



MAINESHARE QUARTERLY

Summer 2025: Environmental Justice





Jerry Monkman

[Natural Resources Council of Maine](#)

Dear Reader,

Maine's environment holds a wide range of meaning, connections, and awe for so many. From the Wabanaki people who stewarded this land for thousands of years, to the communities who have built livelihoods and industries from its farms and waterways for generations, to the immigrants settling here for the first time: Maine's landscape nurtures community stability, healing, and new connections. Its present and future sustainability cannot be taken for granted however, and the work of broad coalition building to support its history-keeping, protection, and equitable access remains ongoing.

The threats to Maine's environmental resources and the livelihoods that depend on it are clear and present dangers. Cuts from the federal government are aimed at attacking the ability of our **local and tribal governments to enact renewable energy and climate action plans**. Casco Bay, a source of business, food, and leisure, is **dramatically warming**. And our farming communities statewide have been heavily impacted **by the presence of PFAS** as well as **funding freezes at the national level**. These dangers necessitate all of us to pay attention and to support the experts and organizations who are working on all fronts to mitigate and address these challenges.

Many of our partner organizations at MaineShare lead this invaluable work for our environment. They work to protect our natural resources through systems change and grassroots organizing. They connect the community to the environment in a variety of ways that helps us all understand our interdependency and feel more invested. And they understand that the threats to the environment are intersectional, and cannot be addressed without a racial justice lens. We invite you to read on and learn more about these efforts from our partners and **support them through the MaineShare giving platform**.

Amanda Scarpone
MaineShare Director



Niweskok: From the Stars to the Seeds

MILFORD, MAINE

“Niweskok’s work engages Wabanaki families in remembering that the earth is our first teacher through rematriating our food & medicine ways.

We host multigenerational cultural camps, community harvests, apprenticeships and have developed an electronic resource library. Expanding safe access to our homelands & waters through relationship building is critical to rematriation work, including the historic rematriation of coastal Penobscot territory as a Wabanaki food hub at the beginning of 2025.”



JustME for JustUS

THROUGHOUT RURAL MAINE

“Our vision of climate justice is broad and encompasses the varied conditions of each unique community, but we see a throughline tying climate justice to racial justice in all of our work. We believe that an effective climate movement is one that must be antiracist, non-extractive, and brings together people of all backgrounds to build a thriving future.”



JustME for JustUS's Rural Youth Organizers design 100% of our place-based programming, centering community-driven solutions. The backbone of effective rural organizing is the trust-based relationships that connect people first, build belonging, and bring people together despite their differences.”



Maine Farmland Trust

BELFAST, MAINE

“Farms feed our communities – and farms depend on the strength of the community behind them. Powered by community support, Maine Farmland Trust works to protect farmland from development, create more affordable farmland access, and support farmers in adapting to challenges and planning for the future, so that farmers of all backgrounds have the land and resources they need to provide fresh, healthy food for our communities. “

Natural Resources Council of Maine

AUGUSTA, MAINE

"The Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) believes that the health of Maine's environment is inseparable from the health of its communities. Clean air and water, vibrant forests, and healthy communities are essential to public well-being, economic opportunity, and quality of life. We recognize that our mission – to protect, restore, and conserve Maine's environment, now and for future generations – can only be fulfilled when it reflects the leadership, experiences, and values of people from diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and cultures.

Our work is grounded in the understanding that environmental issues affect communities differently and that environmental justice and racial justice are fundamentally interconnected. Historically, marginalized communities, particularly Black, Indigenous, and people of color, have borne a disproportionate share of environmental burdens while being excluded from environmental decision-making processes.

We are committed to confronting these injustices through the way we work and the partnerships we build. Our advocacy increasingly prioritizes tribal sovereignty and partnership with the Wabanaki Nations, supports equitable climate solutions, including clean energy access for low-income Mainers, and promotes inclusive public processes that empower people to have a voice in shaping their environmental future."





Sierra Club Maine

PORTLAND, MAINE

“Sierra Club Maine is a volunteer-run, grassroots organization working to protect Maine's wilderness heritage, fight global warming and promote smart growth, safeguard Maine's clean water and coastline, promote clean air and energy efficiency, hold public officials accountable, and support pro-environment candidates for public office.

Our Chapter connects our community to the environment through a variety of strategies. Some of the ways we accomplish this include promoting outdoor recreation through our Outings program, by offering educational resources like our Community Conversations, organizing trash-cleans throughout the state, and engaging in grassroots activism and campaigns that protect natural resources and promote sustainability.”

Viles Arboretum

AUGUSTA, MAINE

“We have expanded our classes to show the importance of making connections to the environment in a few ways. One is a class called Nature and Nurture aimed at older adults and featuring distinctive ways to connect with the environment, such as learning about plants that can be used in food, yoga and peacefulness in nature, foraging, home planting, herbs, and other topics.



Another is a collaboration with secondary educators in the area creating lesson plans and activities that specifically focus on the effects of climate change in the Kennebec River Valley. is the development of an accessible trail loop that will also be used to tell the story of the land's history, including work by laborers from what was called the Maine Insane Asylum. This effort is strongly rooted in addressing environmental injustice in a different way.”



MaineShare is a donation platform that lets you give to Maine Initiatives' grantee partners directly. You can support all 93 organizations with a single donation, or tailor your gift by selecting focus areas or programs that align with your values. Whatever you decide, your donation will be distributed equally among your choices, strengthening a growing network of community-based nonprofits advancing justice and equity in Maine.

FOCUS AREAS

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[Gender Justice](#)

[Health Equity & Safety](#)

[Immigrant-Serving](#)

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[Wabanaki Sovereignty & Self-Determination](#)

PROGRAMS

[Grants for Change](#)

[Immigrant-Led Organizations Fund](#)

[Outdoor Equity Fund](#)

[The Giving Project](#)

[MaineShare Legacy](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

[Abbe Museum](#)

[Bomazeen Land Trust](#)

[Defend Our Health](#)

[Friends of Casco Bay](#)

[JustME for JustUS](#)

[La Finca Cooperative](#)

[Land in Common](#)

[Maine Animal Coalition](#)

[Maine Audubon](#)

[Maine Council of Churches](#)

[Maine Farmland Trust](#)

[Maine Humane](#)

[Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association](#)

[Maine Peace Fund](#)

[Maine Recovery Resource Association](#)

[Maine Veterans for Peace](#)

[More Women+ Surf](#)

[Natural Resources Council of Maine](#)

[Niweskok](#)

[Sierra Club Foundation, Maine](#)

[Sipayik Resilience Committee](#)

[Sunlight Media Collective](#)

[Viles Arboretum](#)



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