

# Community Resilience Partnership

## List of Community Actions

Revised December 1, 2021

**Instructions:** The List of Community Actions are suggested activities for communities that align with the goals and strategies of Maine Won't Wait. Communities will use the List first as a self-assessment tool during the enrollment process to aid in determining where progress has already been made, then as a guide for identifying future priorities and funding opportunities. In the left-most column, indicate actions that may be "complete", "in-progress", or "future priority" for your community. Optionally, feel free to share additional details if desired in columns to the right.

All of the actions on the List – from planning projects to developing ordinances to capital improvements – are eligible for no-match Community Action Grants. Communities are encouraged to combine multiple related actions from the Inventory into a single application. Recognizing that some communities have in-house capacity and others do not, the grants may fund staff time or be used to hire external capacity, such as a consultant or regional planning organization, to assist with the project.

Community Action Grants are capped at \$50,000 for individual communities and \$125,000 for collaborative projects from a group of two or more communities. Action-specific caps may also apply (for example, communities may request up to a certain amount per electric vehicle purchase).

Community Action Grants may be used to augment other state funding opportunities, such as Efficiency Maine's rebate programs. However, the applicant must demonstrate that the other source of funding has been or will be maximized before funding from a Community Action Grant is allowed. For example, a town wishing to purchase an electric vehicle or upgrade to energy efficient LED lighting must

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Revised April 2023

See Instructions on Introduction tab below.

✓ Strategy Areas & Actions (mark Column A as complete, in progress, future priority, etc.)	Additional Resources (\$=funding source)
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### Strategy Area A: Embrace the Future of Transportation

#### Accelerate the Transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs)

**Note: A maximum of \$7,500** of a Community Action Grant may be applied to the purchase of an electric vehicle for municipal or tribal fleets (Action A1). Eligible vehicles for Action A1 include light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty on-road electric vehicles as well as electric riding mowers and electric outboard engines that are part of a municipal fleet, all subject to the maximum award amount. **Where applicable, Efficiency Maine’s electric vehicle rebate (Action A1) or EV charging rebate (Action A2) must be included in the applicant’s project budget.**

A1	Purchase or lease electric vehicles for municipal or tribal government-owned vehicle fleets.	<a href="#">Efficiency Maine: Municipal EV rebates (\$)</a>
A2	Install EV chargers in public parking areas.	<a href="#">Efficiency Maine: EV supply equipment initiative (\$)</a>
A3	Adopt ordinances to encourage EV charging infrastructure, including at multifamily dwellings, businesses, and public parking areas.	<a href="#">Municipal Electric Vehicle Readiness Toolkit (Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission)</a>
A4	Adopt an anti-idling ordinance.	<a href="#">Example: Bar Harbor Municipal Code</a>

#### Improve Mobility and Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

A5	Implement strategies that increase public transit ridership and alternative transportation modes, including bike and walking infrastructure.	
A6	Implement strategies that encourage municipal/tribal employees to commute via carpools, public transit, bike/walk, or other alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles.	
A7	Adopt a telework policy for municipal/tribal government staff positions that can work remotely some days per week.	
A8	Adopt land use and development policies in plans and codes that reduce the need for driving (e.g. locating schools, workplaces, and shopping near where people live; encouraging density of development near housing and transportation).	

	A9	Adopt a Complete Streets policy which addresses safety, bike/pedestrian uses, and transit.	<a href="#">Maine DOT Complete Streets</a>
	A10	Adopt a broadband plan that reduces the need to drive by increasing access to high speed internet for underserved residents to support telecommuting, access to remote education and telehealth.	<a href="#">Connect Maine planning and infrastructure grants (\$)</a>

## Strategy Area B: Modernize Maine's Buildings

### Transition to Cleaner Heating and Cooling, and Efficient Appliances in Municipal/Tribal Buildings

<b>Note:</b> Energy efficiency projects (Actions B1-B5) such as heat pumps, VRF systems, LED lighting upgrades, water heaters, etc. must be eligible for Efficiency Maine's incentives. <b>The applicant's project budget must include applicable Efficiency Maine rebates or incentives.</b>		
B1	Adopt and execute a plan for energy efficiency and building envelope weatherization improvements for municipal/tribal buildings. Collaborate with local school district for school building improvements.	<a href="#">Efficiency Maine: Public Sector (\$)</a>
B2	Upgrade to energy efficient interior lighting in municipal/tribal buildings.	<a href="#">Efficiency Maine: Public Sector (\$)</a>
B3	Upgrade to energy efficient appliances in municipal/tribal buildings.	<a href="#">Efficiency Maine: Public Sector (\$)</a>
B4	Install a heat pump system or VRF system for heating/cooling and heat pump water heating in municipal/tribal buildings.	<a href="#">Efficiency Maine: Public Sector (\$)</a>
B5	Upgrade streetlights and exterior lighting for municipally/tribally-owned facilities with energy efficient LED lighting (and minimize light pollution with downlighting where possible).	<a href="#">Efficiency Maine: Public Sector (\$)</a>
B6	Adjust procurement policies to prioritize climate-friendly Maine forest products (e.g. mass timber, wood-fiber insulation) in construction projects.	

