Maine Island Coalition Meeting September 17th, 2021 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Attendees:

MIC Members

Roger Berle, co-chair
Donna Wiegle, co-chair
Donna Damon, Chebeague
Andy Dorr, Vinalhaven
Gabe McPhail, Vinalhaven
Jennifer Fox, Great Diamond Island
Katherine Ford, Great Diamond Island
Eva Murray, Matinicus
Peggi Stevens, Isle au Haut
Kendra Chubbuck, Isle au Haut
Mark Greene, Long Island
Rachel Bishop, Frenchboro

Organizations

Island Institute

Tony Chatwin, President
Nick Battista, Sr. Policy Officer
Paige Atkinson, Eastport Fellow
Abby Roche, Community Development Officer
Brenna Cohen, Community Development
Officer
Kate Tagai, Sr. Community Development Officer
Kendra Jo Grindle, Sr. Community Development
Officer

Great Lakes Islands Alliance

Matt Preisser, GLIA Coordinator Lisa Brush, Stewardship Network (Fiscal Sponsor) Peter Huston, GLIA Staff Michael Gora, GLIA Steering Committee Chair Bob Anderson, GLIA Steering Committee Member

Maine Seacoast Mission

Douglas Cornman, Director of Island Outreach Sharon Daley, Director of Island Health

Maine Municipal Association

Neal Goldberg, Legislative Analyst

Guests

Kelly Cotiaux, Staff Assistant, U.S. Senator Susan Collins Mary Anne Mitchell, Peaks Chip Emery Donna Hopkins, Isle au Haut

Meeting Action Items

Check out and sign up for the Workforce Pathways Conference October 7-8: https://www.islandinstitute.org/event/workforce-pathways-conference/

Check out and sign up for the Climate Strong Islands fall gathering:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/climate-strong-islands-network-biannual-gathering-tickets-166057623823

Learn more about the Equity Subcommittee of the Maine Climate Council here: https://www.maine.gov/future/initiatives/climate/climate-council/equity-subcommittee

Contact Gabe McPhail (gabe@gabemcphail.com, 207-952-1817) or Suzanne MacDonald (Smacdonald@islandinstitute.org) to discuss the Maine Climate Council's Equity sub-committee's draft recommendation. Alternatively you can respond to the doodle poll:

https://doodle.com/poll/de7uemu32vsha353?utm source=poll&utm medium=link

Or sign up to observe a sub-committee meeting here:

https://www.maine.gov/future/initiatives/climate/climate-council/equity-subcommittee/upcoming-meetings

And we didn't talk about it at the meeting but the redistricting commission has come out with new proposed house districts for the Maine Legislature. Check them out here: https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::1adecd47-a0e3-42ed-8dea-583a9a828d40 And then check out the commission's webpage to find out when they are meeting if you would like to observe and/or submit testimony: http://legislature.maine.gov/apportionment.

Meeting Notes

Welcome - MIC Co-Chairs Roger and Donna

Roger – COVID is galloping back on a high tide. We had hoped to meet in person by now as these meetings are extremely important to the archipelago, we're all connected, but we will continue to meet virtually for the time being and we thank you all for being here today.

Introduction of New Island Institute President

Tony Chatwin- introduction

Tony joins the Island Institute from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) where he led the Science and Evaluation team. He has more than twenty years of experience in sustainable community development and can relate to challenges of island communities. He lived on St.- Croix and spent a lot of time at sea. His academic background is as an Oceanographer. At NFWF, he created a fisheries innovation fund in 2010 to support fishing communities around the country adapt to a changing regulatory environment, helped fishing community put their own sustainability and resilience ideas into practice, and gave them hope for their industry.

Collective action is powerful and leads to lasting solutions. MIC is designed for collective action and he looks forward to working with the members.

Organization Updates

Gabe McPhail - Climate Council Equity Subcommittee.

We want to discuss ways to equitably implement Maine's eight climate strategies, equitable outcomes, reach diverse and isolated communities. Read through the recommendation sheet (included) and reach out to Gabe McPhail or Suzanne MacDonald with any questions or suggestions.

Island Institute

There are 10 Fellows this year posted from Eastport to Casco Bay. Applications for Fellow site placements for next year will open in January, but if you are considering a Fellow for your organization or community, please reach out to Kate prior to the application period to have a conversation.

