



Maine Climate Education Summit 2021

Vision:

We envision a **climate literate** Maine **rooted in justice** where everyone has have **access** to powerful climate education learning **opportunities** throughout their lives.

Goals

Connect:

Bring together folks from across the state and sectors who are interested in advancing climate education in Maine to meet each other, build trust, share ideas and plan for action.

Listen:

Identify the barriers and needs for youth and educators to advance climate change education in Maine.

Imagine:

How would Maine be different if ALL folks had access to high quality climate education that also included justice (our desired future state)?

Inform:

Create a shared learning space where youth and established leaders can gain a deeper understanding of momentum for climate education at the Federal level and explore effective models that are working in Maine and beyond.

Act:

Identify concrete next steps, rooted in equity, to move this work forward in Maine.

Summit Core Value:

At MEEA (Maine Environmental Education Association) we center all of our work in **equity**. We design our programs to ensure that key stakeholders impacted by our work are always part of the design and decision making. This summit is co-lead, designed and **facilitated by Maine youth** who we believe are the key and critical stakeholders in climate education. We know that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and marginalized folks are those most impacted by the climate crises. We are deeply committed to ensuring that **BIPOC voices are centered and amplified** in our work of this summit. Equity is the throughline of this summit and will be a central theme weaving the tracks together. Solutions not advancing justice and equity will not move us forward; they will keep us in place solving one problem but exacerbating others.

Summary:



In the first time in Maine’s history, youth and adult leaders, from across sectors, came together around a common vision to advance equitable access to climate change education in Maine.

Organized by the Maine Environmental Education Association and a diverse team of 20+ individuals from across the state (50% youth), the summit was held virtually over a two-week time period in June 2021. The Summit launch brought 206 participants together with guest speakers from the Maine state government and Department of Education, federal climate policy experts, and a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) youth panel which highlighted the importance of staying rooted in equity and justice. The opening session was followed by a youth caucus where Maine students came together to learn about ways to become more involved in climate change education and justice work.

Over the next two weeks, summit participants broke into three tracks:

- Track A: Educator Training and Community Partnership
- Track B: Climate Education Policy
- Track C: Workforce Development

with guest speakers, participant discussion sessions, and Vision Labs designed to identify critical resources, common barriers, and solutions to advance their track theme within the broader context of climate education. The following report by MEEA staff is a synthesis from the summit with key recommendations for the field to advance climate education in Maine generated by these diverse stakeholders who participated in the summit.



The Three Tracks:

Track A:

Investigated solutions to foster collaboration across sectors to build resources and reduce barriers to achieve solution-focused climate education in Maine through socially just and youth-driven initiatives.



Track B:

Explored policies to move climate education forward in Maine by examining climate education models active in other states.



Track C:

Examined the intersection between climate education and workforce development with the goal of preparing Mainers to work in a climate resilient economy.

