Introduction To Carbon Cash-Back 4 Maine

WHAT IS CARBON CASHBACK 4 ME (CCB4ME)?
It's a grassroots campaign to give Maine residents the opportunity to support meaningful national climate policy with their collective voices. Through passing municipal resolutions in annual town meetings and city councils, constituent support of this climate solution is brought to the attention of elected officials. The policy, Cash-back Carbon Pricing, or "carbon fee and dividend," would reduce air pollution by using market economics to shift U.S. fuel use away from fossil fuels and toward renewables, and compensate families for increased prices with monthly "cashback" dividends to all households equally.

HOW DOES CCB4ME WORK?
"Town Champions" volunteer to bring the initiative to their towns and work with town officials to do one of the following: 1) have a climate article added to their annual Town Meeting warrant or, 2) request the town/city council or Select Board to pass a resolution indicating support for the policy. A notice of this action is then sent to federal elected officials as evidence of constituent approval for enacting strong federal climate policy.

WHAT IS CCB4ME's GOAL?
To build political will for federal legislation that will be effective and swift enough at cutting carbon emissions to make a meaningful change in the climate situation. CCB4ME builds political will through educating and empowering Maine communities to speak up on one important solution for the climate problem.

HOW DOES A LOCAL INITIATIVE BUILD SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL LEGISLATION?
Maine towns and cities speaking out together and demanding action to shape national climate policy will send a powerful message to our elected officials. When a municipality endorses the policy, this is communicated to our federal and state elected officials. Collectively, our voices will be heard. Towns who have passed resolutions include Appleton, Arrowsic, Arundel, Bangor, Belfast, Belgrade, Blue Hill, Brunswick, Cape Elizabeth, Camden, Casco, Fairfield, Falmouth, Farmington, Freeport, Gray, Hampden, Harpswell, Kennebunk, Mount Vernon, Orono, Portland, Readfield, Rockland, Saco, South Portland, Starks, Vienna, Vinalhaven, Waterville, and Wilton.

MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE CARBON CASHBACK POLICY

- It would apply nation-wide, avoiding state-by-state attempts at regulation or pricing.
- A modest but steadily increasing "pollution fee" (e.g., $15/ton of CO_2 to start) would be paid by producers of fossil fuels at the mine, well or port of entry.

- All money collected from the fees, less admin, will be returned to U.S. households on an equal per capita basis.
- Rising prices of fuels will reduce demand for them and increase demand for renewables, thus reducing carbon emissions.
- A border carbon adjustment will protect US jobs from non-fee countries. (Many US trading partners already have carbon pricing and will soon use border adjustments against us).
- A majority of climate scientists and economists believe it is **the most effective way to rapidly reduce CO2 and other greenhouse gas pollution.**
- Expected to reduce carbon emissions by 40% in 12 years and 90% in 30 years, while improving health by decreasing air pollution.
- Good for the economy and jobs; accelerates and incentivizes energy innovation.
- Market driven & revenue neutral. People, not the government, get the net revenues, much of which will return to the economy quickly.
- Cheaper, fairer, more transparent, and easier to set up and administer than adding new regulations or government programs.

WHO IS ORGANIZING CARBON-CASH-BACK-4-ME?

Maine volunteers with the national non-profit, non-partisan organization Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) are organizing this initiative to build support in their towns for a national price on carbon emissions, which they believe is a necessary element in the strategy for decarbonizing our energy system. For more information on this initiative, contact Cynthia at cynthia.hoeh@gmail.com.