



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: 6-30-23

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Energy

Clean Energy Spark! Grants

Target Applicant: Working waterfront businesses

The Spark! Clean Energy Program at the Island Institute is currently funding working waterfront energy projects that improve energy efficiency, support the switch to renewable energy, and/or reduce consumption of fossil fuels. Applicants can receive up to \$4,000 per fiscal year. For profit businesses must provide matching funds for applications. (E.g. If a project cost is \$5,000 Spark! would fund up to \$2,500.) Examples of projects include the installation of EV charging stations, heat pumps or mini-splits, or solar arrays, and the purchase of electric boat motors. [LEARN MORE](#) and [APPLY](#) For assistance, contact Kate Klibansky at the Island Institute, Kklibansky@islandinstitute.org.

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 [Gabe McPhail](#) 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.

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](#)

Coming Later this Year or Early Next Year

Grants for Energy Improvements at Public School Facilities

Target Applicant: K-12 Public Schools

The Renew America's Schools Grant funds clean energy improvements at K-12 public schools. Funds can cover Energy efficiency (envelope, HVAC, lighting, controls, etc.), ventilation, renewable energy, alternative vehicles, and alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure improvements. The first round of the program has closed, but another round is expected later in 2023 or early 2024. Start planning now! [LEARN MORE](#)

OPEN NOW!

Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) – Fixed Award Grant Program

Target Applicant: Industry Partners and other For-profit Entities; Utilities; Institutions of Higher Education; State and Local Governments; Community Based Organizations and other Non-profit Entities; Tribal; Environmental Groups; and Cities, Towns, or Unincorporated Areas with populations of fewer than 10,000 inhabitants

This program is designed to support small community-driven clean energy projects from \$500,000 to \$5 million. This program uses a simplified application and grant process designed to reduce barriers to applying and financial reporting. Applicants must submit a Pre-Application by July 13. Technical assistance from the Department of Energy's national laboratories is available by filling out a form [HERE](#) for pre-application preparation. [LEARN MORE](#) about this funding opportunity. Communities enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) in Region 1 may contact [Gabe McPhail](#) for guidance.

Clean Energy Projects on Former Mine Land – Technical Assistance Grants

Target Audience: Communities and organizations interested in pursuing clean energy projects on current and former mine land

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is providing technical assistance to communities and organizations interested in pursuing clean energy projects on current and former mine land. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. For questions contact CEML.TA@nrel.gov. [LEARN MORE.](#)

Coming Later this Year

Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program

Target Applicant: Various – state, municipal, tribal and private non-profit and for-profit entities

This program is designed to enhance grid flexibility and improve the resilience of the power system against growing threats of extreme weather and climate change and to accelerate the deployment of transformative projects that will help to ensure the reliability of the power sector's infrastructure, so all American communities have access to affordable, reliable, clean electricity anytime, anywhere. Three different programs for private and public entities. Next round of funding opens later this year. [LEARN MORE HERE](#) or contact Allie Rand in the Governor's Energy Office Allie.Rand@maine.gov

Coming Later this Year

Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants (REDA)

Target Applicant: State and local governments, federally-recognized tribes, land-grant college or university or other institutions of higher education, rural electric cooperatives.

Funding for conducting and promoting energy audits, technical assistance, and site assessments. Grant period for this year has closed but will reopen later in 2023. [LEARN MORE HERE](#) or contact [Brian Wilson](#), Maine program contact.

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](#)

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](#)

Land Conservation & Management

Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP) Grants

Target Applicant: Non-profit groups, municipalities, and public agencies aiming to restore, enhance or preserve wetlands and other important habitats

The Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP) awards competitive grants to projects that restore and protect high priority aquatic resources throughout Maine. MNRCP strongly encourages applications that include restoration or enhancement of aquatic resources. These projects are likely to score and rank higher than "preservation only" projects. Contact Bryan Emerson (bryan.emerson@tnc.org or (207) 607-4821) if you have any questions about potential projects for this year's funding round. **Letters of Intent to apply are due June 28.** [LEARN MORE](#)

Resilience

Community Resilience Partnership Community Action and Service Provider Grants

Target Applicant: Municipal and tribal governments and unorganized territories enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership or interested in enrolling in the Community Resilience Partnership

The Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF) is pleased to announce the opening of a third round of grant opportunities for municipal and tribal governments and unorganized territories through the Community Resilience Partnership. Service Provider Grants enable organizations to provide assistance to communities to prepare for and enroll in the

Community Resilience Partnership and then apply for grant funds to undertake priority projects. Community Action Grants enable eligible communities to implement projects that reduce energy use and costs, transition to clean energy, and make communities in Maine more resilient to climate change. **Service Provider Grant applications due June 23. Community Action Grant applications due July 7.** [LEARN MORE](#)

[DOWNLOAD APPLICATIONS](#)

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](#)

Sustainable Waste Management

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](#)

Small Community Grant Program Replacing Malfunctioning Septic Systems

Target Applicant: Small city and town resident-driven groups in partnership with their municipality or local community organization

This program provides grants to municipalities to help replace 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. When funds are available, grants are awarded based on the financial need of the property owner, as well as the negative environmental impacts of a system. The program prioritizes and awards funding to replace systems which are: (1) Contaminating a public drinking water supply, (2) polluting a shell fishing area, (3) discharging into a body of water, or (4) creating a public nuisance condition. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) grants are not available to provide septic systems for new homes or for the replacement of a septic system that was constructed after July 1, 1974, and was not constructed in compliance with the Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules at that time. Grant applications must be submitted by the municipality in which the property owner resides. Residential owners may qualify for the grant program if their federal taxable income for the previous year was \$40,000 or less. For those who are not required to file Federal taxes, a [Statement of Non-filing](#) can be completed. Commercial establishments may qualify if their gross profit for the previous year was \$100,000 or less. A sliding-scale determines an eligible applicant's grant percentage based on income (or profit) from the most recent fiscal year. Applicants are not eligible for grant assistance if their income exceeds these figures and are required to provide evidence that they meet the requirements. Participants in the program are also required to grant an easement to the town allowing construction and inspection of the system.

Transportation

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](#).

Clean School Bus Grant Program

This is the first grant funding opportunity through the multi-year funding program and follows the 2022 CSB Rebate Program, which was the first round of funding. Under the 2023 Grant Program, EPA anticipates awarding approximately **\$400 million** in competitive grant funding to eligible applicants for the purchase of zero-emission (ZE) school buses, clean school buses, and ZE charging infrastructure. This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) includes two sub-programs, one for school district and Tribal applicants ([School District Sub-program](#)) and one for third-party applicants ([Third-Party Sub-program](#)). EPA is providing two separate competitions under this single NOFO to address the unique needs and concerns of diverse recipients and encourage participation in the CSB grants program. EPA is prioritizing applications that will replace buses serving high-need local education agencies, rural areas, Tribal school districts funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and public-school districts receiving basic support payments for students living on Tribal land, and rural areas. In addition, EPA is committed to ensuring the CSB Program delivers on the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative that at least 40% of the benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities. The NOFO will be open for 120 days. Applicants must submit all grant application materials to [Grants.gov](#) by: **Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 11:59PM ET**. EPA will host a series of public webinars regarding this NOFO from May through August to provide potential applicants with an overview of the NOFO and how to apply. Webinar registration links will be posted to the [Clean School Bus Webinars webpage](#). [Learn more](#).

The **[2023 Clean School Bus \(CSB\) Grant Program](#)** is now open! This is the first grant funding opportunity through the multi-year funding program and follows the 2022 CSB Rebate Program, which was the first round of funding. Under the 2023 Grant Program, **EPA anticipates awarding approximately \$400 million** in competitive grant funding to eligible applicants for the purchase of zero-emission (ZE) school buses, clean school

buses, and ZE charging infrastructure. **Below are the planned webinars for this summer:**

June 8 @ 1 PM ET - TA Overview & Utility Planning w/ Joint Office

June 21 @ 3 PM ET - Panel Discussion w/ 2022 Rebate Selectees

July 11 @ 1 PM ET - Fleet Planning & Route Analysis w/ Joint Office

July 26 @ 3 PM ET - Training & Maintenance Considerations w/ Joint Office

Aug 9 @ 1 PM ET - OIG Fraud Prevention & Best Practices

Aug 30 @ 1 PM ET - 2023 Grants: Feedback & Next Steps

[Click here to register](#)

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

Program [FY 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) is currently open for applications through July 10, 2023. SS4A funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. View the [FAQs](#) for more information. See above for information on an upcoming SS4A webinar!

RFP EM-011-2023: DC Fast Charging Stations – Maine Phase 5

The Efficiency Maine Trust (the Trust) seeks qualified bidders to install and operate DC Fast Chargers (DCFC) for electric vehicles (EVs) along select “Alternative Fuel Corridors” in Maine. The target areas particular to this RFP are located on US Route 1 and Interstate 95. consistent with the [Maine Plan for EV Infrastructure Deployment](#) published by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) in July 2022. The Trust will accept bids that propose to serve only one location as well as bids proposing to serve multiple locations. [Learn more](#)

Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program

This program is accepting applications until June 26, 2023. Federally recognized Tribes may use the funding for capital, operating, planning, and administrative expenses for public transit projects that meet the growing needs of rural tribal communities.