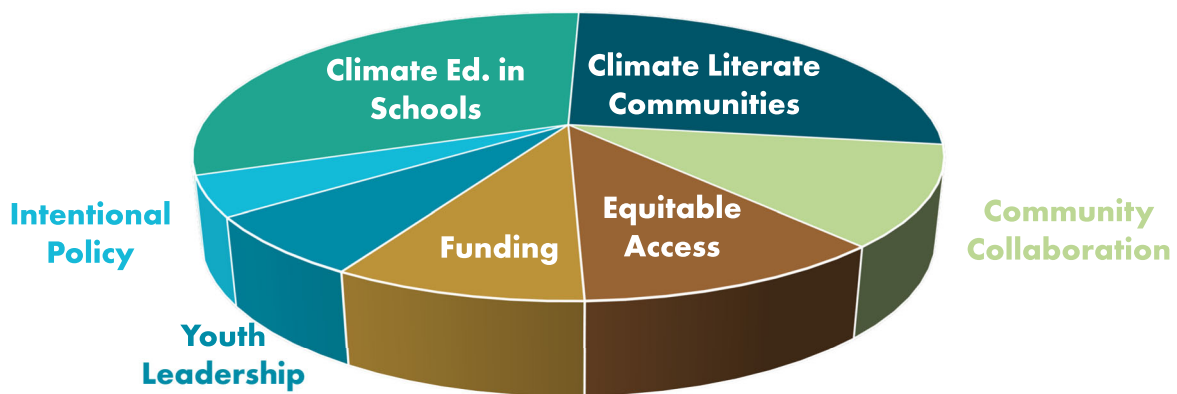


Educator Training & Community Partnership

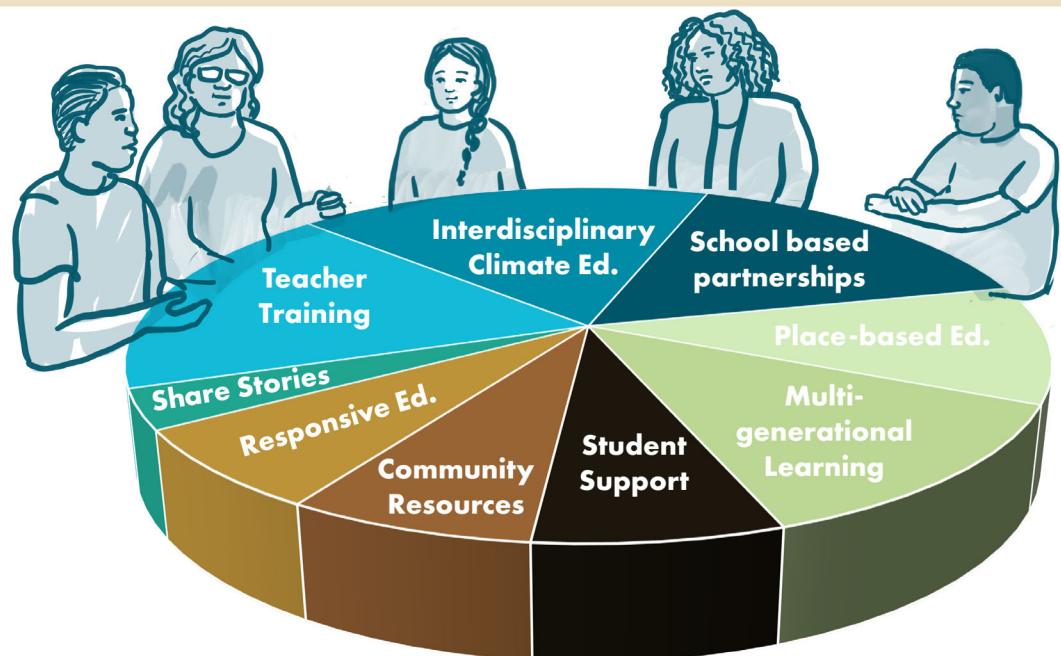


Track A featured investigations of meaningful community connections and collaborative solutions through a keynote from Zoe Weil of the Institute for Humane Education. Vision Labs identified avenues to accelerate community partnerships and provide access to resources for educators.

What do we envision?



How might we get there?



