

# Maine Climate Council

## Community Resilience Working Group

### Co-Chairs:

- Judy East, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
- Rebecca Boulos, Maine Public Health Association
- Anne Fuchs, Maine Emergency Management Agency

Facilitator: Melanie Gárate, Consensus Building Institute



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
**Policy Innovation  
and the Future**



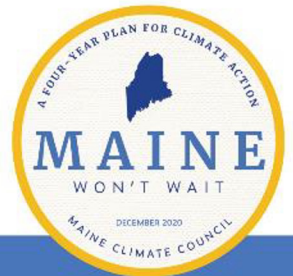
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Environmental Protection**



**February 29, 2024**

# Welcome

- If you are a working group member:
  - please rename yourselves and add \*asterisk in front of your name
- If you are a member of the public and / or interested state staff
  - please rename yourselves to include “public participant”
- Everyone’s voices are valuable
  - We will take working group member comments / questions first
  - Public participants, please add your comments and questions to the chat and we will make time to get to them
- Fill out demographics form:  
<https://forms.gle/BbNp1aJsDqcSB8eV6>
  - Only have to fill out once – all participants can fill out



This meeting will be recorded.

# Meeting Goals

Members discuss draft recommendations for:

- Psychological resilience
- Discuss policy recommendation reboots:
  - Long-term adaptation funding and financing
  - Invest in tools and technical assistance for communities

# Meeting Agenda

- 9:00 am Welcome
- 9:10 am Draft policy recommendations: Psychological Resilience
- 10:00 am Long-term adaptation funding and financing: Invited speaker  
Shaun O'Rourke, Quantified Ventures
- 10:50 am BREAK
- 11:00 am Invest in tools and technical assistance for communities
- 11:50 am Next steps
- 12:00 pm Adjourn

# Guidance on feedback for draft policy recommendations

- Subworking group members will share their draft policy recommendations first
- Then, they will go back, to the top to solicit feedback from the group, recommendation, by recommendation
- Grab a pen and paper! This is a lot of information and we are always restricted by time - we suggest you take notes on items you want to give feedback on and share when we get into discussion.
- As always, please raise your hands and be concise on your feedback. Use the chat as needed.
- We will share out after meeting for further comment

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## Subgroup: Psychological Resilience

Draft policy recommendations

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# **Psychological Resilience Subgroup**

## **Draft Recommendations**

Dennis Kiley, Ainsley Morrison, Tora Johnson & Nancy Hathaway

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# Defining Psychological Resilience

“Resilience is the process & outcome of successfully adapting to difficult or challenging life experiences, especially through mental, emotional, & behavioral flexibility & adjustment to external & internal demands.”

American Psychological Association <https://www.apa.org/topics/resilience>

# Mental Health Context

Climate impacts exacerbate existing and cause new mental health challenges and illnesses:

- Natural disasters can cause anxiety, depression, & PTSD
- Greater impacts for at-risk/ vulnerable populations
- Many, especially youth, have climate-related anxiety & despair
- Existing shortage of mental health resources
- Psychological/ psycho-social factors-like apathy, denial and conflict-underlie barriers to action conflict

# Psychological Resilience

Affected by...

- Emotional Intelligence
- Coping skills & Adaptability
- Attitudes, Values & World views
- Interpersonal interactions
- Physical well-being
- Availability & quality of resources, social support networks, etc.
- Agency & Hope



# Thoughts to Consider

- Multiple scales of relevance: individual, family, communal, state
- Psychological Resilience intersects with other challenges and goals relevant to CRWG & Climate Council
- Important to integrate psychological strategies into creating and implementing policies, communication and engagement efforts, collaborations, etc

# Inspiring Action by by engaging feelings, beliefs, values, stories & behaviors

Key topics for all proposed education, assessments, & training:

- Fostering agency, adaptability & hope
- Confronting fear, uncertainty & disruption
- Supporting effective decision-making
- Promote collaborations and relationships
- Cultivate Emotional Intelligence
- Avoiding/resolving conflict & polarization (ex. explicit references to “climate change” can sometimes be unproductive)
- How beliefs can change
- Acceptance of change

# Relevant Strategies & Goals for *Maine Won't Wait*

Strategy F (Build Healthy and Resilient Communities)

*Climate Action  
Plan (2020)*

Strategy H (Engage with Maine People and Communities)

- **Goal #4:** “Incorporate determinants of health in climate preparedness & response strategies”
- **Goal #5:** “Develop & implement enduring, consistent, responsive communications strategies to support community conversations on resilience”
- **Goal #6:** “Invest in decisions to support communities adaptation & resilience”

# Recommendations

## **1. Engagement & Communication**

Educate climate leaders, public officials, activists, & others involved in climate resilience on psychologically sound strategies & best practices to encourage hope, foster agency & support collective action.

## **1. Equitable & Accessible Psychological Resilience Resources**

Provide equitable psychological resilience education, assessments, & training on multiple levels: individual, communal, institutional & statewide

## **1. Mental Health Support in Response to Climate Impacts**

Prioritize awareness & action on mental health impacts of climate-related adverse experiences, esp in youth & other vulnerable populations.

# **Recommendation 1 : Engagement & Communication**

Educate climate leaders, public officials, activists, & others involved in climate resilience on psychologically sound strategies & best practices to encourage hope, foster agency & support collective action.

