

# Events, Workshops, and Funding for Communities and Service Providers



*Bi-monthly newsletter/email/outreach content for you to glean from. Take from this whatever is useful to you and your community (or communities). Use it in your own newsletters and outreach content or for your own benefit in the work you do.*

**VERSION: 3-22-23**

**Blue Highlighted = New Content**

## **Helpful Notes:**

*Resources and Grants+ lists are now a separate document. Click [HERE](#) to access.*

*This document is available as a Downloadable PDF. In this Google Docs application, go to File → Download → PDF Document (.pdf)*

***See opportunities here you'd like to learn more about but don't have time to research? Have projects you'd like to find funding for? We're here to help!***

[CONTACT US](#)

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## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **All / Various**

*Target Applicant: Municipal and Tribal Governments*

*Note: Available Grants funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law are also listed in various sections of this document.*

### **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding**

The **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)** has 18 different funding programs, 11 of which are directed to local governments. These programs will fund implementation of energy efficiency efforts, GHG reduction strategies, and coastal resilience projects. Most of the programs have special provisions for low-income and disadvantaged communities. Go to the State's new website for **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding opportunities** to learn more. [VIEW THE SITE](#)

### **Agriculture & Food Systems**

#### **Regional Food System Partnership (RFSP) Grant Program**

*Target Applicant: See below*

Administered by USDA, this annual program, also created within the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP), supports partnerships that plan and develop relationships between local and regional producers, processors, intermediaries, and institutional markets or institutional food service operations, focusing on strengthening the viability and resilience of regional food economies through collaboration and coordination. Proposed project must fall within one of three types of defined grant categories, with caps ranging from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000, with a 25% match required. *Eligibility: Partnerships are eligible to apply to RFSP. A partnership is an agreement between one or more eligible entities and one or more eligible partners. Eligible entities include producers, farmer or rancher cooperatives, producer networks or associations, majority-controlled producer-based business venture, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) networks and associations, food councils, local governments, nonprofit and public benefit corporations, economic development corporations, regional farmers' market authorities, and tribal governments. Eligible partners include state agencies or regional authorities, philanthropic corporations, private corporations, institutions of higher education, and commercial, federal, or Farm Credit System Lending Institutions.* An informational webinar will be held March 29. Application deadline is May 2.

[LEARN MORE](#)

### **Greenhouse Plastic Recycling Program**

*Target Applicant: Agricultural producers, anyone with large quantities of LDPE#4 to recycle*

This statewide agricultural plastic collection program administered through the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) is now accepting bundles of low-density polyethylene (LDPE#4) clear film used to cover greenhouses, high tunnels and other agricultural structures. Also accepted are white overwintering LDPE#4 film.

[LEARN MORE](#)

### **Existing Dairy Processor Expansion Grant**

*Target Applicant: Licensed dairy processors of all scales*

Administered by the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC), this program will fund existing dairy processing facilities located in the Northeast region with a focus on expanding utilization of regionally sourced milk and diversifying the supply chain. Projects funded through this grant will focus primarily on acquiring specialized equipment needed to increase processing capacity through volume expansion and existing product line expansion. This grant program is split into three funding tiers to accommodate processors of all scales. The two lower tiers (for smaller scale processors) are open for applications now, with a pre-application deadline of May 11, 2023. [LEARN MORE](#)

## **Energy**

### **Waste-to-Energy Technical Assistance for Local Governments**

*Target Applicant: Municipalities and tribal governments*

Organic waste streams, like food waste and wastewater sludge, represent significant environmental, economic, and social sustainability challenges for municipalities. Given that these waste streams require local solutions on various aspects of their management, such as existing uses and costs of disposal, this technical assistance program seeks to provide municipalities with the most relevant data for their decision-making. This will enable communities to evaluate what end-uses for the waste make the most sense for their community: on-site heat/power, transportation fuels, nutrient recovery, or otherwise. This technical assistance grant from the U.S. Department of Energy's Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) will fund up to 40 hours of subject matter assistance to municipalities topics, including: waste resource information, infrastructure considerations, techno-economic comparison of energy and resource recovery options, evaluation and sharing of case studies (to the extent possible) from similar communities/projects, and equity assessments. Applications are due April 14.

[LEARN MORE](#)

### **Coming Soon!**

#### **Energy Efficiency Materials Pilot Program for Nonprofits**

*Target Applicant: Nonprofit Organizations*

The Energy Efficiency Materials Pilot Program for Nonprofits is a new U.S. Department of Energy program to provide nonprofit organizations with funding to upgrade building materials to improve energy efficiency, lower utility costs, and reduce carbon emissions. Eligible uses include: roof or lighting systems or components of the system; windows; doors; heating, ventilation, or air conditioning systems or components of the systems (including insulation and wiring and plumbing improvements needed to serve a more efficient system). A great opportunity for non-municipal libraries, community centers, and community organizations.

