
Amplifying Voices: Representing Diverse Perspectives

— Buildings, Infrastructure and
Housing Working Group —

Goal

To ensure the populations in Maine most impacted by climate change are aware of and have the opportunity to influence State climate programs and policies by iteratively and intentionally engaging these “priority populations” in the Maine Climate Council process in ways that are meaningful for each population.

Meet the Team!



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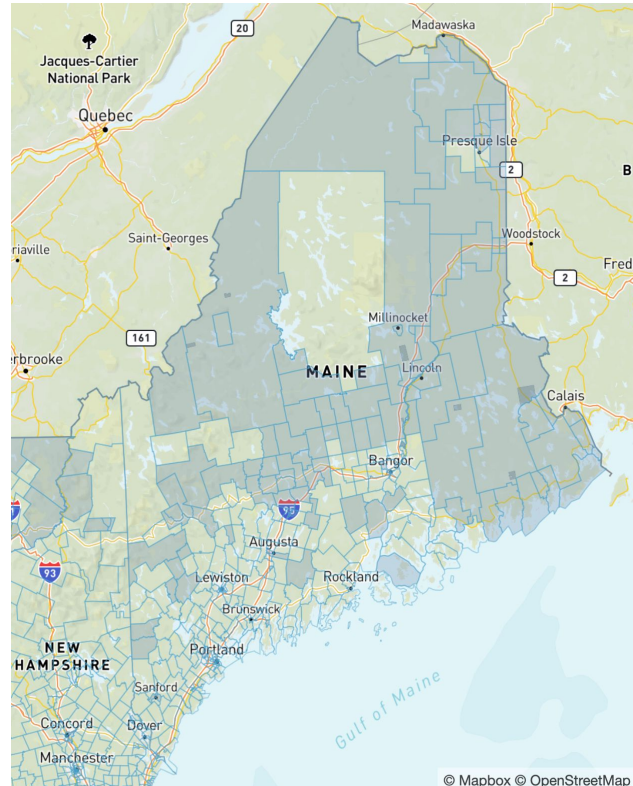
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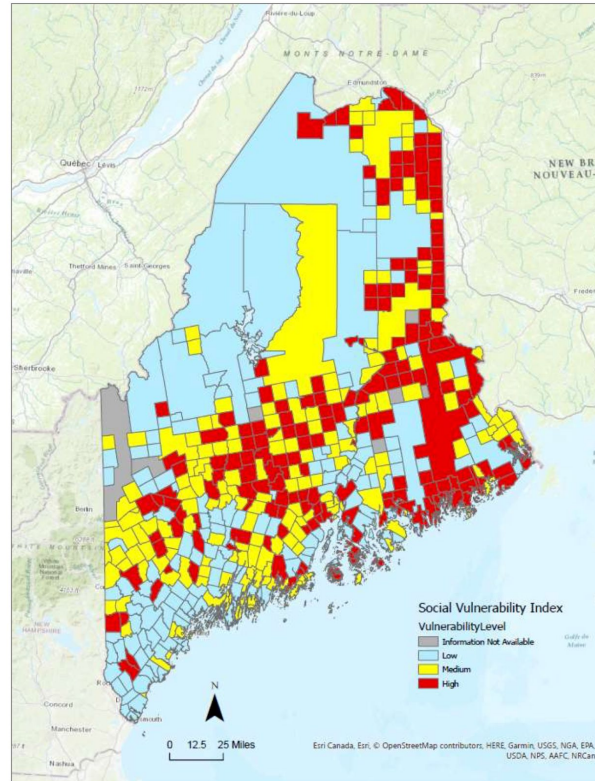
“Priority Populations”

