

Background Information for the Bath City Council on a proposed

## Resolution – Commitment to Strengthening Climate Action

8 July 2022

Climate change is an urgent crisis requiring immediate action at global and local levels. 183 municipalities in the United States have declared climate emergencies. We can expect dramatic changes in our energy and transportation economy accompanied by wide-ranging choices large and small as we adopt sustainable habits that protect our climate while reducing household energy bills. Climate action is, and will continue to be, everyone's business.

### **What has the City of Bath done until now?**

Bath has chosen a measured and proactive path and has pledged to take a leadership role to minimize the City's energy use and emissions and maximize efficiency and sustainability.

- In 2008 Bath adopted a Climate Action Plan and Resolution to lower carbon emissions.
- In 2019 Bath established the Climate Action Commission, updated the City's Climate Change Resolution and adopted a revised Climate Action Plan.
- In 2022 Bath joined the Governor's Community Resilience Partnership.

### **Why do we need an update to the 2019 Resolution?**

- To respond to the need for more aggressive and transformational climate action goals, such as those illuminated in the State of Maine's 2020 Plan Maine Won't Wait:
  - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by the year 2050,
  - Achieve carbon neutrality by 2045,
  - Commit to manage sea level rise of 1.5 feet by 2050 and 3.9 feet by 2100, and
  - Prepare to manage sea level rise of 3.0 feet by 2050 and 8.8 feet by 2100.
- To recognize the value of aligning Bath with such broader State of Maine goals.
- To enable alignment with these broader State of Maine goals by authorizing an update to Bath's 2019 Climate Action Plan to:
  - Set long-term (c 2050) strategic emission reduction goals,
  - Establish carbon capture goals and approaches, and
  - Identify and develop responses to climate change impacts such as sea level rise.
- To acknowledge the need for an *all hands on deck* approach to achieve such goals.

### **What does adoption of this Resolution enable?**

- Strategies which are in keeping with the latest scientific recommendations of the Maine Climate Council to guide development of an updated Climate Action Plan.
- Annual reporting to measure and support the City's progress toward its strategic goals.
- A strengthened Climate Action Commission mandate to both:
  - Facilitate early actions (e.g., EV charging and energy efficiency in buildings) and
  - Promote long term best practices to reduce climate change effects via advice, outreach, education and engagement with City government, businesses, and residents.