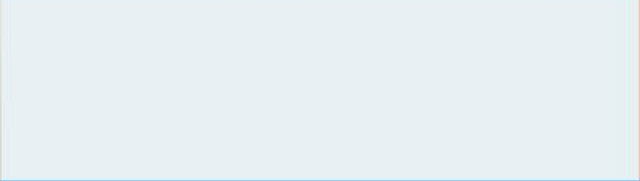


**COMMUNITIES
LEADING
on CLIMATE**

Morning Session 1/ Arnold Howard

Understanding Social Vulnerability

**MAINE
WON'T
WAIT**



**COMMUNITIES
LEADING
on CLIMATE**

Dr. Eileen Johnson
Bowdoin College

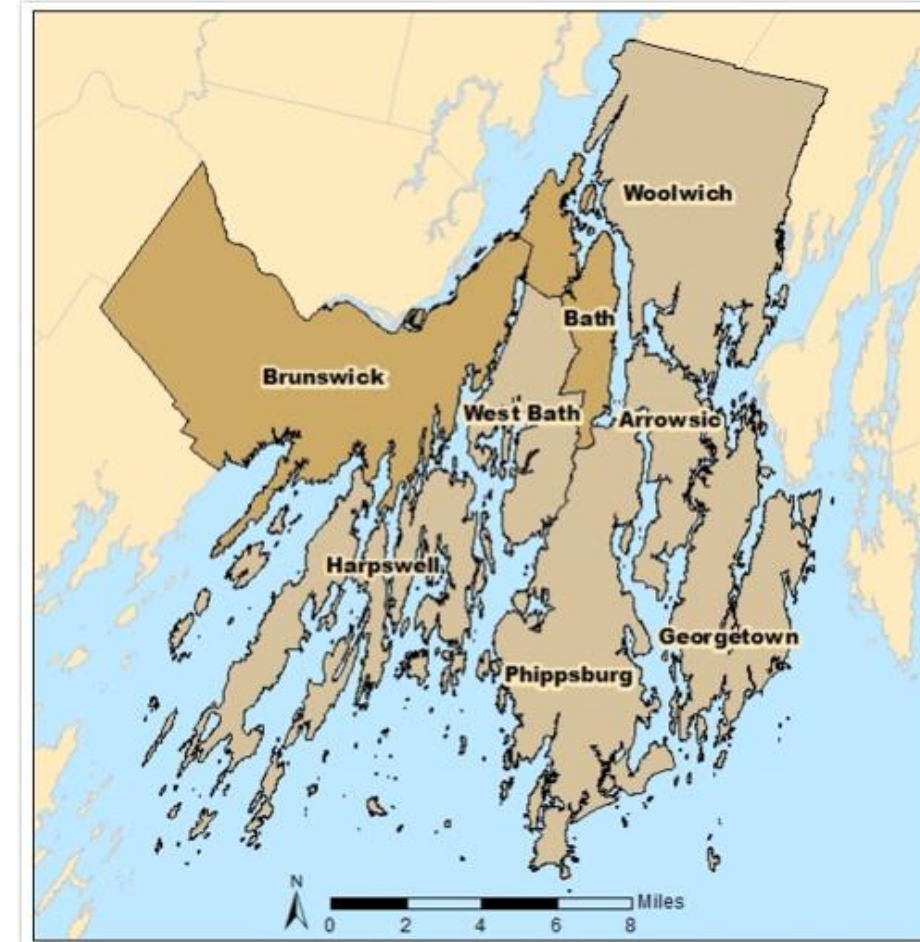
The Social Resilience Project

**MAINE
WON'T
WAIT**

The Challenge

- The Social Resilience Project (SRP) addresses the impacts of climate change/storm events on our state's most vulnerable residents by focusing on **social infrastructure**: the connections between organizations and communities, rather than just on physical infrastructure.
- The goal is to enhance and strengthen **social infrastructure to leverage the strengths of existing organizations and communities** in meeting the needs of vulnerable community members impacted by increasing storm events.

