CLIMATE JUSTICE CRASH COURSE

a guide to climate justice in maine.

maineclimataction.org/climatejusticecrashcourse
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what does climate justice mean?

Climate Justice requires the recognition that the climate crisis was caused by failures of our political, social, and economic systems. It demands intersectional solutions that will transform these systems and hold those responsible for the climate crisis accountable; resulting in a livable future where all can thrive.
**INTRODUCTION**

**intersectionality**

The concept of intersectionality describes the ways in which systems of inequality based on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, class and other forms of discrimination “intersect” to create unique dynamics and effects.¹

As you explore the resources in this crash course, keep in mind how the primary and sub-topics overlap. Examining the information with a multi-facted or “intersectonal” approach is important in understanding the totality of climate justice.

¹https://www.intersectionaljustice.org/what-is-intersectionality
Maine Climate Action Now convened an intergenerational team to create this Climate Justice Crash Course. The team has been working on this resource since 2020 with a majority of the content written by youth activists and the original artwork created by youth artists. We have done our best to attribute all definitions and footnote all quoted material. Otherwise the work is a team effort of research, writing, and organizing the content. We thank all those involved in this effort.

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The Climate Justice Crash Course is full of helpful resources, ways to learn more about a specific subject, and interactive activities! To utilize it most effectively, check out our recommendations on how to use this resource:

1. Make sure to read “what does climate justice mean?” and “intersectionality” in the introduction. Both sections are quick ways to ground yourself in the context of this resource.

2. If reading through the whole course, we recommend that you follow the order of the topics listed in the Table of Contents. The first topic, Social Justice, provides good groundwork for understanding the following topics. You are of course also welcome to only read one or a few sections that are relevant to you!

3. You can navigate through the Climate Justice Crash Course by clicking on a topic tab you’d like to move on to on the right side of the page. The topic that you are currently on will be highlighted on the tab.

4. Following the sub topics, there is a glossary to define important terms within the topic. When these terms come up throughout the Climate Justice Crash Course, they will be highlighted and will link back to the glossary. Once you have read the definition click on the word again to get back to the text you were reading.

5. Most topics are structured like this:
   a. Topic definition on the first page
   b. “Why it matters” follows the definition. This provides more context on how this topic intersects with climate change and why it matters on a larger scale.
   c. Some topics have a section on “What Change in Maine Could Look Like” describing goals for Maine relating to the topic.
   d. After this, there are resources with more important information on the topic, in addition there are visuals, art, and quotes relating to the topic.

6. If you are short on time or using this in a classroom/group setting, we recommend that you make sure to read the topic’s definition and “Why it Matters” section to achieve an understanding of the topic and how it relates to climate change and justice. We also recommend choosing at least one topic resource and one sub topic to explore to provide an example or “case study” of how this topic and intersection applies outside of this resource.

7. A note about topic and sub topic resources: resources are organized with local, Maine resources, first if there are any; followed by national and global resources. Each resource has information on what kind of resource it is (movie, book, article) the date it was published, and who is credited for the resource. Some also have an estimate of how long it will take to watch, listen, or read. Each resource has an icon to show what kind of resource it is. This is where you click to access the resource.

Some of these arts and quotes are from youth climate activists in Maine! Click on the icon next to any resource to be directed to it, as it typically links to an outside website or source.

8. Next, there are a variety of sub topics which dive deeper into a subject that relates to the topic. For example, social justice has sub topics like gender rights and youth leadership.
   - Most sub topics also have resources specific to the sub topic listed after it. Click on the icon next to the resource to be directed to it.

9. Following the sub topics, there is a glossary to define important terms within the topic. When these terms come up throughout the course, they will be highlighted and will link back to the glossary. Once you have read the definition click on the word again to get back to the text you were reading.

10. After the glossary, there are activities to help you or your group reflect on and synthesize the information you just learned.

11. Some topics have many resources relating to it. In this case, the additional resources are located at the end of the topic’s section after the “activities for synthesis.” These are great if you are doing a deep dive into a topic, researching it, or would like more examples about the topic!

If you have any feedback or questions about this resource, please visit our website and fill out our feedback form.

maineclimateaction.org/climatejusticecrashcourse
Social justice means that everyone has equal rights and access to economic, political and social opportunities, no matter their skin color, sexuality, gender, nationality, age, or other identifying category.

Many of the marginalized communities that experience social injustice are also disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis. These communities have barely contributed anything to the climate crisis, but will be the ones who will suffer most severely from its effects. The voices of people in these communities need to be centered in order to create just and equitable solutions to the climate crisis. Unjust social structures, colonialism and racism are what led the world into the climate crisis in the first place, so in order to address it, we must also address its root causes.
resources

National/Global resources

On the Meaning of Social Justice // Culture for Solidarity

“Social justice is the view that EVERYONE deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities. Social justice means EQUALITY, it means HUMAN RIGHTS - no matter the skin colour, sexuality, nationality or else. Social justice makes a society wholesome and harmonious. Everyone contributes to the society and that contribution should be respected.”

TIHANA LUKIĆ, JUNE 28, 2020 // ARTICLE

What is Social Justice? // Human Rights Careers

Justice is the concept of fairness. Social justice is fairness as it manifests in society. That includes fairness in healthcare, employment, housing, and more. Discrimination and social justice are not compatible. While “social justice” as a term sees widespread use these days, it’s not new.

WEBSTE

Social Justice Books // socialjusticebooks.org

This website lists and reviews books about social justice, covering almost all of the sub topics discussed in this crash course.

ARTICLE

Why Social Justice in School Matters // NEA Today

Stories from five educators who have worked to advance social justice in their school communities.

BRENDA ÁLVAREZ, JANUARY 22, 2019 // ARTICLE

A Collection of Resources for Teaching Social Justice // Cult of Pedagogy

This article talks about teaching social justice. It includes teaching tips and a great collection of resources, some of which include lesson plans.

JENNIFER GONZALEZ, FEBRUARY 14, 2016 // ARTICLE

“To study social justice is to learn about the problems that dramatically impact quality of life for certain populations, and how people have worked to solve those problems.”

Who, Me? Biased?: Understanding Implicit Bias // Maine Public Learning Media

Interactive Lesson for Grades: 9-12. In this interactive lesson, students explore the extent to which society (and they themselves) may discriminate based on factors they’re not even aware of, implicit biases.

INTERACTIVE LESSON

Solidarity Is // solidarityis.org

This website has a podcast series and other resources about solidarity, including some opportunities for training.

PODCAST // WEBSITE
“I drew this [...] when trying to draw the world I wish I lived in. I found myself unable to draw the details of that world and instead decided to draw the way I know we’ll get there, along with some of the details I know I believe that world must include. As abolitionist, Mariame Kaba says, the answer to the question of what true justice looks like is, ‘we’ll figure it out by working to get there.’”

– Cora Kircher, Portland, Maine
voter suppression

Voter suppression is when some groups try to restrict the fundamental rights of other groups to vote. These efforts are usually directed at Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and other marginalized communities.

Historically, voter suppression tactics included poll taxes and literacy tests for black people and people of color. These practices have since become illegal. Modern voter suppression tactics include passing laws that limit mail in ballots, early voting, and other things that make it easier for people to vote. It can also include outright voter intimidation through threats of violence.

topic resources

The fight for the right to vote in the United States // TED-Ed Talk

In the United States today, if you are over eighteen, a citizen, and the resident of a state, you can vote (with some exceptions). So, how have voting rights changed since the first election in 1789? Nicki Beaman Griffin outlines the history of the long fight for a more inclusive electorate.

Why voting rights matter // Demos

"The freedom to vote is America's most important political right outside of the original Bill of Rights, and it is also the most hard-won right."

Voting Rights Facts and Figures // Social Justice Resource Center

Facts about voting rights including information on laws, participation, fraud, and identification.

LOOKING FOR MORE RESOURCES? Find Maine specific and National/Global resources at the end of this section.
Youth leadership is when young people take leadership roles in advocating for issues that they care about. The youth voice is very important because young people provide unique views and perspectives on current issues.

Youth around the world have taken the lead in movements like the climate movement. They have mobilized, demanding that political leaders take urgent climate action to dramatically cut fossil fuel emissions before 2030 in order to have a livable future.

In addition to climate change, youth have taken action on many issues including fighting for LGBTQ+ rights and racial justice. Youth are disproportionately impacted by these issues and will have to deal with them throughout their lives.

topic resources

Sustain US // Sustainus.org
A youth-led organization that provides training and resources for young people to get involved in climate activism.

Alliance for Youth Action // Allianceforyouthaction.org
A youth-led organization that focuses on building the political power of young people.

Our Climate // Ourclimate.us
Provides training for young people to get involved in climate action.
Maine Youth for Climate Justice
A coalition of youth and youth-led organizations from across the state that advocates for climate justice.

Maine Youth Power
Helps to build the power of youth across the state through trainings and campaign support.

Maine Youth Justice
A youth led campaign fighting for the end of youth incarceration in Maine.

JustME for JustUS
Provides a network and resources to build the political power of youth in Maine around climate justice efforts.

Maine Youth Action
A group aiming to mobilize and empower a youth-led climate movement through legislative, political, and electoral means.

Maine Youth Action Network
Provides opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills, including youth leadership conferences.

**Movement building & community organizing**

Movement building and community organizing are ways to **unite a group of people around an issue.**

We are stronger together, and movement building is a way to come together and amplify our voices. Movement building and community organizing allows for the sharing of stories and experiences that makes for a richer changemaking environment. Movement building and grassroots community organizing are essential tools in the fight for climate justice.
“Social movements are the backbone of social change. To bring about a just world, we must build upon the strength of vibrant progressive movements. Unequal power breeds an epidemic of poverty, inequitable development, environmental degradation and other forms of injustice. The antidote to these ills is building vibrant and democratic social movements, which have the creativity and power to advocate for real solutions to create a better world.”

– Grassroots International: Movement Building

topic resources

The Movement Building Project // Buildingmovement.org

Learn about the history and theory of social movement building and connect with other people and organizations focusing on this work.

Manuel Pastor’s 10 Key Elements for Movement Building // Bioneers

A youth led organization that focuses on building the political power of young people.

Inspiring social change through community organizing // TEDxUCLA

“One of the biggest challenges we face as agents of social change is that we forget to learn people’s stories as we attempt to enlist them in our cause. And that’s a mistake. Because what we care about is deeply connected to who we are: our life experiences, our pain and our disappointment, as well as our greatest joy.”

DARA FRIMMER, 2015: BEYOND THE BOX // VIDEO
What is Community Organizing // Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center

Community organizing is the practice of listening to, and mobilizing, people to make their community a better place.

Community Organizing 101 // Brightest

Social movements build power and make change through organizing. This resource details how to get started as an organizer.

Basics of Community Organizing: Neighborhood Leadership Institute Workshop // Citizens Committee for New York City

This report provides a lot of tips on community organizing, from how to develop a mission to canvas for your cause.

Momentum Community // Momentumcommunity.org

Provides links to training opportunities and other resources.

Training for Change // Trainingforchange.org

Provides links to training opportunities and other resources.

Community Change // Communitychange.org

Provides links to training opportunities and other resources.

Maine resources

Youth Leadership in the Climate Crisis // TEDxDirigo

Anna Siegel shares her innocent journey from a backyard birder to the front steps of City Hall leading the youth climate action in Maine as a 13-year-old. As the Maine State Lead from USYCS, she organized the March 15th climate strike and rally in Portland, which had over 800 youth in attendance, and the September 20th global climate strike with over 1,000 youth attending in Portland.

“The youth climate movement is one of the most influential of our time.” – Anna Siegel

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The LGBTQ+ community faces a lot of violence and discrimination. It is critical to “ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people can live openly without discrimination and enjoy equal rights, personal autonomy, and freedom of expression and association”

ACLU Statement about LGBTQ+ Rights

LGBTQ+ people around the world are denied the ability to get married to the people they love, have families and express themselves without fear of violence. Many also have to deal with employment discrimination, lack of adequate health care, homelessness and other discrimination that violates basic human rights.

Why are LGBTI Rights Important? // Political Youth Network
Provides more information about the importance of LGBTQ+ rights.

Human Rights Campaign // HRC.org
HRC’s campaigns are focused on mobilizing those who envision a world strengthened by diversity, where our laws and society treat all people equally, including LGBTQ+ people and those who are multiply marginalized.

What and Why: What are Personal Pronouns and Why do the Matter? // Pronouns
Using someone’s correct personal pronouns is a way to respect them and create an inclusive environment, just as using a person’s name can be a way to respect them.

LGBTQ+ make up of homeless youth 40%

Human Rights Campaign // HRC.org
Provides more information about the importance of LGBTQ+ rights.

What and Why: What are Personal Pronouns and Why do the Matter? // Pronouns
Using someone’s correct personal pronouns is a way to respect them and create an inclusive environment, just as using a person’s name can be a way to respect them.
There is no Planet B: Why climate change is an LGBTQ issue // GLAAD

The intersection of climate justice and LGBTQ+ rights is outlined here. One of the points the article makes is about how the high rates of homelessness among LGBTQ+ people, especially youth, means that the LGBTQ+ community will suffer disproportionate impacts from climate change.

NOAH GOODWIN, GLAAD CAMPUS AMBASSADOR, MARCH 15, 2019 // ARTICLE

True Colors United // Truecolorsunited.org
An organization that helps homeless LGBTQ+ youth.

“Among the most vulnerable populations for climate change-related phenomena is the population of people without stable housing.”

“There can be many reasons as to why Environmental rights are both a BIPOC issue and an LGBTQ+ issue. I, as a youth who identifies as pansexual, would love to explain how the LGBTQ+ community is disproportionately affected by climate change. For starters, the homelessness rate for people who are part of the community is very high. This stems from the discrimination and violence against those in the community in schools, workplaces, and homelife. Out of the 1.6 million recorded homeless youth, about 40% of them identify as LGBTQ+. According to the Williams Institute, 71% of those minorities experience homelessness for the first time as an adult, 20% before they are 18. As someone who has also experienced homelessness, communities who experience poverty are greatly affected by the changing climate. Inclement weather, drastic temperatures, sea level rise, and other factors can cause homeless and low income families to be displaced and even placed in a position of danger. According to True Color, LGBTQ people are 120% more likely to be without stable housing.”

– Written by Madison Sheppard, age 20. Madison is a youth climate activist and endangered species artist living in Maine.
gender rights

Globally, women are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change. In fact, about 80% of climate refugees are women.

Women’s rights is the belief that women deserve equal social, political and economic opportunities. The focus of women’s rights groups differs between countries, as the rights women have in these countries differ. Some focuses of women’s rights groups around the world include educational equity, equal economic opportunities, and an end to gender-based violence.

topic resources

Meet 15 Women Leading the Fight, Women Climate Change Leaders // Women Climate Change Leaders, Time

Discusses some of the impacts that the climate crisis has on women around the world and highlights the work of some women who are leaders in the climate movement.

Women’s History Milestones: A Timeline // History

“From a plea to a founding father, to the suffragists to Title IX, to the first female political figures, women have blazed a steady trail towards equality in the United States.”

Womens Rights Books // Goodreads

List of books about women’s rights including The Handmaid’s Tale, A Thousand Splendid Suns, and The Woman’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote.

The Intersection of Gender and Racial Equity: Why American Feminism Should Care // Women Employed

Talks about the intersection of women’s rights and racial justice.

Mothers of Invention // Mothersofinvention.online

Mothers Of Invention is a podcast on feminist climate change solutions from (mostly) women around the world.
Women of Color and the Fight for Women’s Suffrage // California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
Talks about the role of BIPOC women in the suffrage movement.

“If they don’t give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.” — Shirley Chisholm

Introduction to Gender and Climate Change // United Nations Climate Change
Gives an overview of the impact of the climate crisis on women. (Includes 4 min video)

Gender Brief, Issues Brief // International Union of Conservation of Nature
More information about the intersection between women's rights and climate change.

National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center // NIWRC.org
An organization that works to end violence against Indigenous women.

It Was the Ladies Who Hugged the Trees // Outside/In, New Hampshire Public Radio
A show about the Natural World and how we use it.

Maine resources
“We strive to ensure all women and girls in Maine are able to lead lives free from discrimination. This includes fighting for equal economic opportunities, educational equity, and an end to gender-based violence.”

- Statement on Women’s Rights, ACLU Maine

LOOKING FOR MORE RESOURCES?
Find Maine specific and National/Global resources at the end of this section.
Marginalized Communities
Refers to groups of people who are excluded from certain rights and opportunities that others have access to. These communities include black communities, indigenous communities, and communities of color.

Voter Suppression
A strategy used to influence the outcome of an election by discouraging or preventing specific groups of people from voting. Source: Wikipedia

BIPOC
Stands for Black, Indigenous, People of Color

Poll Tax
A specified sum of money levied upon each person who votes. Begun in the 1890s as a legal way to keep African Americans from voting in southern states, poll taxes were essentially a voting fee. Eligible voters were required to pay their poll tax before they could cast a ballot. Source: National Museum of American History

LGBTQ+
Stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, the plus is for whatever other words that people use to describe their identity.

Grassroots
Using the power of people to make change.

Journaling/Reflection Questions
Responses can be written or illustrated

1. PREVIEWING QUESTIONS
A. What comes to mind when I reflect on this topic term?
B. Reading the title and annotation of this resource, what questions do I think I might have before viewing the information?
C. Reading the title and annotation of this resource, what biases and assumptions do I think I might be bringing into this conversation?
D. What background knowledge or experience do I have that could be helpful in understanding this information?

INTERACTIVE
activities for synthesis

These activities are meant to help individuals or groups learning together reflect upon and synthesize the information they have read, viewed, or listened to related to any of the Climate Justice Crash Course topics. They are fairly simple and are also meant to foster discussion and further deepen understanding.

A. What surprised me about this newly acquired information?
B. What questions do I still have after learning this information?
C. How might I go about sharing this information or starting a discussion with others about this information?
D. What biases or assumptions did I realize I held after learning about this topic?
E. What other feelings came up for me as I learned about this topic?
Tableau Vivant

This activity is best used by at least 2 people working or learning together. A picture or photograph is projected and one of the learners (or more if there is more than 1 person depicted in the photo) stand up and place themselves with the same posture and expression as the person in the photo. They are asked questions as if they were that person in the photo, in the time and place specific to when the photo was taken.

More information about how to run this activity is here:
https://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/tableau

Jigsaw Activity

This activity is best used by a group that is working together, in a systematic way, to learn from the materials. It divides up the information each person or small group is responsible for being the “expert(s)” on that particular piece. Then each person or small group reports out to the others while others take notes. By the end, all participants have a solid, holistic sense of the content.

The protocol for this activity is here:
https://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/jigsaw

Voting in Maine

This website provides information about voting policies in Maine including voter registration details, like deadlines and eligibility requirements and absentee/mail-in voting deadlines and rules.


Maine has approved a suite of rule changes designed to make the process of voting in elections go more smoothly.

JUNE 18, 2021 // ARTICLE

Democracy Maine // democracymaine.org

Maine voting rights organization.

Maine Student Vote // mainestudentsvote.org

Maine voting rights organization focusing on getting students to vote.

National & Global resources

H.R.1-For the People Act of 2021 117th Congress // Congress.gov

This bill addresses voter access, election integrity and security, campaign finance, and ethics for the three branches of government.

2021-2022 // REPORT
H.R.4 - John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021
117th Congress // Congress.gov

This bill establishes new criteria for determining which states and political subdivisions must obtain preclearance before changes to voting practices may take effect. Preclearance is the process of receiving preapproval from the Department of Justice (DOJ) or the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before making legal changes that would affect voting rights.

At the federal level, the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act have been proposed. Both of these bills would strengthen voting rights in the United States.

Vote 16 USA // vote16usa.org

Efforts across the country try to make voting more accessible to people who are eligible. There are also efforts like Vote16 USA that are trying to expand voting access, in the case of this organization, lowering the voting age to allow sixteen and seventeen year olds to vote.

Youth leadership  click here to return to subtopic

Maine resources

Meet the young people pushing Maine forward on climate change // Energy News Network

This website provides information about voting policies in Maine including voter registration details, like deadlines and eligibility requirements and absentee/mail-in voting deadlines and rules.

David Thill, August 5, 2020 // Article

National & Global resources

Meet the youth activists fighting for climate action at COP26 // CNBC

This bill addresses voter access, election integrity and security, campaign finance, and ethics for the three branches of government.

Sam Meredith, November 9, 2021 // Article

Meet 12 climate activists changing the world // Greenpeace

Youth leaders in the climate movement from around the world. “Each of these change-makers used their voice, perspective and skill set in a unique way, all demanding serious commitments and effective action, even when those who still seek to profit from the planet tried to intimidate them.”

Gaby Flores, December 9, 2021 // Article

5 Youth-Led Climate Justice Groups Helping to Save the Environment // Teen Vogue

A list of some climate justice groups around the world. “We’ve seen youth rising to the call and become climate activists over the last year, and that’s largely in part because the stakes have never been higher.

Maija Wikler, March 28, 2019 // Article

“These visionary leaders are creating radical change, fast. Hope not only exists in their bold and unapologetic approach but also in the sheer size of this generation.”

Unicef // Youth for Climate Action

Climate change is here. As its impact intensifies over time, it is the children and young people of today who will face the worst effects.
movement building & community organizing

Maine resources

Sierra Club Maine: The power of community organizing and the truth about fracked gas // Portland Press Herald

This article is about the power of community organizing using the example of a fracked gas pipeline that was proposed in Midcoast Maine.

SARAH LEIGHTON, OPINION, MARCH 6, 2021 // ARTICLE

Community organizing: the only way to build a lasting movement in Maine // The Beacon

Two community organizers for the Maine People’s Alliance, discuss the work they do, the philosophy behind it and opportunities to get involved.

AUGUST 16, 2019 // PODCAST

Advocating for the Environment: How to Gather Your Power and Take Action // Susan B. Inches

This book explores things like, how to use power for good, work with decision-makers, organize events, manage a coalition, communicate with the public, and work with the media. Advocating for the Environment is based on a vision where all life is respected, revered, and nurtured. It discusses storytelling, empathy, worldviews, and how understanding and effective communication can help us collaborate with others—even those with opposing views.

SUSAN B. INCHES, JULY 13, 2021 // BOOK

National & Global resources

Movement Building // Grassroots Global Justice Alliance

This website gives some examples of national and international grassroots movement building as well as organizing at the local level.

SAM MEREDITH, NOVEMBER 9, 2021 // ARTICLE

15 Grassroots Organizations That Are Saving the Planet // Global Citizen

A list of grassroots organizations fighting for climate justice around the world.

JOE MCCARTHY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017 // ARTICLE

LGBTQ+ rights

Maine resources

EqualityMaine // Equalitymaine.org

A Maine LGBTQ+ Rights Group who have been working to secure full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Maine since 1984.

WEBSITE

Maine’s Equality Profile // Movement Advancement Project

Check out Maine’s LGBTQ Policy Tally at the Movement Advancement Project. This website provides information about Maine laws relating to LGBTQ+ rights.

WEBSITE

National & Global resources

International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association // ILGA.org

International LGBTQ+ Rights Group committed to equal human rights for rainbow communities and their liberation from all forms of discrimination since 1978.

SAM MEREDITH, NOVEMBER 9, 2021 // ARTICLE
Global Queer Youth Network // GQYN.org

The Global Queer Youth Network strengthens partnerships through resource development, facilitation of global communication on the status of LGBTI+ Youth Rights, and the implementation of programming that raises the capacity of LGBTI+ youth organisations and activists.

10 maps showing how different LGBTQ rights are around the world // Business Insider

This resource includes maps showing the law in different countries around the world relating to LGBTQ+ rights.

The Changing Landscape of Global LGBTQ+ Rights // Council on Foreign Relations

The promotion of LGBTQ+ rights globally and how it is affected by the political landscape in America.

gender rights // click here to return to subtopic

Maine resources

Maine Women’s Fund // mainewomensfund.org

The Maine Women’s Fund is a public foundation that makes bold investments that transform the lives of Maine women and girls.

League of Women Voters of Maine // lwvme.org

The League is a powerful, grassroots organization that works to educate voters and make government more accountable to the people.

Maine Women // mainewomen.org

Legislative advocacy and lobbying, as well as civic education, engagement, and leadership.

National & Global resources

Gender Equality // World Fish, YouTube

An overview of gender equality in developing countries. “Gender inequality doesn’t make sense on any level. Promoting gender equality can reduce extreme poverty and hunger and boost shared prosperity for girls and boys, women and men, around the world.”

How are women uniquely impacted by crises like COVID-19? // UN Women

Discusses the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on women.

Women and Girls // Right to Education

Women and girls continue to face multiple barriers based on gender and its intersections with other factors, such as age, ethnicity, poverty, and disability, in the equal enjoyment of the right to quality education.
The autonomy of Indigenous peoples to govern the lands from which they belong based upon the ancestral instructions, responsibilities, cultural based knowledge, laws, spiritual teachings and practices handed down to them through the creator.

"Indigenous Sovereignty" is what is referred to as a term of art. It is distinguishable from Tribal Sovereignty in that it is not a nation-state recognition of inherent sovereignty under nation-state dominion. Rather, it arises from Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, belonging to each Indigenous nation, tribe, first nation, community, etc. It consists of spiritual ways, culture, language, social and legal systems, political structures, and inherent relationships with lands, waters and all upon them. Indigenous sovereignty exists regardless of what the nation-state does or does not do. It continues as long as the People that are a part of it continue.

"Tribal Sovereignty" refers to the legal recognition in the United States of America law of the inherent sovereignty of American Indian Nations. The law applied to American Indians by the US government is called Federal Indian Law. Although undermined by various Acts, legal decisions, and policies, it still stands to this day. Indian reservations are recognized as what can be termed “nations within.” Each has its own government and sovereign powers to make laws, tax, etc. and most also have their own tribal justice system, also based upon their inherent powers.
Why it Matters.

Tribal and Indigenous Sovereignty at the heart of Climate Justice: Native peoples have lived within their territories since time immemorial, this relationship over unfathomable lengths of time with the landscape allows them insight into the intricate ways that actions impact and affect other parts of the system.

Indigenous peoples have practiced measured science that has been shaped through observation, experimentation, and mitigation within the same space for thousands of years. As a result of this, Indigenous peoples still hold the knowledge on how to live in right relation with the land. Indigenous peoples are the first to feel the impacts of Climate Change, as many of their territories are those being extracted from to bolster neoliberal global capitalism. Indigenous communities are frontline communities and have been actively engaged in battling changing climates since the project of colonialism arrived. Indigenous people have the knowledge, the understanding, the scientific methods and the experience that will best lead us to a future worth giving to our future descendants. This knowledge must be respected and recentered in such a way that these understandings aren’t extracted from them to solve the climate crisis without any rights or privileges being granted to the people.

In order for Indigenous peoples to fully carry forward what is necessary to help guide and direct climate action, expanding and recognizing their sovereignty is essential.
Climate change poses threats and dangers to the survival of indigenous communities worldwide, even though indigenous peoples contribute the least to greenhouse emissions. In fact, indigenous peoples are vital to, and active in, the many ecosystems that inhabit their lands and territories and may therefore help enhance the resilience of these ecosystems. In addition, indigenous peoples interpret and react to the impacts of climate change in creative ways, drawing on traditional knowledge and other technologies to find solutions which may help society at large to cope with impending changes.

– United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Indigenous Peoples, Climate Change

Tribal Sovereignty has historically been challenged, undermined and not recognized by the state of Maine since its inception in 1820. The Wabanaki Tribes are entitled to the same Sovereign status as the other 570 federally recognized Tribes in the United States, however, by selectively interpreting the Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Act of 1980 the state has chosen not to recognize this.

Wabanaki Tribes are not asking for special privileges, but fairness by having the same or similar sovereignty as all other federally recognized tribes. Currently there is legislation which seeks to undo much of the harmful language the state has utilized to undermine Wabanaki sovereignty.

“Climate change poses threats and dangers to the survival of indigenous communities worldwide, even though indigenous peoples contribute the least to greenhouse emissions. In fact, indigenous peoples are vital to, and active in, the many ecosystems that inhabit their lands and territories and may therefore help enhance the resilience of these ecosystems. In addition, indigenous peoples interpret and react to the impacts of climate change in creative ways, drawing on traditional knowledge and other technologies to find solutions which may help society at large to cope with impending changes.”

– United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Indigenous Peoples, Climate Change

The Non-intercourse Act is the collective name given to six statutes that were passed by the US congress between 1790 and 1834. These acts each expressly state the prohibition on purchases of Native lands without the approval of the federal government. The act of 1793 reads:

“No sale of lands made by any Indians, or any nation or tribe of Indians within the United States, shall be valid to any person or persons, or to any state, whether having the right of pre-emption to such lands or not, unless the same shall be made and duly executed at some public treaty, held under the authority of the United States.”

However, despite these acts, the state of Massachusetts entered into illegal treaties with the Passamaquoddy Nation in 1794, and the Penobscot Nation in 1818, that were never ratified by congress or given Federal approval. These treaties led to Massachusetts taking the majority of each of their retained Tribal territories. These illegal land takings were challenged in the 1970s when the tribes took the state of Maine to court, citing that around 60% of the state of Maine's land mass had been illegally taken from the Tribes, this culminated in the Maine Indian Land Settlement Claims Act of 1980.
INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY

resources

Maine resources

The original meaning and intent of the Maine Indian Claims: Penobscot perspectives // Sunlight Media Collective

The Wabanaki Alliance was formed by the four tribes in Maine to educate people of Maine about the need for securing their sovereignty.

MARIA L. GIROUARD, 2012 // REPORT


Read the wording for that bill that went before the Maine State Legislature in 2022

DOCUMENT

Wabanaki Alliance // Wabanakialliance.com

The Wabanaki Alliance was formed by the four tribes in Maine to educate people of Maine about the need for securing their sovereignty.

WEBSITE

– Alsu Shagieva, Bar Harbor, Maine
The traditional Territory of Ckuwapohnakiyik encompasses the US states of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, as well as the four Canadian provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Though the area today known as Maine was once home to over 20 distinct tribal bands and many more communities, the four federally recognized tribes in Maine today are: Aroostook Band of Mi’kmaq Indians, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Passamaquoddy Tribe comprising two communities at Sipayik and Motahkomikuk, and Penobscot Nation. Many within the Wabanaki First Nations communities of Odanak and Wolinak in Quebec, Canada historically come from what is currently referred to as Maine, but had to leave their traditional homelands due to warfare and disease.

**Tribes in Maine**

- **Mi’kmaq Nation**
  - The majority of the 1489 + members of the Mi’kmaq Nation live within Aroostook County, located in Northern Maine.

- **Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians**
  - The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians is comprised of some 1700 members, led by a Tribal Chief. A smaller band of the larger Maliseet Nation of New Brunswick, Canada, the Houlton Band calls the Meduxnekeag River home.

- **Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik**
  - Passamaquoddy have lived and flourished within our ancestral homeland at the least since the time when the Laurentide Ice Glaciers melted away from this part of North America, about 10 to 14 thousand years ago.

- **Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township (Motahkomikuk)**
  - The Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Indians are the descendants of Native American peoples who inhabited Maine and western New Brunswick since well before recorded history.

- **Penobscot Nation**
  - Since time immemorial, the Penobscot Nation, penawahpkekeyak, the people of the place of the white rocks, has inhabited its ancestral homeland situated within the drainage area of the Penobscot River and its many tributaries, lakes, and ponds.
**decolonization**

Colonialism and Colonization were not events that happened in the past, they are the superstructures upon which all elements of our current society are based. Decolonization is the active decentering of these colonial thoughtways, legal systems, socio-political structures and frameworks. In place of such constructs Indigenous ways of knowing and being are recentered and become the primary mode through which society is organized and governed.

Decolonization is a process which upholds tribal and indigenous sovereignty. It sees Indigenous peoples reassuming their rightful role as protectors of all other relations upon the Earth, and utilizing their inherent power to have the final say about what takes place within their lands. Decolonization requires the rematriation (see next sub-topic for definition) of lands to indigenous peoples. Land back is crucial on the road to decolonization.

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**topic resources**

Decolonization is not a metaphor. // Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society Vol. 1, No. 1

“Decolonization brings about the repatriation of Indigenous land and life; it is not a metaphor for other things we want to do to improve our societies and schools.”

EVE TUCK AND K. WAYNE YANG, 2012 // ARTICLE

Wabanaki REACH // mainewabanakireach.org

(RESTORATION-ENGAGEMENT-ADVOCACY-CHANGE-HEALING) advances Wabanaki self-determination by strengthening the cultural, spiritual and physical well-being of Native people in Maine.

“We see a future where Maine and Wabanaki people join together, acknowledging truth, promoting healing and creating change.

A decolonized community is able to acknowledge the full truth of the past, embraces the full truth of the present and commits to creating a just future, undaunted by obstacles.

Non-Native people can not direct the discussion of decolonization; they must become students of decolonization, following the leadership of Wabanaki people.”

– Wabanaki REACH
There is an intrinsic connection between Wabanaki people and the lands in Ckuwaponahakiyik. It is beyond just familiarity with the landscape. It is a familial and kinship-based connection that is centered in relationality and reciprocity. The Earth is the first Indigenous mother. Rematriation is the act of reconnecting with her. It is the ability for our peoples to uphold our duties to protect and ensure her continuation as a member of our family well into and beyond the future, so that our descendants may live in right relation with her.

Wabanaki Peoples are intrinsically linked at our core to the land. We derive our names from the land, our cultural teachings and language are all based in relationality to the land and each other, much of our oral histories are land-centric and for good reason. Wabanaki Peoples traditionally view the land, the rivers, the mountains, forests etc. as living breathing beings whose part is necessary to the whole of creation. The land is to be respected and revered as a member of one’s own family because it is a member of our family. Rematriation is the return of our relatives who have been stolen from us, kidnapped, badly abused, and mistreated at the hands of logging, industry, pollution, agriculture and other modes of destructive resource extraction. Rematriation is the act of no longer keeping the land from Indigenous peoples, and instead returning the land to those who come from her. The process of rematriation is essential to revitalizing and healing ourselves as well as the land.

– Lokotah Sanborn, Board member, Bomazeen Land Trust
“Rematriation is the resumption and renewal of Indigenous matriarchal leadership and sovereignty, starting with the first mother, the Earth herself. Returning sovereignty to the earth requires the return of Wabanaki lands to the people that belong to her, whose language and culture hold the Earth’s instructions for living in right relation here. The first victim of colonial Euro-patriarchy and domination in Ckuwapohnakiyik was the Earth herself – so Wabanaki women’s reclamation of their role as earth protectors, and the traditions and practices that maintain this sacred relationship, form the core of rematriation.”

– Mali Obomsawin, Executive Director of Bomazeen Land Trust

**topic resources**

**Maine resources**

**Bomazeen Land Trust // bomazeenlandtrust.org**

“Our primary purpose is the rematriation, perpetual protection, and healing of ancestral Wabanaki spaces with historical, spiritual, ecological, and cultural significance. We empower Wabanaki and BIPOC communities with land access and traditional land care taking skills and knowledge through our programs and events.”

**WEBSITE**

**Eastern Woodlands Rematriation // bomazeenlandtrust.org**

Eastern Woodlands Rematriation is a collective of Indigenous people restoring the spiritual foundation of our livelihoods through regenerative food systems. EWR is reclaiming the right to food and relationship to the earth for Indigenous peoples, offering valuable insight rooted in old practices that promise us a new reality.

**WEBSITE**

**National & Global Resources**

**Healing the Land IS Healing Ourselves // All My Relations Podcast**

Join us for a discussion with community organizer, citizen scientist, activist, water protector, entrepreneur, writer, gardener, and all around incredible Diné woman, Kim Smith. We talk with Kim about her work, aiming to understand how violence on the land is violence on our bodies, and that the inverse can also be true—healing the land is healing ourselves.

**PODCAST // 73 MINS**
Land Access is when a private land holder chooses to provide Indigenous Peoples access to our ancestral territory. It is an important step in the path towards rematriation. Being able to access lands allows us to rebuild our connections with the land from which we have been temporarily severed. It is also an important step to building relationships between Native and Non-Native peoples. Land Access is crucial because it allows Indigenous peoples into spaces that we have been historically and systemically removed from. The creation of private property, along with a myriad of laws and restrictions have drastically limited our abilities to move freely through our lands, which is a requirement for us to take part in our traditional food systems, harvesting methods and ceremonial practices as well as to engage in regenerative practices within the land.

However, mere access to land is not the end-goal by any means. If rematriation is the return of a kidnapped relative, then providing land access to Indigenous peoples is akin to visitation rights. Land Access is granted by a private land holder. As such, it is important to consider the broader context within which this access is provided, including the terms and conditions under which the access is given, and how it may impact the ongoing sovereignty and autonomy of the Indigenous community.

Food systems must acknowledge that agriculture is just one piece of a healthy food system, and we need to transform agriculture to be part of a healthy food system. Agroecology is farming that “centers on food production that makes the best use of nature’s goods and services while not damaging these resources.” Agroecology is an integrated approach that seeks to optimize the interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment while taking into consideration the social aspects that need to be addressed for a sustainable and fair food system.
A federal Indian reservation is an area of land reserved for a tribe or tribes under treaty or other agreement with the United States, executive order, or federal statute or administrative action as permanent tribal homelands, and where the federal government holds title to the land in trust on behalf of the tribe. (Via US Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs)

Taking land into trust is one of the most important functions US Department of Interior undertakes on behalf of the tribes. Acquisition of land in trust is essential to tribal self-determination. Tribes are sovereign governments and trust lands are a primary locus of tribal authority. Indeed, many federal programs and services are available only on reservations or trust lands. The current federal policy of tribal self-determination is built upon the principles of trust lands.

DEFINITIONS

Various types of Tribal Lands in Maine are defined on this Wabanaki Alliance website page. They include the following:

- Indian Reservation Lands
- Trust Lands
- Cultural Use Land Access Agreements
- Land Acknowledgments

**topic resources**

**First Light // mltn.org**
First Light is a bridge between conservation organizations and Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet and Mi’kmaq Communities who seek to expand Wabanaki stewardship of land. First Light aspires to reciprocity: its goal is to expand Wabanaki access and stewardship of land for prosperity and to create a stronger conservation movement that includes and reflects Indigenous expertise and perspective.

**Land Acknowledgments // firstlightlearningjourney.net**
Resources on the Pros and Cons of land acknowledgements.

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holder allowing indigenous peoples to access our lands without threat of legal recourse or violence. Cultural Use Land Access Agreements are typically centered around allowing Indigenous access in order to practice cultural and traditional methods of harvesting and ceremony. Though these are important agreements to be made, in most cases the land holder has final say about what is or is not allowed to take place in the land the owner is occupying. There are often stipulations, regulations, and other elements that are not conducive with our traditional methods of living within these lands. Land Access is an important first step in the process of building relationships between native and non-native peoples, but the process of rematriation is the crucial next step beyond it.”

– Lokotah Sanborn, Board member, Bomazeen Land Trust

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Congress set forth in the Indian Reorganization Act and reaffirmed in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. Through the protection and restoration of tribal homelands, this Administration has sought to live up to the standards Congress established eight decades ago and indeed to reinvigorate the policies underlying the Indian Reorganization Act.

(Via US Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs)

trust lands
The owner of the land hold the legal title to the lands. Anyone can own fee lands. For instance, if you own the title to your house and land you have fee lands. Fee lands must fall under the jurisdiction of the government entity they are located. For instance, a tribe which owns fee lands must pay taxes on those lands.

The Wabanaki have sites all over Maine that they would like to conserve for their cultural, spiritual and natural resource importance – access to subsistence living is a tribal right.
Water is sacred to the Wabanaki. Water gifts us all with life. Water, being a part of the land, is seen as a relative and must be protected and respected. The rivers functioned historically as the main travel routes through the territory, as well as the primary source for food and medicines.

Colonization saw the damming of many waterways that are crucially important to the Wabanaki. This damming drastically disrupted ecosystems that the Wabanaki communities rely on for food and travel. The damming combined with the toxification of many waterways by Maine industry (including lumber mills, manufacturing companies, and pesticide runoff from agricultural land) has led to food insecurity, high rates of cancer, and food-related illnesses within the Wabanaki communities. The fish and animals that feed upon the fish are too polluted with dioxins, mercury, and other toxins for the Wabanaki to safely ingest at levels that are safe.
are required to meet their sustenance which was guaranteed to them in the treaties that were made.

Water is under threat for the Wabanaki just as it has been for the past 300 years, and many of these threats are a direct result of the Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Act of 1980.

topic resources

Maine resources

Passamaquoddy Tribe Struggles with Unclean and Unsafe Water // FOX 22 WFVX

“PLEASANT POINT — Imagine if every time you turned on the faucet, what came out was unsafe and undrinkable.”

OCTOBER 19, 2020 // ARTICLE

Settlement Act prevents Passamaquoddy Tribe access to clean water // FOX 22 WFVX

“The water coming from the faucets in Pleasant Point is brown and full of trihalomethanes, better known as THMs.”

OCTOBER 20, 2020 // ARTICLE

THE PENOBSCOT - Ancestral River, Contested Territory // Sunlight Media Collective Production

This film traverses the landscape of deal-making and deal-breaking that has largely defined tribal-state relations in Maine. From the 1700’s to the present-day, the film emphasizes the Penobscot people’s centuries-long tradition of environmental stewardship, and outlines the current legal battle, PENOBSCOT NATION v. MILLS, which is a move to preserve Penobscot territory and maintain the inherent, treaty-reserved sustenance fishing rights of the Penobscot people in the Penobscot River. It tells the urgent story of an enduring struggle for justice and cultural survival in the face of an astonishingly open abuse of state power.

OCTOBER 20, 2020 // FILM

Maine resources

Water is under threat for the Wabanaki just as it has been for the past 300 years, and many of these threats are a direct result of the Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Act of 1980.
Hawaii’s water protectors lead a growing movement to close Navy fuel site after poisonous leak // Waging Non-Violence

The U.S. Navy stored decaying fuel storage tanks above a water aquifer that functioned as the main drinking water source on the island of O’ahu. Those tanks recently leaked jet fuel into the aquifer, poisoning thousands of people and creating irreparable damage to O’ahu’s water supply.

WEBSITE
other climate impacts threatening wabanaki lifeways

“Climate change is not a new phenomenon for indigenous people, he explains. There are long-standing traditions in indigenous cultures that enable societies to respond to seasonal and inter-annual climate variability. Indigenous people have also already experienced climate change through their endurance of colonialism. Whyte describes how the current threat to indigenous people is a continuation of colonialism and how the consciousness gained from their prior experience with climate change can provide sound leadership for confronting the problem today.”

– “Indigenous Peoples and Climate Justice,” Kyle Powys Whyte

topic resources

New England Moose Deaths Still Worsening As Climate Warms // Bangor Daily News

The devastating toll of ticks on New England’s moose herd has caused the region’s population to shrink, and experts worry it could get worse with climate change.

2019 // ARTICLE

‘Native people are scared’: Invasive beetle found in Cumberland County threatens Wabanaki culture // Portland Press Herald

The Wabanakis revere the brown ash tree, which is a target of the destructive emerald ash borer, and use the trees in their traditional basket making.

2021 // ARTICLE

Indigenous Peoples and Climate Justice // Spring Creek Project

In his lecture “Indigenous Peoples and Climate Justice,” Kyle Powys Whyte showcases indigenous leadership in the climate justice movement and illustrates the unique and grave threat climate change poses to indigenous experiences and ways of life.

KYLE POWYS WHYTE // VIDEO // 15 MIN
ongoing struggles against extractive industries encroaching on ancestral lands

**topic resources**

**Stop Line 3 // stopline3.org**
Enbridge, a Canadian pipeline company responsible for the largest inland oil spill in the US, sought to build a pipeline from Alberta, Canada to Superior, Wisconsin. This pipeline violated the treaty rights of Anishinaabe people living in the Minnesota territory. The pipeline finished construction in September 2021.

**Karankawa Kadla and Allies Protest Enbridge Terminal Expansion at Project’s Major Funder Bank of America’s Austin Location // Indigenous Environmental Network**
The Karankawa Kadla are seeking accountability from Enbridge and Bank of America (one of the major funders of the Enbridge terminal’s expansion), as the expansion of the terminal means that the Karankawa Kadla will lose direct access to their land and ancestral artifacts, with the addition of the pollution of sacred natural waters within the region.

**Five Things You Should Know about Wet’suwet’en Fight for their Rights // The Council of Canadians**
Coastal GasLink (a project of TC Energy, formerly TransCanada) is proposing a 670-kilometre pipeline that would carry fracked natural gas from Dawson Creek to Kitimat in British Columbia. The pipeline is moving in on the Wet’suwet’en territory in northern British Columbia. Wet’suwet’en hereditary chiefs from the nation’s five clans oppose the multibillion-dollar pipeline and say they were not consulted before the province approved it.

**“We are the power” Canada’s Indigenous land defenders pledge to fight on // Al Jazeera**
Narratives of various Wet’suwet’en clan members and allies.

**JENNIFER K. FALCON, JANUARY 21, 2022 // ARTICLE**

**BRANDI MORIN, JANUARY 24, 2022 // ARTICLE**
disrespecting indigenous peoples’ land sovereignty

**Kumeyaay Nation protest border wall construction project // San Diego Union Tribune**

The Kumeyaay people live in what is known today as San Diego County and northern Baja California. There were plans to construct an additional border wall in addition to the stretch of the US-Mexico border wall about 75 miles east of the city of San Diego. This construction project would have disrupted their cremation sites. The construction project was canceled in January 2021, but the US-Mexico border wall still divides the Kumeyaay nation.

LYNDSAY WINKLEY, JULY 5, 2020 // ARTICLE

**Construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope on Mauna Kea // Axios (Science)**

Construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope on Mauna Kea, a dormant volcano on the big island Hawaii, has been on halt since 2015 due to opposition from the public and the Kanaka Maoli, the traditional name of indigenous Hawaiians.

MIRIAM KRAMER, NURIA MARQUEZ MARTINEZ, JULY 17, 2021 // ARTICLE

**Wailuanui and Kaua‘i community mobilization // Hawai‘i Alliance for Progressive Action**

Wailuanui, the land where the Coco Palms Hotel used to be, is a sacred site that is going up for auction. Kanaka Maoli and the Kaua‘i community, who have been working to protect the land’s cultural and natural resources, fear there will be plans to develop another resort.

FERN HOLLAND, JULY 7, 2021 // BLOG

**Protect Wailuanui (former Coco Palms land) from Development // Change.Org**

Wailuanui, the land where the former Coco Palms Hotel once stood, is a wahi kapu, or sacred site, to Native Hawaiians and Kaua‘i residents.

I OLA WAILUANUI // PETITION

**Kumeyaay and the border wall // San Diego State University, American Indian Studies**

A statement by Jacob Alvarado Waipuk, chair of tribal relations, tribal liaison, Division of Student Affairs & Campus Diversity, and assistant professor, SDSU American Indian Studies Department

WEBSITE

**disrespecting indigenous peoples’ land sovereignty**

**topic resources**

Kumeyaay Nation protest border wall construction project // San Diego Union Tribune

Construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope on Mauna Kea // Axios (Science)
Journaling/Reflection Questions

Responses can be written or illustrated

1. PREVIEWING QUESTIONS
A. What comes to mind when I reflect on this topic term?
B. Reading the title and annotation of this resource, what questions do I think I might have before viewing the information?
C. Reading the title and annotation of this resource, what biases and assumptions do I think I might be bringing into this conversation?
D. What background knowledge or experience do I have that could be helpful in understanding this information?

2. POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS
A. What surprised me about this newly acquired information?
B. What questions do I still have after learning this information?
C. How might I go about sharing this information or starting a discussion with others about this information?
D. What biases or assumptions did I realize I held after learning about this topic?
E. What other feelings came up for me as I learned about this topic?
Tableau Vivant

This activity is best used by at least 2 people working or learning together. A picture or photograph is projected and one of the learners (or more if there is more than 1 person depicted in the photo) stand up and place themselves with the same posture and expression as the person in the photo. They are asked questions as if they were that person in the photo, in the time and place specific to when the photo was taken.

More information about how to run this activity is here:

https://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/tableau

Jigsaw Activity

This activity is best used by a group that is working together, in a systematic way, to learn from the materials. It divides up the information each person or small group is responsible for being the “expert(s)” on that particular piece. Then each person or small group reports out to the others while others take notes. By the end, all participants have a solid, holistic sense of the content.

