



Clean Energy Partnership: 2023 Innovation Awards

The Clean Energy Partnership (CEP) program is focused on preparing Maine people for jobs in clean energy and energy efficiency, supporting economic development, and advancing innovation and technology in the sector in support of Governor Mills' goal of having 30,000 clean energy jobs in Maine by 2030.

On December 5, 2023, Governor Mills announced \$1.3 million in grant awards to three organizations to support the development of innovative clean energy businesses in Maine. The grants were awarded by the Governor's Energy Office through the CEP program. Read the full announcement [here](#), and learn more about the awarded programs below:

The **Central Maine Growth Council** in Waterville will expand its Dirigo Labs startup accelerator and pitch contest to provide hands-on startup coaching, advisement, and research and development support for clean energy and cleantech startups. The 17-week program assists startups in refining their concepts, scaling their operations, and accessing strategic resources crucial for market entry and growth.

Award: \$150,000.

Coastal Enterprises, Inc. in Brunswick will implement the Weatherization Business Lab, a 7-week business advising program aimed at growing and scaling contractor businesses that deliver home weatherization and energy efficiency services in rural and low-income communities. The online sessions cover a variety of topics related to business management, including marketing, pricing, financial management, and hiring and retention.

Award: \$300,000.

The Roux Institute at Northeastern University in Portland will develop and launch a clean energy incubator program to create a hub for clean energy innovation and cultivate community, connections, and increased knowledge of the sector. The program will provide desk and prototyping space, technical and business mentorship, and other start-up support services for up to 20 startups per year at The Roux Institute.

Award: \$975,000.