[LEARN MORE](#)

#### **Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP)**

*Target Applicant: Remote and island communities*

What role can marine, hydropower, solar, geothermal, wind, and other renewable energy technologies play in improving your community's energy resilience? Remote and island communities can find answers when they apply to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP). The partnership combines local knowledge, support from regional institutions, and national

expertise from the DOE and national labs like NREL to help communities overcome unique energy resilience challenges. By participating in ETIPP, communities receive substantial support from ETIPP experts in the form of technical assistance in energy analysis and planning. Each community is also supported by an ETIPP regional partner that can assist with identifying a community's needs and options and developing their goals. Applications are due by May 19.

[LEARN MORE](#) and [REGISTER](#) for an informational webinar on April 11.

### **Federal Solar Tax Credits for Businesses, Nonprofits, and Municipal and Tribal Governments**

*Target Applicant: Businesses, nonprofits, and municipal and tribal governments*

There are two federal tax credits available for businesses and other entities like nonprofits and local and tribal governments that purchase solar energy systems: The investment tax credit (ITC) is a tax credit that reduces the federal income tax liability for a percentage of the cost of a solar system that is installed during the tax year. The production tax credit (PTC) is a per kilowatt-hour (kWh) tax credit for electricity generated by solar and other qualifying technologies for the first 10 years of a system's operation. It reduces the federal income tax liability and is adjusted annually for inflation. Organizations that don't pay federal taxes, like non-profits or local governments, can take advantage of the tax credits through either direct pay or a transfer of credit.

[LEARN MORE](#). Communities enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) in Region 1 may contact R1CC Co-lead [Karina Greater](#) for guidance.

### **Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants in Maine**

*Target Applicant: Rural small businesses and agricultural producers*

This program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing. [LEARN MORE](#) or connect with your Regional Planning Organization or contact [Brian Wilson](#), Maine program contact.

### **Clean Energy to Communities Program (C2C)**

*Technical Assistance Grant*

*Target Applicant: Municipal and Tribal Governments in partnership with electric utilities and community-based organizations*

U.S. Department of Energy and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

C2C connects local governments, tribes, electric utilities, and community-based organizations with national laboratory experts and customized, cutting-edge analysis to achieve clean energy systems that are reflective of local and regional priorities. By bringing together innovative technology, state-of-the-art modeling, and unique abilities to test clean energy plans before installing them in the field, C2C can help close the gap between clean energy ambitions and real-world deployment. C2C fosters community-led innovation with tailored support, from goal-setting and project development to technology deployment. Three types of support are available: in-depth partnerships, peer-learning cohorts, and expert match. [LEARN MORE](#)

### **Low-Cost Solar Loans for Businesses**

*Target Applicant: Small businesses with priority given to BIPOC-, women-, or immigrant-owned*

Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) is offering 2.75-3.5% interest loans for small businesses looking to install solar panels at their business. Funds are limited and priority will be given to businesses that are BIPOC-, women-, or immigrant-owned. Based on demand, loans may be capped in size. [LEARN MORE](#)

### **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG)**

*Target Applicant: Municipal and Tribal Governments*

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) provides federal grants to states, units of local government, and Indian tribes to assist eligible entities in implementing strategies to reduce fossil fuel emissions, to reduce total energy use, and to improve energy efficiency. Maine's 10 most populous Counties and Cities are eligible for formula grant funding through the EECBG. These communities have been contacted by the State and those in Region 1 have been contacted by the Regional Coordinator to learn about next steps. For all other communities, competitive federal grants will be made available later this year. We will keep you apprised! Learn more about the competitive EECBG program [HERE](#). Communities enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) in Region 1 may contact R1CC Co-lead [Karina Greater](#) for guidance.

### **Belvedere Historic Preservation and Energy Efficiency Energy Audit Grants**

*Target Applicant: Nonprofits, municipalities, or quasi-municipal entities*

The Belvedere Historic Preservation and Energy Efficiency Grant Program invests in the preservation, restoration, and retrofitting of historic buildings in Maine. Energy audit grants are specifically for the cost of an energy audit of a historic building.

[LEARN MORE](#)

### **Efficiency Maine HVAC, Lighting, and Refrigeration Project Incentives for Schools**

*Target Applicant: Public schools associated with – Maine School Administrative District (MSAD), Regional School Unit (RSU), Community School District (CSD), Alternative Organization Structures (ASO), Unions of Towns*

Efficiency Maine is seeking applications for projects that will help schools accelerate the conversion to high-efficiency equipment. Schools can apply to receive purchasing incentives for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), lighting and refrigeration projects. The program is specifically focused on Maine's public schools in smaller towns and districts. Efficiency Maine will accept applications for the school retrofits through May 31 or until funding has been exhausted. Application Deadline is May 31.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## **Environmental Justice**

### **The Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program**

*Target Applicant: Community-based nonprofit organizations, partnerships of community-based nonprofit organizations, partnerships between federally recognized Tribal governments and community-based nonprofit organizations, partnerships between institutions of higher education and community-based nonprofit organizations*

