Supplementary 2 – State Climate Actions

Policy Interviews

The study was guided by data and information gathered from over 50 targeted interviews with scientists, state agency staff, policy makers, legislators and their advisors working on forest carbon and policy in New England (Table 1). These interviews assessed the type of information on forests, carbon, and climate that policy makers already have and that which they lack but need to make the policy decisions. The interviews were also key sources of information on existing data and studies on forests and carbon in New England.

Table 1: List of Interviews

Category	Completed Interviews
Scientists	17
Practitioners and advocates	17
Policy Makers	13
Legislators	5
Total	**53**

State Climate Action

New England states have enacted emissions reductions goals (Table 2), and many have active climate change activity ongoing (Table 3). New England states also participate in other GHG emissions reductions initiatives regionally, nationally, and globally (Table 4).

Table 2: Emissions Reduction Goals of New England States

State	Policy Mechanism	Emission Reduction Requirements/Goals
GHG Reduction Mandate States		
Connecticut	Act Concerning Connecticut Global Warming Solution (2008) 2018 interim benchmark	Requires state to reduce GHG emissions to 80% below 2001 levels by 2050. 2018 interim benchmark requires GHG emissions reductions of 45% below 2001 levels by 2030.
Maine	Act to Promote Clean Energy Jobs and to Establish Maine Climate Council (2019)	Requires state to reduce GHG emissions to 45% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% by 2050.
	Governor's Executive Order (Janet Mills)	Commits Maine to be carbon neutral by 2045.
Massachusetts	An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy (2021)	Requires state to reduce GHG emissions by 85% below 1990 levels by 2050 and achieve net-zero GHG emissions by 2050.

Rhode Island	Act on Climate (2021)	Requires state to achieve the following GHG emissions reductions: 10% below 1990 levels by 2020, 45% below 1990 levels by 2030; 80% below 1990 levels by 2040, and net-zero emissions by 2050.
Vermont	Act Relating to Addressing Climate Change (2020)	Requires state to reduce GHG emissions to 26% below 2005 levels by 2025, 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.
GHG Reduction Goals States (no policy mandate/non-binding)		
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Climate Action Plan (2009)	Calls for an 80% reduction in GHG emissions below 1990 levels by 2050.
Source: ISO Report NE, February 2022: Accessed from: https://isonewswire.com/2022/02/25/the-new-england-states-frameworks-for-reducing-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-increasing-renewable-energy-continue-to-evolve/		

Table 3: New England State-Level Climate Action

State	Emissions Reductions/Climate Change Goals	Recent Climate Change Activity	Most Recent Action Report
CT	45 and 80 percent below 2001 levels by 2030 and 2050, respectively. (Statutory)	GC3 – Governors Commission on Climate Change	2021 GC3 Phase 1 Report: Near-Term Actions
ME	45% GHG reduction in gross emissions by 2030 and 80% by 2050 (from 1990 levels). (Statutory)	MCC – Maine Climate Council	2021 Maine Won't Wait, A Four-Year Plan for Climate Action
MA	45% GHG reduction in gross emissions by 2030; net zero by 2050; up to 15% allowed by offset sequestration (previously 80% reduction by 2050). (Statutory)	Global Warming Solutions Act Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC)	2020 MA 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap
NH	80% by 2050 from 1990 level. (Aspirational)	NH Emission Commission	Final Report of the 2020 New Hampshire Ad Hoc Emissions Commission
RI	10% below 1990 levels by 2020, 45% below 1990 levels by 2030; 80% below 1990 levels by 2040, and net-zero emissions by 2050. (Statutory)	Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4)	2016 Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan
VT	26% below 2005 levels by 2025, 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. (Statutory)	Vermont Climate Council	2021 Vermont Climate Action Plan

Table 4: New England States' Participation in GHG Emissions Reductions Initiatives

