

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: 2-8-23

Blue Highlighted = New Content

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](#)

The Maine Municipal Association (MMA) is launching a series of workshops to help municipal officials, community leaders, and service providers learn more about BIL and IRA funding. View the workshops [listed in this document](#) or [DOWNLOAD THE WORKSHOP LIST](#) you can also visit the State's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) website for the list of upcoming workshops and recordings of past workshops. [VIEW HERE](#)

Coming Soon!

FY2024 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) and Community Project Funding (CPF) (formally known as "earmarks")

Target Applicant: Municipal and Tribal Governments, nonprofit entities, institutions of higher learning

Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) and Community Project Funding grants are allocations made by the federal appropriations committee directed to local governments.

Projects are submitted by communities to the congressional delegation. Our federal representatives select applications to submit to the Appropriations Committee for possible funding. It's not too early to begin identifying your potential CDS and CPF projects. Reach out to your regional planning organization or federal delegation representative to discuss potential projects. To learn more about CDS and CPF funding and process, and to keep an eye on updates about when to apply, visit these web pages (*Note: currently information on these pages relates to Fiscal Year [FY] 2023*): [Senator Susan Collins](#), [Senator Angus King](#), [Representative Chellie Pingree](#), [Representative Jared Golden](#) (*In CRP Region 1: Oxford County communities only*)

Agriculture & Food Systems

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](#)

Dairy Processing Research & Development Innovation Grant

Target Applicant: Licensed dairy processors, producer associations, educational or research institutions

Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center

This Dairy Processing Research & Development Innovation Grant supports the research and development necessary to position Northeast dairy processors to make long term, impactful shifts in their businesses as it relates to economic and environmental sustainability. Funded projects will be centered on developing alternatives to current industry standards through projects that are applicable, scalable, and replicable to other Northeast dairy processors. Topic areas may include, but are not limited to, sourcing, novel product development, alternative production solutions, transportation and distribution, supply chain, operations, employee welfare, marketing, and consumer experience. Projects are required to include an information sharing or educational component targeted at small and mid sized dairy processors in the Northeast. The application period is January 26 - March 23. [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

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) may contact CRP Regional Coordinator 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. [LEARN MORE](#)

Forest Products-Based

Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) Forest Economy Program (FEP)

Target Applicant: Municipal and Tribal governments, secondary and career technical centers, regional planning organizations, non-profit entities, institutions of higher education

The purpose of this program is to support the forest-based economy, and to assist in the industry's evolution to include new technologies and viable business models. This program funds projects in the forest economy, including community development projects, workforce (re)training and development projects, marketing /communication and education projects, business planning and technical assistance projects, and public infrastructure projects. Deadline for spring funding round Letter of Intent to Apply is 5:00 PM, Friday, March 10. [LEARN MORE](#) here or contact your Regional Planning Office for guidance.

Infrastructure

The National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program (Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Program)

Target Applicant: Municipal and Tribal Governments

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. Grant **Application Deadline: 11:59 PM, Monday February 6** [LEARN MORE](#)

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 & Recreation

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](#)

Maine Community Foundation Community Building Grants

Target Applicant: Nonprofit, charitable organizations tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and also classified as an organization described in sections 509(a)(1) or 509(a)(2), municipalities, public schools, public agencies working for the State of Maine, Tribal governments (or political subdivisions) recognized by the Department of the Interior, groups without any tax status may apply with a fiscal sponsor that is an eligible organization

This grant program supports projects and organizations focused on making communities stronger. Proposed projects should: invest in people by increasing skills, knowledge, abilities and/or well-being; engage populations served in the design, delivery, and/or evaluation of the work; and/or strengthen community resources including organizations, partnerships, and built and natural environments.

Application Deadline: February 15. [LEARN MORE](#)

Transportation

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. 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

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

Partners for Places Green Stormwater Infrastructure Grants

Target Applicant: Municipalities, local foundations, and local frontline community groups

Partners for Places, a program of the The Funders Network and the Urban Sustainability Network, aims to enhance local capacity to build equitable and sustainable communities in the United States and Canada. These one-to-one matching awards support the planning and implementing of urban sustainability and green stormwater infrastructure projects. Application deadline is February 27, 2023.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Small Community Grant Program (SCG)

Target Applicant: Municipal and Tribal Governments in partnership with income-eligible residential property owners