The Workforce Pathways Conference is coming up in October and will focus on building Maine's workforce needs bringing educators and business members together.

Nick Battista, Policy Update

There are funds for climate and economic resiliency, let us know about projects that you have Land for Maine's Future program has \$4mil for working waterfront protection over next 4 yrs., opening up winter 2022 with funding decisions made in the spring/summer. The state buys working waterfront and protects it as working waterfront forever

The Island Institute will meet with the Maine Department of Transportation commissioner next week and update those islands served by the Maine State Ferry Service.

Apply for your ARPA funds now.

Sharon Daley, Sea Coast Mission

The summer was stressful because of COVID and so many needs of people on islands. There is also so much uncertainty about best practices like where and when to mask. She hopes to bring the booster shots to islands as soon as it is available—thanking boat captains, islanders for their continued support and warm welcome of the Sunbeam as they have traveled to communities this summer. She will be doing flu vaccine trips to the islands. She is also trained and certified to provide NARCAN to islands & families and is applying for a grant for equipment, education, and other medical needs. As part of the eldercare network Sharon attends elder care meetings 2x/month. It is a stressful time for eldercare homes, vaccine mandates are causing a loss of staff, outbreaks on some of the islands, and homes in Maine are closing, but the islands have been mostly ok

Douglas – He provides a package of supports to faith communities this summer. There has also been a multi-year grant to support literacy with money going to libraries for new books and new books through Island Readers and Writers. He is working closely with the Island Institute Education and Workforce Team: Yvonne Thomas and Robin Chernow on school outreach and the TLC. They will be visiting islands all winter.

Neal Goldberg, Maine Municipal Association

There is plenty of time to use the ARPA funds once you have applied but the application portal is open for another month. Once you get the funds, you have three years to plan how to spend them and five years to spend them. Reach out to him with any technical questions as they have been helpful in thinking through how to flexibly use the funds while staying within the parameters of the funding. For example road paving isn't strictly allowed as an infrastructure upgrade, but if it allows increased ambulance access, then that is allowed.

We are still waiting for final rules approval, so plan your spending around what we currently seen as it probably won't change much.

There is a MMA webinar at their in person convention on Oct. 1 and they will be traveling around the states for presentations – York, Penobscot, and other Counties. MMA, NLC, and treasury will have more info as it becomes available.

Tips for applying and using the funds:

- Check Spam folder for the emails.
- Request funds by Wed receive them the following Monday.
- half the funds disbursed this year and half next year.
- The reporting cycle runs Oct. 1 Sept. 30. If you get money before October, don't spend a dime 'til after Oct. 1 to make the first quarter report a simple report
- Annual reports due Oct. 31 each year
- Dec. 31 2024 to obligate all funds, Dec. 31 2026 to spend the funds

Question: Katherine from Great Diamond – islands which are part of bigger cities like Portland, is the money allocated to the bigger city? Answer: Yes.

MMA sitting on OSW Advisory Committee, will start soliciting input on recs from that committee, reach out to Neal, roadmap to steer state in OSW industry for next 10 yrs.

Peter Houston. Great Lakes Islands Alliance

In person summit planned for October was canceled because of covid issues and the border with Canada is still closed (some of the member islands are in Canada). They are planning a possible virtual summit this winter/early spring.

In the meantime they are forming alliance with other organizations but are running into challenges because the Alliance spans across different states and countries, the distance between islands is significant, the Great Lakes covers a wide ranging region. But they have had great meetings w/David Aldrich of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence initiative

GLIA is laying the groundwork to pursue a 501c3 or 501c3 moving forward, but for the moment The Stewardship Network is set as their fiscal sponsor.

Starlink, broadband, upper peninsula schools connection w/trunkline, funds for First Nations/Native Americans might provide broadband to upper Michigan islands.

Kelly Cotiaux from Senator Collins' Office - Neal covered ARPA

Email any questions/comments for the Senator to Kelly cotiaux@collins.senate.gov

Representative Genevieve McDonald, House District 134 (emailed after the meeting)

The deadline for Local Fiscal Recovery Plan funds is 10/24 and I received notice from DAFS of three islands in this district who have not claimed their funds yet. (Cranberries, IAH, Frenchboro.) I just sent the contacts that were on record an email.

