

Community Resilience Partnership

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MAINE OFFICE OF
**Community
Affairs**

March 18, 2026

**CAG2026-7 Community Action Grant
Informational Webinar**

Today's Agenda

1. Maine's Climate Goals
2. Community Resilience Partnership overview
3. Community Action Grant overview
4. Grant Application Portal
5. Questions



CLIMATE COUNCIL GOALS



12.01.24

Updated Climate Action
Plan Due



Achieve State Carbon
Neutrality by
2045

REDUCE MAINE'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY
TARGETS OUTLINED IN STATE LAW

45%

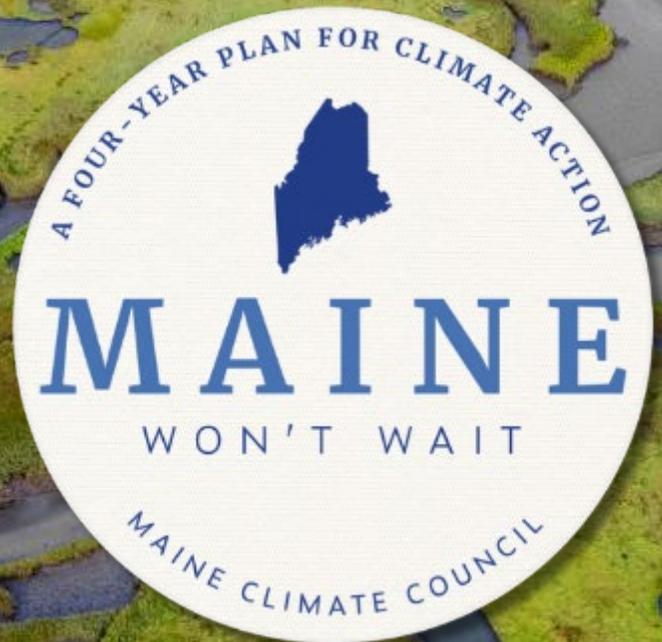
BELOW 1990 LEVELS
BY 2030

80%

BELOW 1990 LEVELS
BY 2050



ENSURE MAINE PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES, AND COMMUNITIES ARE RESILIENT
TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.



Maine Won't Wait Goals:



1. Reduce Maine's **greenhouse gas emissions**
2. Strengthen **resilience** to climate impacts
3. Create **jobs** and **economic prosperity**
4. Bring climate action to **all Maine people**

Maine Won't Wait Strategies:



A

Embrace the future of transportation in Maine



E

Protect the environment and natural and working lands and waters in Maine



B

Modernize Maine's buildings: energy-efficient, smart, and cost-effective homes and businesses