Research Team: Jeremy Bell, TNC Maine, Victoria Boundy, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, Jessica Brunacini & Annie Cox, Wells Reserve Estuarine Research Reserve, Kristen Grant, Maine Sea Grant, Elizabeth Hertz, Blue Sky Planning Solutions, Ruth Indrick, Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, Bowdoin College Students: Kasey Cunningham, Samara Nassor, Julia Marks. Funding Sources: Maine Coastal Program, Maine SeaGrant, Island Institute



Process

- Focus groups held in 2019 - 2020 with emergency management, municipal, conservation and social service sectors
- Participants said work is “siloesd” with a lack of connection and coordination across sectors.
- We held a **scenario planning exercise** on Jan 26 that brought together representatives from all sectors to (1) learn about impacts of storm events on vulnerable populations and (2) increase communication and collaboration.



Context

November 28, 2022

A storm is predicted to hit tomorrow. It will hit during a high astronomical tide period (11.8').

A storm out in the Atlantic has intensified quickly and will bring 3.9' of storm surge during the high tide. This will result in an historic 15.7' storm tide. SE winds are predicted at 45 mph with gusts of up to 70 mph.

The storm is coming from the SE, piling water into the upper reaches of Casco Bay. The predicted near shore waves of 12-14 feet will lead to destructive wave action including major erosion and flooding. This level of flooding is expected to severely impact transportation networks throughout the region through flooding, culvert washouts, tree limbs, and other debris. It is expected that the storm will cause power outages throughout the region. The current temperature is above freezing.



The 56 participants represented conservation organizations, emergency management agencies, social service agencies and municipalities.

Module One: Region Three

Brunswick and Harpswell

Kasey Cunningham
November 16, 2021

[Immediately After the Storm](#) [Community Characteristics](#) [Social Vulnerabilities](#) [Transportation Impacts](#)

Immediately After the Storm

Summary

November 29, 2022

Six Months After the Storm

Summary

May 13, 2023

Power has been restored throughout the region. Roads and culverts have been repaired. Schools are open and shelters have been closed. There are still visible areas of blowdowns throughout the towns. Most substantial damage to homes and public buildings throughout the region have been repaired. Many homeowners are waiting for insurance payments. A small percentage of local businesses have closed. Self-employed individuals lost revenue. As a result of the effects of transportation. There are still affected vulnerable populations.

Key Points

- Power has been restored and roads are repaired.
- Debris is still being removed.
- Repairs to public and private facilities and homes are underway.

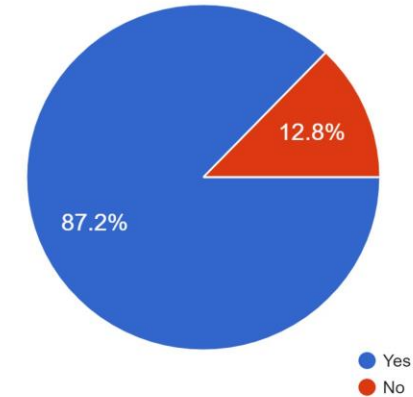


Solutions/Results

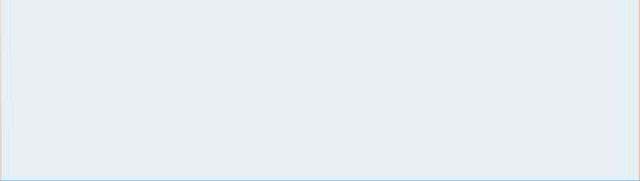
- 80% of respondents stated that it is very important to establish partnerships across sectors.
- 75% of respondents said participating in the exercise raised their awareness of the impact of storm events on vulnerable populations.
- Final Report: participants identified who is **vulnerable** and reflects recommendations focused on **communication, collaboration** and **capacity**. Report will be shared at June 28 meeting
- Model that can be used for scenario planning exercises in different areas of the state and different types of hazards.



Are you leaving with any ideas of new partnerships?