### Advance the Design and Construction of New Buildings

B7	Adopt the energy efficiency stretch building code (currently IECC 2021).	<a href="#">International Energy Conservation Code 2021</a>
B8	Require EV charging readiness and solar energy readiness for all new construction.	<a href="#">Municipal Electric Vehicle Readiness Toolkit (Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission)</a>
B9	Support regular professional development for code enforcement officers, especially Efficiency Maine's code trainings.	<a href="#">Efficiency Maine trainings</a>
B10	Adopt C-PACE ordinance for commercial property owners to install renewable energy systems, energy efficiency measures, and EV charging infrastructure (pending state program launch).	<a href="#">Efficiency Maine: Energy Loan Comparison Chart (PDF)</a>

## Strategy Area C: Reduce Emissions through Clean Energy Innovation

### Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

C1	Conduct a baseline for energy useage by municipal/tribal government including electricity, heating and transportation fuels, and other energy sources.	
C2	Identify and track a simplified set of emissions indicators for community emissions reduction (e.g. number of EVs registered in the community, number of homes with solar panels, number of heat pump rebates from Efficiency Maine).	
C3	Adopt a resolution setting targets and a plan for reducing emissions and advancing clean energy from municipal/tribal operations that align with the state's targets.	

### Advance Clean Energy Adoption

C4	Adopt a renewable energy ordinance(s) that allows, enables, or encourages community-appropriate renewable energy and energy storage installations.	<a href="#">US DOE SolSmart program and technical assistance</a>
C5	Adopt a streamlined permitting process for small-scale renewable energy installations.	<a href="#">US Department of Energy: SolarApp</a>

### Transition to Clean Energy

C6	Enter into a long-term service contract or power purchase agreement (PPA) or adopt a clean power purchase policy to ensure increasing local government energy supplies come from renewable energy.	<a href="#">USDA Rural Development: Rural Energy for America (\$)</a>
C7	Install a renewable energy project (solar, wind, geothermal, anaerobic digestion, etc.) on municipal/tribal property (e.g. school rooftop, wellhead protection area, landfill, brownfield site, etc.).	<a href="#">USDA Rural Development: Rural Energy for America (\$)</a>

## Strategy Area D: Grow Jobs and Protect Natural Resource Industries

### Support Maine's Natural Resource Economy

D1	Adopt policies that enable, support, or incentivize local food production and consumption, including community gardens.	
D2	Adjust procurement policies to prioritize climate-friendly Maine forest products (e.g. mass timber, wood-fiber insulation) in construction projects.	

### Support Clean Energy Jobs and Businesses

D3	Assess the suitability of privately-owned brownfield and disturbed/contaminated sites for clean energy projects and encourage project development.	<a href="#">US EPA RePowering America's Land program</a>
D4	Establish incentives for clean energy industry or businesses to locate in community.	
D5	Encourage and support clean energy industries in economic development plans.	

## Strategy Area E: Protect the Environment & Promote Natural Climate Solutions

### Protect Natural and Working Lands and Waters

E1	Set targets for increasing green space and tree planting to increase shade and water access in public spaces and carbon sequestration.	<a href="#">DACF Project Canopy (\$)</a>
E2	Incorporate a goal into conservation plans of conserving 30% of land in the community by 2030 (including undeveloped town property), with a priority on addressing conservation gaps related to high biodiversity areas, undeveloped blocks, and land and water connectivity.	<a href="#">IWF: Beginning with Habitat</a>
E3	Create or update a watershed plan to identify flooding and water quality priorities and adaptation options.	<a href="#">ME DEP Nonpoint Source Priority Watersheds List &amp; grants (\$)</a>
E4	Develop a natural resource and habitat inventory that includes climate stressors and impacts.	<a href="#">ME Natural Areas Program: Maps, Data, and Technical Assistance</a>
E5	Conserve, revegetate and reconnect floodplains and buffers in riparian areas.	
E6	Preserve climate-threatened natural areas such as wetlands, riparian areas, and headwater streams through zoning or other regulations.	
E7	Implement a source water protection program.	
E8	Adopt policies that prioritize natural, nature-based or ecologically enhanced shoreline protection for coastlines, rivers, and lakes.	
E9	Identify and protect sites for living shorelines and saltmarsh migration areas.	<a href="#">ME Natural Areas Program: Maps, Data, and Technical Assistance</a>
E10	Identify and protect open space in the floodplain to increase flood buffers and community resilience.	<a href="#">ME Natural Areas Program: Maps, Data, and Technical Assistance</a>

