

Maine moves to cut greenhouse gases

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Maine moves to cut greenhouse gases

AUGUSTA — The Maine Board of Environmental Protection has approved the first of many rules expected to pass in an ongoing effort to reduce the statewide emission of greenhouse gases. The board on Thursday voted in favor of a new requirement that paper mills, power plants, and factories track greenhouse gas emissions and report the data to the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Though the federal government does require reporting of air pollutants, a handful of states, including New Jersey and Connecticut, require businesses to track greenhouse gases.

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Maine's rule will impose stricter reporting requirements for a long list of federally regulated air pollutants. Emissions of such substances as ammonia, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and several other greenhouse gases will have to be reported beginning July 1, 2005.

With the rule in place, the environmental department will start collecting accurate data on Maine's contribution to global climate change to eventually use in building incentive programs for reducing greenhouse gases, said Sue Jones of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, Maine's largest environmental lobby.