## **1. Education & Training**

- a. Provide comprehensive & immersive educational experiences, training, & assessments aimed to foster widespread effective engagement & communication across industry sectors, government & communities.

## **1. Policy**

- a. Support cultures of effective engagement, & incorporate best practices for individual & communal engagement into climate action plans & those tasked with implementing those plans.

## **1. Assessment**

- a. Assess capacities for effective decision making & action among communities
- b. Assess experiences of climate leaders, officials, etc. in avoiding/resolving conflict & achieving climate goals; including confidence, effective work across boundaries, social capital, etc.



# Recommendation 2 :

## Equitable & Accessible Psychological Resilience Resources

Provide equitable psychological resilience education, assessments, & training on multiple levels: individuals, communities, organizations & state

### 1. Education & Training

- a. Information & programming in mandatory climate education curriculum for high school students in developmentally appropriate ways that support youth resilience, agency & hope
- b. **“Top-Down”** programs for clinicians, healthcare professionals, emergency responders & mgrs, educators, community leaders & organizations, faith leaders, etc. Ex.”Train the Trainer”
- c. **“Bottom-Up”** Peer counseling, community listening sessions, support groups, etc. to supplement mental health services & normalize support practices.

# **Recommendation 2 :**

## **Equitable & Accessible Psychological Resilience Resources**

### **2. Assessments**

- a. Community Preparedness: Assessment among community members to aid leaders in gauging their ability to provide resources to support psychological resilience
  
- a. Clinical, healthcare & therapy settings:
  - i. Provider preparedness: Assessment among providers gauging understanding & confidence in supporting climate-related psychological resilience
  - ii. Pre-care assessment to equitably evaluate individual need for psychological resilience support

## **Recommendation 3:**

### **Mental Health Support in Response to Climate Impacts**

Prioritize awareness & action on mental health impacts of climate-related adverse experiences, esp in youth & other vulnerable populations.

#### **1. Education & Training**

- a. Provide individuals, emergency responders, care providers & social service providers with trainings, practices, strategies, & skill sets to respond to both emergent & slow-moving climate impacts for mental health & healing

#### **1. Policy**

- a. Require disaster mgt & response plans to incorporate mental health services
- b. Expand investment in mental healthcare & related services, in general; the need will grow.

# **Recommendation 3:**

## **Mental Health Support in Response to Climate Impacts**

### **1. Assessments**

- a. Mental health assessments for communities, (esp. those experiencing disruption)
- a. Assessment of existing state resources
- a. Review of emergency response plans for inclusion of mental health services & considerations
- a. Assessment of emergency responders' & social service providers' understanding & skill in supporting those experiencing climate-related disruption & providing referral services

# Final Thoughts

- Many areas of overlap/intersectionality, requiring multiple aspects of expertise and contribution at various scales.
- A “Climate Psychology Task Force” may be a strategy to consider
- Maine can demonstrate leadership on climate psychology, resilience, and mental health resources.

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# Long-term Adaptation Funding and Financing

