



MAINE GOVERNOR'S
Energy Office

Clean Energy Partnership

Advisory Group Meeting
August 12, 2025



Agenda

- Introductions, Announcements, and Discussion
- Guest Presentations
 - Innovation – Efficiency Maine Trust
 - Workforce Development – Biddeford Adult Education
- Program Updates
 - Training for Residential Energy Contractors
 - Finance Study
- Discussion & Input from the Public



Upcoming Programming & Events

August	Maine Construction Academy pre-apprenticeship cohort graduation – Bath (AGC Maine)
8/21	Sips and Sustainability: The ClimateTech Incubator Summer Mixer (Roux Institute, 5-7pm)
8/26	passivhausMAINE – 2021 IECC Municipal Series (York)
9/18	passivhausMAINE – Meeting Maine’s Energy Code training (Lincoln/Millinocket)
10/16	passivhausMAINE – Meeting Maine's Energy Code training (Waterville/Colby)



On July 16, Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Maine held a graduation ceremony for 17 students that completed their Construction Academy program in Oxford Hills.

Announcements

- Maine's Biennial Budget 2026/2027 includes \$750k per year for Clean Energy Partnership program
- U.S. EPA Termination of Maine's \$62 Million Solar for All Award
- GEO requests applications by September 17 for Energy Efficiency Workforce Development (RFA#202506092) and Innovative Offshore Wind Research (RFA#202507101)
- University of Maine to host Offshore Wind Research Consortium and tour of quarter-scale turbine



Discussion

Given the broader opportunities, challenges, and macro-economic factors shaping Maine's economy, **what excites you most**, and **what concerns you the most**?



Efficiency Maine – Innovation Program



Efficiency Maine: Innovation Program

Clean Energy Partnership, Advisory Group
August 19, 2025

Innovation Program Goals and Objectives

- The Trust's Innovation Program provides funding to support pilot projects that demonstrate new types of energy efficiency, demand management, beneficial electrification, or alternative energy measures, or new strategies for promoting such measures.
- The program focuses on measures or strategies that show significant potential to be cost-effective and provide energy or greenhouse gas savings but that are not yet well understood or established in the Maine marketplace.
- Part of the purpose of the Innovation Program is to use smaller pilot projects to generate findings of cost-effectiveness and market demand before making larger investments in incentives and program delivery.

Review of TPV Innovation Priorities

Efficiency Maine's TPV identifies the following areas as priorities for the Innovation program:

1. *"Piloting the next generation of demand management measures to better understand the role of load flexibility in...managing costs and grid reliability, helping to integrate higher penetrations of renewable energy, and reducing the curtailment of those resources."*
2. *"The program may, on occasion, promote limited demonstration projects for near-commercial technologies that show substantial energy-saving opportunities for the State. The program may also promote demonstration and analysis of varying program designs to help shape the ultimate design of a full-fledged program in the Trust's portfolio."*

TPV Innovation Pilots

1. *"Piloting the next generation of demand management measures..."*
 - Maine Transactive Energy Pilot (MTEP) (ongoing)
 - Hydronic Heat Pump w/ Thermal Storage (ongoing)
2. *"...promote limited demonstration projects for near-commercial technologies..."*
 - Manufactured Home Heat Pump Pilot (ongoing phase II of pilot)
3. *"...may also promote demonstration and analysis of varying program designs to help shape the ultimate design of a full-fledged program in the Trust's portfolio."*
 - Split System Heat Pump Water Heater Pilot (ongoing)
 - Manufactured Home Heat Pump Pilot (completed phase of pilot)

TPVI Innovation Priorities

1. *"Piloting the next generation of demand management measures to better understand the role of load flexibility in...managing costs and grid reliability, helping to integrate higher penetrations of renewable energy, and reducing the curtailment of those resources."*
2. *"The program may, on occasion, promote limited demonstration projects for near-commercial technologies that show substantial energy-saving opportunities for the State. The program may also promote demonstration and analysis of varying program designs to help shape the ultimate design of a full-fledged program in the Trust's portfolio."*
3. Pilot measures identified as key areas of interest in the state's beneficial electrification work.

Triennial Plan VI Stakeholder Outreach

- **Friday, June 14, 2024 Stakeholder Meeting**
Triennial Plan VI Overview and General Comments
- Innovation Advisory Group Meeting: Wednesday, March 27,
- **Request for Information:** The Trust issued a formal [Request for Information](#) in September 2023 and accepted public input through December 2023.
- A summary of the stakeholder engagement process and comments received:
[Staff memo summarizing Triennial Plan VI Stakeholder Engagement and Comments](#)



Questions?

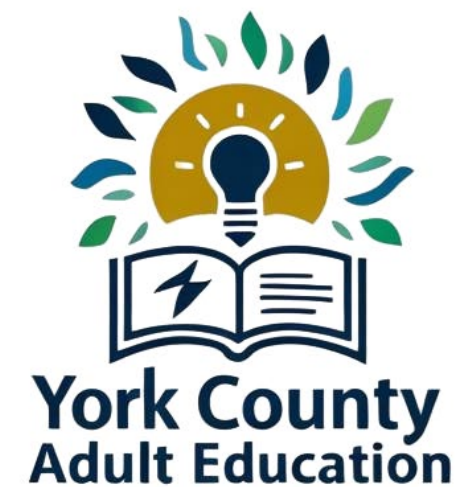
Biddeford Adult Education – Workforce Development



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Biddeford Adult Ed. Clean Energy Program

Preparing New Mainers for Clean Energy Careers



Meet the Team



Roxanne Heuschkel

Program Coordinator & Instructor

Leads coordination of the GEO grant, as well as curriculum, instruction, and employer partnerships.



Risa Grace

Career Navigator & Advising Lead

Leads student recruitment, provides student advising, career coaching, and post-program support.



Dave Durkee

Director, Biddeford Adult Education

Oversees program administration and serves as fiscal agent for the Clean Energy grant.

Introduction

Biddeford Adult Education's Clean Energy Partnership Workforce Program addresses Maine's need for skilled workers while empowering immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees to thrive in this growing sector.

Skilled Workers Need

The program targets the growing demand for trained clean energy professionals in Maine.

Immigrant Talent

It leverages the untapped potential of individuals with diverse backgrounds and skills.

Real-World Preparation

Students engage in hands-on experiences like resume prep, interviews, and industry visits.

Program at a glance



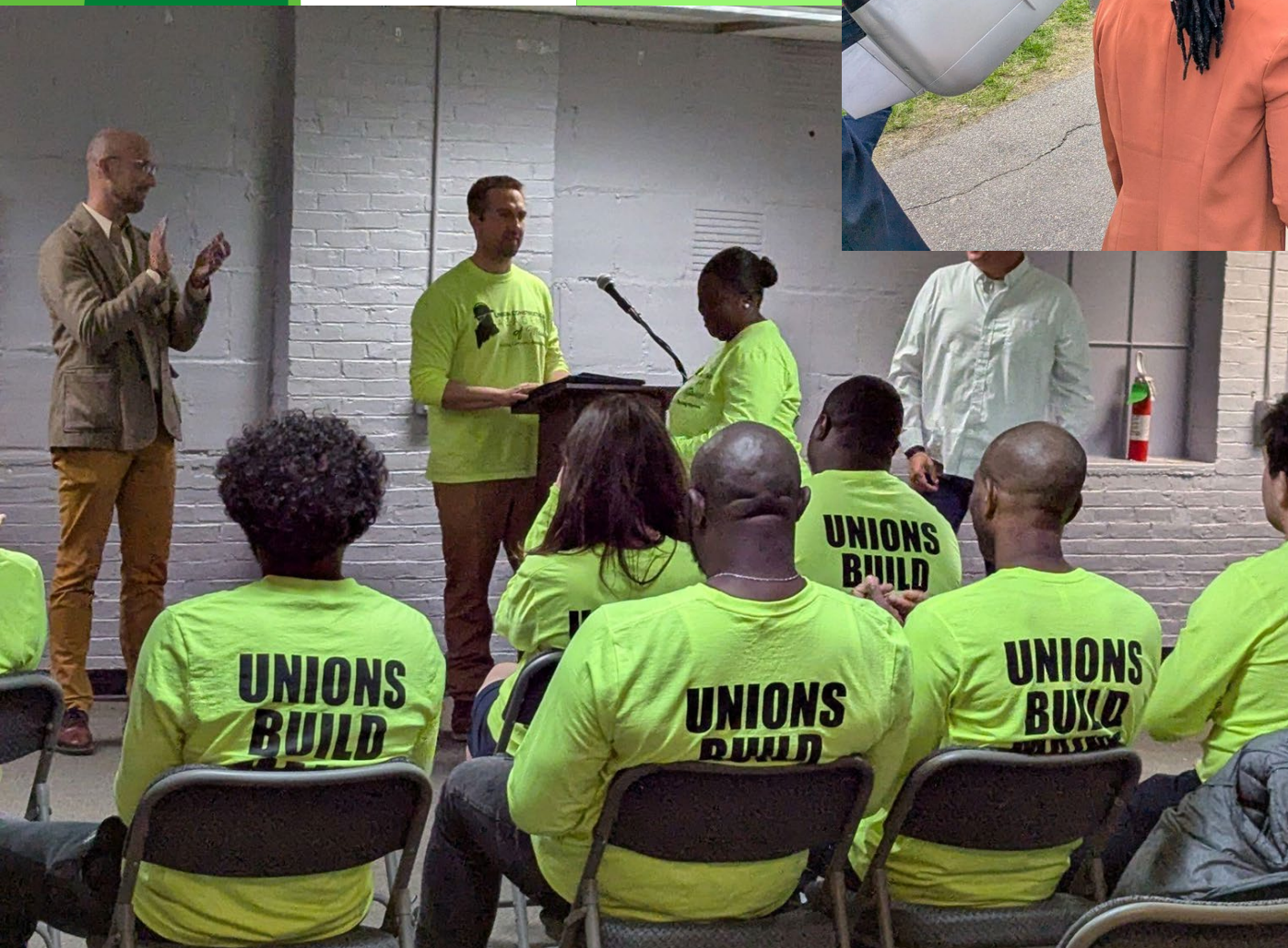
Program Focus

- 18-month grant - workforce training
- Serving immigrants, refugees & asylum seekers in York County
- Prepares students for CE & EE jobs with English & advising support

Core Training Model (50 hrs)

- OSHA-10 Certification
- Clean Energy Career Exploration
- Resume Writing & Interview Prep
- Employer Site Visits & Job Fairs
- Integrated English Instruction
- Career Advising (during & post-program)

Program at a glance



Program Impact So Far:

- 22 students completed training
- 2 advising-only participants
- 3 cohorts completed; 3 more planned for fall/ winter

Project Partners & HandsOn Experiences:

- ReVision Energy: Safety walk-throughs, mock interviews, career readiness
- Shred Electric: Electric boat tour in Casco Bay; Fall collaboration on working waterfront electrification
- AFL-CIO & Construction Union Academy: Guest speaker Sam Boss and union career pathways

Skills & Outcomes

Translating skills for the clean energy workforce is essential.



Pathways After the Program

Where Our Students Go Next

Further Training & Education

10-week welding program at YCCC

Electrician Tech application support (YCCC)

IntWork Coding Academy (2 students)

Union construction training (AFL-CIO)

People's Inclusive Welding programs

Advising & Career Navigation

Ongoing 1:1 advising support

Degree evaluation & transfer for engineers

CDL licensing → School bus driving

Short-term employment (Walmart, etc.)

