

Sample Energy Efficiency Projects

The Island Institute's Community Energy Program works with community partners to support community-wide energy efficiency initiatives that help islanders lower their energy costs and reduce their environmental impact. The tools outlined below are examples of the kinds of community projects that could be supported with Spark! Funds and Trainings. These tools are designed to make it easier for island and remote coastal community members to make energy improvements in their homes and businesses by lowering financial and logistical barriers and are proven models that have worked in other island communities. Contact Brooks Winner by email at bwinner@islandinstitute.org or by phone at 594-9209 x 148 for more information or to set up an energy efficiency project in your community.

Weatherization Week

Weatherization Weeks help remote communities access energy efficiency services through the power of collective purchasing. By bundling multiple jobs together, we lower the cost of energy assessments, air sealing, and other efficiency upgrades and make working on an island or in a remote community easier for contractors. The Island Institute partners with local volunteers and community organizations to spread the word and coordinate logistics, so participation is easy and affordable for homeowners and renters. Participants pay a co-pay of \$200 (or less for income-eligible participants) and receive an energy assessment from a Building Performance Institute-Certified energy advisor as well as 6 man-hours (usually 2-3 hrs. with a crew of 3 people) of basic air sealing and insulation to address major air leaks. Weatherization Week participants also receive recommendations and estimates for additional energy improvements such as insulation and heating system upgrades. Participants have access to financing and additional incentives from Efficiency Maine's [Home Energy Savings Program](#). The average Weatherization Week participant saves about \$300 per year on their heating bill. Learn more at <http://www.islandinstitute.org/what-works/high-cost-energy>



Weatherization equipment is unloaded on Monhegan Island during a Weatherization Week. Photo credit: Portland Press Herald.

LED Lighting Bulk Purchase

Recent advances in technology have made Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) an inexpensive option for replacing older lights such as incandescent bulbs and compact fluorescent lights (CFLs). LEDs are about 80% more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs, offer excellent light quality, and can last more than 30 years. Purchasing LEDs in bulk helps residents switch to efficient lighting quickly and easily, lowering costs and simplifying disposal of hazardous old bulbs (CFLs contain mercury and must be recycled specially). The Island Institute provides a simple order form and supports local partners who want to host an LED



Members of the Island Institute's Community Energy team delivered more than 600 LEDs to Matinicus through a bulk purchase in 2015.

bulk purchase by connecting them with lighting suppliers and assisting with logistics. Learn more at <http://www.islandinstitute.org/what-works/high-cost-energy>

Heating System Purchase Group

New heating technologies are helping residents across the islands lower their bills and reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels. Organizing a purchase group streamlines the process and lowers the cost of a new heating system. On one Maine island, a local volunteer organized purchase groups for air-source heat pumps that in two years have resulted in the installation of more than 60 high-efficiency units at significant discounts. The Island Institute works with local partners to set up the purchase group, identify contractors, and assist with outreach in the community. We will help consider different heating system options that maximize savings depending on the price of heating fuel and electricity in your community. Organizing a heating system purchase group is a great way to follow up a Weatherization Week. Learn more at <http://www.islandinstitute.org/what-works/high-cost-energy>



A ductless mini-split heat pump installed in a lobsterman's workshop on Islesford.

Interior Storm Window Insert Build/Workshop

Interior storm window inserts are a simple and affordable tool for saving energy in your home. These simple wooden frames with two panes of plastic film boost the insulation quality of a window, reduce drafts and heat loss and improve the comfort of your home. The average window costs about \$20 and will save about one gallon of fuel per square foot of window per year, paying for itself in the very first heating season. The Island Institute hosts workshops on islands with local partners where community members learn how to build the inserts and then work together to build them for homes and community buildings (school, town office, library, etc.). We provide materials and instructions and often build free community spaces. These workshops are a great way to get people in your community thinking about reducing energy use in their homes, or to follow up a Weatherization Week. Learn more at <http://www.islandinstitute.org/what-works/high-cost-energy>



Cliff island residents and Island Institute staff built more than 40 interior storm window inserts for homes, the school, and the island store at this workshop in December 2015.