The House map for redistricting has been announced and there are a number of changes in Penobscot Bay. Vinalhaven, North Haven, and Islesboro are all in different House districts now. The parties have not come to an agreement on the Senate map.

DOT is currently conducting a review of the MSFS. This was supposed to be a "working group" but appears to now be an internal process. Their proposal, whatever it may be, will be presented in the coming legislative session.

Feature Topic: Island Broadband

Broadband Committee- Kendra Jo Grindle, Island Institute

Isle Au Haut – National Telecom grant, municipal build, state covers 10% match, \$29 million Islands located in population dense counties did not receive funds.

Several islands are in conversation and others moving forward beyond conversation and planning to implementation.

Connect Maine authority will open 2nd round of \$15million bond funds in December.

Definitions of what broadband is have changed - 50/10 MB/sec to 100/100 and projects must build to standard when they recive funding.

Startup grants through Connect Maine Authority for communities doing surveys, starting conversations, early phase 1, or if you need to understand what your connectivity is and have conversations/providers in the community

Federal funds \$130mil into the state, \$20mil from state ARPA to Connectivity Authority (brand new)

Next 3-6 months \rightarrow will know how Connect Maine and Connectivity Authority work together

There is a broadband call every Friday at 11 to ask questions, talk to other communities

Funds will arrive over the next year – don't wait, start planning now w/focus on needs, providers, etc. – those communities that show visible or funding support from community can access this funding – diversity of spending

Challenges – delays to projects from fiber shortages – start planning now Email Kendra Jo w/any questions at kgrindle@islandinstitute.org

Q&A/comments

Nick-we are partnering w/service providers because some won't participate in state programs. As you plan projects, watch eligibility of providers to this state funding, the cheapest option may not be a provider who can access state funds.

Donna (Swan's) — there was a broadband community meeting on Swan's that voted for bond funding.

Andy (Vinalhaven) – committee researched and reported on municipal owned fiber to source, \$3.9mi, board endorsed this solution, survey went out to every taxpayer 41% response rate w/60% in support – non-property owners (renters) opposed it, presented monthly costs to community at public hearing, most vocal were against it citing Starlink as the answer, too expensive; the board paused it because they felt there wasn't enough community support for a bond, minimum speed increased, next steps are to stay on top of public/private partnership.

Mark Greene (Long) — wiring has started. Their project started as a public/private partnership. We borrow money to build core system and own it, no tax money other than town borrowing it, cost of loan and interest tacked on to the user, voters supported borrowing — downside — monthly user fee increased to \$18/month

Applied for Connect ME grant and received it – fee decreased to \$6-8/month

Consolidated finished final engineering and costs were significantly less than projected costs, town would only borrow \$75,000, Consolidated offered to pay for this and they now own the system so it is a private system rather than being a partnership. The cost to taxpayers of the "user fee" is zero, but it is not necessarily the least expensive way for the Broadband subscribers, potentially much less if tax supported. Many factors which would vary from project to project.

Donna – what's the user fee?

Mark – subscriber fee + extra amount to pay monthly loan fee

Feature Topic: Covid

Donna (Chebeague)— Chebeague has 6-10 cases, moved to zoom for selectmen's meeting, tensions rising — emotional, fear of shame around getting covid, overreacting, masks in public places, church back to zoom, Portland Press Herald — high numbers of school staff who aren't vaccinated, Chebeague — 100% of staff are vaxed, all you can do is the best you can do

Roger (Cliff)— Cliff, few cases but property manager/friend/employee won't get vaccinated, let it go and stopped offering him help

Donna (Swans) – inability for testing for asymptomatic cases, new test kit from state – can only order limited amount, same family that had outbreak in the winter has another one – natural immunity less effective than vaccine?, divisiveness around vaccine status

Mark Greene (Long)- one EMT refused vaccine and publicly stated opposition, lot of divisiveness, high rates of vaccination but some vocal opposition to it. The town passed remote meeting ordinance – any committee, etc. meeting can go fully remote at any time

Nick – state legislature passed law to allow for remote meetings, recognizes that island communities need to participate in meetings – islands articulated need for policy makers, issue was contentious, frequently heard "but this won't work for the islands". The way the legislation was passed, the meeting organizers drive the decision to pass an ordinance and allow remote meetings to have a quorum not a constituent who wants to attend remotely.