The Small Community Grant Program provides grants to municipalities to help replace malfunctioning septic systems that are polluting a waterbody or causing a public nuisance. An existent pollution problem must be documented to qualify for funding. Grants can be used to fund from 25% to 100% of the design and construction costs, depending upon the property owners' income and the property's use. The municipality receives the grant as a reimbursement for eligible costs of the replacement septic system after substantial completion of the construction. Application deadline is 5:00 PM, Tuesday, February 28. [LEARN MORE](#)

EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Webinar Series – Opportunities for Local Communities

Target Audience: Municipalities and Tribal Governments, local leaders, and service providers

Online

January 5 to March 2

The Maine Municipal Association and the Governor's Infrastructure Implementation Committee invite you to join representatives from the State for a series of informational webinars on funding and program opportunities for Maine communities from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The series will be of particular relevance to officials from municipal, county, and tribal governments in Maine, as well as staff from regional planning organizations and other local technical assistance groups. Each session will cover a category of BIL investment, review current projects, explain funding processes, highlight available and upcoming BIL programs, and offer opportunities for Q&A.

Past topics and recordings include:

Broadband & Technology, January 26

Transportation, January 5

[VIEW RECORDINGS AND SLIDE DECKS OF PAST PRESENTATIONS HERE](#)

BIL Webinar #3: Energy Programs & Building Efficiency

Thursday, February 16, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Hear about BIL opportunities to improve energy efficiency in buildings and enable the expansion of affordable, clean energy generation and transmission networks.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

BIL Webinar #4: Resilience & Environmental Protection

Thursday, March 2, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Hear about BIL programs to strengthen the state's preparedness for storm events, flooding, and wildfires; to build resilience of transportation networks, drinking water and wastewater systems; to mitigate contaminants and pollution; and to improve natural capacity of watersheds and ecosystems. [REGISTER HERE](#)

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

[VIEW RECORDINGS OF PAST PRESENTATIONS HERE](#)

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

Online and In-person at [Kennebec Valley Council of Governments](#), and at the [Center for Ecology-Based Economy](#)

Tuesday, February 14, 10:00 AM – 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 and review some recent municipal projects that took advantage of these programs. [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)

Landfill Solar

Online and In-person at [Kennebec Valley Council of Governments](#), and the [Center for Ecology-Based Economy](#)

Thursday, March 9, 10:00 AM – 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](#)

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 party info in the white text box)

Building Stronger Communities – Municipal EV Development

Online and In-person at KVCOG, 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](#)

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)

Agriculture / Food Systems

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](#)

Ecosystems

Bath Climate Conversations: Natural Landscapes

Target Audience: Residents of Bath and surrounding towns, general audience

In-person or Online

Wednesday, February 8, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Patten Free Library Community Room (or via ZOOM)

33 Summer Street, Bath, Maine

Join experts from Bath and beyond to learn about the interactions between climate change and the natural landscape, and take part in a community discussion to share your thoughts and concerns. This program is the second of a continuing series of “Bath Climate Conversations” focused on learning, discussing, and connecting around ways to sustain and support our vibrant town as climate change occurs. Hosted by Bath

Climate Action Commission in partnership with [KELT](#) and the Patten Free Library. [REGISTER](#) (Registration is required for Zoom only)

Cashes Ledge: Maine's Lost World

Target Audience: General Audience

In-person

Thursday, February 23, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Maine Maritime Museum

243 Washington St, Bath, Maine

Part of Maine Maritime Museum's SeaChange Series, this lecture will provide deep insight into Dr. Steneck's extensive research on Cashes Ledge in the Gulf of Maine, which, when he observed it, was as close to Maine's pristine ecosystem prior to European arrival as one could find. Learn how Cashes Ledge, a nutrient-rich ecosystem 80 miles off the Maine coast, has survived when many other marine ecosystems suffer the effects of warming waters and human activity. [REGISTER](#)

Energy

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](#)

Pathways to Solar

Target Audience: General Audience, community members, community leaders

Online

A Climate to Thrive (ACTT)

Friday, February 10, 12:00PM

Discover the best pathways to transition your home, business, or organization to solar energy. We will explore the difference between solar on your roof, community solar you own, and subscription models. Learn more about financing, net energy billing, and more. [REGISTER](#)

A Roadmap to Responsible Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine

Target Audience: General Audience

Online

Maine Conservation Voters

Friday, February 10, 12:00 PM

This webinar will focus on the draft "roadmap" for off-shore wind as facilitated by the Governor's Energy Office (GEO). Celina Cunningham, Deputy Director of GEO, and Stephanie Watson, Maine Offshore Wind Program Manager for GEO, will present an overview of the roadmap and explain how Maine seeks to become a model for the nation for floating offshore wind development. [REGISTER](#)