Climate Education Policy



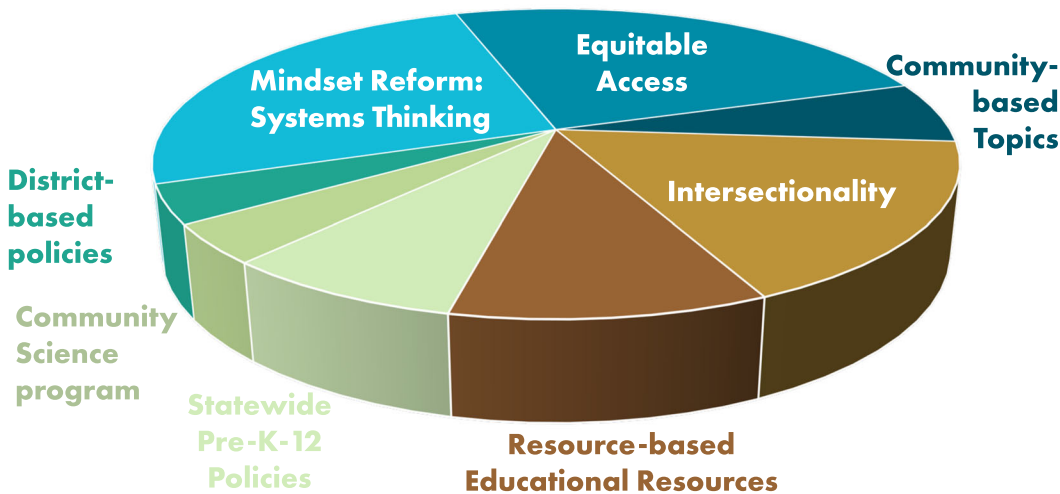
Track B presented different model climate education policies that have been passed in the United States. Guest speaker Ellen Ebert presented on the state of Washington's landmark Climate Education Policy, ClimeTime. Vision Labs convened participants in imagining the components of a climate education policy for the state of Maine and the pathways to mobilize these efforts.

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT HOPE.

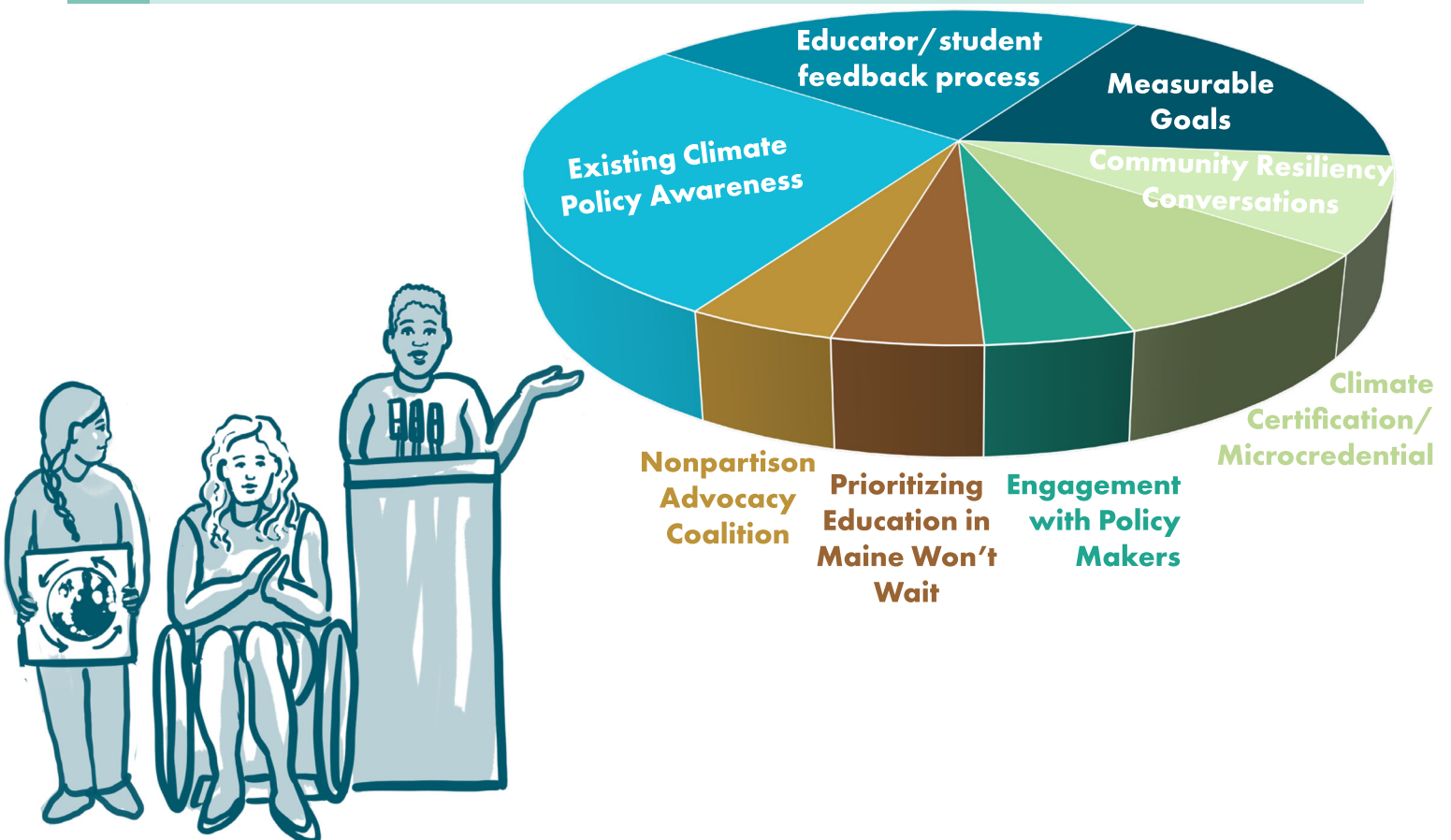
COMMUNITY-DRIVEN WORK & ACTION & SUPPORT for TEACHERS