Low or No Emission and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities

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 Municipal Partnership Initiative

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](#)

Communications

Let's Talk Broadband

Join an open hour session to chat all things broadband every Friday at 11AM. We welcome anyone interested in broadband or wanting to know more. [Click here to register](#)

Water / Stormwater / Wastewater

Wastewater Treatment Facility Climate Adaptation Planning Grants and Fiscal Sustainability Planning Grants

Target Applicant: Municipalities and quasi-municipal corporations

The Maine Clean Water State Revolving Fund provides \$50,000 grants to municipalities and quasi-municipal corporations (i.e. village corporations, sanitary, sewer & utility districts, etc.) for wastewater Fiscal Sustainability Plans (FSP) – asset management plans with a water component. Matching funds are required. Climate Adaptation Planning funds up to \$25,000 are also available to assess a wastewater system's resilience to climate hazards are also available without required matching funds. FMI contact Brandy Piers, Engineering Services Manager: brandy.m.piers@maine.gov or (207) 287-6093 [LEARN MORE](#)

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. 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

[LEARN MORE](#)

Innovative Wastewater Systems to People in Underserved Rural Areas

Target Applicant: Small city and town resident-driven groups in partnership with their municipality or local community organization

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development is offering grants to regional consortiums to find innovative solutions to longstanding wastewater issues in underserved rural areas. The funding is being made available under the Technical Assistance and Construction for Innovative Regional Wastewater Treatment Solutions Grant Pilot Program. The program awards grants to regional consortiums that coordinate with universities, academic health and research institutes, or economic development entities to solve untreated raw sewage issues with innovative technologies. The grants may be used to study, design, or construct regional wastewater systems for historically impoverished communities that have had difficulty installing traditional treatment systems due to soil conditions. For more information, read full [Stakeholder Announcement](#)

EVENTS and WORKSHOPS

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

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.

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
- Landfill Solar, March 9
- Building Stronger Communities – Municipal Broadband and Digital Equity, March 13
- Launching and Funding Transportation Projects with the Maine Department of Transportation, March 21
- Municipal EV Development, April 11
- Municipal Energy Generation, April 26
- Municipal Solar Site Planning & Ordinance Development, May 3
- VIEW RECORDINGS OF PAST PRESENTATIONS HERE
- The next round of Building Stronger Communities Online Learning Series will be launched in September, 2023.

Interprets Live! A Climate Based Conversation

Target Audience: General Audience

Online and In-person

Tuesday, June 27, 4:30 PM

Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission Office, Wiscasset, Maine

Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission invites you to “Interprets Live! A Climate Based Conversation” with special guest Jessica Brunacini. This conversation-based event will highlight social resilience and social vulnerability and how they relate to climate resilience. Dr. Brunacini works extensively in Maine supporting coastal communities as they plan for and respond to the impacts of climate change. Come with questions! Get the ZOOM LINK to attend remotely and LEARN MORE

Opportunity to provide Feedback – Maine Climate Resilience Hub Survey

Target Audience: Anyone involved or interested in climate/resilience planning in Maine – volunteer committee members, municipal staff, organizations providing technical support to towns, etc.

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry's Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning is developing an interactive, online tool that is based on the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Outcomes Tool (CAROT), in partnership with The Nature Conservancy. Take a 5-minute anonymous survey to help design this interactive, online tool to help communities develop implementation metrics for climate planning.

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY](#)

Local Leads the Way

Target Audience: Community members, community leaders Online

First Monday of each month, 4:00 PM

Next Meeting is Monday, July 3

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.

Maine DEP's Gravel Road Maintenance Practices Certification Course

Target Audience: Gravel road owners, town officials, contractors, and watershed organizations

In-person

Thursday, July 20, 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Denny Conservation & Education Center, 3 Round Top Lane, Damariscotta, Maine

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District and Maine DEP are co-sponsoring a four and a half-hour classroom and field event hosted by Coastal Rivers Conservation. This class qualifies for 4 Continuing Education Hours (CEH) for individuals Certified in Erosion Control Practices by Maine DEP. Each CEH affords Certified individuals one year of recertification. Presented by John Maclaine Non-Point Source Training Center Coordinator and Dave Roque, Retired Soil Scientist ME DACF. Pre-registration with payment of \$95 (mail-in registration) / \$98 (online registration)

is required by Friday, July 14th Attendees may register and pay online or download a registration form from the Knox-Lincoln SWCD website or for more information, contact Knox-Lincoln SWCD office at (207) 596-2040, julie@knox-lincoln.org [LEARN MORE AND REGISTER HERE](#)

Federal Solar Tax Credits for 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](#)