

# Time to take action to protect our environment

I loved Rick Holmes' op-ed on environmental impacts in Maine (May 28 Daily News), paying attention to changes in nature, warming waters, acidic oceans, harm to humans, death to birds, and havoc to fish. Holmes also told of communities heeding scientists, and engaging in activism to overcome corporate resistance. He found hope in Mainers' tendency to be practical - don't argue about it, do something - like upgrading infrastructure to accommodate stronger storms.

Practical Mainers can do more: they can work to ensure that their next governor will take climate change seriously because replacing the state's feet-dragging on climate change is a practical step to make local actions more effective.

In Massachusetts, practical people can urge Governor Baker to reach out to gubernatorial colleagues, convincing them to join our Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Expanding RGGI into Pennsylvania, Ohio or New Jersey (Nov 2017's election will replace the state's governor, Chris Christie) is a practical step because RGGI is already up, running and well regarded.

We can urge Baker and our legislature to require a shadow carbon price for assessing utility proposals — for new power facilities, new pipelines or rates for net metering (Minnesota has a 20-year old shadow carbon price system we could adopt).

Or our legislature could get seriously practical and enact a real, not shadow, carbon emissions price. Our practical communities need the state to rapidly expand low-carbon transportation infrastructure, and help towns begin curbside food waste collection to cut methane emissions.

There's a lot to do - time to get to work.

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