F

Build healthy and resilient communities



C

Transition to clean energy



G

Engage with Maine people on climate action



D

Create jobs and grow Maine's economy through climate action

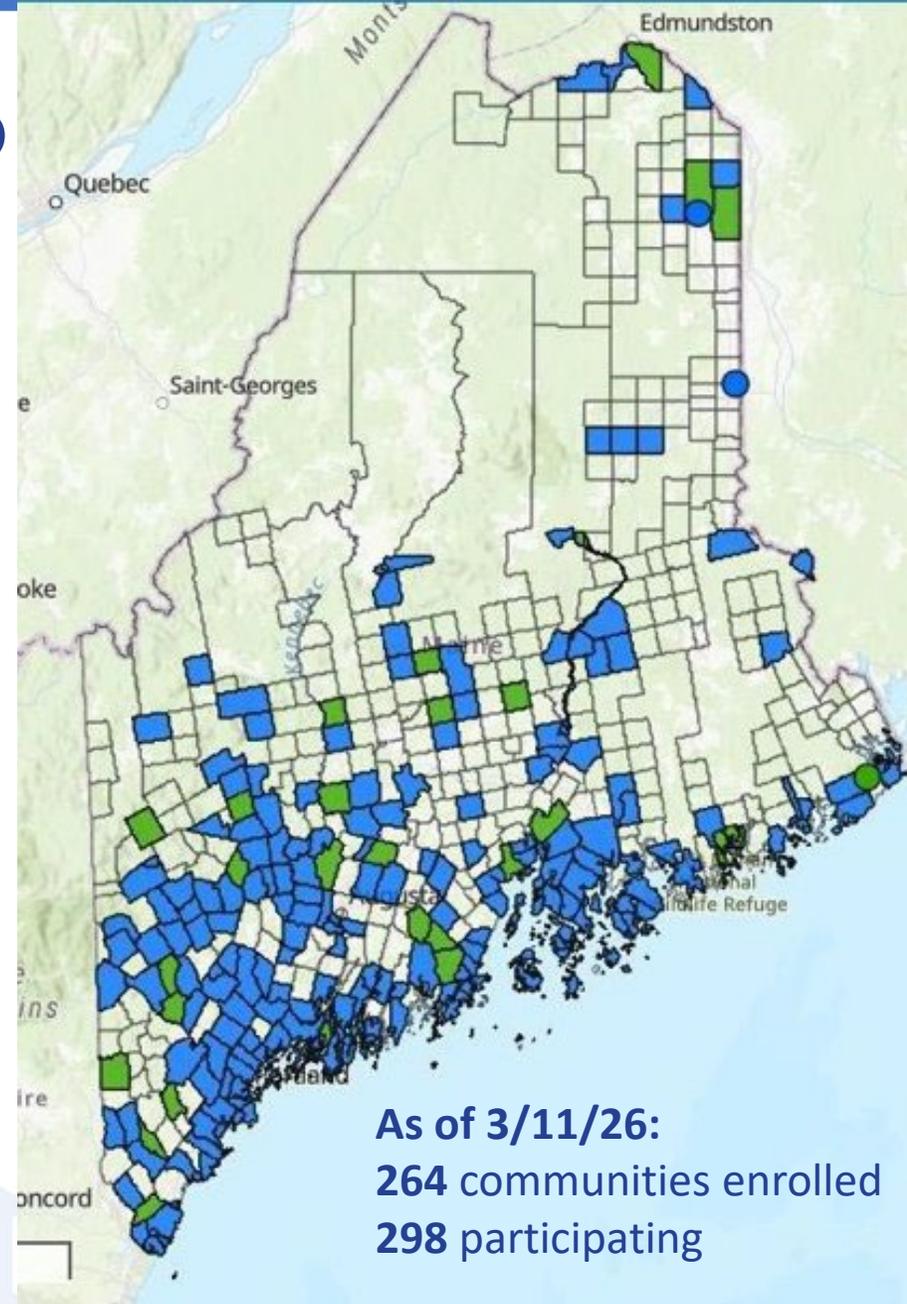
Community Resilience Partnership

www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership

Purpose

Through **grants and technical assistance**, the Community Resilience Partnership assists communities to:

- **reduce carbon emissions,**
- **transition to clean energy, and**
- **become more resilient** to climate change effects such as to extreme weather, flooding, rising sea levels, public health impacts, and more.



Community Action and Service Provider Grant Funding Allocation

- **Grants to communities** for planning and implementation
 - \$4.6 million available for award this round; anticipating 55-65 awards
- **Grants to service provider organizations** to help communities get started and to complete vulnerability assessments
 - \$600,000 available for award this round
- A portion of this funding derives from federal sources and may carry additional federal requirements. Successful applicants will be notified if their award contains federal funding.

Community Action Grants

Grants to communities for priority projects that reduce energy use and costs and/or make their community more resilient to climate change effects, such as flooding, extreme weather, drought, and public health impacts.

Intended outcomes:

- Emissions reductions and improved community resilience.
- Leveraging federal and other funds for larger projects.

Community Action Grant Eligibility

Eligibility

- **Municipalities and federally recognized tribes in Maine**
 - Townships, plantations, unorganized territories are eligible
 - Collaborative multi-community applications are encouraged
- **Currently enrolled or submitting an enrollment form** with Community Action Grant application
- **Regional planning organizations** (RPOs, COGs, EDOs, and EMAs) may apply **on behalf of enrolled communities** with letters of commitment
- Communities that already have an active Community Action Grant from a previous round are eligible to apply in this round but may not apply for new funds to support a previous scope of work.

Community Action Grants - Option 1

Two options

Option 1: No-match grants for one or more activities on the updated List of 95 Community Actions (updated February 2026) that align with Maine Won't Wait 2024

Community Resilience Partnership						
List of Community Actions						
Revised February 2026						
For Community Enrollment, see instructions on Introduction and Example tabs.						
Complete	In Progress	No Progress	Strategy Areas & Actions (mark Columns A, B, C as complete, in progress, or no progress)	Community Enrollment Notes	Community Action Grant Eligibility and Funding Notes	Community Action Grant Additional Notes
Strategy A: Embrace the Future of Transportation						
Accelerate the Transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs)						
			A1 Purchase or lease light-, medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicles, e-bikes, electric lawn or maintenance equipment, electric school buses, or electric boat engines for municipal or tribal government-owned vehicle fleets.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Maximum of \$7,500 in grant funds may be applied to each vehicle or piece of equipment. •Where applicable, Efficiency Maine's electric vehicle rebate must be included in the applicant's project budget. •Must demonstrate a reduction of fossil-fuel powered vehicle miles traveled with the addition of electric-powered vehicles/ equipment to the fleet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A strong proposal will include a scrappage plan for fossil-fuel powered vehicles that are being replaced. •Federal Commercial Clean Vehicle Credit Information: https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/commercial-clean-vehicle-credit
			A2 Develop a fleet transition plan to transition to an electric municipal or tribal government-owned fleet.			
			A3 Install publicly accessible or workplace EV chargers on publicly or tribal government-owned land.		Where applicable, Efficiency Maine's EV charging rebate or grant funding must be included in the applicant's project budget.	Federal Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property Credit Information
			A4 Adopt ordinances to encourage EV charging infrastructure, including at multifamily dwellings, businesses, and public parking areas.			
			A5 Adopt an anti-idling ordinance.			
			A6 Fund nationally accredited (NFPA) training and educational opportunities for local first responders to be prepared to safely handle fires involving EV batteries.			Learn more about the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
			A7 Develop and implement a community EV education and awareness			
Invest in public, active and shared transportation						
			A8 Adopt a Complete Streets policy which addresses safety, bike/pedestrian uses, and transit.			
			A9 Implement strategies that increase public transit ridership and alternative transportation modes, including transit, bike, e-bike, and walking infrastructure.			This could include bike or e-bike lending programs, land use and development policies that reduce the need for driving, or implementing strategies identified in a Complete Streets policy.
			A10 Implement strategies that encourage municipal or tribal government employees to commute via carpools (i.e. GO MAINE, https://gomaine.org/), public transit, bike/walk, or other alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles.			This could include public awareness campaigns or competitions between municipal or tribal government officers. Contact MaineDOT Active Transportation Planner or the Transit Manager to learn more.

Community Action Grants - Option 2

Option 2: Grants for other community-identified climate priorities that support capacity building, planning, and implementation of clean energy, emissions reduction, and community resilience projects (local match required, in-kind allowed). Must identify relevant Maine Won't Wait strategy.

- 10% local match for Tier 1 and Tier 2 communities
- 20% local match for Tier 3 communities

Community Tiers

- Tier 1 - Population below 4,000
- Tier 2 - Population between 4,000 and 10,000 or state tax assessment less than \$25 million
- Tier 3 - Population above 10,000 and state tax assessment over \$25 million



Community Action Grants - MWW Alignment

- Proposed projects must clearly align with *Maine Won't Wait* recommendations and strategies and have a clear climate connection
- Alignment with MWW is scored during application review, and the total points available have been increased to 25 to emphasize the importance of this alignment for an application to receive funding
- This accounts for nearly 25% of the total score
- If a community is unsure of whether a project is aligned with MWW or the CRP List of Community Actions, contact Ashley Krulik.

Community Action Grant Awards

Maximum award: \$75,000 for individual communities and \$175,000 for multi-community proposals

Grant Project Timeline: 12 to 24 months

Reporting: All funded projects will be required to provide quarterly updates, project deliverables, and a brief project case study that communicates lessons learned.

- The applicant(s) should develop and track metrics, both for success of the project and progress toward long-term community goals.

Community Action Grant - Community Engagement

Approach to Community Access and Engagement

- Applicants should describe actions that will be taken to include community stakeholders in the project during the grant period, including underrepresented and more vulnerable community members.
 - This could include educational outreach around the community benefits of the project and *why* it's important to be taking these action(s).
- Approach to Community Access and Engagement make up more than a **third of the of Scope of Work score**

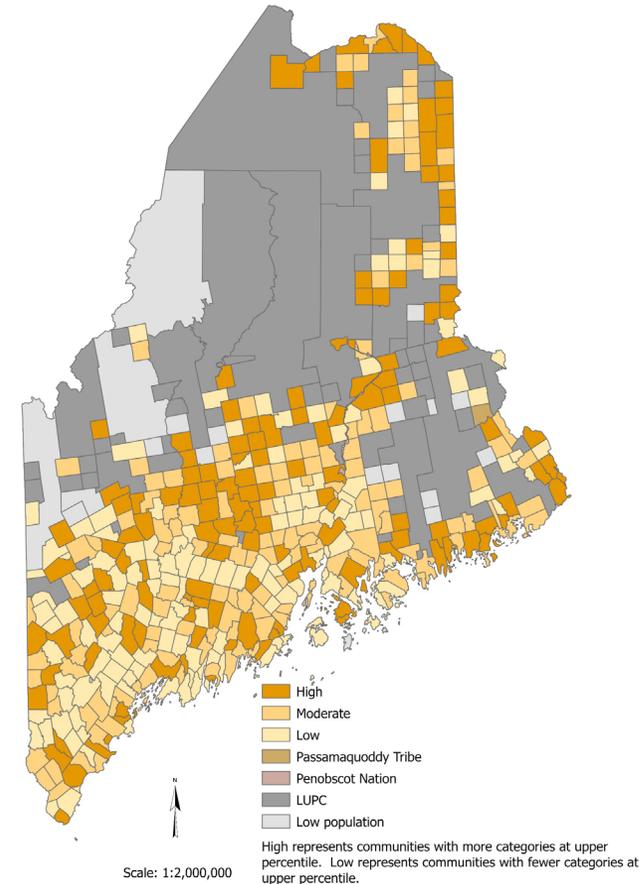
Community Action Grants - Community Access

Community Access

- Maine's climate response must ensure shared benefits across all Maine people.
 - *Who in your community should participate in this project and/or benefit from it?*
- Applicants should consider the potential benefits of their proposed climate action projects and, if applicable, describe how the project promotes access to those benefits.

Maine Social Vulnerability Index

- The MSVI is used by this grant program to understand socio-economic vulnerabilities that may be unique to a community.
- Applicants should reference the updated MSVI, linked in the Program Statement, to determine the current community vulnerability categorization.
- Updated in 2024



Information for this Grant Round

- **Max grant amounts:**
 - \$75,000 for individual community grants
 - \$175,000 for multi-community grants
- **State and Federal funding sources**
 - Additional funding available on top of the award for administration of grants funded using federal sources
- **Updated List of Community Actions for no-match grant funding (updated February 2026)**
- **Maine Social Vulnerability Index (Updated 2024)**
- **New Grant Application Portal**

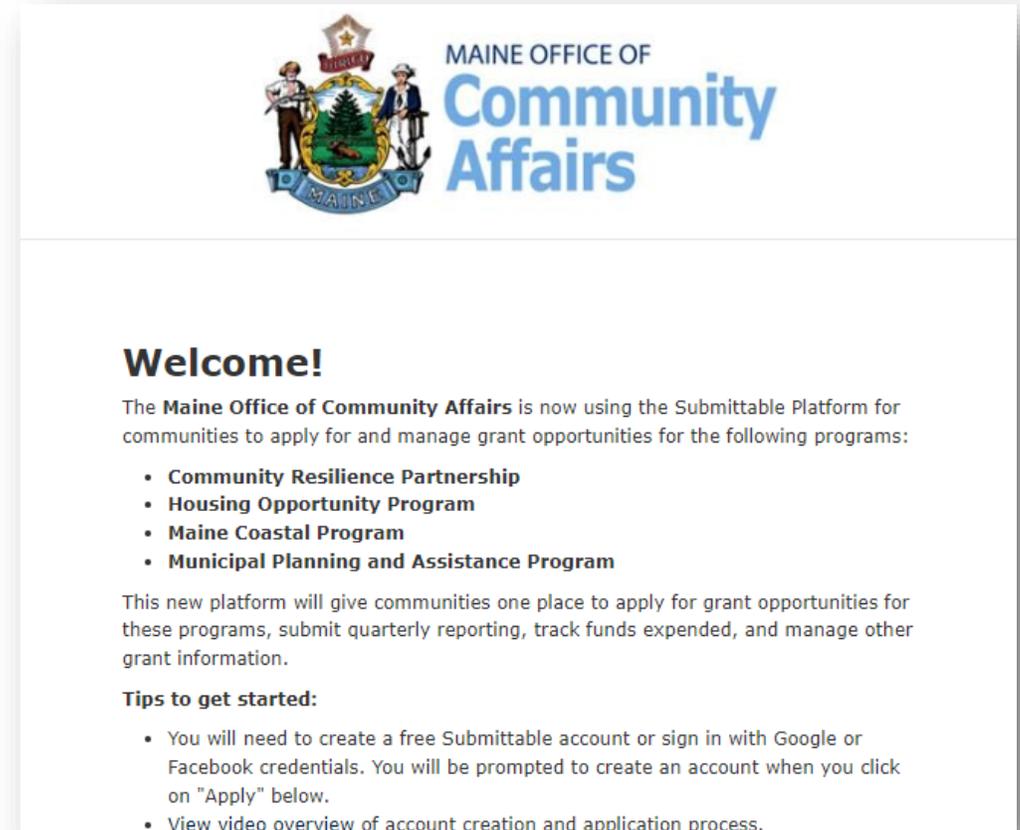
Applying to the Community Action Grant Program Statement

- **Application deadline: June 5, 5 P.M. local time**
- Questions can be submitted to Ashley Krulik (ashley.krulik@maine.gov)
 - Responses will be posted to the Partnership website on a rolling basis until May 8, 2026
- Program Statement available at:
<https://www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership/grants>
- Award notifications anticipated approximately late August
- Grant start date will be around September 15, 2026

MOCA Grant Portal

<https://maineofficeofcommunityaffairs.submittable.com/submit>

- One grant portal for communities to use for MOCA funding opportunities, including the:
 - Community Resilience Partnership
 - Housing Opportunity Program
 - Maine Coastal Program
 - Municipal Planning and Assistance Program
- Grant portal uses the Submittable Platform



The screenshot shows the welcome page of the MOCA Grant Portal. At the top left is the Maine state seal, and to its right is the text "MAINE OFFICE OF Community Affairs". Below this is a "Welcome!" section. The text states that the Maine Office of Community Affairs is now using the Submittable Platform for grant opportunities. A list of programs is provided: Community Resilience Partnership, Housing Opportunity Program, Maine Coastal Program, and Municipal Planning and Assistance Program. A paragraph explains that the new platform allows for a single place to apply, report, and manage grants. A "Tips to get started:" section follows, with two bullet points: one about creating a free Submittable account or signing in with Google or Facebook, and another about viewing a video overview of the process.

**MAINE OFFICE OF
Community
Affairs**

Welcome!

The **Maine Office of Community Affairs** is now using the Submittable Platform for communities to apply for and manage grant opportunities for the following programs:

- **Community Resilience Partnership**
- **Housing Opportunity Program**
- **Maine Coastal Program**
- **Municipal Planning and Assistance Program**

This new platform will give communities one place to apply for grant opportunities for these programs, submit quarterly reporting, track funds expended, and manage other grant information.

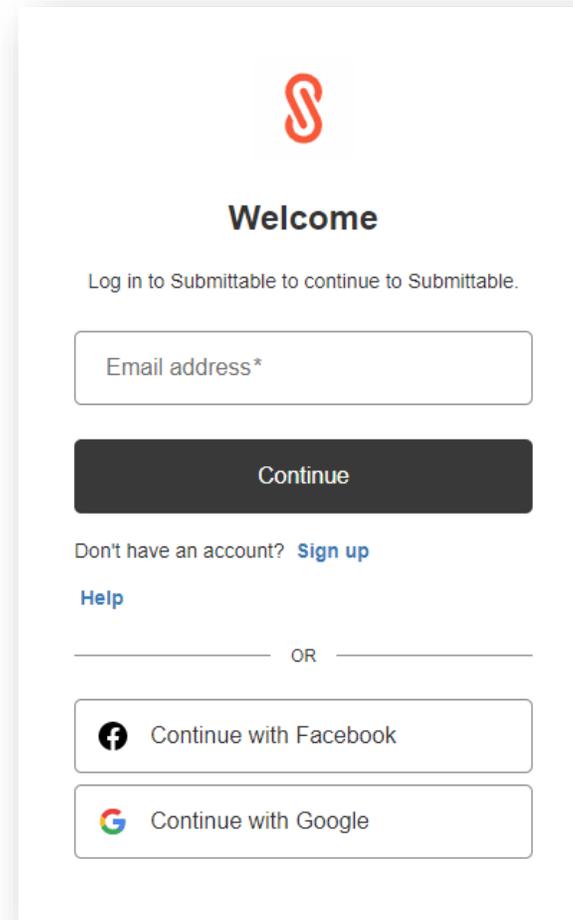
Tips to get started:

- You will need to create a free Submittable account or sign in with Google or Facebook credentials. You will be prompted to create an account when you click on "Apply" below.
- [View video overview](#) of account creation and application process.

MOCA Grant Portal

<https://maineofficeofcommunityaffairs.submittable.com/submit>

- To get started, hit the Community Action Grant “apply” button on the homepage and create an account log in
- A full video tutorial on how to get started, draft, and submit an application can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/24f75xr7>



The screenshot shows the Submittable login interface. At the top is the Submittable logo, a red stylized 'S'. Below it is the heading 'Welcome' and the instruction 'Log in to Submittable to continue to Submittable.' There is a text input field for 'Email address*' and a dark grey 'Continue' button. Below the button are links for 'Don't have an account? Sign up' and 'Help'. A horizontal line with 'OR' in the center separates the email login from social login options. There are two buttons: 'Continue with Facebook' (with the Facebook 'f' logo) and 'Continue with Google' (with the Google 'G' logo).

Future Grant Round

The next Community Action Grant round is expected to occur in the **Winter 2027 (Round 8)**.

Enrolling in the Partnership

1. **Complete two self-assessments**
 - List of Community Actions (updated June 2025)
 - Community Resilience Self-evaluation
2. **Hold a community workshop** and set priority action items
3. **Pass a municipal resolution or obtain a letter from a tribal chief or UT supervisor** committing to participate
 - Model language provided
4. **Submit enrollment materials** through the online form
5. **Reenrollment** every two years.

Rolling enrollment – no deadlines.

Need help? Service Provider Grants are available.

Community Resilience Partnership Program Contact: Brian Ambrette
brian.ambrette@maine.gov
Community Resilience Partnership | Office of Policy Innovation & Future (maine.gov)

Community Resilience Self-Evaluation

Instructions: This tool is intended to help organize your community's approach to increasing resilience to natural hazards and climate change impacts. Answer the questions to the best of your knowledge and seek information from your colleagues in municipal and county government and organizations in your community. Provide any relevant information in the explanation field. If it is difficult to give a clear yes or no response to a question, use the explanation field to explain why. **There are no wrong answers and the responses here will not affect your community's eligibility to receive grants.** Where the response to a question is no, that may indicate an area of opportunity to address through a Community Action Grant.

Community name:	
Self-Evaluation responses provided by: Please include contact info	
Date:	
Was this evaluation discussed during a community workshop? Include the date of the workshop.	

Once the questions on the following pages are complete, use these prompts to identify potential next steps for your community.