The new Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking (EJ TCGM) Program is a competition to select multiple Grantmakers around the nation to reduce barriers to the federal grants application process communities face and increase the efficiency of the awards process for environmental justice grants. Grantmakers will design competitive application and submission processes, award environmental justice subgrants, implement a tracking and reporting system, provide resources and support to communities, all in collaboration with EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights. Application deadline May 31.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## **Green Infrastructure**

### **National Coastal Resilience Fund**

*Target Applicant: Non-profit 501(c) organizations, state and territorial government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations, educational institutions, or commercial (for-profit) organizations*

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has announced approx. \$140 million of available funding to support coastal communities nationwide as they plan, design, and implement nature-based projects that improve fish and wildlife habitat AND enhance community resilience in the face of coastal hazards. Considering submitting a project for the National Coastal Resilience Fund? Community Resilience Partnership enrolled communities can reach out to their Regional Coordinator to discuss your project or



contact NCRF Field Liaisons at Throwe Environmental at [nrcf@throwe-environmental.com](mailto:nrcf@throwe-environmental.com). [LEARN MORE](#)

## **Infrastructure**

### **USDA Community Facilities (CF) Direct Loan Program**

*Target Applicant: Municipal and Tribal Governments with no more than 20,000 residents*

The CF Direct Loan Program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community. It must carry out a function customarily provided by a local unit of government. The facility must be located in a rural area and primarily serve rural residents. Funding in the form of grants and low interest loans is available for rural areas including cities, villages, townships, and towns including Federally recognized Tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents. Contact your Regional Planning Office for more information. [LEARN MORE](#)

## **Land Conservation & Management**

### **Maine Invasive Plant Control Grant Program**

*Target Applicant: Local governments, municipalities, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and private family woodland owners*

The Maine Forest Service (MFS) is providing assistance for Invasive Plant Control Practice Plans (IPCPP) for forests. This program will reimburse up to 50% of the cost based on the number of acres. The program's goal is to address invasive plants that choke out native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers in the eligible woodlands. A corps of natural resource professionals trained through the program's Invasive Plant Academy will be qualified to develop the IPCPPs. The IPCPP is available to public and private woodland owners with ten to one thousand wooded acres. Applications due 5:00 PM, March 31. Contact your County Soil and Water Conservation District FMI:

[York County Soil and Water Conservation District](#)

[Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District](#)

[Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

### **South Portland 100 Resilient Yards Program**

*Target Applicant: South Portland Residents*

South Portland Office of Sustainability and Partners brings experts, volunteers, and landowners together to create sustainable changes to properties in South Portland through the 100 Resilient Yards Program. Each property will be assessed and a design option will be chosen to transform yards and problem areas into beautiful and healthy

green spaces with their own ecological benefit. 100 Resilient Yards promotes organic landcare without the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers. This increases the resilience of our community and ecosystems and reduces pollution from stormwater runoff. Healthy soils, waterways, and ecosystems are key to our ability to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. 100 Resilient Yards addresses these interconnected environmental systems by promoting organic landcare.

[LEARN MORE and APPLY](#)

## **Land for Maine's Future – Funding for Conservation of Working and Recreational Lands**

*Target Applicant: Private landowners, and trusts, municipal conservation commissions, local governments, private nonprofit charitable organizations, state agencies, and private foundations*

The Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Board has announced the 2023 call for Farmland and Working Forest proposals. LMF has \$40 million in new funding for the conservation of working forests, farms, and commercial waterfronts, public access to woods and waters and the protection and management of wildlife, including deer wintering habitat.

[Working Forest / Conservation and Recreation Proposals](#)

May 19, 2023 - Inquiry Forms due no later than 5:00 PM.

August 4, 2023 - Final Proposals due no later than 5:00 PM.

[Working Farmland Proposals](#)

May 19, 2023 - Inquiry Forms due no later than 5:00 PM.

August 4, 2023 - Final Proposals due no later than 5:00 PM.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## **Land for Maine's Future – Funding for Public Access to Waters**

*Target Applicant: Private landowners, and trusts, municipal conservation commissions, local governments, private nonprofit charitable organizations, state agencies, and private foundations*

The Public Access to Maine Waters Fund is designed to 'get people to the water.' The goal of the fund is to secure public access rights on small parcels of land to create or enhance access points to lakes, ponds, rivers, and coastal waters. Land for access could support a facility for trailered boats, or small, hand-launched craft (canoes, kayaks) and provide bank fishing, swimming, clamming, worming, or other water contact opportunities. Access is primarily intended for general public use. [LEARN MORE](#)

## **Resilience**

### **Community Heart & Soul Seed Grants**



*Target Applicant: Small city and town resident-driven groups in partnership with their municipality or local community organization*

The Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program provides \$10,000 in funding for resident-driven groups in small cities and towns to start the Community Heart & Soul planning model. Community Heart & Soul is a resident-driven process that engages the entire population of a town in identifying what they love most about their community, what future they want for it, and how to achieve it. Grant funding requires a \$10,000 cash match from the participating municipality or a partnering organization.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## **Sea Level Rise**

### **Island Institute's ShoreUp Grant**

*Target Applicant: Island and coastal municipalities, organizations, and businesses (pre-approval to apply is required; speak with the program contact listed below)*

ShoreUp Grants offer funding support (up to \$10,000) for Maine island and coastal communities as they assess, implement, and/or plan for sea level rise. Sea level rise preparedness projects might include (but are not limited to): risk assessments, infrastructure and natural resource planning, and community engagement programs related to sea level rise. ShoreUp Grants provide flexible funding and support so that communities can plan for the assistance they need to start taking the steps that are right for them. [LEARN MORE](#) here and contact [Abby Roche](#) (701-200-2346) to discuss your project and application prior to submission.

## **Transportation**

### **Efficiency Maine Rural Level 2 EV Charging (EVI-FON-002-2023)**

*Target Applicant: Local governments, businesses, tribal governments, and nonprofits in rural Cumberland and York County*

Efficiency Maine is seeking applications for Level 2 electric vehicle (EV) chargers that are available to the public in rural communities in Cumberland and York Counties. This opportunity falls under Efficiency Maine's Electric Vehicle Initiatives and aims to expand public EV charging infrastructure in rural and remote areas in Maine. The goal of this round of funding is to assist rural communities in Cumberland and York County (excluding Portland, South Portland, and Westbrook) to enhance those communities' capacity to attract commerce and tourism and to serve local EV drivers as EVs become the dominant form of transportation. Developing comprehensive coverage of public EV chargers throughout the state will also encourage EV adoption in all parts of Maine. Application deadline is June 30, 2023.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## **Low or No Emission and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities**

*Target Applicant: Municipal and Tribal Governments (Application assistance required for rural applicants)*

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

The purpose of the Low-No Program is to support the transition of the nation's transit fleet to the lowest polluting and most energy efficient transit vehicles. The Low-No Program provides funding to state and local governmental authorities for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, including acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities. The purpose of the Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program is to assist in the financing of buses and bus facilities capital projects, including replacing, rehabilitating, purchasing or leasing buses or related equipment, and rehabilitating, purchasing, constructing or leasing bus-related facilities. Application deadline is April 13. To [LEARN MORE](#) about this opportunity and eligibility, please contact [Sara Mills-Knapp](#) or [Jon Gagne](#) at [Maine Clean Communities](#).

## **Maine DOT Workforce Transportation Funding Opportunity**

*Target Applicant: Employers or groups of employers, municipalities, non-profit organizations, human service organizations, and public/private transportation providers*

The Workforce Transportation Pilot program, an initiative of Governor Mills' Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan, to pursue and develop transportation solutions that connect workers with employers across Maine. The \$5M program will provide competitive grants of up to \$750,000 to local and regional partnerships to pilot ways to connect workers and employers through ridesharing, vanpools, and other subsidized transit options.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## **Maine DOT Village Partnership Initiative**

*Target Applicant: Municipalities and Tribal Governments of communities where the village or downtown is located on a state or state aid road / highway*

The Village Partnership Initiative is designed to be available to all willing communities that have or can agree upon a local vision. Village projects can vary from small, spot improvements to large, once-in-a-lifetime investments if we can successfully partner to access federal discretionary funds. Working with other agencies, these communities should have access to broadband, as good internet connections are as important as physical connections are today. [LEARN MORE](#)

## **Maine DOT Municipal Partnership Initiative**

*Target Applicant: Municipalities and Tribal Governments of communities where the village or downtown is located on a state or state aid road / highway*

MaineDOT's Municipal Partnership Initiative is intended to be a streamlined program to address municipal requests that deal with transportation infrastructure issues on state

and state aid highways, encourage economic opportunities, and make improvements to infrastructure to increase its life or correct safety deficiencies. [LEARN MORE](#)

## **Water / Stormwater / Wastewater**

### **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)**

*Target Applicant: Municipalities and quasi-municipal corporations*

The CWSRF program provides funds to municipalities and quasi-municipal corporations (i.e. village corporations, sanitary, sewer & utility districts, etc.) for the wastewater infrastructure projects. Additionally, \$50,000 grants for Fiscal Sustainability Plans (FSP) (which is an asset management plan with a water component) are available but require matching funds. The program also offers Climate Adaptation Plan funds up to \$25,000 to assess the system resiliency to climate hazards. 2023 CWSRF Information Request Form for Infrastructure projects is open until April 14.

[LEARN MORE](#)

### **Small Public Water System Emerging Contaminant Grants**

*Target Applicant: All community public water systems (except those regulated by the Public Utilities Commission), and all non-transient, non-community (NTNC) water systems*

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Environmental and Community Health is offering grant funding for up to \$60,000 for small public water systems projects to mitigate PFAS contamination. Grants are up to \$50,000 with additional \$10,000 available for engineering fees. This grant is offered on a rolling basis.

