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## **USDA State Director and Senator King Visit Biddeford Boatyard to Announce Grant**

*Saco Bay Marine lifts up businesses helping to  
make green energy part of Maine's blue economy*

### **Comments from event participants:**

"Saco Bay Marine has had the goal of making marine oriented businesses more environmentally conscious for over a decade. The installation of these solar panels with the assistance of the USDA and the Biden Administration is a major step in the right direction. We are excited for the opportunity for Saco Bay Marine, as well as the innovative marine based environmental technology companies that we host through a critical development period."

#### **-Sean Tarpey, Saco Bay Marine and Maine Electric Boat**

"Maine Electric Boat and Marine Solar technologies were both born out of a desire to make the world a better place through ocean decarbonization. While our approach is through water monitoring, and the use of electric propulsion in the commercial sector, we are delighted to see clean energy generating products installed at the facility that we call home. Furthermore, the conversation that this has started regarding the clean energy and environmental technology sectors is an important step towards incorporating "BlueTech," into the economic growth discussion, and the necessary steps that must be taken to nurture innovation in Maine."

#### **-Matt Tarpey, Maine Electric Boat and Saco Bay Marine**

"This award for Saco Bay Marine's solar installation is well deserved. Matt and Sean's work, particularly in the leading edge of marine electric transportation on the waterfront, will help Maine meet its climate goals while providing exciting workforce opportunities for Maine"

#### **-Senator Henry Ingwersen, Maine District 32**

"We are proud of this successful Biddeford business that is leading the way by example in the climate transition. We thank USDA Rural Development for supporting them and joining us in recognizing the potential of marine electrification."

**-Mayor Marty Grohman, City of Biddeford**

"Maine's lobster industry saw much of its infrastructure destroyed by climate-driven storms this month. We don't want to sit still and be victims. We want to lead on removing emissions from our food system. We know from our carbon footprint study that the only meaningful way to reduce our fishery's emissions is by replacing diesel engines with renewables, and we need support and investment now to work towards upgrading the fleet and have more control over the destiny of the Gulf of Maine."

**-Ben Conniff, co-founder, Luke's Lobster**

"As the Academic Director of the School of Marine and Environmental Programs at the University of New England, I was delighted to participate in this discussion. We are able to provide our students with a practical, meaningful education regarding issues revolving around the marine environment, sustainability, and climate change by engaging with government officials, companies like Maine Electric Boat Company and Marine Solar Technologies, and organizations like the Island Institute."

**-Dr. Charles Tilburg, University of New England**

[Doherty Chair of Marine Sciences Research](#)

Academic Director, [School of Marine and Environmental Programs](#)

Director, [Arthur P. Girard Marine Science Center](#)

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