Initiative	**Scale**	**Emissions Reductions Goals**
Under2MOU	Global	Members commit to keeping global temperature increases to below 2°C with action to try to reach 1.5°C.
US Climate Alliance	National	Member states commit to: -Implementing policies that align with the Paris Agreement goals of reducing GHG emissions by at least 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2021 -Monitor and report progress towards GHG emissions reductions goals -Accelerate policies for carbon pollution reduction and clean energy deployment
New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers	Regional	Resolution 39-1 presented a reduction marker for 2030 of reducing regional GHG emissions by at least 35 to 45% below 1990 levels.
Transportation and Climate Initiative	Regional	Requires that large gasoline and diesel fuel suppliers purchase "allowances" for pollution. Proceeds from auctions for these allowances are used by the jurisdictions to invest in cleaner and more resilient transportation solutions.

Table 5 maps key recommendations and policy initiatives from the most recent action reports for each New England state to the pathways considered in this study. This mapping exercise is not reflective of a direct alignment of each pathway to policy directions states are moving in, but rather shows that the selection of pathways included in the study is informed and supported by these policy directions at the state level.

Table 5: Mapping Potential Future Pathways to State Recommendations and Focus Areas

	State Level Recommendations			Forest Carbon Pathways in this Study [1]				
State	**Report**	**Strategy**	**Actions**	**AD**	**W**	**IFM**	**MT**	**U**
CT	GC3 Phase I Report: Near-Term Actions	1. Explore option of statewide "no-net-loss of forest" policy. Increase adaptation and resilience of Connecticut's forests through keeping forests as forests and supported actions to maintain un-fragmented forests. Increase mitigation of greenhouse gases in Connecticut's forests through sequestration and storage of carbon.	a. Evaluate feasibility of a goal of permanent protection of at least 50% of core forests greater than 250 acres by 2040 and identify resources that would be needed to achieve that goal. b. Consider actions to increase statewide forest cover from 59% to over 60% by 2040 by reforestation efforts c. Pursue opportunities to improve guidelines for vegetation management utilized by electric utilities, Department of Transportation, and public works within available resources. d. Evaluate how to improve forestry practices in Connecticut's working forests by following scientific principles including the emerging body of knowledge on how to manage forests for resilience and to store and sequester carbon.	**x**		**x**	**x**	
		Urban forestry	Protect vulnerable communities from climate change. Support urban forestry and community interest in tree planting and maintenance, parks, and/or community gardens in densely populated areas.					**x**
		Energy infrastructure siting	Evaluate approaches and best practices for siting of renewable and non-renewable energy infrastructure to avoid loss of forests, farmland and other sensitive lands. -Continue to deploy at least 50 megawatts per year of larger distributed solar and 10 megawatts per year of distributed fuel cells.	**x**				
ME	Maine Climate Council Final Report - Maine Won't Wait 2020	1. Strategy B: Modernize Maine's Buildings: Energy-Efficient, Smart and Cost- Effective Homes and Businesses	Develop and enhance funding for innovation and incentives, building codes, and marketing programs to increase the use of efficient and climate-friendly Maine forest products, including mass timber and wood-fiber insulation.				**x**	

		2. Strategy E: Protect Maine's Environment and Working Lands and Waters: Promote Natural Climate Solutions and Increase Carbon Sequestration	Increase by 2030 the total acreage of conserved lands in the state to 30% through voluntary, focused purchases of land and working forest or farm conservation easements. Establish by 2021 a stakeholder process to develop a voluntary, incentive-based forest carbon program (practice and/or inventory-based) for woodland owners of 10 to 10,000 acres and forest practitioners. Engage in regional discussions to consider multistate carbon programs that could support Maine's working lands and natural-resource industries, and state carbon-neutrality goals.	**x**	**x**	**x**		
MA	MA 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap (2020)	Natural Carbon Sequestration	Protect existing forests	**x**				
			Increase C stocks through afforestation, IFM, reforestation and restoration			**x**		
			Regional approach					
		Building Sector	CLT construction				**x**	
RI	Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan (2016)	Land use conservation strategies preserve natural systems and environments that provide carbon dioxide "sinks," helping to reduce the state's net greenhouse gas footprint. Strategies include protecting existing forest acreage, reforestation, conservation of riparian buffers, enhanced forest management programs (on both private and public lands), reductions in soil erosion to minimize losses in soil carbon storage, coastal wetland protection (e.g., blue carbon), and enhanced urban tree canopies.		**X**		**X**		**X**
NH	Final Report of the Ad Hoc Emissions Commission 2020	Focus on emissions reductions for human health Forests not mentioned						
VT	Vermont Forest Carbon Sequestration Working Group Report 2019	Recommendations for the state to develop and pilot forest carbon offset projects				**x**		
	Vermont Forest Carbon Feasibility Report	Estimates offset potential on 140,000 to ~320,000 acres of forestland in VT.				**x**		
Notes: [1] AD = avoided deforestation; W = wildland reserves; IFM = improved forest management; MT = mass timber construction; U = urban and suburban forests.								

The sections that follow provide a detailed timeline of key legislation, policy action, and reports associated with climate action in New England states. Note that the timeline may not be comprehensive as the Supplement is not meant to be a complete inventory, but rather reflects background research the authors undertook to guide the current study.

Massachusetts

Date	Name	Type	Description
2004	Climate Protection Plan	Legislation	The Massachusetts Climate Protection Plan (the Plan) focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving energy efficiency in Massachusetts. The Plan set the following emissions reductions targets: • SHORT-TERM: Reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2010. • MEDIUM-TERM: Reduce GHG emissions 10% below 1990 levels by the year 2020. • LONG-TERM: Reduce GHG emissions sufficiently to eliminate any dangerous threat to the climate; current science suggests this will require reductions as much as 75-85% below current levels. Action #10 - Natural Resource Protection as a Climate Strategy - discusses forests as carbon sinks. The Plan sets out a strategy to maintain and enhance important resources through forest management and protection. The actions include a variety of efforts including to "Promote a new forest vision that integrates carbon resource management with other natural resource goals".
2008	Global Warming Solutions Act	Legislation	GHG emissions limits and plans to achieve those limits: • 25% reduction in statewide GHG emissions below 1990 baseline level by 2020 • At least 80% reduction in statewide GHG emissions below 1990 baseline level by 2050 • Interim emissions limits for 2030 and 2040 that maximize the ability of the Commonwealth to meet the 2050 emissions limit GWSA has an Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC), which has the following 5 working groups: Electricity, Transportation, Buildings, Land Use and Nature-Based Solutions, and Climate Justice
2011	Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Report	State Agency Plan	Report mandated by the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act and developed by the Climate Change Adaptation Advisory Committee. The report presents a framework of solutions for adapting to climate change. Under Strategy #1 —Combine Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies – the Committee included the strategy of the acquisition or conservation of large forest blocks that could address both adaptation and mitigation. The report also has a series of forest-specific strategies include land protection; policy, flexible regulation, planning and funding strategies such as landowner incentives, no net loss of forests mechanisms, and state tax credits for forest management plans; management and restoration; and monitoring, research, and adaptive management.

2015	Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2020 – 2015 update	State Agency Plan	The Clean Energy and Climate Plan (CECP) outlines the path to reaching the emissions reductions targets for 2020 in the GWSA; CECP 2030 is due out in December of 2020.
2016	Executive Order #569: Establishing an Integrated Climate Change Strategy for the Commonwealth	Executive Order	Directs the Executive Offices of Energy and Environmental Affairs and Public Safety and Security to lead the development and implementation of a statewide comprehensive climate adaptation plan. Builds on the findings from the state's 2011 Climate Change Adaptation Report, Requires Climate Adaptation Plan to be published within 2 years.
2018	Bill H.4835: An Act promoting climate change adaptation, environmental and natural resource protection, and investment in recreational assets and opportunity	Legislation	Authorizes over $2.4 billion in capital allocations for investments in adaptation to climate change, protecting environmental resources and green space across the state. Expands and codifies EO 569.
2018	Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan	State Action Plan	The State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (SHMCAP) for the Commonwealth was adopted on September 17, 2018, as included in EO 569. The plan was the first to integrate climate change impacts and adaptation with hazard mitigation planning. In August 2019, the administration launched the Resilient MA Action Team (RMAT), an inter-agency team that will work to implement the plan.
2018	Comprehensive Energy Plan	State Action Plan	Following EO 569, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) published a Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) in December 2018. The CEP includes projections of the state's energy demands and strategies for meeting these demands through conservation, energy efficiency, and other mechanisms.
2020	Determination of Statewide Emissions Limit for 2050	Legislation	Established a 2050 statewide emissions limit of net zero greenhouse gas emissions. Legislation notes that the level of emissions cannot be greater than a level that is 85% below the 1990 level. Negative emissions through existing technologies, including the protection and enhancement of natural sequestration can help achieve net zero.
2020	MA 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap	State Action Plan	The Roadmap Study was commissioned by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and includes strategies to support the state in achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
2021	An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for	Legislation	Requires state to reduce GHG emissions by 85% below 1990 levels by 2050 and achieve net-zero GHG emissions by 2050.

	Massachusetts Climate Policy		
2022	MA Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2025 and 2030	State Action Plan	The Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2025 and 2030 (2025/2030 CECP) provides details on the actions the state will take through the next decade to meet the 2025 and 2030 emissions limits. The 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap informed development of the 2025/2030 CECP so that actions under the CECP will help the state to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Vermont

Date	Name	Type	Description
2005	10 V.S.A. § 578	Legislation	Calls for a 50% reduction in emissions from the 1990 level of 8.1 million tons by 2028 and a 75% reduction by 2050.
2007	Governor's Commission on Climate Change	Report	Multi-stakeholder commission established in 2005 that produced their final report in 2007. The report includes recommended actions in multiple areas – energy supply and demand, agriculture, forestry, waste management, transportation, and land use.
2011	Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP)	State Action Plan	Established state goal to obtain 90% of total energy from renewable sources by 2050. Updated in 2016 (CEP; see below).
2012	Executive Order 15-12	Executive Order	Reconstituted the Vermont Climate Cabinet and re-established Vermont's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from state government buildings and operations. The Climate Cabinet was tasked with leading the coordination of climate change efforts (mitigation and adaptation) of state agencies and implementing outreach and education.
2013	Climate Change Adaptation Framework	State Action Plan	Report by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) that assesses climate change impacts on wildlife, fisheries, forestry, and water resources and proposes a framework for assessment of climate change vulnerability and planning.
2014	Vermont Climate Assessment	Report	Report assessing state-level climate impacts through combining downscaled global climate models and local knowledge and data. Identifies information needed to support climate change mitigation and adaptation.
2016	Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP)	State Action Plan	Builds on the state's goal established in 2011 CEP to meet 90% of Vermont's energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. Established planning goals for reducing emissions from energy use.
2017	Executive Order 12-17	Executive Order	Created the Vermont Climate Action Commission, which was directed to develop an action plan by 2018 that recommends actions for greenhouse gas emissions reductions in the state.
2018	Vermont Climate Action Committee Final Report	Report	Report with a section on sequestering carbon on farms and forests. Makes recommendations on increasing carbon sequestration of Vermont's forests and agricultural lands and maintaining and increasing the carbon sink of the state's current forest land.
2019	S.160 (Act 83)	Legislation	Created the Vermont Forest Carbon Sequestration Working Group to study how to create a state program to facilitate the enrollment of Vermont forestlands in carbon sequestration markets.
2020	Vermont Forest Carbon Sequestration Working Group Final Report	Report	Findings of the Vermont Forest Carbon Sequestration Working Group. Findings point to the voluntary rather than the compliance market as appropriate for the state given the small parcel sizes and other state-specific factors.
2020	Act 153 (Vermont Global Warming	Legislation	In 2020, the Vermont Legislature passed the Global Warming Solutions Act (Act 153 as Enacted), which created legally binding emission reduction targets, requiring Vermont to reduce greenhouse gas pollution to 26% below 2005 levels by 2025. Emissions would need to be 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% below by 2050. In addition

	Solutions Act of 2020)		to the emissions reductions requirements, the law created the Vermont Climate Council and tasked it with developing the state Climate Action Plan by December 1, 2021. In addition to the emission reductions required by the statute, the law also directs the Council to consider opportunities for conservation through long-term carbon sequestration and identify actions Vermont communities can take to better prepare for more extreme weather.
2021	Vermont Climate Action Plan	State Action Plan	State action plan developed by the Vermont Climate Council. Plan includes many pathways and strategies including increasing resources for climate change adaptation for forests and farmland, managing natural and working lands for forest health and climate resilience, planning for climate resilience and adaptation, reducing forest fragmentation, and investing in strategic conservation.

New Hampshire

Date	Name	Type	Description
2007	EO Establishing a Task Force to Develop a Climate Change Action Plan	Executive Order	Created a Climate Change Policy Task Force tasked with working with the Department of Environmental Services to develop a Climate Change Action Plan establishing climate change goals and recommendations to meet those goals.
2009	Climate Action Plan	State Action Plan	Climate Action Plan developed by the New Hampshire Climate Change Policy Task Force. Set emissions reductions goals (not statutory) of 44% below 2005 levels by 2025 and 86% below 2005 levels by 2050. The Executive Summary calls out the importance of conserving forests and preserving working forests for the success of the Climate Action Plan. Recommendations around forests and agriculture include investing in forests to maximize carbon storage and avoid net forest land conversion, optimizing the availability of biomass for electricity and heating, promoting durable wood products, protecting agricultural land, and maximizing source reduction, reuse, and recycling.
2020	2020 NH Ad Hoc Emission Commission Final Report	Report	The 2020 New Hampshire Ad Hoc Emissions Commission was comprised of various stakeholders that recommended the reintroduction of SB 590 (establishing a committee to develop science-based emissions reductions goals for the state) of the 2020 legislative session.

Connecticut

Date	Name	Type	Description
2008	Global Warming Solutions Act	Legislation	Requires state to reduce GHG emissions to 80% below 2001 levels by 2050. 2018 interim benchmark requires GHG emissions reductions of 45% below 2001 levels by 2030.
2010	The Impacts of Climate Change on Connecticut Agriculture, Infrastructure, Natural Resources and Public Health	Report	Explored climate change impacts in Connecticut on the following areas: (1) infrastructure; (2) natural resources; (3) agriculture; and (4) public health. Includes state-wide risk assessments for each area.
2011	CT Climate Change Preparedness Plan	State Action Plan	The adaptation plan includes strategies for climate change vulnerabilities identified in the 2010 report entitled "The Impacts of Climate Change on Connecticut Agriculture, Infrastructure, Natural Resources and Public Health." The Connecticut Climate Change Preparedness Plan was published in 2011 and finalized in 2013.
2015	Executive Order 46	Executive Order	Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) established.
2017	SB943: An Act Concerning the Installation of Certain Solar Facilities on Productive Farmlands	Legislation	Restricts construction of solar photovoltaic facilities of two or more megawatts on forest land or prime farmland.
2018	Act Concerning Climate Change Planning and Resiliency	Legislation	Sets mandatory emissions reduction target of 45% below 2001 levels by 2030 and integrates GHG emission reductions into the Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES) and Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).
2018	Building a Low Carbon Future for CT	Report	Recommendations from the GC3 on achieving a 45% GHG reduction by 2030. Recommendations are included for the electric, transport, and building sectors.
2019	Executive Order Number 3	Executive Order	Re-established and expanded the membership and responsibilities of the GC3. In addition to mitigation strategies, the GC3 was tasked with addressing adaptation and resilience to climate change and delivering a report in January 2021.
2021	GC3 Phase 1 Report	Report	GC3 Phase I Report: Near-Term Actions • Explore option of statewide "no-net-loss of forest" policy. • Increase adaptation and resilience of Connecticut's forests through keeping forests as forests and supported actions to maintain un-fragmented forests. • Increase mitigation of greenhouse gases in Connecticut's forests through sequestration and storage of carbon. • Protect vulnerable communities from climate change. Support urban forestry and community interest in tree planting and maintenance, parks, and/or community gardens in densely populated areas.