PEOPLE COMING together

What do we envision?



How might we get there?



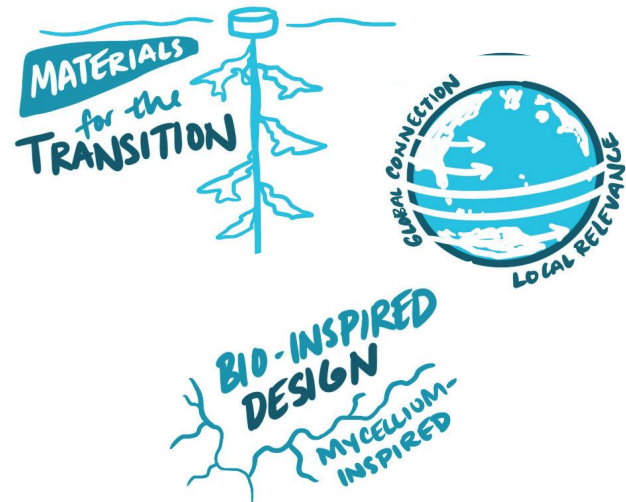
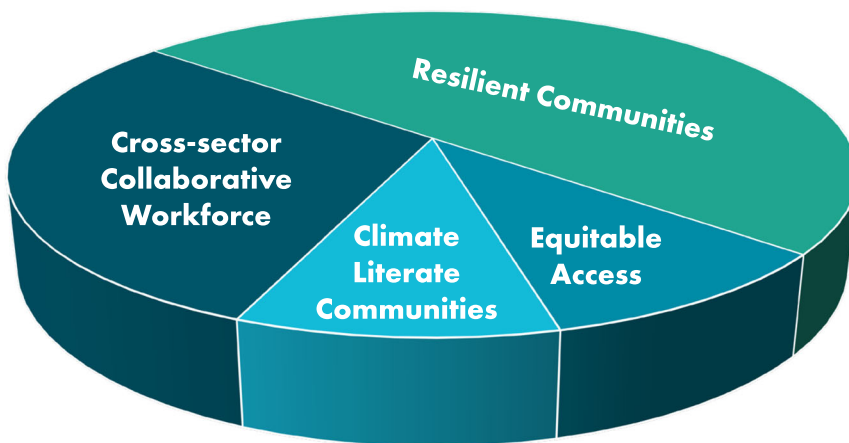
Workforce Development



