

Energy Efficiency Priorities Grant

Ashley Krulik

*Community Resilience Partnership Program
Manager*

Brian Ambrette

Senior Climate Resilience Coordinator



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
**Policy Innovation
and the Future**

January 4, 2024

*RFA202312241 Energy Efficiency Priorities Grant
Informational Webinar*

Today's Agenda

1. Energy Efficiency Priorities Grant overview
 - Eligibility and eligible activities
 - Deadlines and process
 - Federal compliance and reporting
2. Enrolling in the Partnership
3. If my community is not eligible
4. Application Tips
5. Questions

Informational Webinars

GOPIF is hosting three webinars about the Partnership's current grant opportunities. All webinars will be recorded and posted to the Partnership website for replay.

January 4, 10:00am - **Service Provider Grant** Informational Webinar

January 4, 11:00am - **Community Action Grant** Informational Webinar

January 4, 1:30pm - **Energy Efficiency Priorities Grant** Informational Webinar

Recordings accessible at: www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership

Energy Efficiency Priorities Grant (EEPG)

\$1 million, one-time grant offering through the Community Resilience Partnership to distribute federal funds to disadvantaged communities for projects that improve energy efficiency and implement clean energy systems.

- Anticipating **10 awards of approximately \$100,000 each** to eligible communities through a competitive Request for Applications (RFA) process.
- **Contract Terms:** Either one (1) or two (2) years, specified by the applicant's proposal.
- There is no local cost-share (match) requirement. Grant may not be used as match for other federal funds