Peggi (Isle Au Haut) – wrote to legislatures about need for remote meetings Donna (Chebeague)- We followed Portland's lead

Kendra Chubbuck – stunned by how many out-of-staters came to Maine this summer, especially from the South, some resistance –She heard people saying things like, "I've had COVID so I don't need a mask", if you're not vaccinated why are you traveling? She saw a lot of unvaccinated people on IAH Roger (Cliff) – reminder that COVID's surging in Idaho, etc. and it's coming to Maine, it's here.

Island Updates

Frenchboro (Rachel Bishop) – 3 students at the school, 200th anniversary of settlement of town, caution around COVID – reinstate precautions – resistance from some who are vaccinated and feel that is enough caution.

Swan's (Donna) – store owner have new pilot boat, Brian and Cathy's service, dance planned for 9/25 and community breakfast on Columbus Day, since pandemic 43 properties have sold (normal year 1-2 would sell), didn't know anyone on the ferry recently, many of these folks are staying year round – sign of hope, new skills, new life experience, new knowledge, hope to engage them in community – volunteers; anyone on an island served by State Ferry Service – can your ferry transport concrete? Is this statewide? Our ferry captain has banned this. Can't build houses without concrete.

Isle au Haut (Peggy) – there have been a few in person get togethers, now getting not so safe – town hall is open with doors open and people separating, selectmen's meetings have been in person but they all wear masks. People seem to abide by rules, don't know of any cases. The IAH boat requires masking

inside – may require them outside, more people visiting island than ever. Park Service restrictions – no one in their building. There is a new couple moving into one of the affordable houses. The broadband committee is meeting. The town is navigating ARPA – Knox County's helped a lot. There is a workforce shortage as workers are retiring. Seven house/land sales and some that need work done but there isn't enough workers – plumbers, carpenters, electricians, we live in paradise and it's difficult

(Kendra) – new families moved out full time into ICDC houses (one has ties to Matinicus and one to IAH), four kids under 3, preschool. ICDC bottle drive, income restrictions make it hard for people to move into affordable housing – doesn't help moderate incomes – unabridged islands need to find the subsidy – Hannah Pingree needs to move the legislature to get more money to change the median up to 100%.

Islesboro (Sharon) – new people moving in, house sales and rentals are hot. She hopes that new people are worker bees – work on trades as the most need thing – house repairs, etc.

No recent outbreaks – school's in session, wearing masks in library and on ferry

Vinalhaven (Andy) – lot of new people, visitors, 1-2 hr. waits at restaurants, school is hybrid but back in person next week, waiting for grant results on main street projects – flood adaptation and upgrading the watermain.

Day care facility building was sold – found a modular facility, needs to be reassembled # of properties sold will have impact on valuations, keep an eye on valuations for homestead benefits, ordinances for tax exemptions

Openings for town staff – need volunteers for fire & EMS

Andy's getting married next week

Matinicus (Eva) – 6 kids in school, delighted with children's' library, high numbers of renters \rightarrow straining transportation.

Chebeague (Donna) Pretty soon we'll all be millionaires because of the escalating real estate prices, every property is a bidding war. A 1 bedroom house sold for more than \$20K over asking price and there is real concern that the kids who grew up here can't stay, the houses are going to people who need services and telecommute but we don't have enough workers. The cost of building has increased, properties are also going to summer people who are using them for rental income or their vacation, not summer people who've come here for generations. The community action team took a hiatus – they're now back to meeting this fall.

Museum requires masks and the store.

Transportation is concerned about staffing if people need to quarantine.

School population declined but there is a brand-new baby. The three preschool children are children of former Island Fellows. The 150th anniversary of museum building is approaching. There will be a zoom lecture on history of building educating people on island. The lecture series used to be a summer thing but has now expanded to 12 months.

