WHERE WE WORK:
Maine’s 120 coastal and island communities

The Island Institute works to sustain Maine’s island and coastal communities, and exchanges ideas and experiences to further the sustainability of communities here and elsewhere.

SELECTION OF PARTNER COMMUNITIES BEYOND THE MAINE COAST:
• Millinocket, ME
• Great Lakes Islands
• Alaska
• Molokai, HI
• Martha’s Vineyard, MA
• Nantucket, MA
• Cuttyhunk, MA
• Provincetown, MA
• Rappahannock County, VA
• Prudence Island, RI
• Block Island, RI
• Star Island, NH
• Daylesford, Australia
• Samsø, Denmark
• Tokyo, Japan
• Plus statewide program replication and scaling with Maine partners (Broadband, Energy)
For 35 years, the Island Institute has collaborated with thousands of dedicated people who care about the coast of Maine and believe that a sustainable future for our communities and the environment is crucial.

To help navigate through the unique challenges facing our coast, we engage with residents, municipalities, and advisors to advance a shared understanding of our civic vulnerabilities. We characterize ourselves as a listening organization that provides needed resources to facilitate practical community solutions.

Our commitment is to serve the whole coast as an integrated system, in support of the many community members who encourage us all to reach aspirational goals that result in more positive outcomes for Maine. This year’s report highlights how we engage in community issues, support students, build capacity, and provide technical assistance and access to capital for coastal businesses.

We increasingly seek to build connections between people and communities — here in Maine and beyond — to enable us all to thrive in rapidly changing times. As you make this work possible, we thank you for your vision and support.

Rob Snyder
President

Joe Higdon
Chair, Board of Trustees
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ECONOMIES

The Island and Coastal Business Launchpad assists businesses on all 15 year-round islands and in 50+ coastal communities. 431 businesses received business counseling and training.

Broadband Expansion for Maine’s Coast and Islands

Rural communities struggle to make an economic case for private providers to expand broadband service. This challenge led to a regional project with a goal of seeing coastal communities obtain national broadband speeds by 2025. With our support:

- 38 communities are studying network design options
- 9 communities now enjoy community-driven high-speed internet or increased speeds

AQUACULTURE ON THE RISE

Our third cohort of Aquaculture Business Development program participants are learning everything they need to know about farming shellfish and seaweed. Lobstermen and women are diversifying their incomes by starting new sea-farming businesses.

- 22 individuals participated in our Aquaculture Business Development program in 2018
- 54 cohort members are in new aquaculture businesses
- Contributing $44,000,000 to Maine’s economy by 2025
Sea level rise resiliency program helps coastal communities prepare for needed infrastructure upgrades

Maine has long been looked to as a model on working waterfront preservation, and as the impacts of climate change become clear, we help communities lead the way in developing solutions that build economic and environmental resiliency.

210 individuals participated in resiliency trainings
9 coastal communities received ShoreUp planning grants

300+ Maine artists and makers represented in our gallery
55% of retail sales returned to Maine artists
50 Maine artists received one-on-one business mentoring

Boosting the creative economy of the Maine coast and islands
ENHANCING EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

SUCCESS
SUSTAINABLE COASTAL COMMUNITIES, EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, AND SCHOOLS

SUCCESS, an education-focused collaboration between the Island Institute and College of the Atlantic (COA), successfully completed the final year of a three-year program supported by The Fund for Maine Islands.

SUCCESS provided a high-quality professional development program for pre- and in-service teachers. The emphasis was on increasing understanding of and access to place-based and experiential education. Based on the lasting connections that were built during the three years, we expect the collaboration between COA, Island Institute, and island and coastal schools to continue.

The Fund for Maine Islands
The Fund for Maine Islands supports joint Island Institute and College of the Atlantic programming related to agriculture, energy, climate change, and education.

EXPANDING STUDENT HORIZONS

The Geiger Scholarship is in its fourth year of providing funding to Maine’s island students to expand their horizons through off-island enrichment and travel experiences. Students from middle school through college have traveled in Maine and beyond to other parts of the U.S. and the world.

23 island and coastal schools
138 participants
7 community organizations
21 students received scholarships
Island Fellows program strengthens communities and allows Fellows to grow as leaders

- 49 collaborations with local organizations
- 285 community members engaged with Fellows for their community projects
- 50% of Fellows have chosen to stay in Maine communities post-fellowship since the program started in 1999

Dan DeBord — MONHEGAN ISLAND FELLOW

Dan is working with the Monhegan community to bring high-speed broadband access to the island. He is also helping to increase the capacity of municipal leaders with research and process design.
COALITION BUILDING
Bridging the Rural Efficiency Gap

Rural areas of Maine and the U.S. face higher energy burdens than their more populated counterparts. Building off the success of our five years of community weatherization programs, our Bridging the Rural Energy Efficiency Gap project connects energy efficiency experts from Maine, Alaska, New Hampshire, and Vermont to shine a light on the unique heating challenges faced by rural residents.

Energy burden is the ratio of annual income to annual heating costs. U.S. median energy burden is 3.3%.

The financial benefits of energy efficiency improvements can be significant for islands and other rural areas in our region, but it can be difficult to find financing for energy upgrades or a contractor. By creating resources including a video series, a white paper, and toolkit, and presenting at regional and national conferences, we help implementers overcome these challenges.
COMMUNITY DATA
AIDS DECISION-MAKING

Waypoints Community Indicators: Livelihoods on Maine’s Coast and Islands is dedicated to quantifying the ways coastal Mainers make a living. Our Waypoints publications provide island and coastal leaders and partners with clear data about our communities. The easy-to-use format helps meet local needs for planning and decision-making. Data in these publications are aggregated and analyzed by the Island Institute community data team and articulated through maps and charts illustrating the unique qualities of Maine’s coastal and island communities.

Our What Works online library houses a growing number of solutions to coastal community challenges. When communities are faced with limited resources, efficiencies matter. We share these working examples to accelerate problem solving, inspire, and motivate action. Residents of Maine’s small communities are implementing innovative projects up and down the coast, and their ingenuity informs similar communities here, across the country, and around the world.

Explore at: islandinstitute.org/whatworks

52,000 monthly copies of The Working Waterfront newspaper are distributed to homes and businesses from Portland to Eastport and 8,000 subscribers receive the e-weekly newsletter.

Our publications engage, connect, and inform through news and stories of our coast and islands.
OPERATING REVENUE*

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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Product</td>
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OPERATING EXPENSES

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<td>Enhancing Education &amp; Leadership</td>
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<td>Delivering &amp; Sharing Solutions</td>
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<td>Capital Campaign</td>
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<td>General &amp; Administrative</td>
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FY2018 NET ASSETS

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<td><strong>$33,748,763</strong></td>
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*Does not include permanently restricted contributions

The Island Institute enjoyed solid financial results during the fiscal year. The three major strategic initiatives received broad support from donors. The strong balance sheet and results from operations will allow the organization to fulfill our commitments to the priorities highlighted herein.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Island Institute is grateful to the 3,000+ members and Island Partners who support our work each year. Do you know someone who cares about the future of Maine’s island and coastal communities? Invite them to join us at www.islandinstitute.org/membership
The Island Institute works to sustain Maine's island and coastal communities, and exchanges ideas and experiences to further the sustainability of communities here and elsewhere.