AMOUNT
Applicants can receive up to $4,000 per fiscal year (July 1–June 30).

DUE DATE
The due date is rolling. Applications will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted.

ELIGIBILITY
Applicants must be based in Maine’s island and/or coastal communities. Eligible applicants include working waterfront businesses and entities such as:
- Processing facilities
- Co-op buildings and offices
- Shared equipment/storage sheds/workshops
- Fishing vessels
- Docks and yards

Note: for-profit businesses must provide matching funds for applications.

Questions about eligibility?
Please contact:
Lisa Millette
lmillette@islandinstitute.org
207-594-9209 ext.159

WHAT CAN THE FUNDS BE USED FOR?
The possibilities are endless! We encourage applications for working waterfront projects that improve energy efficiency, focus on renewable energy, and/or reduce the consumption of fossil fuels. Projects with environmental and financial benefits, and provide educational outreach are more likely to receive funding.

Past projects have supported the purchase of:
- Heat pumps
- Solar panels
- LED light bulbs & energy-efficient appliances
- Infrared (IR) cameras, IR thermometers, and Kill-A-Watt meters to help residents understand their energy usage
- Weatherization materials or services: insulation, air sealing, window inserts, etc.
- Registration for conferences or trainings
- Energy audits and consulting services
EXAMPLES OF FUNDED PROJECTS

HEAT PUMPS
• The Cliff Island Wellness Center, Frenchboro School, and Swan’s Island Recreation Facility pursued heat pump installation to have a more energy-efficient and cost-effective method of heating, compared to fuel oil or propane. Community involvement in these renovations and informational posters and brochures increase awareness of heat pump technology.

LED LIGHT BULBS
• LED light bulbs decrease electricity use and allow long-term cost savings compared to other lighting. The Islesboro Community Center has received Spark! funds to replace all light fixtures with LEDs in their large building, with local students supporting some of the audits. In Waldoboro, a Spark! grant is part of a project for the town to convert all streetlights to LEDs and to add a streetlight at a dangerous intersection.

WEATHERIZATION
• The Rockland Energy Advisory Committee purchased LED light bulbs for residents and an IR camera. The IR camera and educational guide are available for checkout at the public library, so residents can detect areas to improve insulation and air sealing in their own homes.
• North Haven Sustainable Housing purchased an insulation blower to do energy efficiency assessments on the island. They also earned a professional development grant through the Glenn Fund to train a staffer on efficiency assessments and upgrades, therefore increasing capacity for islanders to provide this work.
• Rockland’s AIO Pantry applied for a Spark! grant to support low-income residents in understanding and improving energy efficiency in their homes by providing financial assistance and workshops for audits and window inserts.

SOLAR PANELS
• Both the Cranberry Isles Fisherman’s Co-op and the Deer Isle Sunset Congregational Church recently installed solar panels, using Spark! grants to offset upfront costs.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. REACH OUT to the Island Institute expressing your intent to apply. We can help make sure the project is a good fit before you spend time on the application. Contact Lisa Millette at lamillette@islandinstitute.org or 207-594-9209 ext.159.

2. SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION. Apply for the Spark! grant using the online application for the Tom Glenn Community Impact Fund. www.islandinstitute.org/tom-glenn-community-impact-fund

APPLICATION REVIEW
A decision is typically made within 2–4 weeks. Before confirming a decision, we may reach out via email or phone with clarifying questions about the project.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS
The Island Institute sends funds directly to the recipient or its fiscal agent. You will need to complete and submit a W-9 form in order to process the check.

FOLLOW-UP
Within a year of the grant award, recipients will be required to provide follow up information about the project, addressing the following:
• What went well about the project?
• What were challenges or obstacles faced?
• Budget: were there any changes or surprises?
• What changed in your community because of this project?
• What’s next?
• Share 1–5 photos related to your project.

We reserve the right to publicize successful projects, whether via social media or promotional materials about the grant.