## Policy Recommendation Reboot

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March 22, 2024

Community Resilience Working Group Meeting



# Financing Climate Resilience

## Opportunities for Maine

March 2024

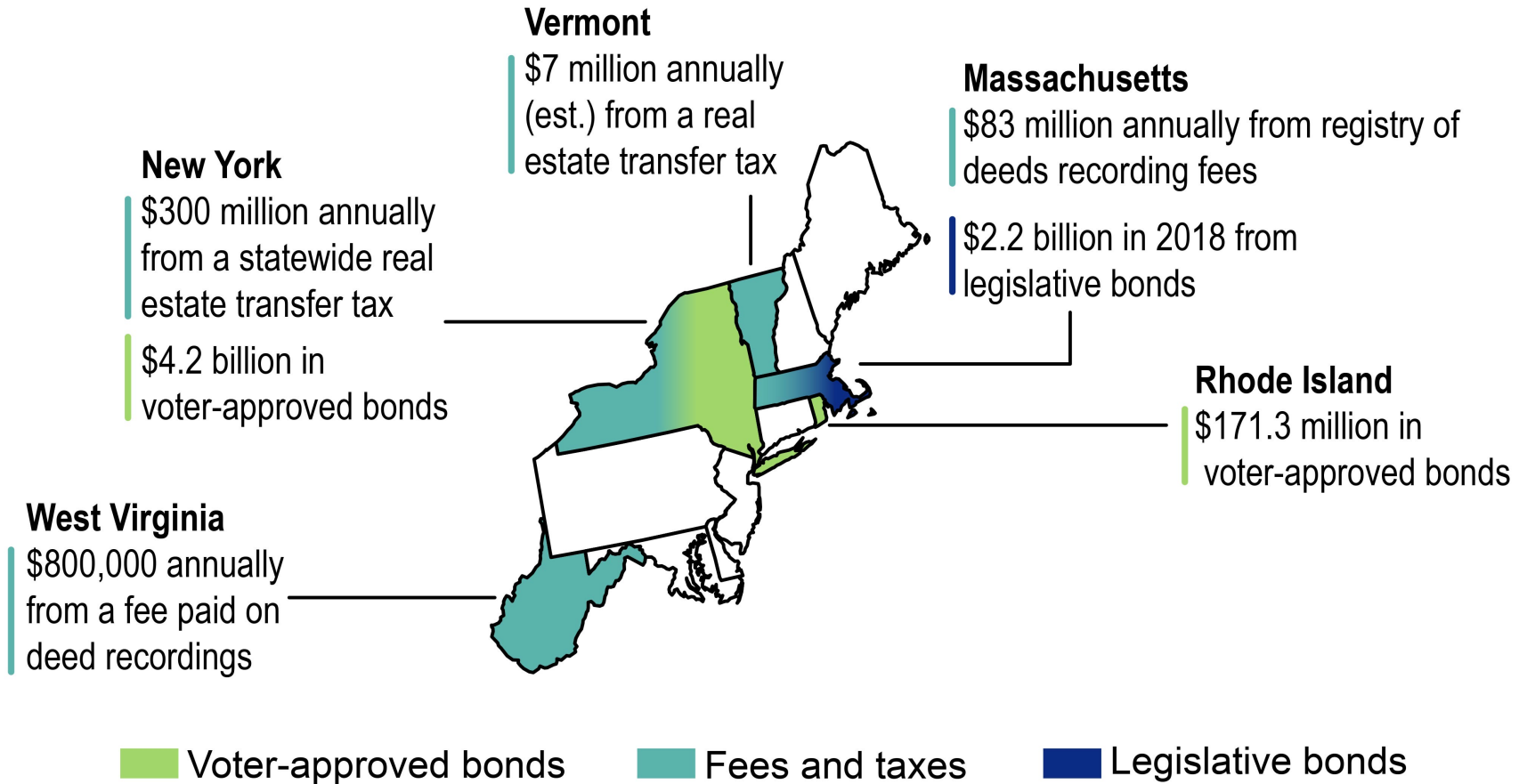
**FUNDING**

**VS**

**FINANCING**



## Public Funding for Resilience





**4%**

Only 4% of Clean Water State Revolving Funds have been allocated to non-point source and resilience projects thus far.... but times are changing



**\$55 Billion**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (2022) allocated \$55 billion to water infrastructure and \$44 billion directly to SRFs; 49% must be “free” over 5 years



**Stacking**

SRF Loans provide and opportunity to leverage multiple sources of capital for project investment

## What Green Banks Have in Common:

Green Banks are mission-driven institutions that use innovative financing to accelerate investments in clean energy and climate resilience. Green Banks primarily use financing, not grants.

## What Green Banks DON'T Have in Common:

Everything else...

Green Banks vary by jurisdiction (national, state, local), structure (public, quasi-public, non-profit), sources of capitalization, programs offered, and more.



- State
- Quasi-Public
- State Funding for Projects



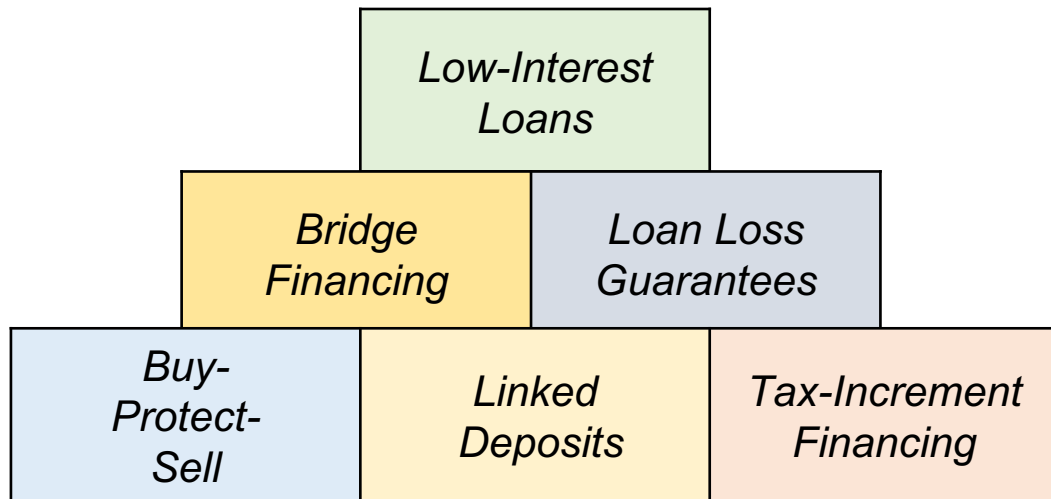
- State
- 501c3 Non-Profit
- NO State Funding for Projects



- Local
- Quasi-Public
- NO Local Funding for Projects

# What Can Green Banks Do?

The benefit of having no single definition of a Green Bank is that Green Banks can adapt to fit a wide range of needs for types of financing and types of projects.



