

# 2020 Vision for Energy Conservation and Sustainability

Created January 17, 2009

Welcome to central Maine's sustainable community in 2020. We define sustainability as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future.

We, the people of the Kennebec, recognize that our survival depends on a healthy and safe environment. We are part of an interdependent world of natural resources, human communities, and economic systems. Our culture supports sustainability in everything, such as use of local food, energy, and transportation as well as preservation of our natural resources.

We are a strong regional community with shared interests. We collaborate in making wise energy and environmental choices. We make public and private decisions in terms of their environmental, social, and economic impacts, including quality of life and employment opportunities. We have increased the prosperity of the region. We have full employment at a living wage through green services and green manufacturing.

People of all ages learn about sustainability throughout our communities: at home, in schools, in the workplace. The youth in our communities grow up safe and healthy, and are engaged in the process of achieving sustainability.

We invest in the best available strategies and infrastructures for energy generation, distribution and use. Where we use energy, we give priority to local, renewable resources. Through practices of energy conservation, generation and efficiency, we have reduced our carbon footprint and our use of fossil fuels by fifty per cent since 2009.

Most of the food we eat is locally grown. There is an abundance of locally-grown food available throughout our communities. For example, 80% of food used in schools is locally grown. We have revitalized area farms and reconnected our rural and urban economies.

Recognizing that the open-ended generation of "waste" is not sustainable, we have learned to rethink, reduce, reuse and recycle, with the goal of eliminating waste completely - every output becomes an input. We have eliminated most landfilling.

We use our natural resources, such as wind, water, wood and sun, to provide for the needs of everyone in our communities and beyond, while at the same time preserving the integrity of resources for the future.

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