



The Climate Initiative

2024

**Climate Policy Institute
Cohort**



Ben Moore

Ben Moore serves as a youth stakeholder on the Department of Education's Climate Education Task Force. He is also an outreach and communications intern with the Maine Resource Recovery Association. Currently an environmental planning and public policy student at the University of Southern Maine (USM), Ben is passionate about travel and seeing the world. This passion has fueled a particular interest in coastal communities in developing areas or at risk of climate change. They are committed to making a positive impact on these communities' environmental planning and sustainability efforts.



Connor Ransom

My name is Connor Ransom (he/him pronouns), I am originally from Poolesville, Maryland, and right now I am finishing my junior year at Colby College in Waterville. At Colby I am double majoring in environmental policy and anthropology. During January I interned with Maine Conservation Voters in Augusta and this summer I will be interning with Oceana in Washington DC. I have also been working on research with a professor on PFAS pollution policy across the country since last summer. I am most looking forward to connecting with other young people in Maine fighting for climate action!



Helen Klenert

Hi there everyone! My name is Helen Klenert and I am coming to CPI from Orono, Maine. I recently graduated from the University of Maine in December with a B.A. in Political Science and a B.A. in Women and Gender Studies. Previously, I worked as an intern for Environment MA as they worked to push through a piece of legislation to save the bees. In June I will be moving to Portland and joining the New England Environmental Finance Center's team as a Policy Analyst. Environmentalism is a cornerstone of my personal and professional life, and I am thrilled to be attending CPI. I am most looking forward to the panelist speakers and getting to know everyone who will be attending and hosting this amazing event.



Phoebe Rogers

Phoebe Rogers grew up in rural Maine and was always inspired by the serene beauty of the state. She lives in Starks and works on a local farm. She looks forward to learning more about CPI, and connecting with others who strive to protect the Maine ecosystem and forests we call home.



Amelia Mooney

My name is Amelia Mooney and I am from Lisbon Falls, Maine. Currently, I am an undergraduate student at the University of Maine studying Ecology and Environmental Science with a concentration in Sustainability, Environmental Policy, and Natural Resource Management. Considering my area of study, I hope that CPI will be an opportunity for me to make connections with other passionate students, professionals, and legislators, and interactively learn more about how youth voices can make a meaningful impact on climate policy in Maine.



Jessica Catalano

My name is Jessica Catalano and I'm from Chicopee, Massachusetts. I'm a recent graduate from the University of Maine- Orono with a B.S. in Ecology and Environmental Sciences. During my time at UMaine, I gained practical experience at the Cooperative Extension- Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab, sharpening my skills as a Laboratory Aid. I am most looking forward to engaging with panel speakers to gain insight into climate careers!



Lina Martinez Nocito

Lina Martinez Nocito (she/her) is a rising sophomore at the University of Maine Farmington, where she is pursuing a double degree in creative writing and English, with minors in climate change solutions and editing & publishing. She is part of Maine Youth Power, Maine Youth for Climate Justice, and UMF's Sustainable Campus Coalition, and was a member of Maine Youth Power's Movement Building School this past year. In the summer, she promotes environmental protection and community education as an invasive plant patroller and courtesy boat inspector at central Maine lakes. She's looking forward to deepening her understanding of climate policy at CPI, and connecting with other youth passionate about climate action!



Amy Blanchard

My name is Amy Blanchard, I am from Saco, Maine. I will be a senior at the University of Maine this fall majoring in Communications with minors in French and Anthropology. I have two internships as a Student Communications Specialist with both the Advanced Structures & Composites Center and the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine. At CPI, I am most looking forward to learning how I can be active in Maine climate policy!



Ashley Eugley

Ashley Eugley (she/her) is from South Bristol, Maine. She earned her B.A. in Environmental and Urban Studies from Bard College in 2022. After graduating from Bard, Ashley spent a year traveling on a Watson Fellowship to pursue her project “Community Science as Community Agency” across five continents. She is currently employed as Climate Action Coordinator at Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust in Damariscotta, where she supports the development of community-engaged climate resilience. This summer, Ashley will begin graduate study in Environmental Policy at the Yale School of the Environment. By participating in the Climate Policy Institute, Ashley hopes to broaden her understanding of the policy landscape in Maine, connect with leaders driving environmental action forward across the state, and share her passion for leveraging collaboration to cultivate a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable future.