Community Resilience Partnership List of Community Actions Revised June 2025							
What doing	For Community Enrollment, see instructions on Introduction and Example tabs.			Community Enrollment Notes	Community Action Grant Eligibility and Funding Notes	Community Action Grant Additional Notes	
	Complete	In Progress	No Progress	Strategy Areas & Actions (mark Columns A, B, C as complete, in progress, or no progress)			
What improve				Strategy A: Embrace the Future of Transportation			
				Accelerate the Transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs)			
What to add				A1	Purchase or lease light-, medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicles, e-bikes, electric lawn or maintenance equipment, electric school buses, or electric boat engines for municipal or tribal government-owned vehicle fleets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Maximum of \$7,500 in grant funds may be applied to each vehicle or piece of equipment. •Where applicable, Efficiency Maine's electric vehicle rebate must be included in the applicant's project budget. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A strong proposal will include a scrappage plan for fossil-fuel powered vehicles that are being replaced. •Federal Commercial Clean Vehicle Credit information: https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/commercial-clean-vehicle-credit
What priori				A2	Develop a fleet transition plan to transition to an electric municipal or tribal government-owned fleet.		
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				A4	Adopt ordinances to encourage EV charging infrastructure, including at multifamily dwellings, businesses, and public parking areas.		
				A5	Adopt an anti-idling ordinance.		
Revised				A6	Fund nationally accredited (NFPA) training and educational opportunities for local first responders to be prepared to safely handle fires involving EV batteries.		Learn more about the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
				A7	Develop and implement a community EV education and awareness campaign.		
				Invest in public, active and shared transportation			
				A8	Adopt a Complete Streets policy which addresses safety, bike/pedestrian uses, and transit.		
				A9	Implement strategies that increase public transit ridership and alternative transportation modes, including transit, bike, e-bike, and walking.		This could include bike or e-bike lending programs, land use and development policies that reduce the need for driving, or

Service Provider Grants

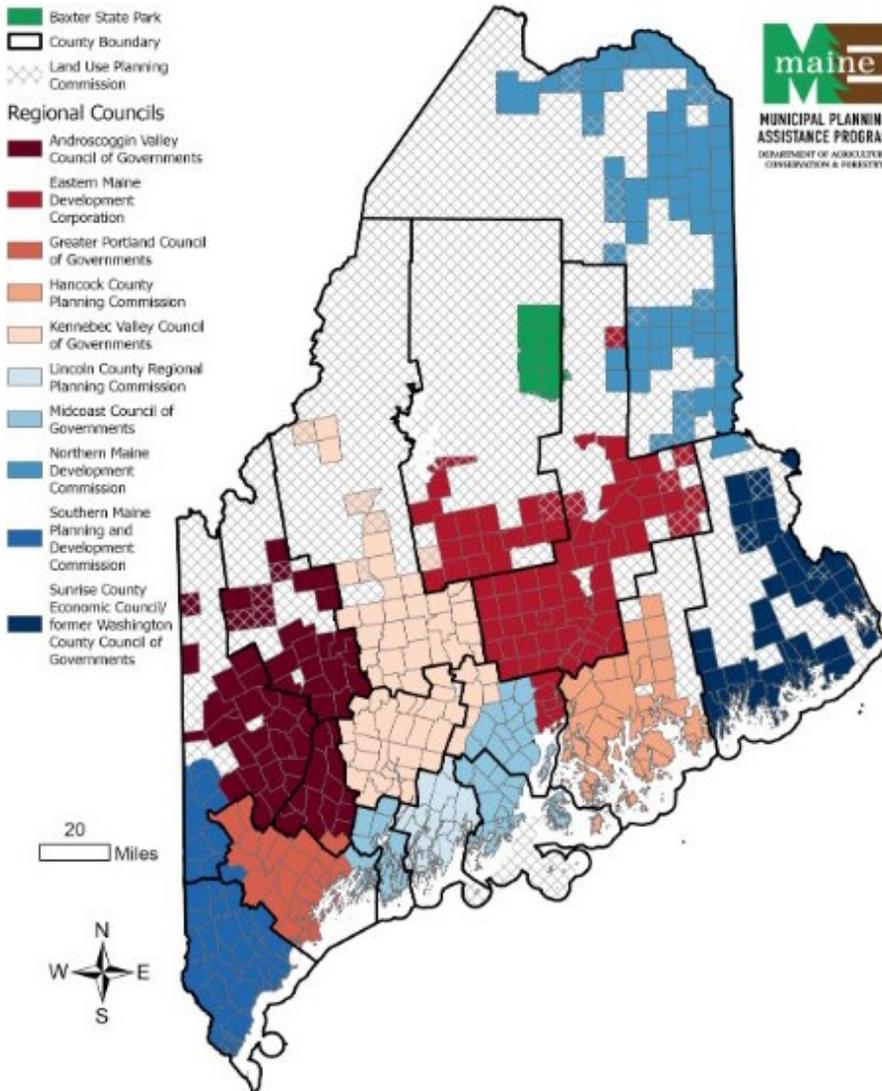
Service Provider Grants support organizations to assist communities with climate action, energy and resilience planning.