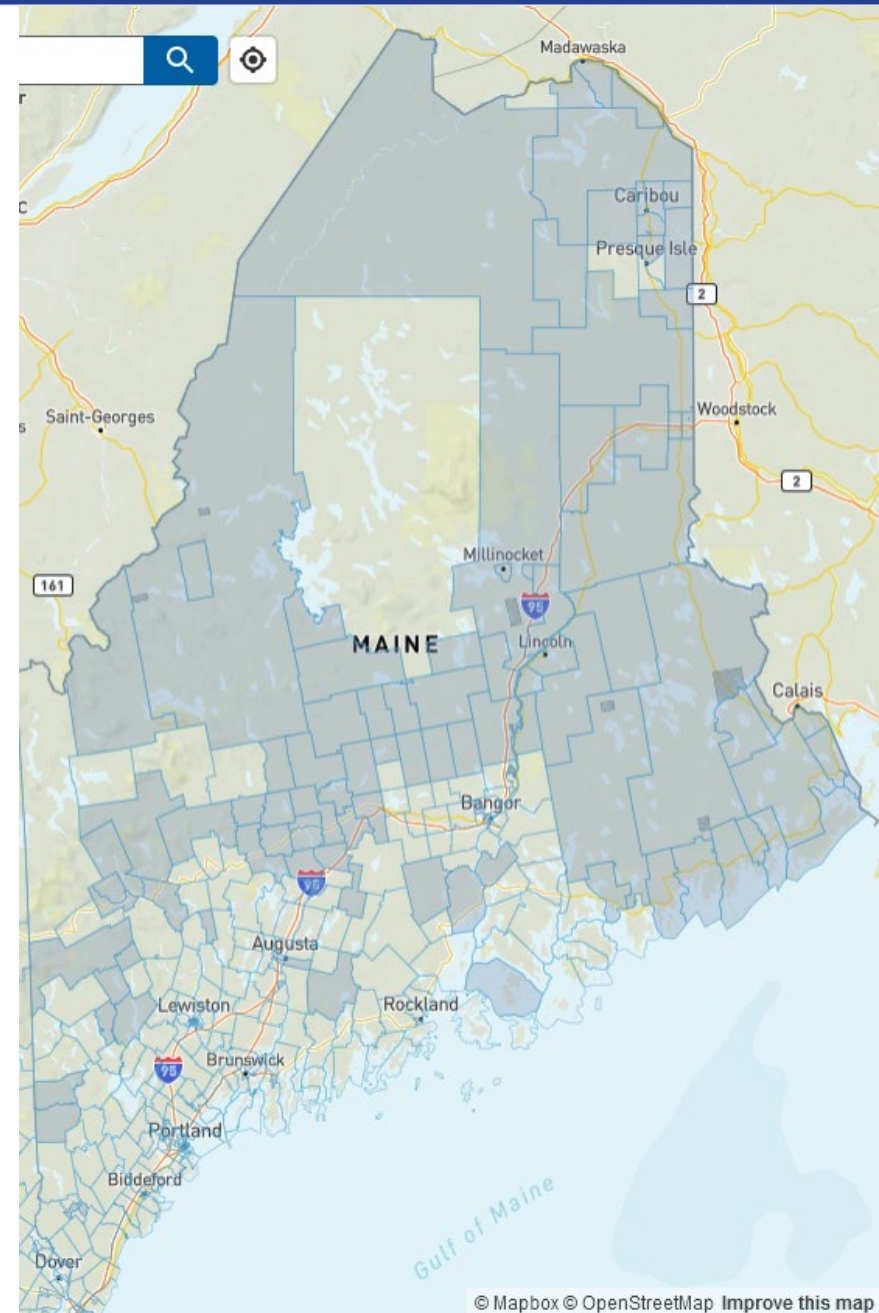
Application Eligibility

To be eligible for the Energy Efficiency Priorities Grant, a community must be BOTH:

- enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership,
AND
- contain a census tract designated as Disadvantaged by the US EPA's [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#).

See RFA Appendix A for a list of eligible municipalities and unorganized territories.

- County and Tribal governments, and the ten (10) largest Maine municipalities are not eligible for EEPG but can apply to the U.S. Department of Energy for their EECBG federal direct allocations by April 30, 2024.



Eligible Activities

- Energy conservation and energy efficiency retrofits to existing, publicly owned buildings
 - Heat pumps, weatherization, LED lighting upgrades
- Transportation electrification – electric vehicles, EV charging
- Clean energy and distributed energy systems – solar, battery storage
- Public engagement and Administrative activities
 - Includes tracking energy or fuel conservation and retaining cost savings for future reinvestment
- Ancillary Equipment and Limitations
- New construction is not eligible

Applying to the Energy Efficiency Priorities Grant RFA

- **Application deadline: February 16, 2024**
- All questions must be submitted by email to Ashley.Krulik@maine.gov with subject line “RFA#202312241 Questions” no later than January 12, 2024.
 - Responses will be compiled and posted on the Division of Procurement Services Grant RFPs and RFAs website by January 19, 2024.
- RFA available at: <https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/grants>
 - RFA contains the required application form.
 - Application form and any letters of support must be submitted as a package via the instructions in the RFA
- Award notifications anticipated approximately in early April

Federal Policy Compliance

- **Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act** – domestic procurement of materials
 - <https://www.energy.gov/management/build-america-buy-america>
- **Davis-Bacon Act** – prevailing wages
 - <https://www.energy.gov/scep/wap/articles/davis-bacon-101-overview-davis-bacon-act>
- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** – Any activities that cause ground disturbance may require a NEPA review.
- **Floodplains and wetlands** – Projects may not be sited within the 100-year floodplain or in a wetland.
- **National Historic Preservation Act**

Reporting

Awardees will be required to report regularly on compliance with grant terms and federal laws. GOPIF intends to provide training and “helpdesk” support to assist awardees with the following requirements:

- Grant performance reports and invoices to the State of Maine (quarterly and final)
- Buy America, Build America
- Davis-Bacon Act wage reporting (weekly while work is in progress, and semi-annually)
- NEPA reporting logs on ground disturbance, if applicable (quarterly)
- Historic Preservation, if applicable (annually)

Community Engagement

Approach to Community Engagement

- Applicants should describe actions that will be taken to include a diverse group of community stakeholders in the project during the grant period, including disadvantaged and more vulnerable community members.
 - This could include educational outreach around the community benefits of the project and *why* its important to be taking these action(s).

Community Benefits

Consideration of Equity

- Maine's climate response must ensure shared benefits across diverse populations of Maine people.
 - *Who in your community should participate in this project and/or benefit from it?*
- Applicants should consider the potential benefits of their proposed projects and, if applicable, describe how the project distributes those benefits equitably.

Reinvestment of Cost Savings

- Applicants should describe how the expected energy cost savings from this project will be captured so it can be redeployed for further community benefit

Enrolling in the Partnership

1. **Pass a municipal resolution or obtain a letter from a tribal chief or UT supervisor committing to participate**
 - Model language provided
2. **Complete two self-assessments**
 - List of Community Actions – completed actions
 - Community Resilience Self-evaluation
3. **Hold a community workshop and set priority action items**
4. **Submit enrollment materials through the online form**

Rolling enrollment – no deadlines.

Need help? Service Provider Grants are available.

