



## **Our Vision: First to 100% Clean Energy**

**Our Power's vision is that Maine will be the first state to reach 100% clean energy, both equitably and affordably, from all-local sources, and the first rural state to deliver universal and affordable broadband.**

Both firsts depend on the networks of poles and wires that connect us to one another—and to our future. Currently, this network is owned by large, international, private utility monopolies, and their goal is to make profits for shareholders. For this reason, Our Power Maine's mission is to pass legislation or a ballot question to create a new climate-focused, non-profit consumer-owned utility (COU).

This nonprofit utility, the Pine Tree Power Company, will replace Maine's two unpopular, dysfunctional, globalized, investor-owned utilities (IOUs), CMP and Versant, by purchasing and refinancing them at a lower cost. Governed only by its customers and bold climate mission, Pine Tree Power will access capital at half the cost of the IOUs and double the pace of smart investment to support renewables and beneficial electrification. In so doing, it will create jobs and value for Maine people, improve rates and reliability, and cut the cost of pole access for rural broadband.

Are COUs the best tool for the job? As of 2016, there were just six U.S. communities whose electricity was 100% renewable. They included Greensburg, Kansas; Georgetown, Texas; Kodiak Island, Alaska; Rock Port, Missouri; Aspen, Colorado; and Burlington, Vermont. Four are conservative, while only two are liberal. Why these six? What do they have in common? All six have consumer-owned utilities.

COUs deliver electricity to 1 in 3 Americans in 49 states. Some are rural cooperatives; others are municipal utilities. Not all are clean, but all are democratically governed. And without a need for profit, their infrastructure costs half that of an IOU. Their rates are lower, and their reliability is twice as good.

As its legal mission, the Pine Tree Power Company will lead the way to a rapid, just transition. It will boost cleaner and smarter power supplies, system resilience and reliability, beneficial electrification, and fast, affordable rural broadband. Its governance will resemble that of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, a utility serving 1.5 million customers. Sacramento's elected board has pledged to reach 100% renewable electricity by 2030, **20 years ahead of Maine's current plan, and well ahead of any state.**

We have learned from those who have made this transition. These include the entire state of Nebraska, Winter Park, Florida; Jefferson County Washington, water utilities like Pittsburgh, all of Long Island, New York, and many others. We have learned from those who did not, such as Boulder, and avoided their mistakes. Multiple analyses have shown our Pine Tree Power proposal to be both fully constitutional and financially beneficial, saving a net of \$9 billion over thirty years to reinvest in tomorrow's grid.

We are buoyed by our fellow Mainers who support this effort by 75%. Maine businesses have rated CMP worst in the nation for three years in a row. Maine's state motto *Dirigo* means "I lead." **With your help, Maine will lead.** Our Power Maine will blaze a new and exciting trail to 100% clean energy, leaving no one behind. **We hope you will join us.**

**[OurPowerMaine.org](http://OurPowerMaine.org)**

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