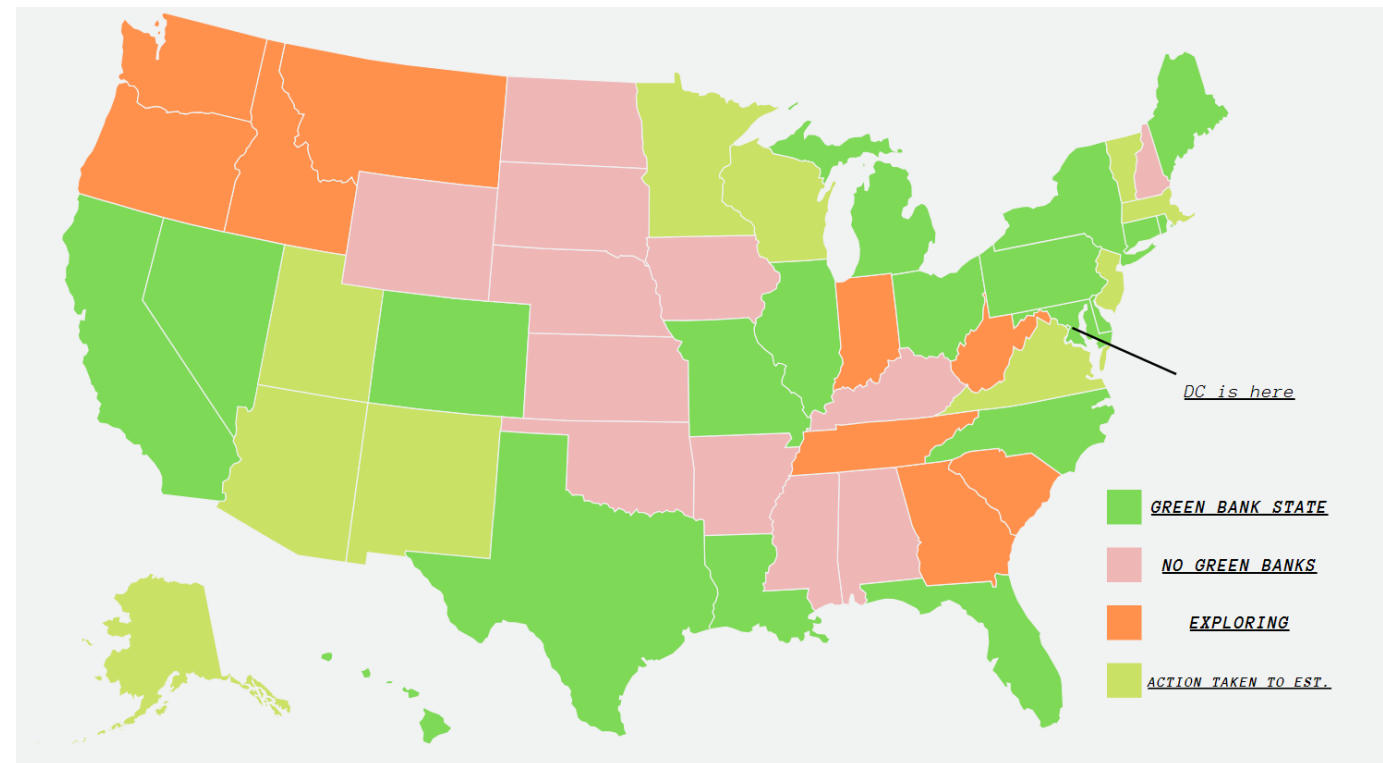
The \$27B Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) is providing \$27B in funding to capitalize Green Banks across the country.

## Funding

- **Solar For All:** \$7B available to green banks (and other non-profits / states / counties / municipalities) for residential solar

## Financing

- **National Clean Investment Fund:** \$14B to capital 2-3 national entities with a focus on private investment.
- **Clean Communities Investment Accelerator:** \$6B for 2-7 hub non-profits focused on disadvantaged communities.



## Expansion from 4 to 12 Programs between 2016 and 2024

- Over \$40 million in new funding for climate resilience projects has been secured since Resilient Rhody was released in 2018.
- \$10 mm – 2018 Green Bond
- \$2.5 mm - Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank for Municipal Resilience Program
- \$7 mm - 2021 Special Election Green Bond
- \$16 mm - 2022 Green Bond



**Centralized and coordinated funding and financing strategy**

**Leverage multiple sources and colors of money**

**Link funding and financing with policy and priority investment**

**Continue building a strong pipeline of investable projects**

# Thank You

Shaun O'Rourke  
[sorourke@quantifiedventures.com](mailto:sorourke@quantifiedventures.com)



# 2024 Priorities | Questionnaire Results



Long-term adaptation funding and financing (Dec 2020 recommendation reboot)

## Overwhelming support for long term strategies to sustain resilience funding sources

### Comments / Suggestions

- **Cooperation and project sharing** between agencies that administrate resilience/mitigation funding programs.
- Increased funding for the **Infrastructure Adaptation Fund and BIL** would be beneficial.
- **Activate the tools and funding** available with pro-active marketing, technical assistance, and ongoing support to ensure the most vulnerable and under resourced communities can access this support.
- Looking at **existing state revolving loan funds** and other finance mechanisms (both in and beyond Maine) as examples to leverage/build upon
- Unlock funds for **rural and inland Maine**.
- Funding and managing **infrastructure projects is a stumbling block** for many communities who have already been evaluating their vulnerabilities and have identified priority areas

# 2024 Priorities | Questionnaire Results



Long-term adaptation funding and financing (Dec 2020 recommendation reboot)

## Questions:

- Do we have a reliable inventory of potential sources?
- Have we worked enough with policymakers, i.e., appropriators, to continue to make this a significant priorities (out of so many)?
- Can delivery of state funding be improved?
- How can barriers for communities wanting to access funds be lowered/removed?
- What can be done at state and/or regional level to support and facilitate access to federal funding and financing opportunities?
- What changes to state initiatives are needed to improve the long-term sustainability of funding?
- How do we set communities up for long-term, sustainable success when most of the funding opportunities are short term? How do we keep this work moving forward even if / when funding dries up due to budget constraints, political changes, policy shifts, etc.?