## Strategy Area F: Build Healthy & Resilient Communities

Plan for Community Resilience		
F1	Conduct a community vulnerability assessment that identifies climate risks and vulnerable populations and includes a review of existing plans and policies. Adopt a climate resilience plan that describes high priority strategies for reducing risk and vulnerabilities (may be a standalone plan or included in a comprehensive plan).	
F2	Update the local or county EMA hazard mitigation plan to address changing/future conditions and identify specific strategies to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change impacts.	
F3	Develop or enhance early warning systems and community evacuation plans.	
F4	Develop a storm debris management plan.	
Reduce Flood Risk		
F5	Complete the Maine Flood Resilience Checklist.	<a href="#">Maine Flood Resilience Checklist</a>
F6	Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).	<a href="#">FEMA's Community Rating System</a>
F7	Enroll in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS) at Class 9 or better, reducing flood insurance premiums for community residents.	<a href="#">FEMA's Community Rating System</a>
F8	Achieve CRS Class 6 or better, maximizing flood insurance savings for community residents.	<a href="#">FEMA's Community Rating System</a>
F9	Map sea level rise projections in the local or county EMA hazard mitigation plan.	
F10	Require consideration of sea level rise projections and impacts in planning and permitting coastal development.	
F11	Adopt freeboard requirements in the special flood hazard area and higher freeboard critical infrastructure and long-lifespan assets.	
F12	Adopt a low-impact design (LID) standard for stormwater management.	<a href="#">Low Impact Design Manual for Maine Communities (PDF)</a>



Strengthen Public Health		
F13	Identify and plan to reduce public health threats in the community that are exacerbated by climate change.	<a href="#">US CDC Health Harm Cards and Climate &amp; Health Planning Worksheet</a>
F14	Develop and implement an extreme temperatures emergency plan, including strategies that increase use of cooling centers by residents.	<a href="#">US CDC Heat &amp; Health Tracker Resources: Heat Response Plans and Use of Cooling Centers</a>
F15	Establish a peer-to-peer program for checking in on vulnerable community members during extreme heat or cold events.	
F16	Increase community-level resilience to mosquito-borne diseases by implementing vector controls to decrease mosquito habitat.	<a href="#">Maine CDC Mosquito-Borne Illness Prevention &amp; Response Guidance for Maine Towns and Communities (PDF)</a>
F17	Implement school-based programs to educate students about prevention of mosquito- and tick-borne diseases.	<a href="#">Maine CDC Vectorborne School Curricula</a>

## Strategy Area G: Invest in Climate-Ready Infrastructure

### Assess climate vulnerability of infrastructure

G1	Conduct a vulnerability assessment for critical community infrastructure that includes: 1) the climate hazards to which infrastructure assets are exposed and how the intensity and likelihood will change over time; 2) the susceptibility to damage or failure given location, design, age, condition, and state of repair; and 3) the consequences that impairment or failure of the infrastructure will have on the community.	
G2	Develop a Capital Investment Plan that a) identifies vulnerable municipal/tribal facilities and assets, and b) prioritizes resilience in improvements and/or new construction.	

### Utilize climate-ready standards, designs, and practices to improve infrastructure

G3	Improve and protect drinking water, wastewater treatment, and stormwater facilities to reduce physical damage and sustain function during extreme weather events.	
G4	Adopt a policy that prioritizes green infrastructure to manage stormwater in developed areas.	
G5	Adopt DEP's Stream Smart Crossing Guidelines as standard practice for culvert and bridge improvements. Identify vulnerable crossings and apply for DEP improvement funds.	<a href="#">DEP Stream Smart Crossings Grants and Pocket Guide (\$)</a>
G6	Assess wastewater treatment facilities for clean energy potential (solar, anaerobic digester, etc.).	

## Strategy Area H: Engage Maine People

H1	Establish or recognize an official committee of community stakeholders.	
Increase public awareness of climate change impacts and opportunities to take action		
H2	Create a climate change education, outreach, and engagement program, focusing on mitigation and adaptation for residents and businesses.	<a href="#">US CDC Climate &amp; Community Health (PDF)</a>
H3	Amplify public health advisories for climate-related health and weather events, such as air quality advisories, extreme heat or cold events, extreme storms, power outages, waterborne disease outbreaks, harmful algal blooms, vectorborne disease trends, etc.	NWS advisories ( <a href="http://weather.gov/gyx">weather.gov/gyx</a> and <a href="http://weather.gov/car">weather.gov/car</a> ); DEP air quality advisories ( <a href="http://maine.gov/dep/air/ozone/index.html">maine.gov/dep/air/ozone/index.html</a> ); ME Tracking Network displays of near real-time heat illness, cold illness, or tickborne diseases ( <a href="http://data.mainepublichealth.gov/tracking">data.mainepublichealth.gov/tracking</a> )
H4	Engage youth in resilience, clean energy, and energy use reduction.	
H5	Engage populations that are vulnerable to climate impacts in resilience, clean energy, and GHG emissions reduction.	
Engage the business community and recognize climate leadership		
H6	Create and support an energy reduction campaign or challenge among businesses.	
H7	Initiate a community bulk purchasing program with a vendor, or vendors, to provide low cost equipment such as heat pumps and solar for interested residents and businesses.	<a href="#">Portland's "Electrify Everything!" Initiative</a>
<b>Note:</b> Bulk purchasing (Action H7): Grant funds may not be used to purchase or subsidize equipment or services for residential or commercial properties, but may be used for program design and capacity building .		