If your business is interested in becoming a location for books to be collected, please email Megan Diver at mdiver@mainechamber.org.

Books will be distributed to students directly through their schools and at local meal sites throughout the summer. Additional information about summer literacy initiatives can be found online at <https://www.maine.gov/doe/learning/content/ela/initiatives/literacyforme/summer>. Thank you for supporting Maine students. ☐

2020 Golf Tournament... (Continued from Page 13...)

Raffle Donations: Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens; Cushnoc Brewing; Hampton Inn & Suites – Rockland/Thomaston; Hilton Garden Inn Freeport; Homewood Suites by Hilton; Irish Setter Pub; L.L. Bean; Landing Y; Marden's; New Balance Athletics, Inc.; Northeastland Hotel; Poland Spring Resort; PrideSports; Samoset Resort; Sebasco Harbor Resort LLC; Senator Inn & Spa; Sugarloaf; Sunday River; The Shipyard Brewing Company; Verrill; W.S. Emerson; Walmart

Silent Auction Sponsor: Sea Bags

Goodie Bag Sponsors: Casco Bay Food and Beverage; Frito Lay; Hannaford Supermarkets; Kellogg's; Northern Light Mercy Hospital; Shaw's Rockland; W.S. Emerson; Nautilus PPE, a subsidiary of Sebago Lake Distillery

Workplace Wellness... (Continued from Page 14...)

Breastfeeding Committee (USBC) has celebrated National Breastfeeding Month each August. The USBC recently hosted a virtual panel presentation, available at www.usbreastfeeding.org/p/cm/ld/fid=909, sharing themes for this year's NHO and ways to get involved. MyHealthfinder has a great breastfeeding resource, along with tips for eating healthy while breastfeeding, online at health.gov/myhealthfinder/topics/pregnancy/nutrition-and-physical-activity/eat-healthy-while-breastfeeding. And check out Healthy People 2020 to learn about efforts to improve maternal, infant, and child health, including objectives related to breastfeeding available at www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/maternal-infant-and-child-health?_ga=2.201811475.30228064.1596818387-1289310034.1596818387.

We hope you'll help us promote these important NHOs on your channels to help us improve the nation's health! ☐

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THE BOTTOM LINE



***The Bottom Line
Podcast***

***Thursday, August 13
10:00 a.m.***

***with special guest,
David Daigler,
President of the
Maine Community
College System***

David Daigler, president of the Maine Community College System (MCCS), will be our special guest on *The Bottom Line* podcast. He will join *The Bottom Line* co-hosts Dana Connors of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and John Williams of Williams Broadcasting to discuss MCCS' plans for providing safe, in-person training on campus for students that need hands-on instruction and robust remote learning for other students. In both scenarios, Maine's community colleges are making sure students are getting critical training for the state's workforce needs.

To listen live at 10:00 a.m. on August 13, please visit Williams Broadcasting at www.williamsbroadcasting.net and scroll down to "Listen Online" at the bottom of the homepage. To listen to the archived recordings any time, please visit *The Bottom Line* page on the Maine State Chamber's website at www.mainechamber.org/the-bottom-line.html. In addition, *The Bottom Line* podcast can be heard on iTunes, iHeart Radio, Soundcloud, Stitcher Radio, Spotify and radio.com. Sponsorships are limited so book your spot today! For current analytics, more information, or to secure your spot, please email melanieb@mainechamber.org. □