

Community Resilience Partnership

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MAINE OFFICE OF
**Community
Affairs**

April 16, 2026

***NBD2026 – Nature-based Design
Technical Assistance Opportunity
Informational Webinar***

Today's Agenda

1. Maine's Climate Goals
2. Community Resilience Partnership overview
3. NBD TA Opportunity 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**

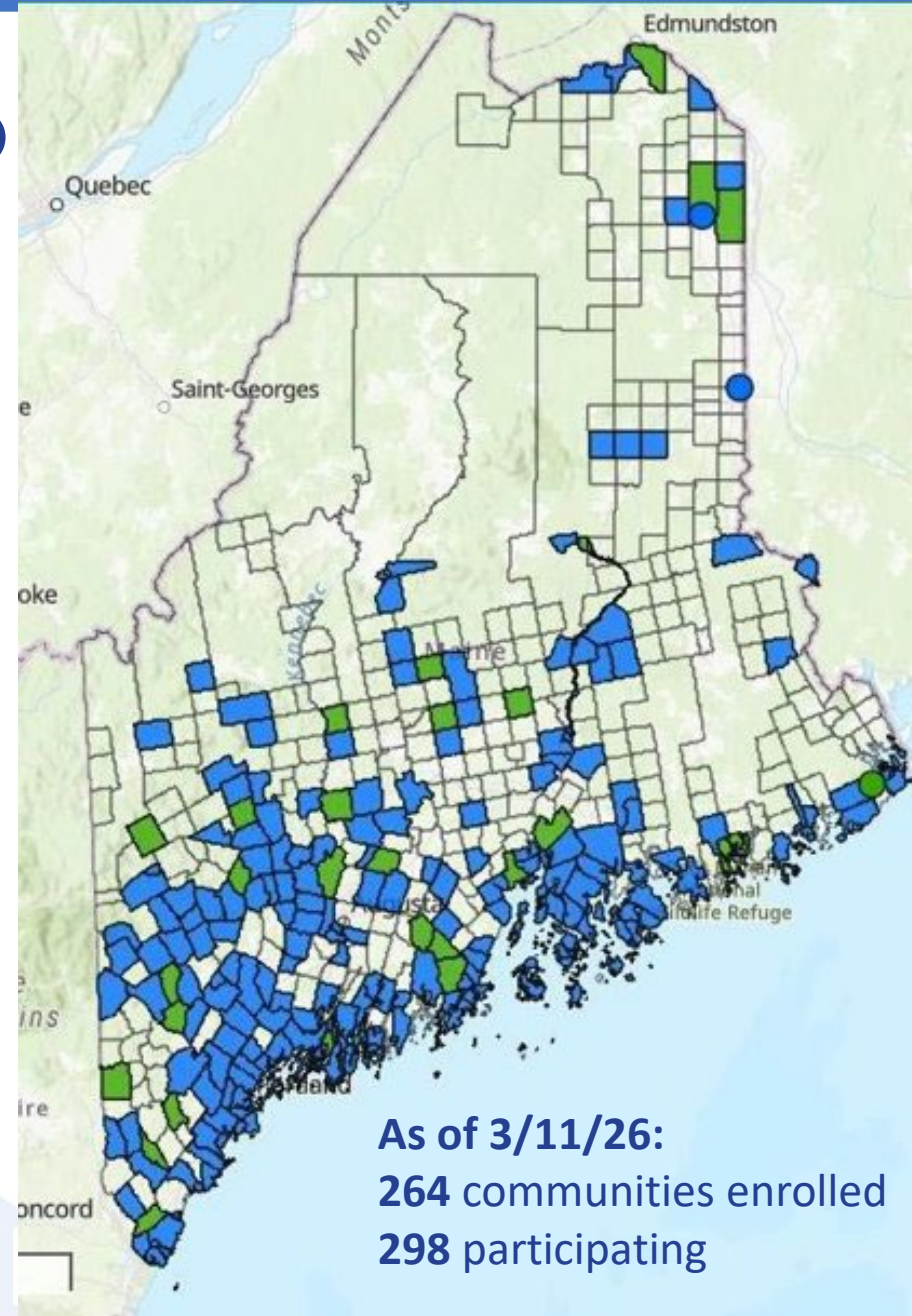
Community Resilience Partnership

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 Resilience Partnership: Round 7 Opportunities and Deadlines

- **Community Action Grants**

- \$4.6 million available for award this round; anticipating 55-65 awards
- Applications due June 5, 2026, 5 PM local time

- **Service Provider Grants**

- \$600,000 available for award this round
- Next application deadline: May 15, 2026, 5 PM local time

- **New! Nature-based Design Technical Assistance Opportunity**

- Anticipating 7-10 awards this round
- Applications due June 19, 2026, 5 PM local time

NOAA CRRC Award

- This technical assistance opportunity is made available through the Governor's Office of Policy of Innovation and the Future's *Resilient Maine* Project
- Funding for these services is provided through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric (NOAA)'s Climate Resilience Regional Challenge, awarded in Fall 2024

NBD Opportunity Overview

- This technical assistance opportunity will provide communities with **direct engineering services** to develop **30% engineering designs for nature-based or hybrid strategies** to improve the resilience of priority public property.
- Nature-based strategies (NbS) definition:
 - Actions that protect, sustainably manage, and/or restore natural ecosystems to manage risks while simultaneously providing benefits for people and biodiversity.
- Hybrid strategies definition:
 - Where NbS cannot act alone to provide adequate protection, hybrid strategies can be developed that combine engineered “gray” infrastructure with natural “green” systems to manage risks like flooding, erosion, and heat.

This is a no-cost to communities technical assistance offering, not a grant

Technical Assistance Eligibility

Eligibility

- **Municipalities and federally recognized tribes in Maine**
 - Townships, plantations, unorganized territories are eligible
 - Collaborative multi-community applications are eligible
- **Currently enrolled or submitting an enrollment form with 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 grants or technical assistance from a previous round are eligible to apply in this round but may not apply for assistance to support a previous scope of work.

Project Eligibility/ "Fit"

Eligible projects must meet the following requirements:

- Must be **located on public property or property legally protected for public access.**
- Must be a **climate resilience priority.**
- Must be a **community priority.**
- Must be **suitable for nature-based or hybrid design** through this opportunity.

Communities may submit only one (1) project which may span multiple neighboring properties.

Must be on public property

Properties submitted in an application must be either:

- Publicly owned, or
- Protected for public access and benefit through a public easement, covenant, or other legal structure

Applications including private property or property not owned by the applicant will require letters of support from the landowners. Private property will require an additional proof of public access protection and demonstration of clear public benefit.

Must be a resilience priority.

Applicants must demonstrate that the property is highly vulnerable to climate-related hazards, which may include:

- Flooding (coastal, riverine, or stormwater)
- Erosion
- Other risks caused by increased precipitation, more intense storms, or increased temperatures

Properties must already be impacted by climate-related hazards or applicants must have data that indicated urgency.

Must be a community or regional priority.

Priority project might include properties that **house critical services, enable access to high use routes, or have economic or community value**, including:

- A municipal property that houses critical services
- A public park or beach
- A priority road segment or access point
- A public boat launch or pier
- A lake or pond that is valued for recreation
- A river or stream segment with a high use walking path
- A river or stream segment that supports valuable species
- Agricultural land
- A high use parking area

Must be suitable for nature-based or hybrid design.

Proposed projects must be suitable for nature-based or hybrid strategy approach and must be appropriately scaled for the expertise and budget of the engineering firm. Appropriate projects may include:

- **Shoreline stabilization** design along inland water bodies and coastal shores
- **Hybrid stream crossing/culvert** replacement designed to StreamSmart/Coastwise standards with habitat connectivity
- **Low impact design** practices to manage stormwater
- **Raised road segment design with vegetated banks**
- **Redesign of failing hardscape installations** (e.g., riprap) with hybrid strategies

Overview of Technical Assistance Deliverables

Through this technical assistance opportunity, the engineering firm will provide each selected community with the following services:

- **Kick-off meeting with community**
- **Site survey/assessment**
- **Selection of key design elements**
- **Preliminary cost estimate**
- **Considerations for environmental assessment and permitting**
- **30% design drawing and report**

On average, each community will receive approximately \$25,000 worth of engineering support. Designs will be developed to meet state standards and align with relevant state permitting.

Projects will span approximately 1 year.

