

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: 2-22-23

Blue Highlighted = New Content

Helpful Notes:

Resources and Grants+ lists are now a separate document. Click [HERE](#) to access.

This document is available as a Downloadable PDF. In this Google Docs application, go to File → Download → PDF Document (.pdf)

See opportunities here you'd like to learn more about but don't have time to research? Have projects you'd like to find funding for? We're here to help!

[CONTACT US](#)

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

Growing Justice Providing Grants

Target Applicant: BIPOC-led and BIPOC-allied community- and community-based organizations, tribal nations and their instrumentalities

Growing Justice provides support to BIPOC-led and BIPOC-allied community- and community-based organizations, tribal nations and their instrumentalities that are actively engaged in the food value chain and committed to transforming the food system through equitable good food procurement. Grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000 are available from Growing Justice to strengthen the effectiveness of racially diverse food suppliers, food producers, food distributors, and food hubs in local, regional, or tribal food value chains; forge partnerships within regions and/or tribal nations to help small suppliers and distributors of color win contracts from large institutions; incentivize large institutions to expand markets or break down barriers for local suppliers or producers of color; develop, implement, and share effective policies, practices, and partnerships across regions; build agendas to advance worker dignity and rights. Applications are due by 5:00 PM on March 16. [LEARN MORE](#) and determine eligibility to apply.

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

Federal Solar Tax Credits for Businesses, Nonprofits, and Municipal and Tribal Governments

Target Applicant: Businesses, nonprofits, and municipal and tribal governments

There are two federal tax credits available for businesses and other entities like nonprofits and local and tribal governments that purchase solar energy systems: The investment tax credit (ITC) is a tax credit that reduces the federal income tax liability for a percentage of the cost of a solar system that is installed during the tax year. The production tax credit (PTC) is a per kilowatt-hour (kWh) tax credit for electricity generated by solar and other qualifying technologies for the first 10 years of a system's operation. It reduces the federal income tax liability and is adjusted annually for inflation. Organizations that don't pay federal taxes, like non-profits or local governments, can take advantage of the tax credits through either direct pay or a transfer of credit. [LEARN MORE](#). Communities enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) in Region 1 may contact R1CC Co-lead [Karina Greater](#) for guidance.

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) in Region 1 may contact R1CC 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

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

Island Institute Island Fellows Program

Target Applicant: College and master's degree graduates

Maine's island and coastal communities can strengthen their capacity to manage climate resilience, energy efficiency and other community-building projects by hosting an Island Institute Fellow. The Fellows program places college and master's degree graduates in Maine's coastal and year-round island communities for two-year fellowships. Fellowships provide a unique opportunity for recent graduates to apply their skills and gain experience helping to build sustainability within communities whose way of life and identity face many challenges. Applications deadline for prospective Fellows is Friday, March 17. [LEARN MORE](#)

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](#)

Sea Level Rise

Island Institute's ShoreUp Grant

Target Applicant: Island and coastal municipalities, organizations, and businesses (pre-approval to apply is required; speak with the program contact listed below)

ShoreUp Grants offer funding support (up to \$10,000) for Maine island and coastal communities as they assess, implement, and/or plan for sea level rise. Sea level rise preparedness projects might include (but are not limited to): risk assessments, infrastructure and natural resource planning, and community engagement programs related to sea level rise. ShoreUp Grants provide flexible funding and support so that communities can plan for the assistance they need to start taking the steps that are right for them. [LEARN MORE](#) here and contact [Abby Roche](#) (701-200-2346) to discuss your project and application prior to submission.

Sustainability

Waste Diversion Grants

Target Applicant: Municipalities, regional associations, and businesses

Maine Department of Environmental Protection is seeking grant applications to assist in the creation, implementation, or enhancement of initiatives, programs, or projects that aim to divert more solid waste from being disposed of. 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 and prefers proposals that: take advantage of regional economies of scale; specify reuse and repair infrastructure and program development; increase organics management and recycling infrastructure in underserved areas of the state; promote waste reduction through reuse, repair and sharing economy initiatives; address a statewide need, and/or expand the types of materials managed through composting and recycling. A copy of the Request for Proposals (RFP), as well as the Question & Answer Summary and all amendments related to this RFP is [AVAILABLE HERE](#). Look for RFP 202301008 Waste Diversion Grants, Round 1 listed under Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Waste Diversion Grants Program 2023. Questions on the RFP must be submitted by February 19, 2023 (using the form included in the RFP). Grant proposals must be submitted electronically by 4:00 p.m. March 7.