Community Resilience Partnership Program Contact: Brian Ambrette
brian.ambrette@maine.gov

[Community Resilience Partnership | Office of Policy Innovation & Future \(maine.gov\)](#)

Community Resilience Self-Evaluation

Instructions: This tool is intended to help organize your community's approach to increasing resilience to natural hazards and climate change impacts. Answer the questions to the best of your knowledge and seek information from your colleagues in municipal and county government and organizations in your community. Provide any relevant information in the explanation field. If it is difficult to give a clear yes or no response to a question, use the explanation field to explain why. **There are no wrong answers and the responses here will not affect your community's eligibility to receive grants.** Where the response to a question is no, that may in

Community Resilience Partnership		
List of Community Actions		
Revised April 2023		
Community name:	See Instructions on Introduction tab below.	
Self-Evaluation response: Please include contact in		
Date:	✓ Strategy Areas & Actions (mark Column A as complete, in progress, future priority, etc.)	Additional Resources (\$=funding source)
Was this evaluation disc community workshop? of the workshop.	Strategy Area A: Embrace the Future of Transportation	
	Accelerate the Transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs)	
Once the questions on th steps for your community:	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.	
What are two things you doing well?	A1	Purchase or lease electric vehicles for municipal or tribal government-owned vehicle fleets. Efficiency Maine: Municipal EV rebates (\$)
What are two areas that improved in the short-te	A2	Install EV chargers in public parking areas. Efficiency Maine: EV supply equipment initiative (\$)
What is important for yo to address in the long-te	A3	Adopt ordinances to encourage EV charging infrastructure, including at multifamily dwellings, businesses, and public parking areas. Municipal Electric Vehicle Readiness Toolkit (Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission)
	A4	Adopt an anti-idling ordinance. Example: Bar Harbor Municipal Code
	Improve Mobility and Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)	
What specific 3 to 5 acti priorities for your comm	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).

Revised December 1, 2021

If My Community is Not Eligible

- Contact your Regional Coordinator
- Other Grant Opportunities:
 - Community Action Grant – Fall/Winter 2024
 - [EPA Clean School Bus](#)
 - Applications due January 31, 2024
 - [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant](#)
 - 10 largest towns in Maine, applications due April 30, 2024

Regional Coordinators

Region 1 York, Cumberland, Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox and southern Oxford counties

Region 1 Coordination Collaborative (R1CC)
Gabe McPhail - gabe@rcmaine.org

Region 2 Waldo, Hancock, and Washington counties

Sunrise County Economic Council
Tanya Rucosky - trucosky@sunrisecounty.org

Region 3 Androscoggin, Oxford, Kennebec, Franklin, and Somerset counties

Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments
Zach Gosselin- zgosselin@avcog.org

Region 4 Piscataquis, Aroostook, and Penobscot counties

Eastern Maine Development Corporation
Laurie Osher - loser@emdc.org



Tips for a Strong Application

- Applicants are encouraged to combine multiple technologies in a proposal, for example:
 - Solar array + battery storage
 - Electric vehicles + EV charging infrastructure
 - Building weatherization + heat pumps + interior LED lighting
- Clearly defined project tasks, deliverables, outcomes, roles and responsibilities, and timeline
- Community engagement throughout the duration of the project
- Description of how project will benefit the community, especially disadvantaged community members
- Accurate budget that includes vendor estimates and Efficiency Maine incentives
 - Take advantage of the federal “Direct Pay” tax credit, if applicable

Tips for Talking with Your Vendor

- Does your vendor have experience complying with the following federal requirements?
 - Davis Bacon Act – Fair Wages
 - Build America Buy America – Domestic Procurement Preference
 - Historic Preservation requirements

Website and Contact

www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership

- Joining the Partnership
- Links to the grant applications
- Frequently Asked Questions

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ashley.krulik@maine.gov

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brian.ambrette@maine.gov

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Community Resilience Partnership

Working to help Maine communities reduce emissions and prepare for the effects of climate change.

Through grants and direct support to municipal and tribal governments and unorganized territories, the Community Resilience Partnership assists communities to reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy, and become more resilient to climate change effects such as to extreme weather, flooding, rising sea levels, public health impacts, and more.

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES

Communities in Maine can join the Partnership individually, or through a regional group, after completing three simple steps.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Grants are available for communities to pursue climate action and for regional service providers to assist groups of communities to join the Partnership.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For more about community resilience and details of the Partnership, please visit our FAQs.

Community Resilience Partnership - Summer/Fall applications now open

Questions

Please put questions into the chat

Thank You

www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership

