

ADDITIONS HIGHLIGHTED

REGION 3 MEMBERS & PRIORITY PROJECTS (as of 9/15/22)

Get to know your fellow partnership communities and some of the projects they have identified as a priority. Keep in mind there may be additional project interests beyond what is summarized from the application materials. We offer this in hopes of making connections to target future joint projects. If there is a town or project you would like more information about let me help make the connection! Email Yvette at yveunier@avcog.org

Carrabassett Valley: Monitor and develop flood mitigation projects; Collaborate with and support the sustainability efforts of local employers such as Sugarloaf and our neighboring municipalities; Install EV chargers in several locations in the community to encourage EV use by residents and visitors (received GOPIF grant Spring 2022); Update and revise the comprehensive plan including sections on climate change and sustainability; Work with the State Forest Service, large landowners and neighboring communities to mitigate the risk of wild fires.

Carthage: (A10) Adopt a broadband plan; (B3) Upgrade to energy efficient appliances in municipal/tribal buildings; (B4) Install a heat pump system or VRF system for heating/cooling and heat pump water heating in municipal/tribal buildings; Develop or enhance early warning systems and community evacuation plans; (F14) Develop and implement an extreme temperatures emergency plan, including strategies that increase use of cooling centers by residents; (H3) Amplify public health advisories for climate-related health and weather events, such as air quality advisories, extreme heat or cold events, extreme storms, power outages, waterborne disease outbreaks, harmful algal blooms, vector borne disease trends, etc.

Chesterville: Town office and fire station heat pumps; Shelter facility improvements (generator); Develop town plans to plan for events (EOP, HMP); Community Garden: LED Street Lights .

Greenwood: (F13) Educate residents about the increased spread of browntail moth caterpillars due to climate change, the impacts they are having on our forests, and the associated risks of tree defoliation and drought has on wildfire; (B4) Install heat pumps in the town office and find other ways to conserve energy and reduce GHG in municipal services/buildings (Received Belvedere Grant in summer 2022 for Community Building Energy Audit); (H5) Educate residents on the importance of saving energy; (H7) Initiate a community bulk purchase program to provide low cost heat pumps to residents.

Hallowell: Weatherizing City Hall; EVs electrification; Charging stations; Ensuring energy conservation in building retro, build; Buy solar generated power; Follow up on walkability study from energy perspective; Sponsor workshop on solar farms; Reduce use of synthetic pesticides / herbicides; Look at building code for energy efficiencies; Sidewalk rehab; No idling signs; Pollinator gardens around city.

Jay: (A1) Purchasing or leasing an EV for municipal use; (A2) Installing an EV charging station for municipal vehicles or for economic development purposes; (B4) Investigate and execute ways to conserve energy and reduce GHG in municipal services/buildings, including insulation and energy audits at the public works and municipal building; (F2) Update our local Emergency Operations Plan to addresses changing/future conditions and identify specific strategies to

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reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change impacts; (F3 & H3) Develop or enhance early warning systems and community evacuation plans; (F14) Develop and implement an extreme temperatures emergency plan, including strategies that increase use of cooling centers by residents; (H5) Educate residents on the importance of saving energy.

Norway: Establish or recognize an official committee of community stakeholders; Conduct a baseline for energy usage by municipal government; Conduct a community vulnerability assessment that identifies climate risks and vulnerable populations and includes a review of existing plans and policies (Received GOPIF grant in spring 2022). Adopt a climate resilience plan that describes high priority strategies for reducing risk and vulnerabilities (to be included in a comprehensive plan); Conduct a vulnerability assessment for critical community infrastructure; Purchase or lease electric vehicles for municipal government-owned vehicle fleets.

Otisfield: Establish or recognize an official committee of community stakeholders; Create or update a watershed plan to identify flooding and water quality priorities and adaptation options; Conduct a community vulnerability assessment; Adopt a climate resilience plan; Adopt policies that support or incentivize local food production and consumption; Upgrade street lights to LEDs.