Supplies are short – road paving delayed to next spring

Broadband committee sent out RFPs

Donna's grandson visited for the day and they talked about how people on islands remember you since you were born – island communities interact with people every day

Long (Mark) –New Fellow Melanie Nash working with the town and fire department on several different projects. There is no housing available on Long either. The Selectboard passed mask mandate for all

public buildings. There are 14-15 students in school, including 6 from Great Diamond, but no babies from 0-4 yrs old. There will be a flu shot clinic next week. The new restaurant the Bake house was successful but had to close early, limited hours, no help. No help with construction either which has delayed everyone's projects.

Cliff (Roger) Cheryl Crowley is resuming hiking Appalachian Trail. There are 6 students in the school after a family brought 2 kids. Ms. Jenny is extremely happy. The school is the core of the community Ms. Jenny is starting first full year in guaranteed teacher housing – provided by Sustainable Cliff Island They are now renovating lower half of that building for more year round housing. City of Portland revalued properties – Tyler Technologies – adjusted all land values, some improvement, we convinced city tax assessor to reevaluate the provider's assessment, community wide adjustment is encouraging. The city owned wharf is going to state ownership – small change but we'll pay close attention to the implications of it.

Great Diamond (Jennifer) – pretty positive, no Covid outbreaks, people are being respectful, too many tourists. We divide the island - private historic development and public side of island, no transportation between the two during the summer. The restaurant and hotel are open but having extreme staffing difficulties – open a few days a week and closing earlier in the season. Other hot topics being talked about include global warming concerns, preserving woodlands, invasive species

(Kate) people are respecting precautions, on the public/state side – masks in store, several outdoor events, huge influx of tourists, big turnover of houses. They send 6 kids to Long Island for school – you can hear hot cross buns being practiced on the recorder non-stop all over the island and they also have no upcoming babies. Hard to find help to do the jobs that need to get done.

Peaks (Mary Ann) – so many visitors, lax mask mandate enforcement on Casco Bay Lines, all the residents and staff wear them, people with serious health conditions have to be on the boat so it is a real issue. Businesses are all doing different things – the store requires them. There are four airplane routes over the island landing in Portland. They're loud and quality of life declines as the number increases. Six preK students and just under 40 in school. No restrictions on short term rentals on the island and three houses just sold as investments. There is a Homestart proposal on former church bring building adjacent to Mary Ann which would provide three more long term affordable housing units. The Annual Coastal Cleanup is this weekend. Seats open for Casco Bay Line board and Peaks Island Council seats.

Roger – thank you, we're all connected, thanks Institute, Kate, and staff Best wishes for the fall. Delta and lack of person power affects us all.

The next meeting in October on succession planning – invite younger folks, we'll send out survey for timing.

Recently the State of Maine began distributing \$119.2 million in Federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to local governments across Maine. The Local Fiscal Recovery Program is a State pathway to infuse Federal funds into Maine towns and cities to support a variety of their economic recovery priorities, such as addressing the economic or public health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, replacing lost public sector revenue, or investing in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

The State of Maine opened the portal for municipalities to apply for their allocation of Local Fiscal Recovery funds about three weeks ago. In that time a variety of communication has been emailed and mailed from our vendor Horne LLP and Maine Municipal Association.

As a financial control, one individual has been identified as each municipality's point of contact and should have received an initial email from Maine.ARPAsupport@hornellp.com on August 25 and a follow up email on September 13 with instructions for logging into the Maine ARPA portal to request their municipality's portion of this funding.

- We all know to be leery of emails from unrecognized senders. Horne LLP is the vendor that the
 State of Maine has contracted with to manage the administration of these funds to
 municipalities. Emails from Maine.ARPAsupport@hornellp.com are from a verified,
 trustworthy source—the links within these emails can be safely followed.
- The assigned point of contact might be the town manager or administrator, the chair of the select board or board of assessors. In the accompanying spreadsheet you can see who the assigned point of contact for each of your municipalities is that we haven't heard from yet. If this isn't the correct point of contact, Horne LLP can be contacted at 888-804-2544 or Maine.ARPAsupport@hornellp.com to reassign the point of contact to the appropriate person.
- Municipalities are NOT required to specify to the State how the funds will be used in order to
 receive them, so we are strongly encouraging each municipality to login to the portal and claim
 their rightful allocation of these Federal funds before the October 24, 2021 deadline, which is a
 Sunday.
- We recognize that some communities are reluctant to accept the funds because of the limits
 placed on eligible uses. Maine Municipal Association will be assessing the U.S. Treasury's rules
 when finally adopted. It is possible that those rules will expand the list of eligible uses. In
 addition, MMA is working with municipal leaders across the state to explore the opportunities
 that exist to pool and invest funds with other communities, counties, state government and
 non-profit entities.
- We strongly urge every municipality to login to the portal and accept their funds as a first step
 and place the funds in an interest earning savings account. All of the interest earned is available
 to the community for any use. Any unspent revenues can be returned to the U.S. Treasury after
 all available avenues have been explored.



