



## 2023 SUMMARY

The Community Resilience Partnership (the Partnership) provides grants and technical assistance to Maine communities to help them identify and address local priorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, transition to clean energy, and become more resilient to climate effects such as extreme storms, flooding, rising sea levels, and threats to public health.

A recommendation of Maine’s climate action plan, *Maine Won’t Wait*, the Partnership was launched by Governor Janet Mills in December 2021 with an initial goal of assisting 100 communities in its first year. To date, 174 communities are now participating in the Partnership, and the program has awarded \$6.1 million in grants for 103 climate resilience and clean energy initiatives in communities across the state.

In 2023, the Legislature through the biennial budget authorized \$3 million annually for the Partnership to enable grants to enrolled communities and to service providers, who help communities identify local climate and energy priorities and join the Partnership.

This past year, the Partnership received 74 grant proposals totaling \$3.8 million, with \$2.75 million ultimately awarded for 53 direct grants to communities. In addition, 8 service providers received grants to work with an additional 25 communities, for a total of 78 communities receiving support this year. Thirty-five percent of communities supported by the Partnership this year are considered to have high social vulnerability, an indicator of elevated risk to their residents from climate effects. With increased opportunities for federal climate and energy funding available, state programs, such the Community Resilience Partnership, are now even more critical to help communities in Maine leverage federal dollars to address climate impacts.

### 2023 SNAPSHOT

**174 participating communities**  
Increased by 56 communities since 2022

**\$2.75 million in grants awarded**  
78 communities supported

**35% of funds were awarded to communities designated as having high social vulnerability**

### 2023 COMMUNITY ACTION GRANT RECIPIENTS

|                 |  |                  |
|-----------------|--|------------------|
| Abbot           | Howland                                | Portland         |
| Bath            | Long Island                            | Rangeley         |
| Berwick         | Mariaville                             | Rockland         |
| Bowdoinham      | Mount Desert                           | Sedgwick         |
| Bridgton        | North Haven                            | Skowhegan        |
| Camden          | Northport                              | South Portland   |
| Casco           | Norway                                 | South Thomaston  |
| Cranberry Isles | Ogunquit                               | Southwest Harbor |
| Danforth        | Old Orchard Beach                      | Standish         |
| Eliot           | Otisfield                              | Stonington       |
| Ellsworth       | Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township | Sumner           |
| Enfield         | Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point  | Topsham          |
| Eustis          | Penobscot Nation                       | Tremont          |
| Freedom         | Phillips                               | Vassalboro       |
| Fryeburg        | Phippsburg                             | Vinalhaven       |
| Garland         | Hartford                               | Westport Island  |
| Gorham          |  | Wilton           |
| Hallowell       |  | York             |
| Harpwell        |  |                  |
| Hartford        |  |                  |

### 2023 COMMUNITIES SUPPORTED BY SERVICE PROVIDER GRANTS

|              |                      |            |
|--------------|----------------------|------------|
| Alna         | Frenchboro           | Stoneham   |
| Avon         | Hanover              | Strong     |
| Beals        | Isle au Haut         | Vanceboro  |
| Brooks       | Manchester           | Vienna     |
| Buckfield    | Matinicus Plantation | Wales      |
| China        | Minot                | West Paris |
| Clinton      | Montville            | Winslow    |
| Cutler       | Mount Vernon         | Winthrop   |
| Damariscotta |                      |            |



### SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES

- \$1,648,234 awarded in 2023 grants to communities with fewer than 4,000 residents
- To date, \$3,430,673 has been awarded to communities with fewer than 4,000 residents

### PROTECTING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- \$835,116 awarded in 2023 grants to communities with high social vulnerability
- To date, \$1,593,406 has been awarded to communities with high social vulnerability

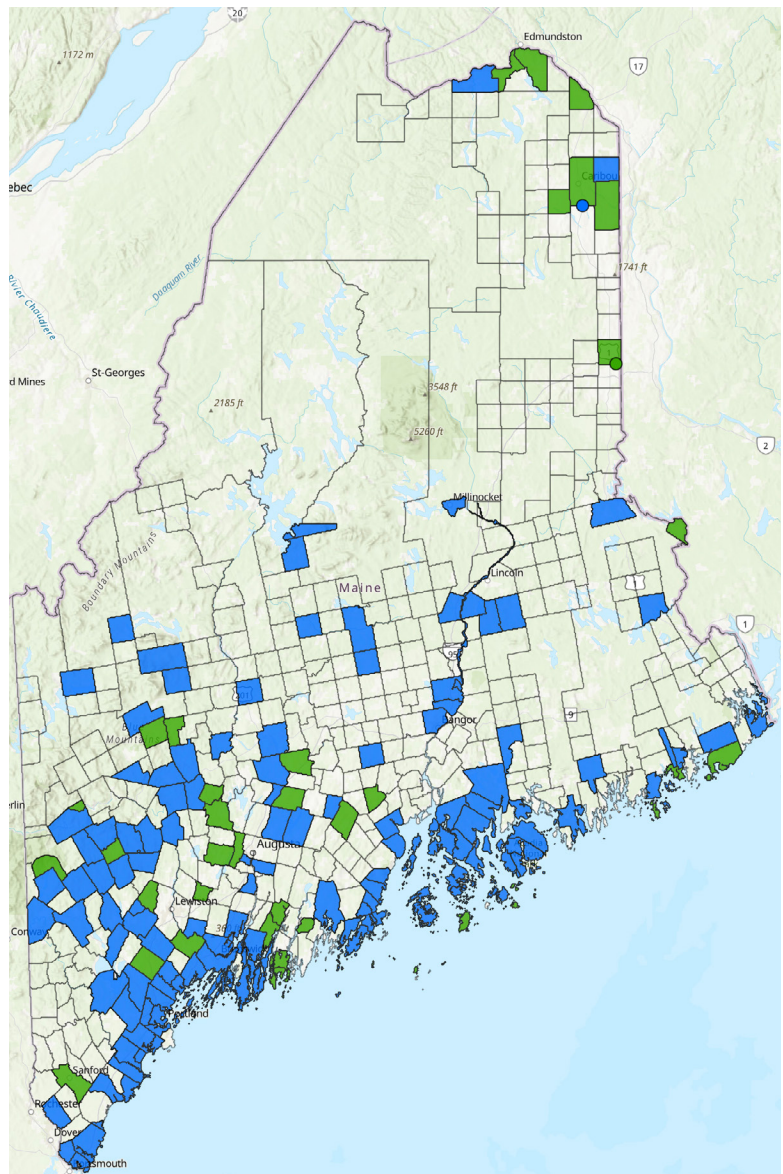
# COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPATION (DECEMBER 2023)

-  Direct Community Partner
-  Service Provider Partner Community

30% of Partner communities rank high on the social vulnerability index and 64% have populations less than 4,000.

## Top requested/funded activities

- Resilience planning and vulnerability assessments
- Upgrade to LED lighting
- Install heat pumps
- Energy efficiency plans for buildings
- Energy/Greenhouse gas emissions baselines and tracking
- Engaging vulnerable groups, outreach
- Install solar or enter solar power purchase agreement
- Transportation planning/bike-ped infrastructure
- Drinking water protection/stormwater management



## PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPATION BY-THE-NUMBERS

**174: TOTAL COMMUNITIES**

**136: Communities Fully Enrolled**

**38: Communities Working with Service Providers To Enroll**



## TWO TYPES OF GRANT PROGRAMS

**Community Action Grants** offer direct financial support to local projects that reduce energy use and costs and make communities more resilient to climate change effects. Eligible communities may request up to \$50,000 for individual projects, or \$125,000 for joint community projects. To be eligible for Community Action Grants, communities must enroll in the Community Resilience Partnership. The enrollment process is designed to help communities assess current activities, set priorities based on resident input, and determine what action(s) to apply for grant funds to complete.

**Service Provider Grants** support regional organizations to recruit groups of two to five communities and assist them in enrolling in the Community Resilience Partnership and apply for their first Community Action Grant. Eligible service providers can request up to \$10,000 per community in their proposed group, plus an additional \$2,500 for each community with high social vulnerability or population smaller than 4,000.

### SUMMER 2023 ROUND

#### COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS

49 grants supporting 53 communities

TOTAL AWARDED: \$2,407,715.20

#### SERVICE PROVIDER GRANTS

8 service provider organizations  
supporting 25 communities

TOTAL AWARDED: \$298,805

### ALL GRANTS 2022-2023

#### COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS

123 grants supporting 103 communities

TOTAL AWARDED: \$6.1 million

#### SERVICE PROVIDER GRANTS

21 service provider organizations  
supporting 108 communities

TOTAL AWARDED: \$1.2 million



## GRANT FUNDS IN ACTION

**LAMOINE** The Town of Lamoine received a \$50,000 Community Action Grant from the Community Resilience Partnership to install a solar array on its sand/salt shed and install heat pumps in the Town Hall, Fire Station, and Consolidated School. The Town's volunteer Conservation Commission led the work to implement the projects. During the process, they learned that it would be possible to install two solar arrays under the same power purchase agreement, and decided to take advantage of that opportunity, installing arrays on the school and sand/salt shed. The combined arrays are estimated to generate 159,000 kWh of renewable energy annually. In addition, 26 heat pumps were installed in their Town Hall, Fire Station, and School; these are anticipated to replace the majority of the Town's fossil fuel use for heating. Combined with Efficiency Maine Trust rebates, the total cost for the heat pumps was less than anticipated. Lamoine Select Board Chair and Conservation Commission Chair Larissa Thomas reported that the grant will pay huge dividends to Town residents over the years.

*"The Community Action Grant has been a win-win for Lamoine. The town will spend a lot less on heating and cooling, which is good news for taxpayers, and we will be well on the way to achieving a green energy transition for Town facilities. I hope it inspires the people of Lamoine to invest in efficient heat pumps and solar power for their own homes."*

The Town has found that during the summer, their electricity bills were lower than prior years due to the increased efficiency of heat pumps over older cooling equipment. In addition, the school was able to stay open to students during the heat wave at the beginning of the school year by utilizing the heat pumps for more effective cooling, showing that these updates not only improved energy efficiency, but also the Town's resilience and ability to support its youth and residents.



## CONNECT WITH THE PARTNERSHIP!

Are you wondering how to get started in the Community Resilience Partnership?  
Are you looking for the Regional Coordinator for your community?

**Follow these links!**

[Learn the benefits of participating in the Partnership and how to join](#)

[See maps of grant-funded projects and communities](#)

[Find your community's Regional Coordinator](#)

[View Maine's Social Vulnerability Index](#)

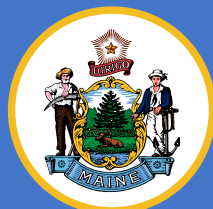
## STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

[Read our Frequently Asked Questions](#)

### Contact:

Ashley Krulik, Community Resilience Partnership Program Manager  
Governor's Office of Policy Innovation & the Future  
ashley.krulik@maine.gov

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and the Future



[maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership](https://maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership)