

**Maine Climate Council
Community Resilience Working Group (CRWG)
Summary of Meeting from November 9, 2023**

Welcome

Facilitator Introduction

- The Working Group (WG) facilitator from the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) introduced herself and explained virtual meeting logistics.

Getting to know one another

- WG co-chairs, members, and staff introduced themselves along with their affiliations and relevant areas of interest and expertise.
 - WG members include representatives from state agencies, the Legislature, regional planning organizations, local governments, academia, nonprofits, businesses, and others.
 - Expertise includes but is not limited to
 - Emergency management
 - Municipal and regional planning
 - Public health, including mental health
 - Climate resilience
 - Social and environmental justice
 - Civil and environmental engineering

Setting the Scene – Overall Maine Climate Council Update Process

- Refer to meeting slides for more detailed information on each of these topics.

Review of past CRWG work

- Maine Climate Council (MCC) includes 39 members.
- MCC oversees Science and Technical Subcommittee, Equity Subcommittee, and six WGs (including CRWG).
- Maine Won't Wait (MWW) was released in December 2020, next update in December 2024.
- The coming eight months will consist of WG meetings, with recommendations due to MCC by June 2024. Recommendations will include updates of existing strategies and may include new or updated strategies to address gaps from the first version of MWW.
- MCC will use recommendations to prepare final MWW update for December 2024.

Equity recommendations

- Following the first version of MWW, the [Equity Subcommittee made recommendations](#) for implementation once strategies were already determined. This time, equity will be considered during strategy development in the WGs and by MCC once they receive recommendations.

MCC goals for the CRWG

- CRWG should focus on:
 - Goals and metrics to track Maine’s adaptation process
 - Long-term funding and financing for adaptation and resilience
 - Investing in tools and technical assistance for communities
 - Preparing for climate risks, including addressing gaps from first MWW version
- Focus on priorities identified by polling at MCC’s September 29, 2023 meeting including:
 - Creating a unifying vision
 - Focusing on rural communities and threats of inland flooding and wildfire
 - Investing in preparation for the impacts of climate change
 - Support health system preparedness and response
 - Keep equity and justice at the forefront
- Consider intersecting issues to be addressed in other WGs as well, including:
 - Workforce and economic opportunities
 - Emissions from waste
 - Land use planning
 - Education

Taking Stock – CRWG working progress to date

- State prepared table of implementation status of CRWG recommendations from 2020. Was shared with WG members via email, members should review.
- Several successes including Infrastructure Adaptation Fund, Community Resilience Partnership, and Maine Climate Corps (which was a direct result of public input).
- Some WG members urged caution that many changes to statute and regulation take time and are in progress; time is required to ensure public input and to be consistent with established procedures.
- WG members participated in moderated discussion about priorities. Needs for efficient and accessible data and technical assistance sharing with communities were identified, along with needs for improved tracking metrics and definitions of certain ambiguous terms.

Next Steps

- A survey will be sent to WG members to help prioritize items for WG consideration. If you are not a WG member but feel strongly that a certain subject should be considered, please get in touch with a WG member and ask that they include it in their survey response.
- The next WG meeting is virtual on Monday, December 11. Attendees will need to register first and then click on a Zoom link sent to them by email. The meeting info is [posted here](#).
- Future meetings will be hybrid or virtual.
- Members of the public are still invited to fill out the [Maine Climate Council Survey](#) and to [contact the Maine Climate Council](#) with any additional feedback or suggestions.