

Energy Trainings

Island Institute staff offer the following on-island trainings and workshops for Community Energy Action Teams, Spark! Fund recipients, and others. These trainings include educational activities that are adjustable for all ages and expertise levels. They can be customized to fit various timeframes and priorities. These trainings draw on expertise from across the Island Institute, and are not limited to Community Energy staff. Please contact Harry Podolsky at hpodolsky@islandinstitute.org ; 594-9209 x 127 with any questions or to schedule a training in your community.

Content-based trainings

- **Energy 101:** Island Institute staff will provide an overview of the basics of heating, lighting, appliances, and renewable energy, as well as a training with energy action toolkits. This introductory training has led to [successful projects](#) on several islands. It can be structured as a general refresher course for current Community Energy Action Teams, focus on a specific energy subject, or as an orientation for new energy advocates. The training is also adaptable for use with K-12 students, and satisfies several Next Generation Science Standards. This workshop involves 1-2 staff for 2-3 hours, depending on the group size and priorities.
- **Collective Purchasing Tools:** Collective purchasing programs allow island communities to access large quantities of efficiency equipment quickly, and at a comparatively low price. Island Institute staff will provide an overview of previous applications of this approach on islands, such as Matinicus and Monhegan. They will outline the process for running a collective purchasing program for LEDs, air-source heat pumps, and other equipment. See the Collective Purchasing Tools Overview included with the Spark! Fund application materials for more information. 1 staff, 1 - 1.5 hours.
- **Solar Development:** Generating solar power on islands provides numerous benefits including cost reductions, climate change mitigation, educational opportunities, and increased long-term energy security. However, there are a number of additional considerations that are unique to solar project development on islands. Institute staff will take community members through the ins and outs of developing community-based solar power, outlining what works, and what to be careful of while considering solar development. 1 staff, 1.5-2 hours.
- **Weatherization and Storm Window Workshop Lesson Plans:** Staff have developed lesson plans for teaching basic principles of home energy efficiency and climate change reductions, by leveraging an ongoing Weatherization Week or Storm Window Workshop as a model. These lesson plans are adaptable for use with K-12 students and adults, and are designed to satisfy several Next Generation Science Standards. Lesson plans involve hands-on components and can be delivered in-class or out. 1-2 staff, 1-3 hours.

Skills-based trainings

- **Strengthening Your Team:** Working together efficiently is the hallmark of a successful team. This training outlines a series of techniques and practices that will maximize effective collaboration. Staff will cover communication, leadership, best practices for meetings, and working norms. 1-2 staff (including members of our Community Development Team which has implemented this training in several island communities). Training length, 1-1.5 hours. All team members should attend this training for maximum benefit.
- **Intergenerational Learning:** Island communities are intergenerational by nature. Energy action projects are more effective if a wide age range of participants are involved, sharing their experience and enthusiasm. This training will outline strategies for encouraging multigenerational action on energy projects. Ideas for projects, innovative outreach strategies, and past success stories will all be covered. 1 staff, 1 hour.
- **Project Management:** The majority of energy leaders on Maine's islands are volunteers - heading up important efforts without the benefit of formal training, compensation, or full-time staff. In this training, Institute staff will outline project management techniques that will maximize your team's capabilities, including effective delegation, identifying outside assistance and mentorship, and creating budgets and timelines. 1-2 staff, 1-3 hours.
- **Telling Your Story:** Getting the word out about upcoming initiatives as well as sharing ongoing and past efforts widely, will increase your future impact. "Telling the story" attracts additional team members, technical assistance, funding opportunities, and media attention. This training will provide exercises and instruction on techniques to help you spread the word, attract funders, and increase attention on future work. 1-2 staff, 1-2 hours.
- **Measuring and tracking project impacts:** Quantifying the outcomes and impacts of your hard work is an important part of any community energy project, as well as a requirement of Spark! Fund recipients. This training will highlight techniques and tools for measuring project impacts and sharing those with community members, funders, and others. 1-2 staff, 2-3 hours.