

# *Energy Efficiency Planning for Rural Communities (EETPRC) Technical Assistance Program*

---

**Casey Zorn**

*Lead by Example Project Coordinator*

**Ashley Krulik**

*Community Resilience Partnership Program  
Manager*

---



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
**Policy Innovation  
and the Future**

*September 5, 2024*

*Energy Efficiency Planning for Rural Communities  
Informational Webinar*

# Today's Agenda

1. Energy Efficiency Planning for Rural Communities (EEPRC) program overview
  - Eligibility and program specifics
  - Deadlines and process
  - Federal compliance and reporting
2. Application Components and Tips
3. Enrolling in the Partnership
4. If my community is not eligible
5. Questions

# Informational Webinars

The webinar will be recorded and posted to the Partnership website for replay.

September 5, 11:00am – **EEPRC Technical Assistance Program**  
Informational Webinar

Recording accessible at: [www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership](http://www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership)

Next round of Community Action Grants and Service Provider Grants will be announced shortly.



# Energy Efficiency Planning for Rural Communities (EEPRC) Technical Assistance Program

A special, one-time technical assistance offering through the Community Resilience Partnership. The purpose of the EEPRC program is to support Maine communities with energy efficiency planning for publicly owned buildings through energy audits, energy benchmarking trainings and support, and energy conservation plans.

- **NOTE: The EEPRC program is not a grant program.** A successful application will not result in a funding award. Participating communities will receive technical assistance services as outlined in the Program Statement at NO COST to the communities.

# Application Eligibility

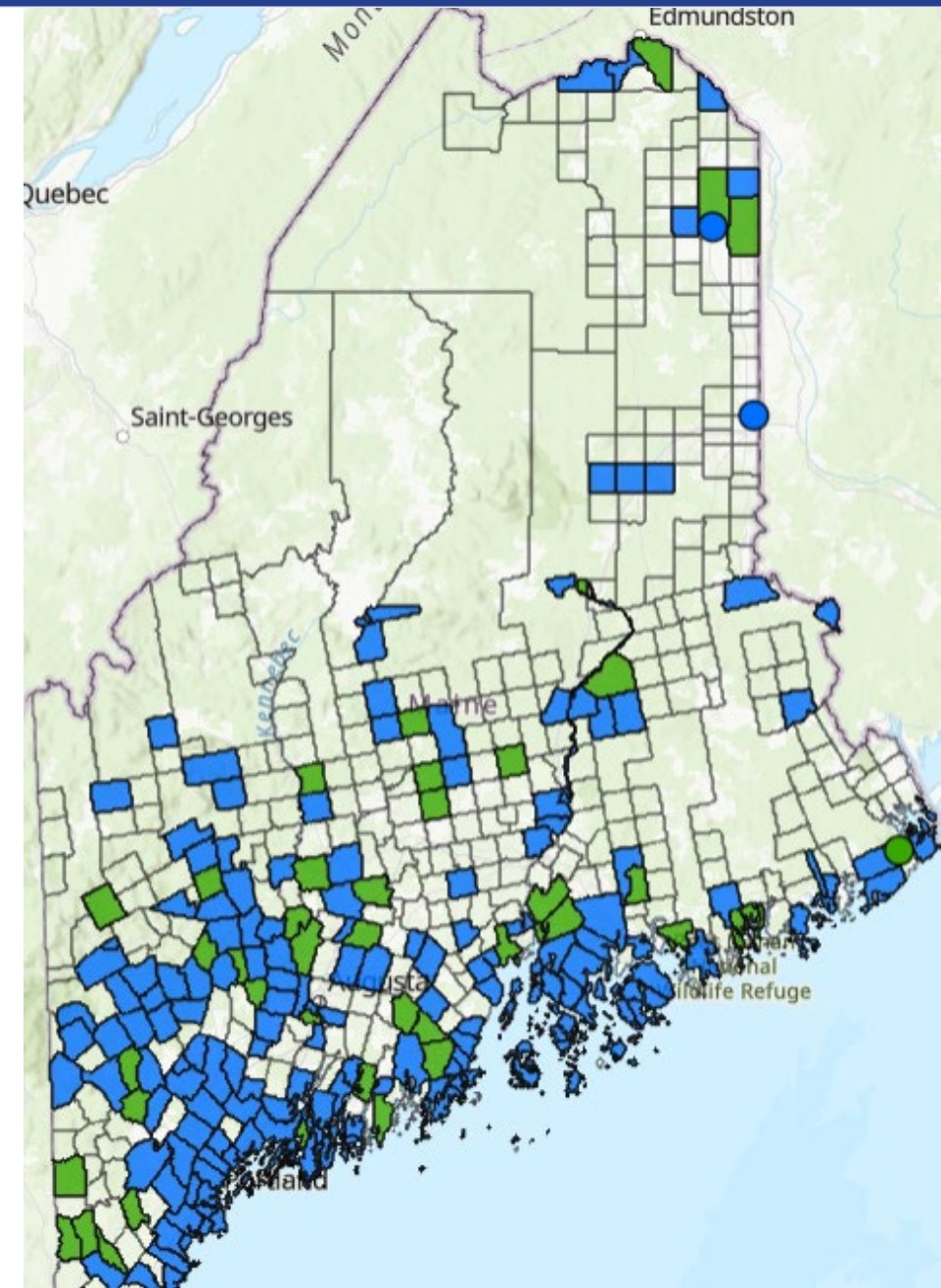
To be eligible for the Energy Efficiency Planning for Rural Communities program, a community must BOTH:

- Be enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership,  
AND
- Have a population of less than 10,000 OR have a Medium or High vulnerability according to the Maine Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

## NOTE:

- County governments, and the ten (10) largest Maine municipalities are not eligible for the EEPRC program

Image shows communities currently enrolled or working with a Service Provider to enroll in the Community Resilience Partnership



# Services Provided to the Communities (by the Consultant)

- **Energy audits for up to six (6) publicly owned buildings within each community.**  
Energy audits may include HVAC analysis, lighting analysis, buildings envelope analysis, and analysis on other energy sources and uses;
- **Trainings on how to use EnergyStar Portfolio Manager** (a public EPA energy and water use benchmarking tool) for relevant staff, set up EnergyStar Portfolio Manager accounts for relevant staff, and input 2-3 years of energy and water use data for the selected public buildings into EnergyStar Portfolio Manager on behalf of the community;
- A community- and buildings-specific **Energy Conservation Implementation Plan** that provides a prioritized list of specific energy efficiency improvement projects, cost estimates for each project, funding opportunities for each project, payback times for each project, and potential greenhouse gas emissions reductions for each project to prepare these projects for funding opportunities and grant applications, such as the Partnership's Community Action Grant.

# Support Provided by the Communities

- Select a **minimum of two (2) and a maximum of six (6)** publicly owned buildings that need energy efficiency improvement
- Select a **staff liaison** to communicate with and support the consultant. The staff liaison will support the consultant by:
  - Providing **2-3 years of energy and water data** for each building (NOTE: The community is strongly encouraged to have energy and water data on hand, but if not, the consultant may be able to support staff in gathering this data)
  - Setting up site visits for the consultant to perform in-person energy audits for each building.
- The community will conduct **public engagement** activities related to the project

# Community Engagement

## Approach to Community Engagement

The community will conduct public engagement activities related to the project, such as:

- Public displays that communicate the project's benefits;
- Public events that educate residents on the benefits of energy efficiency, electrification, and clean energy; and/or
- Outreach activities that encourage community participation and engagement with the project.

# Applying to the EEPRC Program

- **Application deadline: October 4, 2024, 5 p.m.**
- All questions must be submitted by email to [Casey.Zorn@maine.gov](mailto:Casey.Zorn@maine.gov) with subject line “EEPRC2024 -- Questions”
  - Any responses deemed substantive and binding will be summarized and posted on the [Community Resilience Partnership website](#) on a rolling basis until September 20, 2024.
  - Program Statement available at: <https://www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership/grants>
    - Program Statement contains the required application form.
- Selection notifications anticipated approximately in late October to early November

# Federal Policy Compliance

- **Note:** This is a federally funded program, funded through the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant award to the State of Maine.
- This program will minimally trigger compliance with federal terms and conditions.
- Participants in the EEPRC program are expected to complete all reports and reply to communications in a timely manner to ensure the State remains in compliance with our federal contract.