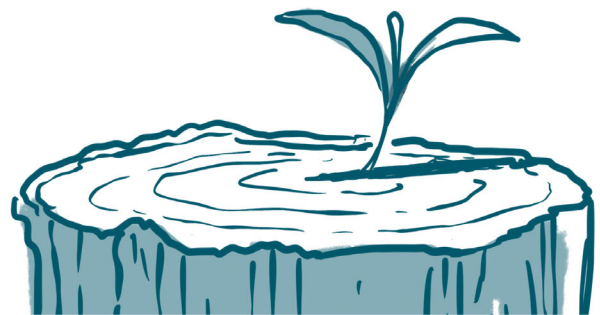
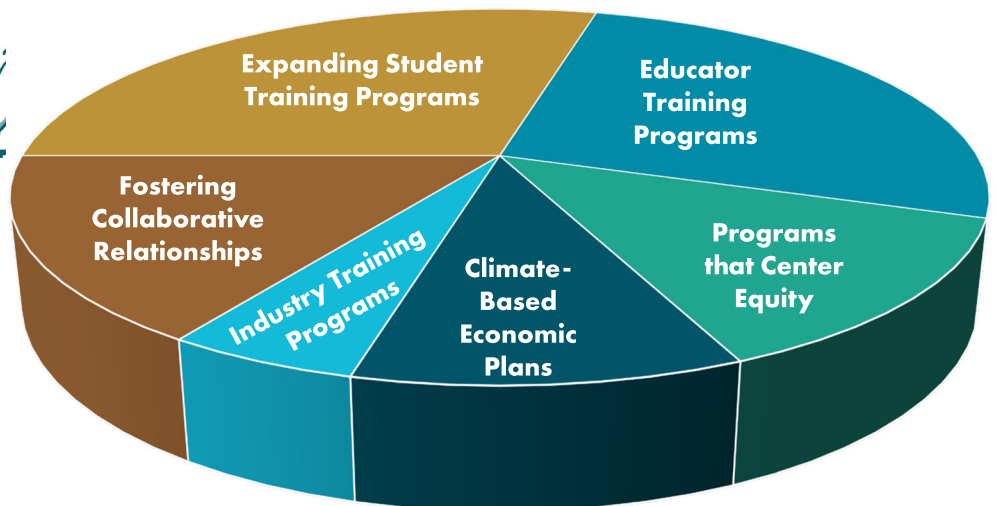
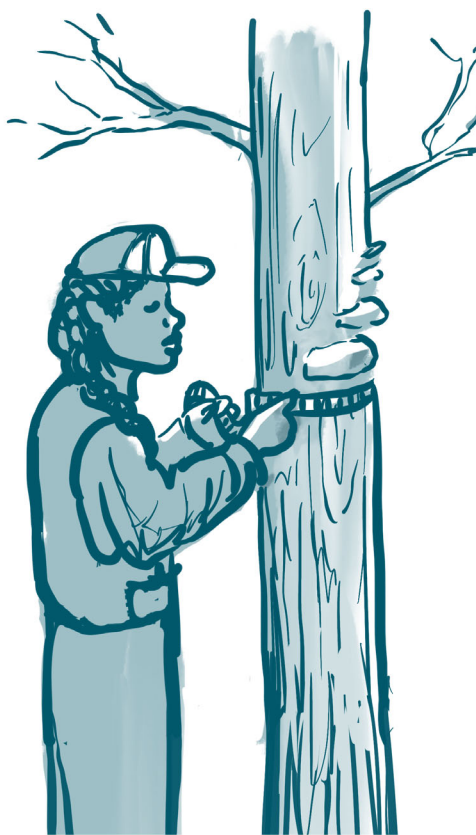
Track C examined the potential impact of increased workforce development around climate education and research by learning from speakers Karl Kreutz and Meghan Collins from the University of Maine and John Van Dis from the Islesboro Central School. Vision Labs gathered to identify strategies to create pathways and eliminate barriers for young people pursuing careers in emerging and evolving industries.