The protocol for this activity is here:

https://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/jigsaw

“Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations.”1

food sovereignty

PRIMARY TOPIC

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FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Why it Matters.

As the Climate Justice Alliance states, “Through deforestation, farming, transportation, processing and packaging, refrigeration and retail, and waste, the industrial model of agribusiness – guided by generation of profits, exploitation of labor, commodification of the earth, and manipulation of natural systems – is a major contributor to the climate crisis. Between 44% and 57% of all greenhouse gas emissions come from the global food system. These fields of poison, heavily reliant upon toxic fertilizers and pesticides, wreak havoc on the health of humans, wildlife, and the environment.”

In order to comprehensively mitigate and adapt to climate change, our food systems must change. While some agricultural systems can greatly contribute to climate change, systems focused on growing food in harmony with nature, like agroecology, can help mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon in the soil and adapting practices that have lower greenhouse gas emissions. For example, UC Davis’ Agroecological Research found that “organically managed fields sequester more carbon in the soil than fields managed using conventional methods.”

If agricultural systems become more rooted in food sovereignty, they will also help build healthier, more equitable, and more resilient communities that are better equipped for adapting to climate change.

98% of arable land in the US is white owned

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2. Climate Justice Alliance, FOOD SOVEREIGNTY https://climatejusticealliance.org/workgroup/food-sovereignty/
the effects of climate change. As the article “Food Sovereignty: Key to Resilience, Dignity, and the Fight Against Climate Change” states “A food sovereignty approach increases resilience to crises, helps mitigate the impacts of climate change, and ensures that people live in dignity and harmony with the environment.”

The Climate Justice Alliance lists these six principles as key in achieving food sovereignty:

1. Focus on Food for People
2. Makes Decisions Locally
3. Value Food Providers
4. Build Knowledge and Skill
5. Localize Food Systems
6. Work with Nature

According to the Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine, “Maine’s food insecurity rate is still higher than the national average. Maine also ranks fifth in the nation for very low food security rates, a more severe range of food insecurity that involves reduced food intake and disrupted eating patterns. More than 31,000 Maine households fall into this concerning category.” One of the main reasons they believe Maine has food insecurity is “the economic and political obstacles that prevent food from reaching those who need it.”

Additionally, the Maine Climate Council projects that climate change will impact Maine’s food systems in the following ways:

“Warming temperatures bring both potential benefits from longer growing seasons and lower heating costs, but also potential damages from heat stress to workers, crops and livestock, and greater cooling costs. Increasingly
Food sovereignty could help address food insecurity and climate change’s impacts on food systems in Maine, while also supporting social and racial justice movements. The article “Food Sovereignty Can Advance Racial Equity and Climate Resilience” suggests that promoting food sovereignty “would require major food system changes to create environmental stewardship, land ownership, and labor practices that build power and agency among farmers, food chain workers, and consumers.” Many Maine organizations and groups are working to advance food sovereignty in these ways and others. Supporting their work and calls to action, in addition to learning about and getting involved with local food initiatives, are ways to engage with the food sovereignty movement in Maine.

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**FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**

**resources**

**Maine resources**

**Salt Sisters Farm // Maine Farm**

A mussel kelp farm in Maine that focuses on growing environmentally positive products while hiring women in recovery from drug and substance abuse.

**Somali Bantu Community Association of Maine // somalibantumaine.org**

Winner of 2020 national food sovereignty prize this organization runs Liberty Farms, a place for new refugee and immigrant families.

**Cultivating Community Maine // cultivatingcommunity.org**

Cultivating Community Maine is a multi-focal organization which supports urban gardening across Southern Maine through paid internship programs for youth, outreach and agricultural education for elementary schoolers and a farmer training program for immigrant and refugee farmers looking to enter a career in sustainable agriculture.

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5 Hunger in Maine. [https://www.gsfb.org/hunger-in-maine/](https://www.gsfb.org/hunger-in-maine/)

6 Climate Change in Maine. [http://climatecouncil.maine.gov/maines-climate](http://climatecouncil.maine.gov/maines-climate)
Greenwave

Greenwave is a pioneering organization that has designed a new model for ocean farming and helps everyone from former and current lobstermen to native Alaskan fishermen to fund and develop this model right in their own backyard.

The Food Project

Based out of the greater Boston area the food project aims to educate, engage and employ kids from varied backgrounds in sustainable community based agriculture. Their programs include Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA), a garden building outreach program, and of course donating 180,000 servings of produce a year.

Farming for Diversity, Equity, Justice, and Inclusion: A Profile

Shelburne Farms is an education nonprofit on a mission to inspire and cultivate learning for a sustainable future.

The Farms Of The Future Could Be Under Water

Underwater 3D farms could revolutionize food production, using previously untapped space to grow kelp, scallops and mussels.

Maine's Good Shepherd Food Bank Releases 2021 Hunger Projections

On the heels of distributing a record-setting 31.6 million meals to an estimated 182,000 Mainers experiencing hunger during its last fiscal year, Good Shepherd Food Bank is optimistic that recent federal and state efforts to fight hunger and put money in the pockets of low-income Mainers is helping to improve food security for some individuals and families. Yet, the state’s largest hunger-relief organization warns that Mainers need more support.

Maine Federation of Farmers’ Markets

Maine Federation of Farmers’ Markets has information about how the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can be utilized in local Maine farmers’ markets.

Accessing Land for Sustainable Agriculture and Cultural Identity for Somali Bantu Immigrant Communities

The Somali Bantu Community Association works to build food justice and food sovereignty in Maine by creating opportunities for members of the Somali Bantu refugee community to grow healthy, organic, and culturally-appropriate food in Lewiston and Auburn.

Maine Organic Gardeners and Farmers

Promotes organic agriculture through education, training and advocacy. MOFGA formed in 1971, it is the oldest and largest state organic organization in the country. MOFGA is a broad-based community that educates about and advocates for organic agriculture, illuminating its interdependence with a healthy environment, local food production, and thriving communities.

Maine Farmland Trust

Maine Farmland Trust a member-powered statewide organization that protects farmland, supports farmers, and advances the future of farming. Four program areas have developed to fill the needs of farmers, land owners, and local food markets in Maine: Farmland Protection, Farmland Access, Farm viability, Public Access.

National and Global resources

Maine’s Good Shepherd Food Bank

The Food Project

Farming for Diversity, Equity, Justice, and Inclusion: A Profile

The Farms Of The Future Could Be Under Water

Maine Federation of Farmers’ Markets

Accessing Land for Sustainable Agriculture and Cultural Identity for Somali Bantu Immigrant Communities

Maine Organic Gardeners and Farmers

Maine Farmland Trust

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Farming for Diversity, Equity, Justice, and Inclusion: A Profile

The Farms Of The Future Could Be Under Water
Food apartheid is the layering of systemic racism and food injustice to create the current system where BIPOC communities have the least access to “healthy” foods. This terms recognizes the systems that are in place that making accessing nutritious food impossible for people in low-income communities (zoning, real estate incentives in wealthy neighborhoods, etc).
“...approximately 98% of the arable acreage in this country is white-owned, which is an all-time high, and that is no accident of history, right? You can start with the genocidal theft of land from Native people as setting the stage for the type of racism and white supremacy that we were to have in our food system. And of course, slavery, which is a whole topic unto itself where you’re talking about hundreds of years of millions of people doing unpaid labor [which is still going on today] to build the agricultural wealth in this country.”

– How to Grow Change Through Black-Led Agriculture, Leah Penniman, June 15, 2020

**topic resources**

**Food apartheid: the root of the problem with America’s groceries // The Guardian**

Food justice activist Karen Washington wants us to move away from the term 'food desert', which doesn’t take into account the systemic racism permeating America’s food system.

**agroecology**

“A science, a practice, and a movement centered on growing food in harmony with ecological systems.”

**topic resources**

**Agroecology Overview // fao.org**

Agroecology is a holistic and integrated approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of sustainable agriculture and food systems.

**The Agroecology Lab at the University of Maine // agroecolab.com**

The overarching goal of our lab is to engage in research that leads to agricultural resilience in a changing climate while simultaneously protecting natural resources.
Food justice

“Food justice is a holistic and structural view of the food system that sees healthy food as a human right and addresses structural barriers to that right.”

Topic resources

Preble Street launches new Culturally Appropriate Meals initiative // preblestreet.org

In 2020 alone, Preble Street provided over one million meals, a reflection of the increasing needs in the community for food support and access to healthy meals.

Food Justice // foodprint.org

For all people who care about a sustainable food system, food justice is an imperative, and there are many inspiring models to follow and support.
“The dominant food system, with its cheap, empty calories and ubiquitous fast food joints, leaves many Americans undernourished and unhealthy — and the brunt of those results are borne by low-income communities of color. Nationally, the rate of food insecurity for African-American households is more than double that of white households, while one in five Latinos are food insecure — compared with one in ten whites and one in eight Americans overall.”

– FoodPrint, Food Justice, March 11, 2021

**sustainable agriculture**

Sustainable agriculture is a means of meeting society’s present food and textile needs, without compromising the ability for current or future generations to meet their needs.

**topic resources**

**What is Sustainable Agriculture? // Union of Concerned Scientists**

For decades, we’ve produced the bulk of our food through industrial agriculture—a system dominated by large farms growing the same crops year after year, using enormous amounts of chemical pesticides and fertilizers that damage our soil, water, air, and climate. This system is not built to last, because it squanders and degrades the resources it depends on.

**CEI’s Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Program // ceimaine.org**

CEI’s Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Program supports an economically just and sustainable food system that creates quality jobs for a diverse workforce and builds wealth and resilience in rural communities.
food security

All people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

topic resources

Food Security // CDC

Globally, climate change is expected to threaten food production and certain aspects of food quality, as well as food prices and distribution systems. Many crop yields are predicted to decline because of the combined effects of changes in rainfall, severe weather events, and increasing competition from weeds and pests on crop plants. Livestock and fish production are also projected to decline. Prices are expected to rise in response to declining food production and associated trends such as increasingly expensive petroleum (used for agricultural inputs such as pesticides and fertilizers).

The Food Security Coalition of Mid Coast Maine // mchpp.org

The Food Security Coalition (FSC) comprises representatives from more than 25 food pantries, soup kitchens, farms, and other community organizations committed to addressing food insecurity in the Mid Coast region. By working together, the FSC seeks to identify ways to source food, fundraise, improve services, support the community, and increase their volunteer base.

Cumberland County Food Security Council // ccfoodsecurity.org

We initiate and facilitate collaborative action toward a just, resilient, and sustainable food system that ensures equitable access for all people to enough healthy food.

land use

Access to fertile land that remains farmable as much of the world sees rising temperatures is a constant struggle.

“It is a critical turning point for Maine farmers. Between 2012 and 2017, Maine lost 10% of its farmland. Across the state, development pressure is increasing, Maine farmers are nearing retirement age without younger operators working alongside them, and new and beginning farmers are facing challenges in affording and accessing the land and tools they need to grow a thriving business.” – Maine Farmland Trust
In the next decade, we expect that as much as 400,000 acres of Maine farmland will change hands. What will happen to this land? There is no assurance that this farmland will stay in production, continuing to feed us in the future.

Bomazeen Land Trust // bomazeenlandtrust.org

One of Bomazeen Land Trust’s projects is food sovereignty through land use. “We’ve partnered with organizations and individuals to develop food network solutions to tackle issues around food insecurity. We are centering Wabanaki access to and return of lands where hunting, agriculture, fishing and gathering have been practiced since time immemorial.”

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**Sequestering Carbon**

The long-term storage of carbon in plants, soils, geologic formations, and the ocean

*Source:* [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)

**Food Insecurity**

A lack of consistent access to enough food for every person in a household to live an active, healthy life. *Source:* [https://www.feedingamerica.org](https://www.feedingamerica.org)

**Aquaculture**

The breeding, raising, and harvesting fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants. Basically, it’s farming in water. *Source:* [https://oceanservice.noaa.gov](https://oceanservice.noaa.gov)
activities for synthesis

These activities are meant to help individuals or groups learning together reflect upon and synthesize the information they have read, viewed, or listened to related to any of the Climate Justice Crash Course topics. They are fairly simple and are also meant to foster discussion and further deepen understanding.

Journaling/Reflection Questions

Responses can be written or illustrated

1. PREVIEWING QUESTIONS
   A. What comes to mind when I reflect on this topic term?
   B. Reading the title and annotation of this resource, what questions do I think I might have before viewing the information?
   C. Reading the title and annotation of this resource, what biases and assumptions do I think I might be bringing into this conversation?
   D. What background knowledge or experience do I have that could be helpful in understanding this information?

2. POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS
   A. What surprised me about this newly acquired information?
   B. What questions do I still have after learning this information?
   C. How might I go about sharing this information or starting a discussion with others about this information?
   D. What biases or assumptions did I realize I held after learning about this topic?
   E. What other feelings came up for me as I learned about this topic?

Tableau Vivant

This activity is best used by at least 2 people working or learning together. A picture or photograph is projected and one of the learners (or more if there is more than 1 person depicted in the photo) stand up and place themselves with the same posture and expression as the person in the photo. They are asked questions as if they were that person in the photo, in the time and place specific to when the photo was taken.

More information about how to run this activity is here:

https://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/tableau

Jigsaw Activity

This activity is best used by a group that is working together, in a systematic way, to learn from the materials. It divides up the information each person or small group is responsible for being the “expert(s)” on that particular piece. Then each person or small group reports out to the others while others take notes. By the end, all participants have a solid, holistic sense of the content.

The protocol for this activity is here:

https://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/jigsaw
Healthy environment involves protecting land, air and water from pollution and the effects of climate change. It involves helping and protecting species and ecosystems that have been impacted by the effects of climate change. This must also include protecting the rights of all people, including future generations, to have access to a clean and healthy environment.

Professionals in the environmental health field look closely at how people interact with the world around them, figuring out many ways that these interactions can impact physical fitness, vulnerability to disease, and other aspects of human wellness.

Through efforts to improve environmental health, public health professionals can enhance personal wellness for individuals, families, and communities.

Eight key environmental factors that affect health:
- chemical safety
- air pollution
- climate change and natural disasters
- diseases caused by microbes
- lack of access to health care infrastructure issues (water pipes and sewage systems)
- poor water quality
- global environmental issues

What are the benefits of a healthy environment?
- clean air quality
- increased access to healthy foods
- improved health equity
- cleaner water
- safer outdoor environments for children and adults
- reduced hazardous waste
- improved population health
HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

resources

Healthy Planet, Healthy People // TEDxMontrealWomen

“For too long we’ve put health and the environment in different boxes. The work of our generation is to bridge the two, to understand that in fact, they belong in the same box – that planetary health defines human health – and that as we improve one, we will improve the other as well.”

COURTNEY HOWARD // VIDEO // 16 MIN

by 2025
66% of the world’s population will live in water stress

– Madison Sheppard, Waterford, Maine
Governments and organizations across the globe have tried these two tools with varying degrees of success. Mitigation efforts historically have been enforced by governments through laws. One successful example of this was the response to ozone depletion. Through international cooperation, governments limited industries use of harmful gases in refrigerators and air conditioners that were depleting the earth’s protective ozone layer.

In Maine, there have been increased efforts towards mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change. The changing climate has impacted our food sector and the communities and industries that rely on the ocean for their livelihoods. Various industries such as forestry and lobstering, as well as towns across Maine, have been trying to mitigate and adapt to sea level rise, warmer or wetter winters, dryer summers, and warming seas.

*Mitigation and adaptation are two strategies we employ to combat the impacts of climate change. Mitigating involves maintaining and reducing the levels of greenhouse gases in the earth’s atmosphere, while adaptation involves changing and responding to changes.*

*Mitigation and Adaptation | Solutions – Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet, NASA*
topic resources

Soil, Land and Climate Change // European Environment Agency

The European Environmental Agency talks about the effects of climate change on land and soil. It describes how desertification works, how climate change affects agriculture, the issues of erosion, sea level rise, and melting permafrost, which would release a huge amount of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The article also talks about ways that land and soil can be part of the solution to climate change.

LAST MODIFIED 11 MAY 2021 // ARTICLE

Climate Change Mitigation measures and Water // IPCC

This report talks about changing energy sources to renewable sources and the different types of energy that could be used. It also talks about changes in farming and crop management, waste and wastewater treatment and the ways that land can help with climate change.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE, CHAPTER 6 // REPORT

Maine resources

Maine's lobster industry is thriving thanks to climate change — but it won't last if the waters continue to warm // CBS News

Short article talking about how warming waters are harming lobster industry.

JEFF BERARDELLI, DECEMBER 18, 2021 // ARTICLE

"Lobster is a $1.4 billion industry in Maine, employing more than 4,100 people directly and thousands more in related businesses. But climate change is warming the chilly Atlantic water lobsters need to thrive, prompting a marine migration to the north."

■ SUBTOPIC

rights of future generations

Young people today and future generations will have to deal with the effects of the climate crisis on our planet. The climate crisis is and will continue to cause more frequent and extreme weather events, make it harder to farm, make temperatures dangerously hot and have many more effects that will be harmful to the health of youth and future generations.

Youth and future generations have the right to a livable future and by not taking action on climate change, governments are denying them their rights. Youth around the world are now demanding that governments take action and some are even suing their governments.

There have been two notable law cases in the United States and one in the United Kingdom. Youth are suing their governments due to inaction around the climate crisis and how that has jeopardized their future. Some youth are
Indigenous peoples also follow a cultural practice called the “Seventh Generation Principle” that was first thought to be codified in the Iroquois Great Law of Peace, but is practiced globally by Indigenous peoples.

The principle says that every decision - personal, governmental, or corporate - must consider how that will affect descendants seven generations into the future. Any decision that jeopardizes the Earth for future generations is not just.

**topic resources**

**Global climate change impacts on children** // Climate Analytics

Today’s children will be having to deal with the worst effects of the climate crisis as they grow up. This article lists some more effects of climate change on children today.


**Seven Generations, Seven Teachings: Ending The Indian Act** // National Centre for First Nations Governance

“For thousand of years there was no such thing as an Indian Act. As First Nations we lived free from its constraints. We observed laws that encouraged us to be wise, humble, respectful, truthful, brave, loving, and honest in our dealings with others. Other people did not define our citizenship.”

John Borrows, May, 2008 // Report

**The Youth-Led Fight for Climate Justice in Maine** // Climate X Change

In the face of historically exclusive spaces and performative actions, Maine youth are using their voices to flip the script through an unwavering focus on climate justice.

Katie Yared, April 16, 2021 // Article

**What is the 7th Generation principle and why do you need to know about it?** // Molly Larkin

The “7th generation” principle taught by Native Americans says that in every decision, be it personal, governmental or corporate, we must consider how it will affect our descendants seven generations into the future.
Wildlife & biodiversity

**Wildlife** are the animals and **biodiversity** is all of the organisms in a given area.

Ecosystems need a variety of plants and animals to fill certain niches in order for them to function. The specific **biodiversity** of an ecosystem helps it function in a healthy way, providing benefits for people and animals. Climate change is already causing mass species extinction at an alarming rate. This will only get worse as the effects of climate change worsen. Without sufficient population numbers, ecosystems will not be able to thrive.

For people who rely on wildlife and biodiversity for their livelihoods and to survive, the effects of climate change have already begun negatively impacting them, and will continue to do so. Decreased soil and air quality, changing air temperatures and climates, and changing seasonal impacts also negatively impact wildlife. Across the globe, there have been declines in animal populations and rises in invasive species that can thrive in the changing conditions in a certain place.

The variety of life on Earth, its biological diversity is commonly referred to as biodiversity.

ANUP SHAH, UPDATED SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2014 // ARTICLE

Concepts of Biology // OpenStax

This book is available online or as a pdf. It is designed as an accessible introductory biology course. The content is meaningful and easy to understand. Chapter 21 is on the Importance of Biodiversity.

SAMANTHA FOWLER, REBECCA ROUSH, JAMES WISE, 2013 // BOOK

Why You Should Care About Wildlife // The World Bank

Animal, plant and marine biodiversity keeps ecosystems functional. Healthy ecosystems allow us to survive, get enough food to eat and make a living.

MARCH 3, 2014 // ARTICLE

Wildlife Conservation // National Geographic Society Encyclopedia

Wildlife conservation aims to protect plant and animal species as the human population encroaches on their resources.

Maine resources

Maine’s blueberry crop faces climate change peril // AP News

Maine’s beloved wild blueberry fields are home to one of the most important fruit crops in New England, and scientists have found they are warming at a faster rate than the rest of the state.

PATRICK WHITTLE, JUNE 5, 2021 // ARTICLE

Maine Responds To Climate Change With Lobster Fishing Standards // AP News

In southern New England, warmer waters contributed to a 78% decline in lobsters, but lobsters in Maine increased by 515%. Scientists say the difference is the decades-long conservation practices of the Maine lobstersmen.

APRIL 17, 2021 // VIDEO // 2:40 MINE

LOOKING FOR MORE RESOURCES?
Find Maine specific and National/Global resources at the end of this section.
Access to outdoor spaces is affected by a variety of factors, including your race, socioeconomic status, and where you live. Outdoor spaces also look different in a rural or urban setting. In a rural area it may be parks, forests, or walking trails and in urban settings it may be city parks or walking trails, trees or grass, or forests and parks outside of the urban area.

The colonization of North America has rested upon the assumption that those with the most wealth would have the best access to land. This concept was also translated into outdoor spaces, national parks, and the greater conservation movement. National parks were only open to those with wealth, while the Indigenous people were driven off their traditional lands to make way for settlers. Outdoor spaces were also highly segregated. Today, that history still impacts the relationship between BIPOC people and the environment, any explains why many do not feel safe to participate in or enjoy outdoor activities.

**topic resources**

**Black Faces, White Spaces** // University of North Carolina Press

About the underrepresentation of Black folks in the outdoors. Very important narratives as to how our perceptions and assumptions of environmental thinking are shaped by whom we see in the environment.

**There’s Something in the Water** // Dr. Ingrid Waldron

An examination of environmental racism, the film explores the disproportionate effect of environmental damage on Black Canadian and First Nations communities in Nova Scotia.

**Maine resources**

**Lunch & Learn: Land and Liberty | The Historic African American Community of Peterborough** // Maine Conservation Voters

Rural African American communities are an important, yet understudied, aspect of Maine’s history and path to statehood. Peterborough, in the town of Warren, was once one of the largest African American communities in Maine.

**ASTICOU’S ISLAND DOMAIN: Wabanaki Peoples at Mount Desert Island 1500-2000** // National Park Service

Learn more about the Wabanaki’s long history and diverse culture.
Land access

Land access is part of someone’s social determinant of health (SDOHs), the conditions of the places and spaces a person inhabits and how that contributes to their overall health. The lands you have access to and who historically control access to these lands, affects your socioeconomic status and health.

In particularly urban areas, the practice of redlining has historically marginalized low income, communities of color to live in areas where they have access to less green spaces and less trees than white communities. For the Indigenous peoples of North America, restricting access to land was vital to the colonization and creation of the United States and shaped the lands and state of Maine as we know it. In Maine in particular, settlers blocked land access by prohibiting travel along waterways, which was the first step in colonizing Maine. In other parts of the U.S., after Black folks were freed from slavery, they did not have the rights or capital to obtain land, which is still an issue today.

**topic resources**

The Path Forward on Social Determinants of Health: Environment (Heat) // Project Echo

Mainly about urban heat and the impacts on low income, BIPOC communities. The webinar presents possible solutions and cases.
Air pollution is defined as the presence of toxic chemicals or compounds in the air that lower the quality of the air, thus posing a health risk to humans and other wildlife. Studies have shown that air pollution significantly affects human health. According to the WHO (World Health Organization) the effects of air pollution on humans is very significant.

Though air pollution is a major threat to human health and the environment, the threat and danger is not equally distributed. Communities of color and low-income communities face higher rates of low air quality and are 1.5 times more likely to live in a low air quality than white people.
Water pollution occurs when harmful substances—often chemicals or microorganisms—contaminate a stream, river, lake, ocean, aquifer, or other body of water, degrading water quality and rendering it toxic to humans or the environment.

