

SPARK! grant

A GRANT WITHIN THE
TOM GLENN COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND

SUMMARY

The Spark! grant is currently prioritizing applications to fund working waterfront projects for shoreside charging infrastructure, shoreside renewable energy generation, marine electrification, energy efficiency, and weatherization, but other projects may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Highly visible projects within the community or marine sector that have high environmental and financial benefits are more likely to receive funding.



AMOUNT

Applicants can receive up to \$4,000 per fiscal year (July–June). If you are seeking funding above this amount, we would love to have a conversation with you about other available funding mechanisms or opportunities. 50% match of funding is required for for-profit businesses, but Island Institute may waive this based on financial need or new technology applications.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be based in Maine's island and/or coastal communities. Eligible applicants include working waterfront businesses, nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and tribal governments. Specific entities include, but are not limited to:

- Processing facilities
- Co-op buildings and offices
- Shared equipment/storage sheds/workshops
- Fishing vessels
- Docks and yards

Questions about eligibility?

Contact:

Kate Klibansky
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(207) 741-6873



**The Deer
Isle Sunset
Congregational
Church installed
rooftop solar panels in
2020 after receiving a Spark!
grant to offset upfront costs.**

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 educational outreach are more likely to receive funding.

Past projects have supported the purchase of:

- Electric outboard motors and batteries
- Electric boat charging infrastructure
- EV charging station
- Solar power systems
- Floating solar-powered tumbler and wash-down station for oyster farm
- Equipment retrofits to electric power
- Energy-efficient commercial appliances
- Weatherization materials or services: insulation, air sealing, window inserts

DUE DATE

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis through June 10, 2024, and awarded quarterly (September 20, December 20, March 20, June 20). There is a set amount of funds available annually for this grant.



Island students build window inserts to insulate local buildings during a visit to the WindowDressers production facility.

EXAMPLES OF FUNDED PROJECTS

MARINE ELECTRIFICATION

- *The Audubon Seabird Institute, The Apprenticeshop, the Kennebunk & Kennebunkport Harbormaster, and Lanes Island Shellfish* all were awarded funding to transition work boats from traditional internal combustion engines to electric propulsion.
- *Blackstone Point Oyster Company* received a Spark! Grant to install water-front infrastructure for the farm that will prepare the business to support a transition to electric motors.
- *Shred Electric* will buy two electric boat motors to continue their work developing multi-purpose aquaculture batteries to be tested in working waterfront applications.
- *The Boat Yard* is installing an industrial electric power pack to replace their current internal combustion engine power pack that is used to operate a knuckle boom crane on their marine construction barge.

HEAT PUMPS

- *The Cliff Island Wellness Center, Frenchboro School, and Swan's Island Recreation Facility and Love Point Oyster Company* 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.

SOLAR PANELS

- *Ferda Farms* currently runs their floating oyster farm equipment on solar power thanks to a Spark! Grant that funded their off-grid solar system. The business is also investing in a new solar charge controller to prepare themselves to transition to electric propulsion on the farm.
- *Aphrodite Oysters* was recently awarded a Spark! Grant to support a solar panel installation at their Spruce Head retail space, as were *Saco Bay Marine* in Biddeford and *North Haven Oyster Company*.

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 Kate Klibansky at kklibansky@islandinstitute.org or 207- 741-6873.

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

Decisions for grant applications will be made quarterly with dates of notification being no later than September 20, December 20, March 20, June 20. Before confirming decisions, 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 a review of the project. The recipient is also required to share 1-5 photos related to the project.

In cases of new technology or waived match, the recipient may also be required to share additional information about the project that will be agreed upon at the acceptance of the award.

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