Isabelle Rogers

I'm Isabelle! I grew up in various small towns and counties across western Maine, where I cultivated a strong love for nature and the mountains. Being in nature and living in different rural communities sparked my interest in environmental advocacy and has guided me in my ongoing practice of compassionate conversation with others. I currently work with multiple climate justice and youth-led organizations, and enjoy connecting with my local community. I'm a visual artist and musician, and believe that art is a powerful way to ignite positive change in the world.



Kyle Ricker

Hey everyone! I am Kyle Ricker, a student at the University of Maine in Orono. At university, I study Political Science and Education. I am most looking forward to seeing how climate policy overlaps and interacts with education policy, as well as meeting all of you!



Ainslea Andrade

Hello! My name is Ains and I am so excited to get to experience these workshops! This is my first Climate Initiative workshop and I look forward to the opportunity. I am freshly graduated from the University of New England with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education and a concentration in Environmental Studies. My current career path is to be a high school Environmental Science teacher (or Earth Science) and I am so happy to have this opportunity. What I am most excited about is to learn the behind the scenes of policy work, in my program I focused a lot on environmental issues and justice without having much practice or knowledge in policy-making. I look forward to learning specifically how to write and propose a new policy.



Juliann Lapierre

My name is Juliann Lapierre, I am from Winslow, ME and currently reside in Biddeford, ME. I recently graduated from the University of New England with a degree in Environmental Science. I have lived in the state of Maine for over 20 years and have always had a love for the outdoors. While at the University of New England I took a particular interest in invasive species and wetlands. Over the summer I will be working with the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust to help plan the future of their newest preserve, Meadow Woods, through a UNE North Sustainability Fellowship. I am looking forward to learning more about Climate Policy and finding ways to contribute to the policy making process in my future.



Nathaniel Austin

My name is Nathaniel Austin, and I am a student pursuing a degree in Ecology & Environmental Science at University of Maine in Orono. I am originally from Upstate New York, where I developed my love and passion for the environment while enjoying the beautiful upstate wilderness. I moved to Maine in January of 2023 to complete my bachelors, and hope to pursue a graduate degree in ecological studies afterward. This summer, I will be working with Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary on Mount Desert Island as an intern. I focus my studies on understanding how anthropogenic climate change and other human- related factors affect biodiversity and ecological systems.



Hazel Handy

I am a sophomore at Bates College studying Environmental Studies. I am passionate about strengthening the regulation of climate solutions, as well as increasing representation of marginalized populations in climate policy-making. I have always enjoyed spending time outside while rowing, cycling, tennis, and running. My favorite creative endeavors are writing poetry, practicing graphic design, and painting. Over the past three years, I have also immersed myself in journalism through reading, writing, and layout design.



Catherine Campbell

I'm Catherine Campbell, a recent University of New Hampshire graduate with a B.S. in Environmental Conservation and Sustainability. Having grown up in Kennebunk, Maine and completed my undergraduate degree in New England, I have an acute awareness of the environmental issues on a local scale. Through my undergraduate studies I also realized that there is often a gap between scientists and policy makers. This gap is largely why I am currently applying to law schools to pursue an environmental law program.

Throughout my education I have maintained a relationship working with TCI, first as a student in their Gulf of Maine Field Studies course, then as an ambassador and communications intern, and now through the Maine Climate Policy Institute. The CPI will be my first real experience analyzing climate issues from a purely policy driven lens. As my professional goal is to work in environmental legislation, participating in an event that simulates the bill drafting process will provide me with incredible insight into the process of crafting environmental policy. This specific workshop is an amazing opportunity to hear the types of considerations that influence Maine policy, and is probably what I am most excited for at the CPI.