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Appendix A - Instructions from GOPIF's Original Request for Proposals

The original request for proposals (RFP, p.6) from GOPIF sought:

“to implement many of the ESC [2023] procedural equity recommendations, intended to enable meaningful participation in climate-related policy development, planning, and implementation, and to help ensure that people and communities in Maine that are most impacted by climate change—referred to by the ESC as “priority populations and communities”—are aware of, and can influence, state programs, policies, and opportunities for climate Action.” [1]

The RFP (p.9) specified that the process for “developing inclusive and diverse engagement opportunities throughout the climate action planning process” should involve “10-15 community organizations serving as outreach and engagement partners” and identified a list of 16 “priority populations” (Appendix A). The RFP identified a particular interest in engagement with priority populations informing “working group deliberations as they develop recommendations for the climate council through June 2024, and to inform the MCC as it creates the final climate plan by December 1, 2024.” [1]

[1] State of Maine Governor's Office for Policy Innovation and the Future, “RFP# 202309191: Engaging With Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities for State Climate Action Planning,” State of Maine Division of Procurement Services, Sep. 22, 2023. Available: <https://www.mainebids.com/government-agencies/kennebec/maine---dept.-of-administrative-and-financial-services-procurement-34604/12923548-engaging-with-low-income-and-disadvantaged-communities-for-state-climate-action-planning-rfp.html>.

“Priority Populations” list from original RFP:

- 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

**While “Tribal communities” were part of the targeted populations identified by the Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF), this report provides context for respecting the unique cultural, historical, and social contexts of Wabanaki Nations in climate action planning. Thus, no data from Wabanaki citizens is included within this report.*

Appendix B - Engagement Materials for January Working Group Meetings

The Mitchell Center met with each of the six MCC working groups (Buildings, Infrastructure and Housing; Coastal and Marine; Community Resilience; Energy; Natural and Working Lands; Transportation) in January 2024 and solicited feedback from working group members via facilitated discussion and a brief survey. The working group survey is below, and followed by the full set of January presentations to the MCC working groups. The team developed the topics from the “proposed next steps” included at the end of each goal for each strategy in the Equity Subcommittee report from March 2023 [2].

[2] Maine Climate Council, “Final Recommendations of the Equity Subcommittee”, Governor’s Office for Policy Innovation and the Future, Mar. 2023. Accessed August 16, 2024. Available: https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov/future/files/inline-files/Maine%20Climate%20Council_Equity%20Subcommittee%20Final%20Report_March%202023.pdf

January 2024 Survey of Maine Climate Council Working Groups for Equity Engagement

Introduction

The purpose of this form is for Maine Climate Council Working Group (WG) members to provide feedback on the University of Maine Mitchell Center's proposed **equity engagement approach** (presentation titled “Amplifying Voices: Representing Diverse Perspectives”, unique version for each WG: [transportation](#), [energy](#), [community resilience](#), [coastal & marine](#), [natural & working lands](#), [buildings & infrastructure](#)). The Mitchell Center team will consider your responses in updating their proposed approach for engaging multiple “priority populations” in conversations about the Working Group's ongoing efforts to contribute to the Maine Won't Wait update. If you have questions about this form, please reach out to Catherine Mardosa: catherine.mardosa@maine.edu.

For which Maine Climate Council Working Group are you submitting this form?

- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ Buildings, Infrastructure, & Housing
- ☐ Community Resilience
- ☐ Coastal & Marine
- ☐ Natural & Working Lands

Priority Populations and Partner Organizations

The proposed engagement activities focus on the following **"Priority Populations"** as identified by the [Equity Subcommittee report](#) from March 2023. Please use the space below this list for any comments related to this list. *For example, do you see any populations missing from this list that should be included or any on the list that should be emphasized for engagement related to your Working Group's efforts?*

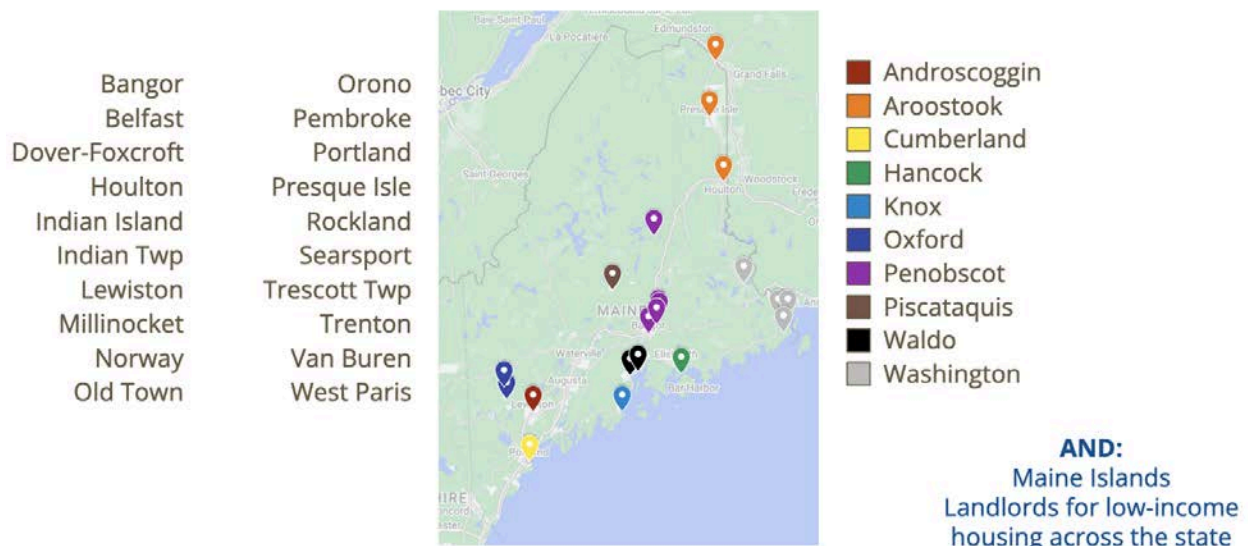
- Low income households, including renters, home owners, and mobile home residents
- Older adults and youth
- Black or POC communities
- Tribal communities
- Low income communities
- Disadvantaged communities
- People with limited English proficiency, including New Mainers
- Recipients of LIHEAP, LIAP, 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

Do you identify as a member of any of the "Priority Populations"? If so, please select all that apply. The Mitchell Center Team would like to follow up with Working Group members that are also members of Priority Populations to discuss their experiences and ideas related to this equity engagement work.

- ☐ 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
- ☐ Other (please explain)

The Mitchell Center team is already working with or planning to work with the following **Specific Populations**, which encompass multiple "Priority Populations" within them and span multiple Maine counties. Please use the space below for any comments related to this list and map. *For example, do you see any populations missing from this list that should be included or any on the list that should be emphasized for engagement related to your Working Group's efforts?*



Do you identify as a member of any of these Specific Populations? If so, please select all that apply. The Mitchell Center Team would like to follow up with Working Group members that are also members of these Specific Populations to discuss their experiences and ideas related to this equity engagement work.

- ☐ Bangor
- ☐ Belfast
- ☐ Dover-Foxcroft
- ☐ Houlton
- ☐ Indian Island
- ☐ Indian Twp
- ☐ Lewiston
- ☐ Millinocket
- ☐ Norway
- ☐ Old Town
- ☐ Orono
- ☐ Pembroke
- ☐ Presque Isle
- ☐ Rockland
- ☐ Searsport
- ☐ Trescott Twp
- ☐ Trenton
- ☐ Van Buren
- ☐ West Paris
- ☐ Maine Islands
- ☐ Landlords for low-income housing across the state
- ☐ Other (please explain)

The Mitchell Center team is already working with or exploring working with the following **Partner Organizations** to plan and implement engagement activities with the populations discussed above. Please use the space below for any comments related to this list. *For example, do you see any organizations missing from this list that should be included or any on the list that should be emphasized for engagement related to your Working Group's efforts?*

- 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 Immigrants' Rights Coalition
- Resilient Communities L3C
- Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC)
- WindowDressers

Please select any **potential partner organizations** with which you have an existing relationship.

- A Climate to Thrive (ACTT)
- Center for an Ecology-Based Economy (CEBE)
- Community & Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Teams
- Community Organizing Alliance
- Island Institute
- Maine Environmental Education Association
- Maine Housing
- Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition
- Resilient Communities L3C
- Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC)
- WindowDressers
- Other

Please explain the nature of your existing relationship with the potential partner organization(s) you selected in the previous question.

If you are willing to talk to the Mitchell Center team about your experiences and ideas related to the Priority Populations, Specific Populations, and/or Potential Partner Organizations you selected previously, please include your contact information below.

First Name:

Last Name:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

TRANSPORTATION

Considering your understanding of [Maine Won't Wait](#) and the [Equity Subcommittee report](#), are the questions listed below appropriate for this working group? Please add your recommendations in the spaces below for each proposed question and for any other questions you would like to see our team explore in our engagement activities with "Priority Populations" (see [presentation](#)). **Note: We are not looking for your answers to these questions at this time - we are looking for your feedback about whether these are the right questions to ask for your working group.**

Q1: What are barriers to understanding and accessing existing electric vehicle financial incentives for low-income drivers? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below.**

Q2: What types of incentives and program structures might encourage landlords to expand EV-charging locations? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below. We are especially interested in recommendations for potential partner organization(s) to help lead this engagement with landlords across the state.**

Q3: What is/are the awareness of & preferences for EV-charging infrastructure and vehicle adoption/availability in rural communities? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below.**

Q4: What is/are the awareness and preferences of citizens in disadvantaged communities related to expanding programs like GOMaine or first-mile/last-mile connections, rides-to-wellness, and recovery and job access rides programs? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below.**

With the tight timeline for the Maine Climate Plan update, we may not be able to address all questions listed above as thoroughly as ideal. If we need to make choices, we would like your thoughts on prioritizing these questions. **Please enter a 1 in the box below for your first priority, a 2 for your second priority and so on. It is ok to apply the same number to more than one option (i.e., if you think 2 choices are tied for first priority, etc.). If you are unsure, please enter a question mark (?).**

_____ What are barriers to understanding and accessing existing electric vehicle financial incentives for low-income drivers?

_____ What types of incentives and program structures might encourage landlords to expand EV-charging locations?

_____ What is/are the awareness of & preferences for EV-charging infrastructure and vehicle adoption/availability in rural communities?

_____ What is/are the awareness and preferences of citizens in disadvantaged communities related to expanding programs like GOMaine or first-mile/last-mile connections, rides-to-wellness, and recovery and job access rides programs?

_____ Other: _____

Please use this space to discuss any additional questions you would like the team include in their engagement activities and/or to provide any additional feedback about the proposed questions.

ENERGY

Considering your understanding of [Maine Won't Wait](#) and the [Equity Subcommittee report](#), are the questions listed below appropriate for this working group? Please add your recommendations in the spaces below for each proposed question and for any other questions you would like to see our team explore in our engagement activities with "Priority Populations" (see [presentation](#)). **Note: We are not looking for your answers to these questions at this time - we are looking for your feedback about whether these are the right questions to ask for your working group.**

Q1: How should disadvantaged communities be involved in siting large-scale renewables and energy infrastructure improvements within their communities? What potential benefits from these projects would be meaningful to citizens in these communities? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below.**

Q2: To what extent are Maine's towns, businesses, landlords and households aware of and do they have access to or experience barriers to renewable energy? (*Specific Factors to consider: on-site distributed renewable energy & energy storage; power purchase agreements, financing options & rebates; ownership & subscription models (including leasing, community solar), non-price barriers (information, contractors, time/capacity)*) **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below. We are especially interested in recommendations for potential partner organization(s) to help lead this engagement with landlords across the state.**

Q3: What is the level of awareness and what are the preferences & barriers related to different approaches to community solar and residential distributed energy (solar, wind, battery), especially for affordable housing & renters? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below. We are especially interested in recommendations for potential partner organization(s) to help lead this engagement with developers, builders, and code enforcement officials in rural, low-income, and disadvantaged communities.**

With the tight timeline for the Maine Climate Plan update, we may not be able to address all questions listed above as thoroughly as ideal. If we need to make choices, we would like your thoughts on prioritizing these questions. **Please enter a 1 in the box below for your first priority, a 2 for your second priority and so on.** It is ok to apply the same number to more than one option (i.e., if you think 2 choices are tied for first priority, etc.). If you are unsure, please enter a question mark (?).

_____ How should disadvantaged communities be involved in siting large-scale renewables and energy infrastructure improvements within their communities? What potential benefits from these projects would be meaningful to citizens in these communities?

_____ To what extent are Maine's towns, businesses, landlords and households aware of and do they have access to or experience barriers to renewable energy?

_____ What is the level of awareness and what are the preferences & barriers related to different approaches to community solar and residential distributed energy (solar, wind, battery), especially for affordable housing & renters?

_____ Other: _____

Please use this space to discuss any additional questions you would like the team include in their engagement activities and/or to provide any additional feedback about the proposed questions.

BUILDINGS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING

Considering your understanding of [Maine Won't Wait](#) and the [Equity Subcommittee report](#), are the questions listed below appropriate for this working group? Please add your recommendations in the spaces below for each proposed question and for any other questions you would like to see our team explore in our engagement activities with "Priority Populations" (see [presentation](#)). **Note: We are not looking for your answers to these questions at this time - we are looking for your feedback about whether these are the right questions to ask for your working group.**

Q1: What are barriers to energy efficiency and clean energy improvements in households of all types, including rental? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below.**

Q2: What barriers exist for accessing HEAP & LIAP benefits and weatherization services? What are the characteristics of eligible households receiving/not receiving these benefits? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below.**

Q3: What awareness and barriers exist regarding energy efficient building codes? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below. We are especially interested in recommendations for potential partner organization(s) to help lead this engagement with developers, builders, and code enforcement officials in rural, low-income, and disadvantaged communities.**

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? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below. We are especially interested in recommendations for potential partner organization(s) to help lead this engagement .**

With the tight timeline for the Maine Climate Plan update, we may not be able to address all questions listed above as thoroughly as ideal. If we need to make choices, we would like your thoughts on prioritizing these questions. Please enter a 1 in the box below for your first priority, a 2 for your second priority and so on. It is ok to apply the same number to more than one option (i.e., if you think 2 choices are tied for first priority, etc.). If you are unsure, please enter a question mark (?).

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

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

_____ What awareness and barriers exist regarding energy efficient building codes?

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

_____ Other: _____

Please use this space to discuss any additional questions you would like the team include in their engagement activities and/or to provide any additional feedback about the proposed questions.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Considering your understanding of [Maine Won't Wait](#) and the [Equity Subcommittee report](#), are the questions listed below appropriate for this working group? Please add your recommendations in the spaces below for each proposed question and for any other questions you would like to see our team explore in our engagement activities with "Priority Populations" (see [presentation](#)). **Note: We are not looking for your answers to these questions at this time - we are looking for your feedback about whether these are the right questions to ask for your working group.**

Q1: What are strategies for understanding needs for climate data communication to build and support community-driven climate action? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below. We are especially interested in recommendations for potential partner organization(s) to help lead this engagement.**

Q2: What are tribal community preferences for increasing the presence of traditional ecological knowledge in state climate planning and assessments? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below.**

Q3: What preferences and needs exist for climate data collection that builds trust, climate literacy and support for community driven climate action using approaches that empower historically disadvantaged individuals and communities? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below.**

Q4: What are the barriers and opportunities for recruiting smaller and more socially vulnerable communities to the Community Resilience Partnership, with the goal of achieving representation of these communities in the program? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below.**

Q5: What are the barriers and opportunities for increasing participation in regional and local climate resilience planning efforts by vulnerable and priority community members and their representatives? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below. We are especially interested in recommendations for potential partner organization(s) to help lead this engagement.**

Q6: What are priority population perspectives on appropriate climate vulnerability and equity criteria that should be applied across all resilience funding opportunities and infrastructure adaptation funding opportunities - to create increased access to funding opportunities for disadvantaged communities and those most at risk from climate impacts? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below. We are especially interested in recommendations for potential partner organization(s) to help lead this engagement.**

Q7: What awareness exists of indoor air quality issues due to fuel combustion inside the home, particularly in poorly or improperly weatherized homes, and what are opportunities to increase healthy air through improved ventilation, weatherization, and beneficial electrification; as well as idling? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below. We are especially interested in**

recommendations for potential partner organization(s) to help lead this engagement.

Q8: What level of awareness exists about, and what are the barriers to, adopting OSHA recommendations related to extreme heat? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below. We are especially interested in recommendations for potential partner organization(s) to help lead this engagement.**

Q9: What are barriers to being able to respond to natural hazard emergencies? What are the preferences for accessible avenues of response for at-risk individuals? (e.g., expanded media and communication channels, ensuring that notifications are available in languages other than English where appropriate, including climate hazard information in other relevant alert channels, such as the Maine Health Alert Network) **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below. We are especially interested in recommendations for potential partner organization(s) to help lead this engagement.**

Q10: To what extent are communities aware of, have access to, and use lists and/or maps of infrastructure projects identified through prior and ongoing planning processes to help identify climate vulnerable infrastructure? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below. We are especially interested in recommendations for potential partner organization(s) to help lead this engagement.**

Q11: What are preferences and recommendations for technical assistance for infrastructure adaptation projects in disadvantaged communities to help communities and regional planning organizations (a) plan and prioritize climate vulnerable infrastructure projects, (b) identify and apply for end-to-end state and federal grant funding to complete projects, and (c) implement projects? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below. We are especially interested in recommendations for potential partner organization(s) to help lead this engagement.**

Q12: What are barriers and opportunities for increasing participation in state planning efforts by vulnerable and priority community members and their representatives (e.g., appropriate level of compensation, transportation, meeting schedules, timeline, language accessibility, etc)? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below. We are especially interested in**

recommendations for potential partner organization(s) to help lead this engagement.

Q13: Where could partnerships help encourage participation among priority populations and communities? What are partners who have existing relationships with these populations, and work with them to (a) identify information channels used by the populations they serve and (b) develop messaging and easy to share materials to reach their communities? What are mechanisms to compensate partner or contributing organizations who help with outreach and review? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below. We are especially interested in recommendations for potential partner organization(s) to help lead this engagement.**

With the tight timeline for the Maine Climate Plan update, we may not be able to address all questions listed above as thoroughly as ideal. If we need to make choices, we would like your thoughts on prioritizing these questions. **Please enter a 1 in the box below for your first priority, a 2 for your second priority and so on. It is ok to apply the same number to more than one option (i.e., if you think 2 choices are tied for first priority, etc.). If you are unsure, please enter a question mark (?).**

_____ Strategies for understanding needs for climate data communication

_____ Tribal community preferences for increasing the presence of traditional ecological knowledge in state climate planning and assessments

_____ Preferences and needs exist for climate data collection that builds trust, climate literacy and support for community driven climate action using approaches that empower historically disadvantaged individuals and communities

_____ Barriers and opportunities for recruiting smaller and more socially vulnerable communities to the Community Resilience Partnership

_____ Barriers and opportunities for increasing participation in regional and local climate resilience planning efforts by vulnerable and priority community members and their representatives

_____ Priority population perspectives on appropriate climate vulnerability and equity criteria that should be applied across all resilience funding opportunities and infrastructure adaptation funding opportunities

_____ Awareness of indoor air quality issues due to fuel combustion inside the home

_____ Level of awareness exists about, and what are the barriers to, adopting OSHA recommendations related to extreme heat

_____ Barriers to being able to respond to natural hazard emergencies? What are the preferences for accessible avenues of response for at-risk individuals?

_____ Communities awareness and access to, and use lists and/or maps of infrastructure projects identified through prior and ongoing planning processes to help identify climate vulnerable infrastructure?

_____ Preferences and recommendations for technical assistance for infrastructure adaptation projects in disadvantaged communities to help communities and regional planning organizations

_____ Barriers and opportunities for increasing participation in state planning efforts by vulnerable and priority community members and their representatives (e.g., appropriate level of compensation, transportation, meeting schedules, timeline, language accessibility, etc)?

_____ Where could partnerships help encourage participation among priority populations and communities?

_____ Other: _____

Please use this space to discuss any additional questions you would like the team include in their engagement activities and/or to provide any additional feedback about the proposed questions.

COASTAL and MARINE

Considering your understanding of [Maine Won't Wait](#) and the [Equity Subcommittee report](#), are the questions listed below appropriate for this working group? Please add your recommendations in the spaces below for each proposed question and for any other questions you would like to see our team explore in our engagement activities with

"Priority Populations" (see [presentation](#)). **Note: We are not looking for your answers to these questions at this time - we are looking for your feedback about whether these are the right questions to ask for your working group.**

Q1: What are preferences for, and possible interventions to, further access and use of natural and working lands and waters, including working and recreational waterfronts? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below. We are especially interested in recommendations for potential partner organization(s) to help lead this engagement**

Q2: What barriers/needs exist to access natural resource funding opportunities and technical assistance? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below. We are especially interested in recommendations for potential partner organization(s) to help lead this engagement.**

Q3: What are needs, preferences, barriers, and opportunities related to locally produced food? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below. We are especially interested in recommendations for potential partner organization(s) to help lead this engagement.**

With the tight timeline for the Maine Climate Plan update, we may not be able to address all questions listed above as thoroughly as ideal. If we need to make choices, we would like your thoughts on prioritizing these questions. **Please enter a 1 in the box below for your first priority, a 2 for your second priority and so on.** It is ok to apply the same number to more than one option (i.e., if you think 2 choices are tied for first priority, etc.). If you are unsure, please enter a question mark (?).

_____ What are preferences for, and possible interventions to, further access and use of natural and working lands and waters, including working and recreational waterfronts?

_____ What barriers/needs exist to access natural resource funding opportunities and technical assistance?

_____ What are needs, preferences, barriers, and opportunities related to locally produced food?

_____ Other: _____

Please use this space to discuss any additional questions you would like the team to include in their engagement activities and/or to provide any additional feedback about the proposed questions.

NATURAL and WORKING LANDS

Considering your understanding of [Maine Won't Wait](#) and the [Equity Subcommittee report](#), are the questions listed below appropriate for this working group? Please add your recommendations in the spaces below for each proposed question and for any other questions you would like to see our team explore in our engagement activities with "Priority Populations" (see [presentation](#)). **Note: We are not looking for your answers to these questions at this time - we are looking for your feedback about whether these are the right questions to ask for your working group.**

Q1: What are the barriers to entry, opportunities, and drivers to change to increase diversity and access to natural resource industry careers, including forestry, for priority populations and disadvantaged communities? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below.**

Q2: What are the perceptions, barriers, preferences, and possible interventions related to access to and use of green space, natural and working lands and waters, including working and recreational waterfronts? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below.**

Q3: What could help you and your community to eat more locally produced food? What programs are successful at increasing access to Maine foods? Are there foods that are difficult to find in Maine? **Please add any recommendations related to this proposed question in the space below.**

With the tight timeline for the Maine Climate Plan update, we may not be able to address all questions listed above as thoroughly as ideal. If we need to make choices, we would like your thoughts on prioritizing these questions. **Please enter a 1 in the box below for your first priority, a 2 for your second priority and so on.** It is ok to apply the same number to more than one option (i.e., if you think 2 choices are tied for first priority, etc.). If you are unsure, please enter a question mark (?).

_____ What are the barriers to entry, opportunities, and drivers to change to increase diversity and access to natural resource industry careers, including forestry, for priority populations and disadvantaged communities?

_____ What are the perceptions, barriers, preferences, and possible interventions related to access to and use of green space, natural and working lands and waters, including working and recreational waterfronts?

_____ What could help you and your community to eat more locally produced food?

_____ What programs are successful at increasing access to Maine foods? Are there foods that are difficult to find in Maine?

_____ Other: _____

Please use this space to discuss any additional questions you would like the team to include in their engagement activities and/or to provide any additional feedback about the proposed questions.

Closing Questions

Please include any additional comments you have about the equity engagement work in the space below.

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!



**Dr. Sharon
Klein**

Associate
Professor,
School of
Economics



**Dr. Caroline
Noblet**

Associate
Professor,
School of
Economics



**Dr. Linda
Silka**

Senior Fellow,
Mitchell
Center for
Sustainability
Solutions



**Dr. Quixada
Moore-Vissing**

Faculty Fellow,
Mitchell
Center for
Sustainability
Solutions



**Dr. David
Hart**

Director,
Mitchell
Center for
Sustainability
Solutions



**Catherine
Mardosa**

Masters
Student,
Anthropology
&
Environmental
Policy



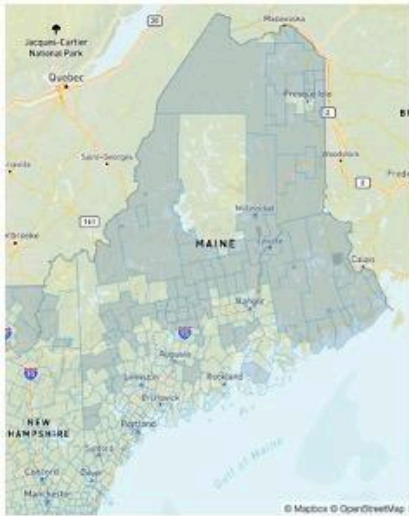
**Louise
Chaplin**

Undergraduate
Student,
Ecology &
Environmental
Science

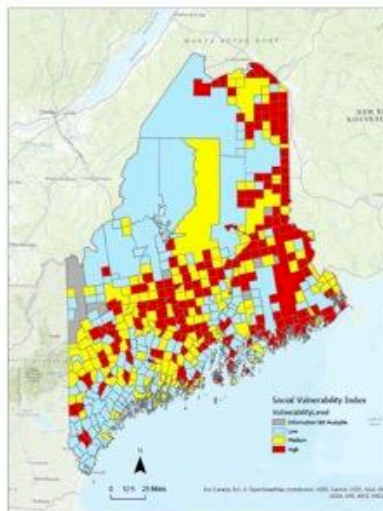
“Priority Populations”

- 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
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- 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



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

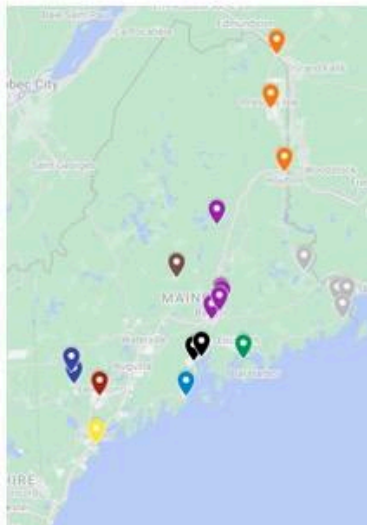
Engagement Activities:

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- Surveys
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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

Specific Populations

Bangor
Belfast
Dover-Foxcroft
Houlton
Indian Island
Indian Twp
Lewiston
Millinocket
Norway
Old Town
Orono
Pembroke
Portland
Presque Isle
Rockland
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Aroostook
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AND:
Maine Islands
Low-income landlords
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Timeline from here

1. Detailed engagement plan with Partner Organizations (by 2/9)
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https://umaine.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bIWCCQDQn65wl_5dQ
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Thank you - and be in touch!

Catherine Mardosa: catherine.mardosa@maine.edu

Amplifying Voices: Representing Diverse Perspectives

— Coastal and Marine 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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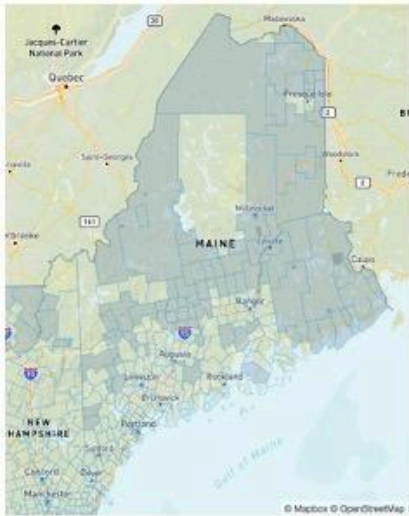
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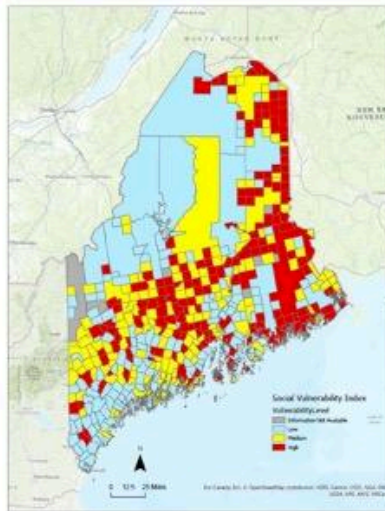
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Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool



Social Vulnerability Index for Maine Communities



Equity Subcommittee Report March 2023



March 2023

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Proposed Next Steps Include:

- **Establish baseline data** on the distribution of, access to, and use of green space, natural and working lands and waters across the state, especially for disadvantaged communities. This should include assessing visitor diversity at, and access to, working and recreational waterfronts. Identify barriers to access and affordability for low-income families and economically and climate vulnerable businesses. Identify interventions which improve access and reduce costs.
- **Expand access to natural resource grants for disadvantaged communities.** Establish equity criteria across all state natural resource grant making and establish baseline data on applications and funding for natural resource grants by community or applicant characteristics. Expand outreach about funding opportunities into historically underserved communities; identify and address barriers in application processes; offer technical assistance to lesser-resourced communities and other applicants; prioritize funding awards to historically underserved people, communities, or businesses; and consider lower match requirements in communities with fewer resources (including but not limited to economic, financial, staff capacity time or training, physical or technical resources).
- **Assess the impacts of climate risks on the food supply chain in Maine,** particularly in communities which experience food insecurity or rely on subsistence agriculture. Explore opportunities to ensure that Maine grown food can mitigate supply chain risks while improving access to food for all people.

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 preferences for, and possible interventions to, further access and use of natural and working lands and waters, including working and recreational waterfronts?

Strategy: E

Population: Citizens of disadvantaged communities; low-income households; economically and climate vulnerable businesses

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; **Suggestions?**

Q2: What barriers/needs exist to access natural resource funding opportunities and technical assistance?

Strategy: E

Population: Disadvantaged communities - municipal/tribal staff; Businesses in the natural resource industries

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; **Suggestions?**

Q3: What are needs, preferences, barriers, and opportunities related to locally produced food?

Strategy: E

Population: Disadvantaged communities - citizens and municipal/tribal staff; Businesses in the natural resource industries

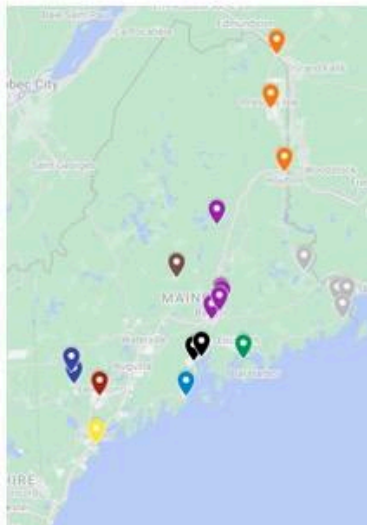
Engagement Activities:

- 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; **Suggestions?**

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Dover-Foxcroft
Houlton
Indian Island
Indian Twp
Lewiston
Millinocket
Norway
Old Town
Orono
Pembroke
Portland
Presque Isle
Rockland
Searsport
Trescott Twp
Trenton
Van Buren
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Androscoggin
Aroostook
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Amplifying Voices: Representing Diverse Perspectives

— Community Resilience 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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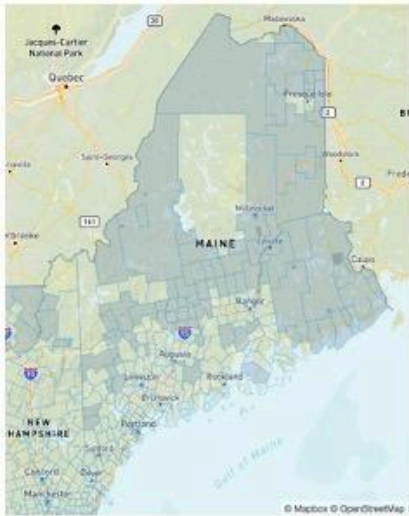
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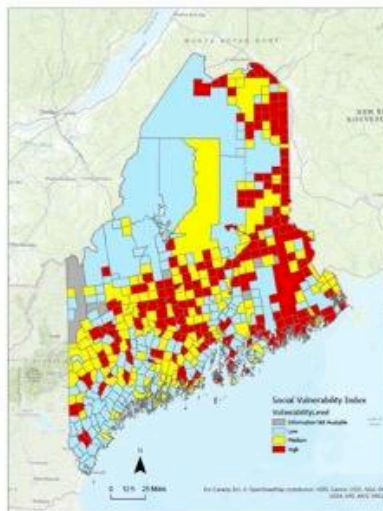
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Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool



Social Vulnerability Index for Maine Communities



Equity Subcommittee Report March 2023



Equity Subcommittee Report March 2023

Proposed Next Steps include:

- **The Community Resilience Partnership will continue to track geographic, socioeconomic, and climate-vulnerability of enrolled communities**, and work with partners to actively recruit smaller and more socially vulnerable communities, with the goal of achieving proportional or better representation of these communities in the program. In addition, the CRP will promote best practices to increase participation in regional and local climate resilience planning efforts by vulnerable and priority community members and their representatives.
- **Establish climate vulnerability and equity criteria across all resilience funding opportunities**, creating increased access to funding opportunities for disadvantaged communities and those most at risk from climate impacts.
- **Climate resilience and adaptation funding opportunities and programs should track participant characteristics** to monitor and ensure equitable distribution of climate funding and other benefits. Characteristics may include geographic distribution by community (e.g., rural, low income, disadvantaged, frontline, tribal) and applicant characteristics including income level and demographic characteristics.

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

Your group has a lot under their umbrella!

Q1: What are strategies for understanding needs for climate data communication to build and support community-driven climate action?

Strategy: E

Population: Citizens in rural, low-income, & disadvantaged communities; Youth; Black/POC, tribes; People with limited English proficiency

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 **Suggestions?**

Q2: What are tribal community preferences for increasing the presence of traditional ecological knowledge in state climate planning and assessments?

Strategy: E

Population: Tribal citizens and staff

Engagement Activities:

- Focus Groups
- Surveys
- Group Discussion

Potential Community Partners: Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Team; Sipayik Resilience Committee; multiple departments/directors of tribal governments

Q3: What preferences and needs exist for climate data collection that builds trust, climate literacy and support for community driven climate action using approaches that empower historically disadvantaged individuals and communities?

Strategy: E

Population: Citizens and municipal/tribal government staff in rural, low-income, & disadvantaged communities; Youth; Black/POC, tribes

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

Q4: What are the barriers and opportunities for recruiting smaller and more socially vulnerable communities to the Community Resilience Partnership, with the goal of achieving representation of these communities in the program?

Strategy: F

Population: Service Providers in the CRP working with highly socially vulnerable communities

Engagement Activities:

- Group discussion

Potential Community Partners: CEBE; ACTT; SCEC; Island Institute; WindowDressers ; GOPIF/CRP

Q5: What are the barriers and opportunities for increasing participation in regional and local climate resilience planning efforts by vulnerable and priority community members and their representatives?

Strategy: F

Population: Service Providers in the CRP working with highly socially vulnerable communities

Engagement Activities:

- Group discussion

Potential Community Partners: CEBE; ACTT; SCEC; Island Institute; WindowDressers ; GOPIF/CRP **Suggestions?**

Q6: What are priority population perspectives on appropriate climate vulnerability and equity criteria that should be applied across all resilience funding opportunities and infrastructure adaptation funding opportunities - to create increased access to funding opportunities for disadvantaged communities and those most at risk from climate impacts?

Strategy: F&G

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

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; **Suggestions?**

Q7: What awareness exists of indoor air quality issues due to fuel combustion inside the home, particularly in poorly or improperly weatherized homes, and what are opportunities 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
- 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; **Suggestions?**

Q8: What level of awareness exists about, and what are the barriers to, adopting OSHA recommendations related to extreme heat?

Strategy: F

Population: Migrant and other outdoor workers

Engagement Activities:

- Group Discussion

Potential Community Partners: Maine Immigrants Rights Coalition; Maine Environmental Education Association; Community Organizing Alliance; **Suggestions?**

Q9: What are barriers to being able to respond to natural hazard emergencies? What are the preferences for accessible avenues of response for at-risk individuals? (e.g., expanded media and communication channels, ensuring that notifications are available in languages other than English where appropriate, including climate hazard information in other relevant alert channels, such as the Maine Health Alert Network)

Strategy: F

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

Engagement Activities:

- 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; **Suggestions?**

Q10: To what extent are communities aware of, have access to, and use lists and/or maps of infrastructure projects identified through prior and ongoing planning processes to help identify climate vulnerable infrastructure?

Strategy: G

Population: Disadvantaged communities

Engagement Activities:

- 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; **Suggestions?**

Q11: What are preferences and recommendations for technical assistance for infrastructure adaptation projects in disadvantaged communities to help communities and regional planning organizations (a) plan and prioritize climate vulnerable infrastructure projects, (b) identify and apply for end-to-end state and federal grant funding to complete projects, and (c) implement projects?

Strategy: G

Population: Disadvantaged communities

Engagement Activities:

- 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; **Suggestions?**

Q12: What are barriers and opportunities for increasing participation in state planning efforts by vulnerable and priority community members and their representatives (e.g., appropriate level of compensation, transportation, meeting schedules, timeline, language accessibility, etc)?

Strategy: Procedural Equity

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

Engagement Activities:

- Focus groups
- Surveys
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Q13: Where could partnerships help encourage participation among priority populations and communities? What are partners who have existing relationships with these populations? Work with them to (a) identify information channels used by the populations they serve and (b) develop messaging and easy to share materials to reach their communities? What are mechanisms to compensate partner or contributing organizations who help with outreach and review?

Strategy: H

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

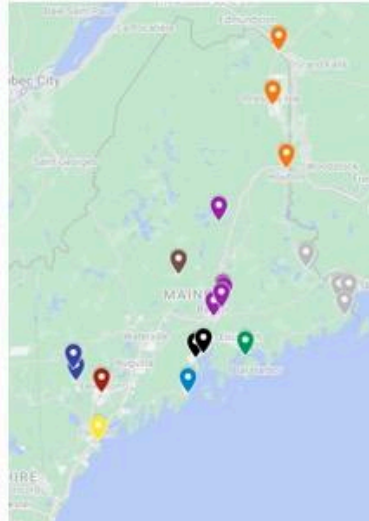
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Bangor	Orono
Belfast	Pembroke
Dover-Foxcroft	Portland
Houlton	Presque Isle
Indian Island	Rockland
Indian Twp	Searsport
Lewiston	Trescott Twp
Millinocket	Trenton
Norway	Van Buren
Old Town	West Paris



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

AND:
Maine Islands
Low-income landlords
across the state

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Thank you - and be in touch!

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Amplifying Voices: Representing Diverse Perspectives

— Energy Working Group —

Goal

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Environmental
Policy



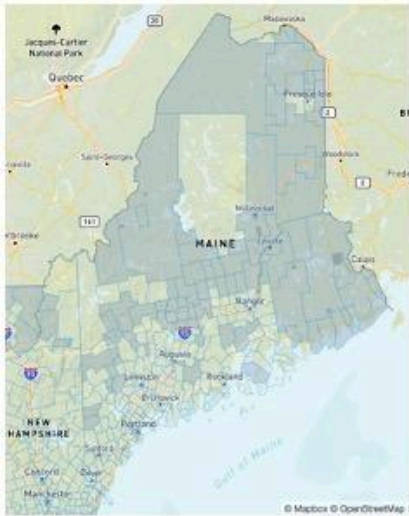
**Louise
Chaplin**

Undergraduate
Student,
Ecology &
Environmental
Science

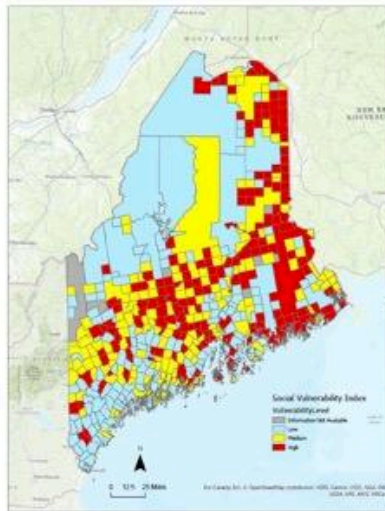
“Priority Populations”

- 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



March 2023

Equity Subcommittee Report March 2023

Proposed Next Steps Include:

- **Develop formal mechanisms to consider and involve disadvantaged communities in siting large-scale renewables and energy infrastructure improvements in their communities.** The state should consider the differential impacts and benefits of large-scale renewable energy siting and transmission and distribution projects on disadvantaged communities. This could include (a) adopting additional outreach requirements for developers (e.g., to linguistically isolated, historically disadvantaged or under-represented people and communities) and (b) developing guidance to require consideration of equity in project siting to ensure impacts and benefits (environmental, economic, transportation, cultural or otherwise) are equitably distributed.
- **Develop guidance to assist communities and municipalities in determining host community benefits.** Guidance should include community input to identify and deliver community-identified meaningful benefits from large-scale renewable projects (e.g., access to jobs, local tax revenue or payments, energy discounts or other benefits identified by community).

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: How should disadvantaged communities be involved in siting large-scale renewables and energy infrastructure improvements within their communities? What potential benefits from these projects would be meaningful to citizens in these communities?

Strategy: C

Population: Citizens of disadvantaged 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: To what extent are Maine's towns, businesses, landlords and households aware of and do they have access to or experience barriers to renewable energy?

Specific Factors: on-site distributed renewable energy & energy storage; power purchase agreements, financing options & rebates; ownership & subscription models (including leasing, community solar), non-price barriers (information, contractors, time/capacity)

Strategy: C

Population: Citizens, **landlords**, renters, homeowners (including affordable housing rental units, multifamily landlords, rural housing, mobile/manufactured housing); small businesses, and municipal/tribal governments in disadvantaged communities; natural resource industries

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 Housing; Community & Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Teams; **and ???**

Q3: What is the level of awareness and what are the preferences & barriers 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, and disadvantaged communities

Engagement Activities:

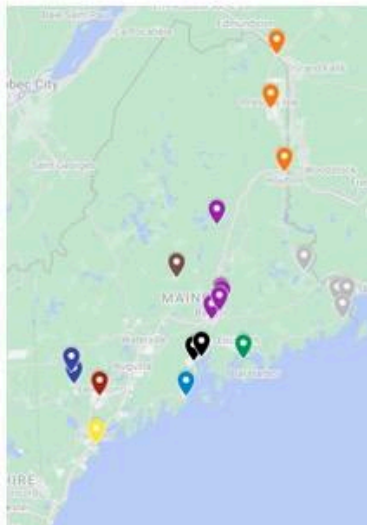
- Focus groups
- Surveys
- Group discussion

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; **and ???**

Specific Populations

Bangor
Belfast
Dover-Foxcroft
Houlton
Indian Island
Indian Twp
Lewiston
Millinocket
Norway
Old Town

Orono
Pembroke
Portland
Presque Isle
Rockland
Searsport
Trescott Twp
Trenton
Van Buren
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
 - o any missing that should be included for specific questions?
 - o populations that should be extra priority for your working group?
3. Are there additional potential **partner organizations** we should be talking to for specific populations/questions? **Especially for Q3?**

Thank you - and be in touch!

Catherine Mardosa: catherine.mardosa@maine.edu

Amplifying Voices: Representing Diverse Perspectives

— Natural and Working Lands
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!



**Dr. Sharon
Klein**

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**Dr. Caroline
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**Dr. Linda
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Senior Fellow,
Mitchell
Center for
Sustainability
Solutions



**Dr. Quixada
Moore-Vissing**

Faculty Fellow,
Mitchell
Center for
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**Dr. David
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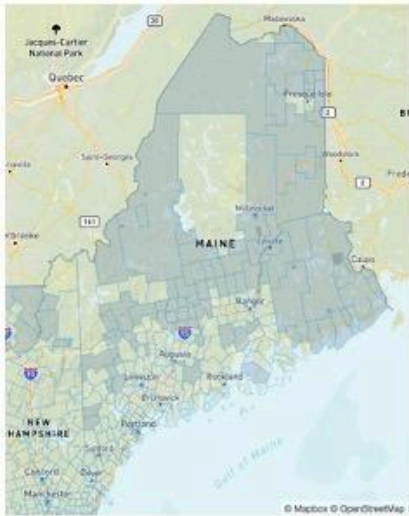
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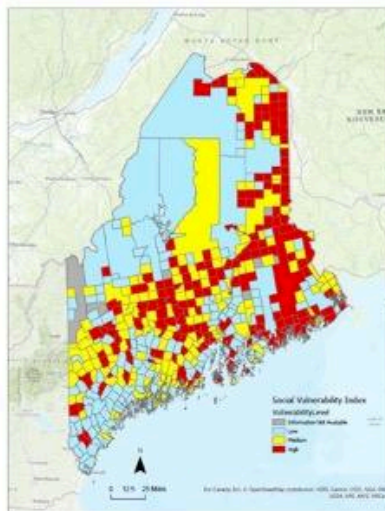
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Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool



Social Vulnerability Index for Maine Communities



Equity Subcommittee Report March 2023



March 2023

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 perceptions, barriers, preferences, and possible interventions related to access to and use of green space, natural and working lands and waters, including working and recreational waterfronts?

Strategy: E

Population: Citizens of disadvantaged communities; rural communities; black and POC communities; economically and climate vulnerable businesses; climate frontline communities, tribal communities; un- and under-employed people; people with limited English proficiency, including New Mainers;

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; Community & Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Teams

Q2: What could help you and your community to eat more locally produced food? What programs are successful at increasing access to Maine foods? Are there foods that are difficult to find in Maine?

Strategy: E

Population: Rural and low-income communities; youth and older adults; BIPOC communities; Tribal communities; people with limited English proficiency and new Mainers; people without access to reliable transportation

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

Q3: What are the barriers to entry, opportunities, and drivers of change to increase diversity and access to natural resource industry careers, including forestry, for priority populations and disadvantaged communities?

Strategy: D

Population: Youth, People with limited English proficiency, Black/POC populations, migrant farm workers and other outdoor workers, climate frontline communities; tribal communities; disadvantaged communities, businesses in the natural resource industries; women-owned or veteran owned business enterprises, Un/underemployed people

Engagement Activities:

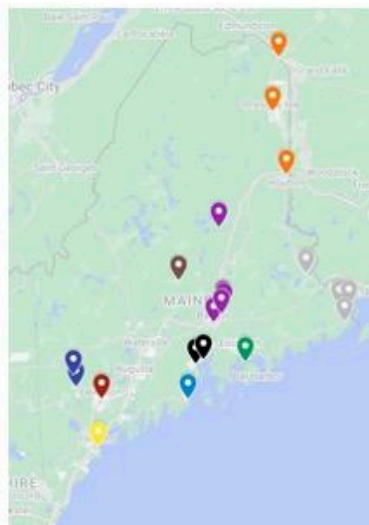
- Focus groups
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Specific Populations

Bangor
Belfast
Dover-Foxcroft
Houlton
Indian Island
Indian Twp
Lewiston
Millinocket
Norway
Old Town

Orono
Pembroke
Portland
Presque Isle
Rockland
Searsport
Trescott Twp
Trenton
Van Buren
West Paris



Androscoggin
Aroostook
Cumberland
Hancock
Knox
Oxford
Penobscot
Piscataquis
Waldo
Washington

AND:
Maine Islands
Low-income landlords
across the state

Timeline from here

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-

Thank you - and be in touch!

Catherine Mardosa: catherine.mardosa@maine.edu

Amplifying Voices: Representing Diverse Perspectives

— Transportation 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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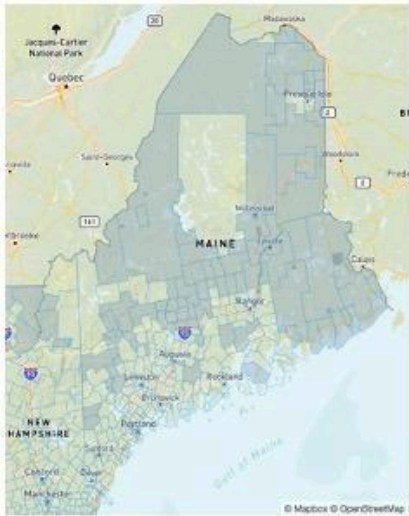
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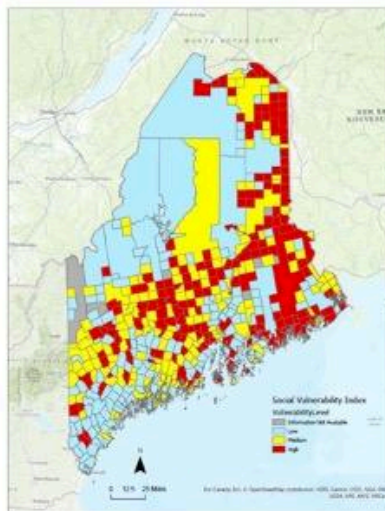
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Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool



Social Vulnerability Index for Maine Communities



Equity Subcommittee Report March 2023



March 2023

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Proposed next steps include:

- **Expand EV rebate opportunities and locations**, including (a) increasing the used vehicle EV rebate and (b) increasing the number of dealerships offering rebates in rural areas.
- **Engage with low-income drivers** to understand barriers to accessing existing vehicle rebate programs and navigation of forthcoming federal tax incentives.⁴⁶
- **Enhance financing options and decrease purchase costs for LMI drivers**, including through the assessment of (a) a loan-loss reserve⁴⁷ program for qualified, low-income customers buying high efficiency vehicles, zero-emission vehicles (ZEV), or plug-in hybrid EVs (PHEVs); (b) the feasibility of providing tax incentives for new and used electric and plug-in vehicles for qualified low-income vehicle customers. Consider future federal funding opportunities⁴⁸ to capitalize loan or other financing opportunities for LMI drivers.
- **Establish baseline data on EV vehicle availability, ability to purchase, and access to financing**, including (a) numbers of new and used electric vehicles purchased by LMI drivers; (b) the number of EV rebates accessed by LMI drivers by geography; (c) the distribution of dealerships offering EV rebates; (d) barriers to accessing rebate programs; (e) the number of LMI drivers with insufficient credit to access market-rate financing for new or used vehicle purchases; and (f) the relative cost impact of taxes levied on electric vehicle purchases by LMI customers.

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 Immigrants' Rights Coalition

Resilient Communities L3C

Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC)

WindowDressers

Q1: What are barriers to understanding and accessing existing electric vehicle financial incentives for low-income drivers?

Strategy: A

Population: Low-income drivers

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 types of incentives and program structures might encourage landlords to expand EV-charging locations?

Strategy: A

Population: Landlords for Low and Moderate Income (LMI) and Multifamily Housing

Engagement Activities:

- Group discussion

Potential Community Partners: Maine Housing & ???

Q3: What is/are the awareness of & preferences for EV-charging infrastructure and vehicle adoption/availability in rural communities?

Strategy: A

Population: Citizens in Rural Communities

Engagement Activities:

- Focus groups
- Surveys
- Group discussion

Potential Community Partners: Maine Environmental Education Association; Community Organizing Alliance; CEBE; ACTT; SCEC; Island Institute; WindowDressers; Community & Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Teams

Q4: What is/are the awareness and preferences of citizens in disadvantaged communities related to expanding programs like GOMaine or first-mile/last-mile connections, rides-to-wellness, and recovery and job access rides programs?

Strategy: A

Population: Citizens in Disadvantaged Communities

Engagement Activities:

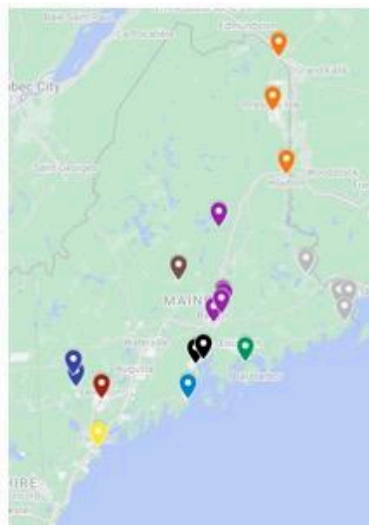
- Focus groups
- Surveys
- Group discussion

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

Specific Populations

Bangor
Belfast
Dover-Foxcroft
Houlton
Indian Island
Indian Twp
Lewiston
Millinocket
Norway
Old Town

Orono
Pembroke
Portland
Presque Isle
Rockland
Searsport
Trescott Twp
Trenton
Van Buren
West Paris



Androscoggin
Aroostook
Cumberland
Hancock
Knox
Oxford
Penobscot
Piscataquis
Waldo
Washington

AND:
Maine Islands
Landlords for low-income
housing across the state

Timeline from here

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Thank you - and be in touch!

Catherine Mardosa: catherine.mardosa@maine.edu

Appendix C - Engagement Plan

View the plan digitally:

 Round 1 and 2 Engagment Activities.pdf

 Round 1 and 2 Working Group Priority Key.pdf

This is the final version of a document that went through multiple iterations between March 1 and August 30, 2024. The tables displayed below show only what could fit on the page; please see the attached PDF for more detailed information.

Numbers in the “N” column represent the number of people reached through a certain engagement (for example, the number of people an emailed newsletter was sent to, or the number of people at an event). These numbers do not always represent the number of people who actively participated or provided feedback - not all recipients of a link to the Maine Community Alternative Energy Survey responded to it, and not all participants at some events shared their views.

Not all engagement activities have a reported number of participants.

Table 1. Round 1 Engagement Activities. Other partners that are helping distribute the statewide Maine community survey: WindowDressers, MAINECAN, UMaine Center on Aging, GOPIF youth program, and Maine Community Resilience Partnership Regional Coordinators.

Activity	WG Priority Number	Leader	Date	Description	N
Round 1 Activities					
Pathways to Clean Energy Jobs Workshop	EA, EB, NWLA, NWLB, CRA	Community Organizing Alliance (COA)	3/22/2024	Hosted by the Community Organizing Alliance - discuss with members of the community questions related to RE green jobs career pathways. Translated into multiple languages.	45
Maine Sustainability & Water Conference Session 2	EA; EB; BIHC; BIHD; CRA; CRC; CRD; CRI	UMaine Mitchell Center	3/28/2024	Day-long session focused on community energy organized by the Mitchell Center team. Two researchers also presented a Poster on MCC engagement activities at the conference wide poster session.	73

Activity	WG Priority Number	Leader	Date	Description	N
Norway Seed Swap	All except CRB, CRG, BIHC	Center for an Ecology-Based Economy (CEBE)	3/30/2024	Existing event at which CEBE will gather input through a community survey modeled off questions provided by the UMaine team	20
UMaine energy class	EA; EB; CRF; BIHE	UMaine Mitchell Center	4/2/2024	Undergraduate class focused on why energy issues are important to citizens and what they can do about them; 1 class day devoted to discussion of MCC issues	74
Maine Community Survey (focus group)	All except CRG; CRB; EB; BIHC	UMaine Mitchell Center	4/3/2024	Focus group with residents of targeted Maine communities from the Social Vulnerability index, to test community survey (as above) and have a facilitated discussion of some of the MCC questions.	6
Green and Healthy Maine Home Show	BIHA-E, EA, EB, CRF, CRG	passivhausMAINE	4/6/2024	Share survey specific to builders and code enforcement officers	100
Community Outreach: MYCJ Youth Day of Action.	TA, CRA, CRD, NWLA, NWLB, NWLC, CMA, CMB	Maine Environmental Education Association (MEEA)	4/9/2024	MYCJ Youth Day of Action. Including Discussion questions as part of the conversation.	70
Maine Community Survey (launch)	All except CRG; CRB; EB; BIHC	UMaine Mitchell Center	4/10/2024	Online survey of Maine communities, co-developed with representatives of 7 (and counting) towns/municipalities that represent underserved communities. A specific section of the survey will be dedicated to Maine Climate Council questions. All of our partners listed here and on the EPA project will distribute the survey electronically and on paper.	516

Activity	WG Priority Number	Leader	Date	Description	N
Email Maine Community Survey	All except CRB, CRG, BIHC	Maine Council on Aging (MCOA)	4/12/2024	In cooperation with the Governor's Cabinet on Aging and the Center on Aging: Send a targeted email to our 140 members (about 500 people, but included in the 6,000 below asking them specifically to get the survey out to their members, boards, advisory councils, volunteers and people they serve to solicit input, share information about how they can host a discussion group, and ask them to drive people to our discussion group. Members include all of Maine's area agencies on aging and we'll be encouraging them specifically to get the word out through their networks. Our members also include BIPOC and LGBTQ organizations that serve older people and we'll again specifically ask them to activate their networks to respond.	8,350
Community Outreach and Discussion Group	All except CRB, CRG, BIHC, EB	SCEC	4/17/2024	Meeting with Family Futures Downeast staff	7
Climate Change & Food Justice Listening Session	NWLA, B, C; CMA, B	COA	4/19/2024	Hosted by the Community Organizing Alliance and MEEA-discuss WG recommendations: Local Food	30

Activity	WG Priority Number	Leader	Date	Description	N
Community Event for Families in Skowhegan: Skowpendous	All except CRB, BIHB, BIHC, BIHD	KVCAP	4/19/2024	Promote surveys: paper and online versions	40
Focus Group at Hartland Senior Living, Hartland Maine	All except CRB, BIHB, BIHC, BIHD	KVCAP	4/22/2024	At Hartland senior housing property co-managed by KVCAP: climate discussions primarily, and also to provide awareness to the participants about the Community Resilience Partnership; to use the feedback around Energy, Infrastructure and Housing and transportation to help inform our internal needs assessment process; and to provide information about Energy Assistance programs and our Transportation program.	12
Distribute Maine Community Survey	All except CRB, CRG, BIHC	MCOA	4/22/2024	Send the survey out to 6000+ Maine contacts with the direct ask that people take the survey themselves and share with older people in their lives to make sure that the needs of older Mainers are intentionally considered and included in the plan. We'll highlight that paper copies are available, and will also invite them to register for the forum.	4400
Maine Youth for Climate Justice Monthly Teach-in	TA, CRA, CRD, NWLA, NWLB, NWLC, CMA, CMB	MEEA	4/23/2024	Virtual teach-in on Zoom for Maine Youth	2

Activity	WG Priority Number	Leader	Date	Description	N
Focus Group at Mary St. Building 1, Skowhegan	All except CRB, BIHB, BIHC, BIHD	KVCAP	4/23/2024	At Skowhegan property for low income families co-managed by KVCAP: climate discussions primarily, and also to provide awareness to the participants about the Community Resilience Partnership; to use the feedback around Energy, Infrastructure and Housing and transportation to help inform our internal needs assessment process; and to provide information about Energy Assistance programs and our Transportation program.	8
Focus Group at Mary St. Building 2, Skowhegan	All except CRB, BIHB, BIHC, BIHD	KVCAP	4/23/2024	At Skowhegan property for low income families co-managed by KVCAP: climate discussions primarily, and also to provide awareness to the participants about the Community Resilience Partnership; to use the feedback around Energy, Infrastructure and Housing and transportation to help inform our internal needs assessment process; and to provide information about Energy Assistance programs and our Transportation program.	10
Focus Group at Gerald Hotel Fairfield Maine	All except CRB, BIHB, BIHC, BIHD	KVCAP	4/25/2024	At Fairfield senior housing property co-managed by KVCAP: climate discussions primarily, and also to provide awareness to the participants about the Community Resilience Partnership; to use the feedback around Energy, Infrastructure and Housing and transportation to help inform our internal needs assessment process; and to provide information about Energy Assistance programs and our Transportation program.	8

Activity	WG Priority Number	Leader	Date	Description	N
Maine Community Sustainable Energy Team Meeting Focus group discussion	All except CRB, CRG, BIHC, EB	UMaine Mitchell Center	4/26/2024	Special discussion of MCC questions at regular monthly meeting of the Community Sustainable Energy Team - a group of representatives of 7 rural, low income, disadvantaged Maine communities that are part of the 4-yr EPA grant effort led by UMaine researchers	3
Discussion Forum	All except CRB, CRG, BIHC	MCOA	4/26/2024	Host a discussion forum on April 26th via Zoom from 10-11.	29
Farmington Fiddlehead Festival; Tabling	All except CRB, CRG, BIHC	CEBE	4/27/2024	Existing event at which CEBE will gather input through a community survey modeled off questions provided by the UMaine team	40
Community discussion of Maine's Changing Climate	All except CRB, CRG, BIHC	CEBE	4/30/2024	New mtg CEBE will plan and implement with community members in Western Maine, specifically focused on MCC discussion questions	4
Maine Dept. of Education Climate Education Task Force	TA, CRA, CRD, NWLA, NWLB, NWLC, CMA, CMB	MEEA	4/30/2024	Meeting of educators at the Statehouse	25
Distribute Maine Community Survey	All except CRB, CRG, BIHD	MCOA	5/1/2024	Our membership and donor newsletter, sent to 500 people, included the link to the climate survey	500
Community discussion of Maine's Changing Climate	All except CRB, CRG, BIHC	CEBE	5/2/2024	New mtg CEBE will plan and implement with community members in Western Maine, specifically focused on MCC discussion questions	5

Activity	WG Priority Number	Leader	Date	Description	N
Lobster Zone Council Meeting, Zone 1 Lubec Shellfish Committee Meeting	All except CRB, BIHB, BIHC, BIHD	SCEC	4/22/2024 5/6/2024	Reaching out to resource-based industries through Main Street Business Building staff.	27
Digital Equity classes at Mano en Mano	TA, NWLC, CMB	SCEC	4/30/2024 5/7/2024	In-person surveys and discussions	12

Table 2. Round 1 Working Group Priority Key.

Working Group	WG Priority Number (assigned to allow for matching with activities and populations reached)	WG Priority Question
Transportation	TA	What are preferences and barriers to understanding/ accessing multiple transportation options and their associated incentives and infrastructures (electric vehicles, public transportation, GOMaine, walking, biking, etc.)?
Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing	BIHA	What are barriers to energy efficiency and clean energy improvements in households of all types, including rental?
Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing	BIHB	What barriers exist for accessing HEAP & LIAP benefits and weatherization services? What are the characteristics of eligible households receiving/not receiving these benefits?
Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing	BIHC	What awareness and barriers exist regarding energy efficient building codes?
Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing; Energy	BIHD	What awareness, preferences, & barriers exist related to different approaches to community solar and residential distributed energy (solar, wind, battery); especially for affordable housing & renters?
Energy	EA	How should disadvantaged communities be involved in siting large-scale renewables and energy infrastructure improvements within their communities? What potential benefits from these projects would be meaningful to citizens in these communities?
Energy	EB	To what extent are Maine's towns, businesses, landlords aware of and do they have access to or

Working Group	WG Priority Number (assigned to allow for matching with activities and populations reached)	WG Priority Question
		experience barriers to renewable energy?
Natural & Working Lands	NWLA	What are the barriers to entry, opportunities, and drivers of change to increase diversity and access to natural resource industry (including forestry) careers for priority populations and disadvantaged communities?
Coastal and Marine; Natural & Working Lands	NWLB; CMA	What are perceptions, barriers, preferences, and possible interventions related to access to and use of green space, natural and working lands and waters, including working and recreational waterfronts? And how can we cultivate a conservation workforce that better reflects the diversity of Maine and its visitors?
Coastal and Marine; Natural & Working Lands	NWLC; CMB	What would help you and people in your community to eat more Maine food? Are there programs that you use to access local food that are helpful? Are there products that you would like to be able to find but are hard to find in Maine?
Coastal and Marine; Natural & Working Lands	NWLD; CMC	What barriers/needs exist to access natural resource funding opportunities and technical assistance?
Community Resilience	CRA	What is/are awareness, understanding, preferences, needs, and capacity for climate data collection and communication in ways (especially participatory approaches that engage, train, and empower historically disadvantaged individuals and communities) that ensure transparency and build trust, climate literacy, and support for community-driven climate action?
Community Resilience	CRB	What are/is tribal community preferences, needs and capacity for consulting on governance, collection, ownership, and application of climate data to help increase the presence of traditional ecological knowledge in state climate planning and assessments?
Community Resilience	CRC	What are barriers and opportunities for recruiting smaller and more socially vulnerable communities to the Community Resilience Partnership, with the goal of achieving proportional or better representation of these communities in the program?

Working Group	WG Priority Number (assigned to allow for matching with activities and populations reached)	WG Priority Question
Community Resilience	CRD	What are the barriers and opportunities for increasing awareness of and participation in regional, state and local climate resilience planning efforts by vulnerable and priority community members and their representatives? For example, is lack of access to lists and/or maps of infrastructure projects a barrier?
Community Resilience	CRE	What do members of priority populations think are appropriate climate vulnerability and equity criteria to use across all resilience and infrastructure adaptation funding opportunities to increase access to these funding opportunities for disadvantaged communities and those most at risk from climate impacts?
Community Resilience; Buildings, Infrastructure & Housing	CRF; BIHE	What is awareness/understanding of indoor air quality issues due to fuel combustion inside the home, particularly in poorly or improperly weatherized homes, and what are opportunities to increase healthy air through improved ventilation, weatherization, and beneficial electrification; as well as idling?
Community Resilience	CRG	What is/are awareness of and barriers to adopting OSHA recommendations related to extreme heat?
Community Resilience	CRH	What are barriers to being able to respond to natural hazard emergencies and preferences for accessible avenues of response for at-risk individuals (e.g., expanded media and communication channels, ensuring that notifications are available in languages other than English where appropriate, including climate hazard information in other relevant alert channels, such as the Maine Health Alert Network)?
Community Resilience	CRI	What type of technical assistance do people in disadvantaged communities want for planning, funding, and implementing infrastructure adaptation projects?

Table 3. Round 2 Engagement Activities.

Activity	WG Priority Number	Leader	Date	Description	N
Round 2 Activities					
Distribute Maine Community Survey	All except BIH4-6, CR1-3	Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP)	7/23/2024	Including our graphic in their weekly newsletter with a link to our survey	
Distribute Maine Community Survey	All except BIH4-6, CR1-3	ACAP	7/23/2024	Posting our graphic with a link to our survey and recording conversations on social media	
Tabling at Back to School Bash	All except BIH4-6, CR1-3	ACAP	8/1/2024	Collect qualitative data while distributing survey at the annual back to school bash	63
One-on-one meetings with leadership of at least 5 small, rural towns	BIH2, BIH4, CM1, CM2, CM3, CR1, CR2, LU2	A Climate to Thrive (ACTT)	5/14	One-on-one meetings with leadership of small, rural towns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal of meeting with at least 5 leaders • Priority population: understaffed small, rural towns 	1
Special mtg of Local Leads the Way, focused on MCC and small rural towns	BIH1, BIH2, CR1, CR2, CR5, CR6	ACTT	7/8/2024	Second round with Local Leads the Way participants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal of reaching at least 15 participants • Priority population: likely understaffed small, rural towns 	15
Tabling at the Norway Arts and Music Festival	All except BIH2, CM2, CM3	CEBE	8/14	Existing event at which CEBE will gather input through a community survey modeled off questions provided by the UMaine team	1
Discussion Group w/Town Managers and Selectmen	BIH6, CR1, CR2, CR3, CR4, E2, MM4, LU1, LU2, LU3	CEBE	8/6	New mtg CEBE will plan and implement with town managers and selectmen in Western Maine, specifically focused on MCC discussion questions	10
15 Interviews with Priority Population Business Owners	All	Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI)	May 2024	Interviews conducted at a meeting of Black-Owned Maine	1
Targeted Community Focus Group/Discussion (3)	CR1, CR4, MM2, MM4	CEI	7/31 and 8/7	3 Focus Groups with Priority Community Business Owners (6-10 people per group thus 18-30 people).	25
2 Semi-structured interviews	CR1, CR4, MM2, MM4	CEI	6/5	Conducted interviews after presenting at a meeting of a new coalition of African and African	1

Activity	WG Priority Number	Leader	Date	Description	N
				American communities	
NRCM-MCA Webinar and Discussion	T1, T2, T3, BIH1-3	COA	5/20	Hosted by Community Organizing Alliance & MRA; discuss WG recommendations: Transportation	30
Discussion group in Lewiston	All except BIH2, CM2, CM3	COA	7/11	Hosted by the Community Organizing Alliance - discuss WG recommendations	17
Discussion group in Portland	All except BIH2, CM2, CM3	COA	8/3	Focus group in Portland hosted by the Community Organizing Alliance - discuss WG recommendations	15
COA Survey Outreach	NWL2, MM3	COA	7/25	COA distributes a survey created from MCC Discussion Questions	36
Email GOPIF survey link to CRP workshop attendees from 8 communities: Isle au Haut, Matinicus, Gouldsboro, Swan's Island, Cranberry Isles, Monhegan, Chebeague, Long Island	All	Island Institute	8/5	These communities are enrolled in GOPIF's Community Resilience Partnership. It is the service provider and held workshops in these communities in 2022-2023.	160-200
Distribute GOPIF Survey	All	Island Institute	7/25	Brenna shared blurb and survey links with Island Institute's Center for Marine Economy. Olivia emailed it to Coalition members and mentioned it in their monthly meeting.	20
Distribute GOPIF Survey	All	Island Institute	7/24-8/8	After attending the Casco Bay Bluff Erosion Symposium, Janice Avignon, Town of Long Island Islands Coalition Rep, set up a spot in the Town Office with several copies of the survey and info with the link to the online survey. She then collected the paper surveys and entered the responses into the online survey.	15-20

Activity	WG Priority Number	Leader	Date	Description	N
Provide GOPIF Survey Link at Casco Bay Islands Bluff Erosion Symposium	All	Island Institute	7/23	Residents of the five Casco Bay islands will learn from experts on erosion and adaptation. We provided a survey link for participants.	125
Discussion group	All	Island Institute	8/8	Brenna led conversation using discussion questions to gather islanders' input on the Climate Council recs. See the jamboard for responses. We included link to survey in meeting invite, the zoom chat, and follow-up email. Groups invited were: Maine Islands Coalition, Maine Ferry Advisory Board, and island municipal leaders. (Alex Zipparo co-leads).	13
Provide GOPIF Survey Link at Blue Hill Climate Action Talk	All	Island Institute	8/5	Abby Roche presents on sea level rise and adaptation in locations heavily damaged by January storms.	50
Provide GOPIF Survey Link at Island Institute Fellows Community Events on Islesboro, North Haven, Tremont, and Brooklin	All	Island Institute	8/5	UPDATED: Climate Center staff encouraged Island Fellows to complete survey and share in their communities.	20-30
Provide GOPIF Survey link to community energy leaders and teams in ETIPP related communities: Deer Isle, Stonington, Eastport, Islesboro, Brooklin, Cranberry Isles, and MDI Summer	All	Island Institute	7/30-8/5	Climate Center staff meet monthly with communities enrolled in ETIPP and those that are currently applying for the program.	10-30

Activity	WG Priority Number	Leader	Date	Description	N
Provide GOPIF Survey link with Maine Islands Coalition Summer	All	Island Institute	7/25	Partner with Sustainable Communities staff; representatives from Maine's unbridged island network, hosted by Island Institute. Members are year-round residents. Many have lived on island for decades, raised families there, are older adults and are involved in their communities' climate planning.	20
Focus Group in Augusta	T2, BIH1, CR1, CR2, CR4	KVCAP	8/5	Larger discussion group at a mental health facility, LINC Wellness Center in Augusta	
Listening session	CR1, CR2	MCOA	8/5/2024	Online session with people in leadership positions in aging communities around disaster preparedness and home energy efficiency programs w/ME's Cabinet on Aging	
Discussion group	All	Maine People's Alliance (MPA)	8/8/2024	Maine People's Alliance member call	10
Discussion group	All	MPA	8/9/2024	Maine People's Alliance immigrant leaders meeting on 8/2 or 8/9, potentially 12 participants	8
Women Builders Workshop	BIH2, BIH3, BIH4	passivhaus MAINE	6/18/2024	Sonia and Janine will take notes at this workshop, includes energy code training	
CSEC Survey of Municipal Officials in Underserved Communities	BIH2, BIH4, CM1, CM2, CM3, CR1, CR2, LU2	SCEC	8/12	Launched an electronic survey for municipal officials for underserved communities	
Focus Group Discussions following Community Outreach engagements	BIH2, BIH4, CM1, CM2, CM3, CR1, CR2, LU2	SCEC	7/8,7/9,7/22	following Community Outreach engagements described above	12
SCEC Survey of Rural Business Owners in Underserved Communities	CR1, CR4, MM2, MM4	SCEC	8/12	Main Street Business Council of Machias	47
SCEC Survey of General Public in Underserved	CR1, CR4, MM2, MM4	SCEC	8/12	Meeting over zoom w/area businesses	89

Activity	WG Priority Number	Leader	Date	Description	N
Communities					
Focus Group Discussion	BIH2, BIH4, CM1, CM2, CM3, CR1, CR2, LU2	SCEC	7/12	Zoom w/Municipal focus	
Focus Group Discussion	T1, T2, BIH1-5, CR1-6, E1-4, mm2, LU1, LU2	York Ready for Climate Action (YRCA)	8/6/2024	Luncheon for residents who are renting at the Baldwin Center, York Housing's largest campus	9
Distribute YRCA abbreviated survey	T1, T2, BIH1-5, CR1-6, E1-4, mm2, LU1, LU2	YRCA	7/26/2024	Survey created from discussion questions given out at the Center for Active Living	19
Distribute YRCA abbreviated survey	T1, T2, BIH1-5, CR1-6, E1-4, mm2, LU1, LU2	YRCA	7/25/2024	Survey created from discussion questions given out at a food pantry	
Distribute YRCA abbreviated survey	T1, T2, BIH1-5, CR1-6, E1-4, mm2, LU1, LU2	YRCA	7/31/2024	Survey created from discussion questions given out through their newsletter	68
Message board at ACTT event	CM1-3, CR1-6	UMaine Mitchell Center	7/22/2024	Message board for attendees of event to respond to the question "What are the biggest climate change challenges this community is facing?" at Islesford Art & Technology Park, Cranberry Isles ME	5
Group Discussion at Islesford Boatworks	All	UMaine Mitchell Center	8/8/2024	Q&A/Opportunity for people to read through MCC recommendations and provide feedback	10
Group Discussion with Bangor-area immigrant population	BIH1, BIH2, CR1, CR2, E1	UMaine Mitchell Center	8/17/2024	Existing event about renters rights at which Miles will gather input through a discussion of working group questions with the immigrant population there.	16

Table 4. Round 2 Working Group Priority Key

Working Group	WG Priority Number (assigned to allow for matching with activities and populations reached)	WG Priority Question
Transportation	T1	Accelerate Maine's transition to light-duty electric vehicles including plug-in hybrid vehicles.
Transportation	T2	Reduce vehicle miles traveled.
Transportation	T3	Accelerate Maine's adoption of zero-emission medium-and heavy duty vehicles.
Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing	BIH1	Continue the progress on making homes and businesses more energy efficient by investing in weatherization and heating systems.
Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing	BIH2	Establish strong systems to support rapid adoption and compliance with climate-friendly building codes and standards.
Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing	BIH3	Prompt the manufacture and use of climate-friendly building products.
Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing; Energy	BIH4	Support measures that both reduce carbon and improve resilience.
Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing; Energy	BIH5	Accelerate decarbonization in industrial processes.
Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing; Energy	BIH6	Continue to lead by example in publicly-funded buildings.
Coastal and Marine	CM1	Build healthy and resilient coastal communities and protect critical place-based infrastructure.
Coastal and Marine	CM2	Support climate adaptation of Maine's fishermen, aquaculture and seafood industries.
Coastal and Marine	CM3	Monitor, conserve and increase resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems.
Community Resilience	CR1	Empower Local and Regional Community Resilience Efforts
Community Resilience	CR2	Enhance state and local abilities to assess climate risks, prepare for and recover from natural disasters and adapt infrastructure and communities.
Community Resilience	CR3	Establish a framework for measuring the effectiveness of adaptation and resilience actions.

Working Group	WG Priority Number (assigned to allow for matching with activities and populations reached)	WG Priority Question
Community Resilience	CR4	Improve information and education about climate and health.
Community Resilience	CR5	Expand access to funding and financing for climate adaptation and emissions and reduction.
Community Resilience	CR6	Increase awareness and action on the mental health impacts of climate change.
Energy	E1	Decrease energy burdens while transitioning to clean energy.
Energy	E2	Plan and build the infrastructure needed to achieve 100% clean electricity by 2040.
Energy	E3	Manage the impact of buildings, vehicles and industry on the grid with load flexibility and innovation.
Energy	E4	Grow Maine's clean energy economy with a goal to support 30,000 clean energy jobs by 2030.
Natural and Working Lands	NWL1	Increase by 2030 the total acreage of conserved Natural and Working Lands in the state to 30%.
Natural and Working Lands	NWL2	Increase the amount of food consumed in Maine from state food producers to 30% by 2030.
Natural and Working Lands	NWL3	Develop new incentives to increase carbon storage.
Materials Management	MM1	Measure and reduce consumption-based emissions.
Materials Management	MM2	Advance policies and deploy funding resources to grow Maine's circular economy.
Materials Management	MM3	Reduce food loss and waste 50% by 2030.
Materials Management	MM4	Regionalize and scale up access to waste prevention and diversion services.
Materials Management	MM5	Foster resilience in the built environment through materials collection and reuse.
Materials Management	MM6	Reduce and capture methane emissions from Maine's waste sector.
Land Use	LU1	Promote smart growth to reduce emissions, prevent natural and working land conversion and create affordable housing.

Working Group	WG Priority Number (assigned to allow for matching with activities and populations reached)	WG Priority Question
Land Use	LU2	Provide technical assistance to community care and use proactive communication and engagement to support effective land use planning.
Land Use	LU3	Use incentives and regulations for land use policies that foster vibrant community centers, reduce sprawl and provide measurable benefits.

Appendix D - Community Oriented Engagements: Discussion Questions

The Mitchell Center team also provided a list of potential discussion questions partners could adapt to the specific focus of their engagements. Some partners transformed these questions into short surveys of their own that could be printed and distributed by hand or administered verbally at food pantries and other gathering places. Other partnering organizations took particular questions to craft community events around issues that were important in their communities; for example, questions around local food systems or job development in renewable energy.

Round 1 (January to May 2024). Maine Climate Council General Questions

- Prior to today's discussion, were you aware of the Maine Climate Council?
- Have you ever been involved in Maine Climate Council activities? (provide examples as needed - see [MCC website](#))
- Would you like to be involved in the Maine Climate Council's update to the climate plan that is occurring this year?
- What support would you need to become involved in these activities?

Community Resilience

- Have you felt or seen the effects of climate change in your own life? If so, how?
- Have you seen or heard some of the ways the state communicates climate change information to the public? (For example: in reports, websites, videos, emails, webinars, etc.)
- What challenges do you face in trusting or understanding climate change information?
 - Would you be more interested in climate change information if you were involved in data collection?
- Do you feel included in state-level decisions about climate change that might affect you?
 - Have you participated in state climate planning efforts?
 - If not, why not?
 - If so, in what ways?
- Have you participated in climate change planning efforts in your community?
 - If not, why not?
 - If so, in what ways?
- Would you like to be involved in climate change planning efforts in the future?
 - At the state level?
 - In your community?
- How/where do you prefer to receive climate change communication?
- Would you be more interested in climate change information if you were involved in data collection?
 - How would you like to be involved in collecting climate change data that the state considers when making planning decisions?
- Have you heard of the [Community Resilience Partnership](#)?
 - Is your community enrolled?
 - Did you attend the community workshop they held as part of the enrollment process?
 - If they are enrolled, how has your community benefited from the partnership?
- Imagine the state is giving out funds to towns and/or tribes for projects to help them be more prepared for climate change. What factors should be prioritized in these funding decisions to ensure decisions do not ignore populations most vulnerable to climate change effects?
- How much do you know about how your town or tribe plans for and implements infrastructure projects?

- Does your community have access to lists or maps of local climate-vulnerable areas or infrastructure (e.g., roads, bridges, public buildings)?
- Does your community incorporate data from these lists/maps into planning for improvements?
- What are some barriers to accessing lists and/or maps of infrastructure projects for your community?
- Have you used data from these lists/maps to help make infrastructure in your community more climate resilient?
- What are some barriers that make planning, prioritizing, and/or implementing climate vulnerable infrastructure projects harder for your community?
- What are some barriers that make identifying and applying federal grant funding for climate vulnerable infrastructure harder for your community?
- What could help your community address these barriers?
- What makes it difficult for your town/community to respond to natural hazard emergencies?
 - How do you hear about natural hazard emergencies that may affect you, such as storm alerts or flood warnings?

Natural and Working Lands, Coastal and Marine

- What natural resources do you regularly use or seek access to?
 - Have you ever felt excluded from accessing these resources?
 - What could help you access these resources easier?
 - How could these resources be more protected?
- [For municipal tribal government officials]: What barriers exist to access natural resource funding opportunities and technical assistance?
 - Have you sought funding for natural resource projects?
- If so, what type of funding? What are the most common ways that you access food?
- What percentage of the food you eat is grown/harvested/produced in the state of Maine?
 - How do you access local foods?
 - What makes it difficult for you to eat locally produced food? What could make it easier?
 - What would make it easier for you to eat locally produced foods? Are there any federal or state assistance programs that have helped you access local food? (e.g., SNAP, WIC, etc.)
- Are you interested in jobs in natural resource industries? What kinds?

- What, if anything, prevents you from pursuing a career in natural resources?
- What do you think would increase the diversity of workers in natural resource jobs?

Energy and Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing

People in Maine get most of their energy from fossil fuels, which contribute to many environmental & health problems, including climate change. **Alternative energy** sources include **renewable energy**, such as *solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower, tidal and wave power, and biomass*. It also includes **energy efficiency/conservation**, **electric heating**, **electric vehicles**, and **distributed generation**, which is *electricity generated close to where it is used (for example, rooftop solar panels, which can be off-grid or grid-connected)*. The following questions ask about your thoughts and opinions about these alternative energy options for you and your community.

- Which **renewable electricity options** you would like to see your community pursue? (e.g., wind, solar, geothermal, hydropower, biomass (wood, pellets, etc))
 - What might make it difficult for your community to adopt renewable energy?
- Have any large scale (1 Megawatt or greater) renewable energy projects been proposed and/or constructed in your community? If so, what types?
 - Did members of your community have adequate input into the project?
 - How was the community involved in the project?
- How do you think your community should be involved in large scale renewable energy projects (e.g., solar farms, wind turbines, dams for hydropower) when they are being considered in your community?
 - Would you attend public meetings about large scale renewable energy projects in your community?
 - What would it take to get you to a public meeting about large scale renewable energy projects in your community?
 - What benefits would you want to see from a large scale renewable energy project in your community
 - What concerns do you have about large scale renewable energy projects in your community?
 - "Community solar" refers to solar panels that are not on your property but that you benefit from directly. There are 2 main approaches:

1. **Subscription**: you sign a contract with a [solar company](#) (e.g., Nexamp, Ampion) to get 10-15% off electric rates to purchase solar energy instead of

energy from your utility; you pay nothing upfront (sometimes get a signup bonus) and pay 2 bills monthly - 1 to the solar company for your solar portion and 1 to the electric utility for the electricity you needed that the solar portion couldn't cover; cancel anytime.

2. **Ownership:** you and friends/neighbors each buy a portion of a large solar array or your town installs a large solar array and allocates you a portion of it; you may pay up front, get a loan, or your town may cover the upfront cost; you save 20-30% or more on electric rates until the upfront cost is paid off (~7 years) and then you save a much higher % for life of the array (~25 yrs).

- Are you a subscriber or owner of a community solar array? If so, which type (subscriber or owner) and which array?
 - What % do you save on your electricity bill from your community solar subscription/ownership share?
 - Are you interested in learning more about community solar?
 - What is the minimum average savings on your monthly electric bill you would need to sign up for a community solar project (subscription or community-owned)?
- Have you or your landlord made any energy efficiency improvements to your home? (e.g., insulation, air sealing, replacing windows, adding heat pumps, LED lights, solar panels, etc.)
 - If so, how have those improvements been working out for you?
 - Have you had any issues with them?
 - Are there additional energy-related improvements you would like to see in your home?
 - What might make it difficult for you to make these improvements?
- When the power goes out, do you have a backup source of electricity and/or heat for your home? If so, what? (e.g., diesel generator, power wall, electric vehicle, wood stove, etc.)
- There are rebates and tax breaks available for installing renewable energy on your home and making your home more energy efficient. The next questions ask about these incentives:

U.S. government

Federal tax credit of **30%** of system and installation costs for **renewable energy**: qualified solar electric, solar water heating, small wind energy, geothermal heat pump, battery storage technology (3 kWh or more), fuel cell property

Federal tax credit of **30%** of system and installation costs for **energy efficiency** improvements (up to a \$max): heat pumps & heat pump water heaters (\$2,000); insulation materials (\$1,200); home electric vehicle charger (\$1,000); energy efficient windows, air conditioners, heating equipment, water heaters & electric upgrades (\$600); home energy audit (\$150)

Efficiency Maine:

Up to **\$6,000** rebate for biomass boilers and furnaces

Up to **\$3,000** rebate for geothermal systems

Up to **\$4,000-\$8,000** rebate for whole-home heat pump installation, depending on income

Up to **\$4,000** rebate for partial-home heat pump installation for people with **LOW income***

***To prove eligibility for income-based options:** upload a copy of most recent tax return and fill out online [form](#) OR give permission for a qualifying program to verify your eligibility to Efficiency Maine directly (*Home Energy Assistance Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or MaineCare*).

- What is your reaction to these incentives? (e.g., are they surprising, exciting, confusing, etc.) Please elaborate.
 - Have you used any of these incentives before? If so, which ones?
 - Do you think you might use any of these incentives in the future? If so, which ones?
 - Please describe any challenges you faced in the process of learning about and/or accessing incentives for making your home more energy efficient.
- There are also assistance programs to help Mainer's cover their energy costs. The following questions ask about these programs:

[The Home Energy Assistance Program \(HEAP\)](#) helps qualified homeowners and renters pay heating fuel costs and heating-related repairs. The application involves a form and an interview. The benefit amount depends on household size, income and other factors.

[The Low Income Assistance Plan \(LIAP\)](#) helps low-income homeowners and

renters pay for electricity costs by providing a credit on their electric bills. The application is usually completed as part of the HEAP application (see above).

Maine Housing's [Weatherization Program](#) provides grants to homeowners and renters with low income to reduce energy costs by improving home energy efficiency (e.g., insulation, weather-stripping, caulking, some safety-related repairs). [Central Heating Improvement Program \(CHIP\)](#) grants may be used to repair or replace central heating systems.

- Which of these benefits has your household received? If not, why?
- Please describe any challenges you faced in the process of learning about and/or accessing energy assistance programs.
- Would you like to see your community make energy efficiency improvements to public buildings? (e.g., schools, libraries, community centers, town or tribal offices, etc.)
 - Why or why not?
 - What type of improvements?

Transportation

- How do you most regularly get around? (e.g., drive your own car, etc.)
- How far do you travel on a typical day?
- What are the reasons that you typically travel?
- Do you drive an electric vehicle?
 - What type of electric vehicle do you drive?
 - What year is the electric vehicle you drive?
 - If you own the vehicle, what year did you purchase it?
 - Where did you purchase it?
 - How far did you have to travel to purchase your electric vehicle?
 - Where do you charge your electric vehicle most of the time?
- What would make you more likely to buy an electric vehicle?
- How trustworthy do you think electric vehicles are? Please elaborate.
- Are you aware of any electric vehicle charging stations near where you live or work?
 - What type(s) of EV charging stations are near you?
 - Are they in convenient locations?
 - Are they typically crowded or readily available?
 - Is the cost to charge your EV affordable compared to the cost to fill a gasoline tank in other cars you have driven?

- Most of the time, where do you charge your electric vehicle?
- Do you use public transportation?
 - What types exist near you?
 - Are there service stops within walking distance of your home or workplace?
 - How would you get to and from service stops?
 - What makes it difficult for you to use public transportation?
- Have you heard of [GOMaine](#)?
 - What do you like about it?
 - What do you think could improve this program?
- What types of **alternative transportation options** would you like to see your community pursue? (e.g., more public transportation options, improving walkability or bikeability, bike or car share programs, EV charging stations, etc.)
- There are discounts, rebates, and tax breaks available for buying an electric vehicle. The following questions ask about these incentives:

U.S. government:

Up to \$7,500 tax credit on **NEW** electric vehicle purchase by people with annual income up to \$300,000

Efficiency Maine:

\$3,000 to \$7,500 discount or rebate on **NEW** electric vehicle purchase by people of **LOW income***

\$2,500 discount or rebate on **USED** electric vehicle purchase by people of **LOW income***

\$2,000 to \$3,500 discount or rebate on **NEW** electric vehicle purchase by people of **MODERATE income** (\$70,000-\$100,000 annual income)

\$1,000 to \$2,000 discount or rebate on **NEW** electric vehicle purchase by people of **ANY income**.

***To prove eligibility for income-based options:** upload a copy of most recent tax return and fill out an online [form](#) OR give permission for a qualifying program to verify your eligibility to Efficiency Maine directly (*Home Energy Assistance Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or MaineCare*).

The low end of each range is for **plug-in hybrid electric vehicles** (gas & electric). The high end of each range is for **fully electric vehicles** (only electric).

You get a direct **discount** if you buy a vehicle from one of the Participating Dealers on the map below (also listed on Efficiency Maine's [website](#)). You get a **rebate** if you buy or lease directly from the manufacturer. Cars can't cost more than \$50,000. Trucks can't cost more than \$80,000.

Map of Participating Dealers



- What is your reaction to these incentives? (e.g., are they surprising, exciting, confusing, etc.) Please elaborate.
- Have you used any of these incentives before? If so, which ones?
- Do you think you might use any of these incentives in the future? If so, which ones?
- Please describe any challenges you faced in the process of learning about and/or accessing incentives for electric vehicles.

Conclusion

- Other than alternative energy and a changing climate, what are **your biggest concerns/needs** right now for your community? (*for example, concerns about access to healthy food, clean water, employment, waste disposal, etc.*)
- What sources of information do you trust the most when it comes to decision making about your home, your mode of transportation, and your community? (e.g., local newspaper/TV, specific organizations/websites, friends/family, social media, etc.)
- It is helpful for the purposes of this study to also collect demographic & other background information about participants, including:
 - Where do you live? (zip code)
 - Do you own or rent your home?
 - What type of home do you live in? (e.g., single family, multi-family, mobile home, etc.)
 - What year was your home built?
 - How many people live in your household, including you?
 - Are you a landlord?
 - Are you an employee of your municipality or tribe?
 - Do you own a business?
 - Please describe your race and/or ethnicity.
 - What is your current gender identity?
 - Please identify your age (years).
 - Please select the highest level of education you have completed.
 - Do you have any physical, mental, or cognitive disabilities?
 - Are you employed?
 - If so, part or full time?
 - What type of job?
 -
 - What is your annual household income?
 - Please describe your political affiliation.

Round 2 (May to August 2024).

Buildings, Infrastructure & Housing

1. Do these recommendations seem appropriate for the next climate action plan? Is anything missing from these recommendations? What do you think is most important?

2. What types of weatherization and heating systems do you find most interesting and accessible? Do you feel that there are sufficient rebates and incentives to support installation and maintenance?
3. What kind of support have you received in the adoption of climate-friendly solutions and standards? What kind of support would you like to see (examples: rebates, tax breaks, consultations, community support)?
4. What kinds of “climate-friendly building products” have you heard of?
5. What does carbon reduction mean to you? How do you think of reducing carbon in your own life? How do you think of reducing carbon in your industry?

Coastal and Marine

1. Do these recommendations seem appropriate for the next climate action plan? Is anything missing from these recommendations? What do you think is most important?
2. What does a healthy/resilient community look like to you? What kind of infrastructure does your community need to thrive (examples: roads, power lines, sewer systems, bridges, docks and piers)? What does it have already that you want to maintain or improve?
3. [Question directed for fisherpeople] What are concerns regarding adaptation in your industry? What do you want to see and what do you not want to see change? How can your community and state government help you get there?
4. How are you directly impacted by the fishing industry? Have you seen the impacts of recent changes in weather/restrictions/fish abundance?
5. Do you want to see more community driven science and be involved in the process of data collection? Have you noticed any data gaps in recent studies that are being published? Do you think that researchers are studying the appropriate areas/topics regarding coastal and marine ecosystems? What kinds of research does your coastal community need to succeed in achieving resilience?

Community Resilience

1. Do these recommendations seem appropriate for the next climate action plan? Is anything missing from these recommendations? What do you think is most important?
2. Community resilience could be thought of as the ability of a community to prepare for, respond to, and adapt from a stressor (examples: flood, drought, wildfire). What does the term “community resilience” mean to you? What might this look like in your community?

3. Do these recommendations seem appropriate for the next climate action plan? Is anything missing from these recommendations? What do you think is most important?
4. Community resilience could be thought of as the ability of a community to prepare for, respond to, and adapt from a stressor (examples: flood, drought, wildfire). What does the term “community resilience” mean to you? What might this look like in your community?
5. How can your community be supported in their resilience efforts? What resources, communication, or engagement would be most helpful to assess and respond to climate risks in your community?
 - a. Maine Climate Council's Recommendations: Recognize the importance of grassroots resilience efforts and provide necessary support and resources to enhance community resilience.
6. What infrastructure vulnerabilities do you recognize in your community (examples: roads, power lines, sewer systems, bridges, docks and piers)? What criteria should be used to assess climate risks to infrastructure and prioritize them?
 - a. Maine Climate Council's Recommendations: Recognize the importance of assessing and prioritizing infrastructure improvements to enhance resilience to climate change impacts and protect public health.
7. What resources can a state-run Climate Psychology Task Force provide for addressing mental health and climate communications? How can the task force collaborate with existing climate initiatives?
 - a. Maine Climate Council's Recommendations: Recognize the importance of mental health and psychological resilience in climate engagement and provide support and best practices through the Climate Psychology Task Force.

Energy

1. Do these recommendations seem appropriate for the next climate action plan? Is anything missing from these recommendations? What do you think is most important?
2. How do you currently manage your energy costs, and what challenges do you face?
3. What support or resources would help you reduce your energy expenses while transitioning to clean energy?
4. Are there any specific clean energy solutions you are interested in, such as solar panels or energy-efficient appliances?

5. What infrastructure improvements do you think are necessary to achieve 100% clean electricity in our community?
6. How can we ensure that the transition to clean electricity is both efficient and equitable?
7. What role do you see for local businesses and industries in supporting this transition?
8. How do you think we can balance the energy demands of buildings, vehicles, and industry on the power grid? What innovative solutions or technologies do you believe could help manage these demands?
9. How can we encourage more sustainable practices in our community's buildings and transportation?
10. What opportunities do you see for job creation in the clean energy sector in our community?
11. How can we ensure that these new jobs are accessible to a diverse range of people, including those from marginalized communities?
12. What types of training or education programs would be beneficial to prepare our workforce for clean energy jobs?

Natural and Working Lands

1. Do these recommendations seem appropriate for the next climate action plan? Is anything missing from these recommendations? What do you think is most important?
2. What types of lands should be prioritized in the Climate Council's land conservation goal; 30% of Maine lands in conservation by 2030? Where should these lands be?
 - a. Maine Climate Council's Recommendations: What type of lands: lands with high biodiversity value, high carbon storage and sequestration, cultural and economic importance, and/or which offer opportunities to improve public access equitably. With a focus on farmland. Where should they be: The majority of Maine's conserved lands lie in undeveloped, rural parts of the state, raising concerns about the equitability of property tax responsibilities. Meanwhile, conserved lands in more developed parts of coastal and southern Maine may disproportionately benefit affluent populations.
3. What type of funding do you think is needed for this work? What capacity is needed? How should funding be used? (examples: technical training, increased staff, building partnerships between agencies and other organizations)
 - a. Maine Climate Council's Recommendations: \$50 million per year of funds;

conservation acquisition and stewardship staff of land management agencies

4. What are barriers to people eating more Maine produced food? Do we need a Maine-based food marketing strategy - if yes, what would that look like?
 - a. Maine Climate Council's Recommendations: Create a Maine Food Plan that includes a Maine-based food marketing strategy
5. What does 'climate friendly forest management' look like to you? Climate-friendly practices may include:
 - a. Thinning and harvesting operations to limit overcrowding and promote sustainable growth
 - b. Prescribed fire applications to manage fuel loads and reduce wildfire risk
 - c. Site preparation practices such as bedding and herbicide prescriptions may help trees defend themselves against current and new threats such as pests and competing vegetation
 - d. Planting diverse mixture of species or genetic traits to decrease chances of extensive forest loss
6. What help do landowners need to engage in climate friendly practices?
 - a. Maine Climate Council's Recommendations: Provide incentives to forest landowners, foresters, and loggers to increase the implementation of climate-friendly practices. Increase the availability of technical assistance, training, and education for forest landowners, foresters, and loggers to increase the application of climate-friendly forest practices. Improve forest carbon data, monitoring, and verification to support forest policymaking and outreach program development.

Transportation

1. Do these recommendations seem appropriate for the next climate action plan? Is anything missing from these recommendations? What do you think is most important?
2. How will the state encourage and support the adoption of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles among residents? What incentives or programs will be introduced to accelerate this shift? How can Efficiency Maine help in the adoption of EVs?
Maine Climate Council's Recommendations: Recognizes the importance of accelerating Maine's shift to light-duty electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.
3. What strategies should be prioritized to reduce vehicle miles traveled across the state? Expanding public transportation? GoMaine's rideshare program? More

walkable, bikeable streets and communities? How will these strategies address both urban and rural transportation needs?

Maine Climate Council's Recommendations: Acknowledges the need to reduce vehicle miles traveled as a crucial step in decreasing overall emissions and traffic congestion.

4. What measures will be taken to promote the adoption of zero-emission medium and heavy-duty vehicles? How will the state collaborate with industry stakeholders to achieve this goal?

Maine Climate Council's Recommendations: Emphasizes the significance of accelerating Maine's adoption of zero-emission medium and heavy-duty vehicles to further reduce transportation-related emissions.

Materials Management Task Force

1. Do these recommendations seem appropriate for the next climate action plan? Is anything missing from these recommendations? What do you think is most important?
2. Consumption-based emissions come from the goods and services we use, regardless of where these goods are produced, and include waste from food, construction, transportation, clothing, electronics and other appliances. What are some of the ways we can reduce these emissions?
3. What does the term "circular economy" mean to you? In what ways can you increase reuse, refurbishing, recycling and composting in your community? What are the barriers to circular economics in your household, your community, or in Maine, generally? What would make it easier?
4. What are your ideas for reducing food waste?
5. What does your community need to increase access to waste prevention: recycling, composting, and other diversion services?
 - a. Paper is one of the most recyclable materials
 - b. Xmas trees and food waste for wood chips and compost
 - c. Metals: steel, aluminum, copper, brass and zinc are the most recyclable
 - d. Electronics and appliances
 - e. Construction materials and other large items

Appendix E1 - April/May 2024 Presentations to Working Groups

Throughout this process, the Mitchell Center team met weekly or more frequently with GOPIF staff to communicate progress, adjust plans, and address questions as they arose. The Mitchell Center presented the results from early engagements and preliminary survey results to the six MCC working groups in April/May (Table 5). Each presentation included findings from a master spreadsheet of direct engagement results that had been completed up until one or two weeks prior to the presentation. The Mitchell Center team and their community partners continued to lead engagements during this time; working group presentations scheduled later in May included additional results from these engagements compared to the presentations in April/early May.

During each presentation, the Mitchell Center team reiterated that input from Wabanaki scholars indicated that it is inappropriate to engage Wabanaki Nations as “priority populations” without government-to-government relationships that honor and respect sovereignty. Thus, the presentations did not contain results from engagements with Wabanaki citizens and instead included a slide about the ongoing effort to support GOPIF and Wabanaki Nations in identifying a pathway for Wabanaki engagement all parties can agree to. GOPIF made the presentations available to all working group members after each meeting so they could consider the results as they deliberated over their recommendations.

Table 5. Schedule of April and May 2024 presentations to the Maine Climate Council Working Groups.

Working Group	Date of Presentation
Natural and Working Lands	April 30, 2024
Coastal and Marine	May 15, 2024
Buildings, Infrastructure and Housing	May 21, 2024
Transportation	May 22, 2024
Community Resilience	May 23, 2024

Energy	May 23, 2024
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Working groups then had approximately two weeks to finalize their recommendations to the Maine Climate Council at the June 18 meeting.

Buildings, Infrastructure & Housing Working Group (May 21, 2024)

Amplifying Voices: Representing Diverse Perspectives

— Buildings, Infrastructure & Housing —
Working Group

May Progress Check-In

Reminder of the Project 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.

The Mitchell Center Team's Role



- Develop engagement topics based on Equity Subcommittee Report (ESC) from March 2023 and Working Group (WG) feedback in January 2024
- Collaborate & contract with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Engage with Priority Populations (PPs) & support CBO engagements
- Support engagement approaches that are appropriate and natural for CBOs and PPs & fit within the predetermined timeline
- Communicate feedback from PPs and CBOs to WGs to inform WG recommendations to the Maine Climate Council (today's presentation)
- The inclusion of equity consideration lies with WGs in their recommendations (and then the Council broadly)

Original Priority Populations List from GOPIF

- 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



We are continuing conversations with Wabanaki partners, building on multi-year relationships

- 2018-2021 Klein, Ranco, Hart, Penobscot Nation, "Future of Dams" (*Penobscot citizens and DNR staff*)
- 2021-2023 Klein, Lamb, Penobscot Nation & Passamaquoddy Tribe, "Community Window Insert Builds & Energy Justice" (*Penobscot & Passamaquoddy citizens & Housing staff*)
- 2022-2023 Klein, Lamb, Penobscot Nation, Passamaquoddy Tribe, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, "Community Resilience Partnership Enrollment" (*citizens & staff from 3 tribes*)
- 2023-2024 Klein, Lamb, ACTT, "Intertribal Solar Cooperative" (*citizens & staff from each Wabanaki nation*)
- 2023-2027+ Klein, Lamb, Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Team, "EPA Star Grant" (*citizens and/or tribal government staff from each Wabanaki nation*)



So far, iterative conversations have underscored the importance of

- Not including Wabanaki nations among a list of “priority populations”
- Recognizing Tribal Sovereignty
- Facilitating Government to Government interactions (e.g., Chiefs, Tribal Council)
- Incorporating tribal decision-making authority in the climate plan process
- Addressing historic injustices

As we continue to learn more about how we can support Government-to-Government interactions:

We are especially grateful to Dr. Darren Ranco, Jasmine Lamb, Dr. Natalie Michelle, and Ambassador Bryant for their time and continued efforts in empowering the voices of Wabanaki Tribes.

Current Timeline

1. Report to WG about 1st round of engagements -- mid-May 2024
2. Second round of engagement activities -- Summer 2024
3. Report to MCC about 2nd round -- September 2024



Photo from Maine Sustainability and Water Conference session

Thank you for earlier input on your priority questions!

1. Barriers to energy efficiency & clean energy improvements in households of all types, including rental
2. Awareness, preferences, & barriers related to different approaches to community solar & residential distributed energy (solar, wind, battery); especially for affordable housing & renters
3. Barriers for accessing HEAP & LIAP benefits & weatherization services; characteristics of eligible households receiving/not receiving these benefits
4. Awareness & barriers regarding energy efficient building codes

Thank you to the **2** members of Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing WG who responded to our survey of Working Groups!

Our engagement plan built on existing & planned activities

2023-2027 EPA Star grant *"The role of state networks in advancing community-initiated and -engaged sustainable energy action in underserved communities"*

- Community Sustainable Energy Team (Sep 2023-present)
 - representatives from 6 communities with "high" social vulnerability
- Maine Community Alternative Energy Survey (April-June 2024)
- Maine Community Alternative Energy Focus group (April 3, 2024)
- Maine Sustainability & Water Conference session 2 (March 28, 2024)
- MAINECAN: the Maine community-led Energy & Climate Action Network

We incorporated MCC questions in these existing/planned engagements & existing classes/meetings we were involved in

From this foundation, we were able to “quickly” develop contracts with 9 community-based organizations

- A Climate To Thrive
- Center for an Ecology-Based Economy
- Coastal Enterprises Inc.
- Community Organizing Alliance
- Kennebec Valley Community Action Partnership
- Maine Council on Aging
- Maine Environmental Education Association
- PassivhausME
- Sunrise County Economic Council

We are also in the process of exploring a contract with the Island Institute

In addition, we have multiple partners supporting this effort in other ways:

- Governor’s Cabinet on Aging
 - Maine Community Action Partnership
 - MCAN!
 - Resilient Communities L3C
 - UMaine Center on Aging
 - WindowDressers
 - Mano e Mano
-

To-date, we have collaboratively completed 29 engagements for this 1st round

- Over **1,000** members of Priority Populations reached
 - Working Group-specific topics
 - Maine Climate Council general topics
- A **variety of engagement approaches**
 - Day-long conference sessions
 - Panels
 - Focus group discussions (ex: at low-income housing, older adult housing)
 - Participation at festivals/shows
 - Community discussions
 - Round Tables (ex: Pathways to Clean Energy Jobs, Climate Change & Food Justice)
 - Teach-ins
 - Webinars
 - Surveys

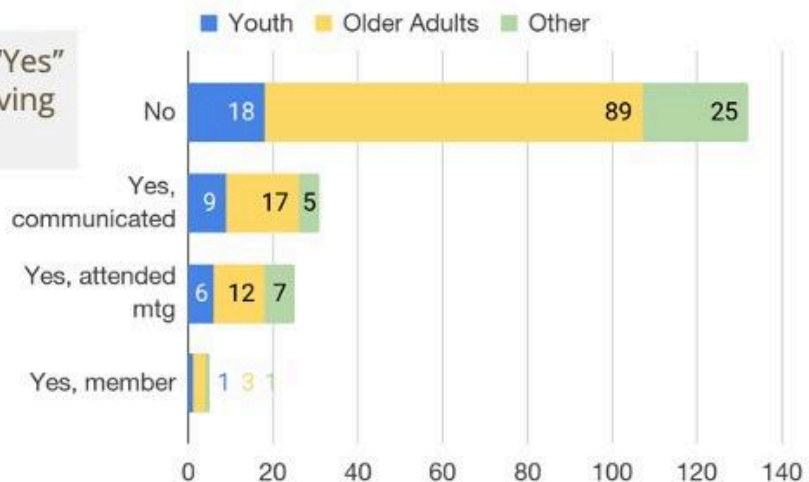
Photo courtesy of
Community
Organizing Alliance



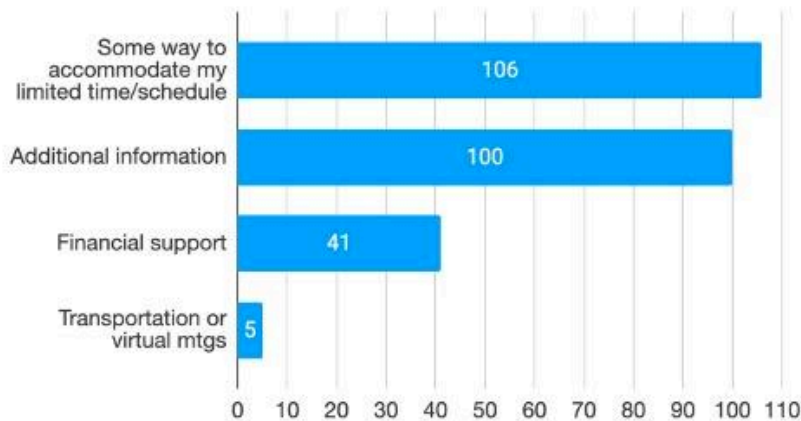
Survey Results: Have you ever been involved in Maine Climate Council activities?

61% of 352 responded "Yes" or "Maybe a little" to having heard of the MCC

68% do/may want to be involved in this update



What type of support would you need to be involved in the Maine Climate Council's update to the climate plan?



"We need to put resources into public engagement on a totally different level, social media engagement, a marketing campaign to really highlight civic engagement as valuable and actually crucial to our lives."

GOOD NEWS: 86% of 63 respondents trust climate change info from the State

When asked 'What are the biggest needs for you/your community?':

54% wrote in a *related issue* including:

- Housing shortages and the need to reduce housing costs
- Reduce heating and energy costs
- Walkable, bikeable, resilient communities
- Waste management, both in terms of landfills and recycling

An additional 12% noted *Climate Change*

Data from Maine Citizen Survey, priority population respondents

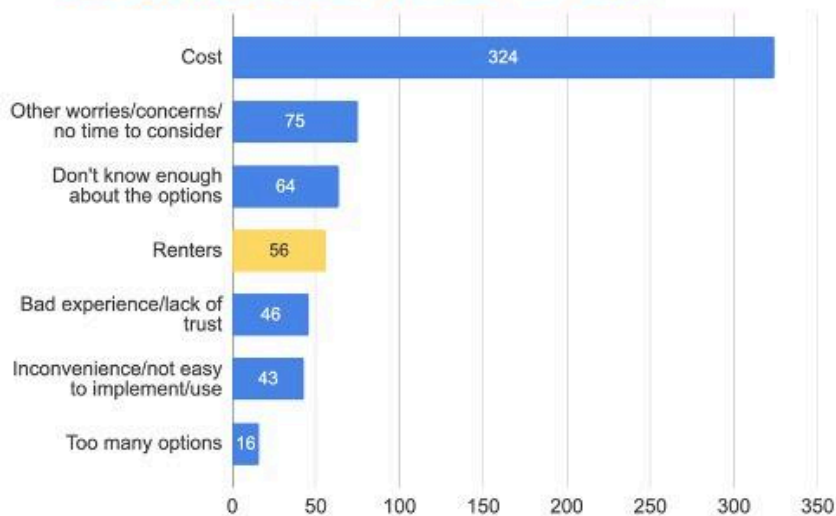
Photo from Maine Sustainability and Water Conference session



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



What makes it difficult for you to implement alternative energy options in your own life?



For one student, even though they pay for all their utilities, their landlord does very little to change the infrastructure. The place this person is staying would be a perfect place for a heat pump system but there's no incentive for the landlord to change anything

We asked survey respondents to review existing programs...

There are many programs that offer financial help for installing renewable energy on your home and making your home more energy efficient. The following questions ask about these incentives:

U.S. government

Federal tax credit of **30%** of system and installation costs for **renewable energy**: qualified solar electric, solar water heating, small wind energy, geothermal heat pump, battery storage technology (3 kWh or more), fuel cell property

Federal tax credit of **30%** of system and installation costs for **energy efficiency** improvements (up to a \$max): heat pumps & heat pump water heaters (\$2,000); insulation materials (\$1,200); home electric vehicle charger (\$1,000); energy efficient windows, air conditioners, heating equipment, water heaters & electric upgrades (\$600); home energy audit (\$150)

Maine Housing:

FREE Heat Pumps and [Weatherization](#) to a limited number of eligible households (*homeowners that are eligible for HEAP - see below*).

The [Home Energy Assistance Program \(HEAP\)](#) helps qualified homeowners and renters pay heating fuel costs and heating-related repairs. The application involves a form and an interview. The benefit amount depends on household size, income and other factors

The [Low Income Assistance Plan \(LIAP\)](#) helps low-income homeowners and renters pay for electricity costs by providing a credit on their electric bills. The application is usually completed as part of the HEAP application (see above).

WindowDressers:

FREE insulating window inserts for people with LOW income (income eligibility determined through community-led program)

...at multiple levels (federal, state, community)

Efficiency Maine:

Up to **\$6,000** rebate for biomass boilers and furnaces

Up to **\$3,000** rebate for geothermal systems

Up to **\$4,000-\$8,000** rebate for whole-home heat pump installation, depending on income

Up to **\$4,000** rebate for partial-home heat pump installation for people with **LOW income***

FREE heat pump water heaters for people with **LOW income***

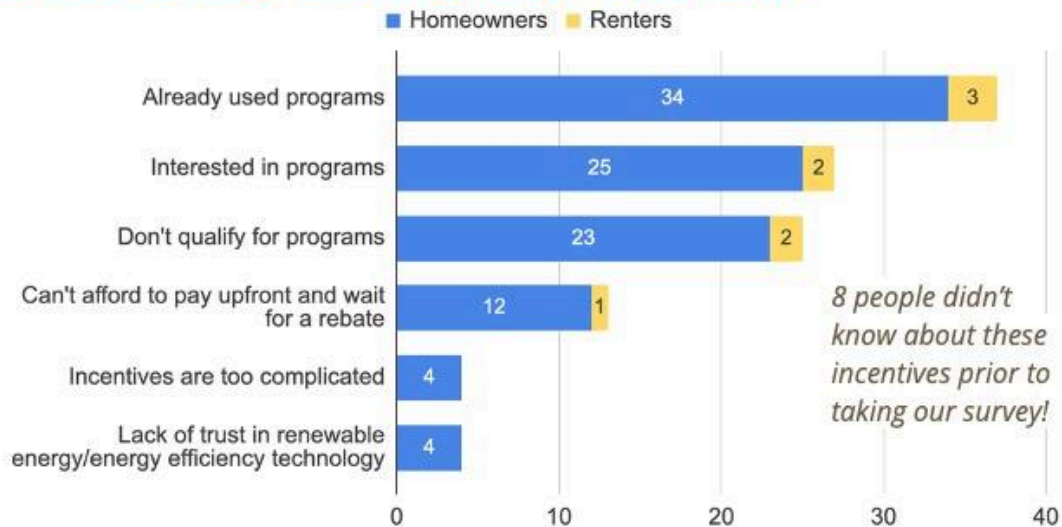
Up to **\$850** savings on heat pump water heaters for people of any income

Up to **\$4,000 to \$8,000** rebate on insulation and/or air sealing, depending on income

Home energy loans of **\$1,000 to \$7,500** at 5.99% APR fixed for homeowners with **LOW income***

***To prove eligibility for Efficiency Maine income-based options:** upload a copy of most recent tax return and fill out online [form](#) OR give permission for a qualifying program to verify your eligibility to Efficiency Maine directly (*HEAP, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or MaineCare*).

When survey respondents were asked about incentives related to energy efficiency, they responded...



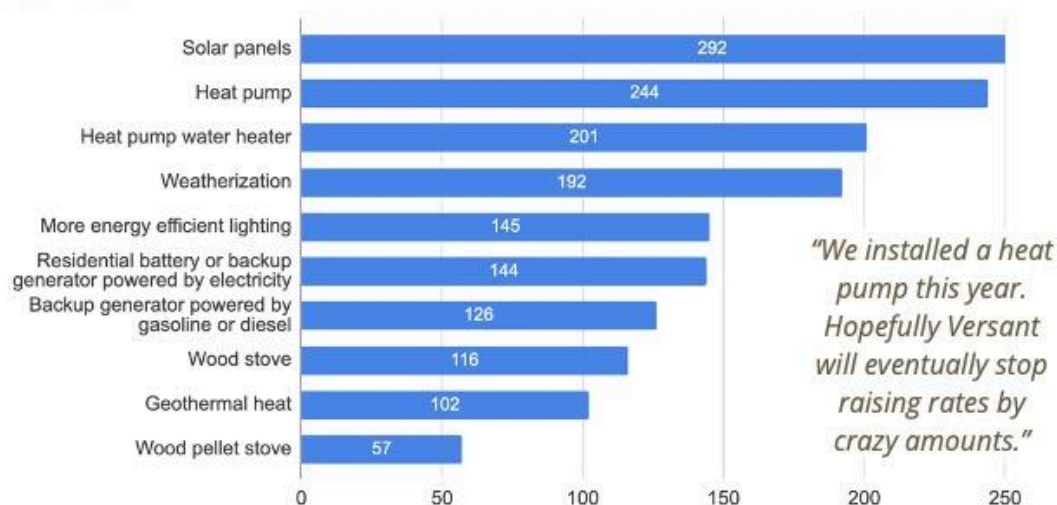
Although survey respondents did not express much confusion about incentives, older populations expressed confusion in focus groups...

"So much information out there, it was so confusing after reading everything to see what I could qualify for. After reviewing everything, I didn't even know what I was eligible for!"

"Need step by step process on what to do first."

"Paperwork is a huge barrier and have categorical programs, only for x, y, z... creates a lot of barrier to entry."

What alternative energy/energy efficiency options are people most interested in?



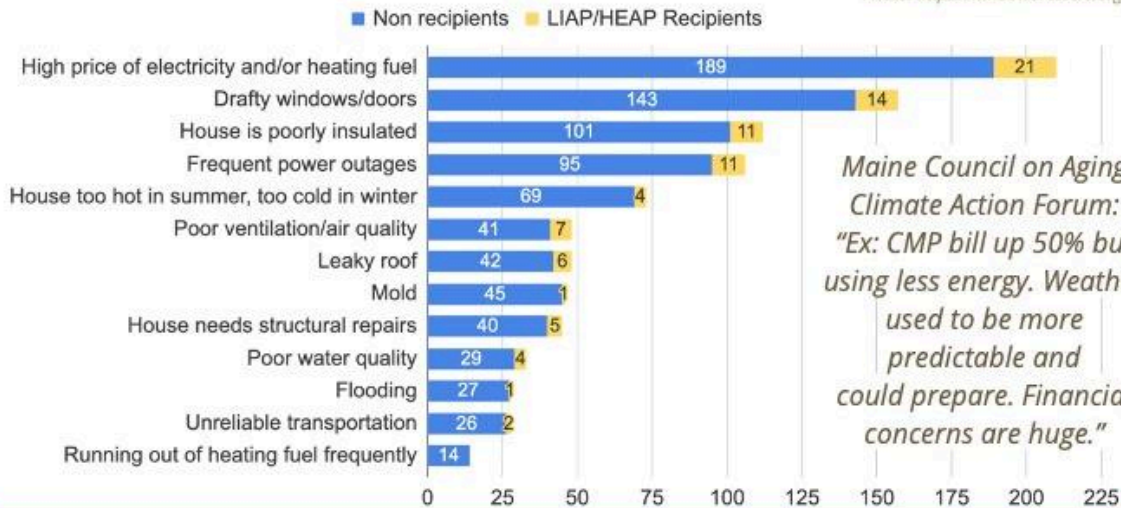
Q2: What barriers exist for accessing HEAP & LIAP benefits and weatherization services? What are the characteristics of eligible households receiving/not receiving these benefits?



People experience multiple energy-related problems in their homes



Photo: <https://windowdressers.org/volunteer/>



*Maine Council on Aging
Climate Action Forum:
"Ex: CMP bill up 50% but
using less energy. Weather
used to be more
predictable and
could prepare. Financial
concerns are huge."*

LiHEAP & LIAP benefits can be difficult to understand/access

- Since rules changed, installs in the Lincoln area have gone from 300-350 down to 40
- Many people don't qualify for assistance but still have a hard time affording weatherization services
- There is fear that new projects will be technologically challenging, especially for older adults
- Many people do not understand or are not aware of the available assistance, especially older adults
- Even when they are aware, there is a generational concern with not wanting to "accept a handout"; "don't want to take from someone else" "other people need more than I"
- Drafty and poorly weatherized homes and heating security are commonly cited problems in Washington County

It is difficult to serve the full demand for energy assistance...

CAP agency:

"We are getting the word out, but then funding is cut. Hard to not be able to help everyone who needs it. We do significant outreach into the community – and get into the buildings where older people live in congregate settings. There are a lot of funding issues. We need assistance in outreach, could be full time job in itself."

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

- *"As an independent auditor, I don't make any money off of what I tell people, it's just advice" but there are private contractors who are incentivized to promote a specific company– "most insulation contractors were relieved when that Efficiency Maine rebate got taken away"*
- Enforcement and understanding in rural areas is lacking
- The attendees worried that the general population of builders are not equipped enough to address their retrofit needs without worrying that it could cause an unhealthy home.



Interior of an efficient post and beam home, constructed by Burnham & Lebowitz Builders in Freeport. It was constructed using a continuous, air-tight, well-insulated exterior outer shell with R-35 walls and an R-65 roof. Photo by Tim Greenway.

Training in Fort Kent by Randy Rand of Passivhaus



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?

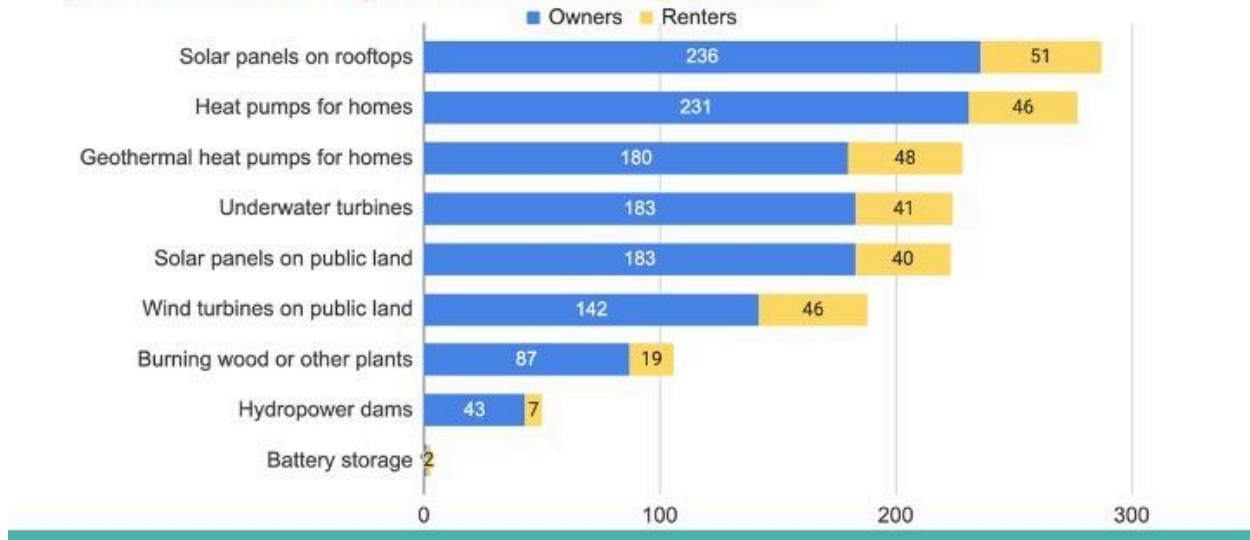


When asked about their preferences, participants recommended...

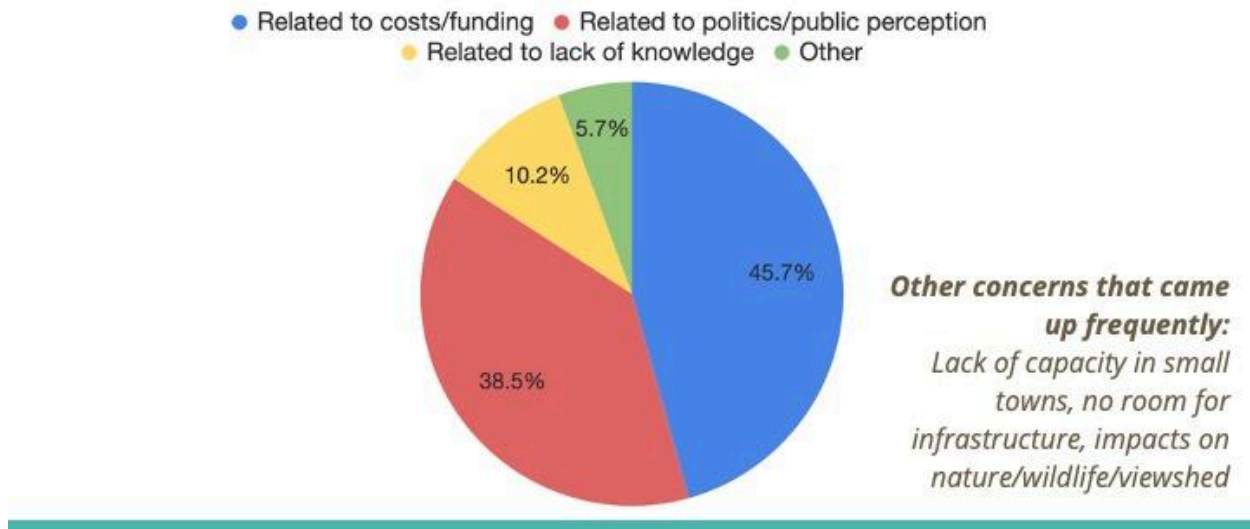
- Building transportation infrastructure and encourage dense housing in walkable communities ahead of increased population that will come with climate change and climate refugees
- Solar farms on capped landfills, superfund sites
- Reducing tax burden and municipal energy costs for communities
- Citizens are concerned about the aesthetic impacts of wind farms



When asked, “Which renewable energy options would you like to see your community pursue?”



When asked, “What might make it difficult for your local government to support or adopt renewable energy options?”



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?



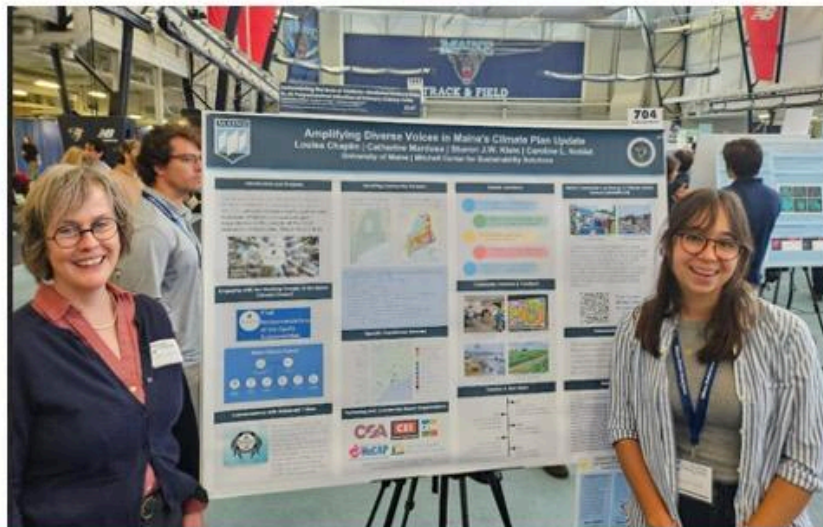
When it comes to indoor air quality...

- People in low income residential facilities commented on poor temperature control; drafty windows, faulty heating systems, a lack of air conditioning.
- This is great concern with many contractors; they feel the understanding in the industry isn't there or they can't find a trade partner to consider indoor air quality or install an appropriate system. Training more people to complete this work is needed.

What's next....As you work on your recommendations

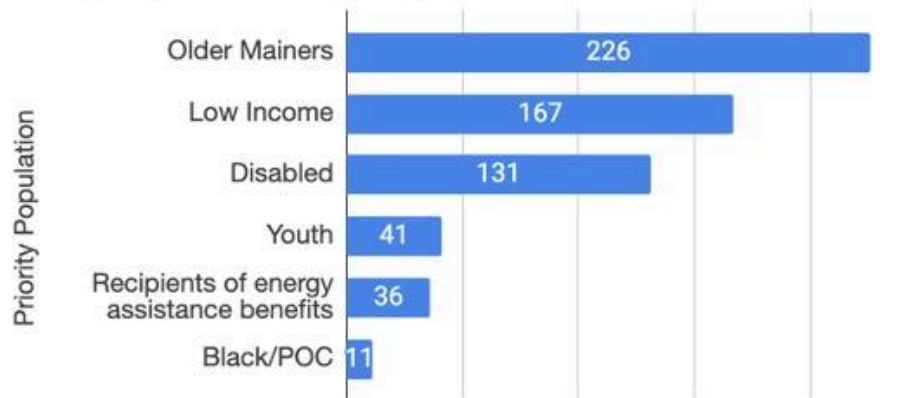
1. Cross-WG Learning: as we do presentations to the next 3 Working Groups this week, GOPIF will share presentations with WG co-chairs
 - a. Buildings, Infrastructure & Housing WG had some similar topics to Energy WG
 - b. Transportation WG had topics related to some Buildings, Infrastructure & Housing themes
2. How can we be helpful to you? (anything you saw here today that you'd like follow up on?)
3. Second round of engagement activities -- Summer 2024
 - a. Are there groups you really need to hear from, or hear more from?

Thank you!



Appendix 1: Who responded to our survey?

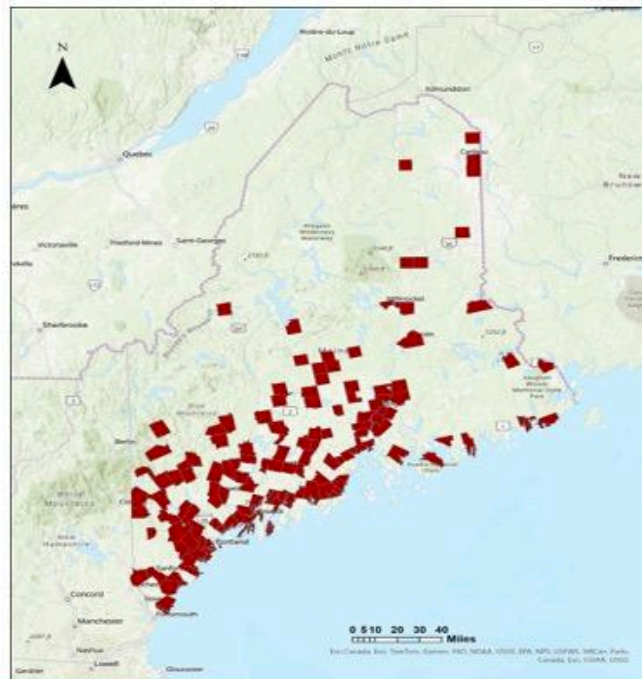
Priority Population Survey Responses



Number of Responses

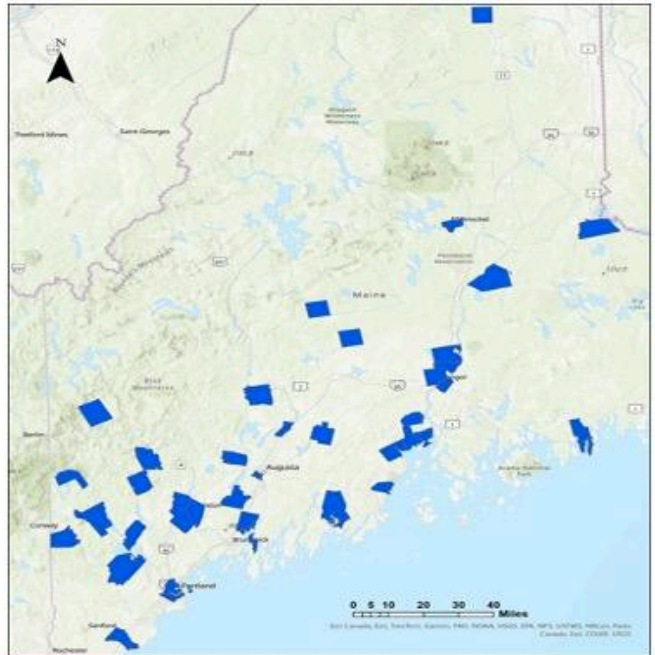
Priority Population

- Community members from each of these communities participated in our survey



Priority Population

- Members of these disadvantaged communities answered questions specifically about Buildings, Infrastructure & Housing topics



Coastal and Marine Working Group (May 15, 2024)

Amplifying Voices: Representing Diverse Perspectives

Coastal and Marine
Working Group

May Progress Check-In

Reminder of the Project 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.

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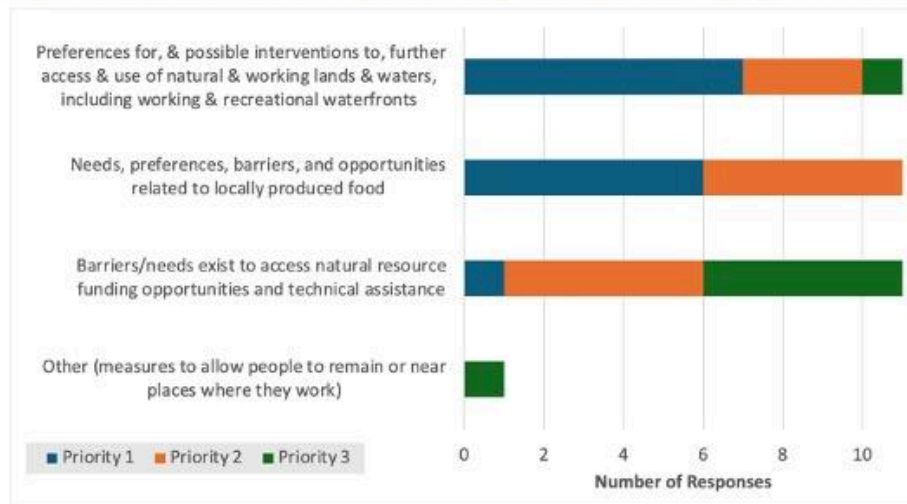
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Photo from Maine Sustainability and Water Conference session

Thank you for earlier input on your priority questions!



Thank you to the 21 members of C&M WG who responded to our survey of Working Groups!

Our engagement plan built on existing & planned activities

2023-2027 EPA Star grant *"The role of state networks in advancing community-initiated and -engaged sustainable energy action in underserved communities"*

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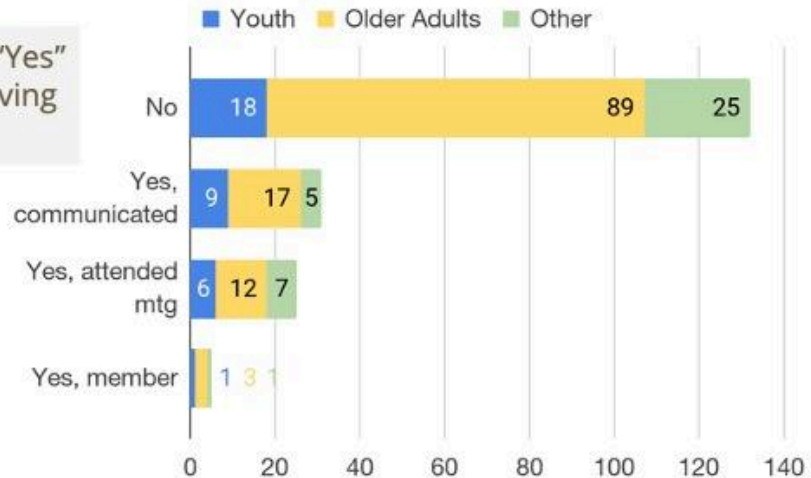
Photo courtesy of
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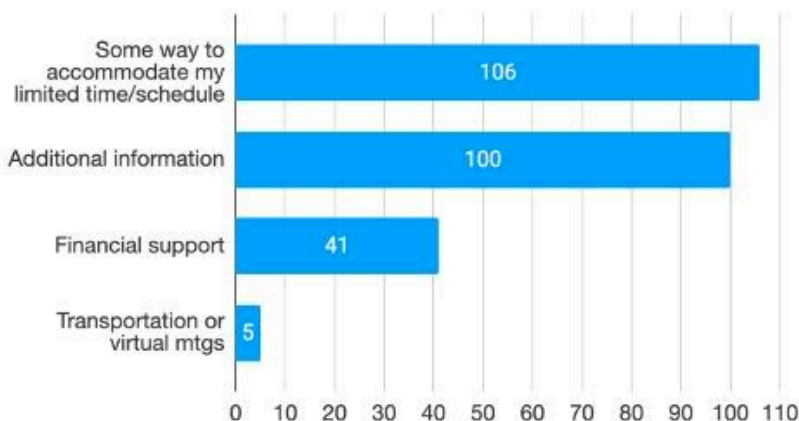
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"We need to put resources into public engagement on a totally different level, social media engagement, a marketing campaign to really highlight civic engagement as valuable and actually crucial to our lives."

GOOD NEWS: 86% of 63 respondents trust climate change info from the State

When asked 'What are the biggest needs for you/ your community?':

10% wrote in a *related issue* including:

- Healthy/Local Food
- Clean Water
- Preservation and/or conservation of natural spaces; Sustainability

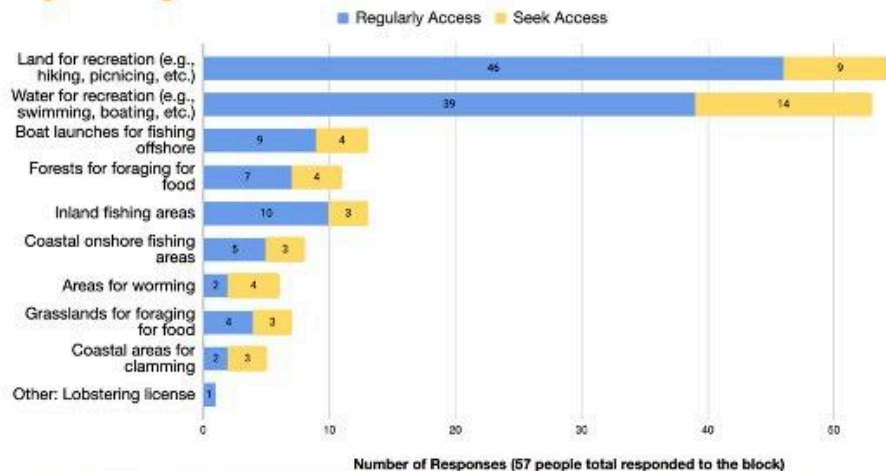
An additional 12% noted *Climate Change*

Data from Maine Citizen Survey,
priority population respondents

Photo from Maine
Sustainability and Water
Conference session



Q1: What are perceptions, barriers, preferences, and possible interventions related to access to and use of green space, natural and working lands and waters, including working and recreational waterfronts?



From SCEC survey: 100% of rural survey respondents report using natural and working lands and waters for food and recreation; nearly all use multiple resources, e.g. forest gathering AND hunting or fishing, etc.

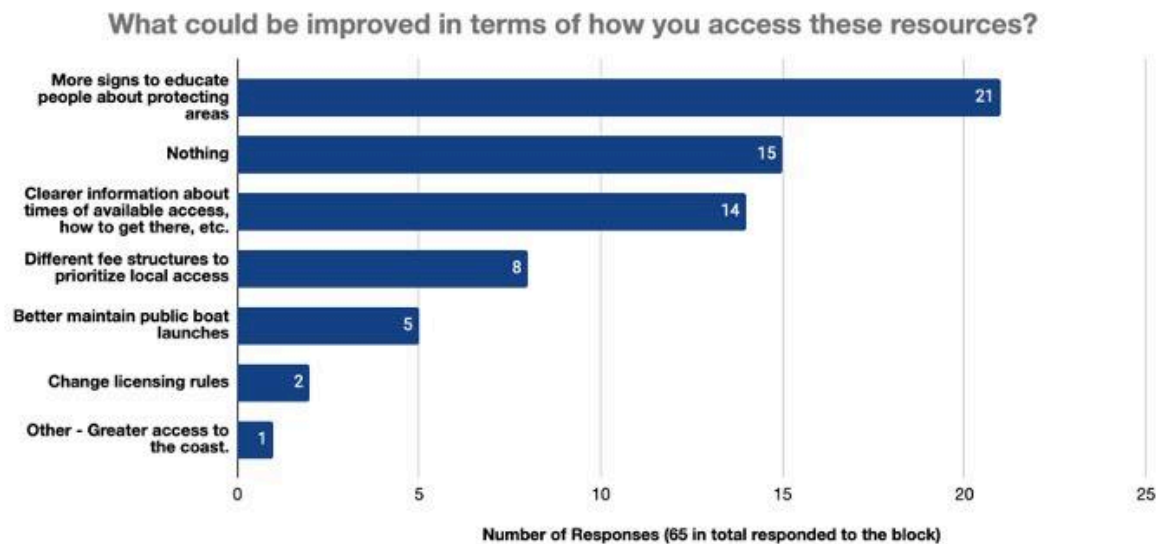
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Barriers to access

- Lack of information about what's available
- Language barriers
- Cost of access (parking, fees - often high due to tourism)
- Transportation to resources sites (recreational and working); associated costs
- Processes to gain access may prohibit use (forms, application fees, communicating with administrators, systemic inequalities)

Barriers to use

- Changes to ways of using resources: increased tick populations/browntail moth; lack of frozen ponds, etc.; lack of snow
- Safety of using some resources (ex: water pollution & swimming; foraging & hunting)



Recommendation	Number of Responses
Clear, enforceable rules	30
Recognizing Wabanaki sovereignty and working towards rematriation	30
More funding for education and staffing	30
Nothing	5
Other	4

Number of Responses (99 in total responded to the block)



Q2: What could help you and your community to eat more locally produced food? What programs are successful at increasing access to Maine foods? Are there foods that are difficult to find in Maine?

Opportunities for more local food

Price of local food is a barrier (especially meat and vegetables)

May be hard to find culturally preferred food - opportunity for farmers

Some areas are 'food deserts' (convenience stores only)

Information on products at grocery stores is strongly desired! Hard to tell sometimes what's local

Lack of awareness about local options (who grows/sells what; word of mouth)

Empower people to produce their own food (community gardens, etc.)

Helping with Access: Maine Harvest Bucks connected to SNAP benefits; special programs for seniors to access local foods



Q3: What barriers/needs exist to access natural resource funding opportunities and technical assistance?

Barriers

- Harder to get funding for projects like planting trees along a river (smaller, less infrastructure-based projects) or maintenance projects, than it is to get funded for big engineering projects
- Application process/rules are complicated
- Towns have limited capacity to make sure all voices are represented when doing things like vulnerability assessments
- Data issues - lack GIS data/ capacity for vulnerability assessments; Lack digitized data, or data is stored or collected in very different ways - this presents a big challenge to getting assessments or plans in place when towns already have minimal capacity

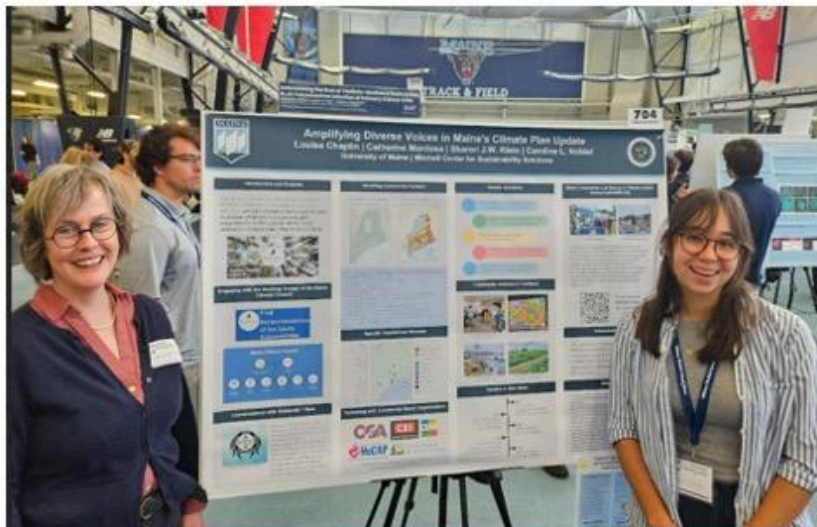
Needs

More government staff/ support for municipal staff

What's next....As you work on your recommendations

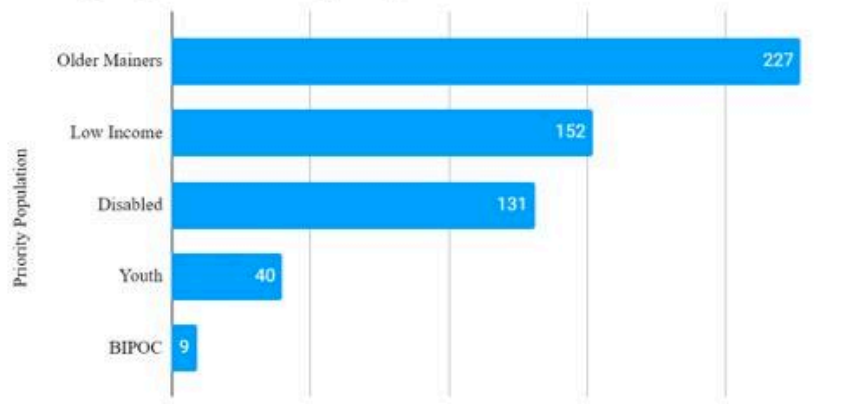
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Appendix 1: Who responded to our survey?

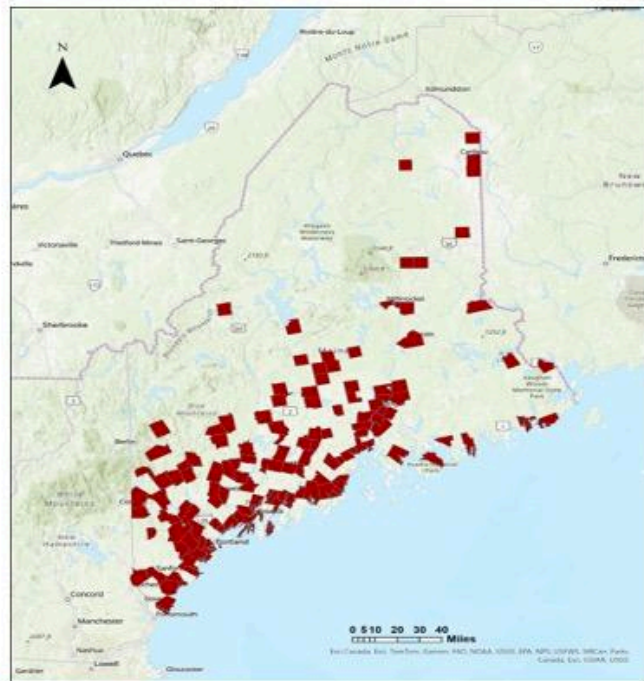
Priority Population Survey Responses



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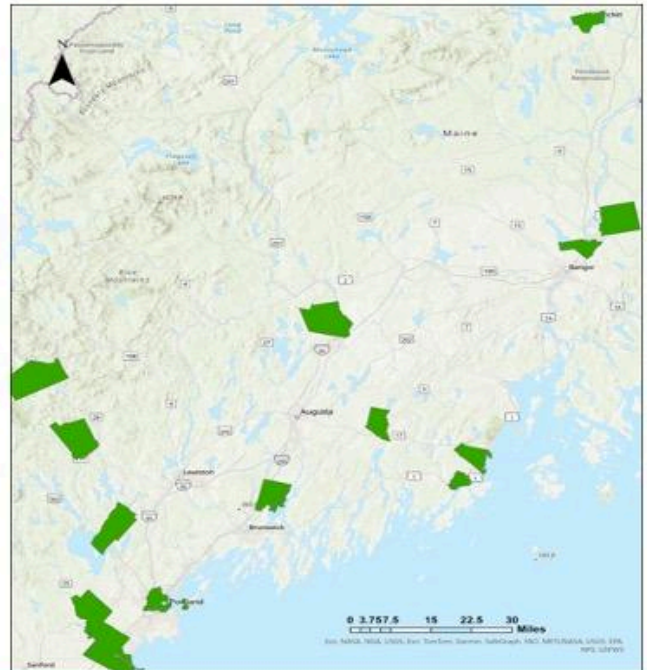
Priority Population

- Community members from each of these communities participated in our survey



Priority Population

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Community Resilience Working Group (May 23, 2024)

Amplifying Voices: Representing Diverse Perspectives

Community Resilience
Working Group

May Progress Check-In

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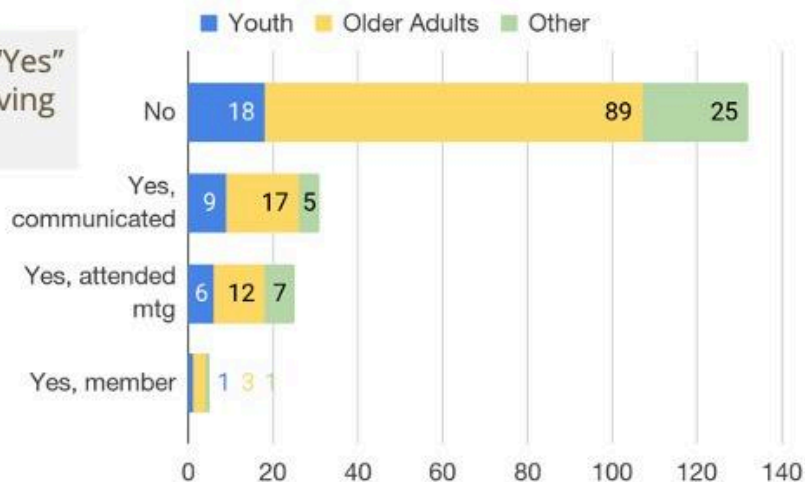
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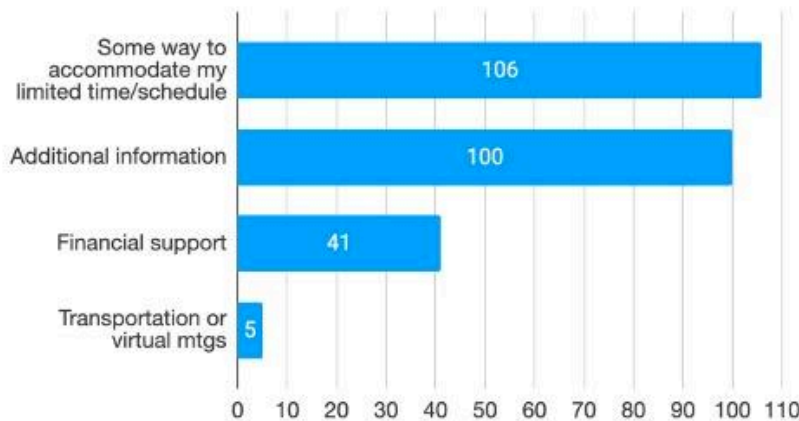
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GOOD NEWS: 86% of 63 respondents trust climate change info from the State

When asked 'What are the biggest needs for you/your community?':

- Cost of living (food, housing, health care, childcare)
- Economic development & job opportunities; including education
- Public transportation options
- More/different types of people engaged in decision making processes

"A reliable local food system and resilient shelter for everyone in the community in the face of a rapidly changing climate are high on the list"

Data from Maine Citizen Survey, priority population respondents

Photo from Maine Sustainability and Water Conference session



What is/are awareness, understanding, preferences, needs, and capacity for climate data collection and communication in ways (especially participatory approaches that engage, train, and empower historically disadvantaged individuals and communities) that ensure transparency and build trust & climate literacy?

"Lots of climate alliances and organizations, but a disconnect between them and front-line communities and including them in the climate change conversations. "

- Maine Sustainability and Water Conference participant

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Needs and opportunities:

- Funding and capacity (at local level in particular)
 - It is difficult to understand the climate terminology: Bring people to these communities to educate people - cannot always expect them to 'come to the organization'
 - Focus on bringing community science into the classroom with youth engagement (citizen/participatory science)
 - Variety of outlets (some trust/don't trust media, social media, Youtube, etc.)
-

What are the barriers and opportunities for increasing participation in climate resilience planning efforts by priority populations?

'When asked open ended questions about their most pressing needs or concerns, they do not cite climate change, per se, but nearly always point to either challenges that are related to climate but not directly (e.g. high fuel costs) or competing challenges (e.g. lack of childcare).'

- Sunrise County Economic Council report on engagement

What are the barriers and opportunities for increasing participation in climate resilience planning efforts by priority populations?

- Lack of funds/ right types of funds
 - Grants aren't often designed for community engagement
 - Need funds and capacity to address major climate-related challenges - show connection with housing, transportation and heating insecurities.

 - Feeling Disenfranchised/ Disillusioned
 - Where to put your energy? Disconnect between knowing what *information* to know and what *actions* to take
 - People wonder - Can anything be changed by showing up?
 - There is a sense that the people who are engaged are given resources (and those who are not engaged don't have the same opportunities)
 - Youth are plugged into social media - they see negative information, leading to fatigue and climate doom.... left feeling powerless.
-

What are the barriers and opportunities for increasing participation in regional and local climate resilience planning efforts by vulnerable and priority community members and their representatives?

.....including recruiting smaller and more socially vulnerable communities to the Community Resilience Partnership

"Climate action committees benefit from watching the CRP service providers move through the process"
- Maine Sustainability and Water Conference participant

What are the barriers and opportunities for increasing participation..... including recruiting smaller and more socially vulnerable communities to the Community Resilience Partnership?

Barriers

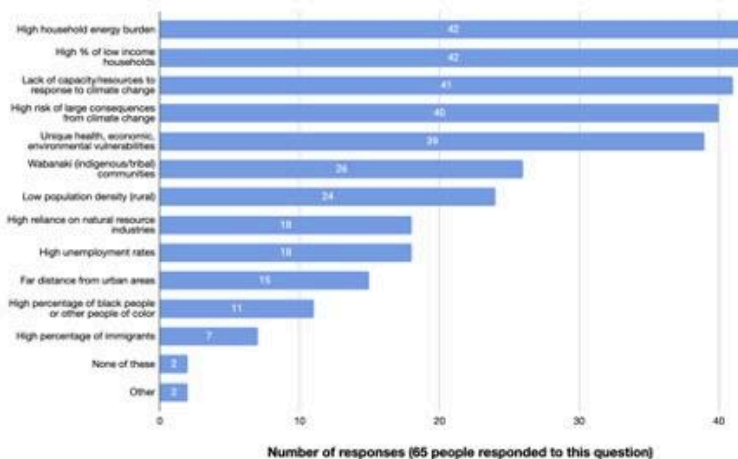
- Service provider time frame is short
 - Community uncertainty about ability to re-apply (2nd or 3rd round) for the Partnership
 - Required language in the 'town resolution' by the CRP may make it challenging for communities to move forward if they have diverse beliefs/opinions about climate change.
-

What are the barriers and opportunities for increasing participation..... including recruiting smaller and more socially vulnerable communities to the Community Resilience Partnership?

Opportunities

- Consider potential to earmark a certain amount for returning applicants v. certain amount for first-timers.
- Connection/collaboration between multiple communities: Great way to pilot a position when voters might not be ready to fund the project themselves
- Offer unique incentives for citizens to participate in CRP process
- Working with historical societies to offer context

What are priority population perspectives on appropriate climate vulnerability and equity criteria that should be applied across all resilience funding opportunities and infrastructure adaptation funding opportunities - to create increased access to funding opportunities for disadvantaged communities and those most at risk from climate impacts?



Youth Perspectives:

"I think tribal communities in particular have faced a lot of challenges thus far due to climate change and they would be prioritized since their culture is very based on using natural resources and those are becoming limited more frequently."

"Indigenous communities should also be given a large prioritized amount of the funding because they are already disadvantaged, but are incredibly important for helping us understand and protect the environment."

What awareness exists of indoor air quality issues due to fuel combustion inside the home, particularly in poorly or improperly weatherized homes, and what are opportunities to increase healthy air through improved ventilation, weatherization, and beneficial electrification?

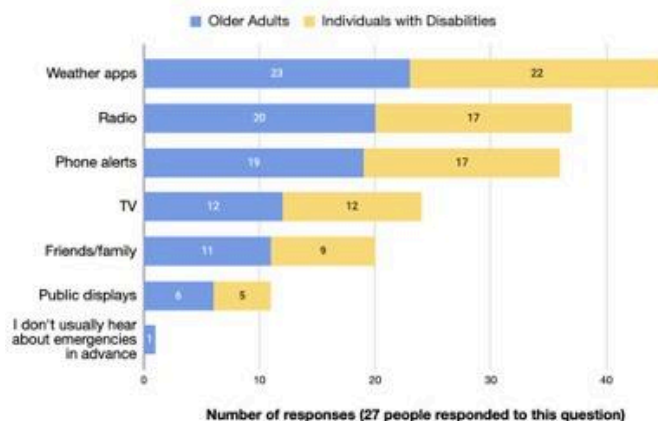
Awareness:

- 22% of respondents (78 out of 350 total) indicated that they **experience poor air quality and/or mold** in their home. The majority of those respondents (57% or 45 out of 78 respondents) indicated that they are low income.

Opportunities:

- **Weatherization:** 55% of respondents (192 out of 345 total) indicated they would be interested in weatherization (for example, insulation, air sealing, window inserts, new windows, etc.) for their home.
- **Electrification:** 71% of respondents (244 out of 345 total) indicated they would be interested in a heat pump for their home. 58% (201 out of 345 total) indicated that they would be interested in a heat pump water heater.

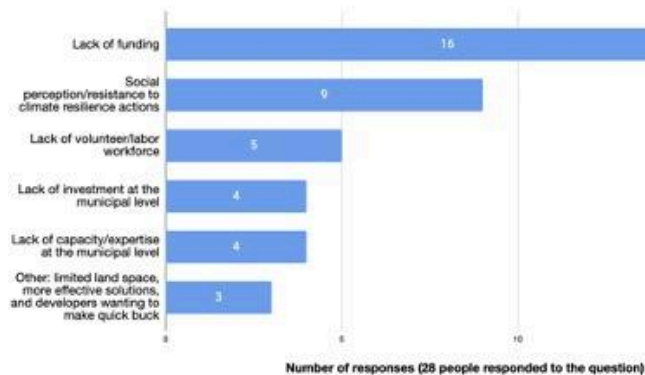
What are the preferences for accessible avenues of emergency information for at-risk individuals? (e.g., expanded media and communication channels)



To what extent are communities aware of, have access to, and use lists and/or maps of infrastructure projects identified through prior and ongoing planning processes to help identify climate vulnerable infrastructure?

- 85% (18/21) participants indicated that their community has access to lists or maps of local climate-vulnerable areas or infrastructure.
- 44% of respondents (8/18) indicated that they have accessed or used lists/maps of infrastructure projects.
- 30% of respondents (9/30) indicated that they have used maps to identify flood areas to participate in planning processes to identify climate vulnerable infrastructure.

How can technical assistance be improved to help disadvantaged communities implement climate infrastructure projects (including planning and prioritizing vulnerable infrastructure projects, applying for funding, & project implementation)?



Perceived Barriers to Implementation

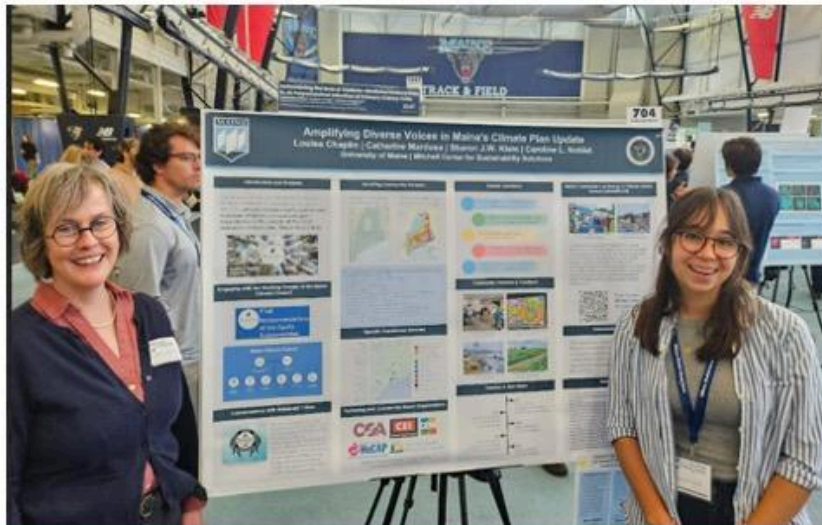
Key Recommendations

- Increased education around funding opportunities
- Increased access to technical assistance
- Increased education to reduce social resistance
- Implement workforce development initiatives
- Increase municipal capacity/expertise

What's next....As you work on your recommendations

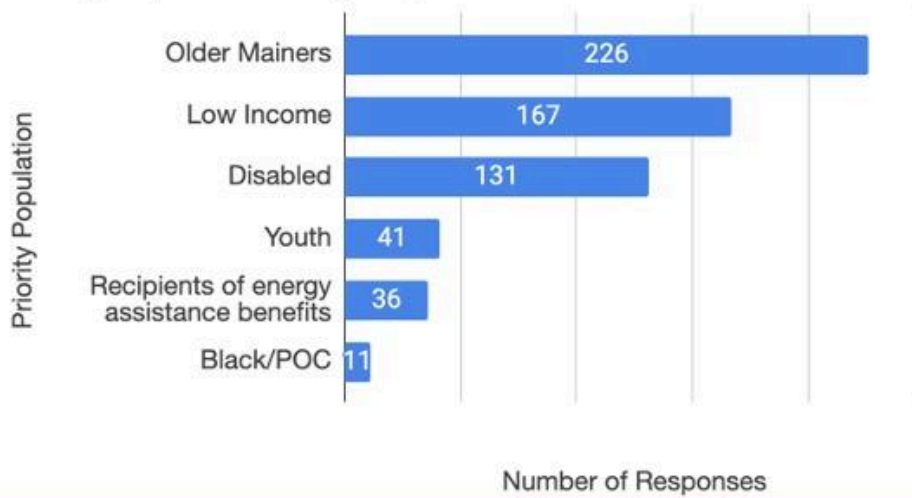
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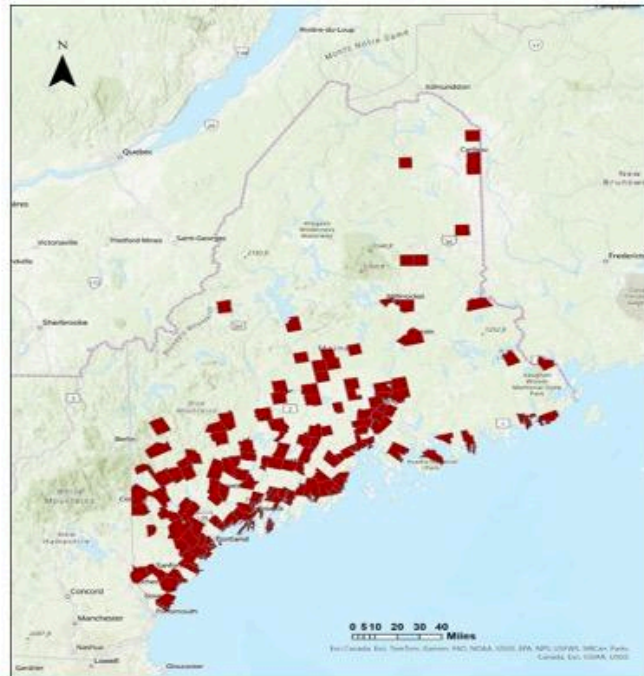
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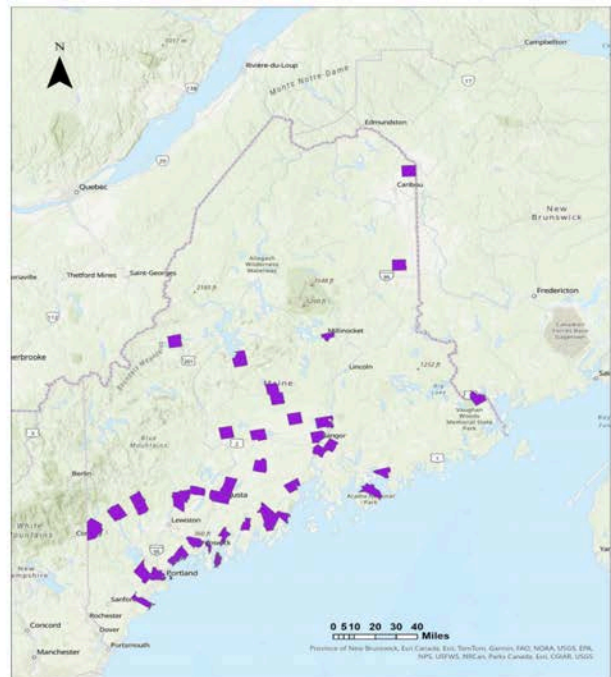
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Energy
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- Businesses in the natural resource industries like agriculture, forestry, and fishing who are operating at the economic margin or suffer disproportionate climate risk
- Un/underemployed 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

Original Priority Populations List

- 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
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- Climate-frontline communities



We are continuing conversations with Wabanaki partners, building on multi-year relationships

- 2018-2021 Klein, Ranco, Hart, Penobscot Nation, "Future of Dams" (*Penobscot citizens and DNR staff*)
- 2021-2023 Klein, Lamb, Penobscot Nation & Passamaquoddy Tribe, "Community Window Insert Builds & Energy Justice" (*Penobscot & Passamaquoddy citizens & Housing staff*)
- 2022-2023 Klein, Lamb, Penobscot Nation, Passamaquoddy Tribe, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, "Community Resilience Partnership Enrollment" (*citizens & staff from 3 tribes*)
- 2023-2024 Klein, Lamb, ACTT, "Intertribal Solar Cooperative" (*citizens & staff from each Wabanaki nation*)
- 2023-2027+ Klein, Lamb, Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Team, "EPA Star Grant" (*citizens and/or tribal government staff from each Wabanaki nation*)



So far, iterative conversations have underscored the importance of

- Not including Wabanaki nations among a list of “priority populations”
- Recognizing Tribal Sovereignty
- Facilitating Government to Government interactions (e.g., Chiefs, Tribal Council)
- Incorporating tribal decision-making authority in the climate plan process
- Addressing historic injustices

As we continue to learn more about how we can support Government-to-Government interactions:

We are especially grateful to Dr. Darren Ranco, Jasmine Lamb, Dr. Natalie Michelle, and Ambassador Bryant for their time and continued efforts in empowering the voices of Wabanaki Tribes.

Current Timeline

1. Report to WG about 1st round of engagements -- mid-May 2024
2. Second round of engagement activities -- Summer 2024
3. Report to MCC about 2nd round -- September 2024



Photo from Maine Sustainability and Water Conference session

Thank you for earlier input on your priority questions!

1. How disadvantaged communities should be involved in siting large-scale renewables & energy infrastructure improvements within their communities; potential benefits from these projects that would be meaningful to citizens in these communities
2. Awareness, access, barriers of Maine's towns, businesses, landlords & households barriers to renewable energy?
3. What is the level of awareness and what are the preferences & barriers related to different approaches to community solar and residential distributed energy (solar, wind, battery), especially for affordable housing & renters?

Thank you to the 2 members of Energy WG who responded to our survey of Working Groups!

Our engagement plan built on existing & planned activities

2023-2027 EPA Star grant *"The role of state networks in advancing community-initiated and -engaged sustainable energy action in underserved communities"*

- Community Sustainable Energy Team (Sep 2023-present)
 - representatives from 6 communities with "high" social vulnerability
- Maine Community Alternative Energy Survey (April-June 2024)
- Maine Community Alternative Energy Focus group (April 3, 2024)
- Maine Sustainability & Water Conference session 2 (March 28, 2024)
- MAINECAN: the Maine community-led Energy & Climate Action Network

We incorporated MCC questions in these existing/planned engagements & existing classes/meetings we were involved in

From this foundation, we were able to “quickly” develop contracts with 9 community-based organizations

- A Climate To Thrive
- Center for an Ecology-Based Economy
- Coastal Enterprises Inc.
- Community Organizing Alliance
- Kennebec Valley Community Action Partnership
- Maine Council on Aging
- Maine Environmental Education Association
- PassivhausME
- Sunrise County Economic Council

We are also in the process of exploring a contract with the Island Institute

In addition, we have multiple partners supporting this effort in other ways:

- Governor’s Cabinet on Aging
 - Maine Community Action Partnership
 - MCAN!
 - Resilient Communities L3C
 - UMaine Center on Aging
 - WindowDressers
-

To-date, we have collaboratively completed 29 engagements for this 1st round

- Over **1,000** members of Priority Populations reached
 - Working Group-specific topics
 - Maine Climate Council general topics
- A **variety of engagement approaches**
 - Day-long conference sessions
 - Panels
 - Focus group discussions (ex: at low-income housing, older adult housing)
 - Participation at festivals/shows
 - Community discussions
 - Round Tables (ex: Pathways to Clean Energy Jobs, Climate Change & Food Justice)
 - Teach-ins
 - Webinars
 - Surveys

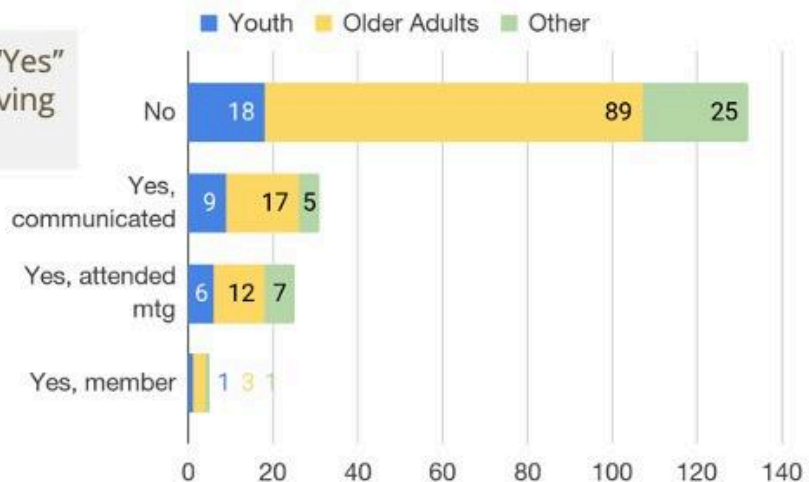
Photo courtesy of
Community
Organizing Alliance



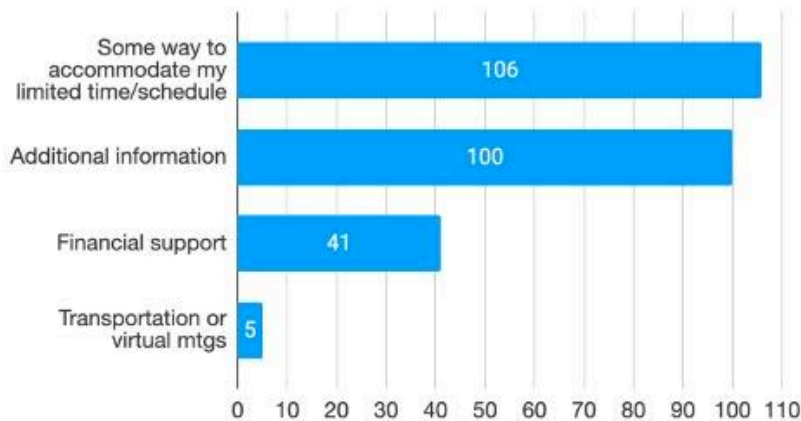
Survey Results: Have you ever been involved in Maine Climate Council activities?

61% of 352 responded "Yes" or "Maybe a little" to having heard of the MCC

68% do/may want to be involved in this update



What type of support would you need to be involved in the Maine Climate Council's update to the climate plan?



"We need to put resources into public engagement on a totally different level, social media engagement, a marketing campaign to really highlight civic engagement as valuable and actually crucial to our lives."

GOOD NEWS: 86% of 63 respondents trust climate change info from the State

When asked 'What are the biggest needs for you/your community?':

28% wrote in an Energy *related issue* including:

- Affordable renewable energy options
- Solutions to frequent power outages
- Stop burning fossil fuels

An additional 12% noted *Climate Change*

Data from Maine Citizen Survey, priority population respondents

Photo from Maine Sustainability and Water Conference session

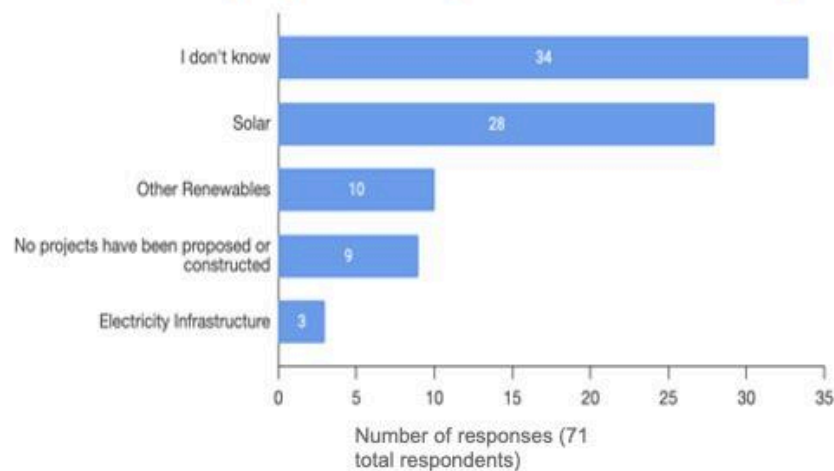


Q1: How should disadvantaged communities be involved in siting large-scale renewables and energy infrastructure improvements within their communities? What potential benefits from these projects would be meaningful to citizens in these communities?



<https://www.pressherald.com/2020/10/01/maines-first-multi-town-solar-project-nears-completion/>

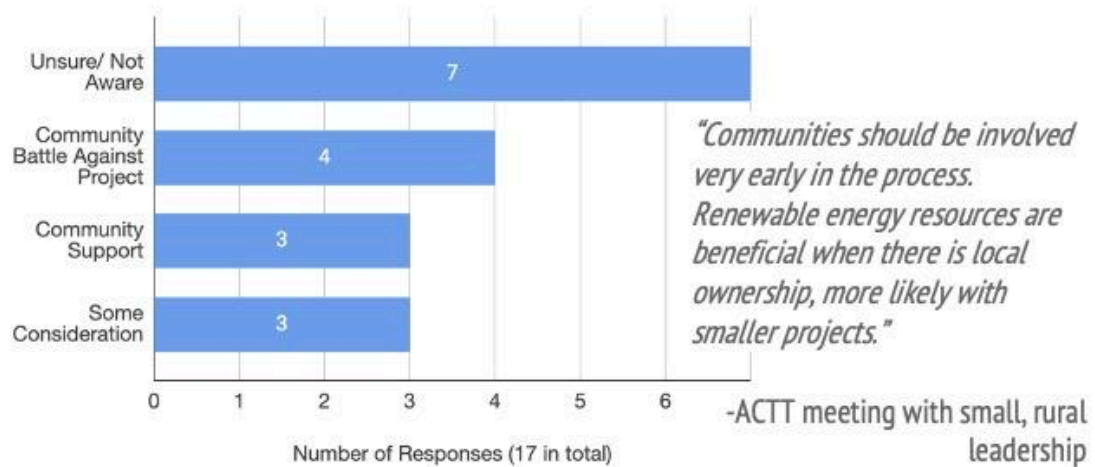
When asked, “What type of large scale renewable energy projects have been proposed and/or constructed in your community?”



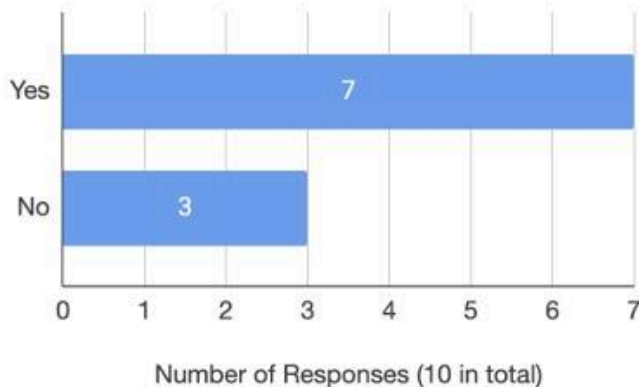
“There were concerns about out-of-state community solar companies causing environmental damage due to poor siting. Both concerns and interest in community solar farms serving as an alternative path for farmers who can no longer afford to farm-- one person saw it as predatory, another saw it as a lifeline”

-CEBE Community discussion of Maine's Changing Climate

... And “How was the community involved in the project?”



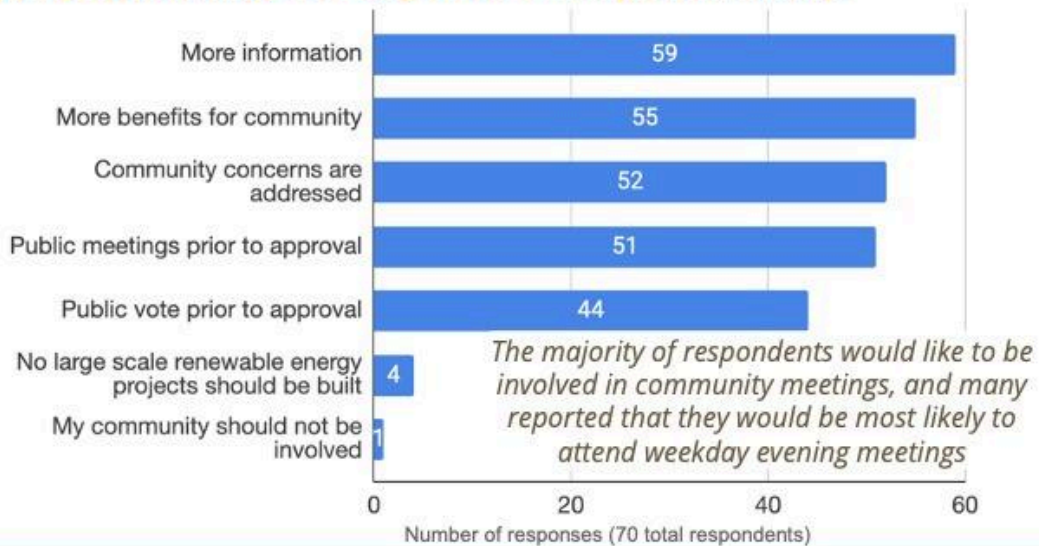
... And “Did members of your community have adequate input into the project?”