Community Roles and Responsibilities

To support the engineering firm's work, the community will provide the following:

- **Project Selection**

- Select a project/eligible properties for this assistance

- **Staff/Community Liaison**

- Provide a staff liaison to communicate with and support the firm and CRP team
- Organize presentations and gather documents/data as needed

- **Community Engagement**

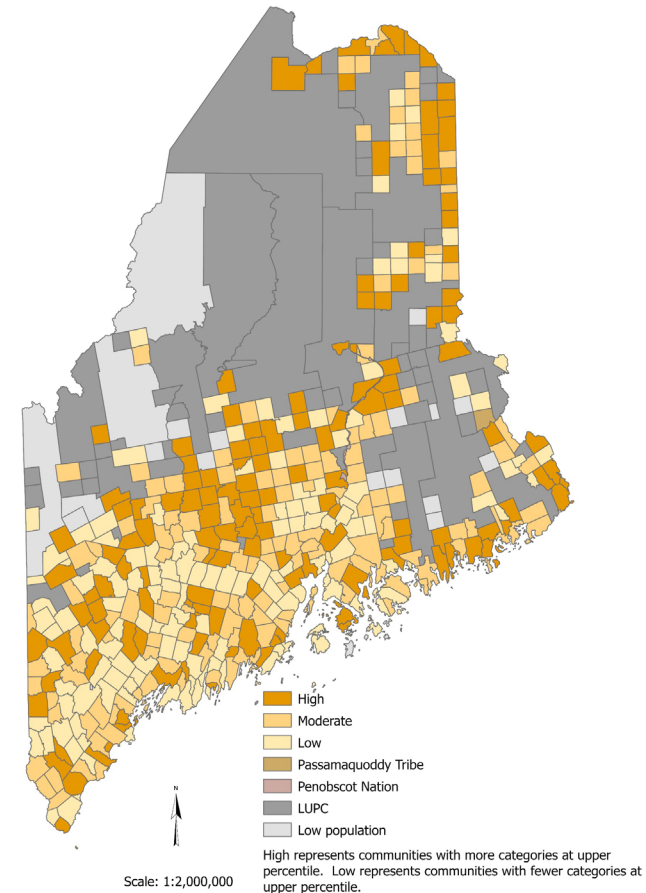
Community Engagement

The community will conduct public engagement activities related to the project, which may include the following types of activities:

- **Public displays that communicate the project's benefits;**
 - **Public events that educate residents on the benefits of nature-based strategies and climate resilience; and/or**
 - **Outreach activities that encourage community participation and engagement with the project.**
- 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.

Maine Social Vulnerability Index

- The MSVI is used by this technical assistance opportunity 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



Scoring Criteria

- **Community Characteristics** (up to 5 points)
- **Project Identification & Alignment** (35 points)
- **Project Need** (35 points)
- **Community Outcomes** (25 points)
 - Project Outcomes and Implementation, Project Management (10 points)
 - Community Engagement (15 points)


Applying to the Nature-based Design Technical Assistance Opportunity Program Statement

- **Application deadline: June 19, 5 P.M. local time**
- Questions can be submitted to Casey Zorn (casey.zorn@maine.gov)
 - Responses will be posted to the Partnership website on a rolling basis until May 22, 2026
- Program Statement available at:
<https://www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership/grants>
- Award notifications anticipated in early August
- Technical Assistance start date will be on or after August 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



**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.

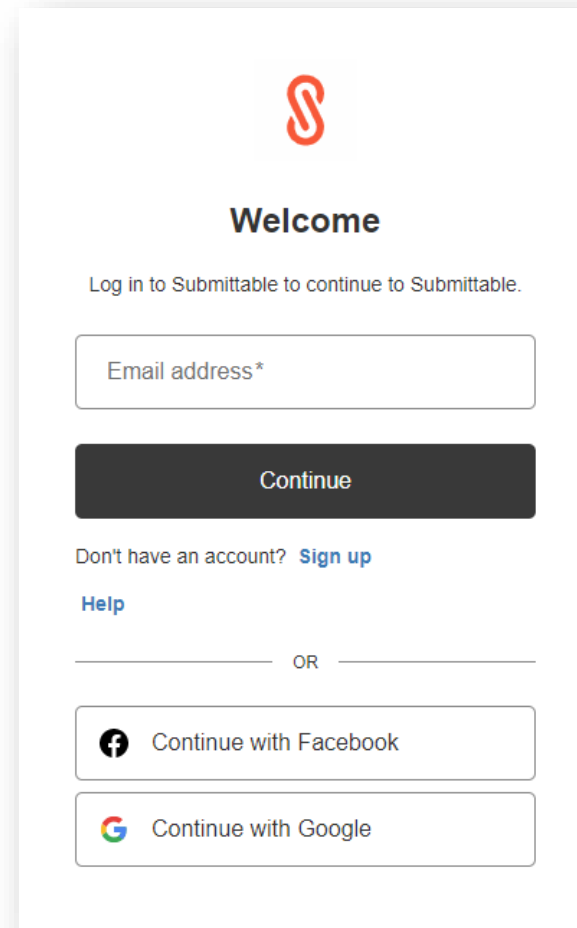
Tips to get started:

- 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 NBD2026 “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 'S'). Below it is the heading 'Welcome' and the text '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' icon) and 'Continue with Google' (with the Google 'G' icon).

