



Environmental Funders Network

About Us

The Environmental Funders Network (EFN) is a broad collaboration of funders with an interest in Maine's natural environment and its connection with Maine's communities. EFN provides opportunities for education and sharing of information, encourages networking, and promotes environmental funding.

Since its inception in 2005, EFN has:

- held a number of forums for funders on environmental and funding topics, typically 1-2 per year.
- designed and completed a three-year collaborative funding initiative focused on advancing Maine's Quality of Place between 2009-2011, which raised and distributed over \$1.5 million in grants, and continued the initiative through grants supporting place-based collaborations in Lewiston-Auburn and Downeast.
- Explored opportunities, convened funders and synergized funding to support the *Katahdin Gazetteer: A Roadmap to the Future* initiative in the Millinocket region.
- EFN supports the work of the Climate Change Funders Forum to increase shared understanding of climate-related issues and to advance opportunities for aligning grant making and other investments.
- Currently, EFN is developing funder education opportunities in Nature-Based Education in concert with some of the state's leading organizations in this field.

Originally a joint initiative of the Maine Community Foundation (MaineCF) and the Maine Philanthropy Center (MPC), EFN is currently administered under the auspices of MPC and is staffed by a part-time Coordinator. EFN is a nonpartisan organization and often plays the role of a neutral convener. An active Steering Committee, composed of foundation staff, trustees and MaineCF donor advisors, provides strategic direction and management of EFN. The Steering Committee is in the process of redefining EFN's body of work for the next several years.

Mission

The Environmental Funders Network helps to identify and create ways to improve and sustain Maine's natural environment and strengthen the connection to Maine's people, communities, and quality of place. We accomplish our mission by:

- Providing opportunities for education and sharing among funders to learn about critical issues facing the environment, explore potential solutions and discuss joint action.
- Encouraging networking and meaningful engagement among funders, nonprofits, businesses and others around key environmental issues and innovative solutions.
- Identifying and promoting opportunities for environmental funding in Maine.

Vision

An informed network of funders has a greater impact addressing Maine's environmental challenges.

Values

In our work we value:

- Expertise and experiences of nonprofits and community groups
- Education and information provided by members of the partnership
- Diverse philanthropic interests and perspectives
- Candid communication

Steering Committee

- Jeannette Andre, Maine Philanthropy Center
- Tom Boutureira, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
- Nancy Stowell White, The Betterment Fund
- Maggie Drummond-Bahl, Maine Community Foundation
- Bo Norris, Lennox Foundation
- Gioia Perugini, Jane's Trust
- Lynne Seeley, Leonard C. & Mildred F. Ferguson Foundation
- Ellen Maling, EFN Coordinator