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Invest in Tools and Technical  
Assistance for Communities  
Policy Recommendation Reboot

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March 22, 2024

Community Resilience Working Group Meeting

# 2024 Priorities | Questionnaire Results



Invest in tools and technical assistance for communities (Dec 2020 recommendation reboot)

- We have **SO many tools at this point** – unclear whether or to what extent they are being used by anyone other than technical experts
- **Expanding services** to private / household needs for resilience / mitigation.
- **Networking** - establishing/sustaining a resilience support network among at-risk communities.
- **Education** for an understanding options available.
- Moving beyond planning grants and studies and toward larger scale, **more widespread implementation**.
- **Nature-based solutions** are the key for greater resilience and cost savings over time.
- Review and discuss the **GOPIF report required by LD 1934 and evaluate the findings** in relation to our updated Working Group recommendations, and vice versa.
- Engage **CRP regional coordinators** and service providers for their insights into the CRP and the experience of municipalities, tribal governments, and unorganized territories with the program
- **Access to data**, utilizing GIS, partnering with new & existing capabilities
- TA is often very welcome, but it needs to be **targeted and integrated with business-as-usual activities** for all but the most engaged communities
- Explore how we develop **resource toolkits** for community planners, code enforcement officers, planning and zoning board members, etc



# 2024 Priorities | Questionnaire Results



Invest in tools and technical assistance for communities (Dec 2020 recommendation reboot)

## Questions

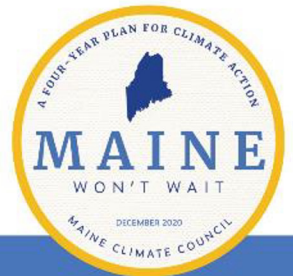
- How do we expand, encourage, support number of communities?
- How do we learn from past efforts with eye toward improving effort?
- Can we encourage/support regional efforts, not necessarily by municipal boundaries but by impact zones/regions, i.e., watersheds?
- I wonder if there could be a rotation of some sort for people to visit communities to provide the requested technical services? Is that realistic? Are the tools web-based things or actual material tools?
- Should we consider a certification program in climate change for planning leaders?
- Should we be adding climate planning to the MMA curriculum for planning and zoning board member education?
- Can we establish a fund to cover the cost of specific trainings for community leaders?



# Existing Strategy F-1 Empower Local and Regional Community Resilience Efforts

Provide state leadership for robust technical assistance and funding to communities by 2024 to support local and regional climate-resilience initiatives

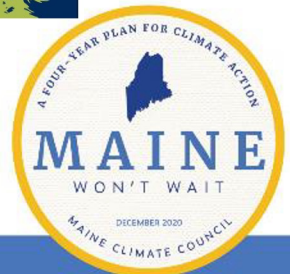
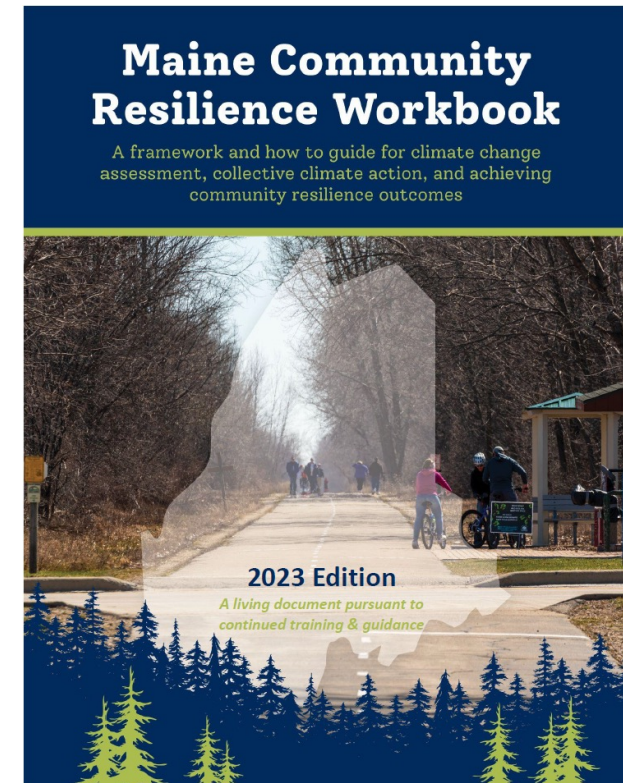
- Community Resilience Partnership (~5M out, ~5M pending)
  - Community Action Grants
  - Regional Service Provider grants from CRP (TA)
- State Infrastructure Adaptation Fund (~\$22M out, \$50+ M pending) – Strategy G
  - Includes predevelopment assistance (TA)
- Coordinated efforts to seek Federal funding
  - GOPIF website | coordination; MEMA outreach and applications (~\$50+ M pending)
  - NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge grant (\$73 million - pending)



# Existing Strategy F-1 Empower Local and Regional Community Resilience Efforts

Provide state leadership for robust technical assistance and funding to communities by 2024 to support local and regional climate-resilience initiatives