- Low income households, including renters, home owners, and mobile home residents
- Older adults and youth
- Black or POC communities
- Tribal communities
- Low income communities
- Disadvantaged communities
- People with limited English proficiency, including New Mainers
- Recipients of LIHEAP, LIAP, or other energy assistance benefits
- People with mobility challenges
- People without access to reliable transportation
- Migrant farm workers and other outdoor workers
- Businesses in the natural resource industries like agriculture, forestry, and fishing who are operating at the economic margin or suffer disproportionate climate risk
- Un/underemployed people who are also representatives of a priority population or are transitioning from prison or recovery
- Minority, women-owned or veteran owned business enterprises (MWBVEs)
- Rural communities and small towns with limited staff or fiscal capacity
- Climate-frontline communities

Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool



Social Vulnerability Index for Maine Communities



Equity Subcommittee Report March 2023



Final Recommendations of the Equity Subcommittee

March 2023

Equity Subcommittee Report March 2023

Proposed Next Steps Include:

- **Expand the comprehensive housing assessment to consider household and housing characteristics** including health and safety, energy sources and cost burdens, and occupant characteristics and vulnerabilities (e.g., health vulnerabilities, linguistic isolation, demographics etc.).
- **Continue to coordinate weatherization, heating system and building upgrade resources for the most vulnerable households**, including, if needed, pre-weatherization and structural repairs to enable weatherization or heating system upgrades. If weatherization is not possible, assess alternatives for occupants to access safe and efficient housing and energy options.
- **Assess and address remaining barriers to energy efficiency and clean energy improvements in rental housing, particularly in rural and low-income communities.** Work with service providers and partners to identify barriers, best practices, and lessons from current programs, including whether current programs are reaching target populations. Barriers could include but are not limited to costs and financing, structural or pre-weatherization barriers, contractors or workforce availability, and landlord awareness or interest in energy solutions, programs, and incentives. Actions could include working with multifamily lenders to identify energy efficiency or clean energy upgrade candidates at time of refinancing and provide financing options or programs for these upgrades.
- **Continue to prioritize HEAP-enrolled and HEAP-eligible households for weatherization and heating system conversions** including targeted outreach and education and assistance finding providers and services. This could include improved data security and database integration among social service, energy, and housing programs to allow energy programs to pinpoint eligible low-income renters for weatherization or heat pump conversion.

Existing & Potential Project Partners

A Climate to Thrive (ACTT)

**Center for Ecology-Based Economy
(CEBE)**

**Community & Wabanaki
Sustainable Energy Teams**

Community Organizing Alliance

Island Institute

**Maine Environmental Education
Association**

Maine Housing

**Maine Immigrant Rights
Coalition**

Resilient Communities L3C

**Sunrise County Economic
Council (SCEC)**

WindowDressers

Q1: What are barriers to energy efficiency and clean energy improvements in households of all types, including rental?

Strategy: B

Population: Citizens in rural & low-income communities

Engagement Activities:

- Focus groups
- Surveys
- Group discussion

Potential Community Partners: Resilient Communities L3C; Maine Immigrants Rights Coalition; Maine Environmental Education Association; Community Organizing Alliance; CEBE; ACTT; SCEC; Island Institute; WindowDressers; Community & Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Teams

Q2: What barriers exist for accessing HEAP & LIAP benefits and weatherization services? What are the characteristics of eligible households receiving/not receiving these benefits?

Strategy: B

Population: Low-income households

Engagement Activities:

- Focus groups
- Surveys
- Group discussion

Potential Community Partners: Resilient Communities L3C; Maine Immigrants Rights Coalition; Maine Environmental Education Association; Community Organizing Alliance; CEBE; ACTT; SCEC; Island Institute; WindowDressers; Maine Community Action Partnership; Community & Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Teams

Q3: What awareness and barriers exist regarding energy efficient building codes?

Strategy: B

Population: Code enforcement officers and building professionals in smaller and rural communities

Engagement Activities:

- Group discussion

Potential Community Partners: Resilient Communities L3C; Maine Immigrants Rights Coalition; CEBE; ACTT; SCEC; Island Institute; WindowDressers; BACTS; Community & Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Teams;

Suggestions?

