

MAINE BEHIND THE NUMBERS

The facts on the economic track record of Maine governors Paul LePage and Janet Mills



ENVIRONMENT

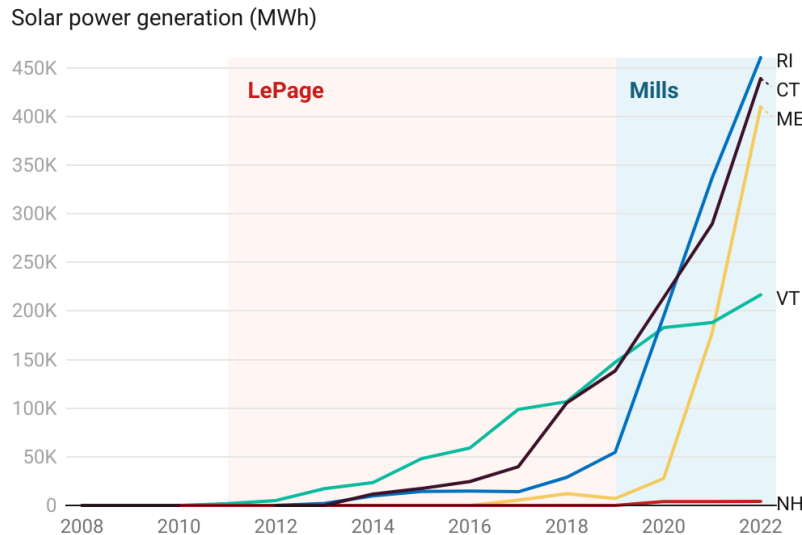
LePage

- Ignored evidence of looming PFAS “forever chemical” pollution crisis
- Blocked clean energy initiatives, investment, and innovation
- Opposition to clean energy initiatives cost Maine thousands of high-quality jobs
- Appointed oil industry lobbyist to lead Dept. of Environmental Protection
- Tried to expand offshore oil drilling in Maine waters

Mills

- Formed PFAS Task Force and targeted \$90M to address “forever chemical” pollution
- Launched Maine’s Climate Action Plan with aggressive climate and energy goals
- On track to reach 80% renewable electricity by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2045
- Policies resulted in 300% solar capacity surge in just 2 years
- Greenhouse gas emissions reduced to 25% below 1990 levels

Under Mills, Maine is quickly catching up in solar energy generation



Learn more: bit.ly/environmentMBTN

Source: MECEP Action analysis of US Energy Information Administration data. Note: 2022 data is extrapolated from solar power generation January-May 2022 • Created with Datawrapper

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Paul LePage photo by Gage Skidmore



Failing to respond to toxic chemicals and pollution

One of LePage's first acts on environmental issues was to appoint a [former oil and chemical company lobbyist](#) to lead the Department of Environmental Protection. Commissioner Aho went on to gut the agency's ability to keep Maine people safe from polluters. The administration worked [directly with corporate lobbyists](#) to [blunt enforcement](#) of the Kid Safe Products Act while LePage [mocked the impact](#) of harmful chemicals like bisphenol A (BPA) on infants. While openly advocating for rolling back environmental regulations designed to hold polluters in check, LePage did nothing to address the serious threat of PFAS "forever chemical" contamination in Maine soil and milk, even [downplaying the issue](#) in the face of evidence that the problem was widespread and dangerous. It's hard to quantify the price of this inaction, but under Mills the state has already dedicated \$90 million in [state](#) and [federal](#) resources to begin undoing the damage.



Opposition to renewable energy held Maine back

LePage [questioned the science](#) of climate change and worked hand in hand [with oil company lobbyists](#) to push for more offshore oil drilling, [including in Maine waters](#). This undermined efforts to secure renewable energy investments and create jobs in Maine. LePage used [political maneuvering](#) to retroactively stop a signed deal for offshore wind that would have led to early investment in the sector in Maine. This was a hard blow to Maine's renewable energy industry, preventing as much as [\\$2.5 billion in investment](#). LePage also [vetoed solar policies](#) that would have allowed local solar installers to flourish and Mainers to become more energy independent.



Investing in clean, affordable, Maine-made energy

Janet Mills has prioritized strengthening environmental laws and facing the crises posed by pollution and climate change head on. After years of delay by LePage, the Mills administration formed a [PFAS Task Force](#) to get all of the information on toxic "forever chemicals" into the light and plan a path forward, including testing over 700 farms considered high risk sites, and allocating [\\$30 million](#) in federal funds and [\\$60 million](#) in state funds to assess the scale of the problem and begin remediation. Mills has also made addressing the causes and effects of climate change a priority for her administration. She started off with the release of [Maine's Climate Action Plan](#), which sets the goals of carbon neutrality by 2045 and the creation of 30,000 clean energy jobs by 2030 along with other metrics that can be tracked in the public [progress reports](#). Due to this focus, as well as action by the legislature, Maine has seen a dramatic increase in the solar economy, with a [300 percent surge](#) in capacity in the first two years of Mills' administration. Maine is [on track](#) to reach its goal of using 80 percent renewable resources for electricity by 2030, boasted 14,000 clean energy jobs in 2019, and exceeded its 2020 greenhouse gas emission reduction goal, lowering emissions below 1990 levels by [25 percent](#).

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