



ADDITIONS HIGHLIGHTED

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING: BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES LEARNING SERIES presented by your CRP Regional Coordinators and Service Providers

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REGION 3 MEMBERS & PRIORITY PROJECTS

Welcome newer Region 3 communities currently undertaking the enrollment process with the following service providers:

207 Permaculture: Durham

Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments: Eustis, Kingfield, Phillips, Rangeley & Wilton

Center for Ecology Based Economy: Hartford, Oxford & Sumner

Kennebec Valley Council of Governments: Chelsea, Fairfield, Gardiner, Randolph, Skowhegan & Waterville

Get to know your fellow enrolled communities and their [priority projects](#). If there is a town or project, you would like more information about let me help make the connection!

Bethel, Carrabassett Valley, Carthage, Chesterville, Farmington, Greenwood, Hallowell, Jay, Norway, Lisbon, Otisfield, Paris, Poland, Waterford, and Woodstock.

[LEARN MORE](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Energy

Efficiency Maine HVAC, Lighting, and Refrigeration Project Incentives for Schools (UNTIL FUNDS ARE EXHAUSTED OR MAY 31, 2023)

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, 2023, or until funding has been exhausted.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Efficiency Maine Incentives for Small Municipality Retrofits HVAC, Lighting, and Refrigeration (CLOSES AUG. 31, 2023)

Efficiency Maine is seeking applications for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), lighting, and refrigeration projects in government facilities of small Maine municipalities and Tribes. Eligible applicants with qualifying projects receive enhanced purchasing incentives intended to accelerate the conversion to high-efficiency equipment in municipal and tribal government buildings across the state.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Belvedere Historic Preservation Energy Audit Grants (NO DEADLINE)

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. Criteria: All applicants must meet the Maine Community Foundation's grant eligibility requirements. To receive a grant for an energy audit, the building must, be owned by a nonprofit organization or municipality or quasi-municipal entity, and be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, be determined eligible for listing on the Register, or be a contributing building in a nationally designated historic district. The maximum amount awarded for an energy audit is \$5,000. Energy Audit Grant applications may be submitted at any time. Requests will be considered as they are received and decisions will be made within 4 weeks of submission.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Infrastructure

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Funding (CLOSES DEC. 9)

The BRIC program is a hazard mitigation assistance program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that provides funding for proactive investment in community resilience and projects that seek to mitigate the impacts of hazards and climate change before a disaster occurs. The BRIC program includes a national-competitive grant program and a state allocation for state-competitive grants. For the coming year, \$1.5 million in

funding is available for state-competitive grants. The amount available for national grants will be announced in August.

For more information about FEMA funding opportunities, please contact Heather Dumais, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, for application and eligibility criteria at (207) 441-9510 or heather.dumais@maine.gov.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Flood Mitigation Assistance (CLOSES JAN. 27, 2023)

The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program makes federal funds available to states, U.S. territories, federally recognized tribal governments, and local governments to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). It does so with a recognition of the growing flood hazards associated with climate change, and of the need for flood hazard risk mitigation activities that promote climate adaptation, equity, and resilience with respect to flooding. These include both acute extreme weather events and chronic stressors which have been observed and are expected to increase in intensity and frequency in the future.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Federal Highway Administration Culvert Grants (CLOSES FEB. 6, 2023)

The Federal Highway Administration is accepting applications from states, tribes and local governments for grants of \$10,000 to \$200,000 to improve or restore anadromous fish passage through the replacement, removal, repair, or improvement of culverts or weirs. Anadromous fish species are born in freshwater such as streams and rivers, spend most of their lives in the marine environment, and migrate back to freshwater to spawn.

Click below to learn more or contact your Regional Planning Organization.

[LEARN MORE](#)

USDA RD Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant (OPEN)

This program provides affordable funding through low interest direct loans, grants and a combination to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment and pay related project expenses.

What can the funds be used for?

- Public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, airport hangars or street improvements
- Community support services such as childcare centers, community centers, fairgrounds or transitional housing
- Public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles or equipment
- Educational services such as museums, libraries or private schools
- Utility services such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment
- Local food systems such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs or greenhouses.

What are the funding priorities?

- Priority point system based on population, median household income
 - Small communities with a population of 5,500 or less

- Low-income communities having a median household income below 80% of the state nonmetropolitan median household income.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Resilience

Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant (NO DEADLINE, APPS REVIEWED MONTHLY)

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. Requires 1:1 cash match.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Funding (Details Forthcoming)

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) was signed into federal law August 16th, 2022. Designed to slow inflation and stabilize the economy, it 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 more. Most of the programs have special provisions for low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Programs for Local Governments:

- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (the Green Bank) grants to reduce community and private sector GHGs
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grants to implement GHG reductions
- Latest and Zero Building Energy Code Adoption
- Improve Efficiency, Water, Resilience of Affordable Housing for projects that improve sustainability, efficiency & resilience
- Low Emissions Electricity Program funding for education, technical assistance, and outreach related to reducing GHGs from electricity production
- Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles to cover up to 100% of costs for replacing gasoline powered heavy duty vehicles with zero-emissions ones
- Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program supports building or improving complete streets, multi-use trails, regional greenways, and transportation networks
- Investing in Coastal Communities and Climate Resilience
- Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grants

[VIEW THE IRA GUIDEBOOK TO LEARN MORE](#)

Transportation

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JAN. 17, 2023)

Efficiency Maine is pleased to announce a new funding opportunity for Level 2 electric vehicle (EV) chargers that are available to the public in rural communities. The goal of this round of funding is to assist rural communities in the state's 14 northern counties (i.e., all counties except Cumberland County and York County), where public EV chargers are less common, to enhance

those communities' capacity to attract commerce and tourism 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.

This opportunity will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis and local governments, businesses, and nonprofits in eligible rural towns are encouraged to apply on the Efficiency Maine website. Quick read 1 page program [factsheet](#).

[LEARN MORE](#)

Tactical Urbanism Lightning Grants (NO DEADLINE)

Projects may be transportation-focused (road diets, bike lanes, traffic calming, signage) or community enhancement (park or plaza activation, art installations, pop-up parks, or other public engagement ideas). Formalize or enhance a neighborhood trail link or shortcut. Projects are for up to \$1,000 and are awarded on a rolling basis. Projects could include: Install a protected bike lane, Paint a new crosswalk, Activate an underutilized public space, Activate a vacant lot, Reallocate underutilized road space for public life, Arrow travel lanes to slow vehicular speed, and Add stop signs to improve intersection safety.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Workforce Transportation Funding Opportunity (NO DEADLINE)

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 (NO DEADLINE)

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 through earmarks or BIL grants. Depending upon the vision of each individual municipality, we can look to make investments in the lower-speed areas where people meet, shop, and do business. These village areas need to be built on a human scale: walkable, bicycle-friendly, and business-friendly.

These projects can range from gateway treatments, marking the beginning of a village area to help slow traffic, to improving pedestrian crossings and ADA compliance. They may also be used to enhance on-street parking, improve sidewalks, etc.

- Municipal Property Valuation less than \$150M, 70% State, 30% Municipal
- Municipal Property Valuation a\$150M to \$350M, 60% State, 40% Municipal
- Municipal Property Valuation >\$350M, 50% State, 50% Municipal

The maximum amount of the agreement will be dependent on the complexity of the project and the amount of design needed to be competitive on the federal level. These are complex projects and will take several years to develop.

[LEARN MORE](#)

EVENTS

Building & Codes

\$25 Builder Training

Monday, December 14, 9:00 am-3:00 pm
Brewer Auditorium 318 Wilson St. Brewer ME
Instructors: Erik Durbas, Svea Tullberg, Randy Poulton.

With the new update to Maine's building codes—and the increased importance of sustainability—we want to share this training. This training will teach new and experienced builders about (1) meeting the new MUBEC building and health codes as well as (2) understanding and implementing the most effective and modern practices for building long-lasting, low-carbon structures. This in-person, one-day builder training, the focus will be on clarifying myths of advanced building, including air sealing strategies and thermal bridge mitigation as it relates to understanding the MUBEC code as well as the Stretch Code. We will include an introduction to materials that enhance building success as well as parsing the cost benefits. For this single-day event, the goal is not to get lost in the minutia, but to provide a clear understanding of the principles behind the new codes and a pathway for gaining more information. You can email info@passivhausmaine.org for more information on this or other trainings.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Ecosystems

Managing Your Forest With Climate Change in Mind

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA)
Wednesday, December 14, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Online Workshop
Sliding scale: \$0-\$15

Are you concerned about the impacts of climate change on forests? Join this webinar to learn about how forests are impacted by climate change and steps we can take to increase forest resilience to climate change. You will also learn about available resources including a new resource recently developed by University of Vermont Extension, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, and Vermont Woodlands Association: 12 Steps for Climate Resilience.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Equity, Climate Justice, Leadership

Scenario Tools to Maximize Equity & Impact

Project Evident

December 13, 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Zoom Workshop

Scenario tools can amplify diverse voices and help organizations and communities envision multiple futures in times of rapid change. Scenario tools surface risks and opportunities to guide your adaptation of program and strategy. They can be used at the beginning of a project to better understand your landscape or at the end to highlight areas for learning and evolution. This session will teach practitioners the basics of facilitating a scenario workshop, selecting participants to enhance equity, and provides templates to guide responsive planning through rapidly changing contexts.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Building Your Virtual Facilitation Skills (BYVFS)

Spring 2023 Series: Five Live Weekly Sessions, March 22 – April 19, 2023

This course will help you become a better facilitator in a rapidly evolving virtual world. The global pandemic impacted our daily routines in many ways, including the transition of in-person meetings to virtual platforms. Do you find yourself leading more virtual groups? Would you like to improve engagement? Better manage the group's process and challenges? Have more confidence with the multiple aspects of virtual technology? Adapt proven techniques and tools for a virtual environment?

Explore the emerging best practices of virtual facilitation skills. This course builds on the well-known Strengthening Your Facilitation Skills Level One training. We will build confidence and practice skills in a safe, supportive environment.

[REGISTER FOR SPRING SESSIONS](#)

Building Your Virtual Facilitation Skills: Train-the-Trainer Series

Spring 2023 Series: Five Live Weekly Sessions, March 22 – April 19, 2023

For experienced facilitators interested in expanding their facilitation skills and implementing this training program as instructors, we are offering a Train-the-Trainer course concurrent with the core Building Your Virtual Facilitation Skills training. These sessions will explore best practices for working virtually with groups and provide technical support for adapting and implementing the training.

[REGISTER FOR SPRING SESSIONS](#)

Food Waste, Recycling

Waste and Climate Change: What's the Connection?

University of Maine Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions

Thursday, December 8, 5:30 PM

Hybrid online Zoom and in-person at the Northeast Harbor Library, Northeast Harbor

Join A Climate to Thrive and Susanne Lee from the University of Maine's Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions to explore the connection between waste and climate change. Where should we focus our energy in changing how we make and deal with waste? Is recycling a hoax? What role does policy have to play? How does food waste enter the picture? Join us as we explore all of these questions and more.

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

Resilience

Community Resilience Partnership Building Stronger Communities Series – Online Learning Series – Conversations, Workshops & More with in-person participation options. Sessions listed in [Blue](#).

What can my town do with \$50,000? Towns enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership are provided technical assistance to apply for a myriad of state, federal, and philanthropic grants for resiliency projects. This series will cover the basics of joining the partnership, share experiences from towns that have gotten funding for their projects, and inform you of upcoming grant opportunities and resilience tools. The aim is to bring together new and existing program participants to inspire and connect projects and grants, and help towns strategize to leverage the most out of upcoming resiliency grant opportunities. Who knows you may be asking yourself what you can do together by the end of the series?!

[FULL PROGRAM DETAILS INCLUDING PAST RECORDINGS FOUND HERE](#)

Building Stronger Communities Series -Introducing the Community Resilience Partnership

Virtual and In-person at KVCOG, AVCOG, CEBE
Tuesday, December 13, 10:00 -11:15 am

The Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) is a new state grant program aimed at helping communities become more resilient. Learn about the steps to enroll your community, the no-match grant opportunities, and the ongoing technical assistance available to help towns fund their priority projects through this program. This session is aimed at town managers, select board members, municipal committees, interested residents, and organizations interested in building a more resilient community.

[LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER](#)

Building Stronger Communities – Climate Change: From Understanding to Action

Virtual only
Thursday, December 29, 12:00 -1:30 pm

Learn about the Climate Science behind Maine Won't Wait – the state's four-year climate action plan. Discover how communities enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership are using tools and strategies in the plan to lessen their climate impact and achieve cost savings and efficiencies while reducing the emissions that drive climate change.

[LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER](#)

Building Stronger Communities - Funding Projects Into the Future

Virtual and in-person at KVCOG, AVCOG, CEBE

Tuesday, January 10, 10:00 -11:00 am

Towns enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership are provided technical assistance to apply for a myriad of state, federal, and philanthropic grants for resiliency projects. In this session, we will hear from communities enrolled in the partnership as to how they were able to leverage multiple funding sources for a project. Examples include Skowhegan's downtown plan as it relates to active transportation, land use, and land conservation, and Greenwood's historic building preservation and energy upgrade project. This session will also prepare towns in applying for the upcoming CAG to open in March.

[LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER](#)

The Inflation Reduction Act & You

A Climate to Thrive

Friday, January 13, 2023, 12:00 PM

Join A Climate to Thrive for their monthly Climate Chat series exploring relevant topics related to climate solutions. During this Climate Chat, explore the Inflation Reduction Act's climate-related funding opportunities. Learn more about included rebates, tax incentives, and other support for individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and municipalities. We will dive into when different funding is available, how to access the support, and more.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Building Stronger Communities - \$125,000 Community Action Grants for Regional Projects

Virtual and In-person at KVCOG, AVCOG, CEBE & ACTT

Tuesday, January 31, 10:00 -11:00 am

Join service providers A Climate To Thrive (ACTT) and Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC) for a discussion on how they each brought together neighboring communities to write climate action plans. While the benefits of multi-town collaboration can be stymied by any number of barriers, successful groups share how they overcame those obstacles when they focused on the "dollars and sense" of working with the Community Resilience Partnership. Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG), working with two groups converging around land conservation, community solar projects, and public works cooperatives share some lessons and challenges to working alongside communities with a variety of priorities and perspectives.

[LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER](#)

Building Stronger Communities - Efficiency Maine Incentives and Services for Municipal Energy Upgrades

Virtual or Hybrid at KVCOG, AVCOG & CEBE

Tuesday, February 14, 10:00 – 11:00 am

Efficiency Maine currently has generous rebate programs on lighting, HVAC, refrigeration upgrades, and electric vehicles for municipalities and tribal governments. This coupled with a free virtual project consult can be a winning combination to help towns achieve significantly

reduce capital investment costs and energy savings. Learn more from Efficiency Maine staff as well as tour some recent municipal projects that took advantage of these programs.

[LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER](#)

Building Stronger Communities - Municipal EV Development

Virtual an In-person at KVCOG & AVCOG, CEBE, GPCOG

Tuesday, April 11, 10:00 – 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](#)

Transportation & Communications

4th Annual Broadband Summit

Maine Connectivity Authority

Thursday, December 8, Noon – 5:00 PM Online

Friday, December 9, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Thomas College, Waterville Maine

Event sessions will be designed for those at an early stage AND advanced stage of knowledge and readiness. This includes: County administrators; emergency management agencies; Economic Development Districts; municipalities, utility districts, regional chambers of commerce, healthcare providers, libraries; school boards / superintendents, institutions of higher learning, community members, elected officials, philanthropies, IT professionals, policy wonks, and everything in between.

The one and a half days of programming built for attendees of all types. Broadband projects depend on community members to be well-equipped with the knowledge and resources to tackle every challenge in their way. Thursday: Held online, this half day session will include a keynote speaker along with programming geared towards an online audience. Friday: Though both in-person and online, we encourage attendance in Waterville on Friday. We plan to create spaces where people can meet, share ideas, and workshop solutions together.

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

Electric Vehicles, the 411

A Climate to Thrive

Friday, December 9, 12:00 PM

Online Zoom Workshop

Join A Climate to Thrive for their monthly Climate Chat series exploring relevant topics related to climate solutions. During this Climate Chat, explore EV-related topics like available models, financing, charging, range-anxiety and more.

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

OTHER GRANT RESOURCE PAGES

General

[Resilience Grants Guide](#)

State and federal funding opportunities from the Maine Climate Change Adaptation Providers Network

[Federal Funding Guide](#)

New England Environmental Finance Center (NEEFC)

[State and Federal Funding Inventory](#)

New England Environmental Finance Center Southern New England Program (SNEP)
Clearinghouse of federal, state, and philanthropic grant opportunities relative to stormwater/watershed management, ecological restoration and climate resilience.

[Federal Transportation Funding Matrix](#)

US Department of Transportation (USDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
List of competitive grant programs used to fund various types of transportation projects and activities. Includes many funding opportunities for local and tribal governments.