- There are two Service Provider Grant Tracks:
 - **Track 1** Community Enrollment Service Provider Grants
 - **Track 2** Community Vulnerability Assessment Service Provider Grants to complete community vulnerability assessments
- A Community may participate in applications for both a Community Action Grant and a Track 2 Community Vulnerability Assessment Grant but may only participate in one (1) application per grant opportunity.
- An information webinar on the Service Provider Grant was held earlier today. A recording will be available on the Partnership website.
www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership

Tips for a Strong Application

- Clearly defined project tasks, deliverables, outcomes, roles and responsibilities, and timeline
- Community engagement throughout the duration of the project
- Description of how the project will benefit the community
- Accurate budget that includes vendor estimates and Efficiency Maine incentives if applicable

Expanded Regional Coordinator Program



Aroostook County	Northern Maine Development Corporation Contact: Jared Tapley; jtapley@nmdc.org
Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford Counties	Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments Contact: Catherine Mardosa; cmardosa@avcog.org
Cumberland County	Greater Portland Council of Governments Contact: Gretchen Anderson, ganderson@gpcog.org
Hancock County	Hancock County Planning Commission Contact: Janna Richards; jrichards@hcpcme.org
Kennebec, Somerset, and western Waldo Counties	Kennebec Valley Council of Governments Contact: Grainne Shaw; gshaw@kvcog.org
Knox, Sagadahoc, and eastern Waldo Counties	Midcoast Council of Governments Contact: Meg Rasmussen; mrasnussen@midcoastcog.com
Lincoln County	Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission Contacts: Laura Graziano (lgraziano@lcrpc.org)
Piscataquis and Penobscot Counties	Eastern Maine Development Corporation Contact: Kristen Settele; ksettele@emdc.org
Washington County	Sunrise County Economic Council Contact: Tanya Rucosky; trucosky@sunrisecounty.org
York County	Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission Contact: Melanie Nash, mnash@smpdc.org

Website and Contact

- Joining the Partnership
- Links to the grant applications
- Frequently Asked Questions

Ashley Krulik

Community Resilience Partnership Program Manager
ashley.krulik@maine.gov

Casey Zorn

Lead-By-Example Project Coordinator
casey.zorn@maine.gov

Marina Tomer

Resilient Maine Regional Coordinator Program Manager
marina.tomer@maine.gov

www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership



SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES



Communities in Maine can join the Partnership individually, or through a regional group, after completing three simple steps.

GRANT & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS



Grants are available for communities to pursue climate action and for regional service providers to assist groups of communities to join the Partnership.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



For more about community resilience and details of the Partnership, please visit our FAQs.

CRP Lunch and Learn Series Schedule

- **March 25: Mobilizing Volunteers for Resilience Projects**
- **April 1: Waste Diversion & Circular Economy**
- **April 15: Flood Resilience & Vulnerability Assessments**
- **April 29: Powering Resilient Communities**

Visit the CRP Website to Register!



Questions

Please put questions into the chat

Thank You

www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership

