

# Maine Emerging Environmental Changemakers Network

a program, a movement, a way of being



## Program Overview

Changemakers is a youth-led intergenerational network that connects young Mainers (ages 15-30) from diverse backgrounds who are passionate about the environment with peer mentors, and established professional mentors, in the sector. Changemakers provides the training and resources needed to support the environmental actions that participants organize in their communities. The Changemakers program commits to challenging traditional models of leadership, increasing innovation through dialogue, and crossing age and ability boundaries to develop a more inclusive and equitable environmental sector.

Changemakers is powerful today is because of the insight, innovation, and courage embodied in its youth-led design. Because of youth guidance Changemakers is 100% committed to building an empowering community for all. From a single event in 2016, the project has grown to a vibrant network where we provide training, networking events, share resources, a paid fellowship program, mentors, and resource support for participant's environmental community action projects. At Changemakers we believe that anyone can be an environmental Changemaker; everyone has a role to play in this work of building more resilient and equitable Maine communities. We are inviting people in to join the work and to bring their interests, knowledge, and skills to share. We encourage all participants to listen with an open heart and mind and to be willing to enter into conversations that may challenge their traditional practice. We challenge changemakers to move out of their comfort zones and into their learning and growth zones. Now, more than ever, we need to connect with one another across generations and difference to build our resources, our skills, our deep relationships and our sense of community to support and facilitate youth-led environmental action in Maine. Changemakers was founded in 2015 and is hosted by the Maine Environmental Education Association. Changemakers is developed in collaboration with youth changemakers, Maine Audubon, Cultivating Community, and UMaine 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Tanglewood.



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## Guiding Principles and Core Beliefs

There are a lot of important elements to Changemakers that makes it unique. The following are the guiding principles and core beliefs that underlie all programmatic decision making.

At Changemakers we are...

- committed to a growth mindset
- utilizing collaborative power to challenge norms and ask hard questions
- dreaming big
- facilitating intergenerational exchange of resources, support, and knowledge
- youth led
- building trust and meaningful connections with one another and our communities
- developing a more inclusive and equitable environmental sector
- inspiring change through deep empowerment
- optimistic
- building our skills and knowledge to be more effective, collaborative, and compassionate environmental agents of change

## Current Strategic Priorities

Changemakers is in an exciting period of growth. Though it is only three years old, it has a solid and powerful foundation on which to build over the next three years. The following are the strategic goals for Changemakers in the next three years:

- **Building a Strong Programmatic Foundation**
- **Creating Opportunities for Individual Empowerment**
- **Growing the Emerging Environmental Changemakers Network**
- **Challenging Norms and Creating New Paradigms**

This program is made possible by generous contributions including from:



## Maine Emerging Environmental Changemakers Network Events and Important Dates 2018 Calendar

### **January:**

- MEEA Awards Celebration and Networking Event: Maine Audubon, Falmouth
- Terra Matters Youth Climate Summit Project Kick off meeting: Casco Bay High School Portland

### **February:**

- Changemakers Program Design Process Begins: Cultivating Community, Portland

### **March:**

- Terra Matters Climate and Cookies Planning Event Maine Audubon, Falmouth
- New England Grassroots Environment Fund Sustainability Solutions Roundtable Event (changemakers a partner in planning and hosting this event) Bangor, Maine

### **April:**

- Terra Matters Youth Climate Summit: Portland Maine
- Changemakers Fellowship Applications Due
- MEEA Annual Conference: Changemakers Green Leadership Strand Colby College, Waterville Maine

### **May/June:**

- Changemakers Fellows Hired
- MEEA networking Event "Sea Level Rise Presentation" Gulf of Maine Research Institute Portland Maine
- Changemakers Design Team Presents Draft Program Design and three year strategic plan to MEEA Board of Directors

### **July-August:**

- Youth Planning Team for 2018 Gathering Hired
- Planning team meets to prepare gathering
- Fellows work on community action projects

### **August:**

- Applications for 2018-19 cohort open
- Planning team meets to prepare gathering

### **September:**

- Changemakers Gathering – Sept 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>

### **October:**

- North American Environmental Education Association Conference

### **November:**

- New England Environmental Education Alliance Conference
- Skill building training

### **December:**

- New England Grassroots Environment Fund Conference