What do we envision?



How might we get there?





Key Recommendations to Advance Climate Literacy in Maine:

- **Center the perspectives of those most impacted by climate education** in the design and development of new initiatives and policies, i.e. youth and educators
- **Support policies** that ensure all Mainers have **equitable access** to high quality, place-based **climate education experiences**.
- Develop and create easy to access, vetted preK-12 **climate education/climate justice curricula and resources** that are interdisciplinary and place-based
- Ensure that all Maine educators have access to high quality **professional learning opportunities** that increase skill and comfort in teaching place-based climate education pre K-16
- Facilitate **intergenerational and community-based collaboration** between schools, community organizations, and government agencies to extend climate education learning and sharing opportunities **beyond the school-based experience**
- **Increase funding** to support professional learning to advance educator training and implementation of climate education
- Create educational programs that **train Maine youth and adults** for **Green Career Pathways**
- Improve climate education **pre-service teacher training** across all Higher-Education Institutions in Maine
- **Measure access to and impact of climate education** and climate education educator training statewide to identify gaps and track progress over time



Acknowledgments

Climate Summit Supporters

The Onion Foundation
The Maine Community Foundation
The Kennebunkport Climate Initiative
Maine Climate Action Now
The Nature Based Education Consortium
The Broad Reach Fund
Thank you to Carol Wishcamper, Cathy Lee, Bo Norris, and other generous anonymous donors!

Climate Summit Planning Team

The summit was coplanned and facilitated by a diverse team from across the state of Maine. We recognize that youth and educators are those most impacted by our climate education work and we centered those identities in the planning of this summit.

Cassie Cain (lead)
Gus Goodwin (lead)
Idey Abi
Johanna Blackman
Peter Zack
Sophie Schuele
Seal Rossignol

Angela Mavrigh (lead)
Ania Wright (lead)
Kosis Ifeji
Jane Dawson
Nathan Broaddus
Ella Anderson
Ogechi Obi
Riley Stevenson

Jonathan Labonte (lead)
Philip Mathieu (lead)
Rebecca Clark Uchenna (lead)
Kiona Rose Osterland
Hallie Arno
Anne McKee

MEEA Staff/Contractors/Volunteers

Amara Ifeji (lead summit coordinator), Red Fong, Olivia Griset, Samar Ahmed, Meghan Young, Angela Mavrigh, Meg Gorsline

Summit Guest Speakers: Hannah Pingree, Shari Templeton, Sarah Bodor, Deb Morrison, Ania Wright, Kosis, Ifeji, Lokotah Sanborn, Safiya Khalid, Zoe Weil, Sophie Schuele, Idey Abi, Anna Siegel, Ellen Ebert, Karl Kreutz, Jon Van Dis, Meghan Collins

Logo Creation, Graphic Design and Visual Notes: Maisie Richards



Visual Notes Appendix: DAY ONE

MAINE CLIMATE EDUCATION SUMMIT • 2021

CLIMATE IS EVERYTHING

30,000 CLEAN JOBS BY 2030

REDUCE MAINE'S ENERGY BY 80% BY 2030

80% CLEAN ENERGY BY 2030

WE ARE ON A CLOCK...

STEWARDS of the PLANET

STANDARDS for FACTUAL RESOURCES

MOOSE. MAINE ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

WEBINARS SHOWCASES & RESOURCE CATALOGUE

HOW CAN WE MAKE MEANINGFUL CHANGE?

HANNAH PINGREE & SHARI TEMPLETON

NOTES BY MR.

MAINE CLIMATE EDUCATION SUMMIT • 2021

A future where we don't need "climate education" recognition - this still exists in indigenous cultures...

