

Welcome to the **Stronger Communities Summit**



Welcoming Remarks



Samantha Horn

Director

Maine Office of Community Affairs



Maulian Bryant

Executive Director

Wabanaki Alliance





Thank you to our Summit Sponsor



Session 1- Community Innovation: Meeting the Moment

- **Kevin Sutherland**, Newcastle Town Manager
- **Craig Noble**, Mariaville Select Person, Fire Department
- **Garrison Beck**, VHB, working with Town of Wayne

Moderator: **Melanie Nash**, Sustainability Planner,
Southern Maine Planning and Development
Commission & CRP Regional Coordinator



Kevin Sutherland,
Newcastle Town Manager

*generators
not included

The Need

The Town of Newcastle shares a downtown with Damariscotta, but is mostly woods, wetlands, and dead-end streets. One tree down can take out the power in a neighborhood.

Battery Backup System - gave us the ability to turn our fire station community room into a warming/cooling center indefinitely.

Battery Lending Program - 27 portable batteries available for residents to borrow ahead of storms.

The Process

Battery Backup: Community had previously supported a solar array!

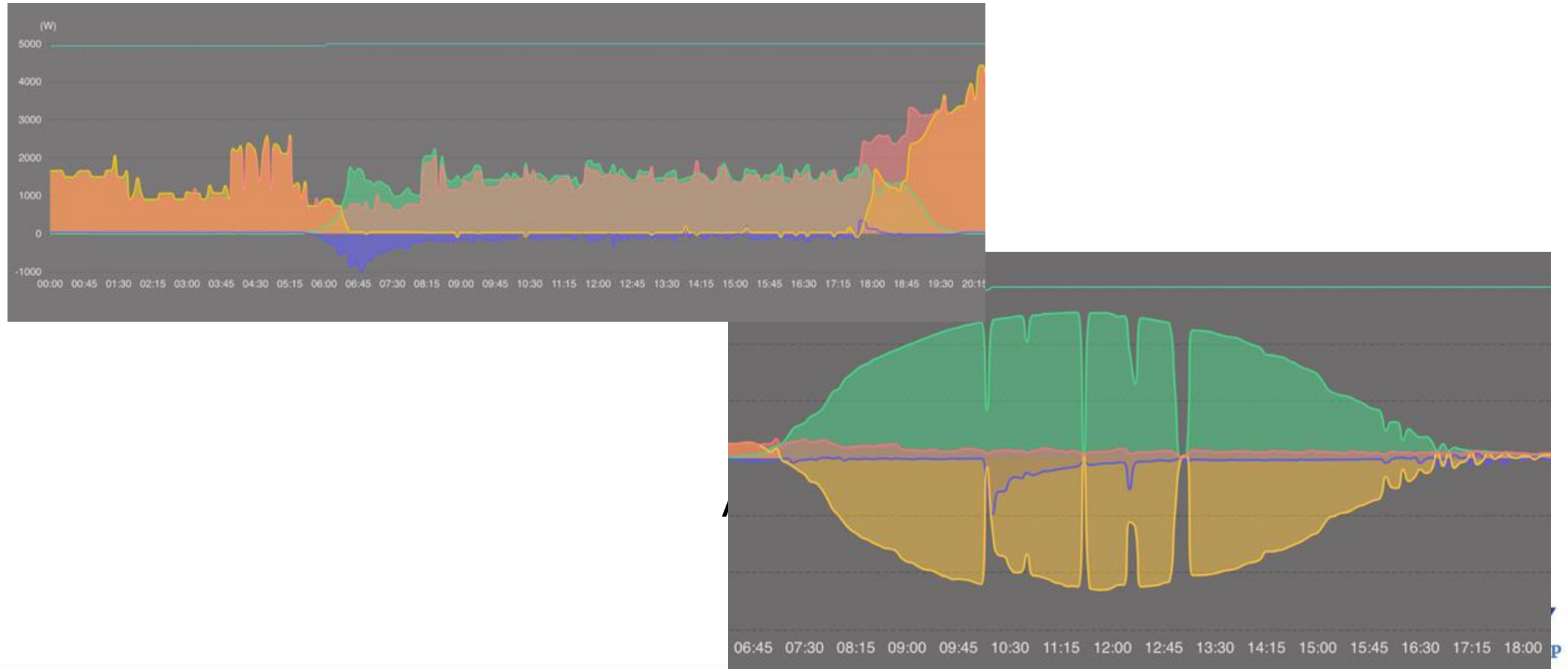
RFP included a phased approach:

- 1.rooftop solar and infrastructure for eventual battery backup.
- 2.if awarded CAG, purchase and install battery backup

Town Manager and Select Board member built the room.

Battery Lending Program: Portable batteries, shelving, dedicated circuits, charge cords, waivers, check-in/check out system, training, insurance, etc. Officially launched in April!

Solution/Results/Insights



Water Supply and Climate Change



Craig Noble, Mariaville/Otis Vol Fire Department

selectboard@mariavilleME.gov

Fire Departments need Resilient Water Sources

- Rural areas do not have fire hydrants.
- Fire departments use Tankers to transport water from a Water Source to the fire scene.
- These water sources historically have been ponds, streams, or lakes.
- Extreme drought - and other effects of Climate Change – have made these water sources unreliable.
- Ponds may dry. Stream or Lake water levels may recede beyond the reach of the suction hose.
- If the nearest water source cannot be used, then water supply will be severely delayed.

The effects of Climate Change that are causing water sources to dry, are also increasing the risk of major fires.

- Wildfires are getting bigger, growing faster and becoming more frequent (National Interagency Fire Center [nifc.gov]).
- We in Maine could see the smoke from the wildfires burning on the West Coast of the U.S. and across Canada.
- All fires, including structure fires, are more difficult to combat during periods of high heat and low humidity.
- Cisterns are not as affected by climate change as many other water sources.

Fire Fighting Water Cisterns provide Resiliency

- A cistern is a large underground holding tank.
- Water must be trucked in to fill the tank, but that water does not evaporate during the summer or freeze during the winter.
- Even during periods of Extreme Drought, cisterns provide a reliable source of Fire Fighting Water.
- This water source is available to all local fire departments.
- Every fire department is dealing with the effects of extreme drought.
- In terms of Equity, a cistern provides a water source (therefore increased Fire Protection) to Everyone in the community - no matter what their economic status may be.
- Mariaville is assisting other towns and fire departments that wish to assess and improve their resilience to Climate Change.

After trucking thousands of gallons of water, Tanker was 'drawing mud.'



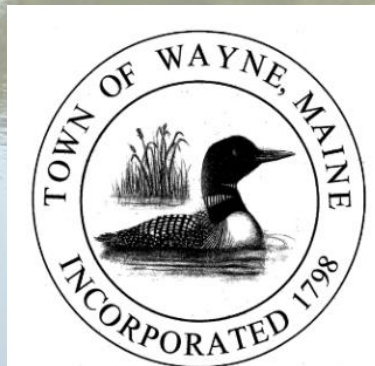
30,000 gallon cistern under construction at Mariaville/Otis Volunteer Fire Department. Cisterns can be installed where there are no other water sources.

Flood Vulnerability Assessment

Town of Wayne

Garrison Beck

gbeck@vhb.com



The Need

Severe Lake Flooding – December 2023 Storms



Photo Credit: Linda Gatti-Fyler

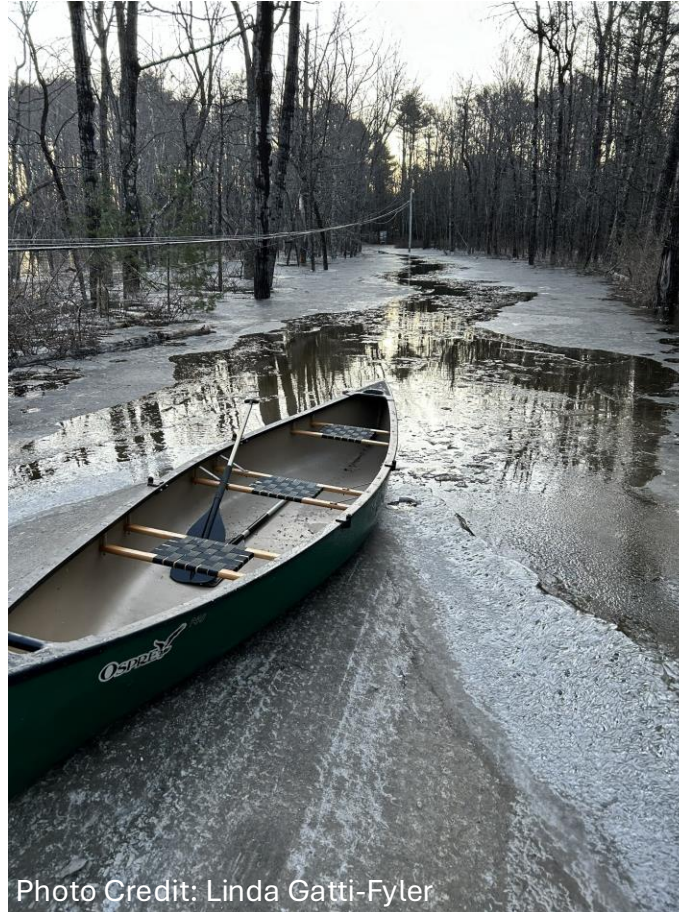


Photo Credit: Linda Gatti-Fyler



Photo Credit: Linda Gatti-Fyler



The Process



- Town formed a Steering Committee with broad community representation
- What question are we trying to answer?
 - Influence of increased precipitation?
 - Infrastructure resilience to flooding?
 - Potential for catastrophic dam breaches?
 - Modeling precipitation and lake levels?
- Developed vulnerability scores for Town-owned infrastructure with existing (imperfect) FEMA flood data & NOAA LiDAR
- Limited culvert sizing analysis





Solution/Results/Insights

- Outcomes intended to help Wayne prioritize public infrastructure for climate resilience measures & inform future analysis
- Define questions early & have a vision for implementation
- Understand data sources & limitations
- Imperfect, existing data can still yield actionable results





Panel Discussion- Community Innovation: Meeting the Moment

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Southern Maine Planning and Development
Commission & CRP Regional Coordinator

Key Messages on Community Innovation

- **Community innovation is sparked by local dialogue, shared problem-solving, and community leadership.**
- **Neighbor-to-neighbor learning builds innovation and resilience through peer knowledge exchange and local collaboration.**
- **Innovation is not limited by size or geography when creativity and commitment connect local priorities to tools, partnerships, and funding.**



Session 2- Making Projects Happen: Leveraging Partnerships & Funding for Lasting Impact

- **Matt Garside**, Poland Town Manager
- **Alex Zipparo**, Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission
- **Crystal Hitchings**, Cherryfield Planning Board Chair
- Moderator: **Andrea Berry**, Funding Manager, New England Environmental Finance Center, CRP Finance Coordinator



A. B. Ricker Library Expansion and Renovation



Matt Garside, Poland Town Manager
mgarside@polandtownoffice.org



Why? Building for the Future

- **Larger Children's Area**
- **Better ADA Access**
 - Elevator
 - Ramp
- **Include Space for New Technology/Needs**
 - Remote Work
- **Energy Efficient HVAC System**





How Did We Get Here?