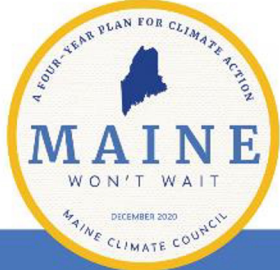
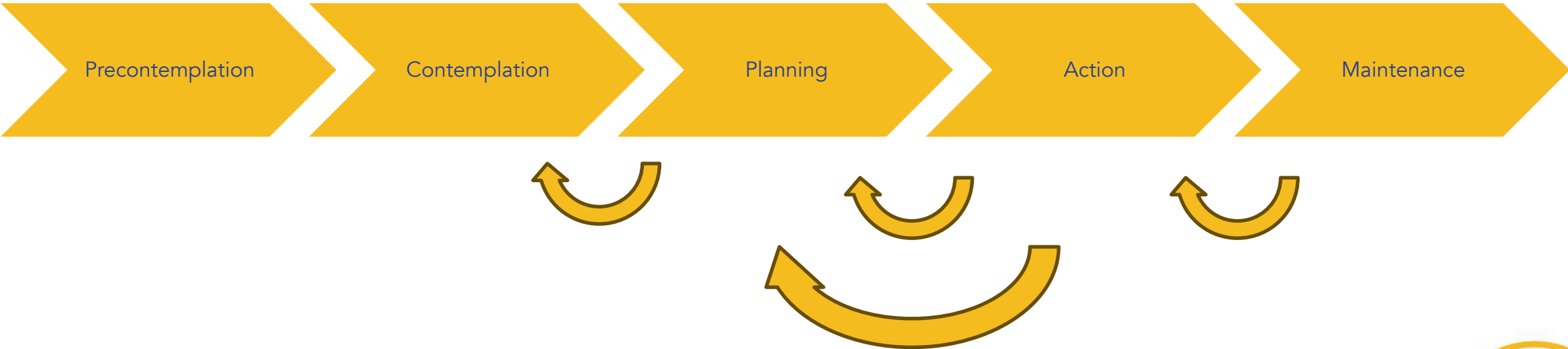
- Network of Regional Coordinators (pvt \$ ending early 2024)
- NOAA CRCC – Implementation of Resilience and Adaptation Actions ~\$73 M pending
  - climate-related changes in statute or rule; update permit processes; advance N-BS; transformational regional project
  - Expand Regional Coordinator network
  - Expand TA
  - Engineering design costs
  - Curated website (online Community Resilience Workbook++)
- NOAA Coastal Fellow – Resilience TA coordination/navigation
- Community Resilience Workbook (image of 2023)
  - Distribution
  - 2024 update
  - Website navigation tool design | seeking funding to implement



# Public Health Theories, Assessments & Behavior Change

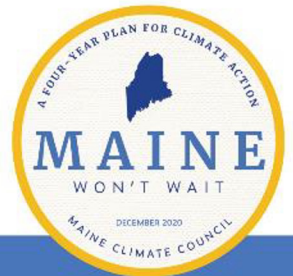


# Transtheoretical Model



# Community Readiness Assessment

- Community readiness is the degree to which a community is ready to take action on an issue.
- Assessment: Tri-Ethnic Center at Colorado State University's Community Readiness Model  
(<https://tec.colostate.edu/communityreadiness>)



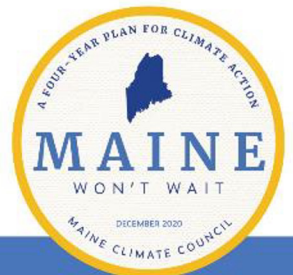
# Community Readiness Model

## 9 Stages of Readiness:

1. No awareness
2. Denial
3. Vague awareness
4. Preplanning
5. Preparation
6. Initiation
7. Stabilization
8. Expansion
9. High Level of Community Ownership

## Assessment of Readiness - 6 Key Dimensions:

1. Efforts
2. Community Knowledge of Efforts
3. Leadership
4. Community Climate
5. Community Knowledge of the Issue
6. Resources



# Community Readiness Assessment

## Process:

- Identify the issue
- Define the community
- Conduct key respondent interviews
- Score to determine the readiness levels; and
- Develop strategies consistent with those readiness levels

More detailed information about using this model: <http://peersforprogress.org/resource-guide/assessing-community-readiness-for-innovative-strategies/>

And: <https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/overview/models-for-community-health-and-development/community-readiness/main>



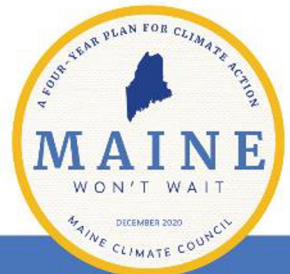
# Community Health Needs Assessment

- Required of tax-exempt hospitals as a result of the Affordable Care Act.
- By statute, the CHNAs must take into account input from “persons who represent the broad interests of the community served by the hospital facility, including those with special knowledge of or expertise in public health.”
- Identifies key health needs and issues through systematic, comprehensive data collection and analysis. Community health assessments use such principles as multisector collaboration and proactive/diverse community engagement



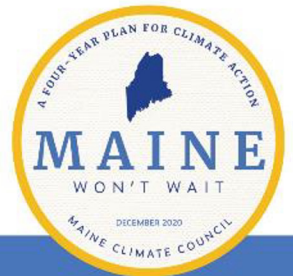
# Community Health Needs Assessment

- CHNAs can improve public health by improving coordination across hospitals and ensuring hospitals have the information they need to provide community benefits that meet the needs of their communities.
- For more information:  
<https://astho.org/programs/access/community-health-needs-assessments> and  
<https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/cha/plan.html>