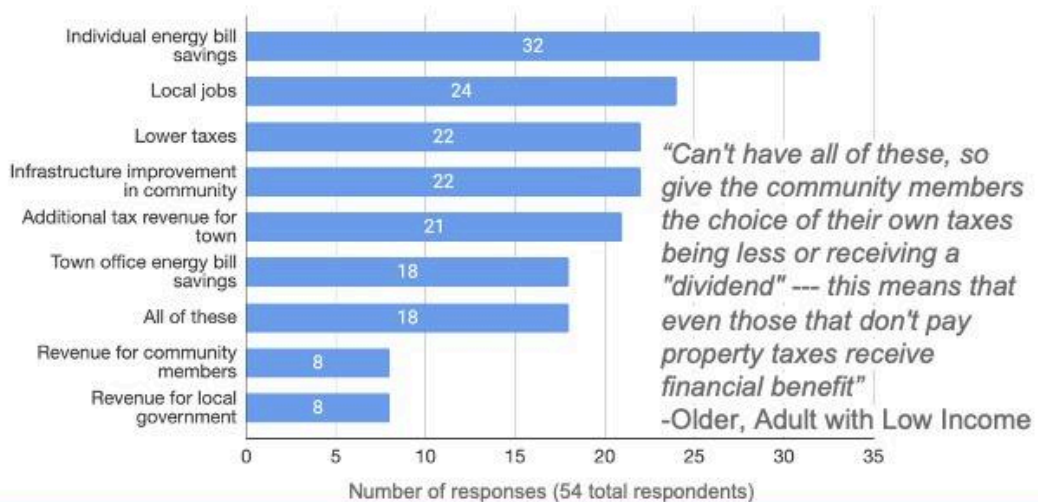
“The more community members engage with the project the more they understand the changing system we’re working on and helps them understand mitigation/adaptation”

-Maine Sustainability & Water Conference Engagement

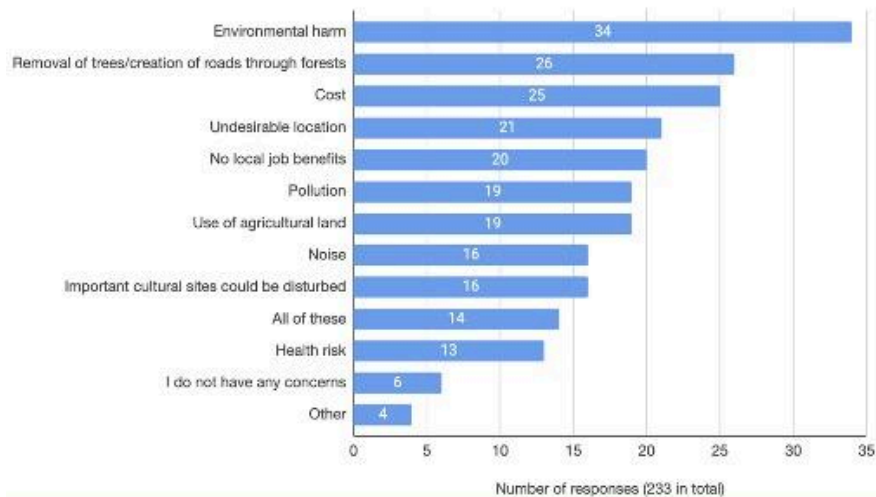
“How do you think your community should be involved in large scale renewable energy projects when they are being considered in your community?”



“What benefits would you want to see from a large scale renewable energy project in your community?”



“What concerns do you have about large scale renewable energy projects in your community?”



“I would prefer to not place energy sources on public land. Anything that causes deforestation and goes against nature is something that I am against.”

-Adult with low income in a rural community

More concerns about large scale renewable energy projects

“I do not want energy sources that harm animals or the environment. And I do not want alternative or renewable energy sources to be controlled by for profit entities.”

-Older Adult with Low Income

“While I am not opposed to siting solar on public lands I'd like to be cautious that we are not destroying natural spaces to do so. I don't see much benefit to having solar if it requires clear cutting a forest which was already sequestering carbon and providing other ecosystem services. I'd prioritize siting solar on buildings first or on land that was already disturbed somehow.”

-Older Adult

“Solar farms take up too much space and homes are desperately needed and should be built where the solar farms are. Solar farms are driving up the cost of electricity and making electric bills unaffordable for most Mainers”

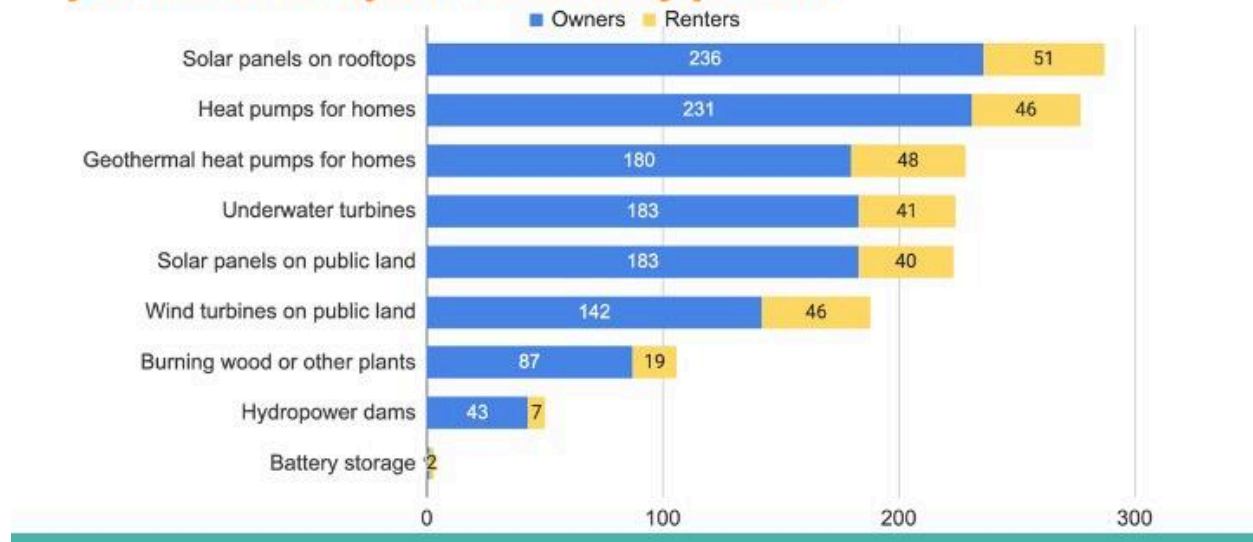
-Adult from a Rural Community

Q2: To what extent are Maine's towns, businesses, and landlords aware of and do they have access to or experience barriers to renewable energy?

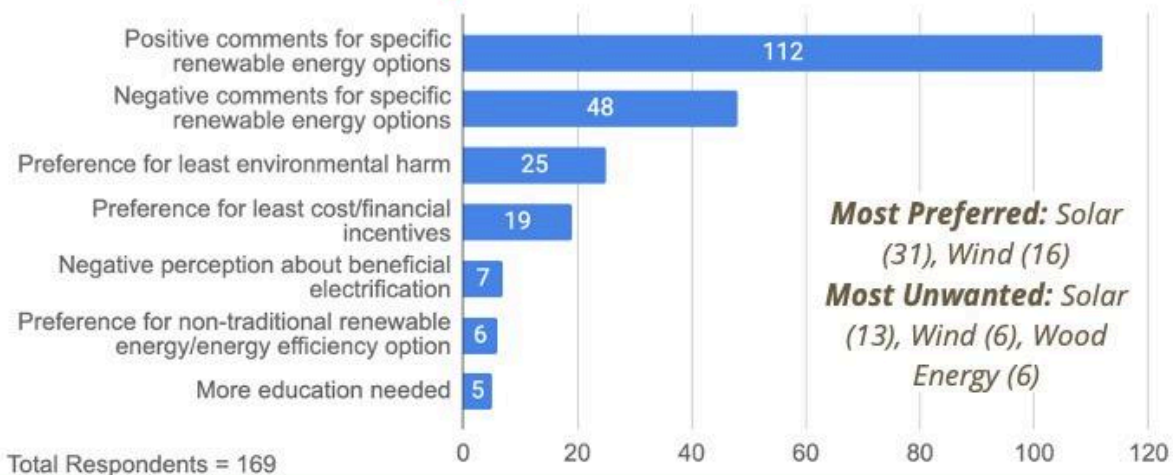


<https://standardsolar.com/project/bethel-community-solar-in-bethel-maine/>

When asked, “Which renewable energy options would you like to see your community pursue?”



Open-ended comments about these energy preferences revealed the following themes...



A sample of open-ended comments about energy preferences

*"I think **solar is the easiest to implement**, so making it a priority would make a quick improvement on the number of fossil fuels being used."*

-Older Adult

*"I have heard **horror stories about high electric bills** when using heat pumps."*

-Older adult with a disability in a rural community

*"We need to **reduce usage and simplify how we generate, transport and use energy**. Right now we're unsustainable, but we need to more or less use all of our options to help address our environmental problems. We also **need substantial support to help all people be able to make the transition and simplification**."*

-Older adult

Landlords expressed concerns about alternative energy upgrades (including rooftop solar, heat pumps, and EV chargers)

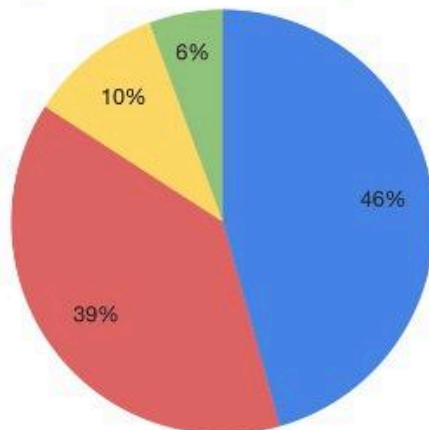
*"I've investigated alternative energy but **can't afford the upfront costs**. I was told you get all kinds of money back but then find out it's in the form of a tax rebate and **to get the maximum, you have to spend several thousand dollars.**"*

*"**Costs are changing over time**, but the cost to sell excess as well as future cost for electricity from the grid, so it is difficult to calculate the economic cost or benefit"*

*"[I do not trust the options or providers/installers because of] **Stories of alternative electric providers who end up gouging consumers with higher rates than default electric company rates**"*

When asked, "What might make it difficult for your local government to support or adopt renewable energy options?"

- Related to costs/funding
- Related to politics/public perception
- Related to lack of knowledge
- Other



Total Respondents = 322

Other concerns that came up frequently:
Lack of capacity in small towns, no room for infrastructure, impacts on nature/wildlife/viewshed

What renewable energy successes have you seen within your community that you would like to see more of?

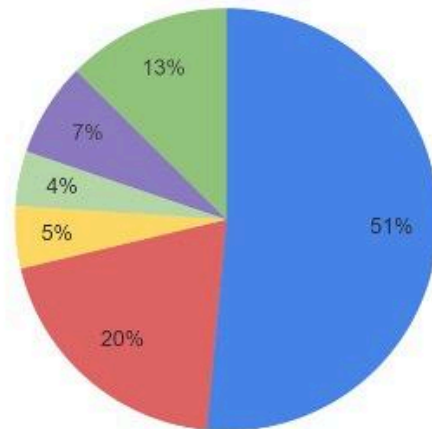
"My town has a hydroelectric dam with a fish ladder to try to minimize the impact of the dam on wildlife. I would love to see us utilize our natural resources in other spaces to try to meet our energy needs."

-Older adult in a rural community

"I see some solar panels and electric cars and bikes but it seems to be mostly middle or high wealth people who have them. These options should be available for everyone"

-Older disabled adult with low income

● Solar ● Heat Pumps ● Electric Vehicles ● Wind ● Others
● None



Total Respondents = 158

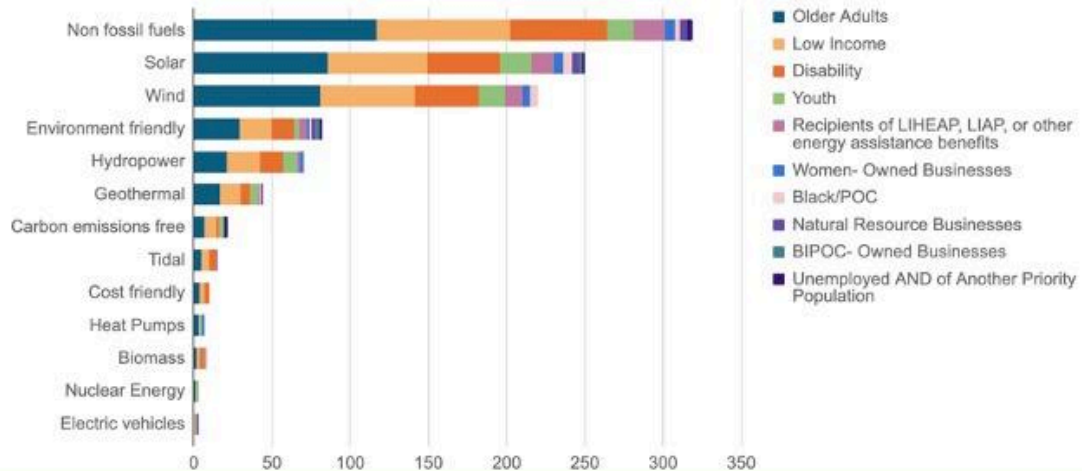
Q3: To what extent are Maine's households aware of and do they have access to or experience barriers to renewable energy? *(including community solar & residential distributed energy (solar, wind, battery) & especially for affordable housing & renters)*



<https://discover.texasrealfood.com/us-energy-incentive-atlas/maine>

What do the terms “alternative” and “renewable energy” mean to you?

Total Respondents = 345



What do the terms “alternative” and “renewable energy” mean to you?

“Energy choices that are outside of the outdated practices of capitalism, specifically prioritizing profit over customer service and sustainability, may be considered alternatives. Renewable energy is that which does not deplete itself in the process of producing energy.”

-Older adult with low income

“Forms of energy that are old-- solar, wood, wind--but are being used in new ways that are less damaging to the environment than the newer forms of energy--fossil fuels, coal, etc.”

-Older adult with low income

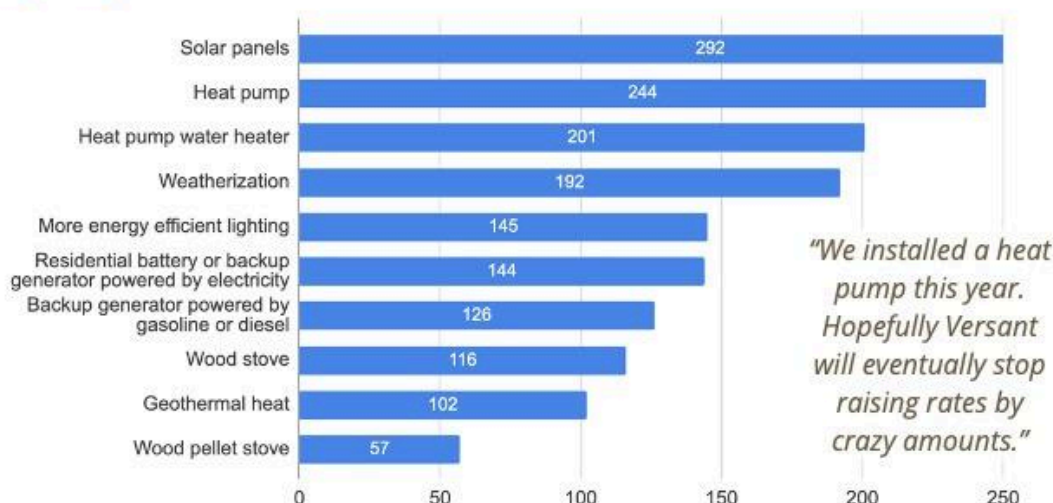
“Protecting the environment while reducing costs”

-Adult with low income

“Using sources of energy which do no pollute or exacerbate climate change - specifically wind, water and especially solar energy to power our homes and the grid. Electrification of heat for transportation so that we can reduce and eventually eliminate fossil fuels as a source of energy.”

-Older adult in a rural community

What alternative energy/energy efficiency options are people most interested in?



What alternative energy/energy efficiency options are people most interested in?

*"I have **few choices** in this because I rent. My landlord did install a heat pump water heater last year and it seems fine. My **electric bill did not decrease**, however."*

-Older adult in a rural community.

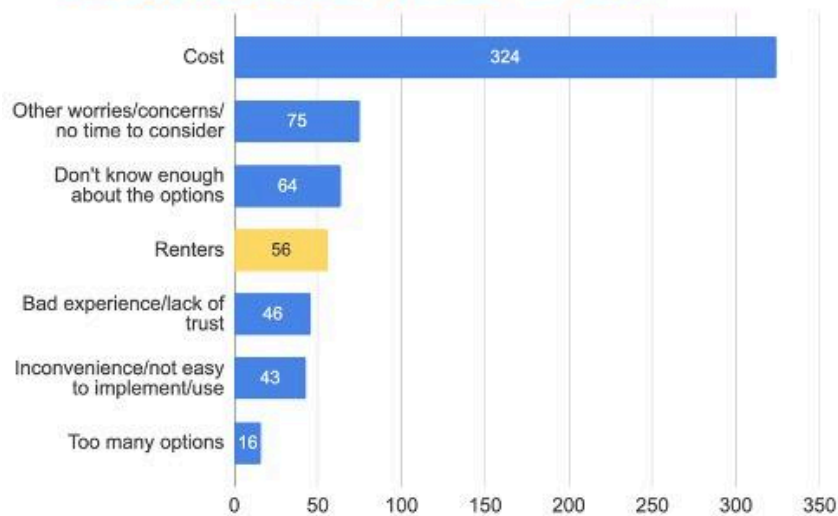
*"Right now, many options are **expensive, require more "work" and can make daily life less convenient**. If people don't understand how serious climate change is to our state and town and how individual actions can make a difference, widespread adoption of an energy-efficient lifestyle is unlikely."*

-Adult from a rural community

*"We have rooftop solar panels, heat pumps, battery backup for power outages, and a composting toilet. These **options should be made more widely available** through grants and other funding mechanism."*

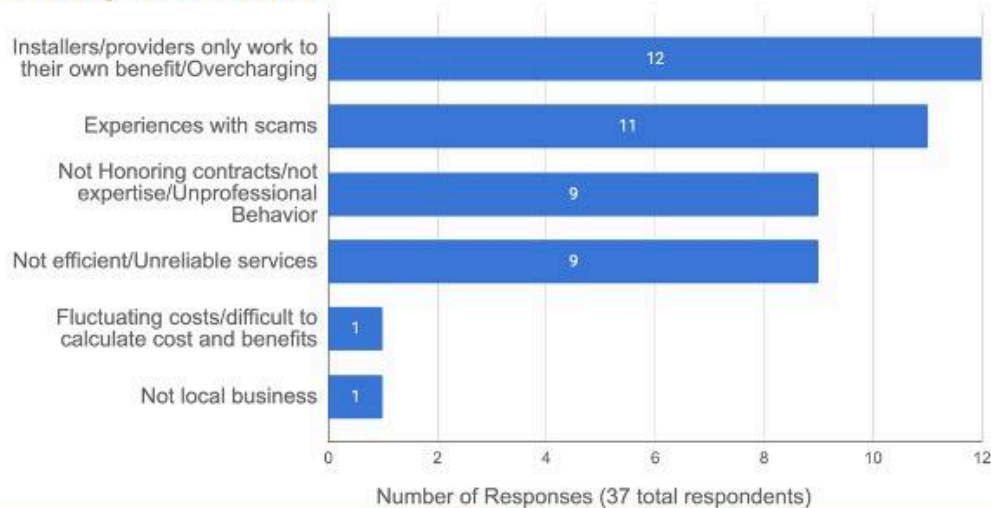
-Older adult with low income from a rural community

What makes it difficult for you to implement alternative energy options in your own life?

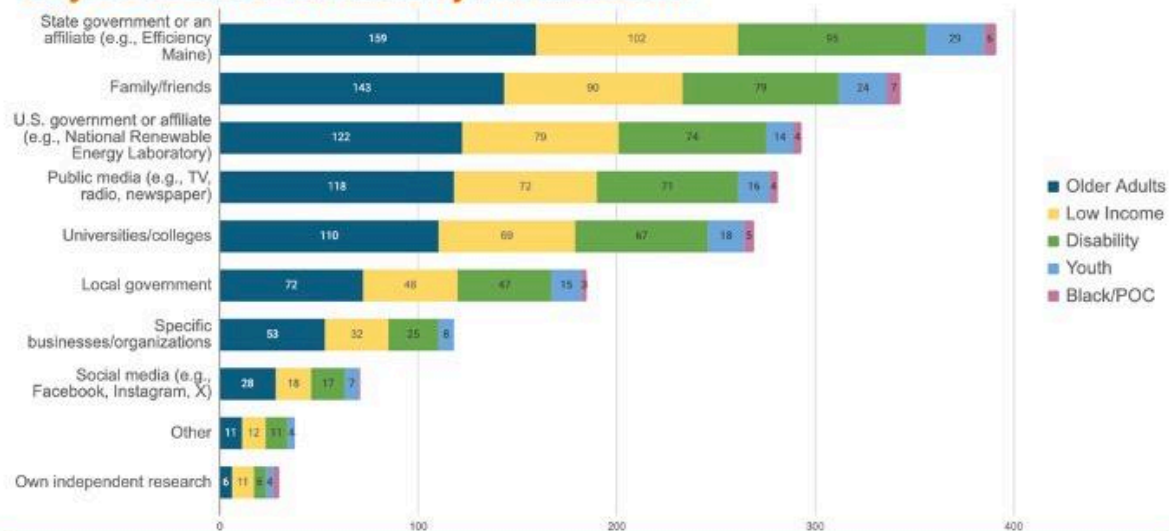


For one student, even though they pay for all their utilities, their landlord does very little to change the infrastructure. The place this person is staying would be a perfect place for a heat pump system but there's no incentive for the landlord to change anything

Please explain why you do not trust the options or providers/installers.



When you make decisions about your life or your household, where do you look for trustworthy information?



When you make decisions about your life or your household, where do you look for trustworthy information?

"I do not trust the information put forth by local, state or federal government to be accurate, Social and public media cannot be trusted to be fully informed or accurate, and families and friends are also comprised of self-appointed experts. Universities and colleges are not places that I have seen give information on many of the issues discussed here. They drink the "Kool-Aid" on EVs."

-Older adult with a disability and low income

"I know a lot of people that have changed how they use energy in their homes. When I am considering options for my own home I will sometime consult those I know who may have done so before me so I can learn what to expect."

-Older adult with a disability

Opportunities to reduce barriers to renewable energy acceptance

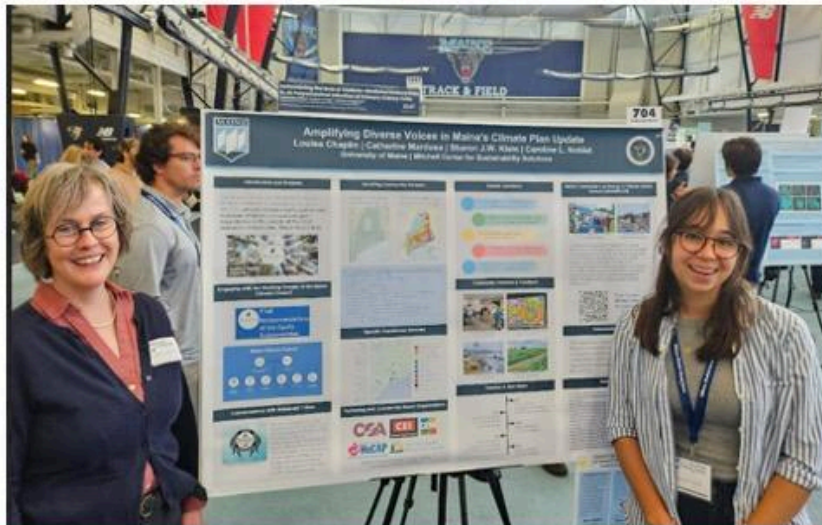
- Thinking ahead
 - Build transportation infrastructure and encourage dense housing in walkable communities
- Information through trusted channels (families, friends, communities, diverse sources)
- Learning from experience
 - Solar farms on capped landfills, superfund sites
 - Addressing citizen concerned about the aesthetic impacts of wind farms



What's next....As you work on your recommendations

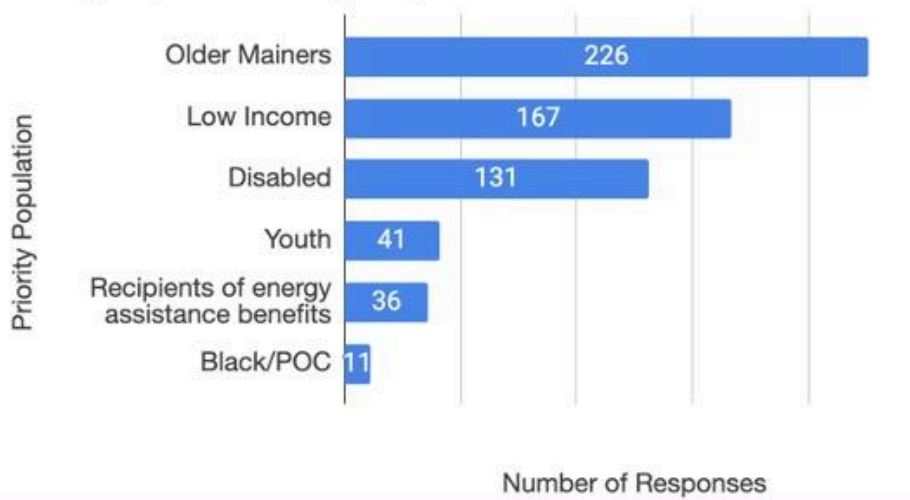
1. Cross-WG Learning: We gave presentations to the other 5 WGs over the last 3 weeks; GOPIF will share presentations with WG co-chairs
 - a. Energy WG had similar topics to Buildings, Infrastructure & Housing WG
 - b. Transportation WG had topics related to some Energy themes
2. How can we be helpful to you? (anything you saw here today that you'd like follow up on?)
3. Second round of engagement activities -- Summer 2024
 - a. Are there groups you really need to hear from, or hear more from?

Thank you!



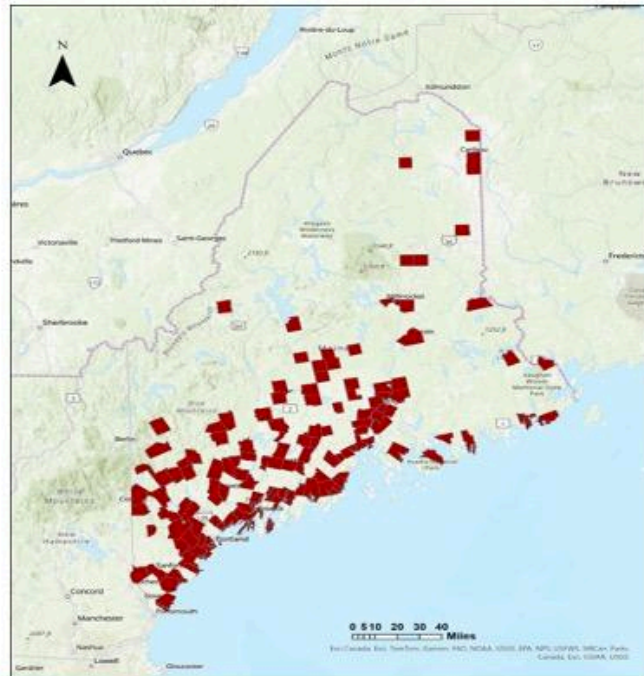
Appendix 1: Who responded to our survey?

Priority Population Survey Responses



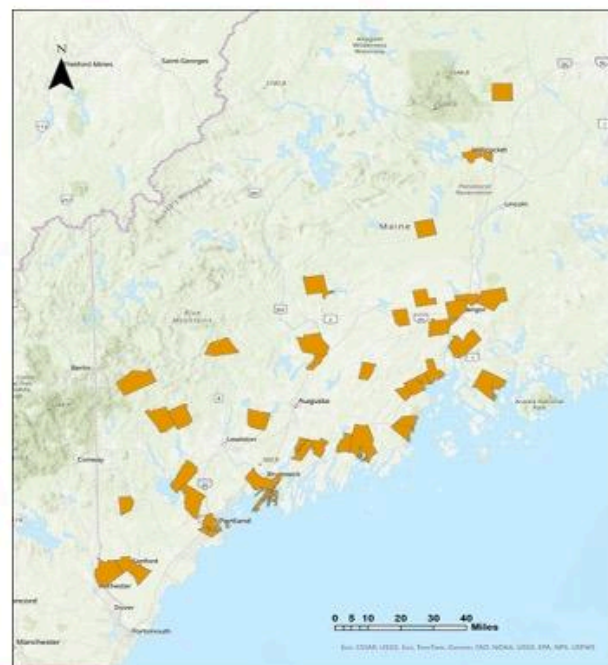
Priority Population

- Community members from each of these communities participated in our survey



Priority Population

- Members of these disadvantaged communities filled out the survey for the Energy Block on Community survey



Amplifying Voices: Representing Diverse Perspectives

— Natural and Working Lands
Working Group —

May Progress Check-In

Reminder of the Project 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.

**Note:* We will reconnect with Equity Subcommittee on May 9th to discuss work in progress.

Updated Timeline

1. Report to WG about 1st round of engagements -- mid-May 2024
2. Second round of engagement activities -- Summer 2024
3. Report to MCC about 2nd round -- September 2024
4. Reflection discussion with WG & MCC members from priority populations -- September 2024



Thank you for your earlier input

Thank you to the **31** members of NWL who responded to our survey of Working Groups!

You shared with us specific interest in hearing from:

- small natural resource industries/resources
- climate frontline communities
- Youth, Tribal members, BIPOC, new Mainers, lower income

And confirmed interest in specific questions (we'll return to those shortly)

Original Priority Populations List from GOPIF

- 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
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 - Climate-frontline communities
-



A note on Engagement with Maine's Tribes

- Tribal preference for Government to Government interaction
- Important to consider and empower Tribal Sovereignty moving forward
- Thank you to Dr. Darren Ranco, Jasmine Lamb, Dr. Natalie Michelle, Ambassador Bryant for their time and continued efforts in empowering the voices of Wabanaki Tribes.

Our efforts, in brief

Examples of Engagements

- Conference session at the Maine Sustainability and Water Conference
- Focus groups and surveys of Maine Citizens (n=382; 86% priority pop, our focus today)
- Events with Community Partners (ex: 'Climate Change and Food Justice with Community Organizing Alliance)

Some of our Community Based Partners

- Kennebec Valley Community Action Partnership (KVCAP)
- The Maine Council on Aging
- PassivHaus
- The Community Organizing Alliance (COA)
- Coastal Enterprises Inc (CEI)
- Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC)
- Maine Environmental Education Association
- Center for an Ecology Based Economy (CEBE)



Key findings: Maine Climate Council Involvement

- While current participation may be low, interest in participation & outcomes is high
- **Support/Resources needed to be involved:**
 - Additional Information
 - Financial support (from a mix of rural and urban respondents)
 - Flexible scheduling, understanding of time
- **Trust in Climate Information from the State**
 - While a majority of folks we've talked to say 'Yes' - there are those saying 'most of the time; sometimes; or No'
 - Some of the lack of trust is because "I don't understand"



When asked 'What are the biggest needs for you/ your community?':

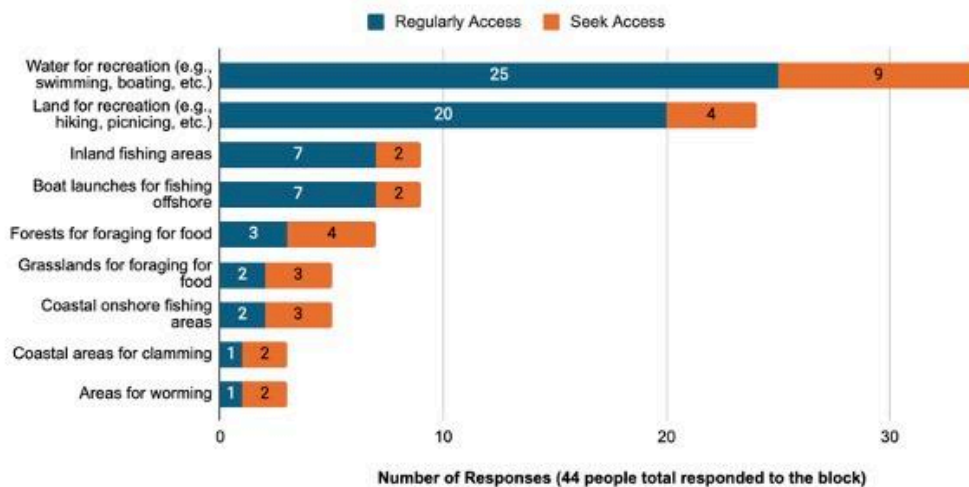
10% noted a *NWL related issue* including:

- Healthy/Local Food
- Clean Water
- Preservation and/or conservation of natural spaces; Sustainability

An additional 12% noted *Climate Change*

Data from Maine Citizen Survey,
priority population respondents

Q1: What are perceptions, barriers, preferences, and possible interventions related to access to and use of green space, natural and working lands and waters, including working and recreational waterfronts?



Q1: What are perceptions, barriers, preferences, and possible interventions related to access to and use of green space, natural and working lands and waters, including working and recreational waterfronts?

Barriers to access

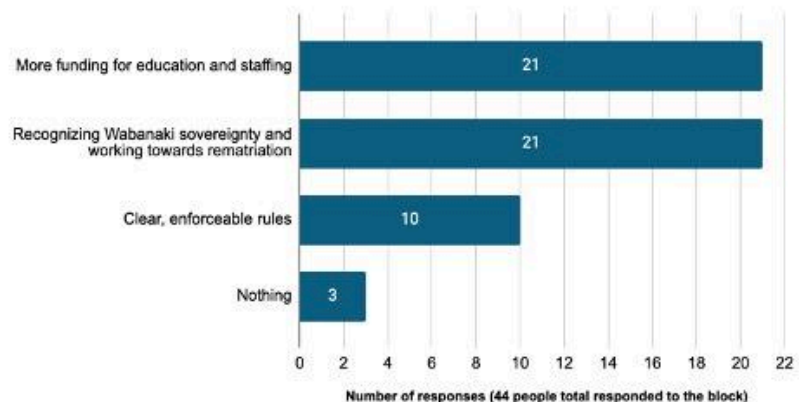
- Lack of information about what's available
- Cost of access (parking, fees - often high due to tourism)
- Transportation to resources sites (recreational and working)
- Processes to gain access may prohibit use (forms, application fees, communicating with administrators)

Barriers to use

- Changes to former ways of using resources: increased tick populations/browntail moth; lack of frozen ponds, etc. ; lack of snow

Improvement of Access and Protection

- Clearer information about times of access, how to get there
- Public Transportation, especially for older people
- Changes to licensing rules/ processes to increase accessibility
- More funding for enforcement. In our community enforcement entities are working at max capacity
- Make more public money (more) available to match private donations.
- More efficient use of existing funding.



Q2: What could help you and your community to eat more locally produced food? What programs are successful at increasing access to Maine foods? Are there foods that are difficult to find in Maine?

Accessing Local Foods

Good news: vast majority of folks think they can find local food right at grocery stores, and farmers markets

On average, folks estimate they get about 35% of their food from local sources

People note that many food banks do have local food



Q2: What could help you and your community to eat more locally produced food? What programs are successful at increasing access to Maine foods? Are there foods that are difficult to find in Maine?

Opportunities for more local food

Price of local food is a barrier (especially meat and vegetables)

May be hard to find culturally preferred food

Some areas are 'food deserts' (convenience stores only)

Information on products at grocery stores is strongly desired! Hard to tell sometimes what's local

Empower people to produce their own food (community gardens, etc.)

Helping with Access: Maine Harvest Bucks connected to SNAP benefits; special programs for seniors to access local foods



Q3: What are the barriers to entry, opportunities, and drivers of change to increase diversity and access to natural resource industry careers, including forestry, for priority populations and disadvantaged communities?

Barriers

Lack of awareness of opportunities

For Youth: In natural resources spaces youth can feel isolated - adults are excited when youth are there, but enthusiasm doesn't always translate to mentoring/guidance

For New Mainers: language barriers, lack of transportation and unfamiliar with state resources/background

Opportunities and Drivers of Change

Creation of citizen committees: community coming together

Training programs in multiple languages

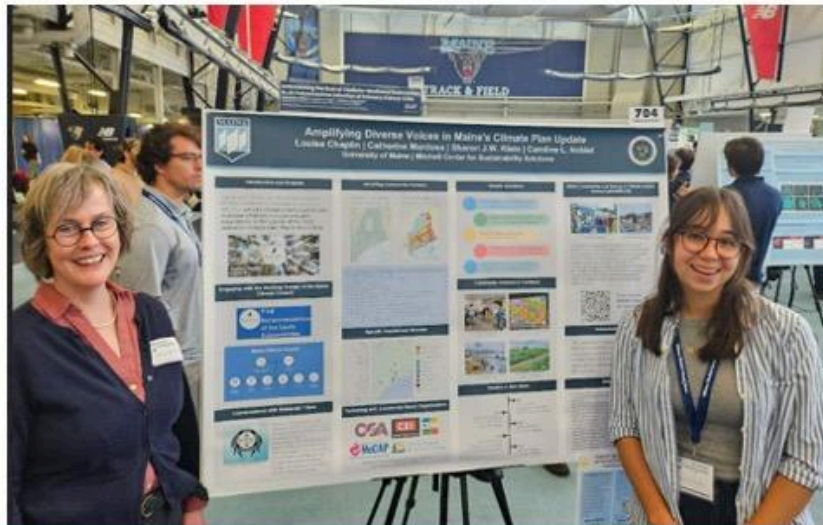
Hire folks that represent underserved communities to relay opportunities and resources (to youth, new Mainers, etc.)

What's next....As you work on your recommendations

1. How can we be helpful to you? (anything you saw here today that you'd like follow up on?)

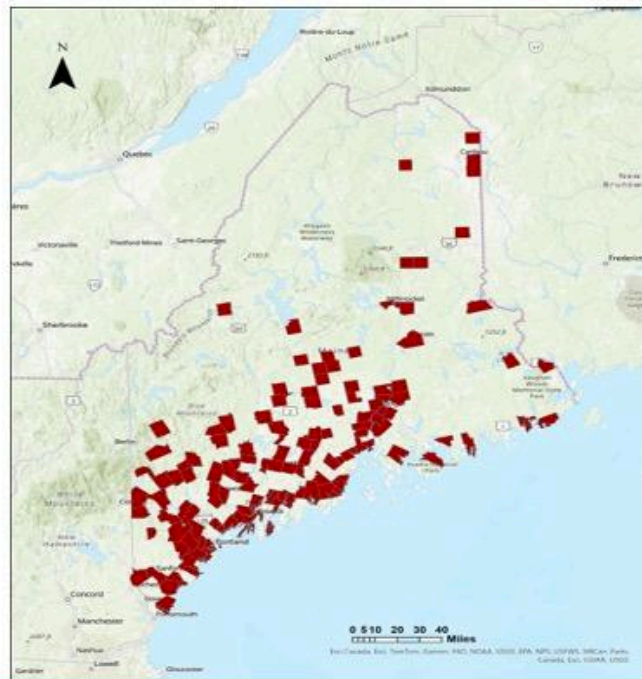
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 - a. Are there groups you really need to hear from, or hear more from?
-

Thank you!



Priority Population

- Community members from each of these communities participated in our survey



Amplifying Voices: Representing Diverse Perspectives

Transportation
Working Group

May Progress Check-In

Reminder of the Project 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.

The Mitchell Center Team's Role



- Develop engagement topics based on Equity Subcommittee Report (ESC) from March 2023 and Working Group (WG) feedback in January 2024
- Collaborate & contract with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Engage with Priority Populations (PPs) & support CBO engagements
- Support engagement approaches that are appropriate and natural for CBOs and PPs & fit within the predetermined timeline
- Communicate feedback from PPs and CBOs to WGs to inform WG recommendations to the Maine Climate Council (today's presentation)
- The inclusion of equity consideration lies with WGs in their recommendations (and then the Council broadly)

Original Priority Populations List from GOPIF

- 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

Original Priority Populations List

- 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
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- Minority, women-owned or veteran owned business enterprises (MWBVEs)
- Rural communities and small towns with limited staff or fiscal capacity
- Climate-frontline communities



We are continuing conversations with Wabanaki partners, building on multi-year relationships

- 2018-2021 Klein, Ranco, Hart, Penobscot Nation, "Future of Dams" (*Penobscot citizens and DNR staff*)
- 2021-2023 Klein, Lamb, Penobscot Nation & Passamaquoddy Tribe, "Community Window Insert Builds & Energy Justice" (*Penobscot & Passamaquoddy citizens & Housing staff*)
- 2022-2023 Klein, Lamb, Penobscot Nation, Passamaquoddy Tribe, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, "Community Resilience Partnership Enrollment" (*citizens & staff from 3 tribes*)
- 2023-2024 Klein, Lamb, ACTT, "Intertribal Solar Cooperative" (*citizens & staff from each Wabanaki nation*)
- 2023-2027+ Klein, Lamb, Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Team, "EPA Star Grant" (*citizens and/or tribal government staff from each Wabanaki nation*)



So far, iterative conversations have underscored the importance of

- Not including Wabanaki nations among a list of “priority populations”
- Recognizing Tribal Sovereignty
- Facilitating Government to Government interactions (e.g., Chiefs, Tribal Council)
- Incorporating tribal decision-making authority in the climate plan process
- Addressing historic injustices

As we continue to learn more about how we can support Government-to-Government interactions:

We are especially grateful to Dr. Darren Ranco, Jasmine Lamb, Dr. Natalie Michelle, and Ambassador Bryant for their time and continued efforts in empowering the voices of Wabanaki Tribes.

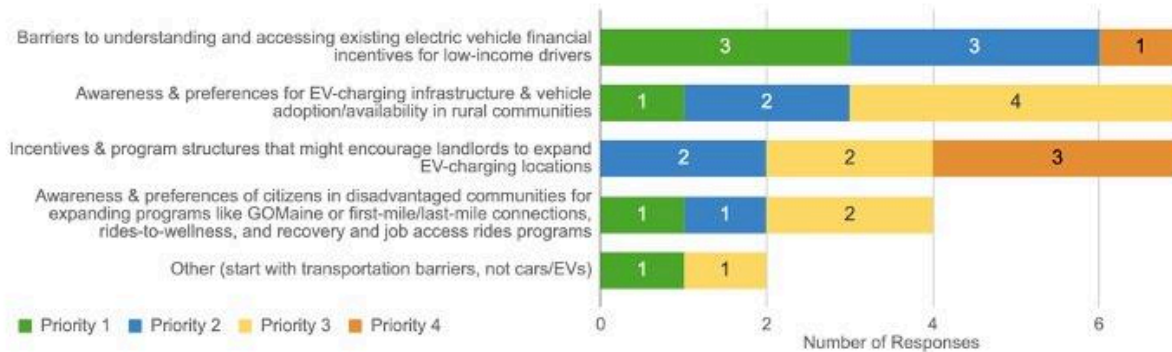
Current Timeline

1. Report to WG about 1st round of engagements -- mid-May 2024
2. Second round of engagement activities -- Summer 2024
3. Report to MCC about 2nd round -- September 2024



Photo from Maine Sustainability and Water Conference session

Thank you for earlier input on your priority questions!



Thank you the **10 TWG members** who responded to our survey in Jan/Feb!

What are preferences & barriers to understanding/ accessing multiple transportation options and their associated incentives and infrastructures

(electric vehicles, public transportation, GOMaine, walking, biking, etc.)?

Our engagement plan built on existing & planned activities

2023-2027 EPA Star grant *"The role of state networks in advancing community-initiated and -engaged sustainable energy action in underserved communities"*

- Community Sustainable Energy Team (Sep 2023-present)
 - representatives from 6 communities with "high" social vulnerability
- Maine Community Alternative Energy Survey (April-June 2024)
- Maine Community Alternative Energy Focus group (April 3, 2024)
- Maine Sustainability & Water Conference session 2 (March 28, 2024)
- MAINECAN: the Maine community-led Energy & Climate Action Network

We incorporated MCC questions in these existing/planned engagements & existing classes/meetings we were involved in

From this foundation, we were able to "quickly" develop contracts with 9 community-based organizations

- A Climate To Thrive
- Center for an Ecology-Based Economy
- Coastal Enterprises Inc.
- Community Organizing Alliance
- Kennebec Valley Community Action Partnership
- Maine Council on Aging
- Maine Environmental Education Association
- PassivhausME
- Sunrise County Economic Council

We are also in the process of exploring a contract with the Island Institute

In addition, we have multiple partners supporting this effort in other ways:

- Governor's Cabinet on Aging
- Maine Community Action Partnership
- MCAN!
- Resilient Communities L3C
- UMaine Center on Aging
- WindowDressers
- Mano e Mano

To-date, we have collaboratively completed 29 engagements for this 1st round

- Over **1,000** members of Priority Populations reached
 - Working Group-specific topics
 - Maine Climate Council general topics
- **A variety of engagement approaches**
 - Day-long conference sessions
 - Panels
 - Focus group discussions (ex: at low-income housing, older adult housing)
 - Participation at festivals/shows
 - Community discussions
 - Round Tables (ex: Pathways to Clean Energy Jobs, Climate Change & Food Justice)
 - Teach-ins
 - Webinars
 - Surveys

Photo courtesy of
Community
Organizing Alliance



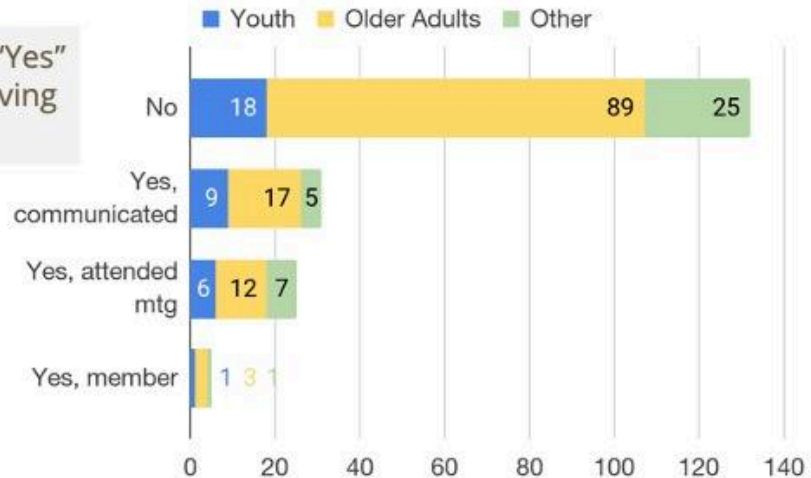
Broad MCC Questions



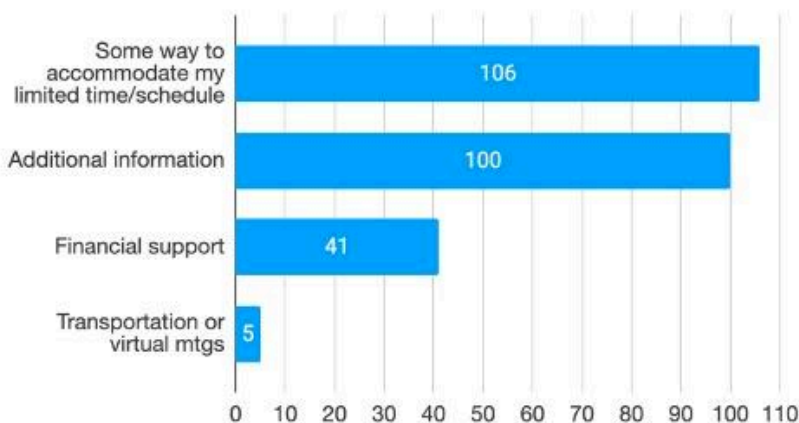
Survey Results: Have you ever been involved in Maine Climate Council activities?

61% of 352 responded "Yes" or "Maybe a little" to having heard of the MCC

68% do/may want to be involved in this update



What type of support would you need to be involved in the Maine Climate Council's update to the climate plan?



"We need to put resources into public engagement on a totally different level, social media engagement, a marketing campaign to really highlight civic engagement as valuable and actually crucial to our lives."

GOOD NEWS: 86% of 63 respondents trust climate change info from the State

When asked 'What are the biggest needs for you/ your community?':

10% wrote in a TRANSPORTATION *related issue* including:

- Improved and low-cost public transportation especially to isolated towns
- Emergency medical transportation
- Safe biking



Data from Maine Citizen Survey,
priority population respondents

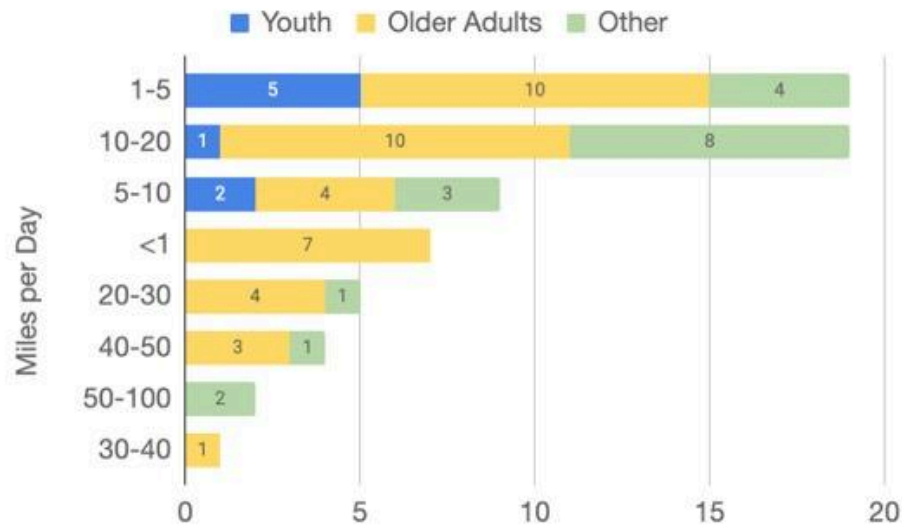
<https://www.tylin.com/work/projects/route-1-corridor-complete-streets-plan>

TRANSPORTATION WORKING GROUP

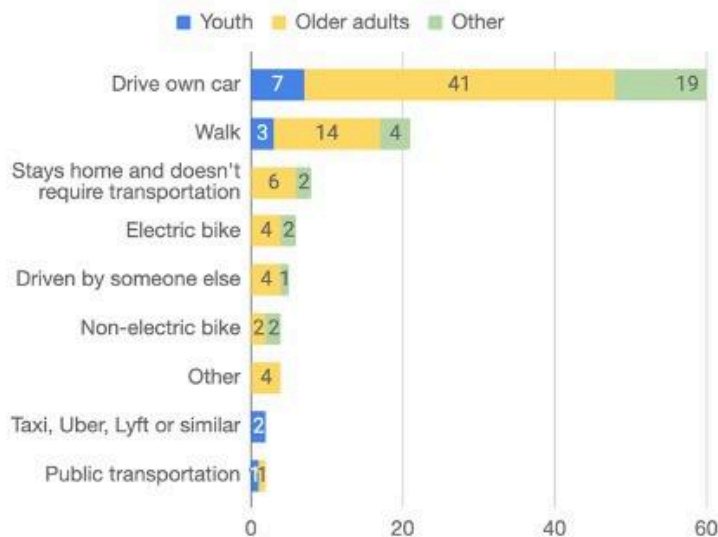
**What are preferences & barriers to understanding/
accessing multiple transportation options and their
associated incentives and infrastructures**

(electric vehicles, public transportation, GOMaine, walking, biking, etc.)?

How far do you travel on a typical day (total, roundtrip)?

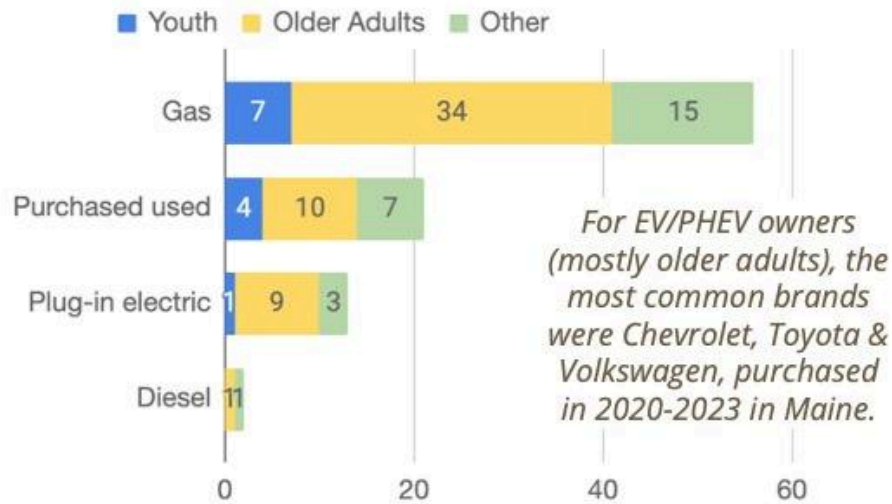


How do you REGULARLY get around?



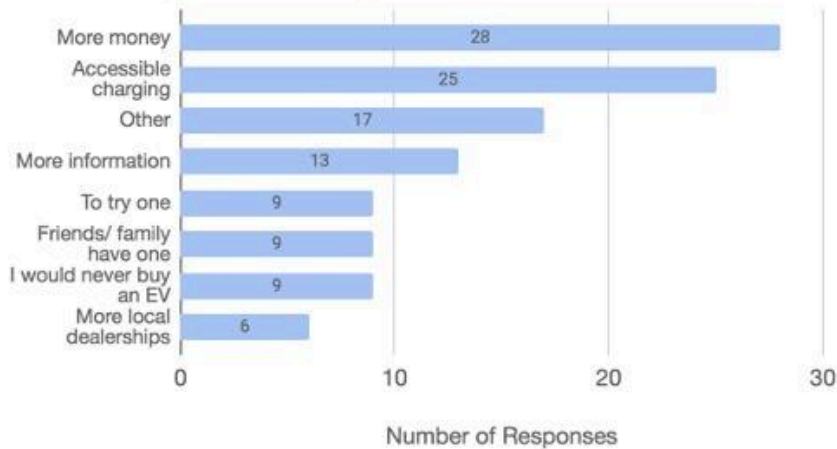
Both municipal and individual respondents to SCEC survey of Washington County commonly reported significant problems with transportation security.

What kind of car do you drive?



What would you need to buy an electric vehicle?

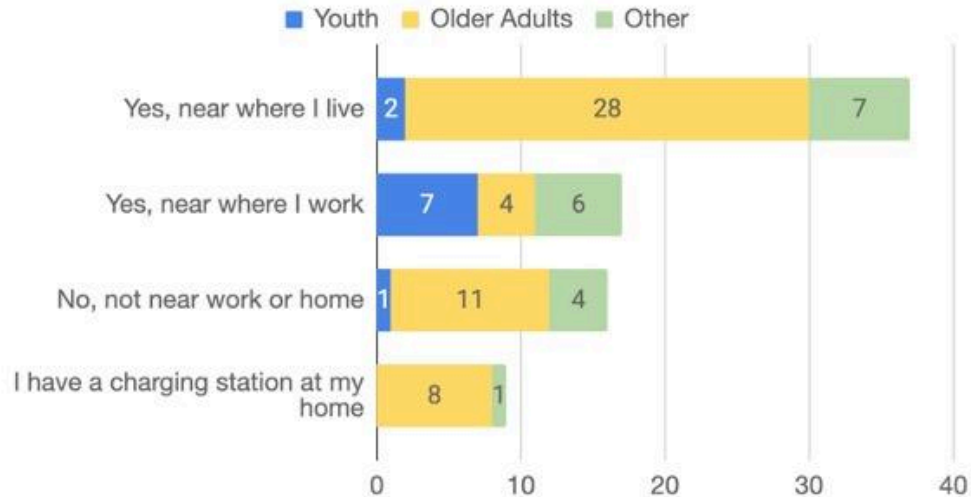
What would you need to buy an electric vehicle?



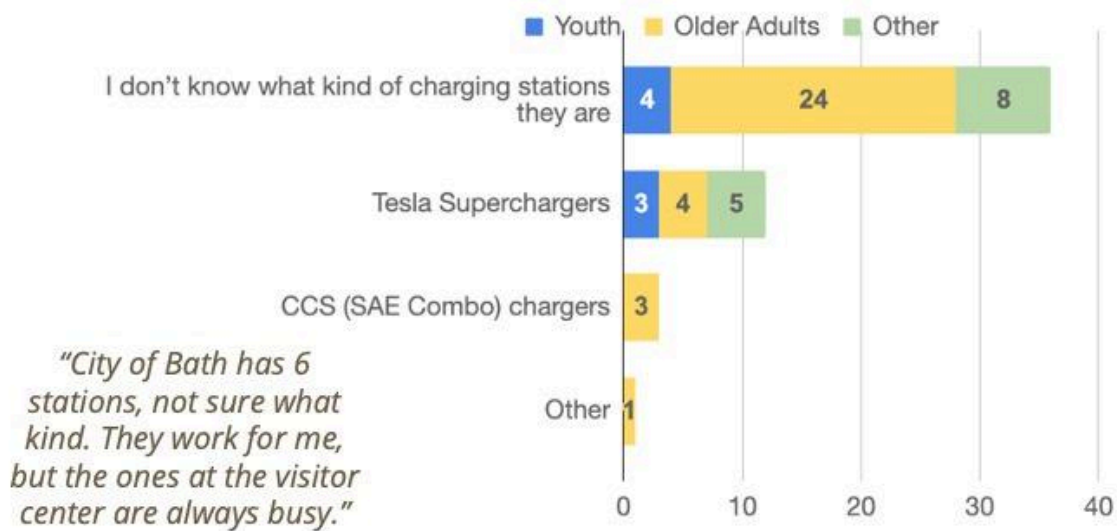
"I'd particularly be interested in a PHEV because we spend a lot of time in Maine where charging infrastructure may be more limited."

-Older Adult in an Urban Community

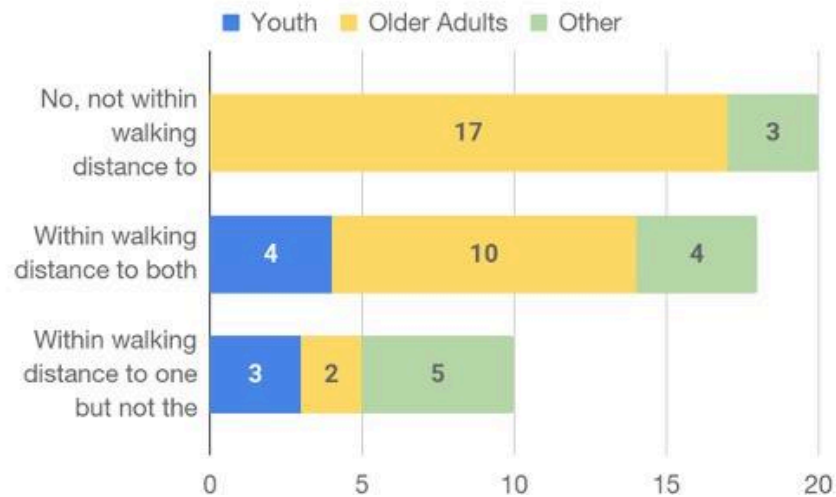
Are you aware of any electric vehicle charging stations near where you live and/or work?



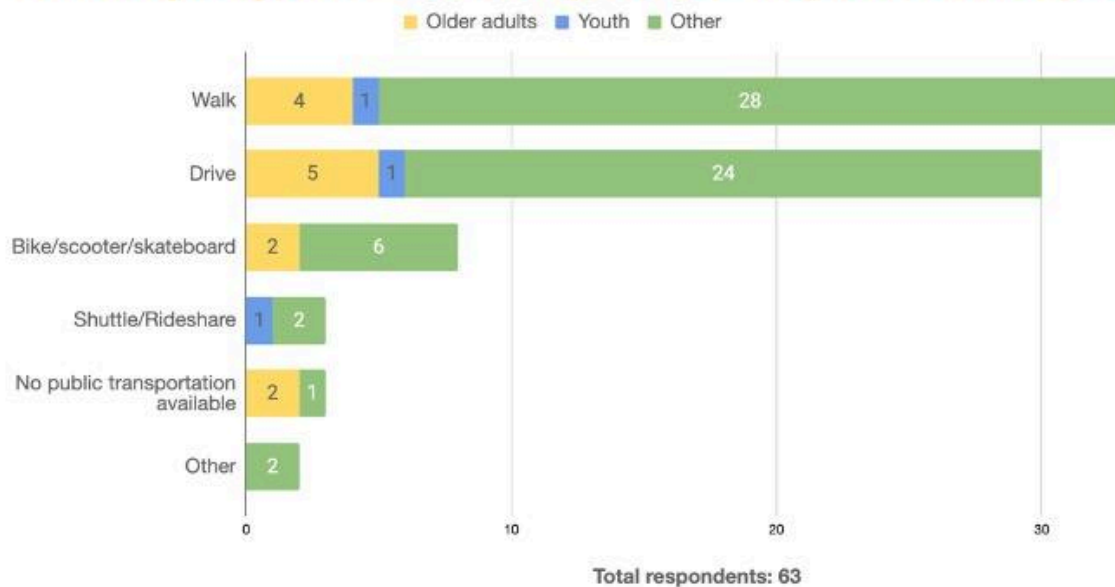
What types of EV charging stations are near you?



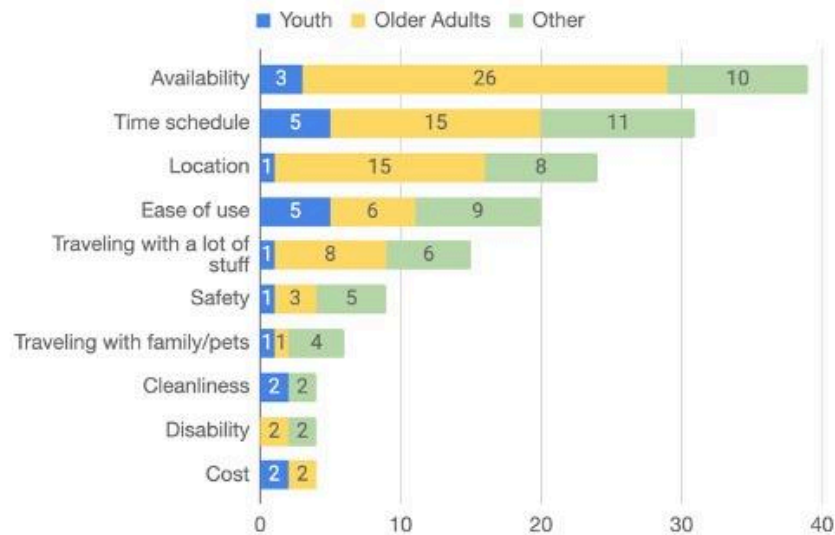
Do public transportation options stop within walking distance from your home or workplace?



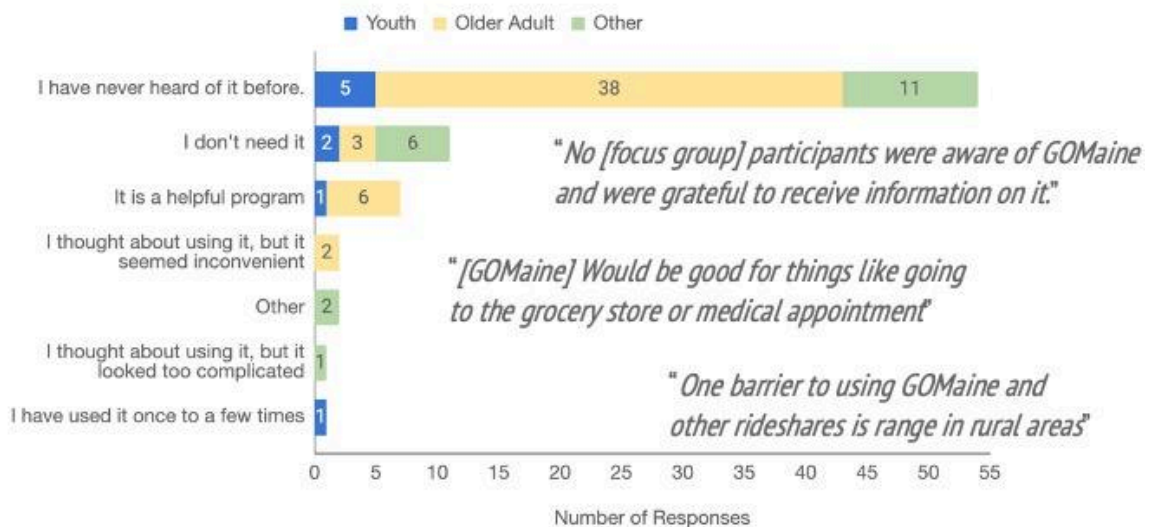
How do you get to and from public transportation stops?



What makes it difficult for you to use public transportation?



GOMaine: the statewide travel resource program



We asked survey respondents to review existing programs...

There are multiple financial incentives available for buying an electric vehicle. The following questions ask about these incentives:

U.S. government:

Up to \$7,500 tax credit on **NEW** electric vehicle purchase by people with annual income up to \$300,000

Efficiency Maine:

\$3,000 to \$7,500 discount or rebate on **NEW** electric vehicle purchase by people of **LOW income***

\$2,500 discount or rebate on **USED** electric vehicle purchase by people of **LOW income***

\$2,000 to \$3,500 discount or rebate on **NEW** electric vehicle purchase by people of **MODERATE income** (\$70,000-\$100,000 annual income)

\$1,000 to \$2,000 discount or rebate on **NEW** electric vehicle purchase by people of **ANY income**.

***To prove eligibility for income-based options:** upload a copy of most recent tax return and fill out online [form](#) OR give permission for a qualifying program to verify your eligibility to Efficiency Maine directly (*Home Energy Assistance Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or MaineCare*).

The low end of each range is for **plug-in hybrid electric vehicles** (gas & electric). The high end of each range is for **fully electric vehicles** (only electric).

You get a direct **discount** if you buy a vehicle from one the Participating Dealers on the map below (also listed on Efficiency Maine's [website](#)). You get a **rebate** if you buy or lease directly from the manufacturer. Cars can't cost more than \$50,000. Trucks can't cost more than \$80,000.

...at multiple levels (federal, state, community)

U.S. government:

Up to \$7,500 tax credit on **NEW** electric vehicle purchase by people with annual income up to \$300,000

Efficiency Maine:

\$3,000 to \$7,500 discount or rebate on **NEW** electric vehicle purchase by people of **LOW income***

\$2,500 discount or rebate on **USED** electric vehicle purchase by people of **LOW income***

\$2,000 to \$3,500 discount or rebate on **NEW** electric vehicle purchase by people of **MODERATE income** (\$70,000-\$100,000 annual income)

\$1,000 to \$2,000 discount or rebate on **NEW** electric vehicle purchase by people of **ANY income**.

***To prove eligibility for income-based options:** upload a copy of most recent tax return and fill out online [form](#) OR give permission for a qualifying program to verify your eligibility to Efficiency Maine directly (*Home Energy Assistance Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or MaineCare*).

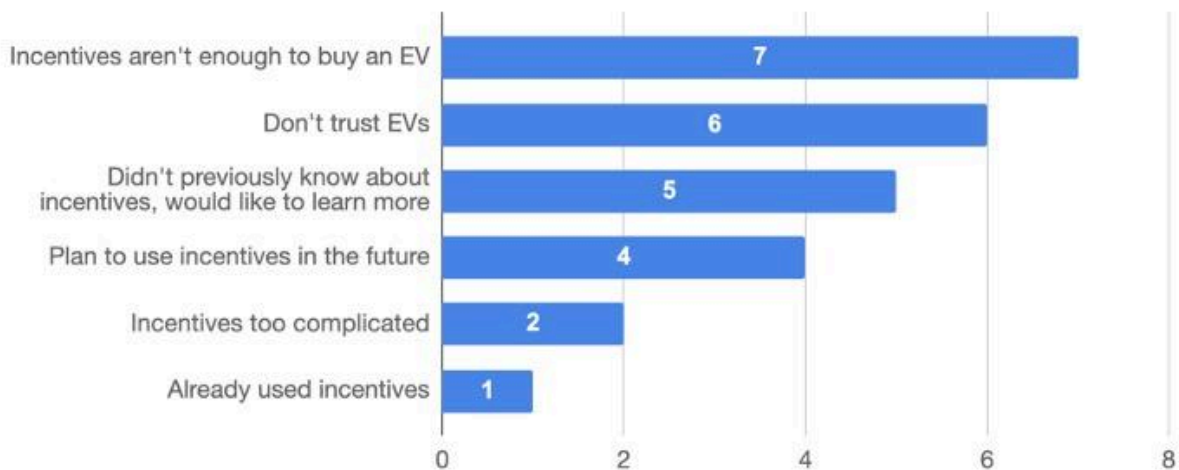
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Map of Participating Dealers



When asked about these incentives...



Strong Feelings About Electric Vehicles

I bought an EV 2 years ago and love it!"

- Older Adult in Maine

54% of survey respondents (20/37) said they would like to see more public charging stations for electric vehicles.

"again to not [assault] the land to mine for lithium and putting the batteries in landfills. you haven't done your homework but I have. Electric in cold regions don't work. Stop pretending this is green - it's black to say the least"

-Older Adult in a Rural Maine Community

"Personally, I struggle to understand how electric vehicles are to save our climate, however they cost way more to make and the EV chargers are taking up additional space on earth."

- Youth

EV adoption and infrastructure are not top priorities in rural communities

"The technology is too new, There is no way a battery will last for as long/far as I need to travel, I don't think the battery will hold up in winter weather - I worry about getting stranded somewhere without a charge in a storm, I don't think they are as safe as other vehicles"

-Older Adult in a Rural,
Disadvantaged Maine Community

"Housing itself is the hardest part. Will the state work to make housing more affordable? The question about EV charging stations doesn't seem appropriate when housing prices are such a more immediate concern"

-Working Group

Participant

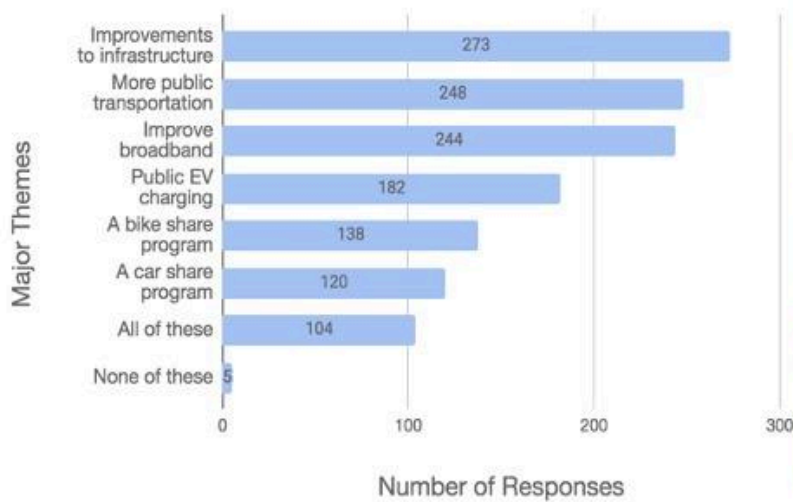
Landlords expressed concerns about alternative energy upgrades (including EV chargers)

"I've investigated alternative energy but can't afford the upfront costs. I was told you get all kinds of money back but then find out it's in the form of a tax rebate and to get the maximum, you have to spend several thousand dollars."

"Costs are changing over time, but the cost to sell excess as well as future cost for electricity from the grid, so it is difficult to calculate the economic cost or benefit"

"[I do not trust the options or providers/installers because of] Stories of alternative electric providers who end up gouging consumers with higher rates than default electric company rates"

How would you like to see transportation improved?



"Some people in Norway don't have cars at all - also leads to a food desert issue, shopping at gas stations etc. Get transportation for people's most immediate needs"

-POC from a rural, underserved community

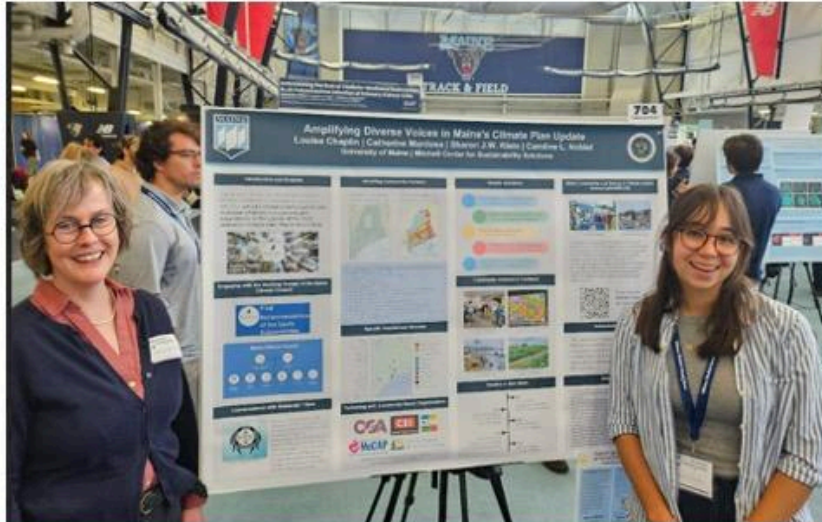


GOOD NEWS: 70% of 352 respondents are open to expanded public transportation

What's next....As you work on your recommendations

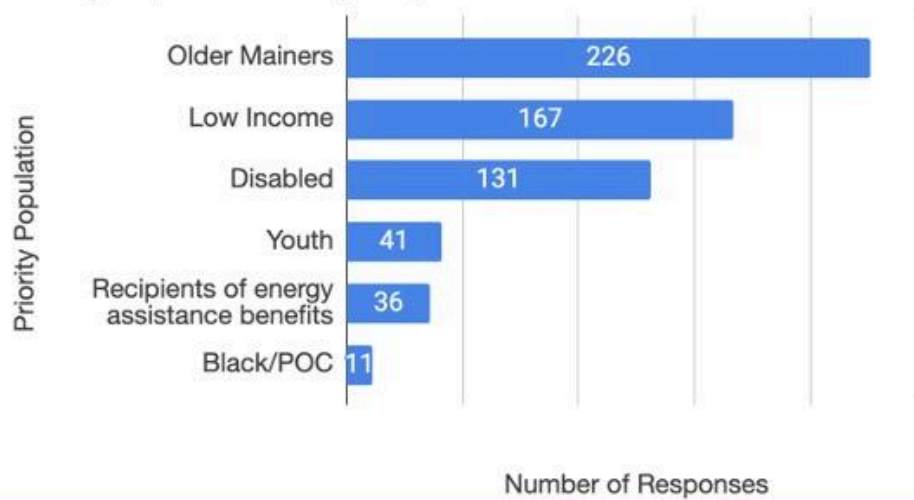
1. Cross-WG Learning: as we do presentations to the next 4 Working Groups next week, GOPIF will share presentations with WG co-chairs
2. How can we be helpful to you? (anything you saw here today that you'd like follow up on?)
3. Second round of engagement activities -- Summer 2024
 - a. Are there groups you really need to hear from, or hear more from?

Thank you!

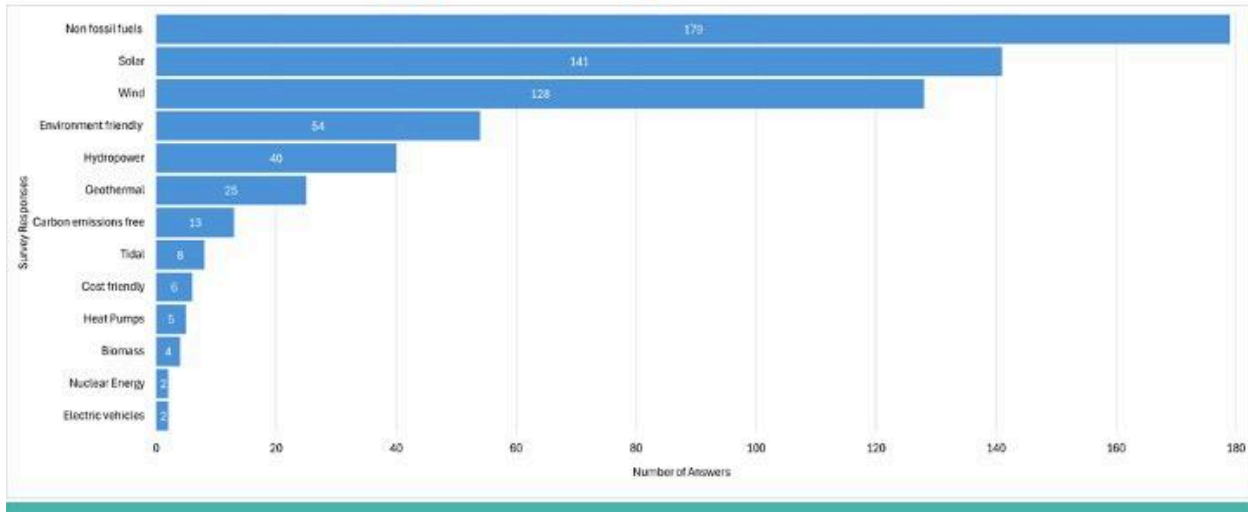


Appendix 1: Who responded to our survey?

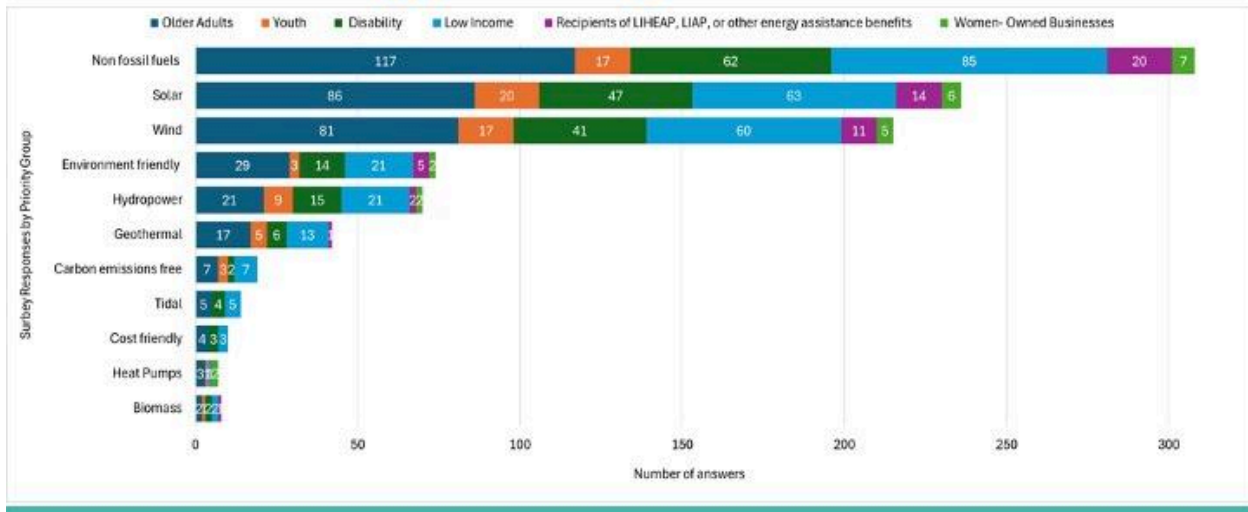
Priority Population Survey Responses



Appendix 2: What do the terms "alternative energy" and "renewable energy" mean to you??

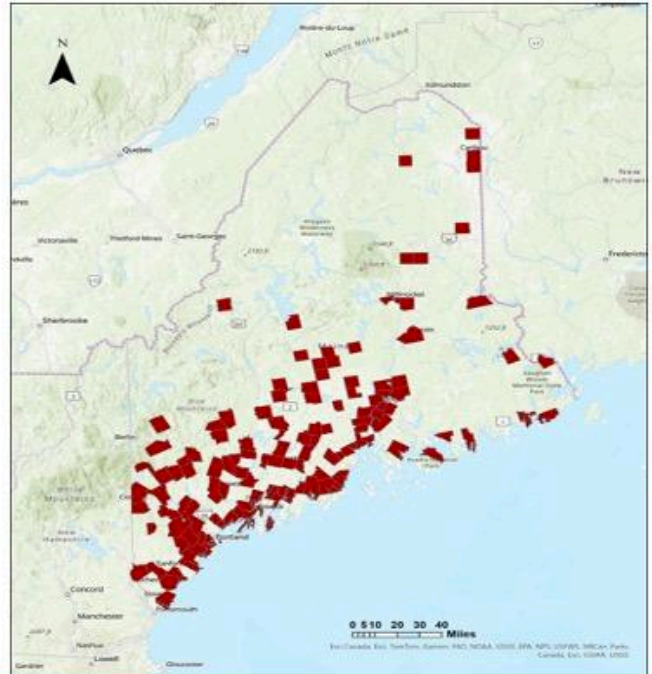


Appendix 3: What do the terms "alternative energy" and "renewable energy" mean to you??



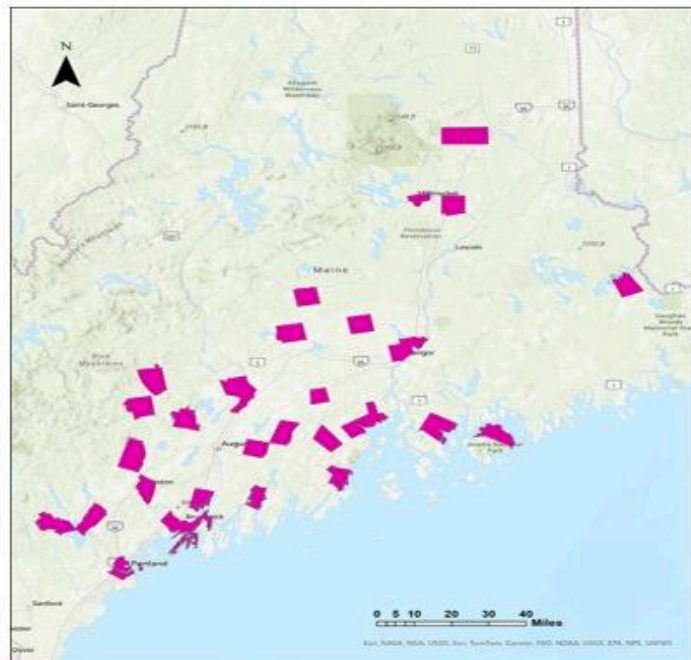
Priority Population

- Community members from each of these communities participated in our survey

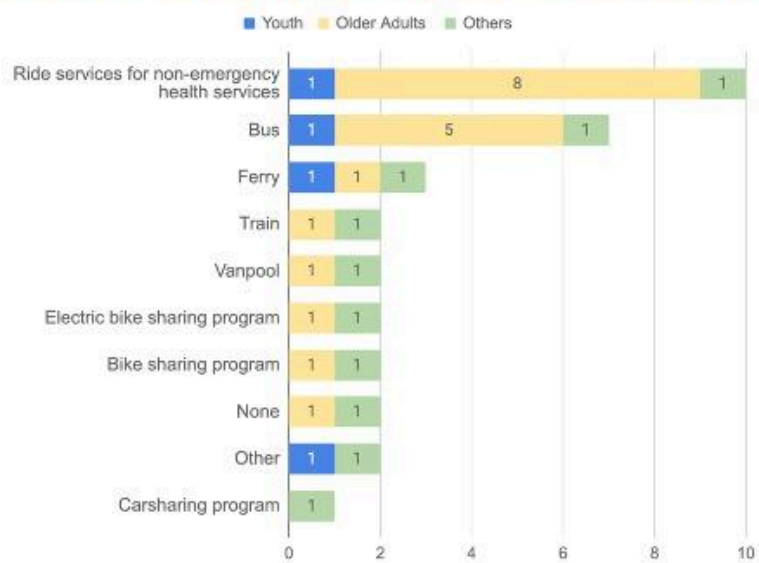


Priority Population

- Members of these disadvantaged communities filled out the survey for the Transportation block on Community survey



What types of public transportation exist near you/you use?



Appendix E2 - September Presentation to Maine Climate Council

Amplifying Voices: Engaging Diverse Populations in the 2024 Maine Climate Plan Update

— Dr. Sharon Klein —
University of Maine
Mitchell Center for Sustainability
Solutions

Meet the full Mitchell Center team!



Dr. Sharon Klein

Associate Professor,
School of Economics



Dr. Caroline Noblet

Associate Professor,
School of Economics



Louise Chaplin

Post-BS
Research Assistant



Catherine Mardosa

Post-MA
Research Assistant



**Jasmine
Lamb**

PhD Student, Ecology &
Environmental Science,
Sipayik Resilience
Committee Chair



**Janine
Borges**

MA Student,
Economics



**Faizan
Saif**

MS Student,
Resource Economics
& Policy



**Sonia
Leone**

BA Student,
Anthropology
and Human Dimensions
of Climate Change

Meet the full Mitchell Center team!



Dr. David Hart

Director,
Mitchell Center for
Sustainability Solutions



Dr. Linda Silka

Senior Fellow,
Mitchell Center for
Sustainability Solutions



Solomon Agbesi

MS Student,
Resource Economics
& Policy



Abraham Assefa

MS Student, Economics



**Katie
Simmons**

BS Student, Ecology &
Environmental Sciences



Dr. Cressica Brazier

Maine Community-Led
Energy & Climate Action
Network (MAINECAN)
Research Fellow



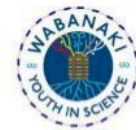
**Miles
Jones**

BA Student,
International
Affairs & Economics



**Edge
Venuti**

BS Student, Ecology &
Environmental
Sciences



**William (Hayna)
Francis**

Old Town High School,
WaYS Program

“Priority Populations” identified by the Governor’s Office for Policy, Innovation & The Future include*:

- Low income households & communities
- Older adults and youth
- Black or POC communities
- Disadvantaged communities
- People with limited English proficiency, including New Mainers
- Recipients of LIHEAP, LIAP, or other energy assistance
- People with mobility challenges
- People without access to reliable transportation
- Businesses and workers in the natural resource industries
- Minority, women-owned or veteran owned businesses
- Rural communities and small towns with limited staff or fiscal capacity
- Climate-frontline communities

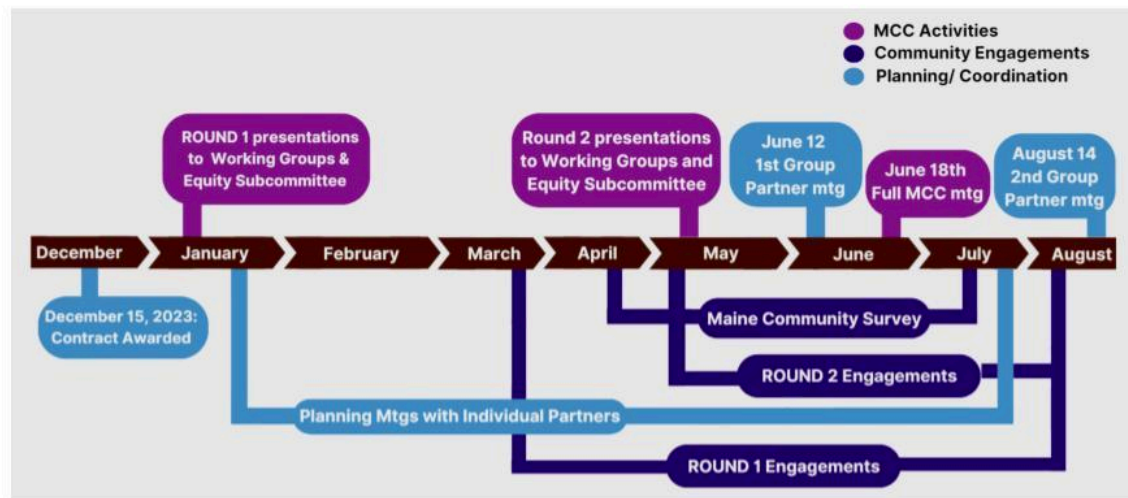
***This list originally included “tribal communities”, which has been removed due to concerns from Wabanaki partners that this designation does not respect tribal sovereignty.**

Engagement with Wabanaki Tribes

The State of Maine's engagement with the Wabanaki Nations of Maine as it pertains to the Maine Climate Planning process should follow established guidelines around tribal-state collaboration and consultation.

- **Recognize Wabanaki tribal sovereignty in Maine climate planning.**
 - **Follow an appropriate Government-to-Government process.**
 - **Demonstrate a meaningful commitment to listening and respecting traditional ecological knowledge, in compliance with appropriate data sovereignty guidelines.**
-

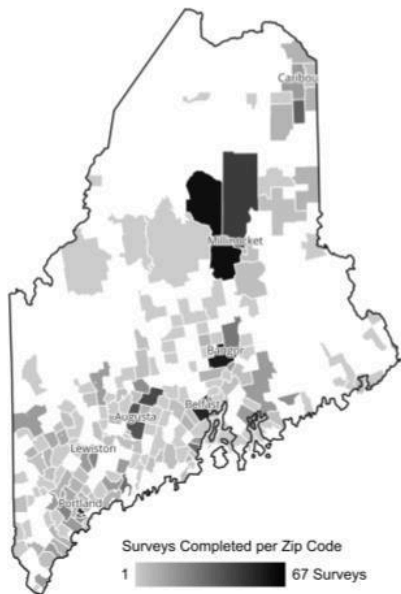
Timeline



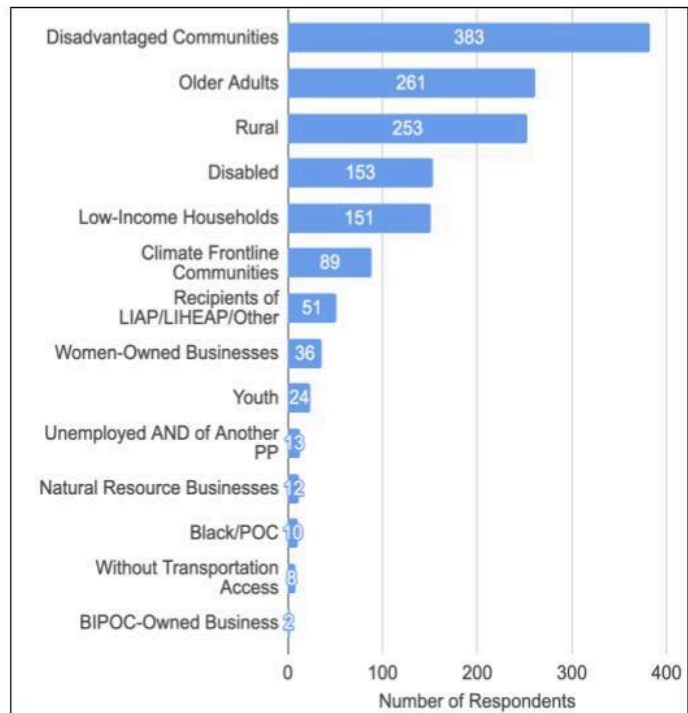
Partnering with Community Organizations

1. A Climate to Thrive (ACTT)
 2. Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP)
 3. Center for an Ecology-Based Economy (CEBE)
 4. Coastal Enterprises Inc. (CEI)
 5. Community Organizing Alliance (COA)
 6. Community Sustainable Energy Team
 7. Governor's Cabinet on Aging
 8. Island Institute
 9. Kennebec Valley Community Action Program (KVCAP)
 10. Maine Climate Action NOW! (MCAN!)
 11. Maine Conservation Alliance (MCA)
 12. Maine Council on Aging (MCOA)
 13. Maine Multicultural Center
 14. Maine Environmental Education Association (MEEA)
 15. Maine People's Alliance
 16. PassivhausMAINE
 17. Resilient Communities L3C
 18. Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC)
 19. UMaine Center on Aging
 20. WindowDressers
 21. York Ready for Climate Action
-

Statewide Survey

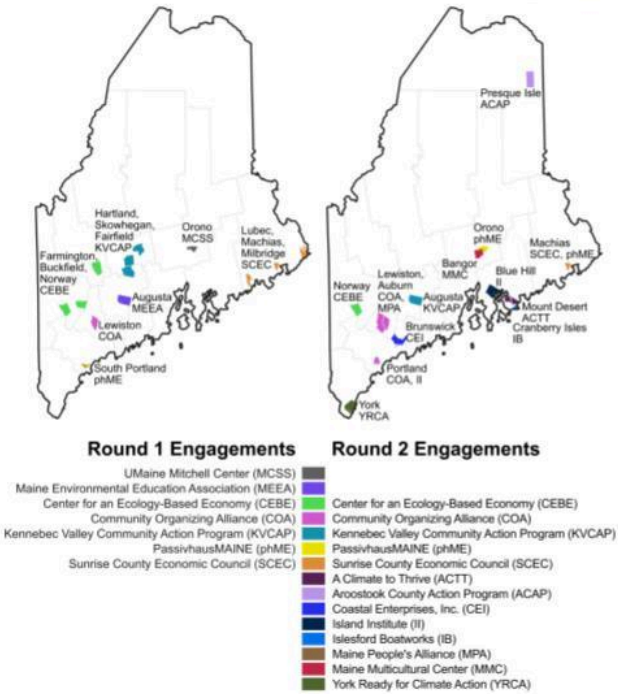


Total number of surveys completed per Zip Code



Distribution of Maine Community Alternative Energy Survey respondents across priority populations (568 total responses; some respondents may belong to more than one priority population).

Community Partner Engagements



Map of engagements per community partner



Discussion of Working Group recommendations in Portland, led by Community Organizing Alliance, 8/3/24

Between the University of
Maine research team and 21
partnering organizations, 74
community engagement
events reached over 2,800
members of Priority
Populations across the state!

Key Takeaways

- While this process has added much value, **it has not fully met procedural equity needs in state climate planning**; for these issues to truly be at the center of climate planning, the 2028 climate plan update process must begin now.
 - **Authentic engagement requires relationship-building and time.**
 - **Poverty considerations must be a central focus of climate planning**, not a box to be checked or an add-on. It needs to be integrated into every climate plan strategy and action.
 - **Public transportation needs to be expanded.**
 - There is a need for **more education about climate change**, particularly to make complex information more accessible and to train local leaders to understand the MCC working group recommendations.
 - A **targeted funding plan** is needed to guarantee that the strategies and actions outlined in the Maine Climate Council working group recommendations benefit the most vulnerable.
-

Feedback across Working Group topics

Working Group	Challenges	Opportunities
Buildings, Infrastructure & Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High energy costs• Landlord accountability• Installation & maintenance costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy-efficient solutions• Housing access• Education• Desire for change
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of local ownership• Lack of understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New local ownership models• Community benefit agreements• Jobs

“More funding is needed for weatherization, heat pumps, and home repair for people to assist people who need these programs”

- Older adult participant in a Maine Council on Aging listening session (8/6/24)

Feedback across Working Group topics

Working Group	Challenges	Opportunities
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of public transportation• Low range on AWD EVs• Lack of charging infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Road improvements for biking & walking• Integrated transit• Electrify buses• PHEVs
Community Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High cost of living• Basic needs• Mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Citizen committees• Increase funding to participants• Relationship -building

“Offering financial incentives to purchase an electric vehicle is a challenging way to address the climate change challenge. Poor community members struggle to make ends meet, so taking out a loan for an electric car that costs several thousand dollars [sic] isn't the best option. Electronic public transportation is the most equitable way to combat climate change and lessen mental health issues in places as some people are already experiencing hardship. Giving away free electric automobiles is another option, but that is not likely to happen.”

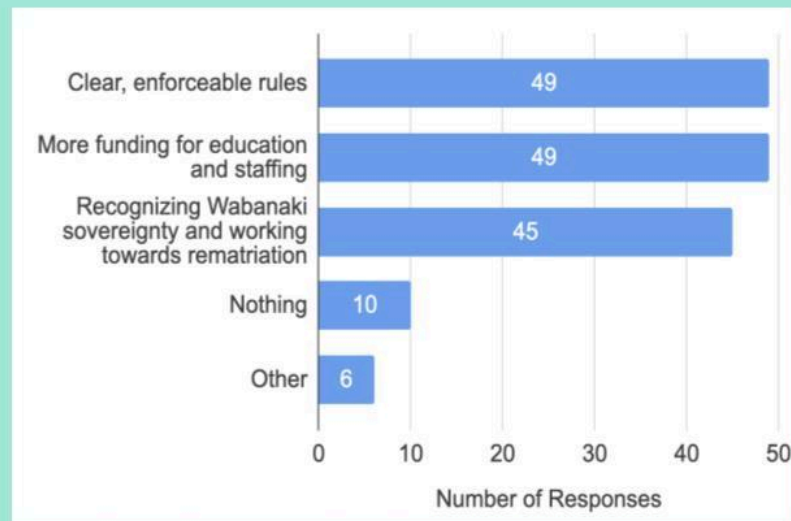
- Respondent to a survey implemented by the Community Organizing Alliance in Lewiston-Auburn (7/25/24)

Feedback across Working Group topics

Working Group	Challenges	Opportunities
Coastal & Marine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Storm damage• Housing• Adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding• Learning from communities
Natural & Working Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education• Local food• Job opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expand funding• Recognize Wabanaki sovereignty

**Explore Collaborations
with community**

organizations to increase access to conserved areas. Municipal leaders in Oxford County shared that there is access to trails and recreation opportunities close to their downtown centers or villages, but according to residents, it is mostly nonprofits that provide these opportunities and not the State (CEBE meeting, 8/6/24). Collectively, these responses indicate a need for increased resources to support equitable access.



Maine Community Alternative Energy Survey responses to the question:
What could be improved in terms of how these areas are protected? (83 total responses; some respondents selected more than one answer)

“We need conservation land in both rural and developed coastal areas or there won't be any undeveloped areas left in either. Perhaps establishing a more equitable property tax system with more state aid to under-resourced areas is a complementary issue.”

– *Survey distributed through York Ready for Climate Action newsletter (7/31/24)*

Feedback across Working Group topics

	Challenges	Opportunities
Land Use Discussion Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inadequate infrastructure and services• Cost of living• Affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize greenspace in planning• Technical assistance
Materials Management Task Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of recycling/composting services• Unsure how to reduce emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education• Waste diversion programs

“It would be interesting to have a fishing gear recycling program that paid people to pick up debris on the shoreline... Each year, a group of people pick up debris, but it ends up in landfill on the mainland.”

*– Participant in an Island Institute discussion
(8/8/2024)*

“We need to put resources into public engagement on a totally different level, social media engagement, a marketing campaign to really highlight civic engagement as valuable and actually crucial to our lives.”

*-Participant in CEBE focus group discussion
(4/30/24)*

Acknowledgement

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*Other Contributors: Wabanaki scholars Dr. Darren Ranco, Dr. Natalie Michelle, Dr. Anthony Sutton, and Penobscot Nation Ambassador Maulian Bryant, and the members of the Community Sustainable Energy Team.

Partial script from this presentation:

Right Now

1. Elevate strategies that intersect with basic needs

Public Transportation

One of the most prominent themes that emerged from this work was to elevate strategies that intersect with basic needs. Transportation was one basic need that was discussed over and over again. This quote is a sample of many expressing a desire for a commitment to expanding and improving public transportation. People often mentioned that they felt public transportation was hidden or not prioritized in the language of the working group recommendations. They generally felt positive toward electrified public transportation but there were many concerns about all-electric

passenger vehicles. People from northern and downeast communities expressed that they do not feel electric vehicles (EVs) meet their needs with current charging infrastructure, especially when they feel many charging stations cost more than electricity at home and they are already concerned with high electricity prices. Upfront cost was also a big concern. Many people are not able to afford a car at all, much less one that will not go where they want to go or as far as they want to go, takes longer to fill up than they are used to, and that they feel may leave them stranded in a storm. Some people expressed fears about battery fires and the mining & extraction of lithium, as well as a distrust in the new technology and concern that the cars might not come with options like all-wheel drive. One participant summarized these concerns by saying:

“Offering financial incentives to purchase an electric vehicle is a challenging way to address the climate change challenge. Poor community members struggle to make ends meet, so taking out a loan for an electric car that costs several thousand dollars isn't the best option. Electronic public transportation is the most equitable way to combat climate change and lessen mental health issues in places as some people are already experiencing hardship. Giving away free electric automobiles is another option, but that is not likely to happen.”

- Respondent to a survey implemented by the Community Organizing Alliance in Lewiston-Auburn (7/25/24)

While the Transportation Working Group Recommendations emphasize passenger EVs as the most impactful strategy in the transportation sector, participants do not understand or agree with this statement and are more interested in public transportation. Therefore the Council should very carefully consider the language about EVs and public transportation in the update and prioritize EV education and outreach.

“The electrification of passenger cars and light-duty trucks is the most impactful strategy to reduce GHG emissions in the transportation sector.”

- p.4 Transportation Working Group Recommendations

Housing and Home Repair

Housing and home repair is another key basic need. One participant who has been unhoused expressed housing as the biggest issue, underscoring that it is difficult to focus on anything but survival when you do not have a home. Another participant highlighted the types of housing people in rural communities inhabit: uninsulated trailers and a retrofitted chicken barn; weatherizing homes like that has unique challenges.

“[I know] a few people with uninsulated trailers that are not hooked up to septic or water, or anything. I know one person living in a retrofitted chicken barn that was built out of cinder blocks, and that's his living space.”

- Participant from a rural community

“Housing, definitely. It's hard to find and hard to navigate the system... Housing increases your safety. I was homeless for 9 months—it took a big strain on my health. Trying to survive makes you focus only on survival and nothing else.”

- KVCAP-led focus group discussion (8/5/24) at LINC Wellness Center in Augusta: unhoused people and people with mental illness, substance misuse issues, and/or low income

Heating

Heating goes hand-in-hand with housing and home repairs. In the statewide survey, most respondents selected high electricity and heating prices as the biggest problem they experience in their homes, alongside drafty windows/doors, poor insulation and frequent power outages (Figure 2). Most people WANT heat pumps & weatherization and are excited about state and federal incentives, but many do not qualify or do not know how to access energy assistance benefits. Others do not trust heat pumps when electricity prices are high.

“Many of the homes in the region now have heat pumps with great funding assistance from Efficiency Maine. More of these types of efforts would be great.”

– Rural resident with a disability from E. Millinocket

“We need more education for the immigrant communities around the HEAP and LIAP benefits. This is the first time I hear it, so why is there not outreach regarding these programs?”

- Immigrant leader

2. Prioritize person-to-person education & capacity-building

Key Takeaway #1 points to the need to prioritize person-to-person education & capacity-building in the update. As one resident of a rural community says:

“If people don’t know what a heat pump is and how it works, they probably aren’t using it correctly.”

- Resident of a rural community

There are existing programs, some in Maine – like the Energy Coaches of York Ready for Climate Action and A Climate To Thrive’s Climate Ambassadors – and other out-of-state programs – like New Hampshire’s Energy Circuit Riders – that can help with this individual and community-level education, building capacity through volunteers & neighbor-to-neighbor interactions. Participants would like to see these approaches prioritized in the update.

3. Prioritize equity outcome & monitoring metrics from the March 2023 Equity Subcommittee (ESC) Report

The results also underscore the need to prioritize equity outcome and monitoring metrics from the Equity Subcommittee March 2023 report in the update. This is a snapshot of some metrics from that report, which recognizes the need to over-serve vulnerable populations to make sure they are reached.

4. Special considerations for older adults

Multiple special considerations for older adults emerged. Partners really like the work of the State Youth Ambassador and would like to see an Older Adult Ambassador that can harness the strengths and wisdom of older adults and address their unique needs, especially for older adults that live alone. They also want the update to encourage disaster plans to specify considerations for older adults and people with disabilities.

Going Forward

1. Start the 2028 update process now

Going forward, thinking about implementing the 2024 update and preparing for the 2028 update, a constant theme throughout these engagements was to start now with the 2028 Update and build on the great work and momentum already in motion. Relationship-building and meaningful engagement take a lot of time. Participants would

like to see an appropriate amount of time for these important components worked into the next update process.

2. Implement a poverty-centered funding & capacity-building plan

A key theme for implementing the update is funding and capacity building. Participants often noted appreciation for the many incentives that exist and consistently expressed a need for more funding for things like weatherization, heat pumps, home repair – especially for those who cannot afford a single dollar of their own money. They also voiced a need for poverty to be integrated into all aspects of implementation and planning.

“More funding is needed for weatherization, heat pumps, and home repair for people - to assist people who need these programs.”

- Older adult in Maine Council on Aging listening session (8/6/24)

“I see climate change as deeply related to other large problems in how our economy is structured for the benefit of the few at the expense of the many. I think information about climate change needs to always be connected with a strategy for how to address poverty and oppression.”

- Participant with low income, Maine Survey

3. Commit to long-term, iterative relationship-building to meet people where they are at and build/foster trust

Centering poverty in climate planning requires a long-term commitment to iterative relationship building that supports meeting people where they are at. Many participants recognized that this work and the work of this Climate Council made great strides in understanding how to address procedural and distributional equity, and yet there is still a lot more work to do to ensure equity is centered in climate action going forward. Meeting people where they are at is a physical thing – like partner organizations going out and talking to people in their neighborhoods – and also a language thing.

Seventy percent of 335 survey respondents have never been involved in MCC activities. Many partners expressed that their engagements were the first time ever that participants had talked about these issues. The language matters, and this long-term commitment to relationship-building with partner organizations can help. Understanding and respecting trusted sources of information is also important. Most participants expressed that they trust information from the state and its affiliates like Efficiency Maine Trust. They also really trust information from family and friends, which can be

helpful and also a challenge because it requires family and friends to have accurate information, again underscoring the need for long-term relationship-building.

“There’s the importance of using the language that people already usethe things that are important to them, the things that are consistent with them to kind of navigate conversations about climate change..... I think that at the state level, there are a lot of very smart people finding the ways to have... and to inspire and navigate those conversations.”

- SCEC Focus Group, 7/8/24

4. Directly engage the five Wabanaki Governments

Finally, our Wabanaki partners expressed that it is important to directly engage with the five Wabanaki governments and follow the recommendations in the 2024 Annual Report of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations. This process is seen as important by indigenous as well as non-indigenous populations. Most of the 83 respondents to the survey question “What can be improved in terms of how natural lands are protected”, selected “recognizing Wabanaki sovereignty and working towards rematriation”. These were non-indigenous respondents. Many non-indigenous working group members also expressed a strong desire for integrating Wabanaki priorities into this update. Starting the planning process now for the 2028 update may provide enough time for the relationship-building and iterative conversations needed for this government-to-government engagement.

Appendix F - Maine Community Alternative Energy Survey

Prior to the contract with GOPIF, Dr. Klein and Dr. Noblet were already in the midst of a project (Drivers and Environmental Impacts of Energy Transitions in Underserved Communities, EPA-G2022-STAR-F1) that was engaging Wabanaki nations and other underserved communities in Maine in a community-engaged research effort to understand the barriers, opportunities, and decision drivers related to multiple electricity, transportation, and heating options that include renewable energy and/or energy efficiency/conservation. This work involved co-developing surveys of community residents with six community partners (the “Community Sustainable Energy Team,” representing Eastport, Millinocket, Lincoln, Patten, Trescott Township, and Van Buren) and the four Wabanaki nations (the “Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Team,” representing Penobscot Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point and Indian Township, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, and the Mi’kmaq Nation). Each team had been meeting monthly with the Mitchell Center team since the Fall of 2023 to co-develop their respective surveys.

The Mitchell Center team asked each Sustainable Energy team if they agreed to the inclusion of some extra MCC-specific questions in the surveys since many of the existing EPA grant survey questions were similar to the MCC working group topic areas. With permission from members of the Community Sustainable Energy Team, Dr. Klein and Dr. Noblet added questions to the existing community survey about the MCC working group topic areas (Appendix I) and expanded the survey to a statewide audience. They then engaged the community partners from this MCC project in sending the survey out to their audiences when the partners felt it was appropriate. The discussion with the Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Team followed a different path (detailed in Section 2.0 of the main report).

Some working group topics were already covered in the original wording of the survey for the EPA grant purposes because the MCC has a strong focus on electricity, transportation, and heating - three pre-existing areas of focus for the original survey. However, new sections needed to be added for non-energy-focused and some energy-focused topics. To avoid lengthening the original survey too much, the team rotated 5 question blocks of working group-specific questions (“MCC Buildings, Infrastructure & Housing”; “MCC Energy”; “MCC Transportation”; “MCC Coastal & Marine & NWL”; “MCC Community Resilience”), so a single respondent would only see one of these blocks. The University of Maine requires all human subject research to obtain approval from the Institutional Review Board prior to implementation. This approval was secured in March 2024. Twelve people from the communities represented on the Community Sustainable Energy Team tested out the survey in an online focus

group on April 3, 2024 and received a stipend of \$75 for their time. The survey was finalized and released on April 10th, 2024.

The survey was administered using both electronic (Qualtrics) and paper-based methods to accommodate participants with varying internet access. Participants were invited to take part through QR code fliers, local government email lists, public postings, social media pages, newsletters, and in-person invitations at events like educational workshops, fairs, food pantries, and other community meeting places such as local libraries, community centers, and health clinics. Additionally, the Mitchell Center team purchased and sent the survey directly to email addresses in zip codes identified as disadvantaged or vulnerable on the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool [3] and the Social Vulnerability Index for Maine Communities [4].

The Mitchell Center team downloaded and analyzed survey data twice during the project period, on April 25, 2024 to prepare the April/May working group presentations and on July 31, 2024 to prepare this report. The team followed best practices in data cleaning and preparation, including identification and removal of responses generated by artificial intelligence (AI), identification of input error and thematic coding of open-ended responses.

It became clear that adapting the Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Survey to include MCC-specific questions was not an appropriate approach to State engagement with Wabanaki Nations on climate planning. Therefore, the Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Survey, which was also launched in April 2024, does not include any MCC-specific questions, and results are not included in this report.

Note: No single survey respondent received the full version of the survey; instead, we randomly rotated topic sections (“MCC Buildings, Infrastructure & Housing”; “MCC Energy”; “MCC Transportation”; “MCC Coastal & Marine & NWL”; “MCC Community Resilience”) to ensure that each topic received equal response while keeping the survey a manageable length for participants. Only Working Group topic sections were rotated.

[3] Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, “Explore the Map”, Council on Environmental Quality. Accessed August 28, 2024. Available:

<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>

[4] Community Resilience Partnership, “Social Vulnerability Index for Maine Communities”, Governor’s Office for Policy Innovation and the Future, Aug. 2024. Available:

https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov.future/files/inline-files/SVI%20Communities%20Map%20and%20List_2021-12-01_1.pdf

Maine Community Alternative Energy Survey 2024

Consent Form

This research is being conducted as a collaboration between Dr. Sharon Klein and Dr. Caroline Noblet, Associate Professors in the School of Economics at the University of Maine and the Community Sustainable Energy Team, a consortium of representatives from low-income, underserved communities in Maine. We would like to learn more about your awareness and preferences for different ways of accessing electricity, heating, and transportation and your participation in activities related to this topic. You must be at least 18 years old to participate in this survey.

What we will ask you to do: If you agree, we will ask you to answer questions in a confidential physical survey about your preferences about different ways to access electricity, heating, and transportation and participation in activities related to this topic. The survey is expected to take 10 minutes. The survey asks for your contact information so we may compare survey responses over multiple years and potentially follow up with an interview request as appropriate. A return envelope is included with the paper survey to be returned to the researchers.

Risks of this study: For this study, the most apparent risks you will face as a participant are your time and inconvenience. There is also a risk of being identified along with your responses. However, we will take multiple precautions (as described in Confidentiality) to avoid this risk, and the questions asked are not of a highly sensitive nature.

Benefits of this study: While there are no direct benefits of this research to you, your responses will help support social science advances and fill gaps in knowledge of municipal, state and federal stakeholders. As a result, Maine citizens in aggregate will benefit from this research. You will benefit from helping to shape potential future energy action in your community, and from co-producing knowledge about, for, and interpreted with your community, which will also enrich relationships across multiple communities and between communities and the University of Maine. The overall benefit of the study will be supporting community-led sustainable energy action in underserved communities.

Confidentiality: Paper surveys will be kept in a locked office in Winslow Hall at the University of Maine and will be destroyed as soon as the data have been transferred to

an electronic form – by January 2028 at the latest. By default, we will preserve your confidentiality by removing personal identifiers from electronic survey data entered from paper surveys, with a key linking your name to your responses. This key will be password-protected and stored on the lead investigators' (Sharon Klein and Caroline Noblet) password-protected computers with additional security and backed up to the cloud using Google Drive. By default, survey data will be destroyed (including shredding the paper survey and deleting the electronic survey data) by January 2028 at the latest. The key will be destroyed by January 2028, providing sufficient time for the research team to complete all data collection and remove identifiers from all data files.

Voluntary: The decision to take part in this study is up to you. If you decide to take part in the study, you may stop at any time. You may submit a partially completed survey, or you may choose to not submit your survey sheet. You may also skip any questions you do not want to answer.

Compensation: Participants who reach the end of the survey may voluntarily enter into a raffle to win one of multiple Dunkin gift cards in the amount of \$5; we anticipate respondents will have a 40% chance of winning. Participants would receive the gift card via mail in June of each year.

Contact information: If you have further questions about this study, you may discuss them with Sharon Klein (207) 581-3174, sharon.klein@maine.edu. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Office of Research Compliance, University of Maine, (207) 581-2657 (or email umric@maine.edu).

Do you agree with the terms of the informed consent?

- Yes
- No (if you select this choice, please do not continue the survey)

Introductory Questions

1. Do you live in Maine?

- Yes
- No

2. What is your Zip code?

3. Do you own or rent your home?

- Own
- Rent
- Other: _____

4. Are you a landlord?

- Yes
- No

5. Do you work for a municipal government?

- Yes
- No

6. If you answered "Yes" on Question 5, which municipal government and department?

7. Do you own a business?

- Yes
- No

8. If you answered "Yes" on Question 7, what type of business do you own?

Alternative Energy - Community

1. What do the terms "alternative energy" and "renewable energy" mean to you?

People in Maine get most of their energy from natural gas for electricity, oil for heating, and gasoline for transportation. These "fossil fuels" cause many environmental problems, including climate change.

When our team uses the term **alternative energy**, we include **renewable energy** (*solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower, tidal and wave power, and burning wood or*

other plant material), and **other efforts to reduce fossil fuel use** (for example, *insulation in buildings, LED lights, energy efficient appliances, heat pumps, electric vehicles, biking, walking, etc.*).

The following questions ask what you think about these alternative energy options **for yourself and your community**. If you don't feel you know enough about any given option to respond, visit [switchon.org/videos/energy-primers/] to learn more. Also, feel free to skip any questions/options.

You do NOT need to be an energy expert to respond to these questions. We want to know what you know and don't know, to help inform future efforts by Maine communities to educate their members about, and to potentially adopt, alternative energy options in the future.

2. Which renewable energy options would you like to see your community pursue? Select all that apply.

- Solar panels on rooftops (homes, public buildings, etc.)
- Solar panels on public land
- Wind turbines on public land
- Heat pumps for homes (devices that hang on walls and provide heat and air conditioning)
- Geothermal heat pumps for homes (pipes bring heat from underground into homes)
- Hydropower dams that change river flow and may not allow fish to move up or down stream
- Underwater turbines that capture the energy of rivers or tides and don't change water flow or stop fish movements
- Burning wood or other plants for heat or electricity
- Batteries that save renewable energy for later use and may reduce the need for buying power from the electric utility
- A municipally-owned electric utility
- Anything that saves money
- Anything that helps the environment
- All of these
- None of these

3. Enter any comments you have about these options in the space provided, including but not limited to: options you would prioritize over others, questions you have about the options, additional options you didn't see on the list, etc.

4. What might make it difficult for your local government to support or adopt the renewable energy options you selected?

5. What renewable energy successes have you seen within your community that you would like to see more of?

6. How would you like to see transportation improved? Select all that apply.

- More public transportation options (for example: bus, shuttle, van, etc.)
- Public charging stations for electric vehicles
- Improvements to streets and roads to support safer walking and biking
- A bike share program where people can borrow and return bikes when they need them
- A car share program where people can borrow and return cars when they need them
- Improve broadband/internet access so people can work and participate in telehealth appointments remotely and then drive less
- All of these
- None of these

7. Enter any comments you have about these options in the space provided, including but not limited to: options you would prioritize over others, questions you have about the options, etc.

8. What might make it difficult for your local government to support or implement these transportation improvements?

9. What transportation successes have you seen within your community that you would like to see more of?

Alternative Energy - You

1. Which, if any, problems do you experience in your home? Select all that apply.

- House is poorly insulated
- Drafty windows/doors
- Leaky roof
- Poor ventilation/air quality
- Mold
- Poor water quality
- House too hot in summer, too cold in winter
- High price of electricity and/or heating fuel
- Running out of heating fuel frequently
- Frequent power outages
- Flooding
- House needs structural repairs
- Unreliable transportation
- All of these
- None of these
- Other (please enter in the space provided):

2. What have you or your landlord tried so far to address these issues? Has it worked? If not, why?

3. Which of the following alternative energy options are you interested in for your own life? Select all that apply.

- Solar panels
- Heat pump (a device that hangs on your wall and provides heat and air conditioning)
- Heat pump water heater (a more efficient electric water heating option)
- Geothermal heat (pipes carry heat from underground into your home)
- Wood stove
- Wood pellet stove (little nuggets of compressed wood fiber)
- Backup generator powered by gasoline or diesel
- Residential battery ("Powerwall") or backup generator powered by electricity
- More energy efficient lighting (for example, LED lights)
- Weatherization (for example, insulation, air sealing, window inserts, new windows, etc.)
- All-electric car (plug into wall only)
- Hybrid electric car (plug into wall and use gasoline)
- Electric scooter or bicycle
- All of these
- None of these

4. Enter any comments you have about these options in the space provided, including but not limited to: options you would prioritize over others, questions you have about the options, options you/your landlord have already implemented or plan to implement, etc.

5. What makes it difficult for you to implement alternative energy options in your own life? Select all that apply.

- High upfront cost
- Cost to maintain

- Inconvenience/not easy to implement/use
 - Don't know enough about the options
 - Don't trust the options or providers/installers
 - Too many options
 - Don't have time to think about it
 - Too many other worries/concerns - can't prioritize this right now
 - Bad personal experiences with alternative energy
 - I rent and am not in control of improvements to my home
 - All of these
 - None of these
 - Other (please explain in the space provided):
-

6. If you answered in Question 5 “Don’t trust the options or providers/installers”, please explain why you do not trust the options or providers/installers.

Motivations & Decision Drivers

1. Which of the following motivates your preferences for alternative energy options? Select all that apply.

- Environmental protection
 - Reduce fossil fuel use
 - Reduce climate change impacts
 - Energy independence
 - Improve health
 - Improve comfort
 - Save money
 - Help my community
 - All of these
 - None of these
 - Other (please enter in the space provided):
-

2. When you make decisions about your life or your household, where do you look for trustworthy information? Select all that apply.

- Family/friends
- Local government
- State government or an affiliate (e.g., Efficiency Maine)
- U.S. government or affiliate (e.g., National Renewable Energy Laboratory)
- Universities/colleges
- Social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, X)
- Public media (e.g., TV, radio, newspaper)
- Specific businesses/organizations (please specify in the space provided):

- Other (please specify):

4. What are your biggest concerns/needs right now for you and/or your community? (for example, concerns about access to healthy food, clean water, employment, waste disposal, etc.)

5. Would you be interested in participating in educational workshops (food provided!) about any of the topics discussed in this survey?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

6. If you would be interested in participating in educational workshops, what topics would you like to see covered in these educational workshops? _____

7. Would you be interested in participating in a committee of people from your community to help implement alternative energy solutions in your community?

- Yes
- No

8. If you would be interested in participating in a committee or educational workshop, please enter your information here to be contacted about these.

- Name:
- Address:
- Contact Information:

Awareness and Participation in Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Events

If you live in Eastport, please answer Questions 1 and 2. If you do not live in Eastport, please skip to Question 3.

1. For each of the following events, please indicate your level of awareness/participation.

	Participated	Heard about it but did not attend	Never heard of it
Eastport community workshop to enroll in Community Resilience Partnership on August 17, 2022	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eastport-Pleasant Point Window Insert Building Workshop August 2023	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eastport energy efficiency meetings/events in winter/spring 2023	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maine Climate Council Meeting September 29, 2023 (or previous)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Maine Climate
Council Work Group
Meetings (working
groups include
buildings,
infrastructure, &
housing, coastal &
marine, community
resilience, energy,
natural & working
lands, and
transportation. Dates
range from June
2023 - present)

Other energy-related
event (please
describe)



2. If you heard about any of the above events, how do you hear about them? Select all that apply.

	Facebook or other social media	Friend, family member, or co-worker	Local government website	Newspaper or TV	Community flier or mailing	Other
Eastport community workshop to enroll in Community Resilience Partnership on August 17, 2022	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eastport-Pleasant Point Window Insert Building Workshop August 2023	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eastport energy efficiency meetings/events in winter/spring 2023	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maine Climate Council Meeting September 29, 2023 (or previous)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maine Climate Council Work Group Meetings (working groups include buildings, infrastructure, & housing, coastal & marine, community resilience, energy, natural & working lands, and transportation. Dates range from June 2023 - present)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other energy-related event (please describe)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you live in Lincoln, please answer Questions 3 and 4. If you do not live in Lincoln, please skip to Question 5.

3. For each of the following events, please indicate your level of awareness/participation.

	Participated	Heard about it but did not attend	Never heard of it
Lincoln community workshop to enroll in Community Resilience Partnership on March 25, 2024	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maine Climate Council Meeting September 29, 2023 (or previous)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maine Climate Council Work Group Meetings (working groups include buildings, infrastructure, & housing, coastal & marine, community resilience, energy, natural & working lands, and transportation. Dates range from June 2023 - present)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other energy-related event (please describe)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. If you heard about any of the above events, how do you hear about them? Select all that apply.

	Facebook or other social media	Friend, family member, or co-worker	Local government website	Newspaper or TV	Community flier or mailing	Other
Lincoln community workshop to enroll in Community Resilience Partnership on March 25, 2024	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maine Climate Council Meeting September 29, 2023 (or previous)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maine Climate Council Work Group Meetings (working groups include buildings, infrastructure, & housing, coastal & marine, community resilience, energy, natural & working lands, and transportation. Dates range from June 2023 - present)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other energy-related event (please describe)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you live in Millinocket, please answer Questions 5 and 6. If you do not live in Millinocket, please skip to Question 7.

5. For each of the following events, please indicate your level of awareness/participation.

	Participated	Heard about it but did not attend	Never heard of it
Millinocket community workshop to enroll in Community Resilience Partnership on August 23, 2022	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maine Climate Council Meeting September 29, 2023 (or previous)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maine Climate Council Work Group Meetings (working groups include buildings, infrastructure, & housing, coastal & marine, community resilience, energy, natural & working lands, and transportation. Dates range from June 2023 - present)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other energy-related event (please describe)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. If you heard about any of the above events, how did you hear about them? Select all that apply.

	Facebook or other social media	Friend, family member, or co-worker	Local government website	Newspaper or TV	Community flier or mailing	Other
Millinocket community workshop to enroll in Community Resilience Partnership on August 23, 2022	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maine Climate Council Meeting September 29, 2023 (or previous)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maine Climate Council Work Group Meetings (working groups include buildings, infrastructure, & housing, coastal & marine, community resilience, energy, natural & working lands, and transportation. Dates range from June 2023 - present)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other energy-related event (please describe)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you live in Pembroke, please answer Questions 7 and 8. If you do not live in Pembroke, please skip to the next section.

7. For each of the following events, please indicate your level of awareness/participation.

	Participated	Heard about it but did not attend	Never heard of it
Pembroke community workshop to enroll in Community Resilience Partnership on February 15, 2024	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maine Climate Council Meeting September 29, 2023 (or previous)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maine Climate Council Work Group Meetings (working groups include buildings, infrastructure, & housing, coastal & marine, community resilience, energy, natural & working lands, and transportation. Dates range from June 2023 - present)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other energy-related event (please describe)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. If you heard about any of the above events, how did you hear about them? Select all that apply.

	Facebook or other social media	Friend, family member, or co-worker	Local government website	Newspaper or TV	Community flier or mailing	Other
Pembroke community workshop to enroll in Community Resilience Partnership on February 15, 2024	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maine Climate Council Meeting September 29, 2023 (or previous)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maine Climate Council Work Group Meetings (working groups include buildings, infrastructure, & housing, coastal & marine, community resilience, energy, natural & working lands, and transportation. Dates range from June 2023 - present)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other energy-related event (please describe)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Maine Climate Council

The Maine Climate Council* is updating the state climate plan*. The following questions are being asked to help advise the Maine Climate Council as it completes this update by December 2024. Your feedback on these topics will be used by the Maine Climate Council Working Groups to create specific recommendations of actions and goals to be included in the updated climate plan. All answers will be submitted to the Working Groups as individual recommendations (without identifying information) and a compilation of answers that show trends. Thank you for your valuable feedback!

*For more information, see Maine Climate Council

[<https://www.maine.gov/future/climate/council>] and *Maine Won't Wait: A Four-Year Plan for Climate Action*

[https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov.future/files/inline-files/MaineWontWait_December_2020.pdf]

1. Prior to this survey, were you aware of the Maine Climate Council? Yes:

- No
- Maybe a little

2. Have you ever been involved in Maine Climate Council activities?

- Yes, I am or have been a member of the Maine Climate Council or one of its working groups or subcommittees
- Yes, I have attended a meeting of the Maine Climate Council or one its working groups or subcommittees
- Yes, I have communicated my thoughts, ideas, or concerns in some way to someone on the Maine Climate Council, its working groups or subcommittees
- No
- Other (please specify in the space provided):

3. Would you like to be involved in the Maine Climate Council's update to the climate plan that is occurring this year?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

4. What type of support would you need to be involved in the Maine Climate Council's update to the climate plan? Select all that apply.

- Additional information
 - Financial support
 - Some way to accommodate my limited time/schedule
 - I don't need any support to be involved
 - Other (please specify in the space provided):
-

MCC Buildings, Infrastructure & Housing

There are many programs that offer financial help for installing renewable energy on your home and making your home more energy efficient. The following questions ask about these incentives:

U.S. government*

Federal tax credit of **30%** of system and installation costs for **renewable energy**: qualified solar electric, solar water heating, small wind energy, geothermal heat pump, battery storage technology (3 kWh or more), fuel cell property

Federal tax credit of **30%** of system and installation costs for **energy efficiency** improvements (up to a \$max): heat pumps & heat pump water heaters (\$2,000); insulation materials (\$1,200); home electric vehicle charger (\$1,000); energy efficient windows, air conditioners, heating equipment, water heaters & electric upgrades (\$600); home energy audit (\$150)

Maine Housing**

FREE Heat Pumps and Weatherization to a limited number of eligible households (homeowners that are eligible for HEAP - see below).

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps qualified homeowners and renters pay heating fuel costs and heating-related repairs. The application involves a form and an interview. The benefit amount depends on household size, income and other factors

The Low Income Assistance Plan (LIAP) helps low-income homeowners and renters pay for electricity costs by providing a credit on their electric bills. The application is usually completed as part of the HEAP application (see above).

WindowDressers***

FREE insulating window inserts for people with LOW income (income eligibility determined through community-led program)

*For more information on U.S. Government programs, visit
[www.energy.gov/policy/articles/making-our-homes-more-efficient-clean-energy-tax-credits-consumers] **For more information on Maine Housing programs, visit
[www.mainehousing.org/programs-services/energy]

Heat pumps:

[www.mainehousing.org/programs-services/energy/energydetails/heat-pump-program] Weatherization:

[www.mainehousing.org/programs-services/HomelImprovement/homeimprovementdetail/weatherization]

HEAP: [www.mainehousing.org/programs-services/energy/energydetails/liheap]

LIAP:

[www.mainehousing.org/programs-services/energy/energydetails/low-income-assistance-program]

***For more information on Windowdressers, visit [www.windowdressers.org]

Efficiency Maine*

Up to **\$6,000** rebate for biomass boilers and furnaces

Up to **\$3,000** rebate for geothermal systems

Up to **\$4,000-\$8,000** rebate for whole-home heat pump installation, depending on income Up to **\$4,000** rebate for partial-home heat pump installation for people with **LOW income**** **FREE** heat pump water heaters for people with **LOW income****

Up to **\$850** savings on heat pump water heaters for people of any income Up to **\$4,000 to \$8,000** rebate on insulation and/or air sealing, depending on income

Home energy loans of **\$1,000 to \$7,500** at 5.99% APR fixed for homeowners with **LOW income****

*For more information on Efficiency Maine programs, visit
[www.efficiencymaine.com/renewable-energy/]

****To prove eligibility for Efficiency Maine income-based options:** upload a copy of most recent tax return and fill out online [form](#) OR give permission for a qualifying program to verify your eligibility to Efficiency Maine directly (*HEAP, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or MaineCare*).

1. Please select all that apply related to these programs.

- Wow, I had no idea they were offering so much money! I am going to look into this more and consider adding renewable energy and/or energy efficiency upgrades to my home.
- These incentives are too complicated. I need someone to walk me through this.
- I do not pay enough taxes to take advantage of the tax breaks.
- I cannot pay for something up front and then wait for a rebate.
- I don't trust renewable energy.
- I don't trust heat pumps.
- I don't trust energy efficient technology.
- I have already used some of these programs.
- I plan to use some of these incentives in the near future.
- I rent and don't know how/if I can take advantage of these incentives.
- I think my income is too high to use these incentives, but I cannot afford the upfront cost of the options I want.
- These incentives aren't enough to get me to install renewable energy or energy efficiency upgrades. I would need at least...(please enter in the text box how much money you would need for which option(s)).:_____
- Other (please explain):

2. If you answered above that you do not trust the technology, please explain why.

3. If you have already used some of these programs, which programs have you used? How has your experience been?

4. If you would like help understanding these financial assistance programs and have not yet entered your contact information somewhere else on this survey, please enter it here:

5. If you are a landlord, what prevents you from improving your property's energy efficiency or switching to renewable energy?

- Solar panels
- Geothermal heat pumps
- Wood stoves
- Pellet stoves
- Wood boilers
- Pellet boilers
- Air-source heat pumps
- Window inserts
- New windows/doors
- New windows/doors
- Insulation
- Air sealing
- Energy efficient appliances
- EV Chargers
- Other:

MCC Energy

1. What type of large scale (1 Megawatt or greater) renewable energy projects have been proposed and/or constructed in your community? Select all that apply.

- Solar
- Wind
- Geothermal
- Biomass
- Hydropower
- Transmission wires to get electricity from renewable resources to people who will use it
- No large scale renewable energy projects have been proposed or constructed in my community.
- I don't know if any projects like this have been proposed or constructed in my community.
- Other (please specify):

2. If any of the above projects have been proposed and/or constructed in your community, how was the community involved in the project?

3. If any of the above projects have been proposed and/or constructed in your community, did members of your community have adequate input into the project?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

4. How do you think your community should be involved in large scale renewable energy projects when they are being considered in your community? Select all that apply.

- There should be multiple public meetings before a large scale renewable energy project can be approved.
 - Community members should have a vote in decisions about where the project is located.
 - There should be a document that tells the community how the project will address the community's concerns.
 - There should be a process for overseeing the implementation of the plan(s) to address community concerns.
 - The community should receive benefits from the project.
 - I would not like to see my community involved in these projects at all.
 - My community should not let any large scale renewable energy projects be built.
 - Other (please explain):
-

5. If you recommended public meetings above, would you attend public meetings about large scale renewable energy projects in your community?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

6. What would it take to get you to a public meeting about large scale renewable energy projects in your community? Select all that apply.

- Money
- Childcare
- Food
- Schedule it during the evening
- Schedule it on a weekend

- Schedule it during a weekday
 - Just tell me the time and location, and I will be there!
 - There is nothing that could get me to a public meeting about this topic
 - Other (please explain):
-

7. If you recommended that the community should receive benefits from the project in Question 5, what benefits would you want to see from a large scale renewable energy project in your community? Select all that apply.

- Savings on individual community members' energy bills
 - Local jobs
 - Savings on town office energy bills
 - Lower taxes for community members
 - Additional tax revenue paid from the project to the town
 - A regular check (e.g., annual) to community members with a portion of the revenue from the project
 - A regular check (e.g., annual) to local government with a portion of the revenue from the project
 - A tangible improvement to the community (e.g., new sidewalks, school renovations, a new public park, community center, etc.)
 - All of these
 - Other (please explain):
-

8. What concerns do you have about large scale renewable energy projects in your community? Select all that apply.

- Environmental harm
- No local job benefits
- Undesirable location
- Pollution
- Health risk
- Cost
- Noise
- Important cultural sites could be disturbed
- Removal of trees/creation of roads through forests
- Use of agricultural land
- All of these
- I do not have any concerns
- Other (please explain):

"Community solar" refers to solar panels that are not on your property but that you benefit from directly. There are 2 main approaches. The following questions ask about these different approaches:

1. Subscription:

- Sign a contract with a solar company* (e.g., Nexamp, Ampion)
- Save a steady 10-15% on your normal electric rates
- Pay nothing upfront (may even get a signup bonus)
- Pay 2 monthly electric bills: 1 to the solar company for your solar portion & 1 to the electric utility for electricity you needed that the solar portion couldn't cover
- Cancel anytime (may need to give a few months' notice)

2. Ownership:

- Buy a portion of a large solar array that is not on your property
- Pay for your portion up front, get a loan, or get funding from somewhere else (e.g., grant, donation, etc.)
- Save 20-30% or more on your normal electric rates until the upfront cost is paid off (~7 years)
- Then save a much higher % for life of the array (~25 yrs)

*For more information, visit

communitysolar.energysage.com/projects?utility_slug=versant-power&zip_code=04401
]

9. Which of the following applies to you? Select all that apply.

- I am already a subscriber to a community solar project
- I already own a portion of a community-owned solar project
- My town owns a community solar project that provides benefits to me
- This is the first time I am hearing of these options
- I have been approached by a company asking me to subscribe to a community solar project
- I have been approached by someone in my community to support a community-owned solar project
- I have seen community solar subscriptions advertised in my community
- None of these apply to me

- Other (please explain in the space provided):
-

10. If you are already a subscriber to a community solar project, which solar company are you subscribed with?

- Nexamp
 - Ampion
 - Perch
 - Arcadia
 - Solar Gardens by Syncarpha
 - Other (please specify):
-

- I don't know

11. If you or your town already own a portion of a community-owned solar project, what is the name and location of your community solar array?

12. If you are already a subscriber to a community solar project, or you or your town already own a portion of a community-owned solar project, what % do you save on your annual electricity bill from your community solar array?

- Less than 10%
- 10-15%
- 15-20%
- 20-25%
- 25-30%
- 30-40%
- 40-50%
- More than 50%
- I don't know
- Nothing

13. If you are not already a subscriber to a community solar project or do not already own a portion of a community-owned solar project, what is the minimum annual savings on your electric bill you would need to sign up for a community solar project (subscription or community-owned)?

- 5%
- 10%

- 15%
- 20%
- 25%
- 30%
- 35%
- 40%
- 45%
- 50%
- 55%
- 60%
- More than 60%
- There is no % savings that would encourage me to sign up for a community solar project

14. Are you interested in learning more about community solar?

- Yes - subscriptions only
- Yes - community-owned only
- Yes - both subscriptions and community-owned
- No

15. If you would like more information about community solar and have not yet entered your contact information somewhere else on this survey, please enter it here: _____

16. If you own a business: When the power goes out, which of the following do you use for your business? Select all that apply.

- Whole building gas or diesel generator
- Emergency or small load gas or diesel generator
- Commercial battery (e.g., Powerwall)
- Wood stove or fireplace
- Electric vehicle battery as an generator for emergency loads (e.g., heat)
- Other (please explain):

-
- None of these

17. If you work for your municipal government: When the power goes out, which of the following do the town offices use? Select all that apply.

- Whole building gas or diesel generator
- Emergency or small load gas or diesel generator

- Commercial battery (e.g., Powerwall)
- Wood stove or fireplace
- Electric vehicle battery as an generator for emergency loads (e.g., heat)
- Other (please explain):

-
- None of these

MCC Transportation

1. How far do you travel on a typical day (total, roundtrip)?

- Less than 1 mile
- 1-5 miles
- 5-10 miles
- 10-20 miles
- 20-30 miles
- 30-40 miles
- 40-50 miles
- 50-100 miles
- 100-150 miles
- 150-200 miles
- more than 200 miles

2. How do you REGULARLY get around?

- I drive my own car
- I drive a friend or family member's car
- I drive a rental car
- I take a taxi, Uber, Lyft or similar
- Someone else drives me in their car
- I take public transportation (e.g., bus, train, van)
- I walk
- I ride a non-electric bike
- I ride an electric bike
- I stay home most of the time and don't require regular transportation
- Other - please explain:

3. If you drive your own car, a friend or family member's car, or a rental car, please select all that apply related to the car you drive on a regular basis.

- It has a gasoline tank, which I fill regularly at a gas station
- It has a diesel tank, which I fill regularly with diesel fuel

- It runs on alternative fuel (i.e., MORE than 10% ethanol or biodiesel)
- I plug it into an outlet to charge it with electricity
- I bought it used (if you drive your own car)

If you answered “I plug it into an outlet to charge it with electricity”, please answer Questions 4-9. If you did not answer “I plug it into an outlet to charge it with electricity”, please skip to Question 10.

4. What type of electric vehicle do you drive?

- Chevrolet
- Hyundai
- Ford
- Tesla
- Mustang
- Kia
- Volkswagen
- Audi
- BMW
- Rivian
- Porsche

7. In what year did you purchase your electric vehicle?

8. Where did you buy your electric vehicle, if you own one?

- In Maine
- Out of state
- Online

9. How far did you have to travel to purchase your electric vehicle?

- 10 miles or less

- 10-50 miles
- 50-100 miles
- 100 miles or more

There are multiple financial incentives available for buying an electric vehicle. The following questions ask about these incentives:

U.S. government*

Up to \$7,500 tax credit on **NEW** electric vehicle purchase by people with annual income up to \$300,000

Efficiency Maine**

\$3,000 to \$7,500 discount or rebate on **NEW** electric vehicle purchase by people of **LOW income***

\$2,500 discount or rebate on **USED** electric vehicle purchase by people of **LOW income*****

\$2,000 to \$3,500 discount or rebate on **NEW** electric vehicle purchase by people of **MODERATE income** (\$70,000-\$100,000 annual income)

\$1,000 to \$2,000 discount or rebate on **NEW** electric vehicle purchase by people of **ANY income**.

*For more information on U.S. Government incentives, visit [\[fuelconomy.gov/feg/tax2023.shtml\]](https://fuelconomy.gov/feg/tax2023.shtml) ** For more information on Efficiency Maine incentives, visit [\[www.efficiencymaine.com/electric-vehicle-rebates/\]](https://www.efficiencymaine.com/electric-vehicle-rebates/)

*****To prove eligibility for income-based options:** upload a copy of most recent tax return and fill out online form OR give permission for a qualifying program to verify your eligibility to Efficiency Maine directly (*Home Energy Assistance Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or MaineCare*). The online form can be found at [\[www.efficiencymaine.com/income-based-eligibility-verification/\]](https://www.efficiencymaine.com/income-based-eligibility-verification/)

The low end of each range is for **plug-in hybrid electric vehicles** (gas & electric). The high end of each range is for **fully electric vehicles** (only electric).

You get a direct **discount** if you buy a vehicle from one of the Participating Dealers on

the map below (also listed on Efficiency Maine's website*). You get a **rebate** if you buy or lease directly from the manufacturer. Cars can't cost more than \$50,000. Trucks can't cost more than \$80,000.

Map of Participating Dealers



*To see the map of participating dealers online, visit

[\[www.energymaine.com/find-a-participating-electric-vehicle-dealer/\]](http://www.energymaine.com/find-a-participating-electric-vehicle-dealer/)

10. Please select all that apply related to these incentives.

- Wow, I had no idea they were offering so much money! I am going to look into this more and consider switching to an electric vehicle.
- These incentives are too complicated. I need someone to walk me through this.
- That's great but I am not going to be able to afford to get a new or used car for at least 5-10 years, if ever.
- I am not a homeowner but I fit the moderate income description - does that mean I don't qualify?
- It doesn't look like there are any dealerships near where I live.
- I don't trust buying directly from the manufacturer.
- I don't trust electric vehicles. No matter how much money they offer me, I will stick with gasoline or diesel powered vehicles.
- I have already used some of these incentives.
- I plan to use some of these incentives in the near future.
- These incentives aren't nearly enough to get me to buy an electric vehicle. I would need at least... (enter how much you would need in the text box).
- Other: _____

11. If you have already used some of these incentives, which incentive(s) have you already used? Select all that apply.

- \$3,000 to \$7,500 for a NEW electric vehicle (low income)
- \$2,500 for a USED electric vehicle (low income)
- \$2,000 to \$3,500 for a NEW electric vehicle (moderate income)
- \$1,000 to \$2,000 for a NEW electric vehicle (any income)
- Other (please specify):

12. If you plan to use some of these incentives in the near future, which incentives do you plan to use? Select all that apply.

- \$3,000 to \$7,500 for a NEW electric vehicle (low income):
- \$2,500 for a USED electric vehicle (low income):
- \$2,000 to \$3,500 for a NEW electric vehicle (moderate income):
- \$1,000 to \$2,000 for a NEW electric vehicle (any income):
- Up to \$7,500 U.S. tax credit:
- Other (please specify):

13. If you have not already bought one, what would you need to buy an electric vehicle? Select all that apply.

- More information
- More money
- To try one out/see one in action
- To Know that my friends or family have used an electric vehicle without problems
- More accessible charging stations
- More dealerships near where I live that sell electric vehicles
- I would never buy an electric vehicle
- Other: _____

14. If you do not trust electric vehicles, what makes you not trust them? Select all that apply.

- The technology is too new.
- There is no way a battery will last for as long/far as I need to travel.:
- I don't think the battery will hold up in winter weather - I worry about getting stranded
- somewhere without a charge in a storm:
- I don't think they are as safe as other vehicles:

- Other - please explain in the space provided:

15. If you have already used some of these incentives, please describe any challenges you faced in the process of learning about and/or accessing incentives for your electric vehicle:

16. Are you aware of any electric vehicle charging stations near where you live and/or work? Select all that apply.

- Yes, near where I live
- Yes, near where I work
- No, not near work or home
- I have a charging station at my home
- Other: _____

If “No, not near work or home”, please skip to question 20.

17. What type(s) of EV charging stations are near you, if there are any? Select all that apply.

- Tesla Superchargers, compatible with Tesla EVs
- CHAdeMO chargers, compatible with Nissan, Mitsubishi and some Kia EVs
- CCS (SAE Combo) chargers, compatible with BMW, Volkswagen and General Motors EVs
- I don't know what kind of charging stations they are
- Other - please explain

19. If you own an electric vehicle, where do you charge it most of the time? (Select all that apply)

At home:

- At work
- At a free public charging station
- At a publicly available charging station that charges me a fee
- Other - please explain: _____

20. What type of public transportation exists near you and/or do you use? Select all that apply

- Train
- Bus

- Ferry
- Vanpool
- Ride services to help people get to non-emergency health service
- Electric bike sharing
- Bike sharing program
- Car sharing program
- None
- Other

21. If there are public transportation options near you, does it stop within walking distance from your home and workplace?

- Yes, within walking distance to both
- Within walking distance to my home but not my workplace
- Within walking distance to my workplace but not my home
- No, not within walking distance to either
- I don't know

22. How would/do you get to and from where the public transportation option stops, if it stops near you? Select all that apply.

- Walk
- Bike/scooter/skateboard
- Drive
- Shuttle
- Other (please explain in the space provided):

23. What makes it difficult for you to use public transportation?

- Cost
- Time schedule
- Location
- Safety
- Cleanliness
- Traveling with family/pets
- Traveling with a lot of stuff
- Ease of use
- Disability
- Availability
- Other - please explain: _____

- NOT APPLICABLE - I do not need public transportation

24. Please select all that apply related to GOMaine*, the statewide travel resource program.

- I have never heard of it before.
- I have used it once to a few times
- I have used it many times
- It is a helpful program
- I thought about using it, but didn't have time to figure it out
- I thought about using it, but it looked too complicated
- I thought about using it, but I worry about my safety
- I thought about using it, but it seemed inconvenient
- I don't need it
- Other - please explain: _____

*For more information about GoMaine, visit [gomaine.org]

25. What do you like about GoMaine, if you have used it or heard of it?

26. What do you think could be improved about GoMaine?

27. Please use this space for any additional thoughts you have about transportation.

MCC Coastal & Marine, Natural & Working Lands

1. Please select any natural resources you regularly access or seek access to.

Select all that apply

- Regularly Access Seek Access
- Forests for foraging for food
- Grasslands for foraging for food
- Inland fishing areas
- Coastal onshore fishing
- Coastal areas for clamming
- Boat launches for fishing
- Other (please explain): _____

2. If you access or seek access to any of the above resources, what could be improved in terms of how you access them? Select all that apply.

- Change licensing rules
- Better maintain public boat launches
- More signs to educate people about protecting areas
- Different fee structures to prioritize local access
- Clearer information about times of available access, how to get there, etc.
- Nothing
- Other (please explain): _____

3. If you access or seek access to any of the above resources, what could be improved in terms of how these areas are protected? Select all that apply.

- Clear, enforceable rules
- Recognizing Wabanaki sovereignty and working towards rematriation
- More funding for education and staffing
- Nothing
- Other (please explain): _____

4. If you access or seek access to any of the above resources, in what ways have you felt excluded from accessing them? Select all that apply.

- Licensing rules prevent me
- Parking and other fees
- Priced out by tourism industry
- I have not felt excluded
- Other (please explain): _____

If you work for a municipal government, please answer Questions 5-15. If you do not work for a municipal government, please skip to Question 16.

5. Have you sought funding for natural resource projects?

- Yes
- No
- Other (please explain): _____

6. If “Yes”, what type of funding have you received for natural resource projects? Select all that apply.

- Federal
- State
- Private foundation
- Donations
- None of these

- Other (please explain): _____

7. Have you ever felt excluded from accessing funding for natural resource projects?

- Yes
- No

8. If “Yes”, please explain why/how you felt excluded from accessing funding for natural resource projects:

9. Have you sought technical assistance for natural resource projects?

- Yes
- No

10. If “Yes”, did you receive the assistance you requested?

- Yes
- No
- Other (please explain): _____

11. What types of technical assistance did you seek? Please explain.

12. What makes it difficult to access natural resource funding opportunities and/or technical assistance? Select all that apply.

- Lack of government staff
- Too many other priorities
- Complicated application rules
- Quick application deadlines
- Unaware of opportunities
- No capacity for implementing the funded projects
- Lack of funding for maintaining projects
- There are no barriers
- Other (please explain): _____

13. Are there ways you think funding or technical assistance for natural resource projects could be made more accessible? Please explain in the

box below:

14. Are you interested in learning more about natural resource funding opportunities or technical assistance?

- Yes - funding only
- Yes - technical assistance only
- Yes - both
- No

15. If “Yes”, what are your preferred ways of learning about natural resource funding opportunities?

- Email
- Social media
- A pamphlet mailed to our office
- Webinar, training, or workshop
- A website I regularly visit (please identify): _____
- Other (please explain): _____

16. What are the most common ways you access food? Select all that apply.

- Grocery stores
- Food cooperatives
- I am a producer/fisher/farmer/forager/gardener
- I am part of a CSA/CSF/local food distribution network
- Corner stores
- Restaurants
- Fast food restaurants
- Other (please explain): _____

17. About what percent of the food you eat is grown/harvested/produced in the state of Maine?

(Enter a percentage 0-100)

18. In what ways do you access locally produced food? Select all that apply.

- Foraging
- Gardening

- Farming
- Fishing
- Farmers market
- Local Distribution Networks (Such as OpenTableMDI)
- Community-supported agriculture
- Community Farm Alliance
- I ask/see what is local at the grocery store
- I seek out farm-to-table restaurants
- Other (please explain in the space provided): _____

19. What makes it difficult for you to purchase locally produced food?

- It's too expensive
- The types of foods I eat are not produced locally
- There are no local foods in the places I shop for food
- There are no culturally appropriate foods produced locally
- I don't have difficulty purchasing locally produced food
- Other (please explain in the space provided): _____

20. What would make it easier for you to eat locally produced foods? Select all that apply.

- More public land/water available for foraging and fishing
- More information about safety/access for fishing and foraging in my area
- More opportunities for community gardening
- A local distribution network to access food from local farmers, fishers, and producers on a weekly basis
- A farmers market near me
- More local foods in Maine restaurants
- More local foods in grocery stores
- Lower prices for local foods
- None of these
- Other (please explain): _____

21. In order to eat more local foods, I would like to learn more about: (select all that apply)

- Fishing
- Foraging
- Gardening
- Local distribution networks
- CSF (Community Supported Fisheries) and CSA (Community Supported

Agriculture) Programs

- Farmer's markets
- Which foods are locally-produced at my local grocery store
- None of these
- Other (please explain): _____

22. Which programs have helped you access local food? Select all that apply.

- FMNP WIC stamps
- Maine Harvest Bucks connected to my SNAP benefits
- Senior FarmShare vouchers at farmers markets
- None of these
- Other (please explain): _____

23. Are you interested in a job in natural resources - if so, what type? Select all that apply.

- I already work in natural resources (please select which type below)
- Forestry
- Aquaculture
- Fisheries
- Fishing
- Farming
- Outdoor recreation
- Clean energy
- Land or water conservation
- Pollution reduction
- Research
- Teaching
- I am not interested in a job in natural resources
- Other (please explain): _____

Appendix G - Posters about Maine Climate Council Engagement with Wabanaki Nations and Priority Populations

These posters showcase the in-progress work with Wabanaki Nations as of May 2024, and feedback from Round 1 of engagements with Priority Populations.



Maine Climate Council Engagement with Wabanaki Nations

The State of Maine's engagement with the Wabanaki Nations of Maine as it pertains to the Maine Climate Planning process should follow established guidelines around tribal-state collaboration and consultation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Recognize Wabanaki tribal sovereignty in Maine climate planning. Wabanaki Tribes precede the State of Maine and have inhabited this land since time immemorial. Recognizing tribal sovereignty in the Maine Climate Planning process is a necessary condition to engage with Wabanaki Tribal citizens. Respecting tribal sovereignty includes following established procedures for tribal-state collaborations, such as those set by the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission.



2 Follow an appropriate Government-to-Government process. Formally acknowledge Wabanaki tribal sovereignty and ways of governance by consulting and coordinating with tribal leadership, including the Chief, Vice Chief, and Council, on all matters pertaining to Wabanaki Tribes before engaging with citizens. Engagement with tribal citizens does not look like "checking a box" by including tribal communities among a list of "priority populations".

3 Demonstrate a meaningful commitment to listening and respecting traditional ecological knowledge, in compliance with appropriate data sovereignty guidelines. Before engaging with Wabanaki Tribes, data sovereignty guidelines that respect the tribes' right to collect, manage, and own data pertaining to tribal citizens must be established and well understood by all parties.



"Data sovereignty is the right to have jurisdiction over any data that is gathered and created in any sovereign entity, and sovereign entities should use that data as they see fit." - Dr. Lauren W. Yowelunh McLester-Davis, Oneida Nation & University of Wisconsin



Mitchell Center Equity Engagement Team

The University of Maine Mitchell Center Equity & Engagement Team aims to increase participation and inclusion of Maine's disadvantaged populations in the update of the statewide climate plan, Maine Won't Wait. The goal is to ensure that 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.

We received feedback from Priority Populations across all Maine Climate Council Working Group Topics

Buildings, Infrastructure & Housing:

"[There is] so much information out there, it was so confusing after reading everything to see what I could qualify for. After reviewing everything, I didn't even know what I was eligible for!" - Older adult, Maine Council on Aging Climate Action Forum

Transportation:

70% of 352 survey respondents are open to expanded public transportation
"Some people in Norway don't have cars at all - [this] also leads to a food desert issue, shopping at gas stations etc. [We need] transportation for people's most immediate needs"
 - Person from a rural, underserved community, participating in the Maine Sustainability & Water Conference

Community Resilience:

"One of the biggest barriers [to community action] is a lack of connection to the problem, and therefore a lack of care, as well as the flip side of that, no access to a network of connections that could enact some kind of policy change, help, etc." - Youth participant in the Maine Youth Day of Action

Coastal & Marine:

"We've always had storms, but storms are more out of the south and southeast now, and obviously, out of that direction, a lot of our harbor is unprotected." - commercial fisherman in Spruce Head, Maine



Energy:

"I've investigated alternative energy but can't afford the upfront costs. I was told you get all kinds of money back but then find out it's in the form of a tax rebate and to get the maximum, you have to spend several thousand dollars." - Adult survey respondent with a disability

People's immediate needs, such as housing, transportation, and electricity costs, are directly or indirectly related to climate change



"For some, it's not a question of not believing in climate change, [it's] just not a top priority in their day-to-day life." - Maine Sustainability and Water Conference

"Housing itself is the hardest part. Will the state work to make housing more affordable? The question about EV charging stations doesn't seem appropriate when housing prices are such a more immediate concern." - Working Group Participant

"Every youth surveyed expressed an awareness in climate change impacts, which they witnessed in their communities. These include but are not limited to extreme heat, flooding, and increased storm events. Many also expressed some knowledge in what their communities are doing to combat these climate concerns. However, it is essential to underscore that youth have limited pathways for climate action involvement, especially in building their climate literacy given the lacking climate public education."

- Maine Environmental Education Association



Appendix H - Methodology: Survey Statistical Analysis and Quantitative Analysis

Data Overview and Initial Exploration

Statistical analysis of the state-wide Maine Community Alternative Energy Survey started with an exploratory data analysis phase, focusing on a comprehensive summarization and characterization of the dataset. Analysis was completed in the statistical software program STATA versions 15.0 and 17.0 . This initial phase was crucial for laying the groundwork for subsequent analyses, as it involved generating descriptive statistics to elucidate central tendencies, dispersion, and the overall distribution of key variables. This approach is fundamental in understanding the dataset's structure and preparing for more advanced statistical procedures [5].

Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics summarize characteristics of a data set, using techniques such as those listed below. The outcome of these analyses are located in the report section entitled 'Participants'.

Counts

Counts represent the total occurrences of specific events or responses within the dataset. For categorical variables, counts provide the raw frequency of each category, forming the basis for constructing frequency distributions, which are integral in understanding the dataset's structure. In the context of our survey data, counts were used to determine the number of respondents who identified with specific demographic groups, such as low-income households, older adults, or racial/ethnic minorities [6]. This allows us to make statements such as “The majority of respondents (253) live in rural areas” (pg. 33).

Percentages

Percentages are calculated by dividing the count of a particular category by the total sample size and multiplying by 100, providing a normalized measure that facilitates comparisons across different groups. This method, as highlighted by Winters et al. [6], is crucial for understanding the relative distribution of responses across various demographic categories. This allows us to say for example, “Among the 496 participants that answered the gender question, 314 (63.31%) identified as female, 169 (34.07%) male, and 13 (2.61%) identified with other gender categories (1.2%) or preferred not to indicate their gender (1.41%) (pg. 33).

Frequency Distributions

Frequency distributions provide a detailed representation of how often each value or category appears within the dataset. These distributions were instrumental in identifying

patterns, trends, and outliers within the data. They were presented both in tabular form, showing counts and percentages, and graphically through histograms or bar charts, categorizing respondents based on various demographic factors such as age, income level, race/ethnicity, and geographic location [5].

Medians

The median, representing the middle value in an ordered dataset, offered a more accurate reflection of central tendency in skewed distributions or when outliers were present. In our analysis, the median was particularly useful for variables like income, where extreme values could distort the mean, thereby providing a clearer picture of the central tendency in such cases [5].

Ranges

The range, defined as the difference between the maximum and minimum values, provided a basic understanding of the spread or variability of the data. Although it is highly sensitive to outliers and does not convey information about distribution within the range, it was used in conjunction with more comprehensive measures of dispersion, such as the interquartile range (IQR) or standard deviation, to provide a more nuanced understanding of data variability [6].

Demographics

To determine the demographic composition of the sample, we examined responses to various socio-demographic questions. Using cross-tabulations and segmentations based on demographic variables such as age, income level, race/ethnicity, and geographic location we are able to identify survey participants who are members of specific priority populations (for example, people who identify as women and also as business owners) [5].

Thematic Analysis of Open-Ended Responses

Thematic analysis of the open-ended questions from the survey commenced with an in-depth exploration of the qualitative data, focusing on uncovering key patterns and recurring themes across various priority populations. This analysis was carried out using the qualitative data analysis software Atlas.ti version 8.2.0. This method, as highlighted by Mayring [7], was essential for systematically organizing the data, which allowed for a detailed examination of community perspectives, highlighting common barriers and opportunities. This approach provided a foundation for interpreting the broader context of the survey responses and ensuring that the voices of these priority populations were accurately represented in the final analysis [7].

1. Data Preparation:

All open-ended responses were first imported into Atlas.ti, ensuring that each response was linked to its corresponding demographic information. This allowed for the organization of data based on various priority populations[7].

2. Initial Coding:

We began by reading through the responses and conducting an initial round of open coding. During this process, we assigned descriptive codes to segments of the text that represented distinct ideas, concepts, or issues raised by the respondents. These codes served as labels for key pieces of information [7].

3. Theme Development:

Once the initial coding was complete, we reviewed the codes to identify patterns and relationships. Related codes were grouped together to form broader categories or themes. These themes captured the most significant barriers and opportunities as perceived by the priority groups [7].

4. Interpretation and Reporting:

Finally, we analyzed the themes to interpret the findings. The themes were then reported in the findings section of the report, with direct quotes from respondents used to illustrate key points and to give voice to the perspectives of these priority populations [7].

[5] Ali, Z., & Bhaskar, S. B. (2016). Basic statistical tools in research and data analysis. *Indian Journal of Anaesthesia*, 60(9), 662-669.
<https://doi.org/10.4103/0019-5049.190623>

[6] Winters, R., Winters, A., & Amedee, R. G. (2010). Statistics: A brief overview. *Ochsner Journal*, 10(3), 213-216.

[7] Mayring, P. (2014). Qualitative content analysis: Theoretical foundation, basic procedures and software solution. Klagenfurt: Beltz. Retrieved from
https://www.ssoar.info/ssoar/bitstream/handle/document/39517/ssoar-2014-mayring-Qualitative_content_analysis_theoretical_foundation.pdf

Appendix I - Original Topics (January 2024) Developed for Working Groups based on Equity SubCommittee report of 2023

Buildings, Infrastructure & Housing Working Group:

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

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

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

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?

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?

Coastal and Marine Working Group:

Q1: What are preferences for, and possible interventions to, further access and use of natural and working lands and waters, including working and recreational waterfronts?

Q2: What barriers/needs exist to access natural resource funding opportunities and technical assistance?

Q3: What are needs, preferences, barriers, and opportunities related to locally produced food?

Community Resilience Working Group:

Q1: What are strategies for understanding needs for climate data communication to build and support community-driven climate action?

Q2: What are tribal community preferences for increasing the presence of traditional ecological knowledge in state climate planning and assessments?

Q3: What preferences and needs exist for climate data collection that builds trust, climate literacy and support for community driven climate action using approaches that empower historically disadvantaged individuals and communities?

Q4: What are the barriers and opportunities for recruiting smaller and more socially vulnerable communities to the Community Resilience Partnership, with the goal of achieving representation of these communities in the program?

Q5: What are the barriers and opportunities for increasing participation in regional and local climate resilience planning efforts by vulnerable and priority community members and their representatives?

Q6: What are priority population perspectives on appropriate climate vulnerability and equity criteria that should be applied across all resilience funding opportunities and infrastructure adaptation funding opportunities - to create increased access to funding opportunities for disadvantaged communities and those most at risk from climate impacts?

Q7: What awareness exists of indoor air quality issues due to fuel combustion inside the home, particularly in poorly or improperly weatherized homes, and what are opportunities to increase healthy air through improved ventilation, weatherization, and beneficial electrification; as well as idling?

Q8: What level of awareness exists about, and what are the barriers to, adopting OSHA recommendations related to extreme heat?

Q9: What are barriers to being able to respond to natural hazard emergencies? What are the preferences for accessible avenues of response for at-risk individuals? (e.g., expanded media and communication channels, ensuring that notifications are available in languages other than English where appropriate, including climate hazard information in other relevant alert channels, such as the Maine Health Alert Network)

Q10: To what extent are communities aware of, have access to, and use lists and/or maps of infrastructure projects identified through prior and ongoing planning processes to help identify climate vulnerable infrastructure?

Q11: What are preferences and recommendations for technical assistance for infrastructure adaptation projects in disadvantaged communities to help communities and regional planning organizations (a) plan and prioritize climate vulnerable infrastructure projects, (b) identify and apply for end-to-end state and federal grant funding to complete projects, and (c) implement projects?

Q12: What are barriers and opportunities for increasing participation in state planning efforts by vulnerable and priority community members and their representatives (e.g., appropriate level of compensation, transportation, meeting schedules, timeline, language accessibility, etc)?

Q13: Where could partnerships help encourage participation among priority populations and communities? What are partners who have existing relationships with these populations? Work with them to (a) identify information channels used by the populations they serve and (b) develop messaging and easy to share materials to reach their communities? What are mechanisms to compensate partner or contributing organizations who help with outreach and review?

Energy Working Group:

Q1: How should disadvantaged communities be involved in siting large-scale renewables and energy infrastructure improvements within their communities? What potential benefits from these projects would be meaningful to citizens in these communities?

Q2: To what extent are Maine's towns, businesses, landlords and households aware of and do they have access to or experience barriers to renewable energy?

Q3: What is the level of awareness and what are the preferences & barriers related to different approaches to community solar and residential distributed energy (solar, wind, battery), especially for affordable housing & renters?

Natural & Working Lands Working Group:

Q1: What are perceptions, barriers, preferences, and possible interventions related to access to and use of green space, natural and working lands and waters, including working and recreational waterfronts?

Q2: What could help you and your community to eat more locally produced food? What programs are successful at increasing access to Maine foods? Are there foods that are difficult to find in Maine?

Q3: What are the barriers to entry, opportunities, and drivers of change to increase diversity and access to natural resource industry careers, including forestry, for priority populations and disadvantaged communities?

Transportation Working Group:

Q1: What are barriers to understanding and accessing existing electric vehicle financial incentives for low-income drivers?

Q2: What types of incentives and program structures might encourage landlords to expand EV-charging locations?

Q3: What is/are the awareness of & preferences for EV-charging infrastructure and vehicle adoption/availability in rural communities?

Q4: What is/are the awareness and preferences of citizens in disadvantaged communities related to expanding programs like GOMaine or first-mile/last-mile connections, rides-to-wellness, and recovery and job access rides programs?

Appendix J - Google Form for Community Partners to Report Engagements

Community partners reported the results of their engagements via a Google Form. The Mitchell Center team compiled these results into a master spreadsheet organized by working group engagement topic (Round 1) and working group recommendation (Round 2).

Form for reporting the results of Maine Climate Council Engagement Activities

Please use this form to share results from your engagements with "priority populations" about Maine Climate Council topics. The more details you are able to include, the more comprehensive our reports to the Maine Climate Council and Working Groups will be. Thank you for partnering with us in this work! Feel free to reach out to Louise (louise.chaplin@maine.edu) if you have any questions or are in need of guidance while filling out this form.

1. Email
2. Your first name
3. Your last name
4. The name of your organization

Engagement Logistics

This page asks for the who, where, when, and what of the engagements: who attended, where it was held, when, and what the agenda was like. The next page will ask for the actual results of the engagements by broad topic area.

1. Please list the dates, topics, location, timeline, and target audience of engagements held by your organization, along with the approximate number of participants and priority populations represented. [Click here](#) for a list of priority populations. If there were other populations participating in your events that are not on this list, please describe those populations.

Example:

1. 4/3/24 11am-1pm: Natural resource job fair for Washington County residents; University of Maine at Machias Library; 20 people attended, including older adults (15), residents of disadvantaged rural communities (all), climate frontline communities (2), low-income (5), and recipients of LiHEAP/LIAP (3)

2. 4/19/24 4-5pm: Solar energy discussion with residents of Norway, Maine; Center for an Ecology-Based Economy offices; 10 people attended, including older adults (3),

residents of disadvantaged rural communities (8), people with mobility challenges (2), youth (4), and 1 owner of a veteran- owned business ...etc.

1. Please provide a brief description of the type of engagement and what happened for each * engagement listed above. To make it easier, you can use the same numbering you included in the previous response.

Example:

1. Our staff invited a solar installers and a solar researcher (Revision Energy, Dr. XXX from YYY institution) to do a 20 minute presentation on what solar options are available to residents of Washington County. Attendees asked questions of the presenters, and then our staff facilitated a discussion guided by the following questions...

2. [similar level of detail for the 2nd item on the list above] ...etc.

Feedback for Specific Topic Areas

This section lists broad topic areas that have guided these engagements. Please use the spaced below each topic to report feedback you received for topics that were discussed or addressed in your engagements. We understand that you may only have feedback for some topic areas, so feel free to leave areas of this section blank. Please provide as many details as you can for the topics you report on, to best capture the views of all participants on all topics you discussed. It is REALLY helpful when you can identify the specific priority population(s) represented in each aspect of your feedback. Also, if you have ideas about specific people with perspectives, interests, and abilities that may be beneficial for the climate council to hear from directly, please let us know, either through this form or via email. We have funding that can support a limited number (~8-10 people) to tell their stories directly to the Maine Climate Council (a mtg of ~500 people) at their June 18 and/or September 25 meetings in Augusta. We could also explore videorecording some people who are not able to attend either of these mtgs. See example response in the 1st topic.

1. Preferences and/or barriers to understanding and/or accessing multiple transportation options and their associated incentives and/or infrastructures (including but not limited to: electric vehicles, public transportation, GOMaine, walking, biking, etc.)

Example:

During the solar discussion, the concept of charging electric vehicles at homes came up; people with low incomes expressed that the upfront cost of solar and electric vehicles was prohibitive for them but that if there was some way to cover

that cost, they are interested in the annual monetary savings these options would provide. Some of this group also worried about whether they would be able to get where they needed to go in an electric vehicle, citing long distances (30 minutes each way) just to get to a grocery store.

One person summed up the discussion by saying, "[insert quote]". NOTE: We think it would be great if there was financial support for this person to tell speak in front of the climate council. They would add the following valuable perspective... Etc...

2. Barriers to energy efficiency and/or clean energy improvements in households of all types, including rental.
3. Barriers to accessing HEAP & LIAP benefits and/or weatherization services.
4. Characteristics of eligible households receiving and/or not receiving these HEAP and LIAP benefits and/or weatherization services.
5. Awareness and/or barriers regarding energy efficient building codes.
6. Awareness, preferences, and/or barriers related to different approaches to community solar and/or residential distributed energy (solar, wind, battery); especially for affordable housing & renters.
7. How disadvantaged communities should be involved in siting large-scale renewables and/or energy infrastructure improvements (for example, transmission lines) within their communities; potential benefits from these projects that would be meaningful to citizens in these communities.
8. Renewable energy awareness, access, and/or barriers to renewable energy for Maine's towns, businesses, and/or landlords.
9. Barriers to entry, opportunities, and/or drivers of change to increase diversity and access to natural resource industry (including forestry) careers for priority populations.
10. Perceptions, barriers, preferences, and/or possible interventions related to access to and/ or use of green space, natural and working lands and waters, including working and recreational waterfronts.

11. How we can cultivate a conservation workforce that better reflects the diversity of Maine and its visitors.
12. LOCAL FOOD: ideas to help individuals and communities eat more Maine food; helpful programs they could use to access local food; products they would like to be able to find but are hard to find in Maine.
13. Barriers and/or needs to access natural resource funding opportunities and/or technical assistance.
14. Awareness, understanding, preferences, needs, and/or capacity for climate data collection and/or communication in ways that ensure transparency and build trust, climate literacy, and support for community-driven climate action; especially participatory approaches that engage, train, and empower historically disadvantaged individuals and communities.
15. Barriers and/or opportunities for recruiting smaller and more socially vulnerable communities to the Community Resilience Partnership, with the goal of achieving proportional or better representation of these communities in the program.
16. Barriers and/or opportunities for increasing awareness of and/or participation in regional, state and/or local climate resilience planning efforts by priority populations and their representatives; for example, is lack of access to lists and/or maps of infrastructure projects a barrier?
17. What members of priority populations think are appropriate climate vulnerability and equity criteria to use across all resilience and infrastructure adaptation funding opportunities to increase access to these funding opportunities for disadvantaged communities and those most at risk from climate impacts.
18. Awareness/understanding of indoor air quality issues due to fuel combustion inside the home, particularly in poorly or improperly weatherized homes; opportunities to increase healthy air through improved ventilation, weatherization, and beneficial electrification; as well as idling

19. Awareness of and/or barriers to adopting OSHA recommendations related to extreme heat.
20. Barriers to being able to respond to natural hazard emergencies and/or preferences for accessible avenues of response for at-risk individuals (for example, expanded media and communication channels, ensuring that notifications are available in languages other than English where appropriate, including climate hazard information in other relevant alert channels, such as the Maine Health Alert Network).
21. Technical assistance preferences people in disadvantaged communities for planning, funding, and/or implementing infrastructure adaptation projects.
22. Feedback that spans multiple topic areas and/or feedback for topic areas that you do not see listed above.

Other thoughts/comments

Please use this space to upload any other documents or photos related to your events:

Do you have anything else to add, or feedback to our research team overall?

Appendix K - Data Sources for Priority Populations and Communities

Figure 4.1.1 Data Sources

For all statistics below:

The primary municipality associated with each zip code is based on the results of the United States Postal Service's (USPS) City by Zip Code lookup tool.

Available at: <https://tools.usps.com/zip-code-lookup.htm?citybyzipcode>

Municipality Type	Number of municipalities represented in survey	Total number of municipalities in Maine
<i>Disadvantaged Communities</i>	<p>Primary municipalities associated with each survey respondent's self-reported zip code, if the zip code area overlaps with a <i>disadvantaged community</i> 2010 census tract.</p> <p><i>Disadvantaged communities:</i> Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, "Downloads: Communities List Data", <i>Council on Environmental Quality</i>, 2022, https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/downloads#3/33.47/-97.5, accessed on November 4, 2024.</p>	<p>Primary municipalities associated with each zip code in Maine, if the zip code area overlaps with a <i>disadvantaged community</i> 2010 census tract.</p> <p><i>Disadvantaged communities:</i> <i>ibid.</i></p>
<i>Rural Communities</i>	<p>Primary municipalities associated with each survey respondent's self-reported zip code, if the zip code is not contained in the 2020 U.S. Census list of <i>zip codes associated with urban-classified areas</i>.</p> <p>Note: This statistic is based on the U.S. census classification of the respondent's zip code, not the self-reported urban/rural designation in the Maine Community Alternative Energy</p>	<p><i>Count of cities, towns, and plantations in Maine</i>, not including unorganized territories, minus the count of unique, primary municipalities associated with <i>zip codes associated with urban-classified areas</i>.</p> <p><i>Zip codes associated with urban-classified areas:</i> <i>ibid.</i></p> <p><i>Count of cities, towns, and</i></p>

	<p>Survey.</p> <p><i>Zip codes associated with urban-classified areas:</i> U.S. Census Bureau, “National 2020 Urban Area To 2020 ZCTA Relationship File,” 2020, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/rel2020/ua/tab20_ua20_zcta520_natl.txt, accessed on November 4, 2024.</p>	<p><i>plantations in Maine:</i> U.S. Census Bureau, “Incorporated Places and Minor Civil Divisions Datasets: Subcounty Resident Population Estimates: Maine,” April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023, https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/datasets/2020-2023/cities/totals/sub-est2023_23.csv, accessed on November 4, 2024.</p>
Climate Frontline Communities	<p><i>Municipalities with high Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) that are the primary municipality associated with each survey respondent’s self-reported zip code.</i></p> <p><i>Municipalities with high Social Vulnerability Index (SVI):</i> Community Resilience Partnership, “Social Vulnerability Index for Maine Communities”, <i>Governor’s Office for Policy Innovation and the Future</i>, Aug. 2024, https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov.future/files/inline-files/SVI%20Communities%20Map%20and%20List_2021-12-01_1.pdf</p>	<p>Count of all <i>municipalities with high Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)</i></p> <p><i>Municipalities with high Social Vulnerability Index (SVI):</i> <i>ibid.</i></p>

Figure 4.1.2 Data Sources

For all priority population types below:

- The number of survey respondents is counted according to the priority population definitions in Table 3.2.1.
- Except for the low-income households, rural classification, and businesses below, all populations are Maine residents, 18 years of age and above.

Priority Population Type	Maine population (numerator)	Total Maine population for comparison (denominator)
<i>Disadvantaged Communities</i>	Population in 2010 CEJST disadvantaged census tracts, in CEJST “Communities List Data” spreadsheet. https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/downloads#3/33.47/-97.5 , accessed on November 4, 2024.	Total population provided in CEJST spreadsheet, based on 2010 Decennial Census, reduced by the percentage of the population 18 years of age and above (2010 ACS 5-year estimates, because the 2010 ACS total population was closer to the CEJST spreadsheet’s population than the Census.gov 2010 Decennial Census).
<i>Older Adults</i>	Population 60 years of age and above, 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimate, https://data.census.gov/table/ACST5Y2020.S0101?q=population&g=040XX00US23&y=2020	Total population, 2020 ACS 5-year estimate, <i>ibid.</i>
<i>Rural</i>	Population classified as rural, 2020 Decennial Census; no crosstabs with age available. https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALCD1182020.P2?q=rural&g=040XX00US23	Total population, 2020 Decennial Census, https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALCD1182020.P2?q=rural&g=040XX00US23
<i>Low-Income Households</i>	Household income less than \$50k, 2020 ACS 5-year estimate for total number of households, https://data.census.gov/table/ACST5Y2020.S1901?q=income&g=040XX00US23&y=2020	Total number of households, 2020 ACS 5-year estimate, <i>ibid.</i>
<i>Disabled</i>	Note: the ACS definition of “with a disability” likely differs from the Maine Community Alternative	Total population, 2020 ACS 5-year estimate, <i>ibid.</i>

	<p>Energy Survey's self-reported disability types.</p> <p>Persons "with a disability", 2020 ACS 5-year estimate,</p> <p>https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2020.B18101?q=disability&g=040XX00US23&y=2020</p>	
<i>Climate Frontline Communities</i>	<p>2020 Decennial Census for high SVI towns,</p> <p>https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/datasets/2020-2023/cities/totals/sub-est2023_23.csv</p> <p>SVI classification: https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov/future/files/inline-files/SVI%20Communities%20Map%20and%20List_2021-12-01_1.pdf</p>	Total population (similar to 2020 Decennial Census total), 2020 ACS 5-year estimate.
<i>Women-Owned Businesses</i>	<p>Female ownership and owned equally by male and female owners (small businesses), Annual Business Survey, 2019 (Census); Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics, 2019 (Census),</p> <p>https://advocacy.sba.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-Small-Business-Economic-Profile-ME.pdf</p>	Total population, 2020 ACS 5-year estimate, <i>ibid.</i>
<i>Youth</i>	<p>Population 18 years and over, minus population 25 years and over, 2020 ACS 5-year estimate,</p> <p>https://data.census.gov/table/ACSSST5Y2020.S0101?q=population&g=040XX00US23&y=2020</p>	Total population, 2020 ACS 5-year estimate, <i>ibid.</i>

<i>Unemployed</i>	<p>Note: these statistics include all unemployed persons, not “all unemployed who are also part of another priority population.”</p> <p>January 2024 all unemployed (seasonally adjusted), Maine Department of Labor,</p> <p>https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/cwri/viz/UnemploymentandLaborForce_2/SeasonallyAdjusted</p>	January 2024 civilian labor force, Maine Department of Labor, <i>ibid.</i>
<i>Natural Resource Businesses</i>	<p>"Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting" (small businesses), Nonemployer Statistics, 2020 (Census); Statistics of US Businesses, 2020 (Census),</p> <p>https://advocacy.sba.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-Small-Business-Economic-Profile-ME.pdf</p>	Total population, 2020 ACS 5-year estimate, <i>ibid.</i>
<i>Black/POC</i>	<p>Total 18+ population minus "White Alone (not Hispanic)" 18+ population,</p> <p>https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2020.B01001H?q=race%20by%20age&g=040XX00US23&y=2020</p>	Total population, 2020 ACS 5-year estimate, <i>ibid.</i>
<i>Without Transportation Access</i>	<p>Households with "no vehicle available,"</p> <p>https://data.census.gov/table/ACSSST5Y2020.S2504?g=040XX00US23&y=2020</p>	Total number of households, 2020 ACS 5-year estimate, <i>ibid.</i>
<i>Recipients of LIAP/LIHEAP/Other</i>	All HEAP participants (n=49,923), because households participating in both HEAP/LIAP are not provided,	Total number of households, 2023 ACS 1-year estimate (closest estimate to match 2024 LIHEAP data), <i>ibid.</i>

	https://www.maine.gov/meopa/sites/maine.gov.meopa/files/inline-files/2024-08-05%20ERAC_VEIC%20Energy%20Burden%20Early%20Findings.pdf , page 16.	
<i>BIPOC-Owned Business</i>	<p>"Hispanic or Racial minority" owned businesses (small businesses); Annual Business Survey, 2019 (Census); Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics, 2019 (Census),</p> <p>https://advocacy.sba.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-Small-Business-Economic-Profile-ME.pdf</p>	<p>Total population, 2020 ACS 5-year estimate, <i>ibid.</i></p>