Water is uniquely vulnerable to pollution. Known as a “universal solvent,” water is able to dissolve more substances than any other liquid on earth. It’s the reason we have Kool-Aid and brilliant blue waterfalls. It’s also why water is so easily polluted. Toxic substances from farms, towns, and factories readily dissolve into and mix with it, causing water pollution.

The most common type of water contamination is the agricultural sector. Farming and livestock production uses about 70 percent of the earth’s surface water supplies and is a major cause of water pollution in rivers and streams, wetlands, lakes, estuaries, and groundwater.

Other types of water contamination come from sewage, wastewater, oil pollution, and radioactive substances.

Water pollution has a disastrous effect on human health, causing about 1.8 million deaths worldwide in 2015. It also has extremely harmful effects on aquatic ecosystems, as these webs are comprised of interdependent organisms. When water pollution affects any single member of an aquatic environment, the whole system can be disrupted.
Plastic made from fossil fuels were popularized after World War II and were quickly produced and incorporated into most industries and daily life. Plastic has revolutionized most industries and offered many conveniences, but it has also become a throwaway product which has caused a massive amount of pollution globally. The additives in plastic can make the material last as long as 400 years long. Additionally, not all plastic is recyclable.

The world produces more than 448 million tons of plastic annually, with that number expected to rise. About 8 million tons of plastic waste goes into the waters and oceans per year. Ocean currents circulate plastic waste throughout the whole ocean. The most famous example is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, located in the Northern Pacific Ocean, which spans from the West Coast of North America to Japan. It is largely made of microplastics, plastic that has been breaking down slowly, along with microbeads that were created for health and beauty products.

Plastic pollution has now been found in snow in the Arctic and there are ongoing studies looking at how plastic spreads through the air.
Chemicals and various pathogens exist naturally in the environment. In most places, they remain in relatively safe amounts for humans and the earth.

Human activity, such as extractive industries and all our activities which cause greenhouse gas emissions (like cars), have impacted and increased the types of toxins present in the environment. For example, industries like farming, paper mills, and oil and gas production dump excess products and chemicals into the environment. This has resulted in water and soil becoming so contaminated that wildlife and human lives are greatly affected as drinking water and agricultural produce is tainted.

Another example of toxins in the natural environment comes from dams around the world, which have increased the amount of mercury in fish through increased decomposition of vegetation due to the flooding of lands to create the dams. If the amount of mercury is high enough, it will kill large portions of species and thus disrupt the ecosystem. In North America, coal burning is the largest source of mercury in the environment.

Another way that humans come into contact with harmful chemicals is due to governments not updating aging infrastructure, particularly water systems that people rely on to get clean and safe drinking water. This is especially salient for tribal reservations across the United States as well as majority-Black, majority-POC, rural, and low-income communities.
When humans come in contact with chemicals found in the environment, there can be devastating impacts. Mercury causes damage to the brain, kidney, and lungs. Long term it can also cause diseases like acrodynia (pink disease), Hunter-Russell syndrome, and Minamata disease. Lead can cause skin rashes, hair loss, itchy skin, and developmental issues and damage to the brain and nervous system in children.

topic resources

Flint Water Crisis: Everything You Need to Know // NRDC

After officials repeatedly dismissed claims that Flint’s water was making people sick, residents took action. Here’s how the lead contamination crisis unfolded—and what we can learn from it.

MELISSA DENCHAK, NOVEMBER 8, 2018 // ARTICLE

PFAS (forever chemicals)

PFAS stands for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

PFAS are widely used, long lasting chemicals, components of which break down very slowly over time. Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, many PFAS are found in the blood of people and animals all over the world and are present at low levels in a variety of food products and in the environment. PFAS are found in water, air, fish, and soil at locations across the nation and the globe. Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals. There are thousands of PFAS chemicals, and they are found in many different consumer, commercial, and industrial products. This makes it challenging to study and assess the potential human health and environmental risks.
PFAS are widely used by humans, but have toxic impacts on humans in the long term. PFAS are a family of over 4,000 fluorinated chemicals that are highly persistent and stable causing hormone imbalances, reduce reproductivity, reduce responses to vaccines, and can cause cancers.

Maine was the first state in the nation to “end the use of industrial and municipal sewage sludge as fertilizer, [a] source of widespread contamination from PFAS ‘forever chemicals’ in the state that has forced family farms to discontinue sales and face financial ruin.”

**topic resources**

**MOFGA PFAS Resources // mofga.org**

Resources for farmers, gardeners, and community.

**HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT**

**GLOSSARY**

**Ecosystem**
Community and interactions of non-living and living organisms in an area.

**Air pollution**
Defined as the presence of toxic chemicals or compounds in that air that lower the quality of the air, thus posing a health risk to humans and other wildlife.

**Water Stress**
Water stress occurs when the demand for water exceeds the available amount during a certain period or when poor quality restricts its use. Source: www.eea.europa.eu

**Mitigation**
Reducing and stabilizing the current level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

**Adaptation**
Changing and responding to the actual and expected effects of climate change.

**Ozone depletion**
The ozone layer helps to protect life from harmful ultraviolet radiation. The 1989 Montreal Protocol sought to put an end to ozone depletion. This depletion was caused by the use of aerosol sprays and coolants in many refrigerators comprised of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gases which break down the ozone layer which protects us.

**Desertification**
The permanent degradation of previously productive land.

**Biodiversity**
All of the organisms in a given area.

**Redlining**
The racist practice of using demographic information to draw neighborhoods, labeling majority-Black and majority-POC areas as “declining” or “hazardous.” As a result of redlining, people of color were denied access to “desirable” neighborhoods by racist real estate practices and denied loans to buy homes in neighborhoods with negative labels.
Social Determinants of Health
the conditions of the places and spaces a person inhabits and how that contributes to their overall health.

Extractive industries
Processes that involve the extraction (taking out) of raw materials from the earth to be used by consumers. This includes oil, gas, mining and water.

Acrodynia (pink disease)
A rare condition that is typically seen in infants and young children resulting from exposure to a variety of heavy metals (commonly to mercury and mercury-based compounds). It results in pinkish discoloration of the skin on the hands and feet. The exposure is usually chronic and long-term.

Hunter-Russell syndrome
The description for acute methyl mercury poisoning, which is usually acquired by eating fish or shellfish with high levels of methylmercury in them. A heavy metal that occurs in various forms, mercury is known to produce several toxic effects on the body, including severe damage to the brain or kidney that may eventually result in death. Additionally, the metal is also responsible for diseases like Hunter-Russell syndrome, Minamata disease and acrodynia.

Minamata disease
See Hunter-Russell syndrome.

activities for synthesis
These activities are meant to help individuals or groups learning together reflect upon and synthesize the information they have read, viewed, or listened to related to any of the Climate Justice Crash Course topics. They are fairly simple and are also meant to foster discussion and further deepen understanding.

Journaling/Reflection Questions
Responses can be written or illustrated

1. PREVIEWING QUESTIONS
   A. What comes to mind when I reflect on this topic term?
   B. Reading the title and annotation of this resource, what questions do I think I might have before viewing the information?
   C. Reading the title and annotation of this resource, what biases and assumptions do I think I might be bringing into this conversation?
   D. What background knowledge or experience do I have that could be helpful in understanding this information?

2. POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS
   A. What surprised me about this newly acquired information?
   B. What questions do I still have after learning this information?
   C. How might I go about sharing this information or starting a discussion with others about this information?
   D. What biases or assumptions did I realize I held after learning about this topic?
   E. What other feelings came up for me as I learned about this topic?
Tableau Vivant

This activity is best used by at least 2 people working or learning together. A picture or photograph is projected and one of the learners (or more if there is more than 1 person depicted in the photo) stand up and place themselves with the same posture and expression as the person in the photo. They are asked questions as if they were that person in the photo, in the time and place specific to when the photo was taken.

More information about how to run this activity is here:
https://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/tableau

Jigsaw Activity

This activity is best used by a group that is working together, in a systematic way, to learn from the materials. It divides up the information each person or small group is responsible for being the “expert(s)” on that particular piece. Then each person or small group reports out to the others while others take notes. By the end, all participants have a solid, holistic sense of the content.

The protocol for this activity is here:
https://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/jigsaw

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCES

Take a closer look at each sub-topic by exploring these Maine-specific and National & Global resources.

mitigating harms to land & water  

Maine resources

The Effects of Sea Level Rise on Maine // Natural Resources Council of Maine

Using the latest available science, NRCM’s analysis shows that coastal businesses, homes, wildlife habitat, transportation systems, and some of the state’s most treasured places are highly vulnerable to sea-level rise.

Ellsworth advised to plan, mitigate and adapt to future sea level rise // The Ellsworth American

Using the latest available science, NRCM’s analysis shows that coastal businesses, homes, wildlife habitat, transportation systems, and some of the state’s most treasured places are highly vulnerable to sea-level rise.

National/Global resources

The Effects of Climate Change // NASA

A list of effects, a lot of them have to do with land and water including sea level rise, droughts, changes in agriculture and more.
International Actions - The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer // US EPA

International Actions by the U.S. and multilaterally to address ozone layer protection.

Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment // Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

How land use and agriculture contribute to and are impacted by climate change. This gives a lot of ways that the effects on land could be mitigated.

Climate and Health Evaluation Framework // CDC

How to evaluate your health impacts from climate change, offers mitigation efforts you could take.

rights of future generations // click here to return to subtopic

**Maine resources**

**Maine Environment: Frontline Voices** // Natural Resources Council of Maine

The stories of the inaugural group of Brookie Award winners as part of NRCM Rising’s new program to recognize and celebrate Maine’s young environmental leaders.

Episodes 34-39, AUGUST 5, 2020 // PODCAST // 25 MINS

**New Climate Change Activists: Young People in Maine and Worldwide Start a Climate Justice Movement** // Maine Public

On Earth Day, we talk with youth leaders from Maine about how they are part of the global youth movement that is pushing for urgent action on climate change.

MAINE VOICES // RECORDING // 52 MINS

**National/Global resources**

**We the Future** // TED Talk

The effects of climate change and how it will impact the lives of future generations.

DAVID WALLACE WELLS, SEPTEMBER 2019 // VIDEO // 11 MINS

**Introduction: Indigenous Peoples: The Rights of Children and Future Generations** // Sustainability and Climate Change

On Earth Day, we talk with youth leaders from Maine about how they are part of the global youth movement that is pushing for urgent action on climate change.

REBECCA TSOSIE, UCLA LAW REVIEW, MARCH 26, 2020 // ARTICLE

**These Kids Are Suing the Federal Government to Demand Climate Action. They Just Won an Important Victory** // Time

“We are standing here to fight and protect everything that we love—from our land to our waters to the mountains to the rivers and forests,” Xiuhtezcatl Martinez

JUSTIN WORLAND, NOVEMBER 10, 2016 // ARTICLE
UK Students sue government over human rights impact of climate crisis // The Guardian

Three claimants in their 20s say their rights to life have been breached because of inadequate roadmap to solve emergency.

ISABELLA KAMINSKI, APRIL 30, 2021 // ARTICLE

wildlife & biodiversity click here to return to subtopic

Biodiversity // National Geographic Society Encyclopedia

Biodiversity refers to the variety of living species on Earth, including plants, animals, bacteria, and fungi.

Understanding Conservation // National Wildlife Federation

Wildlife conservation is the preservation and protection of animals, plants, and their habitats. By conserving wildlife, we're ensuring that future generations can enjoy our natural world and the incredible species that live within it.

1. Species and climate change // International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

This article talks about how the climate crisis will affect species.

2. Species and climate change // International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

This article goes further, discussing more about the issue and gives some ways to reduce the impacts on species.

10 Animals Threatened by Climate Change // EarthDay.org

Lists some animals at risk of extinction because of climate change.

Maine resources

Maine birds could go extinct in our lifetime with climate change // News Center Maine

Several Maine bird species are threatened as the climate warms. One might well go extinct, another may simply move north.

DON CARRIGAN, NOVEMBER 11, 2021 // ARTICLE / VIDEO

Reckoning with Climate Change and the Gulf of Maine // University of New England in Maine

A magazine that gives an overview of several issues.

PHILIP SHELLEY // ARTICLE

They Carry Us with Them: The Great Tree Migration // Emergence Magazine

A great multimedia piece on climate driven tree migration in Maine.

MULTIMEDIA ARTICLE

National & Global Resources

Climate change reduces the abundance and diversity of wild bees, study finds // Penn State University

Impacts of temperature and climate change on wild bees.

SARA LAJEUNESSE, JANUARY 20, 2021 // ARTICLE

A third of plants and animals at risk of mass extinction // The Energy Mix

Lists several studies about animals at risk of extinction. Predicts that in fifty years, at least a third of the planet’s animal species will be at risk of extinction.

TIM RADFORD, FEBRUARY 5, 2020 // ARTICLE
access to outdoor spaces  click here to return to subtopic

It's Time for Environmental Studies to Own Up to Erasing Black People // Vice
Animal, plant and marine biodiversity keeps ecosystems functional. Healthy ecosystems allow us to survive, get enough food to eat and make a living.

Birding while Black // Literary Hub
"I’m hoping that soon a black birder won’t be a rare sighting. I’m hoping that at some point I’ll see color sprinkled throughout a birding-festival crowd."
J. DREW LANHAM, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016 // ARTICLE

American environmentalism’s racist roots have shaped global thinking about conservation // The Conversation
American environmentalism’s racist roots have shaped global thinking about conservation
PRAKASH KASHWAN, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 // ARTICLE

Christian Cooper, the Central Park birder, hopes America can change. Because he’s not going to // The Washington Post
In May, Christian Cooper had an infamous interaction with a dog walker in Central Park — and since then his phone has been ringing off the hook.
DAVID BETANCOURT, JUNE 23, 2020 // ARTICLE

Breaking Down the Lack of Diversity in Outdoor Spaces // National Health Foundation
Talks about the inequities of who has access to the outdoors. Spending time outside has numerous physical and mental health benefits, but many communities, especially low-income and BIPOC communities do not have access to these spaces.
NAOMI HUMPHREY, JULY 20, 2020 // ARTICLE

Outdoor Afro // outdoorafro.org
Reconnect to Nature with programs that continue to connect Black explorers with the outdoors through education, recreation, and conservation

Outdoor Asian // outdoorasian.com
Our vision is to create a diverse and inclusive community of Asian and Pacific Islanders in the outdoors.

National & Global Resources
Pulling Down Our Monuments // Sierra Club
Reexamining our past and our substantial role in perpetuating white supremacy.
MICHAEL BRUNE, JULY 22, 2020 // ARTICLE

A necessary reckoning // Land Trust Alliance
Lists several studies about animals at risk of extinction. Predicts that in fifty years, at least a third of the planet’s animal species will be at risk of extinction.

What outdoor spaces tell us about inequity // BBC Remote Control
The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the importance of outdoor spaces, especially in cities. Here are some things cities have done to increase access to outdoor spaces.
ANDREW BOWMAN, JULY 24, 2020 // ARTICLE

Access to outdoor spaces benefits mental health, wellbeing during COVID pandemic // News Medical Life Sciences
People in European countries with the strictest COVID-19 lockdown policies were more likely to show symptoms of depression and anxiety, according to an international study investigating the impact of disconnecting from nature.
EMILY HENDERSON, B.SC., DECEMBER 11, 2020 // ARTICLE
About Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) // CDC
More about the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

The Petrochemical Industry Is Killing Another Black Community in “Cancer Alley” // The Nation
An example of how petrochemical companies kill Black communities by buying them out of their own land.

Explained | Racial Wealth Gap // Vox
Cory Booker and others discuss how slavery, housing discrimination and centuries of inequality have compounded to create a racial wealth gap.

Native American tribe in Maine buys back island taken 160 years ago // The Guardian
The Passamaquoddy’s purchase of Pine Island for $355,000 is the latest in a series of successful ‘land back’ campaigns for indigenous people in the US.

How one young activist wants to topple the many barriers BIPOC communities face in accessing outdoor recreation // Yahoo Life
In honor of Earth Day 2021, Yahoo Life is profiling some of the many advocates leading the charge to save the planet today: young BIPOC (Black, indigenous, people of color) activists fighting for climate justice through an intersectional lens.

Native American Sovereignty in Maine // Maine Policy Review
“Although there are several other notable Indian land claims and settlements throughout the country, the 1980 Maine Indian land claim is unique both in its sheer size and complexity, and because it was very specific in defining the rights of the tribes that are party to the settlement.”

Housing Segregation and Redlining in America: A Short History // NPR
In 1968, Congress passed the Fair Housing Act that made it illegal to discriminate in housing. Gene Demby of NPR’s Code Switch explains why neighborhoods are still so segregated today.

Black Farmers, Land Loss and the Racial Economic Gap // The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel
Wealth typically grows over time, compounding interest and assets, then transfers from generation to generation.
How Indigenous people are reclaiming their lands – and their sovereignty // CNN

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the importance of outdoor spaces, especially in cities. Here are some things cities have done to increase access to outdoor spaces.

HARMEET KAUR, NOVEMBER 26, 2020 // ARTICLE

#033: Land Liberation, Edible Activist Podcast // May 22, 2019

“This special episode, powered by Fair Farms Maryland, audience members were part of this live broadcast as host, Melissa L. Jones engaged in conversation with former guest and farmer, Dom Hosack on what land liberation means and how to reclaim what was our and learn about his work with Earth Bound Building, a member cooperative based in Maryland.”

MAY 22, 2019 // PODCAST // 46 MIN

air pollution    click here to return to subtopic

Environmental Justice: Addressing the Burden of Air Pollution // American Lung Association

Clean air is essential to health. Yet nearly half of Americans are still breathing unhealthy air, and the burden is not evenly shared.

AUGUST 26, 2020 // ARTICLE

Why Air Quality is an Environmental Justice Issue // Sierra Club

Air quality issues affect low-income communities of color more. Histories of redlining (or the practice of cities blocking off marginalized communities from loans, investments, and development) has led to communities of color becoming hotspots for polluting industries and underdeveloped infrastructure.

JASMINE VAZIN, TOIYABE CHAPTER, JANUARY 8, 2020 // ARTICLE

What Is Air Pollution // What Is Air Pollution

Air pollution can be defined as the presence of toxic chemicals or compounds (including those of biological origin) in the air, at levels that pose a health risk.

Air Resources and Publications // Maine DEP

Here you can find “Air Emissions Inventory Data” for Maine.

Maine resources

Mill Town // Kerri Arsenault

Describes the impacts of the paper mills in Mexico and Rumford Maine. The area was nicknamed cancer valley with so many people dying from working in the mill and the mill polluting the town's river and water.

ST. MARTIN'S PRESS, 2020 // ARTICLE

Mill Town Reckons with Past, Present, and Future of Small Town// Erie Reader

ALLY KUTZ, NOVEMBER 23, 2021 // BOOK REVIEW

Short interview: Four Questions for the Author of “Mill Town” // Down East Magazine Magazine

National & Global Resources

Louisiana's Cancer Alley Visualized // Our Daily Planet

In 1968, Congress passed the Fair Housing Act that made it illegal to discriminate in housing. Gene Demby of NPR's Code Switch explains why neighborhoods are still so segregated today.

JUNE 4, 2019 // ARTICLE
Lead-Laced Water In Flint: A Step-By-Step Look At The Makings Of A Crisis // The Two Way, NPR

Most famous example of water pollution and environmental injustice is the Flint Michigan crisis, where lead seepage into the drinking water caused a massive public health crisis in the majority-Black city.

MERRIT KENNEDY, APRIL 20, 2016 // ARTICLE

The pandemic has exposed America’s clean water crisis // Vox

The coronavirus pandemic affected communities without constant access to clean water in a state of emergency.

KHUSHBU SHAH, APRIL 17, 2020  // ARTICLE

Human Trauma and Climate Trauma As One // TEDxYYC

Sheila Watt-Cloutier urges us to recognize the intimate connection between the suffering of Aboriginal peoples and the degradation of the global climate.

SHEILA WATT-CLOUTIER, 2016 // VIDEO // 15 MINS

We Story the Land // Doug Woods

Explores the importance of water to an Indigenous tribe in Nova Scotia.

2016 // VIDEO // 27 MINS

Maine resources


“For decades, some members of the Passamaquoddy Tribe have shared a message with family members and visitors coming to the reservation at Pleasant Point: Don’t drink the water.”

ROBBIE FEINBERG, JULY 22, 2021 // ARTICLE

A lawsuit is accusing Poland Spring of selling “ordinary groundwater”// Vox

The suit highlights the opaque, controversial business of bottled water.

CHAVIE LIEBER, APRIL 3, 2019 // ARTICLE

Truth In Branding: Nestlé’s Poland Spring Water // Forbes

“Recently, business reporters have suggested that Swiss giant Nestlé - home to iconic brands such as Gerber, Kit Kat, Nestlé’s Crunch, Nescafé, Lean Cuisine, Hot Pockets, Stouffer’s, Dreyer’s and Häagen-Dazs - is considering a sale of its low-end mainstream water brands, Nestlé Pure Life, Deer Park and Poland Spring.”

LARRY LIGHT, JUNE 18, 2020 // ARTICLE

Community Water Justice facts and action items in Maine // Sierra Club

The suit highlights the opaque, controversial business of bottled water.

NICKI SEKERA // REPORT

A metals study to assess human health risks in drinking water from Eastport, Perry, and Pleasant Point, Maine // MIT Libraries

This study analyzed drinking water for a subset of health concerns expressed by residents in the towns of Eastport, Perry, and Pleasant Point.

TCHELET SEGEV, DSPACE @ MIT, 2018 // REPORT
National & Global Resources

America has a water crisis no one is talking about // Vox
Outdated infrastructure is making water too expensive for millions of families.
SARAH FROSTENSON, MARCH 22, 2018 // ARTICLE

Fresh water flown to Iqaluit after city’s supply deemed undrinkable // CBC
City has ordered 80,000 litres of water for its nearly 8,000 people.
OCTOBER 14, 2021 // ARTICLE

Climate Impacts Along the Mississippi River Corridor // Climate Nexus
The increasing frequency of heavy rain, both globally and in the Mississippi River Basin specifically, is among the clearest climate change impacts on weather.

The Right to Be Cold: One Woman’s Fight to Protect the Arctic and Save the Planet from Climate Change // Sheila Watt-Cloutier
The increasing frequency of heavy rain, both globally and in the Mississippi River Basin specifically, is among the clearest climate change impacts on weather.
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESS, 2018 // BOOK

Why plastic pollution is an environmental justice issue // Greenpeace
Summarizes why plastic pollution is an environmental justice issue, including flood of plastic waste floods into countries unprepared to stop or manage it, unequal impacts of plastic pollution, and corporate profits from plastic production.
KATE LIN, 23 APRIL 2019 // ARTICLE

Your Plastic Addiction is Bankrolling Big Oil // Mother Jones
Fossil fuel companies feel threatened by alternative energy—and they’re counting on plastic to save them.
REBECCA LEDER, MARCH 3, 2020 // ARTICLE

The world’s plastic pollution crisis explained // National Geographic
Much of the planet is swimming in discarded plastic, which is harming animal and possibly human health.
LAURA PARKER, JUNE 7, 2019 // ARTICLE

What are microplastics? // National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Microplastics are small plastic pieces less than five millimeters long which can be harmful to our ocean and aquatic life.
VIDEO // 1 MIN

plastic pollution click here to return to subtopic

The Story of Plastic (Animated Short) // The Two Way, NPR
The Story of Plastic (Animated Short) pulls back the curtain on the plastic pollution headlines, revealing the true causes and consequences of the global plastics crisis. To watch the full documentary and take action for a plastic-free future, visit www.storyofstuff.org
DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY DEIA SCHLOSBERG // VIDEO // 4 MINS

Tiny pieces of plastics found in Arctic snow // National Geographic
Glaciers in Norway that could contain microplastics in their snow cover.
CHERYL KATZ, AUGUST 14, 2019 // ARTICLE
Maine resources


National & Global Resources

Why is there plastic in Arctic snow? // BBC News

A team of German-Swiss researchers has found that microscopic particles of plastic are falling out of the sky with snow in the Arctic.

The Plastic Pollution Crisis // Forbes

Just about anywhere you travel in the world, you will encounter plastic pollution.

Reducing Plastic Consumption with Richa Malik of The Happy Turtle // Impact India, Episode 9

This podcast episode discusses plastic consumption and how over-consumption has resulted in high levels of pollution which are impacting many coastal communities.

Exploring The Impact of Reservoirs and Dams on Freshwater Health // International Institute for Sustainable Development (Experimental Lakes Area)

Summarizes why plastic pollution is an environmental justice issue, including flood of plastic waste floods into countries unprepared to stop or manage it, unequal impacts of plastic pollution, and corporate profits from plastic production.

Health Effects of Lead Exposure // CDC

Protecting children from exposure to lead is important to lifelong good health. No safe blood lead level in children has been identified.

Exploring The Impact of Reservoirs and Dams on Freshwater Health // International Institute for Sustainable Development (Experimental Lakes Area)

Exploring The Impact of Reservoirs and Dams on Freshwater Health // International Institute for Sustainable Development (Experimental Lakes Area)

Health Effects of Lead Exposure // CDC

Protecting children from exposure to lead is important to lifelong good health. No safe blood lead level in children has been identified.
Maine resources

Waterways Restored: Case Study 9 - Maine’s Androscoggin River // Frontier Group

When the Clean Water Act is applied to American waterways, good things can happen.

JEFF INGLIS, DECEMBER 16, 2014 // WEBSITE

National & Global Resources

Boat Harbour & The Mill // Pictou Landing Film

Polluting of water in Pictou Landing First Nation, Nova Scotia, Canada.

MARK LANG, 2018 // VIDEO // 6 MIN

For 50+ years, pulp mill waste has contaminated Pictou Landing First Nation’s land in Nova Scotia // CBC Docs POVs

With wastewater scheduled to stop flowing into Boat Harbour in Jan. 2020, Mi'kmaq leaders say, ‘We're planning the biggest celebration ever’

JOAN BAXTER, JANUARY 31, 2020 // ARTICLE

PFAS (forever chemicals)

Why PFAS are so impervious, and who is most at risk from the forever chemicals // PBS News Hour

The new infrastructure law contains $10 billion for cleaning up drinking water that has been contaminated by a specific group of man-made chemicals. But problems with “forever chemicals” go back decades, and are located in many places around the U.S. Miles O’Brien looks at the impact they’ve had in one community in New Hampshire, and how the U.S. Air Force is now dealing with its past use of them.

2022 // VIDEO // 7 MINS

Toxic ‘forever chemicals’ more common in tap water than thought, report says // National Geographic

Summarizes why plastic pollution is an environmental justice issue, including flood of plastic waste floods into countries unprepared to stop or manage it, unequal impacts of plastic pollution, and corporate profits from plastic production.

SARAH GIBBENS, 2020 // ARTICLE

PFAS Brief // CHEMTrust

 Protecting children from exposure to lead is important to lifelong good health. No safe blood lead level in children has been identified.

2019 // REPORT

National & Global Resources

Environmental Council of the States // ECOS

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large family of synthetic chemicals used for a wide variety of purposes. In recent years, scientists have concluded that some of these substances can pose human health risks.
Economic justice refers to a way of building economic institutions, organizations or systems that deal with or relate to money, based on the idea that everyone should have access to the material resources that would allow them to have a dignified and successful life.

Oxfam, a global anti-poverty nonprofit organization, released a report in September of 2020 which found that between the years of 1990 and 2015, the wealthiest 1% of the world’s population emitted more than twice as much carbon dioxide as the roughly three billion people who make up the poorest part of the world. This is due to their excessive overconsumption and increasing tendency to drive high-emitting cars, such as SUVs, and take more flights, a high carbon transport.
Climate change is caused by human activities, and it is becoming clearer that it is largely caused by those who are most economically advantaged. The economic systems currently in place not only serve to make some parts of the population very wealthy and others very poor, but it also allows the wealthiest to consume more resources and emit more than what the planet can sustain. One of the ways that we can think about changing the economic system to reflect principles of economic justice is through something called a Just Transition. A Just Transition could be achieved through something like a Green New Deal, a set of policies which focus on addressing climate change.


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**ECONOMIC JUSTICE resources**

**National/Global resources**

**World's richest 1% cause double CO2 emissions of poorest 50%, says Oxfam // The Guardian**

“The wealthiest 1% of the world’s population were responsible for the emission of more than twice as much carbon dioxide as the poorer half of the world from 1990 to 2015, according to new research.”

FIONA HARVEY, SEPTEMBER 2020 // ARTICLE

**Carbon emissions of richest 1 percent more than double the emissions of the poorest half of humanity // Oxfam**

“The wealthiest 1% of the world’s population were responsible for the emission of more than twice as much carbon dioxide as the poorer half of the world from 1990 to 2015, according to new research.”

SEPTEMBER 2020 // REPORT

**Defining Economic Justice and Social Justice // Center for Economic and Social Justice**

Economic justice, which touches the individual person as well as the social order, encompasses the moral principles which guide us in designing our economic institutions.

2022 // ARTICLE

**On Economic Justice // BU School of Public Health**

Economic justice, which touches the individual person as well as the social order, encompasses the moral principles which guide us in designing our economic institutions.

SANDRO GALEA, JANUARY 2017 // ARTICLE
**just transition**

The transition to a more sustainable way of life has to be equitable. A **just transition** would be led by those most impacted by climate change and would ensure that the environment and the people living in it would no longer be sacrificed in favor of the economy.

**topic resources**

**What is Just Transition // Just Transition Alliance**

The principle of just transition is that a healthy economy and a clean environment can and should co-exist. The process for achieving this vision should be a fair one that should not cost workers or community residents their health, environment, jobs, or economic assets.

Artists’ Rapid Response Team (ARRT!) creates banners for progressive non-profits in Maine on social, economic and environmental justice issues.
green new deal

Originally proposed by Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Edward J. Markey in 2019, the Green New Deal gets its name from the set of social and economic reforms that President Franklin D. Roosevelt put into place in the 1930s. Since the original Green New Deal, others have been proposed, including in Maine. A Green New Deal generally focuses on things like reducing economic inequality and protecting the environment.

topic resources

What is the Green New Deal? A Complete Guide // Investopedia

The term “Green New Deal” has been used to describe various sets of policies that aim to make systemic change.

DEBORAH D’SOUZA, JUNE 23, 2021 // ARTICLE
role of corporations

Corporations, which have historically prioritized profit over the welfare of people, are responsible for the majority of emissions. Repeatedly, fossil fuel corporations have tried to block climate action and slow the process of transitioning to a more sustainable world.

topic resources

Just 100 companies responsible for 71% of global emissions, study says // Climate Accountability Institute

Just 100 companies have been the source of more than 70% of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions since 1988, according to a new report.

TESS RILEY, JULY 10, 2017 // ARTICLE
Activities for synthesis

These activities are meant to help individuals or groups learning together reflect upon and synthesize the information they have read, viewed, or listened to related to any of the Climate Justice Crash Course topics. They are fairly simple and are also meant to foster discussion and further deepen understanding.

Journaling/Reflection Questions

Responses can be written or illustrated

1. Pre-Viewing Questions
   A. What comes to mind when I reflect on this topic term?
   B. Reading the title and annotation of this resource, what questions do I think I might have before viewing the information?
   C. Reading the title and annotation of this resource, what biases and assumptions do I think I might be bringing into this conversation?
   D. What background knowledge or experience do I have that could be helpful in understanding this information?

2. Post-Viewing Questions
   A. What surprised me about this newly acquired information?
   B. What questions do I still have after learning this information?
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Tableau Vivant

This activity is best used by at least 2 people working or learning together. A picture or photograph is projected and one of the learners (or more if there is more than 1 person depicted in the photo) stand up and place themselves with the same posture and expression as the person in the photo. They are asked questions as if they were that person in the photo, in the time and place specific to when the photo was taken.

More information about how to run this activity is here:
https://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/tableau

Jigsaw Activity

This activity is best used by a group that is working together, in a systematic way, to learn from the materials. It divides up the information each person or small group is responsible for being the “expert(s)” on that particular piece. Then each person or small group reports out to the others while others take notes. By the end, all participants have a solid, holistic sense of the content.

The protocol for this activity is here:
https://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/jigsaw

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

RESOURCES

Take a closer look at each sub-topic by exploring these Maine-specific and National & Global resources.

just transition  click here to return to subtopic

Maine resources

A Just Climate Plan for Maine // The Action Network
The principle of just transition is that a healthy economy and a clean environment can and should co-exist. The process for achieving this vision should be a fair one that should not cost workers or community residents their health, environment, jobs, or economic assets.

MAINE YOUTH FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE // ARTICLE // PETITION

National/Global resources

What Do We Mean By Just Transition // Climate Justice Alliance
Discusses the history, framework, practice, strategy and principles of Just Transition.

The Just Transition // Greenpeace UK
How do we tackle the climate crisis without harming workers in polluting industries? The answer is a ‘just transition’, that transforms the economy in a way that’s fair to everyone.

Just Transition // Sierra Club
Transitioning away from an extractive economy gives us the opportunity to build one that is visionary, thriving, and regenerative.
Maine Passes State-Level Green New Deal for Workforce Development // Greentech Media

Legislators struck a renewable portfolio standard from the legislation, but its sponsor says the bill has framed discussions around further climate legislation in Maine.

EMMA FOEHRINGER MERCHANT, JUNE 12, 2019 // ARTICLE

Green New Deal Must Be Rooted in a Just Transition // Indigenous Environmental Network

A Green New Deal Must Be Rooted in a Just Transition for Workers and Communities Most Impacted by Climate Change.

DECEMBER 12, 2018 // ARTICLE

Why We Need Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s Green New Deal // NowThis

The Green New Deal is not just another climate policy—it is a call to redefine politics and establish a new social contract for America.

FEBRUARY 16, 2019 // VIDEO

On Fire: The Burning Case for the Green New Deal

A Green New Deal Must Be Rooted in a Just Transition for Workers and Communities Most Impacted by Climate Change.

NAOMI KLEIN, SIMON & SCHUSTER, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 // ARTICLE

Greenhouse Gangsters vs. Climate Justice // Transnational Resource and Action Center

As we hurtle into the twenty-first century, oil is still King. But it does not rule benevolently. Rather, the reign of those who control the politics of petroleum continues to undermine democracy while fostering human rights violations and environmental disasters across the Earth.

KENNY BRUNO, CHINA BROTSKY AND JOSHUA KARLINER, 1999 // REPORT

Corporations and Responsibility // Climate Justice Syllabus

The current approach to climate change is one where the burden is placed on individual consumers. However, a few oligarchic corporations have played an influential role in the creation of climate change and preventing action.

2019 // WEBSITE

Update of Carbon Majors 1965-2018 // Climate Accountability Institute

Climate Accountability Institute is releasing a new dataset quantifying how much each of the largest oil, natural gas, and coal companies has contributed to the climate crisis.

DECEMBER 9, 2020 // REPORT
Racial justice is the systematic fair treatment of people of all races that results in equitable opportunities and outcomes for everyone. All people are able to achieve their full potential in life, regardless of race, ethnicity, or the community in which they live.

A “racial justice” framework can move us from a reactive position to a more powerful, proactive, and even preventative approach against the unjust systems that oppress people of color. Acknowledging the need for racial justice is to acknowledge the existence of unfair and unequal systems and moving past just acknowledgement. Sure, we need to look at global and regional histories to understand the avenues and processes that built inequalities. But to fight for racial justice, we must address the historical causes, imagine radical future possibilities and solutions, and build more fair, equitable systems.
Teaching Maine’s relationship to global slavery with primary sources.

In 1820, the U.S. passed an act that made participation on the slave trade an act of piracy. Yet, dozens of Maine vessels engaged in the slave trade illegally during this period. Thousands of enslaved people were transported and traded, leading to huge profits for slave traders—some of whom were Maine sea captains who are remembered as leading citizens of the day.


This amendment requires that African-American history and culture be taught in schools, aligned with the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements and included in the review of content standards and performance indicators of the system of learning results.

Native American tribe in Maine buys back island taken 160 years ago // The Guardian

The Passamaquoddy’s purchase of Pine Island for $355,000 is the latest in a series of successful ‘land back’ campaigns for indigenous people in the US.

Maine Data Glimpse: Stark Racial Disparities in Maine’s Median Personal Income // John T. Gorman Foundation

This Data Glimpse describes personal income by race in Maine, using data from the recently released 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Racial Equity // MAINEEQUALJUSTICE.org

A just economic system works for everyone, regardless of what you look like or where you come from. Past and current laws and policies have favored some people and discriminated against others based on race, ethnicity, and gender and this has led to disparities in economic and social measures of well-being. To advance economic security and opportunity in Maine, we need to target and shrink racial disparities that our current laws, systems, and institutions perpetuate.

Maine // Data USA

Explore Maine data to understand and visualize the critical issues facing the State in areas like jobs, skills and education across industry and geography.
Maine must do more to understand, and address, the root causes of racial inequality // Maine Center for Economic Policy

Publicly available data in Maine paints a picture of economic, health, education, and criminal justice systems that work better for white Mainers than for Mainers of color.

COVID-19 Racial and Ethnic Disparities // Maine Immigrants’ Rights Coalition

In collaboration with the Michael Kebede from the ACLU Maine, MIRC has been tracking the data by race and ethnicity since April 2020. The graphs in this analysis highlight the troubling disparities in Maine’s COVID-19 vaccinations and positive cases.

Dawnland Teacher’s Guide // Dr. Mishy Lesser

In collaboration with the Michael Kebede from the ACLU Maine, MIRC has been tracking the data by race and ethnicity since April 2020. The graphs in this analysis highlight the troubling disparities in Maine’s COVID-19 vaccinations and positive cases.

Dawnland // Upstander Project

For decades, child welfare authorities have been removing Native American children from their homes to “save them from being Indian.” In Maine, the first official Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the United States begins a historic investigation. Dawnland goes behind-the-scenes as this historic body grapples with difficult truths, redefines reconciliation, and charts a new course for state and tribal relations.

National/Global resources

Seeing White // Scene on Radio


The 1619 Project // New York Times Magazine

The 1619 Project is an ongoing initiative from The New York Times Magazine that began in August 2019, the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. It aims to reframe the country’s history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of our national narrative.


The Racial Reckoning Went Global Last Year. Here’s How Activists in 8 Countries Are Fighting for Justice.

Racial Economic Inequality // INEQUALITY.org

Systemic racism has contributed to the persistence of race-based gaps that manifest in many different economic indicators. This series of charts begins with a look at the widening of racial wealth gaps in the United States that have coincided with the extreme concentration of U.S. wealth.
“For me this piece speaks on the oneness of humanity and nature, of humans and other humans; how there is no justice if there isn’t justice for all. Much like climate change, people turn a blind eye to racial injustices that are taking place right in front of them. Notice the duality of the cactus that holds the broken words ‘seeing is believing’ to a human brain. We are all more interconnected than we think and the longer we stay ignorant to injustices in front of us, the more it builds up. When it rains, it pours.”

– Ebony Wells, Norway, Maine
abolition

A bold imagination and practice towards a reconstruction of the world we live in where every person has access to what is needed to survive (freedom, food, shelter, education, healthcare, clean water, clean air, land, and more.)

Most recently (2020), abolition has been applied to abolishing the carceral prison system.

topic resources

Are Prisons Obsolete? // Angela Y. Davis
A book by Angela Davis highlighting the nuances of the carceral prison system. How it is tied to histories of the enslavement of Black people, and how it perpetuates the policing of Black lives.

anti-blackness

Anti-blackness is the way society as a whole marks Black people specifically as the “other”. It is what contributes to the racism, the violence, and the lack of opportunities directed towards Black people. Anti-Blackness is society’s inability to recognize the humanity of black people. It is the reason why Black people are fetishized, disregarded, and forgotten; because anti-Blackness is central to how society runs.
**Call it what it is: Anti-Blackness // Dr. Kihana Miraya Ross**

*New York Times* "The word ‘racism’ is everywhere. It’s used to explain all the things that cause African-Americans’ suffering and death: inadequate access to health care, food, housing and jobs, or a police bullet, baton or knee. But ‘racism’ fails to fully capture what black people in this country are facing."

**Suggested Readings on the Global Dynamics of Anti-blackness // Boston College**

A collection of materials suggested by faculty members in Boston College’s International Studies Program as resources for students and faculty alike as we strive to better understand the global histories and dynamics of anti-blackness and the social movements, political structures, economic systems, theologies and ideologies that perpetuate or resist them.

**POC vs BIPOC**

POC stands for People of Color; BIPOC stands for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Both terms allow us to refer to racialized "Others", referring to the group of people that is not included in what society considers as the “Majority”. Being more specific is important to prevent simplifying people of color as just one group. (for example) If you are referring to Asian people only, say “Asian people” instead of POC.

**BIPOC or POC? Equity or Equality? Debating Words on the Left // New York Times**

The new language extends beyond race, adding phrases and introducing ideas that are new to many Americans.


The acronym, which stands for black, Indigenous and people of color, is suddenly everywhere. Is it doing its job?
Black people, Indigenous people, and other communities of color have been disenfranchised from positions of power historically. Leadership is one of the ways we can gauge how people are represented in a(n) community, organization, or group of people.

Elevating marginalized voices entails ensuring that marginalized people are represented by people who are part of their communities.

**topic resources**

**Color of Climate** // Gateway Community Services Maine

Color of Climate is an organization dedicated to centering the voices of BIPOC youth in the environmental activism space in the state of Maine.

**mission**

To center Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) youth voices, experiences and narratives within the climate change crises and within environmental justice issues, especially because BIPOC communities and individuals are often the most impacted by these issues.
addressing inequities born from climate crisis

Despite people from the Global North (GN) contributing the most to the climate crisis in comparison to those in the Global South (GS), the GS and others who contributed the least to the climate crisis will be the most affected by the climate crisis. This is because folks in the Global South have weaker infrastructure caused by histories of depression, oppression, and being colonized. Those who contributed the least to the climate crisis (like Small Island Developing States) are the ones suffering the most from climate crisis impacts today.

However, it is important to note that people from these areas are doing the most to address their situation. They are not helpless.

topic resources

Climate change is also a racial justice problem // The Washington Post

Sarah Kaplan writes, "Racial inequality also means that the people most at risk from climate change have the fewest resources to cope. According to a study by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, more than 30 percent of black New Orleans residents didn’t own cars when Hurricane Katrina hit — making it almost impossible for them to evacuate. After the storm, the city’s black population fell because many residents couldn’t afford to return."

Maine resources

Indigenous People & Climate Impacts: How Maine’s Tribal Communities Are Affected by Climate Change // Maine Public Radio

Tribal communities are directly affected by the impacts of climate change, and many are deeply involved in addressing this global crisis. We speak with indigenous representatives about the challenges presented by a changing climate, and what is being done to ensure the health and well-being of Native American people and lands.
climate refugees

Refugee = a person who has crossed an international border “owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion”

(1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees)

Climate refugees are people moving from one place to another due to weather or climate related disasters. In the next decade, the increasing consequences of climate change will lead to an influx of climate refugees.

topic resources

Refugees Are Fleeing Climate Change // The YEARS Project
Tens of millions of people could be displaced by climate change by the end of this century. Climate scientist Michael Oppenheimer explains why that matters, why he supports the right to migrate, and what governments need to do to prepare.

VIDEO // 3:37 MINS

Maine's climate plan must address the growing number of people moving here in the wake of catastrophes elsewhere.

Maine resources

Fleeing to Maine from climate disasters // The Maine Monitor
Maine’s climate plan must address the growing number of people moving here in the wake of catastrophes elsewhere.

“What do you do when the place you call home becomes unlivable? Tens of millions of Americans will face this wrenching choice over the coming decades as they contend with climate-fueled disasters such as wildfires, hurricanes, sea-level rise and unbearable heat.”

– Marina Schauffler
Colonialism is a practice of dominating a group of people, practiced by (mostly) European countries.

Many times, European colonizers imposed their religious, cultural, and economic practices on who they dominated over.

Colonialism has deep connections to the consequences of the climate crisis. For example, many countries in the Global South are used as a dumping ground for the wastes of the Global North.
Decolonization is the uprooting of the capitalist system brought on by colonialism. Decolonization is regenerating systems where no one is exploited. It is a lifelong re-orientation and disentanglement from the toxic patterns, practices, and ideologies brought on by (Western) colonialism.
(paraphrased from Alicia T. Crosby)

**topic resources**

**Decolonization is not a metaphor // Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society (Vol. 1, No. 1)**

For the past several years we have been working, in our writing and teaching, to bring attention to how settler colonialism has shaped schooling and educational research in the United States and other settler colonial nation-states.

**Maine resources**

**Wabanaki-REACH**

A group that supports the self-determination of Wabanaki people by strengthening the cultural, spiritual and physical well-being of Native people in Maine.
diversity

The inclusion of marginalized people in previously excluded spaces.

Diversity is often used today to refer to the inclusion of queer, BIPOC, and low-income folx in spaces they were historically excluded in (such as universities).

eco-racism

The disparity of negative environmental effects on the bodies of BIPOC.

Maine's slow gains in racial diversity // Portland Press Herald

In the 1970 Census – the first population count after the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act – Maine’s population was over 99% white, and only 2,800 Mainers identified as black or African American.

Anatomy of Environmental Racism and the Environmental Justice Movement // Confronting Environmental Racism

Communities are not all created equal. In the United States, for example, some communities are routinely poisoned while the government looks the other way.
equity policies

Policies that build human capabilities by upgrading the education and skill of the nation’s diverse workforce. It means policies that dismantle destructive barriers to economic inclusion and civic participation, and build healthy communities of opportunity for all.

topic resources

How to Promote Racial Equity in the Workplace // Harvard Business Review

Many White people deny the existence of racism against people of color because they assume that racism is defined by deliberate actions motivated by malice and hatred. However, racism can occur without conscious awareness or intent. When defined simply as differential evaluation or treatment based solely on race, regardless of intent, racism occurs far more frequently than most White people suspect.
fear as propaganda

An appeal to fear (also called argumentum ad metum or argumentum in terrorem) is a fallacy in which a person attempts to create support for an idea by attempting to increase fear towards an alternative. The appeal to fear is common in marketing and politics.

Examples of Fear as Propaganda are: the War on terror; War on drugs/narcos; and the War on “illegal aliens.”

topic resources

How fear and racism form a foundation of inequity in our society // King 5

Consultant Lindsey Jackson joined New Day NW to expose how racism and the fear of otherness contribute to a social foundation of perpetual inequity.

NEW DAY NORTHWEST, NOVEMBER 17, 2021 // ARTICLE

d four dimensions of racism

1. Institutional
Policies and practices that reinforce racist standards within a workplace or organization

2. Structural
Multiple institutions collectively upholding racist policies and practices, i.e. society

3. Interpersonal
Racist acts and microaggressions carried out from one person to another

4. Internalized
The subtle and explicit messages that reinforce negative beliefs and self-hatred in individual persons

Source: @badactivistcollective from Instagram
Frontline communities are those that experience “first and worst” the consequences of climate change. These are communities of color and low-income, whose neighborhoods often lack basic infrastructure to support them and who will be increasingly vulnerable as our climate deteriorates. These are Native communities, whose resources have been exploited, and laborers whose daily work or living environments are polluted or toxic.

How to Promote Racial Equity in the Workplace // Harvard Business Review

Many White people deny the existence of racism against people of color because they assume that racism is defined by deliberate actions motivated by malice and hatred. However, racism can occur without conscious awareness or intent. When defined simply as differential evaluation or treatment based solely on race, regardless of intent, racism occurs far more frequently than most White people suspect.

ROBERT LIVINGSTON, SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2020 // ARTICLE
MAPA

Short term for Most Affected People and Areas. Focusing on an intersectional approach, it refers to what regions and groups are more vulnerable to climate change and its effects.

topic resources

What is MAPA and why should we pay attention to it? // Fridays For Future

A newsletter that discusses how the term MAPA makes the communities that suffer the most from the effects of Climate Change more visible.

mutual aid

We need each other. Mutual aid is solidarity, support for others in our community. As a community, we must help each other in our struggles, rather than leaving one another alone to fend off our problems by ourselves.

topic resources

What Exactly Is Mutual Aid? // The Cut

How and why to get involved in mutual aid.
neocolonialism

The new form of colonialism, in which instead of a (usually) direct and physically violent take-over of another country, neo-colonialism takes the form of indirect control of another country. This takes the form of continued intervention by countries in the global north in the economics or politics of countries in the global south.

Both colonialism in the past and neocolonialism aims to drain colonized countries of their resources, contributing to the cause of climate change/climate crisis.

topic resources

Neo-Colonialism in the Modern Age // Medium
An overview of hegemony and cultural imperialism & its motivations and consequences.
TREVOR MOLAG, 2014 // ARTICLE

neoliberalism

A political approach that favors free-market capitalism, deregulation, and reduction in government spending.

It seems generally to be agreed that this term refers to the liberalizing of global markets associated with the reduction of state power: state interventions in the economy are minimized; privatization, finance, and market processes are emphasized; capital controls and trade restrictions are eased; free markets, free trade, and free enterprise are the buzzwords.

topic resources

Neoliberalism – the ideology at the root of all our problems // The Guardian
Financial meltdown, environmental disaster and even the rise of Donald Trump – neoliberalism has played its part in them all. Why has the left failed to come up with an alternative?
GEORGE MONBIOT, 2016 // ARTICLE

What exactly is neoliberalism? // The Conversation
"I struggle with neoliberalism – as a problematic economic system we might want to change – and as an analytical term people increasingly use to describe that system."
The Prison Industrial Complex (PIC) is a term we use to describe the overlapping interests of government and industry that use surveillance, policing, and imprisonment as solutions to economic, social and political problems.

Through its reach and impact, the PIC helps and maintains the authority of people who get their power through racial, economic and other privileges. There are many ways this power is collected and maintained through the PIC, including creating mass media images that keep alive stereotypes of people of color, poor people, queer people, immigrants, youth, and other oppressed communities as criminal, delinquent, or deviant. This power is also maintained by earning huge profits for private companies that deal with prisons and police forces; helping earn political gains for “tough on crime” politicians; increasing the influence of prison guard and police unions; and eliminating social and political dissent by oppressed communities that make demands for self-determination and reorganization of power in the US.

**topic resources**

**Prison Industrial Complex - Angela Davis Resource Guide**

LibGuides at Cornell University

5th Annual Eric Williams Memorial Lecture at Florida International University with Angela Davies, Professor in History of Consciousness and Chair of Women’s Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz

[VIDEO]
Police brutality is the use of excessive and/or unnecessary force by police when dealing with civilians. While police brutality has a long history, dating back to the 1800s, it has become a common topic of discussion and controversy in recent years due to a surge of racially driven incidents, protests, and demonstrations.

**topic resources**

**Police Violence // Amnesty International**

*As we’ve seen too many times, in the USA and elsewhere, sometimes police kill or seriously injure people during arrests fuelled by racism.*

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The commodification and exploitation of colonized/non-white people for economic gain. The slavery system employed by the United States during colonization is an example of one of the many forms of racial capitalism.

**topic resources**

**You Can't Relationship Your Way Out of Racial Capitalism // Sojourners**

*There is a time-honored socialist tradition of evangelizing the church to be more attentive to the origin and structure of social inequality...*  

ADAM JOYCE, 2021 // ARTICLE
Racism is at the heart of fast fashion – it’s time for change // The Guardian

The fashion industry makes huge profits from the exploitation of black and brown women. Now is the time to call it out.

KALKIDAN LEGESSE // ARTICLE

LOOKING FOR MORE RESOURCES?
Find Maine specific and National/Global resources at the end of this section

SUBTOPIC

racism in medicine

Medical racism is the systematic and wide-spread racism against people of color within the medical system. It includes both the racism in our society that makes Black people less healthy, the disparity in health coverage by race, and the biases held by healthcare workers against people of color in their care.

Racism within medicine begins far outside of what we typically think of as the healthcare system. Black women are made less healthy by things such as increased levels of homelessness, or unsafe housing. Similarly, environmental racism means that Black people are much more likely to develop health conditions like asthma, due to the prevalence of high-polluting industries in and near Black neighborhoods.
Reparations can take many forms, from financial reparations directed to the group affected to the creation of policies and bills that would serve these communities.

**topic resources**

**Abolition for the People // LEVEL**

“Abolition for the People,” a project produced by Kaepernick Publishing in partnership with LEVEL, seeks to end that debate once and for all.

**“A Day of Reckoning”: Dreams of reparations // Freedom Dreams**

The fashion industry makes huge profits from the exploitation of black and brown women. Now is the time to call it out.

ROBIN KELLEY // BOOK // CHP. 4

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**Systemic racism in global health: a personal reflection // The Lancet Global Health**

“Racism, colonialism, and White supremacy are synonymous terms for the pervasive injustice towards Black people that has attracted unprecedented public attention after the US police killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor in 2020.”

**Racism in Health Care Isn’t Always Obvious // Scientific American**

As physicians, we believe that recognizing it begins with understanding our own privilege and biases.

JOSEPH V. SAKRAN, EBONY JADE HILTON, CHETHAN SATHYA, JULY 9, 2020 // ARTICLE

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**Dictionary definition: to “make amends, offering atonement, or giving satisfaction for a wrong or injury”**

Black women in Maine are four times more likely than white women to start prenatal care late, or not at all, a disparity tied with Texas as the nation's largest.” – Gillian Graham, May 9, 2021

Source: Portland Press Herald

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**Reparations**

Abolition for the People, in partnership with LEVEL, seeks to end that debate once and for all.

“A Day of Reckoning”: Dreams of reparations, a book by Robin Kelley, calls out the fashion industry’s exploitation of black and brown women.
Reparations are not a new concept:

1950 | The Navajo-Hopi Rehabilitation Act was passed, authorizing an appropriation of $88,570,000 over 10 years for the Navajo and Hopi

1969 | The Black Manifesto was one of the first calls for reparations in the modern era, demanding $500 million in reparations from predominantly White religious institutions for their role in perpetuating slavery.

1971 | Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act included reparations of around $1 billion + 44 million acres of land.

1988 | The US Paid reparations to each surviving victim of Japanese descent who was imprisoned in concentration camps during WWII

1996 | Leaders in South Africa paid monetary compensation to apartheid victims and made efforts to redistribute white-owned land

2020 | City of Asheville, NC voted in July 2020 to enact reparations by investing in their Black community
representation

The act or action of representing: the state of being represented. Representation is important for racial justice and within racial theory because historically we can see a lack of representation of BIPOC in politics, media, and on the social sphere of society. The position of BIPOC is historically framed as the poor and lacking of rights. Fighting for representation today is the fight for the occupation of BIPOC in all stratas of society.

Lack of representation or a very limited representation can also increase stereotypes and biases, since there is no real point of comparison and the definitions of otherness are left to imagination and preconceived notions of identities.

Question prompt

What biases/social barriers exist that prevent historically marginalized people from being in leadership, academic, etc.) spaces?
settler colonialism

Settler colonialism is a distinct type of colonialism that functions through the replacement of indigenous populations with an invasive settler society that, over time, develops a distinctive identity and sovereignty. Settler colonial states include Canada, the United States, Australia, and South Africa, and settler colonial theory has been important to understanding conflicts in places like Israel, Kenya, and Argentina.

structural violence

“Structural violence” refers to the multiple ways in which social, economic, and political systems expose particular populations to risks and vulnerabilities leading to increased morbidity and mortality. Those systems include income inequality, racism, homophobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, sexism, ableism, and other means of social exclusion leading to vulnerabilities, such as poverty, stress, trauma, crime, incarceration, lack of access to care, healthy food, and physical activity.

Structural violence are social forces that harm certain groups of people, producing and perpetuating inequality in health and well-being. It includes social, economic, and political processes that manifest in both material and symbolic means of social exclusion.
Structural violence and the perpetuation of anti-black racism // Medium

What is racism and why, after so many movements, policy changes and open discussions about it, is this still an issue in 2020? Haven’t we learned anything with history, and why haven’t we achieved equality yet? One of the answers to these questions? Structural violence.

"By understanding structural violence, we can better understand how the social constructs around gender, age, race, sexual orientation and other minority tags/titles/identities, contribute to one’s exclusion or inclusion into certain spaces.” – Fernanda de Castro Boria

white supremacy culture

“The idea (ideology) that white people and the ideas, thoughts, beliefs, and actions of white people are superior to those of People of Color.”

(topic resources)

(divorcing) White Supremacy Culture // Tema Okun

A website detailing the many facets of White Supremacy Culture conceived and designed by Tema Okun. These pages contain artwork, poetry, quotes, and videos from racial justice activists, ancestors, warriors, and healers.
Refugee
A person who has crossed an international border "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion"

Others/Othered
Referring to the group of people that is not included in what society considers as the Majority

Reform
The push to reform (instead of abolishing and replacing) a pre-existing system.

Global North
A general term referring to more economically-developed countries. Not an exclusively geographical term, as it refers to countries such as Australia, Canada, the entirety of Europe and Russia, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and the United States.

Global South
A general term referring to less economically-developed countries. Not an exclusively geographical term. The entirety of South America, India, Africa and other regions are understood as part of the Global South.

White Privilege
White privilege refers to the unquestioned and unearned set of advantages, entitlements, benefits and choices bestowed on people solely because they are white. Generally white people who experience such privilege do so without being conscious of it.

White Fragility
White Fragility is a state in which even a minimum amount of racial stress becomes intolerable, triggering a range of defensive moves. These moves include the outward display of emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and behaviors such as argumentation, silence, and leaving the stress-inducing situation. - Robin DiAngelo

White Feminism
White feminism is the label given to feminist efforts and actions that uplift white women but that exclude or otherwise fail to address issues faced by minority groups, especially women of color and LGBTQ women.
activities for synthesis

These activities are meant to help individuals or groups learning together reflect upon and synthesize the information they have read, viewed, or listened to related to any of the Climate Justice Crash Course topics. They are fairly simple and are also meant to foster discussion and further deepen understanding.

Journaling/Reflection Questions

Responses can be written or illustrated

1. PREVIEWING QUESTIONS
   A. What comes to mind when I reflect on this topic term?
   B. Reading the title and annotation of this resource, what questions do I think I might have before viewing the information?
   C. Reading the title and annotation of this resource, what biases and assumptions do I think I might be bringing into this conversation?
   D. What background knowledge or experience do I have that could be helpful in understanding this information?

2. POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS
   A. What surprised me about this newly acquired information?
   B. What questions do I still have after learning this information?
   C. How might I go about sharing this information or starting a discussion with others about this information?
   D. What biases or assumptions did I realize I held after learning about this topic?
   E. What other feelings came up for me as I learned about this topic?

Tableau Vivant

This activity is best used by at least 2 people working or learning together. A picture or photograph is projected and one of the learners (or more if there is more than 1 person depicted in the photo) stand up and place themselves with the same posture and expression as the person in the photo. They are asked questions as if they were that person in the photo, in the time and place specific to when the photo was taken.

More information about how to run this activity is here:
https://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/tableau

Jigsaw Activity

This activity is best used by a group that is working together, in a systematic way, to learn from the materials. It divides up the information each person or small group is responsible for being the “expert(s)” on that particular piece. Then each person or small group reports out to the others while others take notes. By the end, all participants have a solid, holistic sense of the content.

The protocol for this activity is here:
https://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/jigsaw
Take a closer look at each sub-topic by exploring these Maine-specific and National & Global resources.

**abolition**

**Maine resources**

**Maine Youth Justice** // MAINEYOUTHJUSTICE.org

A campaign working to end youth incarceration in Maine. They hope to devote those resources to investing in the needs of the community instead.

**Global resources**

**Equal Justice Initiative** // EJI.org

An organization focused on offering legal aid to those wrongfully convicted of crimes due to their race.

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**Maine resources**

**Why Is Maine So White? And What It Means To Ask The Question** // Maine Public

This makes it one of the two whitest state in the country along with Vermont. But why is Maine so white? The first part of the answer to the question has to do with geography and economics.

**Global resources**

**Anti-Blackness is everywhere** // Al Jazeera

Michelle Chikaonda writes, “In January, I was followed around a store. It was at the airport before the coronavirus turned air travel on its head. I had just checked in for my flight, and had seen, on my way to security, a stuffed toy in a storefront display that I thought my best friend’s baby would like.”

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**POC vs BIPOC**

**Maine resources**

**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice** // Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative

During this unprecedented time of COVID-19, more people than ever are using our trails and preserves in their need to be in nature – but not everyone finds those places safe or welcoming. Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) face many barriers that keep them from accessing and enjoying these spaces.

**Our Work** // The Third Place

Maine ECO-BIPOC is a sector networking group of The Third Place. It is a coalition of organizations and individuals addressing issues of racial equity related to climate change, outdoor recreation, agriculture and land use/access.
National/Global resources

Why the term “BIPOC” is so complicated, explained by linguists // Vox

“There is no “one size fits all” language when it comes to talking about race…”

Is It POC, BIPOC or Neither? // NPR

“Language is alive, and like any living thing, it changes with time. Enter the debate around the phrase ‘people of color’ or POC, and opponents have begun to argue against it…”

Is It Time To Say R.I.P. To ‘POC’? // NPR

On the Code Switch podcast, we often use the term “people of color.” And it’s not something we thought a ton about until the Black Lives Matter protests reignited in May, and we saw a refrain across social media, particularly among Black people: Stop calling me a person of color.

POC vs BIPOC click here to return to subtopic

How Inclusive Is Your Leadership? // Harvard Business Review

Many managers are ill-equipped to lead and connect with Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) employees. Until white leaders become skilled at bridging (connecting with people different from them) and BIPOC leaders become skilled at bonding (connecting with people similar to them), BIPOC employees will not experience workplace inclusion. Hundreds of socially conscious CEOs have engaged in CEO activism and pledged their commitment to advance racial equity and inclusion. But many leaders (white and BIPOC) don’t know the explicit behaviors needed to implement the desired change.

National/Global resources

The BIPOC Project

The BIPOC Project aims to build authentic and lasting solidarity among Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), in order to undo Native invisibility, anti-Blackness, dismantle white supremacy and advance racial justice.

BIPOC Leadership Circle // artEquity

Being a Black, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) in a predominantly white sector or organization has its challenges. Try doing that as a BIPOC person in a leadership position! Most organizations, even those that are primarily BIPOC, or BIPOC-friendly, do not offer systems of support and affirmation for BIPOC leaders.

This eight-part series brings together BIPOC leaders of cultural institutions from across the country to provide support, strategies, and systems of accountability in creating dynamic, new leadership models that center BIPOC experiences.

addressing inequities born from climate crisis click here to return to subtopic

Maine resources

How Maine Tribes Are Adapting To Climate Change, Threatening Thousands Of Years Of Culture // Maine Public Radio

In northern Maine, the Aroostook Band of Micmacs has for decades been trying to protect important tribal cultural resources, including traditional foods, from pollution. And warming temperatures are expected to further that threat. But the Micmacs and other Maine tribes are taking steps to adapt.
Climate change reinforces inequalities - even in developed countries // DW

Climate change exacerbates inequalities, not only in poor, developing countries, but also in industrialized, wealthy ones. The poor should be given special importance when planning, experts say.

POC vs BIPOC // DW

Data on statistics on environmental migration // Migration Data Portal

Quantifying environmental migration is challenging given the multiple drivers of such movement, related methodological challenges and the lack of data collection standards. Some quantitative data exist on population displacement within a country, and to a lesser degree across borders, due to natural hazards. However, for migration due to slow-onset environmental processes, such as drought or sea-level rise, most existing data are qualitative and based on case studies, with few comparative studies. While data gaps persist, research methodologies are constantly being improved.

Maine resources

Climate Migration Speaker Series // Gulf of Maine Research Institute

According to the World Bank, by 2050, approximately 200 million refugees will have fled their homes due to the climate change impacts. Designed in collaboration with Gateway Community Services and the immigrant/refugee youth and educators they serve, this series will highlight global trends in climate-driven migration and consider their relevance for our future locally.

National/Global resources

Climate Refugees

Climate Refugees is a human rights think tank that calls for the protection and rights of those displaced by climate change. Through advocacy, research, country reports and global monitoring, we shed light on the complexities of climate-induced displacement, its human rights implications and the climate injustice at its roots.

How does colonialism shape the world we live in? // The Stream

“MY companions, colonialism has not ended. That is why this fight is so tough for the indigenous people, and there is a state apparatus at the service of that. But we also have power, companions, and that is why we continue to exist.” – Berta Cáceres, Indigenous Honduran environmental activist and co-founder of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras
On this webpage you will find a collection of resources on Decolonization.

**Resources on Decolonization // The George Washington University**

On this webpage you will find a collection of resources on Decolonization.

**Maine resources**

**Eastern Woodlands Rematriation Collective**

A collective of native people working towards regenerative food systems to restore their spiritual foundation.

**Diversity**

**Maine resources**

**Color of Climate // Gateway Community Services Maine**

An organization dedicated to centering the voices of BIPOC youth in the environmental activism space in the state of Maine.

**National & Global Resources**

**2020 U.S. Population More Racially and Ethnically Diverse Than Measured in 2010 // United States Census Bureau**

The Chance That Two People Chosen at Random Are of Different Race or Ethnicity Groups Has Increased Since 2010.

**eco-racism**

**American environmentalism's racist roots have shaped global thinking about conservation // The Conservation**

The United States is having a long-overdue national reckoning with racism. From criminal justice to pro sports to pop culture, Americans increasingly are recognizing how racist ideas have influenced virtually every sphere of life in this country.

**Environmentalism's Racist History // The New Yorker**

"Some of the awkwardness of environmental politics since the seventies, now even more acute in the age of climate change, is that it lays claim to worldwide problems, but brings to them some of the cultural habits of a much more parochial, and sometimes nastier, movement."
Maine resources

State seeks input on what ‘environmental justice’ means for Maine // The Beacon

On December 7, the Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation, and the Future hosted an online “Conversation on Environmental Justice and Climate Justice in Maine.”

NICKIE SEKERA AND MALI OBOMSAWIN, JANUARY 7, 2022 // ARTICLE

National & Global resources

Welcome to Cancer Alley // ProPublica

“Air quality has improved for decades across the U.S., but Louisiana is backsliding.”

TRISTAN BAURICK, LYLLA YOUNES, AND JOAN MEINERS, OCTOBER 30, 2019 // ARTICLE

equity policies // click here to return to subtopic

How to Promote Racial Equity in the Workplace // Harvard Business Review

Many White people deny the existence of racism against people of color because they assume that racism is defined by deliberate actions motivated by malice and hatred. However, racism can occur without conscious awareness or intent. When defined simply as differential evaluation or treatment based solely on race, regardless of intent, racism occurs far more frequently than most White people suspect.

ROBERT LIVINGSTON, SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2020 // ARTICLE

Maine resources

Racial Equity // Maine Equal Justice

Maine Equal Justice focuses its work on many of the issues that affect people’s daily lives.

PRAKASH KASHWAN, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 // ARTICLE

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion // Maine Department of Education

“We proudly and steadfastly support the educators and districts in Maine who are taking on the work of understanding and dismantling racism and inequity in our schools and communities. We urge all Maine schools and educators to accept their role and responsibilities in examining and addressing the inequities that have long existed in our society and institutions.”

WEBSITE

Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government // The White House

This will include efforts to remove systemic barriers to and provide equal access to opportunities and benefits, identify communities the...

JANUARY 20, 2021 // PRESS BRIEFING

Equity // U.S. Department of the Interior

The Office of Policy Analysis coordinates with the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights and across the Department of the Interior to promote equity and justice for all Americans.

WEBSITE

fear as propaganda // click here to return to subtopic

When Social Fear Disappears, So Does Racism // Science

Children with genetic disorder shed light on the roots of racial prejudice

MICHAEL BALTER, APRIL 12, 2010 // ARTICLE

Maine resources

Rockport contractor, employees discriminated against Muslim man // News Center Maine

The Penobscot Company president and employees directed racial slurs at an Egyptian immigrant, prevented him from praying on job site, investigator finds

MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FINDS, BETH BROGAN, JUNE 2, 2021 // ARTICLE
**National & Global resources**

**Anti-Terror Law of 2020 (Philippines) // Malaya Movement**
Frequently asked questions about the Anti-Terror Law.

**Dimensions of Racism // United Nations**
The papers published in this volume were presented at a workshop entitled "Dimensions of racism", organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), on 19-20 February 2003.

**Maine resources**

**Racial Equity // Vision for an Equitable Maine**
By mid-2020 it was reported that Maine held the infamous distinction of having the largest racial disparity for COVID-19 in the nation. Black and African American Mainers were contracting COVID-19 at 20 times the rate of white Mainers.

**Disparities - Layout // Maine.gov**
Explores more information on race and ethnicity, Nationally and in Maine.

**National & Global resources**

**Dismantling the 4 Dimensions of Racism // Medium**
"It’s an arduous task but someone has to do it."

**frontline communities**

**3 Challenges, 3 Errors, and 3 Solutions to Integrate Frontline Communities in Climate Change Policy and Research: Lessons From California // Frontiers**
Frontline communities of California experience disproportionate social, economic, and environmental injustices, and climate change is exacerbating the root causes of inequity in those areas.

**Climate Change Isn’t Racist — People Are // ZORA**
We cannot assess the damage without looking at the impact on people of color.

**Maine resources**

**Maine Environment: Frontline Voices // Natural Resources Council of Maine**
"Maine Environment: Frontline Voices," the Natural Resources Council of Maine's podcast covering the latest environmental news across Maine.
Overview of Maine's Climate Change Preparations // Georgetown Climate Center

This page provides an overview of the steps Maine is taking to prepare for the impacts of climate change.

National & Global resources

Indigenous and Frontline Communities Are Our Best Defense // Rainforest Action Network

Forest, water and land defenders are the world’s real-life heroes fighting for justice.

MAPA click here to return to subtopic

Maine resources

Top 20 Maine Towns Affected by Sea-level Rise // Natural Resources Council of Maine

Sea-level rise in Maine poses a serious threat. It puts at risk coastal habitat for a variety of wildlife, including the Piping Plover and Least Tern, both of which nest on beaches and are of high conservation concern.

With more waterfront and wealth, southern Maine towns lead the way in planning for climate change // Maine Public

A deep dive into Maine’s response, one county at a time.

NOVEMBER 10, 2021, CHARLIE EICHACKER // ARTICLE

National & Global resources

Making small island developing states resilient // UNOPS official

Rising sea levels and extreme weather pose serious threats to communities around the world. Small island developing states in particular are vulnerable. Often only a few metres above sea level, these countries are on the frontlines of climate change, experiencing its impacts most severely.

Climate Change and Small Island Developing States // Annual Review of Environment and Resources

Despite their heterogeneity, small island developing states (SIDS) are recognized as being particularly at risk to climate change, and, as they share numerous common traits, the United Nations recognizes them as a special group.

OCTOBER 2020 // ARTICLE

mutual aid click here to return to subtopic

What Exactly Is Mutual Aid? // The Cut

How and why to get involved in mutual aid.

AMANDA ARNOLD, 2020 // ARTICLE

Maine resources

Example: Food pantries in Maine towns and other food initiatives count on the work of the entire community to grow and run the systems.

MDI Food Access Project // Open Table MDI

The MDI Food Access Project provides FREE healthy meals, non-perishable food, and fresh produce to residents of Mount Desert Island, the Outer Islands, and Trenton.

WEBSITE

Mainers Together // Maine People's Alliance

Maine People's Alliance's Mainers Together Project is an example of mutual aid

WEBSITE
neocolonialism  

Maine resources

Negotiating Jurisprudence in Tribal Court and the Emergence of a Tribal State // JSTOR

Examination of jurisprudence in a single Ojibwe tribal court and the trials that take place in it over alleged violations of recently codified tribal law on off-reservation hunting suggests that many of these communities are becoming statelike and that tribal courts are instrumental in producing this transformation.

Priorities for the 21st Century: Land Back First, Environmental Concerns to Follow // nomadit.co.uk

To ensure colonial injustices are not reified as the globe grasps for sustainability the land back movement, unequivocal honoring of treaties, and Indigenous environmental governance must be centered when proposing climate mitigation goals, conservation efforts, and/or land management policies.

Digital colonialism in the Global South // Al Jazeera

It’s time to talk about Silicon Valley as an imperial force and what has to be done to resist its power.

Digital colonialism in the Global South // Al Jazeera

It’s time to talk about Silicon Valley as an imperial force and what has to be done to resist its power.

Bestselling ‘Sum of Us’ author Heather McGhee comes to Maine // Beacon Podcast

Ben Chin interviews author, commentator and researcher Heather McGhee this week on how and why she wrote her bestselling book Sum of Us.