- **Brought Together Working Groups to Define the End State**
 - Municipal Staff, Volunteers, Library Patrons, Elected Officials
- **Gathered Input From Stakeholders**
 - Surveys
 - Public Hearings
- **Important to LISTEN to All Stakeholders**
 - Better Input
 - Creates Buy-In





Takeaways

- **Broad Community Involvement Is Key**
 - Better Result
 - Bake In Support
- **Know What The End State Is**
- **Funding – Job 1**
 - Understand Where Money Is Coming From
 - Requirements
 - Multiple Sources
 - Estimates – Ask For More Than You Think You Will Need



Resilient and Inspiring Island Community Projects

Matinicus Plantation Power
Monhegan Plantation Wharf



PHOTO: Eva Murray



PHOTO: Michael Brassard

Alex Zipparo - azipparo@lcrpc.org

Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission

Photography by Alex Zipparo unless otherwise noted

Failing Power System and Vulnerable Public Wharf

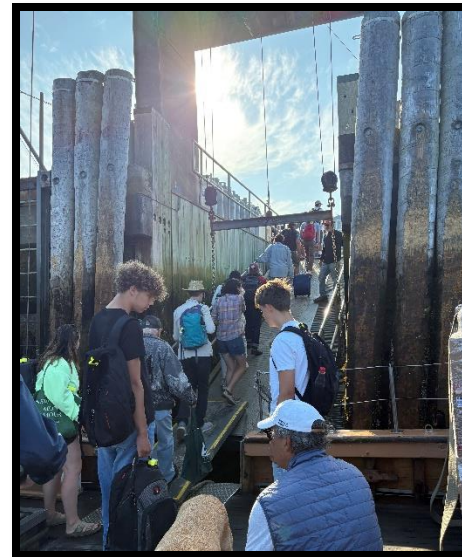
Matinicus

- Failing 1983 Diesel Generator
- Aging Fuel Tank Close to Shore
- “A community without electricity would lose telephone, internet, postal service, small businesses, and more.”



Monhegan

- Critical Wharf Infrastructure
- Only Mainland Access Point
- Increased Frequency of Storm Frequency, Intensity
- Rising Sea Level, Wave Action, Shifting Winds



People, Planning, Funding

Matinicus (approximately \$1,000,000)

- Public/Private Partnership
- Plantation Assessors, Community Members, Phil Davies, Gabe McPhail, Alex Zipparo, LUPC
- CRP (\$50,000), USDA RD (\$350,000), Camden National (\$900,000 Bridge Loan), Maine Municipal Bond Bank (\$900,000 Bond), Island Institute (\$30,000), Taxpayers

Monhegan (\$11,800,000)

- Plantation Assessors, Island Fellow, LCRPC, GEI
- CRP (\$150,000 - multiple grants), Maine Coastal Program (\$130,000), Island Institute (\$200,000), Taxpayers
- Next: MPWWIF, NBRC, BUILD, CDS



Solution/Results/Insights

Matinicus

- Reliable power is back.
- Speed was the need.
- There is hope! Creativity is important. Collaboration is critical.
- Understand the similarities and uniqueness of the situation.

Monhegan

- Started work in 2022 with a 2028 goal of completion.
- Slow and steady planning is the need.
- Planning, scoping, phasing, timelines, budgets are critical.
- Engage the public as much as possible with longer term projects.



Photo provided by Laurie Webber



Cherryfield Riverwalk



Crystal Hitchings, Cherryfield Riverwalk Committee
CherryfieldRiverwalk@gmail.com

Community Wish-List

The River Runs Through Us

Decades of desire to revitalize business, build community, celebrate history, restore fisheries, preserve the historic village, and steward the river.

- Increase safety of the walking loop around the river.
- Improve parks and increase access to the river.
- Attract people downtown to support local businesses.
- Build connections between people and place.
- Remove and replace invasive vegetation.
- Restore eroding shoreline
- Repair compromised roadways and stormwater systems.



The Process



DEMONSTRATE COMMITMENT AND NURTURE EXCITEMENT

Shoreline Restoration & Vegetation Management - invasive plants.
Water Quality and Stormwater Management – assess, prioritize, fund.
Places for People - park amenities, interpretive/ interactive exhibits
Stewarding Heritage – community science, cultural history