- “I think it was beneficial for those with emergency prep experience to see other organizations that could help during a disaster and vice versa”
- “Very worthwhile - needs to be replicated in other locations and perhaps at different geographic scales”



**COMMUNITIES
LEADING
on CLIMATE**

**MAINE
WON'T
WAIT**

Misty Parker
Lewiston

Lewiston Choice Neighborhood Initiative

The Challenge

- Downtown Lewiston is challenged with old, neglected housing stock that is not energy efficient and has high levels of lead paint which is a public health risk to residents, particularly young children.
- Forty percent of Lewiston's children live in downtown Lewiston and nearly half of the families in the Tree Streets neighborhood, where housing conditions are most distressed, nearly half the families residing here live below the poverty level.
- The Lewiston Choice Neighborhood Initiative aims to begin rebuilding this neighborhood, block by block. In doing so, there is an opportunity to build housing for the future that is not only safe for residents it works for our changing climate, too.



Process

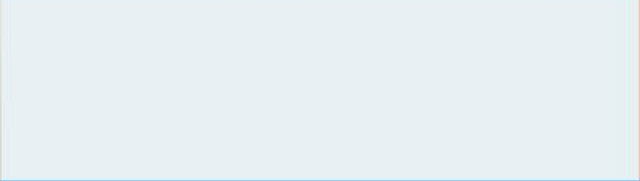
- We conducted a two-year planning process engaging over 400 residents and stakeholders in the Tree Streets neighborhood to develop a transformation plan for the neighborhood focused on equitable opportunities for all residents to achieve economic stability, health and wellbeing, as well as learning; provide homes that are safe, healthy, and accessible to all residents; and grow a greener, more connected, safer, and stronger neighborhood.



Solutions/Results

- With the award of the Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant, Lewiston Housing, in partnership with the City, will begin implementing the transformation plan by creating 185 new, healthy, safe apartments in the neighborhood at various income levels as well as several other community improvements.
- The outcomes of these investments will be more new, safe, healthy, energy efficient housing opportunities, job opportunities, and a safer, greener, healthier neighborhood.
- One year post implementation award we have already seen 35 new energy efficient mixed-income apartments built in the new development Gauvreau Place and 18 new affordable passive house standard units currently under construction. All funded outside of the implementation grant by Choice Partners doing their part to implement the transformation plan. Construction on the 185 new units funded by the Choice Implementation Grant will begin Winter 2023.





**COMMUNITIES
LEADING
on CLIMATE**

**MAINE
WON'T
WAIT**

Paige Atkinson
Eastport

Weatherization in Homes of Older Adults

The Challenge

- Older adults are more susceptible to the impacts of climate change, specifically when it comes to heating and cooling their homes.
- In Eastport, we recognized that these changes provide a challenge for older adults who wish to age in our community. The older housing stock that makes up the majority of our community is very inefficient when it comes to heating and cooling, often placing an inequitable burden on folks living on a fixed income.



Process

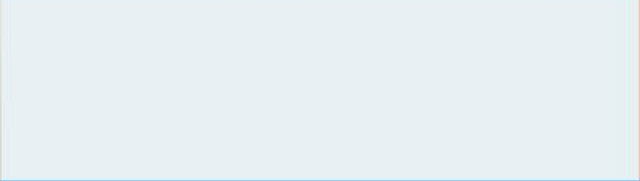
- To address the challenges faced in our community, Eastport is looking to develop a weatherization and home repair program to assist in making homes more efficient.
- We are collaborating with Efficiency Maine Trust, Maine Council on Aging, Downeast Community Partners, and local partners to find a sustainable solution.



Solutions/Results

- We are continuing to work on the nuances of this program, but aim to take action as soon as possible.
- Our goal is to have a program that residents could seamlessly move through to make their homes more efficient. Eastport realized that weatherization and home repair must occur concurrently for residents to see the most impact in their homes and on the utility bill.





