

State Planning Office – Maine Coastal Program

Program Goals & Responsibilities

The Coastal Program works across multiple state agencies to balance the development and conservation of the State's coastal resources

Funding Source: The Coastal Program is one of 34 approved programs under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act¹ (CZMA.) The program is federally funded by the Department of Commerce (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/Office of Coastal Resource Management) and matched with state resources.

Program Element: Maine's Coastal Zone Management Program retains its exemplary rating as an approved federal program; maintains and increases significant sources of federal funding that benefit state and local programs; and retains and exercises federal consistency authority².

Element Goal: Maine's designated lead agency for CZM (with authority to represent a variety of state agencies as required by federal guidelines; now SPO) successfully coordinates an interagency networked program that achieves shared state, federal and local priority goals.

Element Objectives:

- Accurately convey Maine's coastal priorities in regional and national forums; influencing policies, legislation, requirements, programs and plans, e.g. new National Coastal and Ocean Policy³.
- Convene state agencies and deploy an interdisciplinary skill set to solve the states most pressing coastal challenges.
- Assure that federal projects and permitted activities are consistent with Maine's coastal enforceable policies and federal efforts in the coastal zone deliver maximum benefits to Maine, e.g. federal dredging of federal navigation channels in state waters.

Program Element: Modernizing, improving and streamlining the state's approach to coastal management per Administration's policy direction.

Element Goal: Maine's Coastal Plan⁴ prepared under Section 309 of the Coastal Zone Management Act, accurately assesses trends and priorities for Maine, addresses national and local goals; and annual workplans achieve state priorities for coastal conservation and coastal economic vitality.

Example Element Objectives (note: these are sample objectives, subject to change to reflect current state priorities):

- Assess and foster recommended changes to existing coastal policies and programs to ensure their relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and understandability (via special studies, scientific analyses, task forces and working groups, legislation, public involvement.) Jumpstart new non-regulatory approaches to coastal conservation and coastal development in specific geographic areas of the state.
- Streamline state and federal policies and permitting for ocean energy development; foster economic development that benefits Maine, while protecting fishing, natural resources and other current uses of state-owned submerged lands.

Program Element: Technical and Financial Assistance to Municipal Elected Officials, Regions and other Coastal Decision-makers.

Element Goal: Recognizing that coastal resource and economic stability is affected largely by local actions, ensure that municipal elected officials, regional councils and other coastal decision-makers have the tools, models/guidance and resources needed to retain and grow their coastal and marine-related economic sectors while sustaining the coastal resources upon which they depend. Maintain the federal, state and local cooperative partnership as required by the national Coastal Zone Management Act.

Example Element Objectives:

- Develop scientifically valid assessment methods and model strategies for Maine coastal municipalities to address priority needs. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - Helping towns adapt to increased frequency and severity of coastal storms; decrease state, local and private costs for current and future infrastructure repairs; help local businesses to bounce back after such events and anticipate future trends.
 - Develop alternative approaches for towns to conserve working waterfronts for shoreline-dependent users.
- Provide grant programs for regions and towns (for example, but not limited to, Shore and Harbor Planning; Shoreline Right of Way Discovery, Regional Challenge Grants.)

¹ Coastal zone management is integrated management of multiple priorities that cross line agency and policy agency functions (including but not limited to public access to the coast, shore and harbor planning, ocean development, land use planning, policy and legislation, state permitting of development proposals.)

² Per the federal consistency provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Act, federal actions, permits and funding in the Maine coastal zone (all towns containing tidal waters) must be consistent with Maine's laws and rules. See http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode16/uscode16 USC sec 16_00001456---000.html

³ The National Ocean Policy, adopted by Presidential Executive Order in July 2010, has potential to affect a wide variety of Maine's coastal activities and programs in both positive and negative ways.

⁴ Available at http://www.maine.gov/spo/coastal/downloads/coastalplans/mcp309plan_may2011.pdf

State Planning Office - Waste Management & Recycling Program

Program Goals & Responsibilities

The Waste Management and Recycling Program have three major areas of responsibility: Planning; Technical and Financial Assistance to Municipalities; and Solid Waste Disposal Facility Development. Funding is through the Solid Waste Management Fund, a Special Revenue Account.

Program Element: Planning

Element Goal: Ensure that Maine has sufficient environmentally beneficial and economically viable recycling and composting opportunities, as well as sufficient and environmentally sound solid waste disposal capacity.