			• Evaluate approaches and best practices for siting of renewable and non-renewable energy infrastructure to avoid loss of forests, farmland, and other sensitive lands. • Continue to deploy at least 50 megawatts per year of larger distributed solar and 10 megawatts per year of distributed fuel cells.
2021	PRFCT Future Report: Policy on Resilient Forests for Connecticut's Future	Report	PRFCT working group report and recommendations on legislative actions needed, state budget and staffing needs, executive agency actions for CT's forest resiliency.

Maine

Date	Name	Type	Description
2003	H.P. 622 — L.D. 845, An Act To Provide Leadership in Addressing the Threat of Climate Change	Legislation	Set greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals and required a Climate Action Plan to meet the goals. • Reduction by 2010. In the short term, reduction to 1990 levels by January 1, 2010. • Reduction by 2020. In the medium term, reduction to 10% below 1990 levels by January 1, 2020. • Long-term reduction. In the long term, reduction sufficient to eliminate any dangerous threat to the climate. To accomplish this goal, reduction to 75% to 80% below 2003 levels may be required.
2004	2004 Maine Climate Action Plan	State Action Plan	The Climate Action Plan was developed under the requirements set forth in the 2003 climate legislation. The Plan focused on mitigation and included 54 recommended actions to meet the legislative targets. Options for reducing emissions included actions related to agriculture and forestry.
2009	L.D. 460, To Evaluate Climate Change Adaptation Options for the State	Legislation	In this 2009 legislation, the Maine Legislature required DEP to develop adaptation options for the state to prepare for the impacts of climate change through stakeholder engagement.
2010	People and Nature Adapting to a Changing Climate: Charting Maine's Course	Report	This report was developed under the requirements set forth in the 2009 L.D. 460 legislation by DEP. The 2010 report includes 118 goals to help prepare Maine for climate impacts.
2019	LD 1679: An Act To Promote Clean Energy Jobs and To Establish the Maine Climate Council	Legislation	Created the Maine Climate Council, comprised of a Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and sector-focused working groups, including the Natural and Working Lands group. Purpose of the Climate Council is to "advise the Governor and Legislature on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for and adapt to the consequences of climate change." Set the following emissions reduction requirements: • 2030 annual emissions level. By January 1, 2030, the State shall reduce gross annual greenhouse gas emissions to at least 45% below the 1990 gross annual greenhouse gas emissions level. • Interim emissions level. By January 1, 2040, the gross annual greenhouse gas emissions level must, at a minimum, be on an annual trajectory sufficient to achieve the 2050 annual emissions level in accordance with subsection 3. • 2050 annual emissions level. By January 1, 2050, the State shall reduce gross annual greenhouse gas emissions to at least 80% below the 1990 gross annual greenhouse gas emissions level.
2019	LD 1494: An Act to Reform Maine's Renewable Portfolio Standard	Legislation	Increases Maine's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to achieve 80% renewable energy by 2030, up from 40% today and a goal of 100% by 2050.
2019	Executive Order 10: Maine Carbon Neutral by 2045	Executive Order	Maine will strive for a carbon neutral economy by 2045.