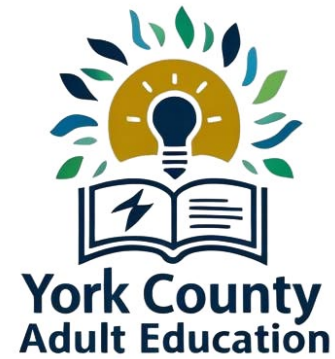
Transition support via New Mainers Resource Center

Why It Matters:

- This is **community development**, not just workforce development
- Participants bring **skills, resilience, and drive**
- We're **challenging harmful narratives** about immigrants and asylum seekers
- We're building a workforce that reflects **Maine's future**

How You Can Help:

- **Offer feedback:** What's working or not in hiring and onboarding English learners
- **Collaborate:** Connect us with HR teams to co-design training or internship pathways
- **Place interns or pre-apprentices:** Help us place students in internship and earn-as-you-learn opportunities
- **Help us scale** Refer us to employers, industry groups, or training partners



Thank you!

Roxanne Heuschkel rhenschkel@biddefordschools.me 5129 131499

Risa Grace rgrace@biddefordschools.me 9729223881

Program Update – Workforce

Training for Residential Energy Contractors

- Total award is \$1.3M over two years, \$650k available in first year.
- **A Request for Applications (RFA) is now open** for programs that advance workforce development and training in the residential energy efficiency sector.
- **Proposals are due no later than 11:59pm on September 17, 2025.** Visit [this page](#) for more information and search for RFA # 202506092.

www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/grants



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Energy Efficiency Workforce Outreach

Preliminary takeaways from stakeholder interviews (n=10) for the Energy Efficiency Workforce Subcommittee:

- External factors are impacting business certainty
 - Tax credits, and consumer perception of funding availability
 - Changes to refrigerant requirements
- Whole-home electrification
 - How to anticipate and train for this; the focus might not always be on heat pumps, but need to prepare for larger electrification trend
- A shift towards servicing
 - Servicing challenges exist due to varying manufacturers, need to diagnose and solve a variety of problems in the field
 - Need additional trainings; requires expertise and learning by doing



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Energy Efficiency Workforce Outreach

Additional interview takeaways:

- Gap in skilled labor market
 - Experienced older workforce and younger motivated workforce, but a noticeable gap in-between (25-40) of skilled workers
 - Role of a mentor has been extremely important for training
- Reliance on on-the-job training
 - Large preference towards training skills on-the-job and hiring for underlying qualities over existing skills
 - Need for additional hands-on trainings
- Feedback on labor standards and licensure
 - High standards benefits the entire industry
 - Discussions around pros/cons of expanding industry certification and/or licensing requirements



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Program Update – Innovation

Clean Energy Financing Study

Public webinar held on July 28, slides and meeting summary available on GEO website:

www.maine.gov/energy/news-events/public-meetings.

Final Report will be posted at:
www.maine.gov/energy/studies-reports-working-groups/

- The Draft Study identified large-scale, front-of-the-meter clean energy projects (>\$5 million) as the most promising focus area to accelerate clean energy deployment to meet statutory targets.
- The report outlines recommended interventions across the project lifecycle to de-risk projects, improve access to capital and streamline development:
 - Support jurisdictions in developing local regulatory frameworks
 - Improve energy education and awareness
 - Permitting analysis and improvements
 - Connecting communities and developers assistance
 - Enhance RFP process
 - Promote capital solutions
 - Address workforce gaps



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Public Engagement Timeline



Discussion & Input from the Public

Thank You and Next Steps

- Share feedback on initiatives and next meeting
- Post your open positions on the Maine Clean Energy Jobs Network: mainecleanenergyjobs.com/
- Sign up to host clean energy interns through the ReMaine Program: careerequity.com/remaine/
- Subscribe to news and updates from the Clean Energy Partnership: maine.gov/energy





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Thank You

tagwongo.obomsawin@maine.gov
maine.gov/energy

Visit our new job board:
mainecleanenergyjobs.com

**Sign up for the
GEO email
newsletter**



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