# Reporting

Participating communities will be asked to complete a final report upon completion of the program. A final report will be due 30 days after the end of the program.

# Application Components

- **Building Identification**
  - Energy Efficiency Profiles
  - Selection Process
- **Current Status**
  - Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Progress
  - Community Need
- **Community Outcomes**
  - Project Outcomes and Implementation
  - Project Management
  - Community Engagement

# Tips for a Strong Application

- Include only publicly-owned buildings and describe why these buildings are a community priority
- Know and explain how you will get energy and water use data
- Clearly defined plan to support the consultant
- Community engagement throughout the duration of the project
- Description of how project will benefit the community
- Narrative of how this project fits into the broader energy goals of the community

# Enrolling in the Partnership

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

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 in

Community Resilience Partnership		
List of Community Actions		
Revised April 2023		
See Instructions on Introduction tab below.		
Date:	✓ Strategy Areas & Actions (mark Column A as complete, in progress, future priority, etc.)	Additional Resources (\$=funding source)
Was this evaluation discussed at a community workshop?	Strategy Area A: Embrace the Future of Transportation	
Accelerate the Transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs)		
Note: A maximum of \$7,500 of a Community Action Grant may be applied to the purchase of an electric vehicle for municipal or tribal fleets (Action A1). Eligible vehicles for Action A1 include light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty on-road electric vehicles as well as electric riding mowers and electric outboard engines that are part of a municipal fleet, all subject to the maximum award amount. Where applicable, Efficiency Maine's electric vehicle rebate (Action A1) or EV charging rebate (Action A2) must be included in the applicant's project budget.		
What are two things you are doing well?	A1	Purchase or lease electric vehicles for municipal or tribal government-owned vehicle fleets. <a href="#">Efficiency Maine: Municipal EV rebates (\$)</a>
What are two areas that have improved in the short-term?	A2	Install EV chargers in public parking areas. <a href="#">Efficiency Maine: EV supply equipment initiative (\$)</a>
What is important for you to address in the long-term?	A3	Adopt ordinances to encourage EV charging infrastructure, including at multifamily dwellings, businesses, and public parking areas. <a href="#">Municipal Electric Vehicle Readiness Toolkit (Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission)</a>
	A4	Adopt an anti-idling ordinance. <a href="#">Example: Bar Harbor Municipal Code</a>
Improve Mobility and Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)		
What specific 3 to 5 action priorities for your community?	A5	Implement strategies that increase public transit ridership and alternative transportation modes, including bike and walking infrastructure.
	A6	Implement strategies that encourage municipal/tribal employees to commute via carpools, public transit, bike/walk, or other alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles.
	A7	Adopt a telework policy for municipal/tribal government staff positions that can work remotely some days per week.
	A8	Adopt land use and development policies in plans and codes that reduce the need for driving (e.g. locating schools, workplaces, and shopping near where people live; encouraging density of development near housing and transportation).

Revised December 1, 2021

# If My Community is Not Eligible

- Other Grant Opportunities:
  - Community Action Grant – Fall/Winter 2024
- Contact Ashley Krulik, Community Resilience Partnership Program Manager, with any questions

# Website and Contact

[www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership](http://www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership)