Element Objectives:

- Perform necessary data collection to gauge level of recycling within the state
- Monitor solid waste generation and disposal capacity data to establish capacity needs
- Manage the review of solid waste and recycling policies
- Recommend revisions to the state's 50% recycling goal, if appropriate
- Promote the concept and implementation of waste reduction and related efforts

Program Element: Technical & Financial Assistance to Municipalities

Element Goal: Furnish municipal decision makers with information and technical and financial assistance to aid them in managing their solid waste in an environmentally beneficial and cost effective manner. The solid waste management hierarchy serves as a guide in the development and providing of this assistance.

Element Objectives:

- Assist communities and regions with establishing and/or expanding recycling and composting programs
- Serve as a resource to communities, organizations and programs by providing information on waste reduction, recycling, composting and related solid waste management issues
- Develop programs to aid communities in evaluating various solid waste management options, including Universal Wastes, mercury added products and household hazardous wastes
- Encourage communities to work together to achieve regional economies of scale with various solid waste management programs and activities
- Assist the business community to develop and adopt programs and services that are designed to promote the solid waste hierarchy, as resources allow
- Provide appropriate pilot project funding to assist with evaluating options or implementation of strategies
- Assist municipal programs with developing and expanding relationships with end-users and markets

Program Element: Solid Waste Disposal Facility Development

Element Goal: Plan for the development of state-owned facility (ies) sufficient to meet disposal needs for municipal solid waste generated within Maine, as identified in the state plan; and, also for development of facilities for special wastes identified in the state plan. Assist in development of regional disposal facilities.

Element Objective:

- Site, own, design and permit solid waste disposal facility(ies) in accordance with the needs and process identified in the state plan and any revisions to that plan.

Element Strategies:

- Monitor Juniper Ridge Landfill's activities, as described in Operating Services Agreement
- Maintain permit and license for the Carpenter Ridge landfill site/facility
- Recommend construction and operation of this facility at the appropriate time, as conditions and situations demand

State Planning Office – Land for Maine’s Future

Program Goals & Responsibilities

The Land for Maine’s Future program seeks to conserve lands that have exceptional recreational or ecological values, along with working lands for farms, forests, tourism, and working waterfronts that are the foundation for Maine’s natural resource-based economy.

Program Element: Administer the Land for Maine’s Future Fund

Element Goal: Ensure that state funds secure traditional public access to Maine’s lands and waters and maintain the quality and availability of natural and working lands important to the economy and heritage of Maine people.

Tasks:

- Support the Land for Maine’s Future Board and its working committees
- Answer inquiries from prospective project applicants and assist applicants with LMF proposal application
- Staff the board’s selection process for new proposals
- Track and manage \$10-20 million in past and present bond funds by fund and by project, LMF project match, and federal coastal match
- Track closings and make projections of bond proceed needs
- Administer Sears Island consent decree funds, Katahdin Lake funds, and others as directed by the legislature
- Prepare biennial report to the Legislature

Program Element: Manage LMF projects through acquisition

Element Goal: Protect the state’s interests in its LMF-acquired lands and easements.

Tasks:

- Annually manage a portfolio of 50-80 pending LMF parcels to ensure that due diligence steps are completed
- Ensure land appraisals reflect fair market value
- Work with applicants to ensure appropriate easement conditions, required public access, clear title and boundary, identify environmental hazards, identify archaeological values, appropriate local approvals
- Monitor project agreements annually
- Administer Sears Island consent decree acquisitions for compliance with court order

Program Element: Policy Development

Element Goal: Ensure the Governor’s Office and Legislature have the information they need to make sound policy decisions for the state of Maine.

Tasks:

- Monitor trends in land conservation, prepare analyses and recommendations, develop policy options
- Respond to legislative inquiries, testify on legislation, prepare legislative reports as directed
- Maintain conservation lands database and state easement registry
- Prepare Government Evaluation Act report (due: 2015)

State Planning Office – Economics and Demographics Team

Goals & Responsibilities

The Economics and Demographics Team conducts ongoing analysis of Maine's economy to inform planning and policy decisions made throughout the state. The team assists the Governor, Legislature, and other state agencies in monitoring the Maine economy, formulating and evaluating economic initiatives, analyzing policy alternatives, and pursuing sustainable economic growth.

Objective: Providing access to and interpretation of economic and demographic data

- The State Economist currently serves as the Governor's Liaison to the U.S. Census Bureau and the team coordinates and leads the Maine State Data Center through a partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau.
- The team maintains the <http://econ.maine.gov> data access tool, which includes economic and demographic data from a variety of sources. This tool provides easy access to a set of data used in the comprehensive planning process as well as access to retail sales data from Maine Revenue Services.
- Team members provide technical assistance with and respond to requests for economic and demographic data from the Governor, Legislature, other state agencies, Maine State Data Center affiliates, media, businesses, and the general public.