# Community Health Improvement Plans

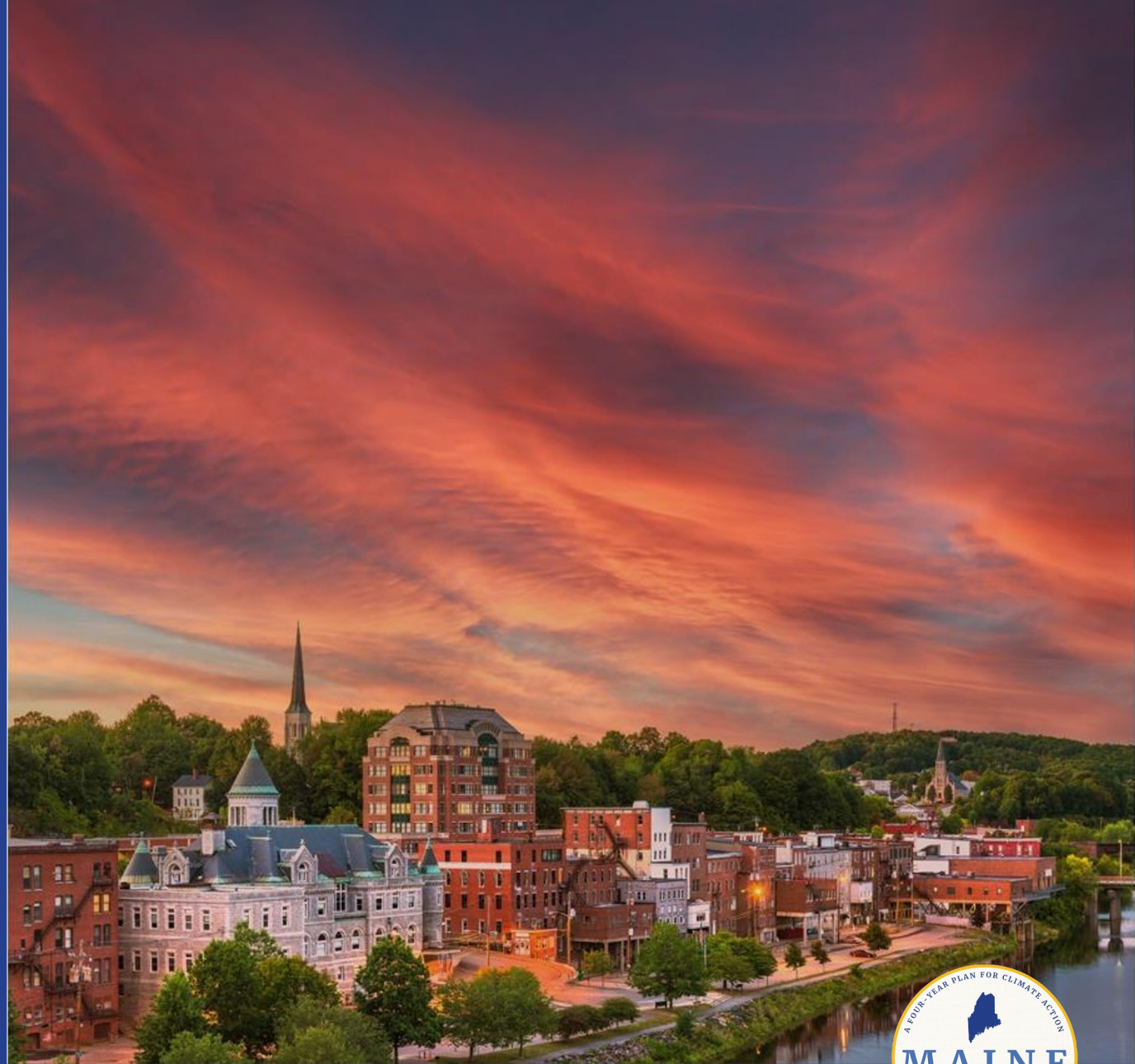
- A community health improvement plan (CHIP) is a long-term, systematic effort to address public health problems based on the results of community health assessment activities and the community health improvement process (Public Health Accreditation Board).
- The CHIP is used by health and other governmental education and human service agencies, in collaboration with community partners, to set priorities and coordinate and target resources.
- CHIP is typically updated every three to five years.
- Benefits to conducting CHNAs and CHIPs include: Improved resource allocation, strengthened partnerships, and better understanding of community health needs & resources