Agenda

OVERVIEW OF MAINE'S CLIMATE
ACTION PLANNING PROCESS

REVIEW EQUITY SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

OPEN DISCUSSION: YOUR FEEDBACK

About Maine's Climate Goals

REDUCE MAINE'S
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

45%

BELOW 1990 LEVELS BY 2030 80%

BELOW 1990 LEVELS BY 2050



ACHIEVE STATE
CARBON NEUTRALITY BY

2045



12.01.20

4-YEAR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN DELIVERED

ADVANCE EQUITY
THROUGH MAINE'S
CLIMATE RESPONSE



COMMUNITIES ARE RESILIENT TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



FOSTER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND PROSPERITY

Maine's Climate Process

Maine Climate Council

scientists, industry leaders, Working Groups bipartisan local and state officials 230+ Maine People Recommended **Strategies**

An expert Scientific and Technical **Subcommittee** is responsible for identifying the impacts of climate change in Maine.

Equity Subcommittee will support planning and implementation of climate strategies to ensure benefits across diverse populations of Maine people.

Maine Climate Counci





Scientific & **Technical** Subcommittee



Equity Subcommittee



Transportation



Buildings, Infrastructure, & Housing



Energy



Community Resilience Planning, Public Health, & Emergency Management

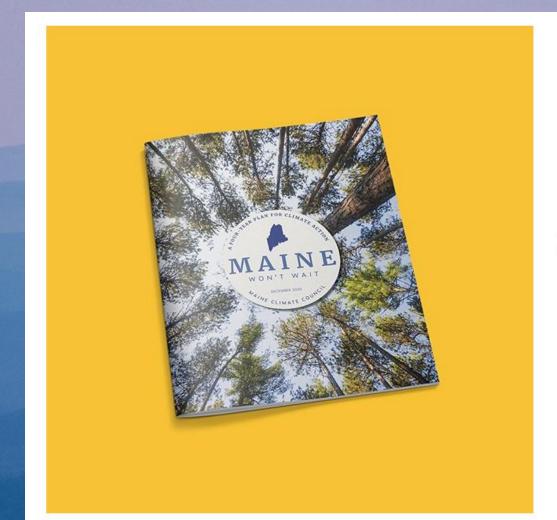


Coastal & Marine



Natural & Working Lands

Maine Won't Wait (December 1, 2020)



MAINE WON'T WAIT, A FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Read the Plan: Executive Summary (PDF), Full

Plan: PDF or HTML5 Flipbook

Maine's 8 Climate Action Strategies



A. Embrace the Future of Transportation in Maine



D. Grow Maine's Clean Energy Economy and Good Jobs



G. Invest in Climate-Ready Infrastructure



B. Modernize Maine's Buildings



E. Protect Maine's
Environment and Working
Lands and Waters, Increase
Carbon Sequestration



H. Engage People and Communities in Climate Impacts and Program Opportunities



C. Reduce Carbon Emissions the Energy and Industrial Sectors through Clean Energy Innovation



F. Build Healthy and Resilient Communities



About the Equity Subcommittee

EQUITY SUBCOMMITTEE PROCESS

29

Members representing a variety of communities, industries, and interests

7

Meetings since February

DEVELOPED AN





01-2022

EQUITY RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE DELIVERED TO COUNCIL

SETTING EQUITY
OUTCOMES FOR CLIMATE
STRATEGIES



MAKING RECOMMENDATINOS TO THE COUNCIL TO ENSURE PROGRAMS AND BENEFITS REACH DIVERSE AND ISOLATED POPULATIONS AND COMMUNITIES



MONITORING PROGRESS



- 1. Incentivize shared rides and use of transit, and pilot e-bikes, in addition to providing rebates for personal EVs.
- 2. Offer state-secured loans to low-income customers who want to buy an EV.
- 3. Help low income Mainers transition into more fuel efficient vehicles
- 4. Study opportunities to make school buses electric
- 5. Study opportunities to lower vehicle registration costs for low income Mainers who purchase an EV
- 6. Help communities develop safer roads for biking, walking, and transit
- 7. Expand the definition of low-income Mainers who can access increased EV rebates to encompass more Mainers
- 8. Increase regulations on idling, particularly in areas frequented by vulnerable populations (youth, aging Mainers, etc)
- 9. Increase access to licensing services for undocumented and underdocumented Mainers
- 10. Offer a financial literacy to individuals and small businesses who receive state grants and rebates
- 11. Study cumulative impact in Maine communities
- 12. Increase job training opportunities for auto mechanics in disadvantaged communities
- 13. Encourage employers to maintain remote work capabilities, and provide assistance to workers who need additional equipment, infrastructure, etc to work from home



- 1. Establish a working group to coordinate the provision of comprehensive social services to every vulnerable household in Maine.
- 2. Develop a one-stop intake process for the coordinated provision of social services.
- 3. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of energy burden across Maine to identify actions which reduce energy burden for the most vulnerable Mainers
- 4. Conduct an assessment to identify communities with the poorest, least healthy, least efficient housing stock in the state and identify actions to improve.
- 5. Collaborate with municipalities across the state to provide access to shared services for building code development and enforcement.
- 6. Conduct a statewide study of workforce availability to meet current and projected needs for energy assessments, audits, and weatherization technicians; and recommend training programs in disadvantaged communities, or for underemployed people, to meet these needs.
- 7. Adopt a standard for sustainable affordable housing, and incentivize access to renewable and clean energy in these developments.
- 8. Increase access to all programs in languages other than English, include diverse participants in program design, and use existing social networks to engage communities in state decision making.
- 9. Consider developing pilot programs and incentives targeted at the adoption of clean building and heating solutions by landlords/for renters.
- 10. Develop a plan to ensure that all households which receive heating and other energy bill assistance have access to weatherization and other energy demand reduction services.



- 1. Add an equity assessment review to existing review standards for all projects that require a new Site Location or Development Act permit, as well as permitting processes for new energy infrastructure.
- 2. Agricultural Solar Stakeholder Group and Offshore Wind Stakeholder groups should consider equity in their processes.
- 3. Increase technical support available to municipalities or community organizations interested in clean energy procurement opportunities.
- 4. Incorporate equity into community solar programs.
- 5. Assess the viability of on-bill financing programs to allow homeowners to borrow money for energy upgrades and make repayments over time via the utility bill.
- 6. Program design for new clean energy programs must include representatives of LMI communities, the participation of frontline communities, and ensuring the opportunity for communities that host large scale renewable projects to receive clean energy benefits from those projects.
- 7. Prioritize engagement in frontline communities to increase awareness of financing and rebate options and increase technical assistance
- 8. Expand high school training programs to provide clean energy workforce skills training and programming to youth; and workforce training opportunities to women, people of color, and Mainers from across the state.
- 9. Provide info on clean energy career and job training opportunities to unemployed/underemployed Mainers.
- 10. Study opportunities and challenges associated with solar decommissioning, including battery disposal.
- 11. Work with landlords to upgrade heating systems and install renewable energy for their tenants.
- 12. Ensure that heating assistance eligible residents can transfer heating assistance payments from fossil sources to electricity bills when participating in heat pump installations.



- 1. Study potential opportunities and challenges associated with carbon pricing policies for Maine-based industries, particularly natural heritage industries and others heavily dependent on high-carbon fuels and/or highly vulnerable to climate changes.
- 2. Explore agricultural opportunities associated with growing new crops sustainably in a changing Maine climate.
- 3. Explore the distribution of green space and access to it, especially in historically disadvantaged communities.
- 4. Continue to explore opportunities for cooperative ownership or management of land with Maine tribes.
- Develop a comprehensive approach to just transition, including adopting a comprehensive definition and prioritizing workforce retraining initiatives, especially in those industries and communities most threatened by climate change. These retraining programs must be developed in close collaboration with impacted communities and industries.
- 6. Provide incentives for clean technology transition in heritage industries, particularly for those small business and self-employed individuals at the margin.
- 7. Pilot new clean technologies on local farms, in local fishing businesses, and in forestry applications to demonstrate effectiveness.
- 8. Encourage just principles for climate, environmental, and socioeconomic data collection and ownership; prioritize community participatory approaches in data collection which ensure transparency and build trust
- 9. The state's climate data platform should value and honor the role of traditional environmental knowledge
- 10. Prioritize economic development investments in diversification of natural and working land industries in the most vulnerable communities first.
- 11. Help natural and working land industries to pursue value added environmentally friendly certifications, such as B Corps and Certified Organic
- 12. Require climate risk disclosure for certain investments.



- 1. Identify priority communities for piloting a resilient infrastructure adaptation fund; criteria might include income level and other sociodemographic factors, town capacity, level of climate risk/vulnerability, and cultural/historic significance of infrastructure.
- Assess the climate vulnerability of groundwater systems and wells, particularly w/re to increased risk of salinization.
- 3. In addition to providing project funding, the state's infrastructure adaptation fund should fund risk assessment, planning, and engineering design, particularly in communities with limited resources.
- 4. All state programs which seek input from vulnerable communities must provide both payment and other wrap-around services.
- 5. The state should make easily accessible localized climate impact data for communities to use in vulnerability assessments.
- 6. All local infrastructure vulnerability analyses must include robust opportunities for public engagement and education.
- 7. Develop of a menu of resilient infrastructure project recommendations, as well as a centralized list of vendors to provide vulnerability assessment, planning, design, and construction services.
- 8. Develop standard resilience planning guidance for communities, and provide assistance to communities to run these planning processes. Guides and process assistance should be made available in languages other than English.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

- 9. State climate vulnerability funding programs should establish equity metrics to ensure that equitable amounts of funding and other assistance reach communities across Maine.
- 10. DECD should develop a robust engagement process for CDBG funding.
- 11. Local climate engagement opportunities should be designed to engage vulnerable populations (ie, neighborhoods with low literacy, high linguistic isolation, high elderly or youth populations, etc)
- 12. The state's natural hazard emergency alert system should take into account variability in people's ability to respond, and should offer a menu of options for risk reduction.
- 13. The Maine CDC should study the opportunity to use community health readiness assessments to assess ability to adapt or respond to climate vulnerability.
- 14. The state should provide access to free psychological resilience resources geared towards addressing climate-driven trauma.
- 15. Volunteer Maine should incorporate equity into plans for the Maine Climate Corps program. Equitable measures might include multilingual or otherwise targeted outreach, as well as provision of wrap-around services to ensure equitable participation.



Discussion Questions

- Are there people or communities we haven't considered in our recommendations?
- Are there any recommendations that you think could be improved?
- Are there any recommendations that you disagree with? Why?
- What else should the Equity Subcommittee consider when finalizing the recommendations?
- Are there any cultural or mindset considerations that we haven't considered that would impact the ability to implement any of these recommendations?

Next Steps

- Join an upcoming virtual public listening session to provide additional feedback:
 - September 23, 3-6pm
 - October 21, 3-5pm
- In November and December, the equity subcommittee will meet to:
 - Incorporate public feedback into the recommendations
 - Approve final recommendations by December
- The subcommittee will present its recommendations to the Maine Climate Council in January, 2022



Vulnerable **Communities**

communities of color

unhoused people seasonal workers

Immigrant population

Indigenous tribes

Penobscot Nation Impacted industries senior working class lightq wage laborers

Passamaquoddy

geographically vulnerable

Equity Framework

- 1. Who are the most marginalized populations affected by each issue?
- 2. Does the program, practice, or policy ensure both short- and long-term equitable outcomes?
- 3. Is there adequate access to data understand the issue, the populations affected by it and potential ways to address it?
- 4. Has public health been fully considered?
- 5. What are the implications of this recommendation on Maine's emissions?
- 6. Are there barriers to access, participation, or decision making that have not been accounted for?
- 7. What cultural or mindset considerations are essential to the success of this recommendation?
- 8. Is there a way to address historical inequities in this recommendation?
- 9. If this action is taken, are the impacts to people outside of Maine understood and adequately factored into the recommendations?