2020	Maine Won't Wait (Maine Climate Council)	State Action Plan	State Action Plan developed by the Maine Climate Council. Recommendations across different working groups. Recommendations related to forests include: • Strategy B: Modernize Maine's Buildings: Energy-Efficient, Smart and Cost- Effective Homes and Businesses • Develop and enhance innovation support, incentives, building codes, and marketing programs to increase the use of efficient and climate-friendly Maine forest products, including mass timber and wood-fiber insulation. • Strategy E: Protect Maine's Environment and Working Lands and Waters: Promote Natural Climate Solutions and Increase Carbon Sequestration • Increase by 2030 the total acreage of conserved lands in the state to 30% through voluntary, focused purchases of land and working forest or farm conservation easements. • Establish by 2021 a stakeholder process to develop a voluntary, incentive-based forest carbon program (practice and/or inventory based) for woodland owners of 10 to 10,000 acres and forest practitioners. • Engage in regional discussions to consider multistate carbon programs that could support Maine's working lands and natural-resource industries, and state carbon-neutrality goals.
January 2021	EO 24 – Governor's Task Force on the Creation of a Forest Carbon Program	Executive Order	Executive order establishing the Governor's Task Force on the Creation of a Maine Forest Carbon Program for small landowners. Directed the Task Force to develop a voluntary, incentive-based program for woodland owners with 10 to 10,000 acres and forest practitioners that could increase the carbon storage in Maine's forest land.
October 2021	Governor's Task Force on the Creation of a Forest Carbon Program Final Report	Report	Final report of the Governor's Task Force on the Creation of a Forest Carbon Program supports the Maine Climate Council's Natural and Working Lands work group's recommendation to develop incentives that increase carbon storage on lands owned by woodland owners between 10 and 10,000 acres. The Task Force identifies principles such as keeping forests as forests, increasing forest carbon in forestland by increasing sustainable forestry practices that increase carbon sequestration, and supporting markets for low-grade wood.
December 2021	Maine Climate Science Update 2021	State Action Plan Update	Interim report on climate science developed by the Maine Climate Council's Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Includes information on current climate events, and new scientific reports and peer-reviewed publications.
February 2022	LD 1429: An Act to Achieve Carbon Neutrality in Maine by the Year 2045	Legislation	Bill reported out in February 2022 that writes the 2019 EO 10 into statute.

Rhode Island

Date	Name	Type	Description
2014	Resilient Rhode Island Act	Legislation	Act establishing greenhouse gas reduction targets for Rhode Island and two state advisory bodies – the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) Advisory Board and the EC4 Science and Technical Advisory Board. The EC4 was tasked with developing a plan to meet greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets: • Ten percent (10%) below 1990 levels by 2020 • Forty-five percent (45%) below 1990 levels by 2035 • Eighty percent (80%) below 1990 levels by 2050
2016	RI Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan	State Action Plan	State action plan developed by the EC4 including strategies, programs, and actions for the state to meet the greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets contained in the Resilient Rhode Island Act. The action plan identifies mitigation options that could meaningfully reduce emissions. EC4 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan includes strategies, programs, and actions to meet the targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions as established in the Resilient Rhode Island Act. These actions include adoption of clean energy technology and practices, land use strategies to protect forests, and leveraging regional collaboration.
January 2020	Executive Order 20-01: "Achieving a 100% Renewable Energy Future for Rhode Island by 2030"	Executive Order	In March 2017, Governor Raimondo announced a strategic goal to increase the amount of clean energy in the state by 10 times –or a total of 1,000 MW –by the end of 2020, including renewable energy sources such as off-shore wind, on-shore wind, and solar. In 2020, Executive Order 20-01 directed the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) to implement analysis to support policies and programs to meet 100% of the state's electricity demand with renewable energy resources by 2030.
2021	2021 Act on Climate	Legislation	Legislation updating the 2014 Resilient Rhode Island Act and setting statutory emissions reductions goals that support net-zero emissions by 2050. Directs the EC4 to develop a 2022 Update to the 2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan by December 31, 2022 and to develop a plan (called the "2025 Climate Strategy") to reduce emissions to net-zero by 2050 by December 31, 2025. Requires state to achieve the following GHG emissions reductions: • 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 • 45% below 1990 levels by 2030 • 80% below 1990 levels by 2040

			• Net-zero emissions by 2050