[LEARN MORE](#)

If PFAS contamination is a concern for your community, contact Bill Dawson at Maine Department of Health and Human Services to discuss your project:

William.Dawson@maine.gov or (207) 287-6196

## **EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS**

### **Community Resilience Partnership Building Stronger Communities Online Learning Series**

*Target Audience: Community leaders and volunteers serving communities enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership, those currently enrolling, and those interested in enrolling*

*About*

Building Stronger Communities Learning Opportunities are designed for community members and leaders of municipalities already enrolled in the Community Resilience

Partnership, those currently enrolling, as well as those interested in enrolling. The ongoing series covers a variety of topics, including specific guidance and funding opportunities for sea level rise, electrification, efficiencies, renewable energy, planning, stormwater management, green infrastructure, transportation, and more. The series highlights the successes and challenges of town-specific projects and provides a wide range of resources and tools to help enrolled and enrolling towns to build stronger communities.

### *Using the Series for Community Education*

If you would like a customizable poster to use to promote a community engagement event during which you'll be showing a past recording, please contact [Gabe McPhail](#).

### *Past Topics and Recordings*

**Sea Level Rise From Understanding to Action**, November 21, 2022

**Introducing the Community Resilience Partnership**, December 13, 2022

**Climate Change From Understanding to Action**, December 29, 2022

**Funding Projects into the Future**, January 10

**\$125,000 Community Action Grants for Regional Projects**, January 31

**Efficiency Maine Incentives and Services for Municipal Energy Upgrades**,  
February 14

**Landfill Solar**, March 9

**Building Stronger Communities – Municipal Broadband and Digital Equity**, March  
13

**Launching and Funding Transportation Projects with the Maine Department of  
Transportation**, March 21

[VIEW RECORDINGS OF PAST PRESENTATIONS HERE](#)

### **Building Stronger Communities – Municipal EV Development**

Online and In-person at KVCOG & AVCOG, CEBE, GPCOG

Tuesday, April 11, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

With over \$19 million in EV charging infrastructure investment over the next 5 years, what should municipalities be paying attention to? From installing municipal charging stations to electrifying fleets, charging station ordinances, and EV funding opportunities we'll cover the bases. [LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER](#)

Want to promote this event with a poster? [DOWNLOAD THE POSTER](#)

Want to host a watch party or your own event using this presentation? [DOWNLOAD A CUSTOMIZABLE POSTER](#) (add your event info in the white text box)

### **Building Stronger Communities – Municipal Energy Generation**

Online

Wednesday, April 26, 10:00 AM

There are a lot of questions when towns consider solar power installation projects. Join A Climate to Thrive's Executive Director Johannah Blackman and Solar Coordinator, Beth Woolfolk as we explore local solar power's role in grid resilience and why ownership matters. This 60 minute meeting will offer participants a general understanding of the power grid and solar power generation. We will then discuss how towns can build their local grid's resilience through solar energy generation, including the economic pathways to get there. No registration required. Simply click this [ZOOM LINK](#) to join the presentation.

### **Building Stronger Communities – Municipal Solar Site Planning & Ordinance Development**

Wednesday, May 3, 10:00 AM

Explore with Maine Farmland Trust's Abby Farnham and A Climate To Thrive's Solar Coordinator, Beth Woolfolk how towns can thoughtfully direct solar installations and manage them for the good of the entire community. This 60 minute meeting will consider: Why municipalities need to think about solar siting; Where solar investors prioritize development; What municipalities should consider when identifying ideal areas of solar development; Explore the reasoning behind solar moratoriums; General guidelines for solar siting on farmland; Update on proposed state legislation to establish balance between supporting solar development and protecting agricultural resources; Provide sample town ordinances as case studies on municipal approaches to balanced solar siting. No registration required. Simply click this [ZOOM LINK](#) to join the presentation.

### ***Agriculture / Food Systems***

#### **Dealing with Drought: Aligning farmer needs and advisor confidence, skills, and expertise**

*Target Audience: Producers, Agricultural service providers, General*

In-person and On-line

Monday, March 27, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

107 Norman Smith Hall, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

What do farmers need in order to adapt to increasingly common droughts in Maine? And does Maine have the professional expertise among its agricultural advisors to provide it? In 2020-2021, Dr. Rachel Schattman and colleagues conducted two complementary investigations: In the first, they asked farmers what kind of information,

technical advice, or financial support they needed to deal with both too much and not enough water. In the second investigation, they asked agricultural advisors (those who provide services directly to the agricultural community on a regular basis) to share their perspectives on what skills and bodies of knowledge are needed to help farmers address water-related concerns, and whether Maine organizations currently have the capacity to meet farmer needs. Join us to hear the results of these studies, and share your thoughts on where Maine can and should invest to attend to this growing challenge.

[LEARN MORE](#) and [ONLINE REGISTRATION](#)

### **2023 Maine Food Waste Solutions Summit**

*Target Audience: Farmers, food businesses, feeding partners, community leadership, government, nonprofit organizations, general*

Friday, April 14, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Hosted by Food Rescue Maine and the Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions, this event aims to bring together the state's key food system participants — farms, food businesses, feeding partners, community leadership, government and nonprofit organizations — to focus on ending food waste in Maine and building a stronger local food system with simple individual and community action. Registration required. Register by April 1, 2023.

[LEARN MORE](#)

### **21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge**

*Target Audience: Food system community groups and organizations, general audience*

Online Interactive Challenge Event

Monday, April 3 – Sunday, April 23

Hosted by Food Solutions New England, this annual event is a food system-oriented three-week habit-building challenge where you commit to deepening your understanding of, and willingness to confront, racism for 21 consecutive days. The goal for the challenge, which will run from April 3 to 23, 2023, is for participants to be inspired to act on their own or with others in their organizations, businesses or groups to dismantle systems of oppression and to make changes in their work and the world that can build true equity and justice for all. [LEARN MORE](#)

## ***Economic Development***

### **Summit on Maine's Economy & Climate Change**

*Target Audience: Businesses and business support organizations*



In-person

ClimateWork

Friday, May 19, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Augusta Civic Center, 76 Community Drive, Augusta, Maine

How Climate Change will reshape Maine's Economy and what it means for the future of your business. [LEARN MORE](#) or [CONTACT FMI](#)

## **Energy**

### **A Climate to Thrive (ACTT) Climate Chats – The Maine Grid and Solar**

*Target Audience: General Audience*

Online

Friday, March 24, 12:00 PM

Join ACTT for a virtual, 45-minute lunchtime program the first Friday of every month at noon. Chats explore topics relevant to locally implementable climate solutions and leave ample room for questions and discussion. A critical component of successfully transitioning off fossil fuels and building an affordable, climate-friendly, and extreme weather-resistant energy future is our electrical grid. Currently, the transition to renewable energy is hitting significant roadblocks when it comes to the grid here in Maine. In particular, folks might have read about issues interconnecting solar projects to the electrical grid and the crippling impact of these roadblocks on local solar. The good news is, there are solutions and implementing these solutions would benefit Maine residents and ratepayers! Join ACTT to learn more about the Maine grid and solar energy and how we can each play a role in ensuring our grid is prepared to make the transition off fossil fuels for a climate-friendly future that will benefit all of us. [REGISTER](#)

### **Free Online Electric Boat Course**

*Target Audience: General Audience ages 15+*

Online

From the Island Institute, Kennebec Valley Community College, Mid-Coast School of Technology, Maine Electric Boat Company, and Bayside Marine

#### **LEVEL 1 – ELECTRIC BOAT MOTOR: FOUNDATIONS**

Requirements: This course is intended for a general audience, ages 15 and up. No prior marine engine experience needed, just a desire to learn about electric boats.

Description: This course provides an introduction to electric boats to help the general public and those already in the field gain an understanding of the benefits of electric boats and potential career opportunities in the sector. [LEARN MORE](#)

## **Forest Carbon Sequestration**

### **New Forest Carbon and Climate Adaptation**

*Target Audience: Forest landowners*

Online

Wednesday, April 1, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Are you wondering what to do about forest carbon, carbon markets and making your forest more resilient to the effects of climate change on your woods in the northeast? Dr. Alexandra Kosiba, the University of Vermont's Extension Forester, will cover forests' role in sequestering and storing carbon, what you can do to increase sequestration and storage in your forests and what your options are if you want to sell forest carbon in the carbon markets. She will also cover steps landowners and their managers can take to increase forest resilience to climate change by encouraging management actions that adapt forests to the effects of our changing climate. This webinar is designed specifically for forest landowners and sponsored by Securing Northeast Forest Carbon Program. [REGISTER](#)

## **Forests and Gardens**

### **Gardening for Wildlife Habitat**

*Target Audience: General*

In-person

Saturday, March 25, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Prince Memorial Library, 266 Main Street, Cumberland, Maine

This workshop will explore gardening and landscaping with an eye toward creating and maintaining habitat for local wildlife. Gardening for wildlife not only benefits other species, but is good for humans as well, as it is often low maintenance, low input and attracts birds and insects that are enjoyable to observe and interact with. Speaker: Aaron Parker, Edgewood Nurseries. Part of the Lawns Gone Wild: Educating for Sustainable Backyards Series. Lawns Gone Wild is a yearlong sustainable backyard education series and is offered in collaboration with the Town of Cumberland's Sustainability Committee, Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust, and Prince Memorial Library.

[LEARN MORE](#)

### **Building Climate Resilience with Native Plants**

*Target Audience: General*

In-person

Wednesday, March 29, 6:00 PM

Rockport Public Library, 1 Limerock Street, Rockport, Maine

The Rockport Conservation Commission's speaker series "Taking Action on Climate Change: What Can Rockport Do?" continues with "Building Climate Resilience with Native Plant Species". Rebecca Jacobs will discuss the critical role of native plants and how to cultivate them in your own yard to support ecosystem health. Rebecca Jacobs is the Program Manager for Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District. She also operates her own gardening business, Gabriella's Gardens in Camden.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## **Forestry 101**

*Target Audience: Small woodlot stewards, or for anyone wanting learn about the forests of eastern Maine and the principles, techniques and practices used to manage forest resources*

In-person

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners: Low-Impact Forestry

March 25 – April 29, Saturdays, 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

East Orland, Maine

Blue Hill Heritage Trust, Great Pond Mountain Trust and Maine Woodlot Owners are offering a comprehensive forestry short course this spring covering the principles, techniques and practices used to manage forests in eastern Maine. This detailed course will comprise six half-day sessions. [LEARN MORE](#)

## **Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District (KLSWCD) 2023 Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser**

*Target Audience: General*

In-person

Friday and Saturday, May 12 and 13

Union Fairground, 175 Fairgrounds Lane, Union, Maine

More than 180 varieties of plants available:

Bareroot Native Trees & Shrubs for Biodiversity, Wildlife Habitat & Erosion Control

Organic, Field-Grown Native Perennials for Pollinators

Bareroot Fruit Trees, Berries & Other Edibles for your Home Garden

Plant orders are due by 5:00 PM on April 18, 2023.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## **Resilience**

### **2023 Maine Sustainability & Water Conference**

*Target Audience: Wastewater operators, Municipal officials, Planners, Service providers, General*

In-person

Thursday, March 30, 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM  
Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, Maine

Exhibitors and concurrent learning sessions. Topics include:

Cyanotoxins in Maine Lakes

Applied Research to Advance Coastal Climate Resilience

In-stream Restoration for Salmonid Habitat

Maine's new program to prevent pharmaceuticals from entering Maine's waters and aquatic environments

Celebrating the Clean Water Act: Past, Present and Future

Protecting Key Ecosystems through Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Maine:

Insights from IPM research, application, communication and outreach initiatives

Maine Community Resilience Partnership: Supporting Local Climate and Energy Action

Septic Systems In Lake Watersheds

Should Maine Develop a More Comprehensive Approach to Invasive Species Management?

Stream Crossings and Aquatic Restoration: Available Tools and Resources

Climate Courage and Compassion: Strengthening our Activism with Care

Voices of the PFAS issue in Maine

Challenges and Opportunities for Municipal Resilience in Maine

[LEARN MORE](#) and [REGISTER](#)

### **LEAN In: Building and researching a statewide Local Energy & Climate Action Network in Maine**

*Target Audience: Service Providers, Community and municipal leaders, General*

In-person and On-line

Monday, April 3, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

107 Norman Smith Hall, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

Maine communities have been taking local action on sustainable energy adoption and climate change adaptation for decades. However, there has not been a coordinated effort at the state level to directly support these projects until recently. Meanwhile, statewide Local Energy & climate Action Networks (LEANs) like the Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network and New Hampshire Local Energy Solutions provide regular peer-learning opportunities, trainings, centrally distributed information about funding, and other resources specific to community-scale projects to help community-scale projects be successful and learn from each other. With statewide partnerships (Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future's Community Resilience Partnership, UMaine's Climate Change Adaptation Providers Network, Maine Climate Action Now!, Maine Sierra Club's Climate & Community Action Teams) and local

regional groups (A Climate To Thrive, Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System, Center for an Ecology-Based Economy) now active, Maine has the necessary pieces to form a LEAN. What will it take to pull it together? How can a Maine LEAN advance equitable sustainable energy adoption and climate resilience in the state? What types of research opportunities could it provide for researchers? This talk will provide a vision for a Maine LEAN and the research possibilities related to it, as well as an overview of existing LEANs in other states. The talk will conclude with a discussion with audience members about these ideas.

[LEARN MORE](#) and [ONLINE REGISTRATION](#)

### **Responding to Climate-Amplified Extreme Weather Events**

*Target Audience: Community Leaders, Service Providers*

Online

Wednesdays April 5, 19, May 3, 17, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

This four-part virtual series from the National Adaptation Forum aims to better prepare communities for climate-amplified extreme weather by showcasing approaches, plans, and community-engagement strategies that are being used across the country. Extreme weather events can have devastating impacts on human communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems. Yet, these impacts will only worsen as extreme weather event frequency, severity, and duration are made worse by climate change and recovery times are shortened, limiting the ability of already resource-limited communities to prepare for the next event. Therefore, it is critical that extreme weather event preparedness and response are integrated into our climate adaptation strategies. This series will feature presentations focused on innovative approaches for minimizing the impacts of extreme storms.