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

Efficiency Maine Incentives and Services for Municipal Energy Upgrades, February 14

[VIEW RECORDINGS OF PAST PRESENTATIONS HERE](#)

Landfill Solar

Online and In-person at [Kennebec Valley Council of Governments](#), [Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments](#), [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 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 Broadband and Digital Equity

Online

Monday, March 13, 10:00 AM

Digital Equity, provides all individuals and communities with the information technology capacity they need for full participation in our society, democracy and economy. Digital equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services. For many rural communities, digital equity has yet to be fully realized. How can you help your community become better connected? Join Susan Corbett from the National Digital Equity Center, as well as Regional and Tribal Partners from the Maine Connectivity Authority for a lively conversation about where Maine communities go next. Learn how these two groups can support community-driven broadband solutions ensuring universal connectivity, strengthen and expand the number of partners working for digital equity and build networks between communities, regions, and the state through the development of regional, tribal, and state-wide digital equity plans. [JOIN THE ZOOM EVENT](#)

Building Stronger Communities – Launching and Funding Transportation Projects with the Maine Department of Transportation

Online

Tuesday, March 21, 10:00 AM – 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. Presented by Community Resilience Partnership Regional Coordinators; Matthew Drost, Regional Transportation Planner at Maine Dept. of Transportation and additional speakers from MDOT. [LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

Building Stronger Communities – Municipal EV Development

Online and In-person at KVCOG & AVCOG, CEBE, GPCOG

Tuesday, April 11, 10:00 AM – 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

Farmers for Climate Action: Rally for Resilience

Target Audience: Farmers and food system supporters

In-person

Washington, D.C. with satellite events scheduled around the country

Monday, March 6 - Wednesday, March 8

This event will bring together farmers and farm organizations from all over the country with a united request for their members of Congress: Make climate change policy a priority in the 2023 Farm Bill! [LEARN MORE](#)

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

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

The Maine Grid and Solar

Target Audience: General Audience

In-person at Jesup Memorial Library

34 Mt. Desert St, Bar Harbor, Maine

and on Zoom

Thursday, March 2, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

A Climate to Thrive (ACTT)

A critical component of successfully transitioning off fossil fuels and building a climate-friendly and extreme-weather resistant energy future is our electrical grid. Currently, the transition to renewable energy is hitting significant roadblocks when it comes to the grid here in Maine. In particular, folks might have read about issues interconnecting solar projects to the electrical grid and the crippling impact of these roadblocks on local solar. The good news is: there are solutions and implementing these solutions would benefit Maine residents and ratepayers! Join A Climate to Thrive (ACTT) to learn more about the Maine grid and solar energy and how we can each play a role in ensuring our grid is prepared to make the transition off fossil fuels for a climate-friendly future that will benefit all of us. [REGISTER](#)

A Climate to Thrive (ACTT) Climate Chats – Pathways to Solar

Target Audience: General Audience

Online

Friday, March 10, 12:00 PM

Join ACTT for a virtual, 45-minute lunchtime program the first Friday of every month at noon. Chats explore topics relevant to locally implementable climate solutions and leave ample room for questions and discussion. Discover the best pathways to transition your home, business, or organization to solar energy. ACTT will explore the difference between solar on your roof, community solar you own, and subscription models. Learn more about financing, net energy billing, interconnection to the grid, and more.

[REGISTER](#)

A Climate to Thrive (ACTT) Climate Chats – The Maine Grid and Solar

Target Audience: General Audience

Online

Friday, March 24, 12:00 PM

Join ACTT for a virtual, 45-minute lunchtime program the first Friday of every month at noon. Chats explore topics relevant to locally implementable climate solutions and leave ample room for questions and discussion. A critical component of successfully transitioning off fossil fuels and building an affordable, climate-friendly, and extreme weather-resistant energy future is our electrical grid. Currently, the transition to renewable energy is hitting significant roadblocks when it comes to the grid here in Maine. In particular, folks might have read about issues interconnecting solar projects to the electrical grid and the crippling impact of these roadblocks on local solar. The good news is, there are solutions and implementing these solutions would benefit Maine residents and ratepayers! Join ACTT to learn more about the Maine grid and solar energy and how we can each play a role in ensuring our grid is prepared to make the transition off fossil fuels for a climate-friendly future that will benefit all of us. [REGISTER](#)

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](#)

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 Wilska, 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

A Climate to Thrive Climate Ambassadors Program

Target Audience: General Audience

Online

Thursdays, March 9 - April 6, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Join A Climate to Thrive for the first online session of the Climate Ambassador's Program designed to facilitate participation by community members from throughout Maine and beyond. The program supports community members in becoming effective communicators about climate change and solutions by providing an overview of climate science and impacts, solutions, and, importantly, how to effectively communicate about climate change. The ambassadors program will support residents as they tap into their unique skills and networks to take meaningful climate action and inspire others to join them. This program is for anyone, no prior knowledge or training is required. The session will include five virtual meetings. [LEARN MORE](#)

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

Coffee & Climate: Complete Streets

Target Audience: General Audience

Online

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

Jean Sideris of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine will be joining Coffee & Climate to discuss the complete streets concept that takes into consideration all modes of travel in transportation design. Staff from our Portland and South Portland will also share the many projects underway to improve walking, biking, and transit in their communities. Coffee & Climate is a monthly speaker series – hosted by Portland and South Portland Sustainability Offices – which breaks down a given sustainability or climate topic with the help of guest speakers. 2023 Coffee & Climate programming includes a range of topics including sustainability in the arts, aquaculture, plastics, environmental justice and more! [LEARN MORE](#) and [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](#)