Poland: Energy efficiency; Educating residents on climate change and how they can make an impact; Controlling invasive species: Review winter salt/sand usage – can we find a more environmentally friendly way to treat roads; Road maintenance.

Waterford: Upgrade energy efficiency in town owned buildings beginning with the Town Hall, Fire House and Stoneham Rescue Service ready dispatch office & 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 (Received GOPIF grant in Spring 2022 for both projects); Completion of the Comprehensive and Emergency Operations Plans; Protection of green space and other natural resources.

Woodstock: Establish or recognize an official committee of community stakeholders; Conduct a baseline for energy usage by municipal government; Conduct a community vulnerability assessment; Adopt a climate resilience plan; Conduct a vulnerability assessment for critical community infrastructure

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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 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.

Maine Conservation Corps Environmental Steward Host Sites for 2023 placements (DUE OCT. 3)

This is an immediate opportunity to host AmeriCorps members in your organization or community to support climate action and environmental stewardship. Environmental Stewards could potentially be engaged in: Environmental and Energy Education; Invasive Species Monitoring and Removal; Mapping and GIS; Habitat Restoration; Community Science Projects; And more... Members to start in January or June.

FMI contact Program Manager, Deidrah Stanchfield Deidrah.Stanchfield@maine.gov

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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

Coastal Community Planning Grants (Includes towns along Kennebec to Augusta) (CLOSES OCT. 14)

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).

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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)

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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:

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

Electrify Freeport!

Sunday, September 25, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Freeport High School, 30 Holbrook Street, Freeport, ME 04032

This information-rich, free community event features plug-in vehicles and equipment, as well as owners and experts sharing their knowledge and experiences in shifting away from fossil fuels. Equipment being showcased includes, EVs, plug-in hybrids, emission-free lawn equipment, solar pv, heat pumps, home appliances, electric boats, e-bicycles, and more. Presentations given by Efficiency Maine, Maine Electric Vehicle Association, and the Natural Resources Council of Maine, Royal River Heat Pumps, ReVision Energy, Maine Solar Solutions, MJR Electric, The Boat Yard, Shred Electric, Solar Mow, and ecomaine.

Solar & Electric Vehicle Expo

Saturday, October 1, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School, 256 Main St, South Paris, ME 04281, US

This is the 8th Annual Solar & EV Expo at the Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School. This free, outdoors event will include opportunities to talk to local EV owners, solar installers, and other clean energy and transport enthusiasts. Get your questions answered about e-bikes, driving an EV in western Maine, residential solar, community solar, and more! Sponsored by Center for Ecology Based Economy.

AVCOG Planning Day

Wednesday, October 26, 8:30 PM – 2:15 PM

Hilton Garden Inn, 14 Great Falls Plaza, Auburn, Maine, 04210

To register contact Shanna at ssstanhope@avcog.org

AVCOG's 35th Annual Planning Day will cover solar siting guidance, affordable housing, role of the state fire marshal office, vernal pool special area management tool as well as a session on the Community Resilience Partnership. Join the Region 3 Community Resilience Partnership coordinator to review the program's progress in our region. The session will include case studies in the towns of Carthage, Greenwood, Jay, and Norway with a chance to hear from those town officials.

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](#)

OTHER GRANT RESOURCE PAGES

[Grant Opportunities](#)

From Kennebec Valley Council of Governments

[Grants and Other Funding Resources](#)

From Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC)

Transportation and infrastructure, economic development, sustainability and resilience funding opportunities

[Grants](#)

Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission (LCRPC)

Coastal Community Grant and Economic and Community Development grants

[Funding Opportunities](#)

UMaine

Water Resources Research Institute Grant Program

[Federal Funding](#)

New England Environmental Finance Center (NEEFC)

[Maine Funding](#)

New England Environmental Finance Center (NEEFC)

[Southeast New England Funding](#)

New England Environmental Finance Center (NEEFC)

[Funding and Technical Support](#)

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership

[MOFGA's Financial Resources](#)

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA)

Multiple MOFGA grant programs and links to other financial resources for farmers and food businesses

OTHER RESOURCES

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](#)