Objective: Forecasting economic and demographic changes

- The team provides staff support for the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission, which determines the official economic forecast for the state. The State Economist sits on the Revenue Forecasting Committee, which sets the State's biennial revenue forecast.
- The team produces state, county, and town population projections and assists with the creation of school enrollment projections.

Objective: Monitoring the economy and economic initiatives

- By statute, the team is responsible for two annual reports: the report on poverty and the report on the growth of state and local government finances (PL 2005, Chapter 2).
- The State Economist is managing the Broadband Capacity Building Project, which is a four-year, federally-funded \$777,000 grant* dedicated to expanding the capacity and adoption of broadband in the state in ways that will take advantage of broadband's economic potential for Maine.

Objective: Modeling and analyzing policy alternatives

- The team has economic modeling capabilities for policy analysis and forecasting with the REMI model and Moody's Analytics.
- The team conducts economic impact analysis for the Governor, Legislature, and other state agencies using RIMS II.
- The State Economist issues advisory opinions on Pine Tree Zone benefit designation and the tangible benefits of wind power developments.
- A member of the team serves as an ex-officio member on the Maine Technology Institute Board.

**With the exception of the Broadband Capacity Building Project, which is funded through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, all economics and demographics team activities are funded using General Fund monies.*

State Planning Office – Code Enforcement Officer Training and Certification Program

Program Goals & Responsibilities

The CEO Program is assigned two major areas of responsibility: Training and Certification for Code Enforcement Officers

Program Element: Training

Element Goal: Provide a program of professional training to prepare individuals to work as municipal code officials and/or Third Party Inspectors

Element Objectives:

- In accordance with MRSA 30-A §4451, coordinate basic training in 13 subject areas at least one time a year in multiple locations statewide
- Partner or contract with trainers including: state employees, community colleges, lawyers, and experienced CEOs
- Maintain a database which tracks contact hours that CEOs earn by attending training
- Develop training publications and ensure that they are kept current

Program Element: Certification

Element Goal: Conduct examinations for state certification in the areas of land use, shoreland zoning, internal plumbing, external plumbing, building standards, and legal issues

Element Objectives:

- Proctor and grade examinations in all 13 subject areas at least quarterly statewide
- Ensure all exams are up to date as specific codes and rules change
- Issue certificates upon initial and recertification
- Make sure municipally appointed officials are compliant with MRSA 30-A §4451

Program Staff

One vacant staff position is created by Title 25 §2372 and is funded by special revenue funds along with federal funds (ARRA) that expire in April 2012.

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**State Planning Office – Floodplain Management Program
Community Assistance and Flood Mapping Coordination
Program Goals & Responsibilities**

The goal of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is to reduce the risk of flooding to life and property. Nearly 90% of Maine's floodplain mapping is either invalid or of unknown determination. The mission of the state floodplain mapping program (Program Element III, below) is to bring all floodplain mapping into compliance with current national standards. The Program is funded by a 75% federal share and 25% state match.

Program Overview: The Maine Floodplain Management Program (MFMP) undertakes specific activities as determined by the Community Assistance Program/State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE) grant under an annual work agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Program Element: Technical Assistance to Municipalities and LURC (Unorganized Territories)

Element Goal: To ensure that communities have the tools they need to adequately administer and enforce NFIP requirements so that federal flood insurance can be purchased within each participating community.

Element Objectives:

- Community monitoring through Community Assistance Contacts and Community Assistance Visits.
- Entry assistance to help communities join the NFIP.
- Provide model ordinances and assist with local adoption.
- Review municipal ordinances for compliance with the NFIP and state standards.
- Assist with questions relating to flood mapping, flood insurance, or local floodplain management permitting as it relates to specific projects.

Program Element: NFIP Education and Outreach

Element Goal: To educate various professional groups and homeowners about the requirements and benefits of the NFIP, through tailored workshops, presentations, and meetings

Element Objectives:

- Provide annual training workshops for local code enforcement officials.
- Provide flood insurance agent training.
- Speak to professional groups such as the Maine Society of Land Surveyors.
- Outreach to municipalities and citizens in counties that are undergoing new flood mapping.
- Collaborative meetings with other state agency programs.
- Attend local planning board meetings, public hearings, or other local meetings as requested.

Program Element: Floodplain Mapping and Outreach

Element Goal: Leverage state engineering, GIS services and funding to secure Federal grants that will be used to develop accurate floodplain mapping to support the National Flood Insurance Program, regulatory and hazard mitigation efforts. This work is in support of the two prior Program Elements.

Element Objectives:

- Facilitate necessary data collection to determine community mapping needs.
- Coordinate federal, state and local data acquisition and mapping efforts.
- Provide recommendations to FEMA for mapping needs in Maine.
- Assist FEMA and its contractors in providing outreach and assistance to Maine communities during the mapping process.