Future Application Round

The next NBD Technical Assistance application round is expected to occur in the **Winter/Spring 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.	

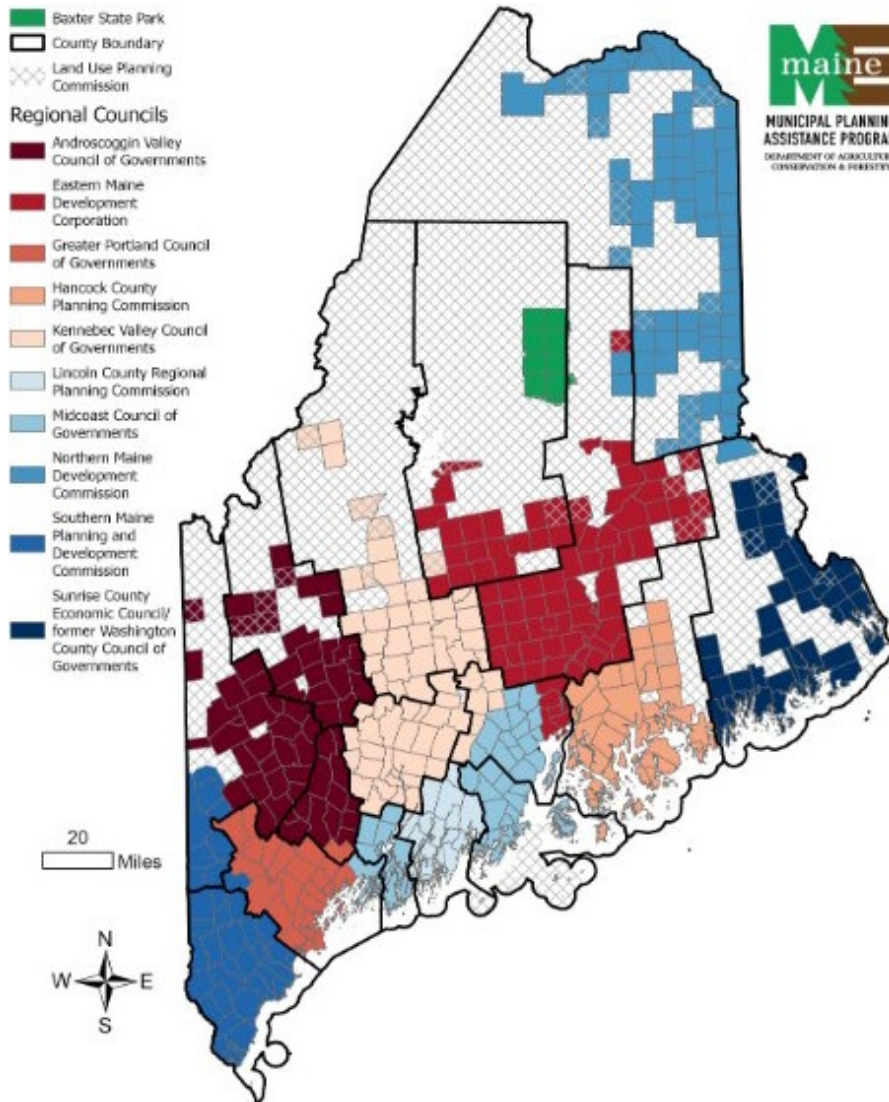
Once the questions on the following pages are complete, use these prompts to identify potential next steps for your community.

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.		
				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.		
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

Tips for a Strong Application

- Clear alignment with the 4 project eligibility guidelines
 - Strong community or regional benefit
 - Clear climate resilience need
 - Clear alignment with the TA opportunity
- Clearly defined outcomes and community engagement
- Streamlined roles and responsibilities of the community liaison/team

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/TA applications
- Frequently Asked Questions

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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



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.

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

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**
- **New! May 11: Building Wildfire-Ready Communities in Maine**

Visit the CRP Website to register and view webinar recordings!



Questions

Please put questions into the chat

Thank You

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