MARGINALIZATION

VOICE

IMPACT

ADULTS BORROWING WHAT YOUTH NEED FOR THE FUTURE

...WE DIDN'T VIEW THE WORLD AS SOMETHING OUTSIDE OF OURSELVES

THERE IS ALWAYS A POLITICAL CONTEXT WE ARE ALL GOING TO BE AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

ISSUE-SPECIFIC ENGAGEMENT

ACTIVISM as a part of SURVIVAL

WHO IS AT THE TABLE?

WE ALL PLAY A ROLE even if it is COMPLACENCY...

PROVIDE RESOURCES & CONTEXT TO TEACHERS

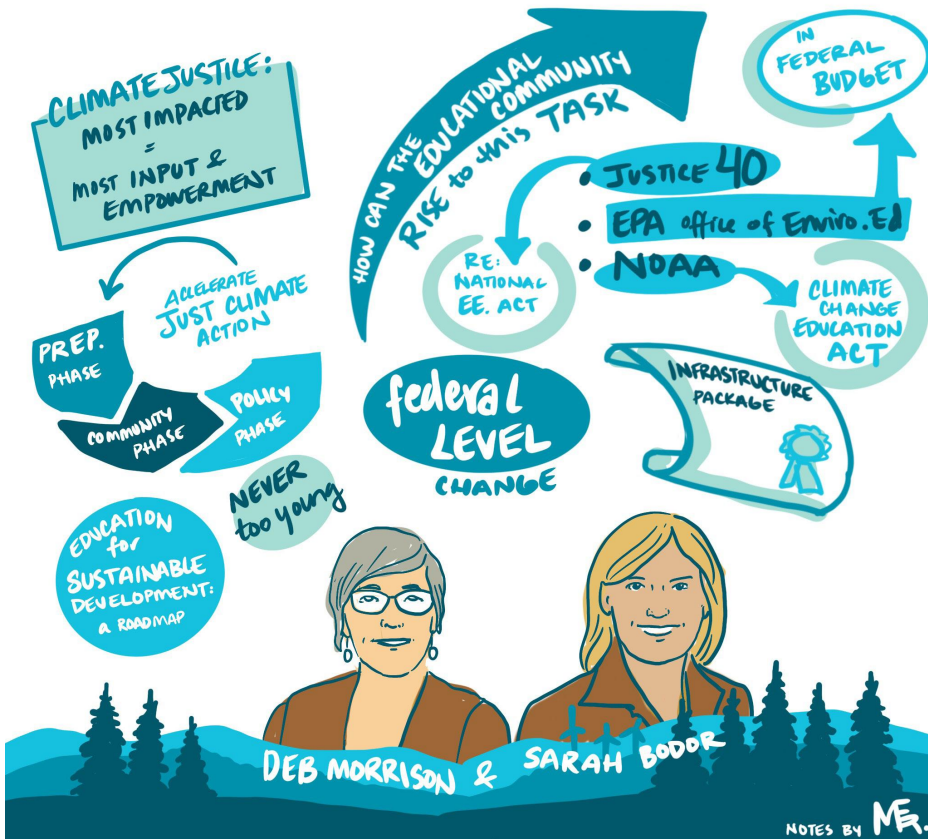
SOCIAL IMPACT of CLIMATE CHANGE & at the DESK?

KOSIS IFEJI, SAFIYA KHALID & LOKOTAH SANBORN

NOTES BY MR.

Visual Notes Appendix: DAY TWO

MAINE CLIMATE EDUCATION SUMMIT • 2021



MAINE CLIMATE EDUCATION SUMMIT • 2021



Visual Notes Appendix: TRACK SESSIONS

MAINE CLIMATE EDUCATION SUMMIT • 2021



MAINE CLIMATE EDUCATION SUMMIT • 2021



Visual Notes Appendix: TRACK SESSIONS

MAINE CLIMATE EDUCATION SUMMIT • 2021



MAINE CLIMATE EDUCATION SUMMIT • 2021