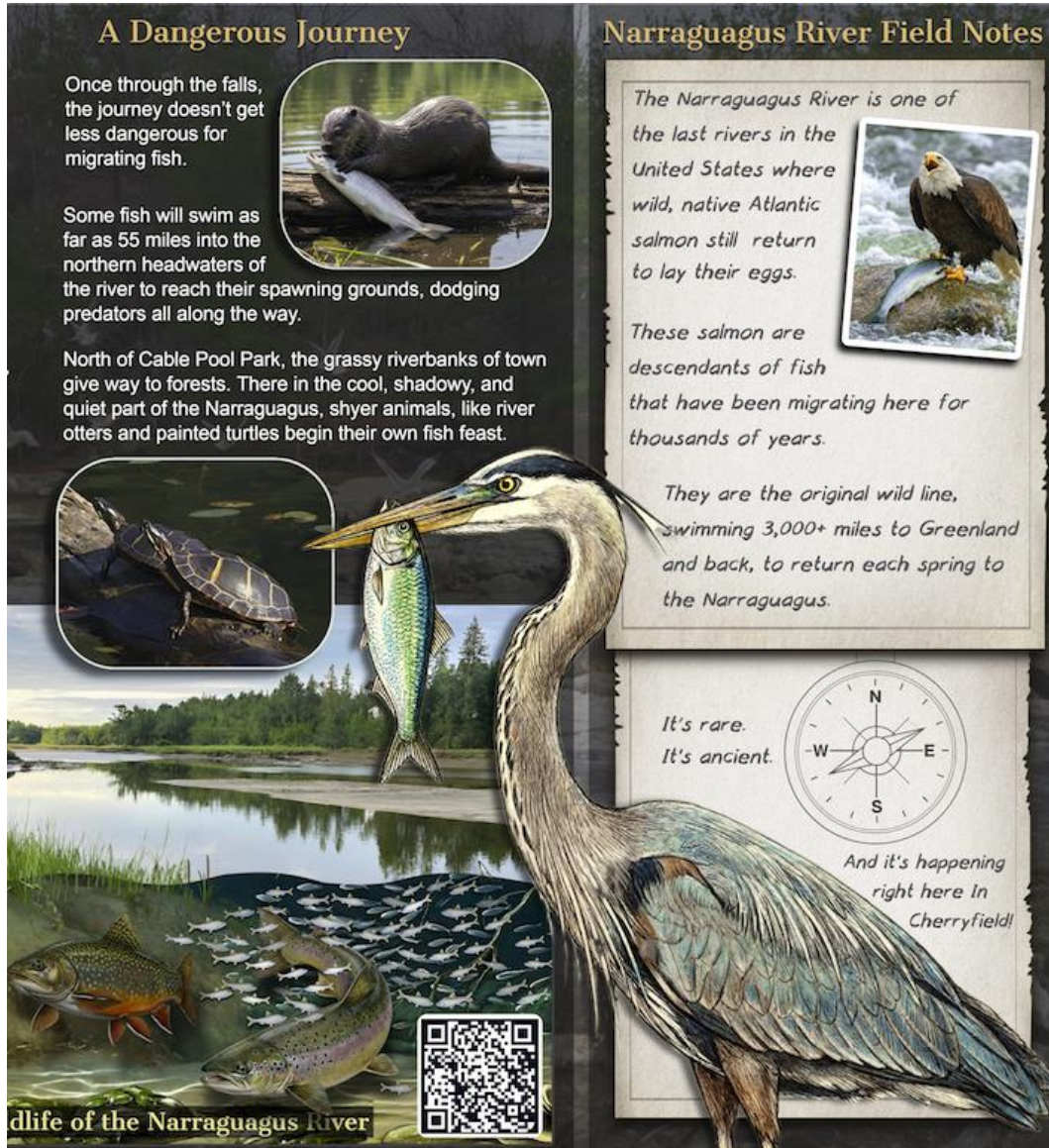
BUILD LONGEVITY - PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Maine Scenic Byways; Healthy Acadia; Volunteer Maine; Cherryfield Scouts, Downeast Salmon Federation, Maine Coast Heritage Trust; Maine Seacoast Mission; Cherryfield Narraguagus Historical Society

CONNECT PEOPLE AND RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE GOALS

Host youth interns and a Maine Service Fellow.
Community workdays - inspire and empower residents.
Special events – invitation to enjoy the place.
Business and individual investment.

Solutions, Results, Insights



COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Elevating appreciation of local history.
- Creating spaces for people to gather.
- Building excitement, trust, and capacity.
- Improving public infrastructure.
- Enhancing everyday experiences.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Give People a Job – people will participate when they know how to help.
- Build on existing momentum – follow the energy, harness the passion.
- Celebrate - include a budget for fun and treats at volunteer events.



Session 2- Making Projects Happen: Leveraging Partnerships & Funding for Lasting Impact

- **Matt Garside**, Poland Town Manager
- **Alex Zipparo**, Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission
- **Crystal Hitchings**, Cherryfield Riverwalk Committee
- Moderator: **Andrea Berry**, Funding Manager, New England Environmental Finance Center, CRP Finance Coordinator



Key Messages on Leveraging Partnerships & Funding

- **Partnerships, volunteers, and regional support help convert limited resources into lasting community impact.**
- **Combining multiple funding sources takes work but can unlock transformational projects.**
- **Phased projects + layered funding + strong partnerships = lasting community impact.**



Session 3- The Hidden Work of Resilience

- **Abby Roche**, Island Institute, CRP Service Provider
- **Sarah Burnham**, Otisfield Community Resilience Committee
- **Jasmine Lamb**, Sipayik Resilience Committee

- Moderator: **John Brochu**, Senior Planner, Municipal Planning Assistance Program

Maine Islands Project

Connecting Plans, Projects, and People Across Maine Islands

Abby Roche, aroche@islandinstitute.org (presenter)

Gabe McPhail, gabe@rcmaine.org



COMMUNITIES ALREADY HAVE MANY IMPORTANT ELEMENTS



IDENTIFY, ORGANIZE, AND AFFIRM

- What work has already exists?
- What vulnerabilities haven't been assessed yet?
- Where are the remaining gaps?
- What technical assistance is needed next?
- How do all these efforts connect together?

PLANS & STUDIES



LOCAL PRIORITIES



PROJECT PARTNERS



HAZARD INFORMATION



COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE



Insights and Next Steps



Grant Writing & Funding Readiness

Volunteer Engagement & Recruitment

Information Exchange & Learning

PHASE 1:
VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

PHASE 2:
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Town of Otisfield Municipal Sustainable Energy Assessment (aka: The “Snell Report”)

Sarah Burnham

Otisfield Resilience Committee Member

seoburnham@gmail.com / soeob@bu.edu

Identifying the Problem

- Where to start?
- What to prioritize?

...and how to do either of those when you're lacking the necessary information.

FY 2023 Energy Cost	Heated	Electricity	Oil	Diesel	Total
Facility	Area (SF)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Town Office	3,446	3,072	7,720		11,452
Community Hall	2,682	5,556	3,438		8,994
Spurrs Corner FD Barn	5,370	2,610	6,913		9,523
Gore Rd FD Barn	1,600	1,343	2,536		3,879
E Otisfield FD Barn	1,320	754	1,406		2,159
Garage	3,600	3,246	9,715		12,960
Transfer Station	192	2,755			2,755
Street Lights		2,310			2,310
Salt Shed		463			463
Rd Diesel				67,602	67,602
Total	18,210	\$22,109	\$31,727	\$67,602	\$122,099
Percent		18%	26%	55%	100%

The Solution

An expert who could provide:

- Centralized data
- Clear goals

	Potential Solar PV Roof Mount (kW)	Potential Solar PV Pole Mount (kW)	Potential Solar PV Peak Output (kW)	Potential Solar Electric (kWh)
Facility name				
Town Office	9	32	41	52,275
Community Hall	-	24	24	30,600
Spurrs Corner FD Barn	16	24	40	50,490
Gore Rd FD Barn	4	-	4	4,973
Transfer Station	10	24	34	43,350
	39	104	143	181,688

Fuel	Price \$/Unit	Fuel Unit	Purchased \$/MMBtu	Efficiency %	Delivered \$/MMBtu
Electricity	\$0.26	kWh	37.42	100%	37.42
Oil	\$3.86	Gallon	14.34	75%	19.12
Pellets	\$198	Ton	12.20	75%	16.26
Electricity (Heat Pump)	\$0.26	kWh	37.42	250%	14.97

The Results

The “Snell Report” has:

- Provided a roadmap for grant applications
- Resulted in the installations of:
 - Solar panels
 - Upgraded insulations
 - VRF Heat Pump systems
 - Hybrid hot water heaters
 - Outdoor Boiler Resets

Advice: Focus on climate science, find your experts, and take advantage of every grant opportunity you can—you never know how long those opportunities will last.



Town of Otisfield
403 State Route 121 Otisfield, ME 04270 - 6274
Phone: 207.539.2664 Fax: 207.539.2246

Otisfield Resilience Committee

Grant 1 – Saving Energy and Protecting Watersheds (\$46,994.19) – 100% complete

Task 1 – install heat pumps in town office; Task 2 – revision and redesign of *Protecting Otisfield's Watersheds*
Task 3 – hold a public awareness event (July 27, 2024)

Grant 2 – Energy Sustainability Plan, Student Pollinator Garden, and Programs to Address Extreme Temperatures (\$30,126) – 100% complete

Task 1 – town buildings energy audit; Task 1.2 – solar predevelopment study on town property
Task 2 – creation of a pollinator garden at Otisfield Community School; Task 3 – implementation and improvement of Otisfield's extreme temperatures program

Grant 3 – Making Otisfield's Fire Stations Energy Efficient (\$74,755) / Efficiency Maine Rebate \$119,304, total Project Budget (\$194,055.21) 100% complete

Task 1 – upgrade electrical systems – complete; Task 2 – Install Heat Pumps in all 3 stations - complete
Task 3 – Install new insulation in all 3 stations – presently being scheduled; Task 4 – Install dehumidifiers in Spurrs Corner Station - complete

Federal Priorities Grant (\$99,970.82) - 100% complete

Task 1 – put the project out to bid through an RFP – complete; Task 2 – establish a new energy fund for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy projects to capture the cost saving of this project - complete
Task 3 – host a community energy fair to provide resources about how to save money and improve comfort through energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy. (July 26, 2025) – complete; Task 4 – install a 36.9 KW solar array on the south-facing side of the Otisfield town office roof and an integrated electrical monitoring system

Grant 4 – Modernizing Otisfield's Town Buildings (\$75,000); full cost of all tasks is \$79,845.00 – Town will pay the additional \$4,845 (Total Project Budget \$107,405.00)

Task 1 - Upgrade Insulation at Community Hall; Task 2: Install a VRF system at Community Hall
Task 3: Install a hybrid hot water heater at Community Hall; Task 4: Install a small on-demand hot water unit at Transfer Station; Task 5: Install Heat Pump at Transfer Station; Task 6: Install a hybrid hot water heater at Town Garage; Task 7: Install heat pump wall units at Town Garage; Task 8: Install an Outdoor Boiler Reset at Town Garage

Total value of grant projects to the Town of Otisfield as of today is \$478,501.22

The Hidden Work of Resilience



Sipayik
Resilience
Committee

Presentation by Jasmine Lamb
Co-Director of the Sipayik Resilience Committee
PhD Candidate at the University of Maine
Wabanaki Liaison for MAINECAN

Contact: jasmine.lamb@maine.edu
Website: sipayikresilience.org, www.maineacan.network

Establishing Community Need

- Background information
 - Climate resilience & energy sovereignty
- Community Resilience Partnership enrollment
- Community workshops, surveys, & interviews
 - Key results
- Prioritization of actions
 - Weatherization
 - Heat pumps
 - Renewable energy: solar power



Addressing Community Needs

Sipayik Weatherization program

- Energy auditing & energy efficiency with College of the Atlantic
- Window Insert Build

Collaborations with Tribal Government

- Energy planning
- Feasibility studies
- Tribal administrative buildings: energy efficiency
- ETIPP

Climate Resilience Projects

- Climate adaptation planning
- Native plant revegetation
- Restoring Wabanaki Women's Knowledge Systems of Kinship collaboration
- Food sovereignty: greenhouse project



Key Outcomes & Progress

Sipayik Weatherization

- 21,661 gallons of heating oil saved since 2023
- \$74,295 total saved since 2023
- LED lightbulbs and water saving devices

Energy Efficiency

- Well site improvements
- Heat pumps for the tribal office

Climate Resilience Initiative

- Trees planted
- Strategic Energy Plan & roadmap
- Microgrid & grid resilience efforts
- Workforce development

Reflecting on this progress...



Panel Discussion- The Hidden Work of Resilience

- **Abby Roche**, Island Institute, CRP Service Provider
- **Sarah Burnham**, Otisfield Community Resilience Committee
- **Jasmine Lamb**, Sipayik Resilience Committee

- Moderator: **John Brochu**, Senior Planner, Municipal Planning Assistance Program

Key Messages on the Hidden Work of Resilience

- Resilience starts with trust, listening, and shared community ownership.
- Behind successful resilience efforts is the less visible work of trust-building, collaboration, and leadership development.
- Lasting resilience solutions reflect community values, voices, and experiences.



Session 4- From Projects to Stories: Building Narratives that Last

- **Rod Melanson**, Bath Director of Sustainability and the Environment
- **Bill Zoellick**, Gouldsboro Coastal Resilience Committee Chair
- **Tamra Benson**, Community Resilience Director, Center for an Ecology-Based Economy
- Moderator: **Sam Schipani** Communications Coordinator, State Resilience Office



From Projects to People: Building Inclusive Resilience Narratives in Bath

Rod Melanson, Sustainability Director
City of Bath, Maine

The Need

Stemming from both our Comprehensive Plan (2023) and subsequent CAP – our community prioritized efforts in community engagement as it relates to how we implement our CAP.

- Through our planning efforts, Bath identified a need to better engage:
 - Older adults and aging-in-place residents
 - Low- and moderate-income households
 - Renters and manufactured housing residents
 - People with disabilities
 - Transportation-limited residents
 - Youth and historically underrepresented community members

Without intentional outreach, resilience investments risk overlooking community needs.



Comprehensive Plan 2023



Four Big Ideas

Keep Bath welcoming, diverse, and livable.

Bath is a service, educational, recreational, and employment center for the region with strong community bonds. To continue and build on that, we plan to:

- Lower barriers to housing, childcare, and transportation
- Develop community amenities for young families
- Improve accessibility to City Resources
- Enact design standards for accessible and walkable development

Reinvest in legacy assets.

Bath has many built and public assets that can continue to distinctively define and serve the City through deliberate reinvestment and innovation. To build on that, we plan to:

- Encourage reuse of historic and vacant buildings such as the former Morse High School
- Maintain, repair, and make necessary improvements to infrastructure to support community needs
- Improve existing riverfront parks, and increase public access on the Kennebec River
- Create a Route 1 corridor master plan
- Develop & enhance street network to better connect community amenities and accommodate all users

Support Downtown Bath as a destination.

Bath has an active downtown, public access to parks and open space, and a wide-range of cultural opportunities that connect residents and visitors alike. To enhance that, we plan to:

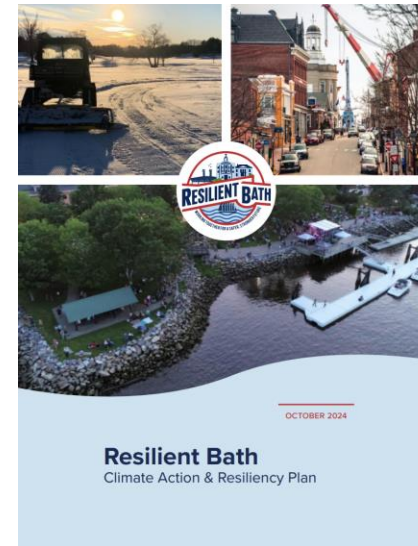
- Allow flexible use of downtown spaces
- Further develop small business support and invest in Main Street Bath
- Improve the appearance of the downtown and preserve historical qualities
- Activate the area under and around the bridge to make it more inviting and useable

Make Bath climate resilient.

Bath will steward valuable natural areas and take bold, proactive steps to prepare for the challenges posed by a changing climate. To accomplish this, we plan to:

- Create a plan for resilience to meet the goals of Bath's 2022 Climate Resolution
- Identify and conserve important natural areas that provide benefits for open space, and recreation, and climate resilience
- Take an equity-based approach to environmental conservation and emissions reduction strategies
- Implement sustainable landscape and stormwater management practices
- Promote alternative transportation and energy consumption options that lessen the reliance on carbon-emitting options

10 | Bath Comprehensive Plan



Our Action Plan

Achieving our climate action goals will ultimately require active engagement from all levels of City government and our community. There are two main ways we can address climate change in Bath:

1

REDUCE OUR GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS,
the primary pollutants disrupting our climate.

2

ADAPT TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE,
that we are already seeing and feeling and will continue to experience in the future.



Focus Areas

The goals, strategies, and actions in the *Resilient Bath Plan* are organized into five key focus areas that represent the greatest areas of opportunity for addressing climate change:



CLEAN ENERGY AND
EFFICIENT BUILDINGS



RESILIENT AND HEALTHY
COMMUNITY



CONNECTED TRANSPORTATION
AND MOBILITY



VIBRANT NATURAL
RESOURCES



SMART WASTE AND
WATER MANAGEMENT



The Process

The Bath Equity Council became a key partner in shaping outreach and engagement.

Community engagement activities included:

- Resilient Bath Efficiency Fund
- Resilient Bath neighborhood meetings
- Transportation Master Plan engagement
- Coastal Resilience planning
- WindowDressers energy-efficiency outreach
- Neighborhood Preparedness Handbook development
- Resilient Bath Dashboard launch
- Monthly Climate Conversations

The Equity Council helped frame questions, identify barriers, and connect staff with trusted community networks.

BATH REBATE

UPDATE

Incentives are also **still available** through the Resilient Bath Efficiency Fund for low and moderate income households in Bath.

If you have questions about the Resilient Bath Efficiency Fund, contact Rod Melanson, Director of Sustainability & Environment, at 207-443-8363 or rmelanson@cityofbathmaine.gov



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

LISTENING SESSION FOR OLDER ADULTS



Join Age Friendly Communities of the Lower Kennebec and Bath Housing for a Listening Session to share experiences and learn about helpful resources for **staying safe during power outages, winter storms, flooding, and other weather-related emergencies.**

 MONTH, DAY TIME	FOOD PROVIDED
 LOCATION ADDRESS	TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE

Need transportation or more information? Contact [email address]





Neighborhood Preparedness Handbook

A TOOLKIT TO KEEP YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTED AND PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES

Resilient Bath Efficiency Fund

Partner Outreach Toolkit (English)



Background

City Goals: The City of Bath City Council unanimously adopted the Resilient Bath Climate Action and Resilience Plan in November 2024. This Plan sets forward several community-wide goals; those that are most relevant to the purposes of this toolkit are (1) **80% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050** and (2) **achieving carbon neutrality by 2045.**



Solution/Results/Insights

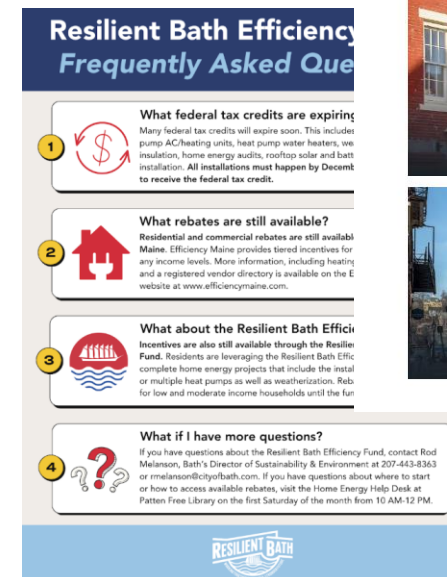
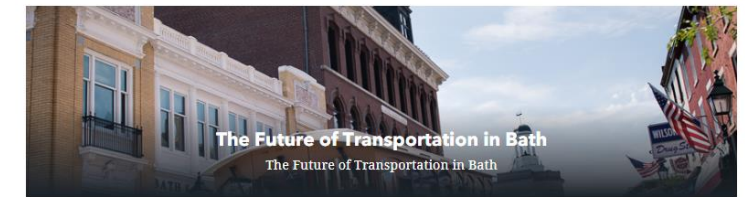
Results & Lessons Learned

- Equity is not a separate project—it is a lens for every project.
- Trusted messengers increase participation and credibility.
- Residents engage more when discussions focus on everyday concerns: cost, safety, mobility, housing, and preparedness.
- Community ownership creates long-term support for resilience initiatives.
- CAPACITY TO UNDERTAKE PROJECTS

Examples:

- ✓ Resilient Bath Efficiency Fund
- ✓ WindowDressers program expansion
- ✓ 100 printed Neighborhood Preparedness Handbooks
- ✓ Ongoing transportation and coastal resilience planning
- ✓ Climate Conversation monthly meetings (PFL & KELT)

A strong story begins with listening.



Expanding Resilience Over Place and Time

**South Gouldsboro
Jetty Restoration**
**Data Collection &
Preliminary Design**

**Sand Cove
Hydrology Survey**

Data Collection

**Prospect Harbor
Launch Ramp**
**Preliminary Design &
Permit Preparation**

**Corea Harbor
Bridge to Replace
Culvert**
Construction

**Bunkers Harbor
Launch Ramp Study**
**Problem Definition &
Stakeholder Meetings**

Bill Zoellick
**Gouldsboro Coastal
Resilience Committee**
bill@zoellick.com

The Need



Prospect Harbor.
January 2024



Birch Harbor.
June 2021

Corea Stream Crossing –
normal & January 2024



The Process

First step: Vulnerability Assessment

Identify and
prioritize issues

Then ...



Stakeholder meetings
to define the problems
and desired outcomes

Data collection
preliminary design,
& stakeholder
review



Final design, permitting,
and construction



\$\$

Solution/Results/Insights

Convene stakeholders and listen

Develop relationships with consulting partners who bring needed expertise



Gather data and explore the design space (with stakeholders) before moving to the solution space.

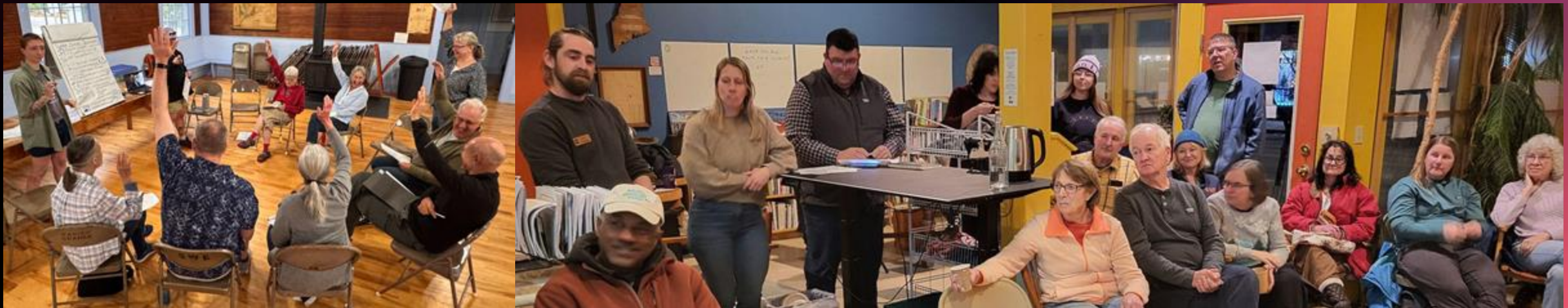
Put resilience work in the context of a Capital Improvement Plan

Each project is likely to require years of work, so address key issues in parallel

Tamra Benson (she/her)
Community Resilience Director
Center for an Ecology-Based Economy
tamra@ecologybasedeconomy.org



CEBE & CRP: Highlighting Community Projects!



Hanover's Historic Village Schoolhouse Revitalization Project!

- Friends of the Hanover Maine 1876 Village Schoolhouse Committee
- Repair and restore building, energy efficiency upgrades
- Fix tennis court and restore community garden
- Goal: turn the historic Village Schoolhouse into a thriving community center!



Center for an
Ecology-Based
Economy



Process & Community!

- Phase 1: Roof, floor, well and pump, holding tank, volunteer cleanup days
- Phase 2: Energy audit, electrical wiring and LEDs, Window Dressers build, community garden, heat pumps
- Phase 3: Interior plumbing for kitchen and bathroom, interior & exterior painting



Center for an
Ecology-Based
Economy



Solutions, Results, and Insights

● Community Benefits:

- Energy efficiency and reduced fossil fuel dependence
- Warming/cooling center and gathering space
- Window Dressers for community members
- Community garden! Local food and community building
- Bringing people together and creating a positive impact!

- Most communities have historic buildings that could be revitalized and turned into hubs for community engagement!



Center for an
Ecology-Based
Economy





Session 4- From Projects to Stories: Building Narratives that Last

- **Rod Melanson**, Bath Director of Sustainability and the Environment
- **Bill Zoellick**, Gouldsboro Coastal Resilience Committee Chair
- **Tamra Benson**, Community Resilience Director, Center for an Ecology-Based Economy
- Moderator: **Sam Schipani** Communications Coordinator, State Resilience Office



Key Messages on Building Narratives that Last

- **Projects gain support when their impact is visible and relatable.**
- **Strong narratives build early buy-in, sustain visibility, and maintain momentum over time.**
- **A strong narrative centers real community stories, defines the “why,” and makes the path to action clear.**

Closing Remarks



Brian Ambrette

Director

State Resilience Office at MOCA



Upcoming Opportunities

Service Provider Grants

Track I: CRP Enrollment, Track II: Vulnerability Assessments

- **Next Application Deadline: August 14, 2026, 5 P.M. EST**

Nature-based Design Engineering Assistance

- **Application Deadline: June 19, 2026, 5 P.M. EST**

Shore & Harbor Planning Grant & Coastal Community Grant

- **Anticipated to open in June**



Resilience Collaborative

Regional Coordinators

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

Resilience Finance Coordinators

New England Environmental Finance Center (NEEFC) & Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI)

- **Andrea Berry**, NEEFC Climate Funding Manager, andrea.berry@maine.edu
- **Chloe Shields**, NEEFC Deputy Director, chloe.f.shields@maine.edu
- **Nikki Yanok**, GMRI Climate Finance Specialist, nyanok@gmri.org

Tribal Resilience Coordinators

Serving all Tribal Nations

Currently hiring coordinators. Contact:

- **Kelsey Flores**, Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Coordinator, Kelsey.Flores@penobscotnation.org
- **Shannon Hill**, Mi'kmaq Nation Environmental Health Director





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