Q4: What awareness, preferences, & barriers exist related to different approaches to community solar and residential distributed energy (solar, wind, battery); especially for affordable housing & renters?

Strategy: B

Population: Citizens, developers, builders, and code enforcement officials in rural, low-income, & disadvantaged communities

Engagement Activities:

- Focus groups
- Surveys
- Group discussion

Potential Community Partners: Resilient Communities L3C; Maine Immigrants Rights Coalition; CEBE; ACTT; SCEC; Island Institute; WindowDressers; BACTS; Community & Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Teams; **Suggestions?**

Q5: What awareness/understanding exists of indoor air quality issues due to fuel combustion inside the home, particularly in poorly or improperly weatherized homes? What opportunities exist to increase healthy air through improved ventilation, weatherization, and beneficial electrification; as well as idling?

Strategy: F

Population: Citizens and municipal/tribal government staff in rural, low-income, & disadvantaged communities; Youth; Black/POC, tribes; People with limited English proficiency; Un/underemployed people

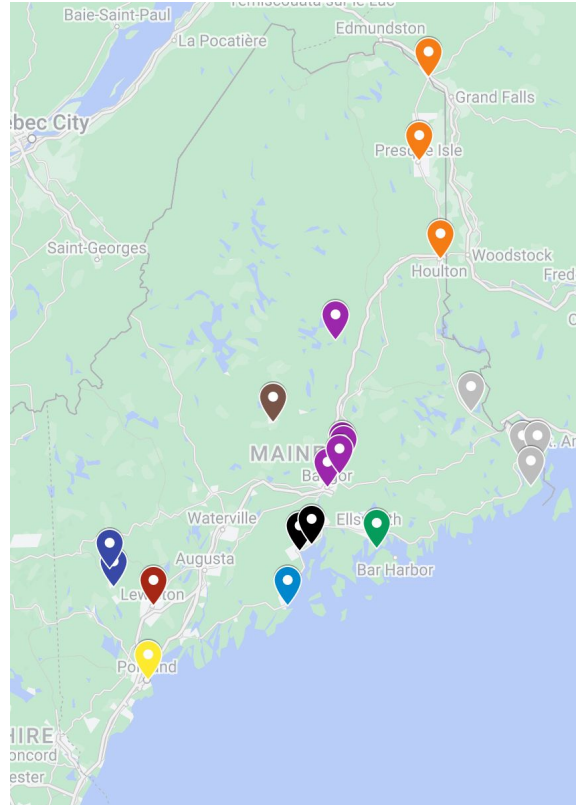
Engagement Activities:

- Focus Groups
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Specific Populations

Bangor	Orono
Belfast	Pembroke
Dover-Foxcroft	Portland
Houlton	Presque Isle
Indian Island	Rockland
Indian Twp	Searsport
Lewiston	Trescott Twp
Millinocket	Trenton
Norway	Van Buren
Old Town	West Paris



- Androscoggin
- Aroostook
- Cumberland
- Hancock
- Knox
- Oxford
- Penobscot
- Piscataquis
- Waldo
- Washington

AND:
Maine Islands
Low-income landlords
across the state

Timeline from here

1. Detailed engagement plan with Partner Organizations (by 2/9)
2. 1st round of engagement activities (by 4/15)
3. Report to WG about 1st round (by 4/26)
4. 2nd round of engagement activities (by 6/7)
5. Report to MCC about 2nd round (by 6/17)
6. Reflection discussion with WG & MCC members from “priority populations (by 9/30)

We need your help!

1. From your Working Group's read of the **Equity Sub Committee report**, are the questions outlined above appropriate for this working group?
2. When you review the list of **specific populations**, are there
 - any missing that should be included for specific questions?
 - populations that should be extra priority for your working group?
4. Are there additional potential **partner organizations** we should be talking to for specific populations/questions? We are seeking **Suggestions** to reach code enforcement officers
5. Please provide additional information/feedback on our survey (link in chat)
https://umaine.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b1WCQDOn65wL5dQ

Thank you - and be in touch!

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