[LEARN MORE](#) and [REGISTER](#) to attend

### **Local Leads the Way**

*Target Audience: Community members, community leaders*

Online

First Monday of each month, 4:00 PM

Next Meeting is Monday, April 10

A Climate to Thrive (ACTT)

Local Leads the Way was developed and is hosted by [A Climate to Thrive \(ACCT\)](#). This monthly zoom gathering provides support to communities throughout the state who are engaged in community-driven, solutions-focused climate action. Local Leads the Way hosts monthly meetings open to anyone involved in or contemplating community-driven climate action. Through these meetings, participants share resources, build networks of

support, participate in trainings, collaborate, and reduce duplication of effort. [LEARN MORE](#) and [REGISTER](#) to attend.

### **Earth Day Beach Cleanup**

*Target Audience: General*

In-person

Saturday, April 22, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Old Orchard Beach, Palace Playland, Old Orchard Beach, Maine

Maine Conservation Alliance and Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation – one of New England's leading marine debris and conservation organizations – are hosting a beach cleanup at Old Orchard Beach.

All are welcome. You can park for free at the Milliken Street Parking Lot. Then walk about 0.5 miles south down the beach to meet in front of Palace Playland.

[LEARN MORE](#) and [REGISTER](#)

### **2023 Local Solutions: Climate Migration**

*Target Audience: Community climate leaders, educators, municipal and tribal government staff, anyone interested in learning more about climate migration*

In-person

Tuesday, May 16 - Wednesday, May 17

Antioch University Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience  
Keene, New Hampshire

The goal of this convening is to build capacity for socially just and equitable migration and enhanced regional climate resilience. This gathering will be a culmination of the Northeast Safe and Thriving for All (NEST) project, funded by the NOAA Climate Adaptation Partnerships (formerly RISA) program to convene residents from across the upper Northeast region, with a focus on becoming a place that is resilient, revitalized, socially just, and decarbonized. [LEARN MORE and REGISTER](#)

### **Coffee & Climate: Sharing Economy and Electric Tools**

*Target Audience: General Audience*

Online

Friday, April 14, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Brie Berry, an economic & environmental anthropologist and current Assistant Professor at Ursinus College, will be joining us to discuss Maine's vibrant reuse economy and the environmental, social, and economic benefits that second-hand and sharing can contribute to our communities. The South Portland Office will also be announcing their soon-opening South Portland Electric Tool Library (SPETL). Coffee & Climate is a



monthly speaker series – hosted by Portland and South Portland Sustainability Offices – which breaks down a given sustainability or climate topic with the help of guest speakers. 2023 Coffee & Climate programming includes a range of topics including sustainability in the arts, aquaculture, plastics, environmental justice and more!

[REGISTER](#)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### ***Where can you get help learning more about these opportunities?***

Communities enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) can contact their county-specific Region 1 Regional Coordinator. *We are here to help you!*

CRP Enrolled Communities in **York and Southern Oxford Counties** contact Karina Graeter at Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC)  
[kgraeter@smpdc.org](mailto:kgraeter@smpdc.org) (207) 571-7065

CRP Enrolled Communities in **Cumberland County** contact Sara Mills-Knapp at Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG)  
[smills-knapp@gpcog.org](mailto:smills-knapp@gpcog.org) (207) 664-8414

CRP Enrolled Communities in **Lincoln County** contact Emily Rabbe at Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission (LCRPC)  
[erabbe@lcrpc.org](mailto:erabbe@lcrpc.org) (207) 882-5983

CRP Enrolled Communities in **Sagadahoc and Knox Counties** contact Gabe McPhail  
[gabe@rcmaine.org](mailto:gabe@rcmaine.org) (207) 952-1817

For general inquiries about support offered through the Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) contact [Gabe McPhail](#).

### ***Where can you find help if you are enrolling or unenrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership?***

**Enrolling communities** can contact your Community Resilience Partnership Service Provider (if you have one) or your Regional Planning Organization.

**Unenrolled communities** can contact your Regional Planning Organization:

Communities in **York and Southern Oxford Counties** contact Karina Graeter at Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC)  
[kgraeter@smpdc.org](mailto:kgraeter@smpdc.org) (207) 571-7065

Communities in **Cumberland County** contact Sara Mills-Knapp at Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG)

[smills-knapp@gpcog.org](mailto:smills-knapp@gpcog.org) (207) 664-8414

Communities in **Lincoln County** contact Emily Rabbe at Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission (LCRPC)

[erabbe@lcrpc.org](mailto:erabbe@lcrpc.org) (207) 882-5983

Communities in **Sagadahoc and Knox Counties** contact Meg Rassmussen at Midcoast Council of Governments (MCOG)

[Mrasmussen@midcoastcog.com](mailto:Mrasmussen@midcoastcog.com) (207) 209-4129

For general inquiries about joining the Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) contact [Gabe McPhail](#) or [LEARN MORE](#).