Heather McGhee, 2021 // BOOK

The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together // One World

A powerful exploration of inequality and the lesson that generations of Americans have failed to learn: Racism has a cost for everyone—not just for people of color.

Heather McGhee, 2021 // BOOK

Maine resources

No More Deaths // No Mas Muertes // @nomoredeaths_nomasmuertes

A mutual aid Instagram group based in Tucson, AZ providing aid to people crossing the southwest borderlands.

Mutual Aid Disaster Relief // @mutualaiddisasterrelief

An Instagram grassroots network whose mission is to provide disaster relief based on autonomous direct action.

INSTAGRAM

The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together // One World

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INSTAGRAM

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Priorities for the 21st Century: Land Back First, Environmental Concerns to Follow // nomadit.co.uk

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Digital colonialism in the Global South // Al Jazeera

It’s time to talk about Silicon Valley as an imperial force and what has to be done to resist its power.
Neoliberalism and the politics of enclosure in North American small-scale fisheries // ScienceDirect

This paper reviews the ways in which policies of enclosure, privatization, and deregulation have unfolded in several regions of North America and examines the consequences they have had for small-scale fisheries in practice. This introductory essay provides a brief overview of the history of neoliberal thought, discusses some of the key ways it has influenced fisheries policies in North America and around the world, and presents a thematic overview of the papers included in this special issue.

The (Slow) Tragedy of Improvement: Neoliberalism, Fisheries Management & the Institutional Commons // Elsevier

This paper contributes theoretically and empirically to debates on the relationship between neoliberalism and the institutionalization of the commons through an analysis of recent efforts to implement community-managed lobster fisheries in Ireland.

Neoliberalism: the idea that swallowed the world // The Guardian

The word has become a rhetorical weapon, but it properly names the reigning ideology of our era – one that venerates the logic of the market and strips away the things that make us human.

COVID-19: What has COVID-19 Taught Us about Neoliberalism? // WILPF

“The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the toxic effects of a system that has for far too long dominated every aspect of our societies. Neoliberalism, as an economic ideology of capitalism, has depleted our public services, turned our education and healthcare into profit-driven businesses, hoarded profits.”

Prison Industrial Complex - Angela Davis Resource Guide // LibGuides at Cornell University

5th Annual Eric Williams Memorial Lecture at Florida International University with Angela Davies, Professor in History of Consciousness and Chair of Women’s Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz

Maine imprisons people at rate similar to Russia // Beacon

“Despite having a level of incarceration below the U.S. national average, Maine still locks up people at a rate similar to Russia, according to a recent report by the Prison Policy Initiative.”

The Color of Justice: Racial and Ethnic Disparity in State Prisons // The Sentencing Project

Black Americans are incarcerated in state prisons across the country at nearly five times the rate of whites, and Latinx people are 1.3 times as likely to be incarcerated than non-Latinx whites. This report documents the rates of incarceration for white, Black and Latinx Americans in each state, identifies three contributors to racial and ethnic disparities in imprisonment, and provides recommendations for reform.

Brazil’s racist wave of mass incarceration // The Washington Post

The Anti-Drug Act, approved in 2006, accelerated a mass incarceration process.
More information on what police brutality means.

National & Global resources
Fatal police violence by race and state in the USA, 1980–2019: a network meta-regression // The Lancet
Black Americans are incarcerated in state prisons across the country at nearly five times the rate of whites, and Latinx people are 1.3 times as likely to be incarcerated than non-Latinx whites. This report documents the rates of incarceration for white, Black and Latinx Americans in each state, identifies three contributors to racial and ethnic disparities in imprisonment, and provides recommendations for reform.

Ashley Nellis, Ph.D., 2021 // Article

Police Killings by Country 2021 // World Population Review
Top 10 Countries with the Highest Numbers of Police Killings in the World (most recent annual data).

State of Working Maine 2020 // MECEP
To build a thriving economy, every Mainer — regardless of race or heritage — must be able to participate and achieve their full potential.

Maine Data Glimpse: Stark Racial Disparities in Maine’s Median Personal Income // John T. Gorman Foundation
This Data Glimpse describes personal income by race in Maine, using data from the recently released 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Maine resources

The Rebellion Against Racial Capitalism // Intercepted Podcast
History professor Robin D.G. Kelley and Hina Shamsi of the ACLU are this week’s guests. This week on Intercepted: Robin D.G. Kelley, a distinguished history professor at UCLA, explains why he believes the current abolitionist movement has the potential to fundamentally change the country and offers a historical analysis of the weaponization of racial capitalism throughout U.S. history. He also tells the story of the Black-led Communist Party of Alabama in the aftermath of the Great Depression and the racist roots of U.S.-style policing.

PODCAST // 70 MINS

Fast Fashion and Racial Capitalism // Brown University
This panel explores themes of power and vulnerability in the global supply chain of garments manufactured in the South and Southeast Asian garment industry. Scholars of migration, labor, and transnational South/East Asian studies will think through the different points of power and protest in this vast global supply chain.

VIDEO // 1:26:52
racism in medicine  

National & Global resources

A brief history of racism in healthcare // World Economic Forum
If you're Black or Latino in the US, you're almost twice as likely to die from COVID-19. That's according to The New York Times' analysis of data from America's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The numbers also reveal that Native Americans are more likely to be hospitalized with the condition than other ethnic groups.

JUL 23, 2020 // ARTICLE

Racism in healthcare: Statistics and examples // Medical News Today
Racial discrimination permeates the healthcare systems of many countries, including the United States. This has negative consequences for both patients and healthcare workers, leading to higher risks of illness and, in some cases, lower standards of care for people of color (POC).

MATHIEU REES, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 // ARTICLE

reparations  

Abolition for the People // LEVEL
"Abolition for the People," a project produced by Kaepernick Publishing in partnership with LEVEL, seeks to end that debate once and for all.

OCTOBER 6, 2020 // ARTICLE

“A Day of Reckoning”: Dreams of reparations // Freedom Dreams
The fashion industry makes huge profits from the exploitation of black and brown women. Now is the time to call it out.

ROBIN KELLEY // BOOK // CHP. 4

Maine resources

Rep. Pingree backs U.S. House effort to study slavery reparations // Beacon
"The U.S. House is slated to hold a hearing Wednesday on legislation that would establish a commission to consider reparations for the descendants of slaves."

ROBIN BRAVENDER, JUNE 18, 2019 / ARTICLE

National & Global resources

The Case for Reparations // The Atlantic
Two hundred fifty years of slavery. Ninety years of Jim Crow. Sixty years of separate but equal. Thirty-five years of racist housing policy. Until we reckon with our compounding moral debts, America will never be whole.

TA-NEHISI COATES, 2014 // ARTICLE

US: Congress Advances Slavery Reparations Bill // Human Rights Watch
H.R. 40 would establish a federal commission to study the legacy of slavery in the United States and its ongoing harm and develop proposals for redress and repair, including reparations.

APRIL 9, 2021 // ARTICLE

settler colonialism  

Settler colonialism and the elimination of the native // Journal of Genocide Research
The question of genocide is never far from discussions of settler colonialism. Land is life—or, at least, land is necessary for life.

PATRICK WOLFE, 2006 // ARTICLE // VOL 8, ISSUE 4
Maine resources

Maine is part of a settler colonialism state since it is part of the United States of America. Furthermore, Maine was one of the first states where colonizers settled in, being on the Atlantic coast.

Maine's Lost Colony // Smithsonian Magazine

Archaeologists uncover an early American settlement that history forgot.

National & Global resources

Settler-Colonial Continuity and the Ongoing Suffering of Indigenous Australians // E-International Relations

Central to the discourse of contemporary indigenous affairs is the notion that settler-colonialism is an unfortunate historical event that has since ceased. Such assumptions fail to recognise the enduring settler-colonial structures that continue to shape the oppression of modern Indigenous Australians.

Daniel Black, April, 25, 2021 // Article

structural violence click here to return to subtopic

Structural violence and the perpetuation of anti-black racism // Medium

What is racism and why, after so many movements, policy changes and open discussions about it, is this still an issue in 2020? Haven't we learned anything with history, and why haven't we achieved equality yet? One of the answers to these questions? Structural violence.

Fernanda De Castro Boria, Aug 7, 2020 // Article

Maine resources

Pandemic's Racial Disparities, Police Brutality Central Themes In Maine's Virtual MLK Day Sessions // Maine Public

The COVID-19 pandemic, as well as continued efforts to fight racial injustice and police brutality, were central themes of virtual events commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Maine.

Robbie Feinberg, January 19, 2021 // Article

National & Global resources

COVID-19 And America's Racial Violence Are Inextricable // Health Affairs

“The macabre map of mortality drawn by COVID-19 in the United States reflects the deep-rooted fissures of our nation's structural inequities, where black Americans now account for two times greater a share of deaths from the virus than they do of the population.”

Sandra Soo-Jin Lee, Michael Bentz, and Emily Vasquez, June 26, 2020 // Article

white supremacy culture click here to return to subtopic

Readings by & for Anti-Racist Educators and Organizers // A Katrina Reader

A Katrina Reader is dedicated to all the Katrina Survivors and Grassroots Racial Justice Organizations of New Orleans, who are fighting for the Right of Return of all ‘Internally Displaced Persons,’ and the Right to Rebuild New Orleans and the Gulf Coast with justice, dignity and self-determination.

WEBSITE
Maine professor agrees with DHS analysis ranking white supremacists as top safety threat // WMTW

“BAR HARBOR, Maine — Todd Little-Siebold points to, what he calls, a ‘Sanitized Past’ when it comes to racism in Maine."

TERRY STACKHOUSE, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020 // ARTICLE

The Fight Against White Supremacy Isn’t Just an American One // Time

Last month, U.S. President Joe Biden signed legislation to make Juneteenth a Federal holiday, marking the day in 1865 when Black people in the U.S. gained freedom from slavery. Emancipation did not stop the repression of Black people, nor will this new gesture change much.

CHANDRAN NAIR, JULY 21, 2020 // ARTICLE

Why white silence is deafening — and deadly // Salon

Last month, U.S. President Joe Biden signed legislation to make Juneteenth a Federal holiday, marking the day in 1865 when Black people in the U.S. gained freedom from slavery. Emancipation did not stop the repression of Black people, nor will this new gesture change much.

SIRRY ALANG, MAY 31, 2020 // ARTICLE

Breaking white silence // The Cavalier Daily

WHITE: Breaking white silence – It is time for white Americans to speak out against the racist institutions that drive this country.

ALIYAH D. WHITE, AUGUST 11, 2020 // ARTICLE

Energy justice addresses injustice, in both the social and economic participation of current energy systems. (Initiative for Energy Justice, 2019)
ENERGY JUSTICE

Why it Matters.

“Energy justice means both the sources (e.g. solar panels) and ownership of energy generation are distributed widely. Energy justice means that the management of the energy system be governed by democratic principles (e.g. by a public, transparent, accountable authority) that allows ordinary citizens to have a say. This means that communities that wish greater control over their energy system (via municipalization of utilities, for example) should have minimal barriers to doing so. Energy justice means that the wide distribution of power generation and ownership, and access to governance of the energy system be equitable by race and socioeconomic status.”*

*Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR)

WHY IT MATTERS

WHAT CHANGE IN MAINE COULD LOOK LIKE.

The burden of affording and having efficient home energy and heating in low-income households is a significant energy justice issue seen in Maine. Low-income households face higher energy burdens than other residents - this is consistent throughout the U.S. and highly prevalent in the state of Maine. As many of these households are living paycheck to paycheck or do not have an excess of disposable income, they cannot invest in energy efficient appliances or weatherization services. They therefore end up spending a higher percentage of their income on energy and heating, leaving some households paying up to 60% of their income on electricity bills. Providing these low-income households with grants and assistance programs to receive energy efficient appliances and weatherization services can be an effective solution as seen through the Efficiency Maine air sealing program.

However, there are limitations to these programs such as the rising cost of electricity and lack of investment into the electric grid. This is largely due to the structure of the Investor-Owned Utilities in the state. These utilities have a government granted monopoly and a guaranteed profit margin and as they are owned and operated by foreign companies, they have no investment or responsibility to Maine people. In contrast, a consumer-owned utility would provide a localized and self-invested approach to
energy distribution which has been seen to increase grid infrastructure investment and decrease monthly electric bills over time. The heavy opposition in the Maine legislature to a consumer-owned utility transition, as seen with LD 1708, shows that there are significant barriers to communities who wish to have greater control of their energy systems.

WHAT NATIONAL AND GLOBAL CHANGE COULD LOOK LIKE.

Energy justice on a global scale includes providing access to clean energy to all communities, specifically those living in poverty and who still heavily depend on the fossil fuel industry. Many developing economies struggle to provide reliable energy for their communities and due to the expense and policy obstacles to renewable energy, they are still dependent on fossil fuels such as oil and coal. Not only do these communities face unreliable energy supply, they also experience the environmental effects of carbon pollution from the burning of fossil fuels. These communities are often racial/ethnic minorities or poorer communities.

Increased difficulty for renewable energy development further characterizes renewable energy, such as solar photovoltaics, as inaccessible, unaffordable, and impractical. While renewable energy, specifically on the residential level, is still not accessible to all communities, projects such as community solar farms and local microgrids increase the amount of sustainable energy input in the electric grid. Renewable energy, namely solar energy, is less expensive to produce than energy generated from fossil fuels. Therefore, the greater the supply of sustainable energy, the lower electric bills will be for ratepayers in the community. However, the greater the obstacles there are to renewable energy development, the higher the electric utility rates and fossil fuel consumption.
will be. A consumer-owned utility structure that promotes renewable energy development, local self-reliance, and community development is a practical solution promoting energy justice on a national/ international scale. With profits at the forefront of the investor-owned utility structure, there can be no motivation to alleviate the burdens of energy injustice and fossil fuel dependence.

– Cora Kircher, Portland, Maine
resources

National/Global resources

Institute for Local Self-Reliance // ILSR.org

Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) provides resources for communities to oppose private ownership of power and become their own producers and distributors of energy. They provide resources and tools for local action.

World Future Council // worldfuturecouncil.org

World Future Council (WFC) is providing support to communities fighting for energy democracy and offers a framework for legislative policies to implement renewable energy transitions in a just and effective manner - approaching energy justice in a “bottom-up” framework to empower developing communities.

What is Energy Poverty // Habitat for Humanity

Describes energy justice and how frontline communities around the world are impacted by energy poverty.

American Public Power Association // publicpower.org

Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) provides resources for communities to oppose private ownership of power and become their own producers and distributors of energy. They provide resources and tools for local action.


Discusses how energy policy and social justice overlap in energy justice and how minority communities often face the greatest burdens of unreliable energy supply and pollution from energy generation.

Mines Global Energy Future Initiative // Colorado School of Mines

Discusses the need to transition to a carbon free future and the justice implications for the energy transition.

VERGE Talk: Connecting the dots – why energy justice matters // GreenBiz

Discusses the need to transition to a carbon free future and the justice implications for the energy transition.
This article explains what Maine’s grid needs to move toward a more sustainable and renewable future.

Getting to the Grid of the Future // Maine Monitor

This article explains what Maine’s grid needs to move toward a more sustainable and renewable future.

MARINA SCHAUFFLER, AUGUST 15, 2021 // ARTICLE

There is a section on Energy on p.70 that poses questions to the 5 strategies outlined in the Climate Action Plan.

Assessing the Potential Equity Outcomes of Maine’s Climate Action Plan: Framework, Analysis, and Recommendations // University of Maine’s Center for Sustainability Solutions

SEPTEMBER 2020, PAGE 70 // ARTICLE

Maine resources

Maine Low-Income Home Energy Burden Study // Maine Office of the Public Advocate

This resource examines the energy burden experienced by low-income households, the energy expenses they face, and the limitations of current data to fully address this issue.

AVI ALLISON, ALICE NAPOLEON, JENNIFER KALLAY, JUNE 3, 2019 // REPORT

Insulation Rebates for Low and Moderate Income Mainers // Efficiency Maine

Efficiency Maine air sealing program supports low-income households by providing grants and rebates to homeowners interested in weatherization services, energy audits, and purchasing energy efficiency appliances.

WEB SITE // ARTICLE

Low-Income Community Energy Solutions // Energy.Gov

Percent Income Spent on Energy Bills for Homes Below 50% of Federal Poverty Level.

WEB SITE

Our Power // ourpowermaine.org

A campaign to create a consumer-owned utility for Maine by bringing the referendum question to the November 2023 ballot.

WEB SITE

PUC to investigate CMP’s handling of solar projects // AP

Discusses how Central Maine Power (one of Maine’s investor-owned utilities) has posed obstacles to renewable energy and has failed to invest in grid infrastructure due to the disconnected and profit-centered structure of an investor-owned utility.

APRIL 7, 2021 // ARTICLE

Representative Seth Berry on the Movement for Publicly-Owned Power in Maine // Institute for Local Self-Reliance

Maine Representative Seth Berry discusses the consumer-owned utility initiative in Maine and how it would improve the electric grid and act as a means of energy justice to Maine people.

EPISODE 132 OF BUILDING LOCAL POWER, AUGUST 5, 2021 // PODCAST // 45 MINS
extraction

“The activities of prospecting and exploring for wasting (non-regenerative) natural resources; acquiring them; further exploring them; developing them, and producing (extracting) them from the earth. The term does not encompass the industries of forestry, fishing, agriculture, animal husbandry, or any others that might be involved with resources of a regenerative nature.”

Environmental justice and fracking: A review // Current Opinion in Environmental Science & Health Vol. 3

This study discusses the risks presented to front-line communities from hydraulic fracking and how these communities are often overlooked.

JUNE 2018, EMILY CLOUGH // PAGES 14-18 // ARTICLE

Maine resources

About the Big Hill Project // Resist Mining in Maine

Resist Mining in Maine is a grassroots activism organization who are working to prohibit mining within the state and prevent new mining projects from occurring.
**energy efficiency**

Energy efficiency means using less energy to get the same job done - and in the process, cutting energy bills and reducing pollution. Many products, homes, and buildings use more energy than they actually need, through inefficiencies and energy waste. Energy-efficient homes and buildings use less energy to heat, cool, and run appliances and electronics, and energy-efficient manufacturing facilities use less energy to produce goods.

Inefficient use of energy results in individuals paying for energy that they do not use. An example is a house that lacks insulation or weatherization ‘leaks’ wasting thermal energy (heating oil, propane, etc) leaving often low-to-moderate-income families with high heating bills, high emissions, and uncomfortable homes.

**topic resources**

**Consumption and Efficiency**  
[U.S. Energy Information Administration](#)

This shows U.S. energy consumption per sector (residential, commercial, and manufacturing as well as an analysis of the consequences for the environment and citizens.)
energy waste

Energy waste is the byproduct of energy production such as the carbon pollution from burning fossil fuels, or chemical or nuclear waste, etc. Many vulnerable and frontline communities are often targeted and severely impacted by hazardous waste directed into their communities.
energy production

The amount of primary energy (energy harvested from natural materials) a country extracts from nature. Includes both fuels (gas, oil, solar) and the means of production (combustion, flow systems). How energy is produced and distributed has key implications on the sustainability and often, resiliency, of a community. Unfortunately, many communities that are able to invest in renewable energy infrastructure already have stronger economic development and are able to afford adaptation and mitigation. Less economically developed countries face destructive extraction of energy resources and less benefits from that energy use.

University of Calgary, Encyclopedia, Energy Education

topic resources

U.S. Energy facts explained
// U.S. Energy Information Administration

This resource from the Energy Information Administration outlines how energy is produced in the U.S. and where our energy is coming from.

Maine resources

Maine’s solar power output has surged in two years. ‘Community solar’ projects play a big part // Maine Public

The increase in solar power output in the state and how Community Solar Farms offer an effective solution to affordable and accessible solar energy are discussed here.

LOOKING FOR MORE RESOURCES?
Find Maine specific and National/Global resources at the end of this section.
transmission and distribution systems

The networks that distribute energy throughout the grid. Controlled by legal monopolies – typically either consumer-owned or investor-owned. Regulated by the public utilities commission and responsible for updates and maintaining physical infrastructure (lines and poles), connecting generating facilities, and providing safe and reliable electricity to customers.

The majority of utility companies within the U.S. are investor-owned. These companies have a monopoly on a necessary resource: energy. Residents in a given area typically cannot choose their energy company; they must pay whatever company serves their area. Yet the only way those ratepayers have any control over these companies is through their local public advocate. This places a tremendous amount of power in the hands of the energy companies, especially when they are allowed to pour funding into political campaigns and influence who the public advocate is for their area.

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topic resources

Residential Electric Rates // Maine Public Utilities Commission

Maine residential electric rates can be found through the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC)

Maine Office of the Public Advocate // Maine.gov

Committed to public service in representing Maine utility consumers in any matter that is covered by the authority of the Public Utilities Commission, as well as proceedings before state and federal agencies and courts, so that they have affordable, high quality utility services.

How do Electric Transmission Lines Work? // Practical Engineering

Discussing some of the fascinating engineering that goes into overhead electric power transmission lines.

Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association (ICUA)

The mission of the Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association is to advocate for Idaho's public power interests through the collective action of its members at the state, regional and federal levels.
energy poverty

Energy poverty is a lack of access to affordable, sustainable, modern energy services and products. In addition, there is often a lack of adequate, reliable, and safe energy services to support development. This access is strongly intertwined with economic and social development. Poorer countries and communities are more likely to lack access. This lack of access contributes to malnourishment, unhealthy living conditions and limited access to education and employment. Insufficient energy often translates into the impossibility to develop agriculture and manufacturing, thus keeping the poorest countries trapped in a vicious circle.

energy security

The goal of a given country, or the global community as a whole, to maintain an adequate energy supply. The continuous availability of energy in varied forms, in sufficient quantities, and at reasonable prices—has several aspects. It means limited vulnerability to transient or longer disruptions of imported supplies.

For a country, such as the United States, energy security is assured when the nation can deliver energy economically, reliably, environmentally soundly and safely, and in quantities sufficient to support the growing economy and defense needs of its people.
energy innovation

Energy innovation will be a key piece of the transition to a clean energy sector. Just innovation involves several central components. Energy innovation programs should prioritize projects in communities dependent on the fossil fuel economy, which could be hard hit by a wholesale transition to clean energy. These programs should also seek to avoid exacerbating other inequitable environmental hazards in its quest to reduce emissions.

Many grassroots and activists argue that the federal government should direct at least 40 percent of climate-related investments (including those on innovation) to “disproportionately burdened communities” that have historically suffered from “systemic racism and structural inequity.” Additionally, innovation programs should continue to bulk up workforce redevelopment efforts aimed at clean energy jobs, expand international cooperation on climate initiatives focused on innovation that can help address global inequalities, and offer a just transition for communities currently dependent on the fossil fuel industry.

topic resources


This data has a broader definition of “renewable/low-carbon” than Maine Climate Action Now and other climate justice organizations do. It includes nuclear and likely large scale hydropower with which many climate justice organizations disagree.

Maine resources

Two Maine Technology Companies to Each Receive $250,000 in Maine Clean Energy Innovation Challenge // Governor’s Energy Office

Maine’s low-income residents, like those throughout the United States, face higher energy burdens than other residents. That is, they spend proportionally more of their budgets on electricity and heating fuels than higher income residents.

“BRUNSWICK, Maine – Innovative Maine companies in Biddeford and Wiscasset engaged in developing clean energy technology have each been awarded $250,000 through the Maine Clean Energy Innovation Challenge, a joint initiative of the Maine Technology Institute (MTI) and the Governor’s Energy Office.” – Robin D.G. Kelly
green energy transition

(Green) energy transition is a pathway toward transformation of the global energy sector from fossil-based to zero-carbon by the second half of this century. (We at MCAN believe this transformation needs to be in place by 2030 heeding the science). At its heart is the need to reduce energy-related CO2 emissions to limit climate change. Decarbonization of the energy sector requires urgent action on a global scale, and while a global energy transition is underway, further action is needed to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change. Renewable energy and energy efficiency measures can potentially achieve 90% of the required carbon reductions.

topic resources

Climate and Health Evaluation Framework // CDC

How to evaluate your health impacts from climate change, offers mitigation efforts you could take.

VIDEO // 9 MINS
Process
Like a court, the Commission adjudicates cases and it may take testimony, subpoena witnesses and records, issue decisions or orders, hold public and evidentiary hearings, and encourage participation by all affected parties, including utility customers. The Commission also initiates investigations and rulemakings, resolves procedural matters, and responds to legislative directives.

Commissioners
The three full-time Commissioners are nominated by the Governor, reviewed by the Legislature’s Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy and confirmed by the full Senate, for staggered terms of 6 years. The Governor designates one Commissioner as Chairman. The Commissioners make all final Commission decisions by public vote or action of the majority.

Staff
The Commission’s staff includes accountants, engineers, lawyers, financial analysts, consumer specialists, and administrative and support staff. Staff performs myriad duties in order to carry out the Commission’s regulatory responsibilities as well as perform other functions assigned to the Commission by the Legislature (hold auctions for standard offer electricity supply, solicit bids for long-term electricity contracts, investigate green power options, and much more).

Energy Efficient Appliances
ENERGY STAR® is the government-backed symbol for energy efficiency, which is defined as using less energy to complete a task. For example, an energy-efficient refrigerator uses less electricity than conventional fridges to keep food cool.

Grid
The electrical grid is the intricate system designed to provide electricity all the way from its generation to the customers that use it for their daily needs. These systems have grown from small local designs, to stretching thousands of kilometers and connecting millions of homes and businesses today. The grid consists of countless complex interconnections, however there are three main sections—electricity generation, transmission and distribution.

Weatherization
[Weatherization’s] primary purpose, established by law, is “... to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income persons, reduce their total residential energy expenditures, and improve their health and safety, especially low-income persons who are particularly vulnerable, such as the elderly, the disabled, and children.”
Regulation

The Commission currently regulates approximately 430 electric, telephone, water, and gas utility companies and districts. For these companies, the Commission establishes rates, grants utility operating authority, regulates utility service standards and monitors utility operations for safety and reliability. It also has limited authority over water transportation in Casco Bay. The Commission responds to customer questions and complaints and provides information to the public and policy-makers.

Front-line community and Marginalized community

The Maine Climate Council Equity Subcommittee defines disadvantaged, marginalized, impacted, or vulnerable communities as those who have experienced historical and ongoing systemic discrimination, restricted power, and underrepresentation in state policymaking, inclusive of communities of color and indigenous communities, low-income Mainers, rural and otherwise geographically isolated communities, older adults, LGBTQ+ people, differently-abled populations, immigrants, seasonal workers, impacted industries, and other differently impacted communities. These communities are referred to as “disadvantaged,” with other more specific identifiers used when appropriate.

Wasting (non-regenerative) resources

A natural resource which cannot be replenished in the time it takes to use it up. For instance, fossil fuels burn very quickly to produce a large amount of energy however, they cannot be replenished at the same rate.

Decarbonization

Decarbonization can mean two things: it can refer to moving away from energy systems that produce carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gas emissions, or it can refer to removing carbon buildup and carbon deposits from internal combustion engines. While both of these processes involve removing carbon, they do it in very different ways.

Energy decarbonization involves shifting the entire energy system in an attempt to stop carbon emissions from entering the atmosphere before they are ever released — and part of that process also involves using carbon capture technologies to remove CO2 from the air after it has already been released. This involves decarbonizing power grids, decarbonizing supply chains, and utilizing carbon sequestration in the pursuit of net-zero emissions and a carbon-neutral global economy.

INTERACTIVE

activities for synthesis

These activities are meant to help individuals or groups learning together reflect upon and synthesize the information they have read, viewed, or listened to related to any of the Climate Justice Crash Course topics. They are fairly simple and are also meant to foster discussion and further deepen understanding.

Journaling/Reflection Questions

Responses can be written or illustrated

1. PREVIEWING QUESTIONS
   A. What comes to mind when I reflect on this topic term?
   B. Reading the title and annotation of this resource, what questions do I think I might have before viewing the information?
   C. Reading the title and annotation of this resource, what biases and assumptions do I think I might be bringing into this conversation?
   D. What background knowledge or experience do I have that could be helpful in understanding this information?

2. POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS
   A. What surprised me about this newly acquired information?
   B. What questions do I still have after learning this information?
   C. How might I go about sharing this information or starting a discussion with others about this information?
   D. What biases or assumptions did I realize I held after learning about this topic?
   E. What other feelings came up for me as I learned about this topic?
Tableau Vivant

This activity is best used by at least 2 people working or learning together. A picture or photograph is projected and one of the learners (or more if there is more than 1 person depicted in the photo) stand up and place themselves with the same posture and expression as the person in the photo. They are asked questions as if they were that person in the photo, in the time and place specific to when the photo was taken.

More information about how to run this activity is here:
https://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/tableau

Jigsaw Activity

This activity is best used by a group that is working together, in a systematic way, to learn from the materials. It divides up the information each person or small group is responsible for being the “expert(s)” on that particular piece. Then each person or small group reports out to the others while others take notes. By the end, all participants have a solid, holistic sense of the content.

The protocol for this activity is here:
https://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/jigsaw

ENERGY JUSTICE

RESOURCES

Take a closer look at each sub-topic by exploring these Maine-specific and National & Global resources.

**energy extraction**

**list of resources**

**How We Survive // The Better Battery**

Imagine a future where all the lithium we need has already been extracted from the ground and is endlessly recycled. Good discussion on lithium mining.

NOVEMBER 17, 2021 // PODCAST // 28 MINS

**Equity, Climate Justice and Fossil Fuel Extraction: Principles for a managed phase out // Stockholm Environment Institute**

This study discusses the risks presented to front-line communities from hydraulic fracking and how these communities are often overlooked.

GREG MUTTON AND SIVAN KARTHA, APRIL 2020 // ARTICLE

**Guatemalan Communities Steadfast in Resistance to Mining Project // Grassroots International**

This article discusses the community efforts in Guatemala to stop a mining project that could violate the Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR).

SHANIAH LINDSEY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019 // ARTICLE

**Tableau Vivant**

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Here’s what you need to know about energy efficiency and how you can help save the environment—and money—at the same time.

LORA SHINN, AUGUST 14, 2018 // ARTICLE

Add nuclear waste to list of social injustices // Cal Matters

Black, Indigenous and people of color are especially vulnerable to harm from the handling and storage of radioactive waste.

CHELSI SPARTI, AUGUST 31, 2020 // ARTICLE

BIPOC communities have been disproportionately affected by harmful waste runoff such as from nuclear or chemical production. Some tribal lands have been used for hazardous waste dumping. These two articles discuss these energy injustices caused by waste from energy production.

Nuclear waste and environmental justice // c-10 Research & Education Foundation

Black, Indigenous and people of color are especially vulnerable to harm from the handling and storage of radioactive waste.

SARAH DOENMEZ, OCTOBER 7, 2021 // ARTICLE
Judge denies motion by CMP/Avangrid to dismiss customer bill case // Portland Press Herald

Investor owned utilities in Maine have also been fined for threatening customers unlawfully to pay bills as discussed in this article.

Pine Tree Power // Our Power Maine

The Pine Tree Power ballot initiative would replace investor-owned utilities, Central Maine Power and Versant Power, with a non-profit consumer-owned utility.

Why transmission and distribution are the clean energy transition’s secret weapons // World Economic Forum

Increasing energy generation from cleaner sources demands an increase in transmission and distribution networks.

MPUC 2021-00167 // Maine Public Utilities Commission

This case filed with the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) discusses how investor-owned utilities are posing an obstacle to renewable energy development.

Throwing Shade: How the nation’s investor-owned utilities are moving to blot out the solar revolution // Sierra

This case filed with the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) discusses how investor-owned utilities are posing an obstacle to renewable energy development.

The ‘Darth Vader’ of Electric Utilities // A Matter of Degrees

What happens if your electric utility starts doing things you don’t agree with?

What is Public Power // publicpower.org

These three resources discuss how the investor-owned utilities in Maine have acted as obstacles to renewable energy projects.
Energy security

Maine resources

An Act To Enhance the Energy Security of Maine Residents // 130th Maine Legislature, Bill LD 697

“This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to consider [...] the risks to national security and the potential economic losses in the State associated with ownership, in whole or in part, of a transmission and distribution utility located in the State by a foreign government, foreign corporation or subsidiary of a foreign corporation.”

November 12, 2021 // Article

National/Global resources


“U.S. Department of State defines energy security as ‘access to diversified energy sources, routes, suppliers [in order to limit] the influence of a single dominant buyer, seller, or investor and guards against those who would use energy for coercive ends’ (DOE 2017).”

Resilient Energy Platform // Article

Energy innovation

Maine resources

Maine Low-Income Home Energy Burden Study // Synapse Energy Economics Inc

Maine’s low-income residents, like those throughout the United States, face higher energy burdens than other residents. That is, they spend proportionally more of their budgets on electricity and heating fuels than higher income residents.

Avi Allison, Alice Napoleon, Jennifer Kallay, June 3, 2019 // Article

National/Global resources


Stark disparities exist in US energy burdens, the percentage of household income spent on energy bills.

Dominic J. Bednar and Tony C. Reame, June 2020, pp. 432–439 // Article

Energy poverty

Maine resources

Maine Low-Income Home Energy Burden Study // Synapse Energy Economics Inc

Maine’s low-income residents, like those throughout the United States, face higher energy burdens than other residents. That is, they spend proportionally more of their budgets on electricity and heating fuels than higher income residents.

Energy innovation

Farmhand Automation // farmhandautomation.com

This organization uses robotics and automated technology to aid in a transition to sustainable agriculture. They also provide new job opportunities within the development and management of such systems.

Website

Peregrine Turbine Technologies // peregrineturbine.com

This engineering and development company seeks to provide innovative energy solutions for a sustainable future.

Website
Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment // IPCC

A video on Climate Change and Land: An IPCC Special Report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems.

VIDEO // 9 MINS

New in Green Tech: Renewable Energy Innovations you have to see to believe // Earthava

With the alarming reports that have come out recently about the state of the environment, people are scrambling more than ever to find renewable clean energy sources.

EARTHAVA TEAM // ARTICLE

Sheep + Solar, A Love Story // Outside/In

We all know that a key part of addressing climate change involves getting off fossil fuels. But renewable energies, such as solar energy, are not without costs. One key cost? It uses a lot of land. The team at How to Save a Planet takes a look at one creative solution to this problem – mixing solar panels with agriculture. And they are not at all sheepish about the role of one very adorable four legged animal.

PODCAST // 31 MINS

The Effects of Climate Change // NASA

A list of effects, a lot of them have to do with land and water including sea level rise, droughts, changes in agriculture and more.

ARTICLE

International Actions - The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer // US EPA

The international treaty called The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is gradually eliminating the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances to limit their damage to the earth’s ozone layer.

WEBSITE

green energy transition click here to return to subtopic
“Fundamentally, transportation justice links solutions to social and climate justice when it ensures everyone can get from point A to point B in reliable, safe, and environmentally sustainable ways regardless of zip code, race, ability, class, or any other identity.”

“Transportation Justice is equal access of all people to the transportation they need for a better quality of life.”*

Twenty-nine percent of the greenhouse gases emitted in the United States are produced by transportation, this is larger than any other category of emissions. This is a quantity so large that it cannot be resolved by carpooling on the way to work or driving a Prius, instead it needs to be addressed by large-scale structural change.

*Washington Environmental Council
This means looking at how states like Maine, that have vast areas with no public transportation available, especially in rural areas, leave those who are unable to drive or cannot afford a car with limited to no options. Maine is a rural state where many people live far from access to goods and services. A car or truck is often needed to hold down a job and those experiencing poverty can often afford only older, inefficient and unreliable cars. Electric vehicles can be expensive, and barriers exist for people who rent, as they often lack access to charging infrastructure, or don’t live near charging infrastructure.

In the few areas where public transportation is available it is inefficient, infrequent, and highly stigmatized. In fact, these issues are so huge that fifty-four percent of Maine’s greenhouse gas emissions are produced by transportation.

Annual per capita spending on public transportation

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Maine has one of the lowest per capita spending rates on public transport: 1 dollar per person per year. For comparison, Vermont spends 12 dollars per person per year (MaineDOT, 2019).

**WHY IT MATTERS**

**WHAT CHANGE IN MAINE COULD LOOK LIKE.**

Change in Maine means an investment in the expansion of public transportation throughout the state. In more urban areas this could be light rail infrastructure (tram, metro) and connector transport between cities. In rural areas you might see an expansion of volunteer rideshares such as Neighbors Driving Neighbors, regular connectors between towns and into cities and the incentivization of electric vehicles. Public transportation could provide regular service between rural towns and between rural towns and urban areas, transportation
Spoke Folks is a worker-owned cargo-bike cooperative with a sustainable mission to use people and bike power to haul trash and compost while providing education and everyday services to the Norway and South Paris, Maine area.

"Our services reduce food waste, local traffic, and greenhouse gas emissions. We create good jobs and cultivate a regenerative approach to waste management."

to recreational areas, and connections from rural areas to transportation hubs. Programs that subsidize electric vehicle purchasing for low-and-moderate income households or electric vehicle sharing programs could also be helpful in rural towns.

There will also be a push to incentivize walking and biking as a mode of transportation. This can be done by increased bike access and cyclist education for people of all ages and developing bike-friendly infrastructure. Legislation such as the 3 feet law that ensures biker safety is also crucial to this process.

On a larger scale, sustainable and equitable transportation means reevaluating where our every-day products come from. Ensuring affordable and easy access to locally made products allows a huge reduction in transportation and shipping of goods. Additionally, cargo Bikes could be used for “last mile” deliveries and trash and food waste pickup in towns and urban areas.
Strategic Plan Overview // Portlandoregon.gov
The city of Portland, Oregon analyzes its transportation justice goals and how they can be attained. A great model for municipalities.

Transportation justice, commute knowledge, and equitable access // UPenn
A summary of the research being conducted at UPenn into the intersection of environmental and social inequalities in public transport.

Transportation Justice // Nyc-eja.org
An article highlighting the transportation campaigns of the New York City Climate Justice Alliance as they work within one of the biggest public transport systems in the U.S.

Plug In America // pluginamerica.org
Plug In America is a non-profit, supporter-driven advocacy group. We are the voice of plug-in vehicle drivers across the country. Our mission is to drive change to accelerate the shift to plug-in vehicles powered by clean, affordable, domestic electricity to reduce our nation's dependence on petroleum, improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustainability // American Public Transport Alliance
The American Public Transport Alliance general resource on sustainability.
The Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) is a regional collaboration of 13 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia that seeks to improve transportation, develop the clean energy economy and reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector.

Sustainability // Forbes Magazine

Forbes highlights new technologies that may be the future for sustainable transport.

Cities Rise to the Challenge – Sustainable Mobility // World Wildlife Fund

This World Wildlife Fund video looks at how urban areas are transitioning to more sustainable models of transportation.

Transportation Sustainability Research Center // UC Berkeley

The UC Berkeley Transportation Sustainability Research Center provides resources on the latest research in many sectors of transportation, including infrastructure, advanced fuels and the movement of goods.

Sustainability Practices // California High Speed Rail Authority

The California High Speed Rail Authority lays out the environmental and social benefits of high speed rail and the process that the state of California is taking to work towards them.

Citizens Air Complaint Program // New York City Environmental Protection

The New York City Environmental Protection website explains the actions that the city has taken to preserve air quality and reduce emissions by enacting a citizen-enforced idling ban.
**Journaling/Reflection Questions**

*Responses can be written or illustrated*

1. **PREVIEWING QUESTIONS**

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“Education is the wise, hopeful and respectful cultivation of learning and change undertaken in the belief that we all should have the chance to share in life”
Why it Matters.

Education, formal and informal, is key in determining our attitudes and actions towards others. What we learn, we practice. For too long, formal education has been incomplete and narrowly focused by omitting perspectives that would allow for a more empathetic and diverse understanding of history. It silos academic subjects instead of teaching them in an integrated, holistic way so we create citizens who are lacking the critical understanding of the interconnectedness of our social and natural systems. In moving toward a more just and equitable society, we must incorporate systems thinking into educational curriculum as a key practice in transformative change.

— Isabelle Rogers, Farmington, Maine
If we are going to transform education, an important place to start is with our teacher training programs. There are many professional development opportunities from a variety of regional and state organizations/community partners for educators to take advantage of in the climate and social justice realm. However, we also need to ensure that new educators are learning and practicing the pedagogies of place-based education and systems thinking so that they will weave these tenets and practices throughout their instruction.

**topic resources**

**Climate Change Institute // University of Maine**

"The Climate Change Institute (CCI) is one of the oldest climate research units in the United States and likely the first with a multi- and inter-disciplinary focus...CCI integrates transformational field, laboratory and modeling activities to understand the physical, chemical, biological and socio-cultural components of the climate system of the past and present, to better predict future changes in climate and their impacts here in Maine and across the globe."

**systems thinking**

An understanding that all things are interconnected – both natural and human-built systems.

**Conceptual Tools for Systems Thinkers // Medium**

In this series on systems thinking, I share the key insights and tools needed to develop and advance a systems mindset for dealing with complex problem solving and transitioning to the Circular Economy.
The Need to Introduce System Thinking in Teaching Climate Change

An article about a research study that focused on the intersection of systems thinking and climate change education.

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What is systems thinking? // Paul Clapton-Caputo

This video describes systems thinking.

FEB 22, 2017 // VIDEO // 1:39 MIN

place-based education

This concept is focused on using one's place as the foundation for learning in all realms. Integrating community and constructs specific to one's particular place within the learning or as the backdrop for other academic concepts helps to root our students in the places they know and live.
indigenous people’s history

The Indigenous Peoples of what we now call Maine are the Wabanaki—the five main tribes of which are the Mic Mac, Maliseet, Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, and Abenaki. It is imperative that as students learn about the history of their place they learn about the first people that inhabited and stewarded the land and waters for thousands of years and still live here today.

topic resources

Maine Native Studies Resources // Department of Education, Maine

This page lists resources for educators who are teaching Native American studies.

WEBSITE

Maine Memory Network // mainememory.net

Maine Memory Network which consists of stories from a variety of Indigenous People to the land we call Maine.

WEBSITE

Holding up the Sky: Wabanaki people, culture, history & art // mainememory.net

Maine Memory Network this specifically talks about the history of the Wabanaki people.
community education and outreach

Who and what are the community partners who are doing this work? Who is offering community education opportunities to learn? What is the groundwork that needs to happen - at a public education level and also at the continuing education/adult level?

topic resources

Maine Environmental Education Association (MEEA)
They host a monthly equity and inclusion call. You can register and attend one or all. It’s a drop-in type of participation. Resources are shared and topics discussed on the topic of social justice.

A New Green Learning Agenda: Approaches to Quality Education for Climate Action // Brookings
This is a report discussing what quality education for climate action would look like.

Silo
A system, process, department, etc. that operates in isolation from others

Integrated
With various parts or aspects linked or coordinated

Holistic
Characterized by the comprehension of the parts of something as intimately interconnected and explicable only by reference to the whole

Systems thinking
Understanding a systems by examining the linkages and interactions between the elements that compose the entirety of the system (Quest Design/Iнстitute of Play)

Pedagogy
The method and practice of teaching, especially as an academic subject or theoretical concept

Tenets
A principle or belief, especially one of the main principles of a religion or a philosophy

Constructs
A product of ideology, history, or social circumstances

Indigenous
Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native
activities for synthesis

These activities are meant to help individuals or groups learning together reflect upon and synthesize the information they have read, viewed, or listened to related to any of the Climate Justice Crash Course topics. They are fairly simple and are also meant to foster discussion and further deepen understanding.

Journaling/Reflection Questions

Responses can be written or illustrated

1. PREVIEWING QUESTIONS
   A. What comes to mind when I reflect on this topic term?
   B. Reading the title and annotation of this resource, what questions do I think I might have before viewing the information?
   C. Reading the title and annotation of this resource, what biases and assumptions do I think I might be bringing into this conversation?
   D. What background knowledge or experience do I have that could be helpful in understanding this information?

2. POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS
   A. What surprised me about this newly acquired information?
   B. What questions do I still have after learning this information?
   C. How might I go about sharing this information or starting a discussion with others about this information?
   D. What biases or assumptions did I realize I held after learning about this topic?
   E. What other feelings came up for me as I learned about this topic?

Tableau Vivant

This activity is best used by at least 2 people working or learning together. A picture or photograph is projected and one of the learners (or more if there is more than 1 person depicted in the photo) stand up and place themselves with the same posture and expression as the person in the photo. They are asked questions as if they were that person in the photo, in the time and place specific to when the photo was taken.

More information about how to run this activity is here:

https://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/tableau

Jigsaw Activity

This activity is best used by a group that is working together, in a systematic way, to learn from the materials. It divides up the information each person or small group is responsible for being the “expert(s)” on that particular piece. Then each person or small group reports out to the others while others take notes. By the end, all participants have a solid, holistic sense of the content.

The protocol for this activity is here:

https://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/jigsaw
Take a closer look at each sub-topic by exploring these Maine-specific and National & Global resources.

**teacher training programs/professional development**  [click here to return to subtopic]

**Maine resources**

**The Abbe Museum // abbemuseum.org**

The Abbe Museum is located in Bar Harbor, Maine and is focused on highlighting and celebrating the Wabanaki People, the Indigenous People of the place we now call Maine. On their website they have an educator hub which hosts a variety of resources for educators teaching grades PK-12.

**Center for Green Schools // National Action Plan for Educating for Sustainability**

In June 2013, the Center for Green Schools at USGBC and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt brought together stakeholders from academic, corporate, and nonprofit sectors to envision a future where our schools support thriving, healthy, and regenerative communities.

**Climate Education Summit Recordings // MEEA**

All the summit sessions were recorded and are available on our website. To access the recordings go to the Climate Education Summit Link and click on: Full Agenda

**Shelburne Farms // shelburnefarms.org**

“Shelburne Farms is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire and cultivate learning for a sustainable future. That means learning that helps students build a healthy future for their communities and the planet. Based on Abenaki land, our home campus is a 1,400-acre working farm, forest, and National Historic Landmark.” Shelburne Farms is a working organic vegetable and dairy farm and an organization that offers professional development for Educators in Farm to School and Educating for Sustainability practices.

**United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization // en.unesco.org**

Education is crucial to promote climate action. It helps people understand and address the impacts of the climate crisis, empowering them with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes needed to act as agents of change.
systems thinking  

Waters Center for Systems Thinking // waterscenterst.org

This is the homepage for the Waters Center for Systems Thinking. This page explains the benefits and impact of systems thinking.

What systems thinking is and what it is not // Waters Center

This page from the Waters Center website explains what systems thinking is and what it is not.

Habits of a Systems Thinker // Waters Center

New to systems thinking? Learn about the benefits of systems thinking, the impact of the Waters Center and some of our work in the field.

Other Tools and Strategies for Systems Thinkers // Waters Center


community education and outreach

**Maine Climate Action Now (MCAN)**
MCAN is a collaborative network of Maine organizations working towards climate justice solutions in the state.

**Maine Youth for Climate Justice (MYCJ)**
MYCJ is a coalition of youth from across the state addressing the climate emergency.

**Northeast Climate Change Education Collaborative**
This is a newer collaborative of several different organizations offering professional development on Climate Change and Climate Justice Education. The partnering organizations are: Mass Audubon, Shelburne Farms, College of the Atlantic, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, Hubbard Brook Research Foundation, and Audubon Vermont.

**Climate Change isn’t Racist, People Are // ZORA**
This is an article about the racism that is inherent in our social systems and how it is interwoven into the history that has led to the climate emergency we are now faced with.

**Climate Justice Now // ClimateJusticeNow.Earth**
A terrific web-based resource for anyone interested in climate justice.

indigenous people’s history

**LD 291 bill language // maine.gov**
This takes you to the language of the Maine Legislative bill which requires teaching of Native American history in Maine schools.

**LD 291: Teaching Practices and Pedagogy of Fourth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Teachers // UMaine**
In 2001, Maine’s 120th Legislative session passed Legislative Document 291: An Act to Require Teaching of Maine Native American History and Culture in Maine’s Schools (Maine State House).

place-based education

**Promise of Place // promiseofplace.org**
This website is focused on resources related to place-based education.

**What is place-based education and why does it matter // gettingsmart.com**
Gettingsmart.com in partnership with edulinnovation and Teton Science Schools has created some resources on explaining the why of place-based education.

**indigenous people’s history**

place-based education

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