Work with state local and federal agencies to leverage additional funding in support of floodplain mapping.

State Planning Office – Land Use Planning

Program Goals & Responsibilities

The Land Use Planning Team has several areas of responsibility: Implementation of the ‘Growth Management Act’, Technical and Financial Assistance to Municipalities and Regional Organizations; Policy Development

Program Element: Implementation of the ‘Growth Management Act’

Element Goal:

State, regional, and local actions work in concert to support economic development and preservation of community character.

Element Objectives:

- Support both economic development and preservation of community character through implementation of the Planning and Land Use Regulation Act; MRSA 30-A, Subpart 6-A, Chapter 187 (known more frequently as the ‘Growth Management Act’)
- Coordinate with other agencies to insure state investment is efficient, strategic, effective and supported by local policies
- Ensure rules for comprehensive plans are reasonable, effective, and practical
- Review comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, and subdivision ordinances for consistency in accordance with statutory mandates
- Partner with state agencies to leverage efforts and provide increased levels of service to municipalities
- Promote and support regional planning and regional planning organizations

Program Element: Technical & Financial Assistance to Municipalities and Regional Planning Organizations

Element Goal: Municipal and regional decision makers have the information and resources they need to increase economic vitality and preserve community character.

Element Objectives:

- Provide high quality information and assistance to municipal and regional decision makers on effective land use strategies and implementation techniques
- Encourage communities to work together to achieve regional economies of scale and leverage regional assets for economic growth and protection of significant state resources
- Provide funding as budgets allow to enable municipalities and regions to develop and implement plans that support economic growth, preservation of community character, traditional Maine values, and position Maine for future prosperity

Program Element: Policy Development

Element Goal: The Governor’s Office and Legislature have the information they need to make sound policy decisions for the State of Maine.

Element Objectives:

- Provide high quality information on land use issues and the interaction between land use, economic development and community character
- Develop requested reports and policy options based on thorough research and analysis

How the Program is Funded

- Three and ½ FTE senior planners are federally funded through the Maine Coastal Program
- The program manager is funded through the state general fund

The Maine Commission for Community Service

The Maine Commission for Community Service (MCCS) is authorized under 5MRS c. 373, §7501 et seq. The statute directs MCCS to foster volunteer and community service that addresses critical human, educational, environmental, and public safety issues. MCCS is assigned 14 duties that are derived partially from responsibilities outlined in federal statute (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.) as conditions for receiving National Service funds. These are summarized below. The commission's work is 90% funded by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service.

MCCS is a board of 25 citizens; 23 are appointed to staggered three-year terms by the Governor while two are ex-officio and specified in statute. The board is not advisory and directs the work of staff.

Summary of Work:

The Maine Commission for Community Service builds capacity and sustainability in Maine's volunteer and service communities by

- Ensuring national and community service funds engage volunteers in service targeting critical needs
 - ◆ Granting over \$1.3 million federal through AmeriCorps, Volunteer Generation, and Learn & Serve (collectively known as National Service) to public and nonprofit community organizations
 - ◆ Funding regional coordination and technical assistance for volunteer programs
 - ◆ Providing technical assistance and program development support to National Service grantees.
- Advancing service-learning as a K-12 instructional strategy that fosters student academic success
 - ◆ Fostering district wide service-learning implementation through grants
 - ◆ Providing training, resources, and technical assistance to school administrators and teachers
 - ◆ Educating community members, youth development policy makers, and leaders about service-learning as a teaching method that impacts three key educational issues.
- Developing volunteer managers
 - ◆ Providing educational and operational resources on Volunteermaine.org
 - ◆ Supporting volunteer manager training with Professional Development Fund awards
 - ◆ Educating employers and staff development leaders about the Competencies for Volunteer Managers
 - ◆ Conducting program operations training
 - ◆ Funding development of regional volunteer manager networks
 - ◆ Working with Maine colleges to ensure volunteer management courses are part of related management curricula
- Raising awareness of sector issues and impact
 - ◆ Monitoring service trends and educating the public on challenges, changes, and policy implications.
 - ◆ Tracking and publishing volunteer data for Maine
 - ◆ Coordinating sector research and developing white papers
 - ◆ Compiling and reporting National Service program accomplishments and outcomes
- Promoting service as a strategy
 - ◆ Developing roles for volunteers and opportunities for national service programs to impact emerging community problems
 - ◆ With MEMA, developing and maintaining systems through which volunteers effectively support emergency or disaster response and recovery
 - ◆ Engaging citizens in targeted days of service (9/11, Martin Luther King, Youth Day of Service) to demonstrate volunteer impact and model best practices.