**COMMUNITIES
LEADING
on CLIMATE**

Steven Reiter
Biddeford

Climate Change - A Regional Approach in Biddeford

**MAINE
WON'T
WAIT**

The Challenge



Creating community awareness and involvement

**MAINE
WON'T
WAIT**



Process

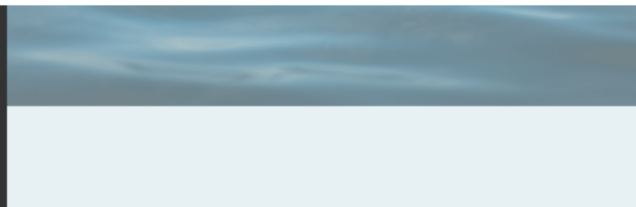
- Create alignment within the municipal government
- Build the community
- Create transparency and inclusivity
- Collaborate with likeminded organizations to expand reach and network
- Develop content, messaging and storylines
- Create a variety of communication channels and platforms to engage with your community



Results



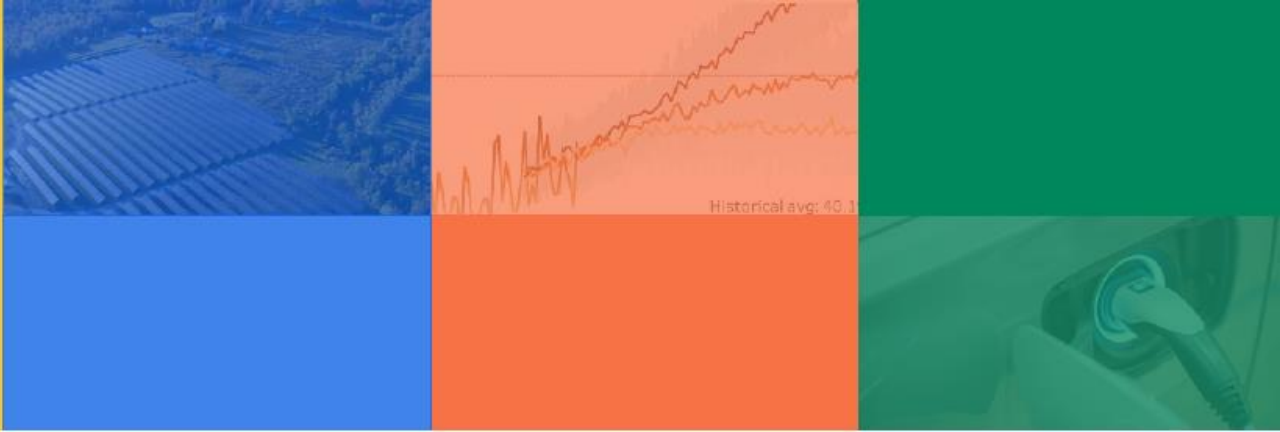
Artist/Scientist Jill Pelto, Interactive Climate Art Exhibit at Engine in Biddeford



**MAINE
WON'T
WAIT**

COMMUNITIES LEADING on CLIMATE

JUNE 17, 2022 8:30AM – 4:00 PM
AUGUSTA CIVIC CENTER, 76 COMMUNITY DR, AUGUSTA, ME



9:00 AM Welcome & Opening Remarks
(livestreamed)

*Augusta/Pine
Tree/Capital*

12:00 PM Networking Lunch

Auditorium

MCC co-chairs Hannah Pingree and Melanie Loyzim
Remarks from Maine's congressional delegation
Janet Mills, Governor of Maine

10:00 AM Morning Session One

Getting Started *(livestreamed)*
Understanding Social Vulnerability
Efficiency Begins at Home

1:00 PM Keynote: Gina McCarthy,
White House National Climate Advisor

*Augusta/Pine
Tree/Capital*

Livestreamed

11:00 AM Morning Session Two

The Future of Transportation *(livestreamed)*
Climate Ready Communities
Engaging Your Community

1:45 & 2:45 PM Afternoon Workshop Sessions 1 & 2

See printed agenda for full list & available livestreams

3:30 PM Adjourn