

*Maine Climate Council | Community Resilience Working Group (CRWG) Meeting Summary from December 11, 2023

Welcome

- Working group (WG) members and the public are encouraged to review the [Maine Won't Wait \(MWW\) 2023 Progress Report](#) to familiarize themselves with actions taken to implement Maine Won't Wait.

Review of working group objective

Final deliverable template

- All WG members were given the same deliverable template to show what must be included for Maine Climate Council (MCC) consideration. The template has three broad sections:
 - Introduction
 - Summary of Strategies and Actions
 - Analysis and Supporting Information
- Deliverable is due to MCC, along with PowerPoint Presentation (using a template to be provided by GOPIF), on June 1, 2024.
- CRWG will need to consider where strategies/actions overlap with other WGs and will coordinate with other WGs as appropriate.

Questionnaire

- CRWG members were asked to complete a questionnaire before the meeting to assess actual and perceived progress regarding equity considerations. They also assessed CRWG priority areas regarding actual and perceived implementation of previous MWW goals and strategies and additional goals and strategies that the co-chairs have proposed for the 2024 update.
- Results of the questionnaire were presented, followed by discussions, as summarized below. For more complete questionnaire results, please review the presentation slides posted on the Maine Won't Wait [website](#).
- WG members who could not complete the questionnaire are encouraged to contribute today and to reach out to the facilitator or the co-chairs with additional thoughts, suggestions, or questions.

Equity considerations

Review of CRWG equity strategies

- Following MWW publication in 2020, an Equity Subcommittee (ESC) was convened to make recommendations to address impacts to priority populations, including underserved and frontline communities.
- In creating the 2024 MWW update, WGs and MCC are being asked to consider equity as a critical component throughout the process, without the need for an additional ESC report.

Questionnaire input

- Generally, respondents agreed that meaningful work had been done to implement ESC recommendations but that more remains to be done.
- Additional work includes offering greater Technical Assistance (TA), especially to smaller communities with fewer resources.
- Emerging health and safety concerns, such as those posed by wildfire smoke and by extreme heat events, were discussed and may be incorporated into WG recommendations.

Group Discussion

- WG members noted opportunities for enhancing public outreach through their existing networks and by using already established public meetings as chances for listening and engagement.
- Consider training/resources to engage with “late adopters”/skeptics; meeting people where they are on this issue with respect and dignity. Social scientists on the CRWG and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee are resources.

Identifying priority areas:

- What are the most important considerations the CRWG should discuss as it develops new and updated strategy recommendations for Maine’s 2024 climate action plan?

Questionnaire input

- Significant progress has been made, but more work remains to be done. Progress is sometimes difficult to measure, and full implementation of some actions can take longer than three years.
- Influxes of funding are available and have been used, but establishing longer-term funding sources remains a challenge. Helping communities access funding continues to be a priority.
- The value of knowledge from first responders and community leaders was highlighted.
- Mental health resilience in the face of climate change was discussed, as was the need to tailor communications to diverse audiences. Good examples are available from other places/states - see chat resources at end of notes.
- Create and/or adapt tools to match how a town typically works.

Group discussion

- The State is currently applying for a [NOAA resilience funding opportunity](#), which could bring in over \$50 million in federal funding over five years. Parties who can offer letters of support are encouraged to contact co-chair [Judy East](#) for more information.
- The State is making every effort to take advantage of available federal funding opportunities.
- Peer-to-peer networking opportunities are welcome to hear about other communities’ successes and lessons learned (models to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or create active transportation alternatives, grant opportunities/success)
- Face to face meetings and professional relationships using trusted contacts, such as regional service providers, will continue to be key to engaging many communities around the state.

Next Steps

- Upcoming meetings will be on Fridays from 9 am to 12 pm on the following days:
 - January 19, 2024: virtual, [Register Here](#)
 - February 9, 2024: virtual, [Register Here](#)
 - March 22, 2024: virtual, [Register Here](#)
 - April 26, 2024: in person with virtual option

Participant Shared Resources:

Several helpful resources were shared in the meeting chat. Some of them are presented below.

Climate Communication & Engagement:

- Yale Program on Climate Change Communication:
https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/?gclid=CjwKCAiAg9urBhB_EiwAgw88mWxoPG_gZQdiEwxpufX3VYGyOVT5vJizAPjM0vDnhtsqgiQX9fxvKhoCta4QAvD_BwE
- Communicating with Mainers on Climate Change: <http://growsmartmaine.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/CTCommSummaryPresentation.pdf>
- Serving with Dignity: How to engage communities experiencing change, conflict and scarcity:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Av8eMv5vU2cOBb1FPI9dT32bMeXEUGMP/view?usp=sharing>

Climate Migration:

- Lead with Listening on Climate Migration: <https://www.cbi.org/article/lead-with-listening-on-climate-migration/>
- Managed Retreat Toolkit: <https://www.georgetownclimate.org/adaptation/toolkits/managed-retreat-toolkit/introduction.html>
- HUD Climate Resilience Implementation Guide:
<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Climate-Resilience-Implementation-Guide-Community-Driven-Relocation.pdf>

Historic Preservation:

- Weathering Maine: Historic properties and climate change planning in Maine:
https://www.maine.gov/mhpc/sites/maine.gov/mhpc/files/inline-files/Weathering%20Maine%20Report_0.pdf
- Climate Change and Historic Resources: <https://www.maine.gov/mhpc/programs/protection-and-community-resources/climate-change>
- Changing Shorelines: Adaptation Planning for Maine's Coastal State Parks:
https://digitalmaine.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1007&context=geo_docs