Jumpstarting the Maine Offshore Wind Industry With Bold Legislation

Target Audience: General Audience

Online

Maine Conservation Voters

Friday, February 17, 12:00 PM

Maine environmental and labor groups are working together on two new pieces of legislation to boost the development of responsibly developed floating offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine. These bills hold equity and environmental protection at their cores, with provisions that require mitigation of environmental impacts, ensure strong labor protections, and foster inclusive benefits for Maine's most vulnerable communities. Presenters include Eliza Donoghue, Director of Advocacy and Staff Attorney at Maine Audubon; Francis Eanes, Executive Director of Maine Labor Climate Council; Jack Shapiro, Climate and Clean Energy Director at Natural Resources Council of Maine; and Kelt Wilksa, Energy Justice Manager at Maine Conservation Voters. [REGISTER](#)

Equity and Climate Justice

VISION POWER SOLUTIONS Series

Target Audience: Facilitators/organizers/leaders/educators who are accountable to Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities

Online

People's Climate Innovation Center and Facilitating Power

VISION POWER SOLUTIONS is a quarterly, four-part series to build capacity for community-driven planning among facilitators/organizers/leaders/educators who are accountable to Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities. This training is part of a larger effort to foster a facilitators' community of practice and referral network within the field of community-driven planning. [LEARN MORE](#)

Forestry

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

Forestry 101

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](#)

Leadership

Building Your Virtual Facilitation Skills (BYVFS)

Target Audience: Facilitators, community leaders, anyone who organizes and runs online meetings

Online

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

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](#)

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

Target Audience: Experienced facilitators

Online

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

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](#)

Resilience

Coffee & Climate: Being Bird Friendly and Bird Safe

Target Audience: Residents of the Portland/South Portland area and general audiences

On-line

Friday, February 10, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Portland and South Portland Offices of Sustainability

Being Bird Friendly and Bird Safe! features Nick Lund of Maine Audubon and Addy Smith-Reiman of the Portland Society for Architecture who will discuss wildlife conservation and the importance of bird safe architecture here in Maine and why we should be considering the same in our homes. Grab a cup of coffee and join this online event! (Coffee and Climate Conversations are held monthly on the second Friday.)

[REGISTER](#)

Housing Solutions in Rural Recreation Communities

Target Audience: Municipal/Community Leaders and service providers

Online

Wednesday, February 15, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Environmental Protection Agency Office of Community Revitalization, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD), and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) invite communities to join a webinar that will address housing in gateway communities.

Gateway communities lie just outside or adjacent to major tourist attractions such as national parks, wilderness areas, or nature resorts. Many of these communities experience multiple housing challenges including – lack of affordable housing, available financing, and rapid population growth. The webinar will highlight federal resources and private sector strategies that help communities leverage their outdoor recreation and tourism venues to address housing solutions and improve economic resilience.

[REGISTER](#)

Local Leads the Way

Target Audience: Community members, community leaders

Online

First Monday of each month, 4:00 PM

Next Meeting is Monday, February 6

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.

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](#)

Transportation

Preparing for Upcoming USDOT Discretionary Grant Opportunities

Target Audience: Municipal and Tribal Governments, service providers, community leaders

Online

Wednesday, February 8, 3:00 PM

Join staff from across the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) who will highlight several resources created to help potential grant applicants navigate different funding opportunities. This session will dig into some of the tools available on the DOT Navigator – the Department’s one stop shop for technical assistance, including the upcoming funding opportunity calendar, tools for identifying Federal disadvantaged community areas, and which programs provide non-Federal match flexibility. The session will also spotlight several funding opportunities at USDOT that are currently

accepting applications to expand transportation opportunities to urban, rural, and Tribal communities. [REGISTER](#)

Installing Level 2 Electric Vehicle Chargers at Commercial and Public Properties

Target Audience: Municipal and Tribal Governments, commercial and institutional property owners

Online

Efficiency Maine

Wednesday, March 1, 1:00 PM

Monday, April 3, 9:00 AM

This Public EV Charging webinar will cover the basics of installing public EV chargers at public places, workplaces, and multi unit dwellings. The webinar will be offered on two dates.

[REGISTER](#) for Wednesday, March 1, 1:00 PM Webinar

[REGISTER](#) for Monday, April 3, 9:00 AM Webinar

CONTACT INFORMATION

Where can you get help learning more about these opportunities?

Communities enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) can contact Zach Gosselin at zgosselin@avcog.org 207-783-9186 Ext. 205 or [LEARN MORE.](#)