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

## Casey Zorn

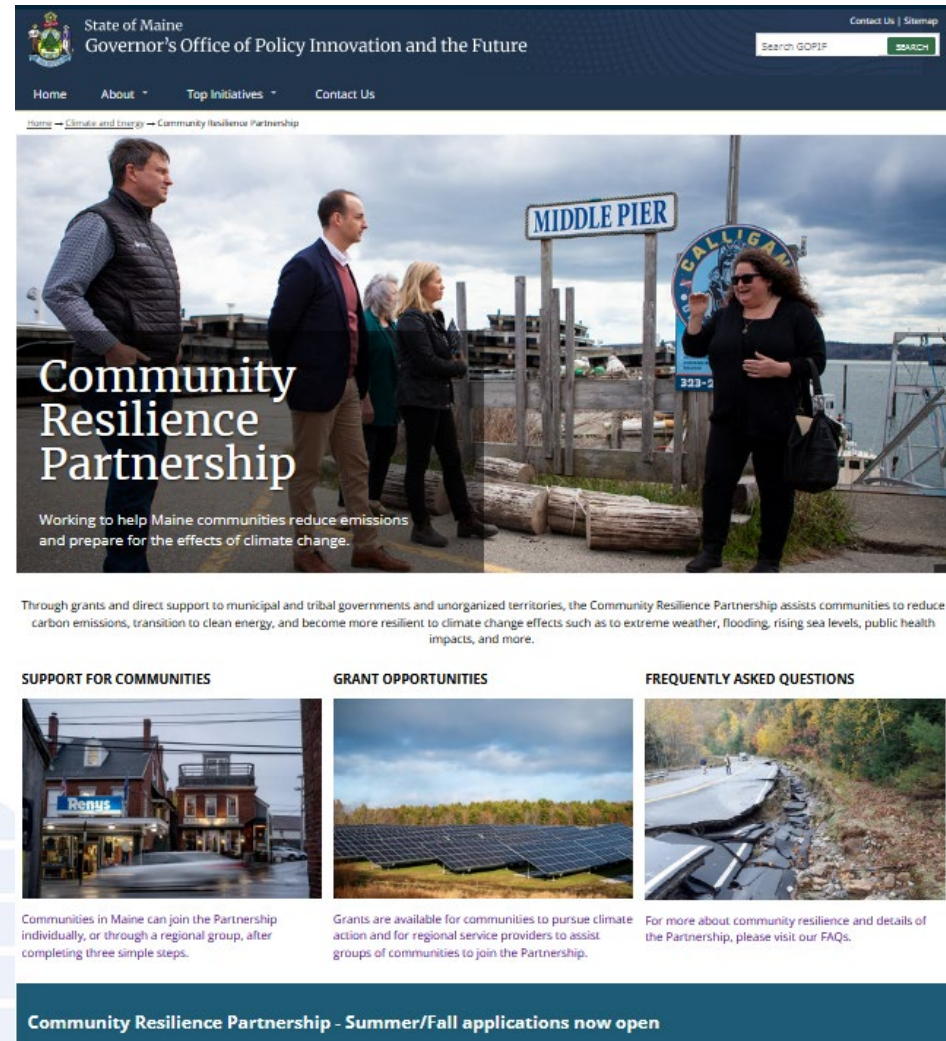
Lead by Example Project Manager

[casey.zorn@maine.gov](mailto:casey.zorn@maine.gov)

## Ashley Krulik

Community Resilience Partnership Program Manager

[ashley.krulik@maine.gov](mailto:ashley.krulik@maine.gov)



The screenshot shows the website for the State of Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. The header includes the state seal, the office name, a search bar, and navigation links: Home, About, Top Initiatives, and Contact Us. The main banner features a photo of four people standing on a pier with a sign that says 'MIDDLE PIER'. The text 'Community Resilience Partnership' is overlaid on the photo, followed by the tagline 'Working to help Maine communities reduce emissions and prepare for the effects of climate change.' Below the banner, a paragraph explains the partnership's mission: 'Through grants and direct support to municipal and tribal governments and unorganized territories, 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.' The page is divided into three columns: 'SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES' with a photo of a town street, 'GRANT OPPORTUNITIES' with a photo of solar panels, and 'FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS' with a photo of a damaged road. Each column has a brief description of the service or opportunity. At the bottom, a dark blue banner reads 'Community Resilience Partnership - Summer/Fall applications now open'.

State of Maine  
Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future

Home About Top Initiatives Contact Us

Community Resilience Partnership

Working to help Maine communities reduce emissions and prepare for the effects of climate change.

Through grants and direct support to municipal and tribal governments and unorganized territories, 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.

**SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES**

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

**GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

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.

Community Resilience Partnership - Summer/Fall applications now open

# Questions

Please put questions into the chat

# Thank You

[www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership](http://www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership)

