

ADDITIONS HIGHLIGHTED

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

DEP Waste Diversion Grants (CLOSES SEPT. 14)

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection is soliciting grant proposals to support the development, implementation or improvement of programs, initiatives or activities designed to increase the diversion of solid waste from disposal.

All interested municipalities, regional associations and Maine businesses are encouraged to apply. The DEP will provide awards for accepted proposals ranging from \$1,000 - \$40,000 (\$125,000 total) as a result of this RFP process.

[DOWNLOAD THE REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS \(RFA\) and to 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](#)

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](#)

Community Resilience Partnership Community Action Grants (CLOSES SEPT. 20)

The [Community Resilience Partnership Community Action Grant](#) is intended to enable communities (municipal and tribal governments and unorganized territories) to undertake priority projects that reduce energy use and costs, transition to clean energy, and make communities more financially, socially and environmentally resilient. Choose from [72 projects](#) that require no match.

Communities must be enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership to be eligible to apply (or may submit enrollment materials simultaneously with a grant application). Visit the

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

Partnership [website](#) for more information on how to enroll and how to get assistance with enrolling.

The Request for Applications (RFA# 202207107) is available on the State of Maine's grants website [here](#). The application is embedded at the end of the RFA.

An informational webinar will be held on August 3 at 3pm. Details and the webinar link are on the RFA cover page. The webinar will be recorded and posted to the [Community Resilience Partnership website](#).

Two Federal Emergency Management Funding Opportunities

Hazard Mitigation Grant (CLOSES OCT. 1)

The Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) administers Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Mitigation Grant Programs.

DR-4522

Almost \$4 million in hazard mitigation funding is available for Maine as a result of the disaster declared for the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications are due to MEMA by October 1, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Federal Reconnecting Communities Program (CLOSES OCT. 13)

Funded with \$1 billion over the next five years, this is the first-ever federal program dedicated to reconnecting communities that were previously cut off from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure. If your town has a road, bridge, highway, rail line, or similar structure that isolates part of your community, this opportunity could be for you.

For planning grants: states, municipalities, MPOs, Federally recognized Tribal governments, and nonprofit organizations are eligible; for capital construction grants, owners of the facility proposed in the project must be included as an applicant or co-applicant. The grant amount varies; \$100k - \$2 million for planning; \$5 million - \$100 million for capital construction.

Read the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (PDF)

[Watch a webinar](#) on the grant

Municipal Stream Crossing Grant Program (CLOSES NOV. 11)

Allocation: \$3 million. Funds from the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan will expand the Municipal Stream Crossing Grant Program, which provides local governments and organizations competitive grants up to \$125,000 towards the upgrade of undersized and failing culvert stream crossings on municipal roads. Administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, this program will help more communities upgrade municipal culverts at stream crossings to cost-effectively improve fish and wildlife habitats, reduce flooding, and increase community safety.

Read the [Request for Application](#) (RFA)

[LEARN MORE](#)

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (CLOSES NOV. 17)

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. The deadline to apply for this funding opportunity is November 17, 2022.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Funding (CLOSES DEC. 1)

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](#)

Solar Loans Now Available for Women-Owned Businesses (LIMITED FUNDING)

New Loan Program Promotes Sustainable Energy for Small Businesses

CEI is currently offering low interest loans for small businesses seeking to lower their carbon footprint through solar energy.

With the help of philanthropic funding, CEI is currently offering 2.75-3.5% interest loans for small businesses in Maine looking to go green. You do NOT need to be a current borrower of CEI to apply. Priority will be given to businesses that are BIPOC, women, or immigrant-owned.

Through this program CEI will provide approved solar installers and provide additional technical assistance about how solar energy can benefit your small business.

For more information, please contact CEI Environmental Lending Specialist, Linnea Patterson at linnea.patterson@ceimaine.org.

Please note that finding is limited and based on demand, loans may be capped in size.

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 child care 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.

[LEAN 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](#)

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](#)

Economic Development Administration (EDA) American Rescue Plan Programs

Under the American Rescue Plan, EDA was allocated \$3 billion in supplemental funding to assist communities nationwide in the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and to build local economies that will be resilient to future economic shock. EDA investments will have a focus on underserved communities impacted by COVID-19 and there are six funding opportunities.

[LEARN MORE](#)

ANTICIPATED FUNDING:

Coastal Community Planning Grants (Includes towns along Kennebec to Augusta)

This grant is for municipal and regional projects that focus on building resiliency and adapting to climate change. Municipalities in [Maine's Coastal Zone](#) are eligible for up to \$50,000 in funding. There is a 25% Match Required (can use Community Resilience Partnership grants as a match). Next application round opens soon!

[LEARN MORE](#)

Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund (ANTICIPATED OPENING FALL 2022)

Deadline for the spring grant round is closed. Prepare now for the fall grant round.

Maine DOT is now accepting applications for the new [Infrastructure Adaptation Fund](#), a \$20 million grant program that will provide direct funding to municipalities for stormwater, drinking water, and wastewater infrastructure projects that address climate effects, such as flooding and vulnerability to extreme weather, and support public safety. Stormwater projects may include road repairs and upgrades that interact directly with an eligible stormwater project.

Applicants may request up to:

- \$10,000 to support scoping (problem definition) of eligible adaptation projects
- \$75,000 to support the design of eligible projects
- \$4 million to support implementation and construction of eligible projects that have a complete design

The match requirement or cost share for this grant is only 5% (cash and/or in-kind), with an exception for communities demonstrating affordability as a hardship. Match is reduced to 2% for communities enrolled in the [Community Resilience Partnership](#).

[LEARN MORE](#)

EVENTS

Efficiency Maine Small Municipality Retrofits Program Webinar

Tuesday, September 13th, 8:00 AM

Wednesday, September 14th, 3:00 PM

Thursday, September 15th, 1:00 PM

Zoom Events

Efficiency Maine is seeking applications for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), lighting and refrigeration projects in small Maine municipality and tribal government buildings. This initiative falls under Efficiency Maine's Commercial and Industrial Prescriptive Initiatives (CIPI). This funding opportunity notice offers higher incentives than typically provided under the CIP initiatives, with the intent to accelerate the conversion to high-efficiency equipment in towns across the state.

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

Soak Up the Rain New England Webinar Series: Dissolved Phosphorus and Green Infrastructure: Fundamentals, Challenges, and Opportunities

Wednesday, September 28th, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM, 2022

Zoom Event

Reducing phosphorus pollution in aquatic ecosystems is a primary goal in many watersheds across the United States to mitigate eutrophication and harmful algal blooms. Several forms of green infrastructure can effectively reduce loads of total phosphorus to surface waters through the retention of particles and associated phosphorus. Retention of dissolved phosphorus has proven to be more challenging, and in some cases poor retention of dissolved phosphorus, or even net dissolved phosphorus release, can compromise phosphorus load reduction goals. Furthermore, limited overall capacity to retain dissolved phosphorus in green infrastructure systems can potentially result in declining performance over time.

In this webinar, Eric Roy will discuss the fundamental biogeochemistry underpinning dissolved phosphorus dynamics in green infrastructure and highlight key mechanisms that control both dissolved phosphorus retention from water and release to water. Drawing on literature and recent research in Vermont, this presentation will address the challenge that dissolved phosphorus poses to water quality improvement efforts, opportunities to better manage dissolved phosphorus and enhance green infrastructure performance (including amendment of soil media with drinking water treatment residuals), and the use of phosphorus metrics to inform green infrastructure design. This webinar will include examples of green infrastructure at multiple scales, including urban green stormwater infrastructure (e.g., bioretention and

subsurface gravel wetlands) as well as larger ecosystem-scale systems (e.g., restored riparian wetlands).

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

NWS Gray Coastal Flooding Focused Spotter Training (Virtual)

Wednesday, October 5th, 6:00 PM
Zoom Event

Help your National Weather Service by becoming a SKYWARN storm spotter! Storm spotters report all types of hazardous weather during all seasons in Maine and New Hampshire. Coastal flooding focused training will provide an educational overview on coastal flooding processes and forecast methods. In addition, this training will provide the process of becoming a weather spotter and how to report coastal flooding in your community to the National Weather Service. This class is open to anyone who is interested in documenting coastal flood events by providing reports to the National Weather Service.

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

Maine Conservation Voters (MCV) and Maine Conservation Alliance (MCA): Evening for the Environment

October 19, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
UNE, Innovation Hall, 772 Stevens Ave, Portland

20th annual Evening for the Environment to benefit Maine Conservation Voters and Maine Conservation Alliance!

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

Maine Stormwater Conference

Tuesday and Wednesday, November 1st and 2nd
Portland Maine

The Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District's Maine Stormwater Conference in Portland, Maine will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act with two days of presentations showcasing innovation and embracing challenges from the past 50 years.

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

ACTT: Community-Driven, Solutions-Focused Climate Action Groups

First Monday of each month at 12:00PM
On Zoom

Are you part of a citizen-led climate solutions group? Are you interested in starting such a group? Join our monthly gatherings of climate action groups from throughout Maine. Each month, we focus on a different topic within the field of community-driven,

solutions-focused climate action while also spending some time networking and furthering collaborative relationships. Email johannah@aclimatetothrive.org to join. The more the merrier!

RESOURCES

Centering Equity in Climate Resilience Planning and Action

From Antioch University Center for Climate Preparedness & Community Resilience

This synthesis paper introduces and amplifies principles and best practices for centering equity in climate resilience planning and action. The audience is primarily users of the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit and its Steps to Resilience.

When historically marginalized communities are centered in climate resilience planning, the outcomes are better for all and more durable. By collaborating in building on existing community strengths, and centering community priorities and needs in climate resilience, practitioners can improve the local economy and strengthen people's ability to participate in the decisions that will directly affect them.

[LEARN MORE AND DOWNLOAD THE PAPER HERE](#)

Demystifying the Language of Climate Resilience Financing - New England Environmental Finance Center

Financial terms and industry jargon can cause confusion and create barriers for small municipalities, tribes, nonprofits, and other community groups seeking financing. This guide clarifies key financial terms and industry jargon with simple definitions and real-life examples to address information gaps and share innovative options to pay for climate resilience needs.

[VIEW THE GUIDE HERE](#)

Maine Communities Leading on Climate Materials

View helpful materials from panelists and workshops from the June 17th Maine Climate Council – Communities Leading on Climate conference.

[VIEW MATERIALS HERE](#)