



ADDITIONS HIGHLIGHTED

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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)

Credits to the [Community Resilience Partnership](#) Region 1 Coordinator Collaborative for compiling this information and allowing its distribution. Additional region-specific contributions by AVCOG.

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](#)

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (DEADLINE TBD)

Maine's 10 most populous counties and cities are eligible for formula grant funding for energy-related projects through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). Details about the EECBG program, including eligible communities and projects, and the application process are in the link below. Funding will be available starting January 2023. Eligible cities and counties are asked to share their thoughts about the program via this quick [SURVEY](#) Due Dec 16th.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Infrastructure

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](#)

Land Conservation

Land For Maine's Future 2023 Request for Conservation and Recreation Projects

Applicants should use the Project Readiness criteria to evaluate whether their project is ready for submission on page 16 of this [LMF Proposal Workbook](#). Eligible applicants include non-profit land conservation organizations, cities, towns, and state agencies.

Round A: Projects of Statewide Significance and Community Conservation Projects

Projects of Statewide Significance include lands with one or more resources that are rare and/or exceptional in Maine based on published report(s), database(s), or credible testimony and/or the recreational activity associated with the parcel will frequently and routinely attract users to travel to the land from across the state or even from out-of-state to the parcel.

DEADLINES:

January 13, 2023 - Inquiry Forms ([Appendix A](#)) due no later than 5:00 p.m.

March 24, 2023 - Final Proposals due no later than 5:00 p.m.

Round B: Working Forest Projects

Community Conservation Projects are projects of local or regional significance that promote one or more of the following: public outdoor recreational access to land and waters, including for underserved populations; public health; connection between conserved lands and population centers; local or regional agriculture; conservation of cultural and historical resources on undeveloped lands; protection of lakes, rivers or streams; conservation of fish or wildlife habitat; protection of public drinking water supplies; conservation of community forests; local economic development; opportunities for environmental learning; nonmotorized transportation options; or other priorities as determined by the board.

DEADLINES:

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

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

[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

Equity, Climate Justice, Leadership

Residential Retrofits for Energy Equity (R2E2) Virtual Summit

Featuring sessions for local and state government staff and community-based organizations on leveraging federal funding and multi-sector, community-centered approaches to scaling up holistic retrofits in affordable housing. Learn how thoughtful collaboration can lead to home upgrades that generate energy savings, health benefits, local jobs, and more equitable outcomes for residents. The summit is free and community-based organizations are eligible to receive stipends for their participation (eligibility criteria below).

Day 1: Thursday, January 19, 12:00 pm

- Building retrofits: basics and benefits
- Engaging across sectors: an introduction to affordable housing, health, economic inclusion, and other stakeholders
- Meeting the moment: how community organizations are mobilizing collaborative housing and energy solutions (a panel of community-based organizations)
- Peer exchange (semi-structured space to connect in small groups to share experiences, discuss summit content, and build relationships)

Day 2: Friday, January 20, 12:00 pm

- Leveraging new and existing federal funding opportunities for building upgrades

- Community-driven planning and equitable community engagement
- Peer exchange (semi-structured space to connect in small groups to share experiences, discuss summit content, and build relationships)

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

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](#)

Resilience

Tour Waterford's Community Action Grant Funded Community Garden

Meet at Beech Hill Farm & Bisson Ranch, 630 Valley Rd, Waterford, ME 04088
Thursday, December 22, 10:00 – 11:00 am

In March 2022, Waterford was awarded a Community Action Grant to create a Community Garden and Educational Program available to everyone that provides opportunity to grow food in an environment of working and learning together as a community. Join the Region 3 Community Resilience Coordinator and the Partners in Energy, Efficiency and Resilience (PEER) team leaders for a discussion on how the PEER volunteer group is tackling resiliency work in Waterford and tour the garden.

To attend send an email to RSVP to Yvette Meunier yveunier@avcoq.org by 12/21/22.

Community Resilience Partnership Building Stronger Communities Series* – Online Learning Series – Conversations, Workshops & More with in-person participation options. Sessions have an * next to them.**

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 – 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](#)

NEW! Landfill Solar***

Virtual or Hybrid at KVCOG, AVCOG & CEBE
Tuesday, March 9, 10:00 -11:30 am

This session is aimed at informing decision-makers, department heads, and facility operators on opportunities to lower municipal operating costs through the beneficial reuse of landfills for solar installations. We will examine aspects of developing solar energy on landfills through case studies in central and western Maine. Solar developers and regulatory officials will also be joining to address the environmental, engineering, and related regulatory concerns of these projects.

[LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER](#)

NEW! Launching and Funding Transportation Projects with the Maine Department of Transportation***

Virtual - REGISTRATION LINK TO BE POSTED SOON
Tuesday, March 21, 10:00 -11:00 am

Learn about the grant opportunities with the Maine Dept. of Transportation and how to further those funds with federal grant opportunities. DOT will walk us through a project from start to

finish and answer your questions about launching a project with DOT. Grants that will be covered include the Village Partnership, Workforce Grant, Planning and Municipal Partnership programs, culvert replacement grants, and EV charging.

[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](#)

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.
