Governor Janet Mills signed into law in June 2019 bipartisan legislation to create the Maine Climate Council. The Climate Council is charged with leading Maine’s efforts to reduce the state’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 45% below 1990 levels by 2030 and at least 80% by 2050. Governor Mills also signed major legislation to increase the state’s renewable portfolio standard (RPS) to 80% by 2030 and set a goal of 100% renewable electricity by 2050.

**Climate Framework and Laws** In June 2019, Governor Janet Mills signed into law bipartisan legislation to create the Maine Climate Council. The Climate Council is charged with leading Maine’s efforts to reduce the state’s GHG emissions 45% below 1990 levels by 2030 and at least 80% by 2050. The Climate Council will consist of state, business, nonprofit, tribal, and youth representatives, as well as science and technical experts. The Council will develop the action plans to meet the state's GHG reduction goals, promote jobs and economic benefits for Maine people in the transition to a lower-carbon economy, and support the climate resiliency of Maine’s communities.

**Power Generation** Maine is a member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and invests all RGGI revenue into energy-efficiency programs. Governor Mills signed major legislation into law (June 2019) to increase the state’s RPS to 80% by 2030 and set a goal of 100% renewable electricity by 2050. This legislation also requires the Maine Public Utilities Commission to procure 14% of Maine’s electric load from renewable energy projects, and creates a program to incentivize renewable heating and cooling. Maine also reset the state’s metering policy for solar, thereby ensuring that consumers who produce electricity from solar panels will be fairly compensated for supplying excess energy back.
to the electric grid. Governor Mills signed legislation in June 2019 which incentivizes at least 375 megawatts (MW) of new solar distributed generation, which is expected to be primarily solar photovoltaic development for projects under 5 MW. The bill creates two separate but complementary incentives, one for commercial and institutional customers and another for community shared projects, with prices that are set competitively and declining in subsequent procurements.

**Energy Efficiency** Maine has an energy efficiency resource standard (EERS) requiring the procurement of the maximum achievable cost-effective energy efficiency for electricity and natural gas. Efficiency Maine's most recently approved three-year plan estimates the EERS will achieve 2.3% average incremental electric savings per year through 2022. Efficiency Maine offers a Home Energy Savings Program through which homeowners can receive up to $3,500 toward the cost of home weatherization and rebates for high-performance heating systems. The appliance program runs through distributors and retailers will install more than 10,000 heat pump water heaters in each of the next three years. The Low-Income Heat Pump Initiative works with the Maine State Housing Authority to identify low-income homeowners who would benefit from the installation of a heat pump to lower fuel costs and installs heat pumps in those homes. In June 2019, Governor Mills signed legislation establishing the goal of installing 100,000 new heat pumps in Maine by 2025.

**Transportation** Maine has adopted both the zero-emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandate, which requires auto manufacturers to offer for sale specific numbers of the cleanest cars available, and the emission standards of Section 177 of the Clean Air Act. Maine is participating in the development of the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), a regional collaboration that seeks to improve transportation, develop the clean energy economy, and reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector. As part of TCI, Maine is monitoring efforts aimed at developing a regional market-based program that will cap transportation emissions. Maine is working with other eastern states to explore issues unique to highly rural states and how TCI can incorporate potential solutions for those states. Maine is using a significant portion of its Volkswagen Settlement funds on public transportation investments and charging infrastructure. In March 2019, Governor Mills and Efficiency Maine Trust announced a set of initiatives that will expand the use of electric vehicles (EVs) across Maine, including the creation of rebates to purchase EVs and the installation of at least 50 public vehicle charging stations using Settlement funds. This will support the purchase of EVs both as fleet resources and by Maine residents and business owners. The latter will be a rebate for Maine residents and business owners and is anticipated to invest an estimated $2.25 million in EV purchases.

**Resilience** Maine's recently enacted An Act to Help Municipalities Prepare for Sea Level Rise (LD 563) directs states and local agencies to conduct their activities affecting the coastal area consistent with the policy of encouraging the assessment of and planning for the effects of the rise in sea level.

**Climate Finance** Maine has authorized local governments to establish residential property-assessed clean energy (PACE) programs. Maine has “green finance” opportunities for efficiency work for homeowner and businesses through loans via Efficiency Maine. Maine invests research and development funds and later-stage capital in renewable energy projects through the state’s Maine Technology Institute fund and the Finance Authority of Maine.

**Natural and Working Lands** The Land for Maine’s Future Program is Maine’s primary funding vehicle for conserving land for its natural, recreational, and economic value. Since its inception in 1987, the program has helped conserve more than 600,000 acres of land, including working farms, forests, and waterfronts. The Maine Conservation Task Force’s 2019 report on the next generation of land conservation recommends the state support projects that promote resilience and landscape connectivity to help ecosystems, wildlife, and natural resource-based economies adapt to a changing climate. The Governor’s Climate Council Legislation sets up a specific “Working Lands” group to explore opportunities for increasing and preserving significant carbon sequestration through Maine’s vast forest lands and soil practices.