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# Discussion

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March 22, 2024

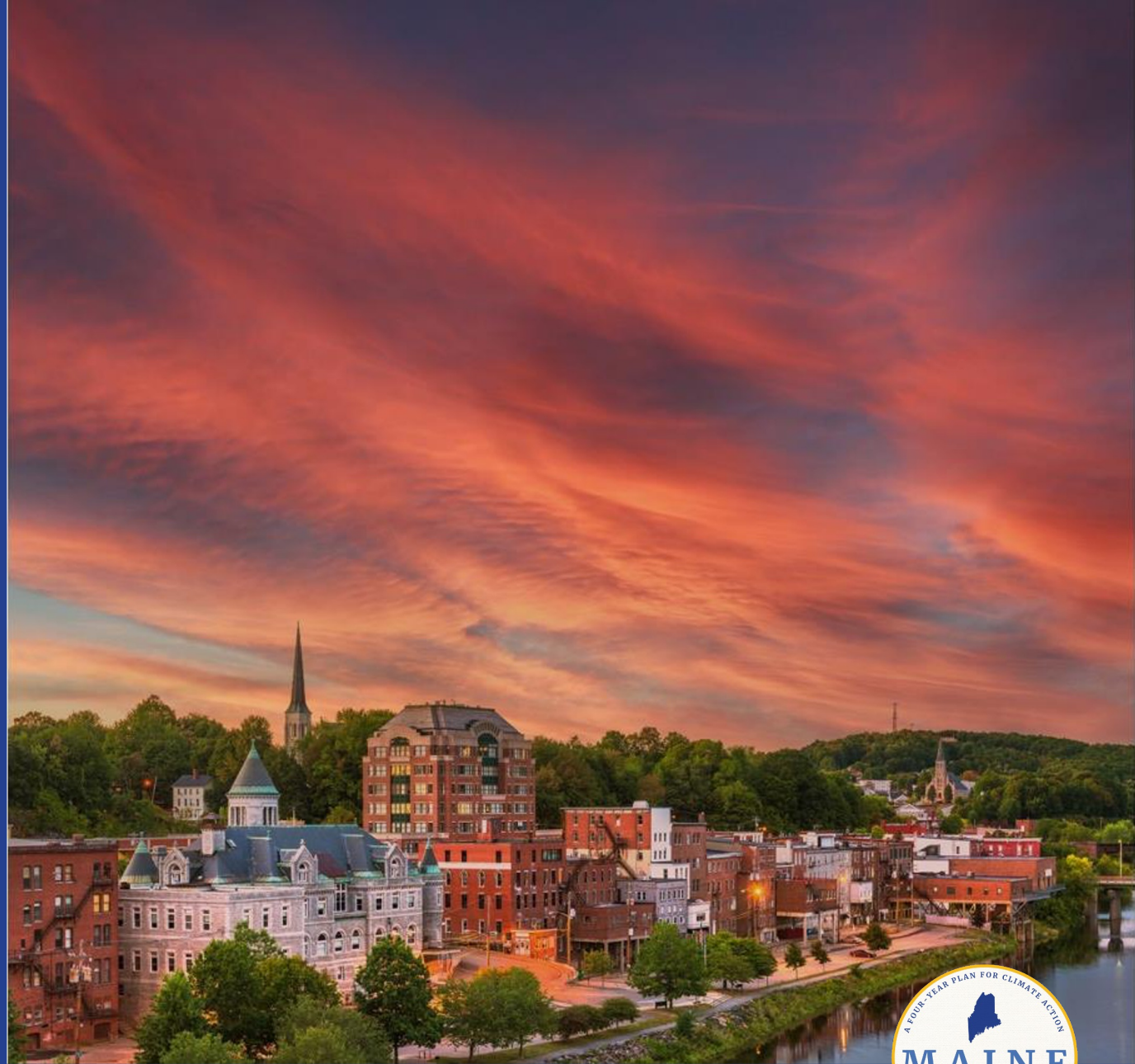
Community Resilience Working Group Meeting



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# Next Steps and Adjournment

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March 22, 2024



## Members

- Share any other comments to the subworking groups and cochairs by Monday, April 1

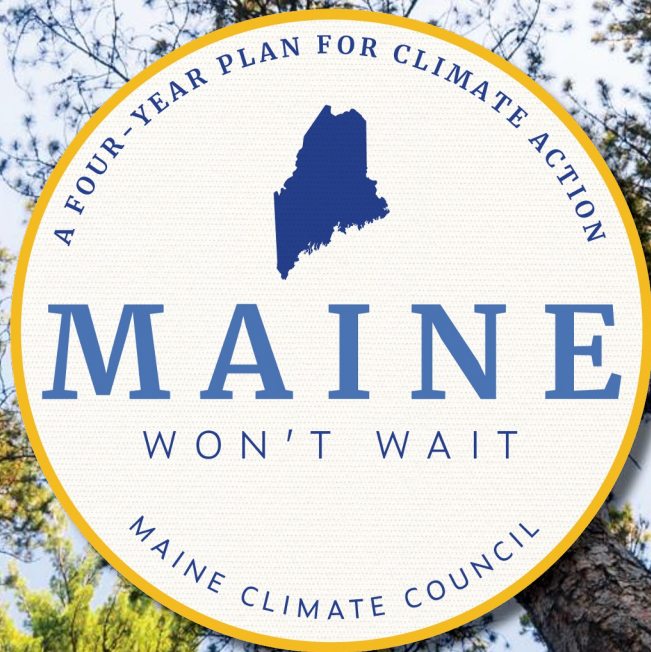
## Subgroup

- Update recommendations based on feedback
- Add to deliverable template
- Share back with co-chairs & Melanie by April 12

We will then use all of this to prepare for our next (hybrid!) meeting April 26, where we will review all recommendations

- 32 Blossom Lane, Marquardt Room 118, Augusta, ME

# Next steps



A FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION



**MAINE**

WON'T WAIT

MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL