

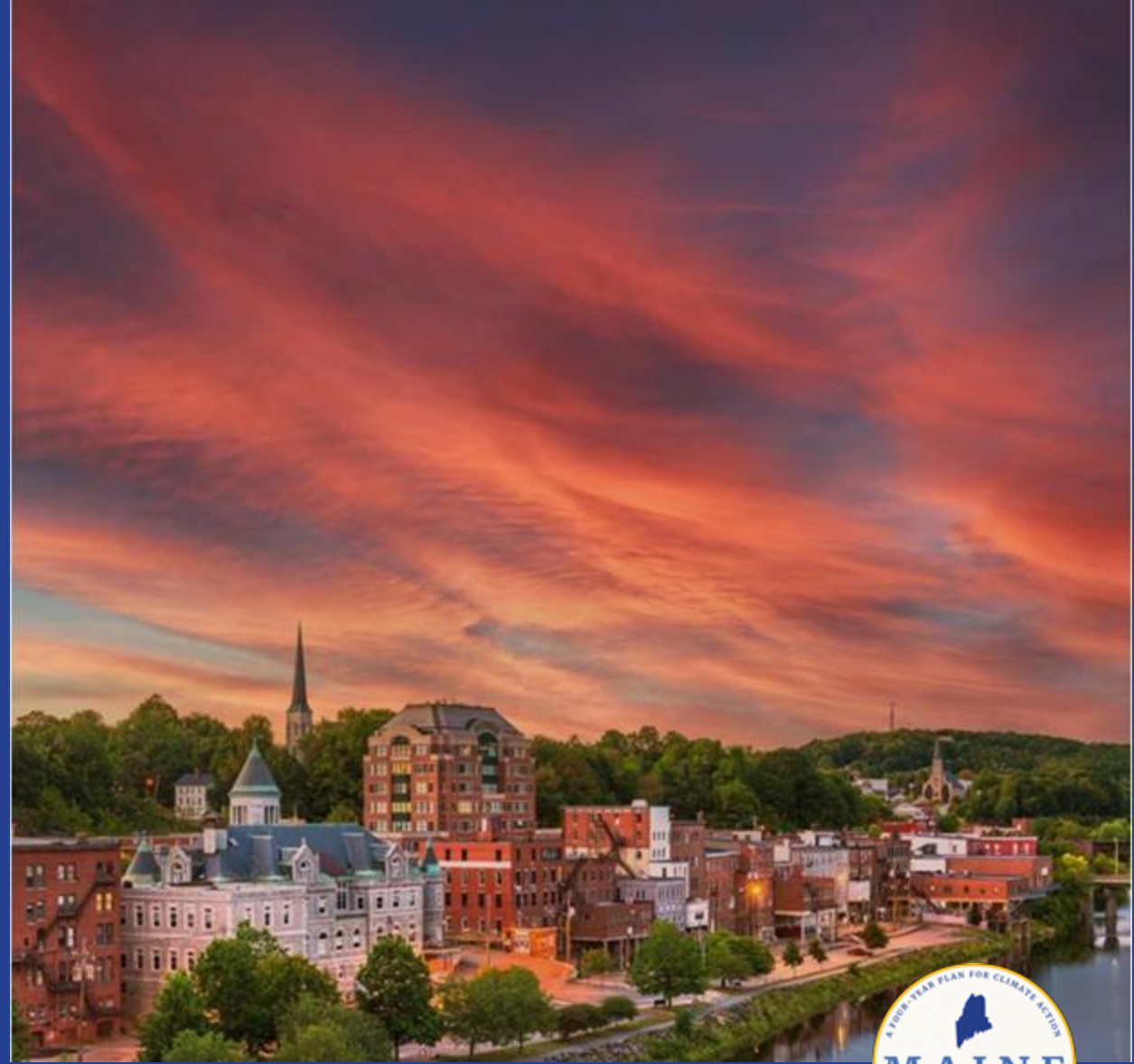
Maine Climate Council

Community Resilience Working Group

Co-Chairs:

- Judy East, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
- Rebecca Boulos, Maine Public Health Association
- Anne Fuchs, Maine Emergency Management Agency

Facilitator: Melanie Gárate, Consensus Building Institute



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
Policy Innovation
and the Future



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
Environmental Protection



April 26, 2024

Welcome

- If you are a working group member:
 - please rename yourselves and add *asterisk in front of your name
- If you are a member of the public and / or interested state staff
 - please rename yourselves to include “public participant”
- Everyone’s voices are valuable
 - We will take working group member comments / questions first
 - Public participants, please add your comments and questions to the chat and we will make time to get to them
- Fill out demographics form: <https://forms.gle/BbNp1aJsDqcSB8eV6>
 - Only have to fill out once – all participants can fill out



This meeting will be recorded.

Meeting Goals

Members discuss and provide feedback for draft recommendations:

- Funding & Finance subgroup
- Consolidated policy recommendations based on past subgroup work

Meeting Agenda

- 9:00 am Welcome
- 9:15 am Draft policy recommendations: Funding and Finance
- 10:00 am Full policy recommendations and actions - as drafted in the deliverable template
- 11:50 am Next steps
- 12:00 pm Adjourn

Guidance on feedback for draft policy recommendations

- Subworking group members will share their draft policy recommendations first
- Then, they will go back, to the top to solicit feedback from the group, recommendation, by recommendation
- Grab a pen and paper! This is a lot of information and we are always restricted by time - we suggest you take notes on items you want to give feedback on and share when we get into discussion.
- As always, please raise your hands and be concise on your feedback. Use the chat as needed.
- We will share out after meeting for further comment

Long-term Adaptation Funding and Financing

Draft Recommendations



MCC Community Resilience Working Group: **Funding & Financing Subgroup**

Draft Recommendations & Actions

April 26, 2024

Outline

- Current *Maine Won't Wait* Framework
- 2 New Recommendations/Actions
 - Ease and Improve Resilience Project Applications for Applicants and Reviewers
 - Accelerate Financing for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Projects and Resilient Infrastructure
- Consider New Strategy I for Investment
- Discussion Questions

Subgroup Members

Brian Ambrette, GOPIF

Anne Fuchs, MEMA

Parker Gassett, UMaine

Emily Rabbe, LCRPC

Nathan Robbins, DEP

Chloe Shields, NEEFC

Maine Won't Wait

Strategy F: Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

Strategy G: Invest in Climate-Ready Infrastructure

Funding & Financing Options *(not a formal strategy; unclear if language has the same weight as other components of the plan)*

Strategy F: Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

NEW Recommendation: Ease and Improve Resilience Project Applications for Applicants and Reviewers

Actions

- **Standardize forms** required from applicants which are currently distinct across different sources of state support.
- Request **consistent and obtainable applicant data** and demographic information (provide this data directly where applicable, e.g. social resilience scores).
- Pursue a **uniform application process** for climate resilience projects allowing communities to apply to multiple sources of funds and support with a single project application.
- Explore **alternatives to grant deadlines such as rolling applications** that can reduce missed opportunities for project support requests and decrease the burden of review processes.
- Establish initial mechanisms to **relay technical assistance needs identified in project applications to the available support** from multiple agencies, service centers, and partner organizations.

Strategy G: Invest in Climate-Ready Infrastructure

NEW Recommendation: Accelerate Financing for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Projects and Resilient Infrastructure

Actions

- Conduct a **feasibility study** to explore establishing a **state resilience bank or infrastructure bank** to ensure sustainable funding streams for climate resilience.
 - Assess existing **state financing mechanisms/institutions** and opportunities to leverage **private capital**.
 - Explore **capacity development and financial resources** available through the federal Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund's **National Clean Investment Fund** to expand state and local green banks.
 - Ensure any new state financing institution **prioritizes climate resilience in evaluation criteria** for funding.

Strategy G: Invest in Climate-Ready Infrastructure

NEW Recommendation: Accelerate Financing for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Projects and Resilient Infrastructure

Actions

- **Invest in staffing** specific to the successful development and management of a **Safeguarding Tomorrow State Revolving Loan Fund for hazard mitigation assistance** that builds upon existing revolving loan platforms and leverages available federal resources from FEMA.

Consider **NEW Strategy I for Investment: Climate Investment Strategy for Maine**

Funding/financing appears throughout *Maine Won't Wait*, but lacks its own Strategy

Suggest an **investment strategy** for how climate work in ME gets done

Current federal funding landscape not going to last forever, we're going to need a strategy for **how to pay going forward**

Examples:

- **Portfolio-based approach** (strategies, plans, policies, ...)
- **Across strategies** (greenhouse gas mitigation, hazard mitigation, and adaptation)
- **Diverse capital stack** (public - local, state, federal; private; quasi-public)
- **Performance** metrics (codes, land use regulations, conservation, climate-smart...)
- **Engagement...**

Discussion Questions

- *When you think of **funding/financing needs/recommendations** - are we **missing anything** major that we should be advocating for right now?*
- *Help us consider and reach **priority populations** impacted or affected by these recommendations*
 - *Potential **positive outcomes** and any **unintended consequences***
 - *How might we fine tune our recommendations to **improve equitable access** to resources and capacity-building?*
 - *How might these recommendations be **implemented in consultation with priority populations**? Do priority populations have the resources and capacity necessary to implement/access these recommendations?*

Consolidated draft policy recommendations



April 26, 2024

Community Resilience Working Group Meeting



** A reminder about terminology

STRATEGY F - (EXISTING) Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

Recommendation 1 - Empower Local and Regional Community Resilience Efforts

ACTIONS

- i. (MODIFIED) Invest in robust technical assistance and ongoing funding to communities to support local and regional long-term planning and implementation across the full spectrum of resilience strategies (Avoid, Protect, Accommodate/Adapt, and Retreat/Relocate)



Three strategies of focus

STRATEGY F -- (EXISTING) Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

STRATEGY G -- (EXISTING) Invest in Climate-Ready Infrastructure

STRATEGY H -- (EXISTING) Engage with Maine People and Communities about Climate Impacts and Program Opportunities



STRATEGY F -- (EXISTING) Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

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Recommendation 1 - Empower Local and Regional Community Resilience Efforts

ACTIONS

- i. (MODIFIED) Invest in robust technical assistance and ongoing funding to communities to support local and regional long-term planning and implementation across the full spectrum of resilience strategies (Avoid, Protect, Accommodate/Adapt, and Retreat/Relocate)
- ii. (NEW) Increase opportunities for qualified personnel to assist with natural disaster response, and natural hazards planning and recovery. Expand outreach, technical assistance and training for 1) Maine Climate Corps 2) county, state and local employees, 3) first responders, 4) Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), and 5) volunteers



STRATEGY F -- (EXISTING) Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

Recommendation 1 - Empower Local and Regional Community Resilience Efforts

ACTIONS

- iii. (NEW) Educate communities, including county and local governments, about the full range of natural hazards that may impact them, and how hazards may affect residents disproportionately based on heightened social vulnerability
- iv. (NEW) Create, update and improve usability of natural hazards data for counties and communities to consider when creating or updating Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs) or similar plans. HMPs need to be readily available and accessible, and used to help build support for climate action, emphasizing maps and visual storytelling
- v. (NEW) Work with formal and informal networks and trusted community partners to disseminate information on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery to those who may not be reached by traditional media, and to learn more about community needs



STRATEGY F -- (EXISTING) Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

Recommendation 2 - (NEW) Enhance the ability of the State of Maine to facilitate timely and effective natural hazard mitigation planning, response, and recovery

ACTIONS

- i. (NEW) Ensure that state agencies have adequate staff and resources to maximize external funding opportunities and provide technical assistance. Maximize cooperation between and within state agencies to share data and resources.
- ii. (NEW) Collaborate with Volunteer Maine to evaluate opportunities for funding or otherwise facilitate volunteer management and leadership training and to support recruitment of volunteers.
- iii. (NEW) Provide regional resources and technical assistance to engage in asset mapping to build relationships across sectors and reduce communication barriers.



STRATEGY F -- (EXISTING) Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

Recommendation 3 -- Emphasize Resilience Through Land-Use Planning and Legal Tools

ACTIONS

- i. (NEW) Maintain current hazard mitigation plans HMPs and other applicable natural hazard risk assessments. HMPs and similar plans should rank projects by the number of potential co-benefits, including to frontline and disadvantaged communities
- ii. (NEW) Require that communities undertaking Comprehensive Planning and land use ordinance revisions incorporate the changing climate so as to avoid development in areas identified as having high risks for natural hazards



STRATEGY F -- (EXISTING) Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

Recommendation 3 -- Emphasize Resilience Through Land-Use Planning and Legal Tools

ACTIONS

- iii. (NEW) Require that assessment of natural hazards within HMPs be based on available quantitative and/or geospatial data in addition to the feedback and experience of community leaders and first responders

- iv. (NEW) Consider potential risks from natural hazards and climate change when planning to significantly modify, expand, or build new public facilities, or when creating or reviewing plans for infrastructure built or funded using state resources



STRATEGY F -- (EXISTING) Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

Recommendation 4 -- (NEW) Explore Options for Getting Out of Harm's Way

ACTIONS

- i. (NEW) Conduct a feasibility study to explore a voluntary, state-level buyout and acquisition program, including potential funding mechanisms, administrative and institutional structure, and the social, economic, cultural implications
- ii. (NEW) Develop a framework for, and identify funding to support, facilitated community conversations for collaborative learning, dialogue, and deliberation around the full spectrum of resilience strategies (Avoid, Protect, Accommodate/Adapt, and Retreat/Relocate)



STRATEGY F -- (EXISTING) Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

Recommendation 5 -- (MODIFIED) Strengthen Public Health Monitoring, Education, and Prevention

ACTIONS

- i. (NEW/MODIFIED) Assess, educate, and respond to air quality exposures and health outcomes throughout the state, especially in low-income and rural communities, with attention to a) impacts of poor air quality on human health from mold following water damage, and from wildfire smoke in homes lacking forced air heating and cooling, b) ensuring there is at least one air quality monitoring station in each of Maine's 16 counties, c) providing financial and technical assistance for home weatherization and mold abatement, and d) promoting Maine DEP's air quality alert system
- ii. (NEW) Maintain and expand opportunities for financial, technical, and workforce assistance for urban forestry in underserved and disadvantaged



STRATEGY F -- (EXISTING) Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

Recommendation 5 -- (MODIFIED) Strengthen Public Health Monitoring, Education, and Prevention

ACTIONS

- iii. (NEW) Assess the potential spread of vector-borne illnesses and invasive species that cause illnesses. Improve public health monitoring and education regarding these illnesses, particularly those exacerbated by climate change, and expand and improve efforts to monitor the quality of public water supplies, especially following severe storm events

- iv. (NEW) Increase education and technical assistance regarding the designation, establishment, and use of community warming, cooling, and/or clean air centers during times of severe heat, cold, smoke, or other inclement weather



STRATEGY G -- (EXISTING) Invest in Climate-Ready Infrastructure

STRATEGY G -- (EXISTING) Invest in Climate-Ready Infrastructure

Recommendation 1 – Assess climate vulnerability and provide climate ready design guidance

ACTIONS

- i. Expand the statewide infrastructure vulnerability assessment to include working waterfront and utility systems (electric, broadband, wastewater, drinking water); develop and implement design and location standards for resilience in infrastructure projects



STRATEGY G -- (EXISTING) Invest in Climate-Ready Infrastructure

Recommendation 2 -- (NEW) - *Ensure long-term financing is available to support climate mitigation, adaptation projects and resilient infrastructure*

ACTIONS

- i. (NEW) Conduct a feasibility study to explore establishing a state resilience bank or infrastructure bank to ensure long-term financing is available to support climate mitigation and adaptation projects and resilient infrastructure.
- ii. *Others TBD - April 26th meeting from Funding & Finance subgroup*



STRATEGY G -- (EXISTING) Invest in Climate-Ready Infrastructure

Recommendation 3 -- (NEW) Implement a common application process for State-funded and State managed community climate resilience projects

ACTION

- i. (NEW) Coordinate across agencies to create a common portal for funding applications with links to procurement, subject matter experts, technical assistance providers, application status, reporting on project implementation, and financial drawdowns.



STRATEGY H -- (EXISTING) Engage with Maine People and Communities about Climate Impacts and Program Opportunities

STRATEGY H -- (EXISTING) Engage with Maine People and Communities about Climate Impacts and Program Opportunities

Recommendation 1-- (NEW) Support Participation in Local and Regional Resilience Planning and Decision-Making

ACTION

- i. (NEW) Develop a framework for, and identify funding to support, facilitated community conversations for collaborative learning, dialogue, deliberation, and long-term planning around the full spectrum of resilience strategies



STRATEGY H -- (EXISTING) Engage with Maine People and Communities about Climate Impacts and Program Opportunities

Recommendation 2 -- (NEW) Educate climate leaders, public officials, activists, and others involved in climate resilience on psychologically sound strategies and best practices to encourage hope, foster agency and support collective action.

ACTION

- i. **TBD**



STRATEGY H -- (EXISTING) Engage with Maine People and Communities about Climate Impacts and Program Opportunities

Recommendation 3 -- (NEW) Form a Climate Psychology Task Force to educate climate leaders, public officials, activists, and others involved in climate resilience on psychologically sound strategies and best practices to encourage hope, foster agency and support collective action.

ACTIONS

- i. (NEW) Provide equitable psychological resilience education, assessments, and training on multiple levels: individual, communal, institutional and statewide
- ii. (NEW) Provide information and programming in climate education curricula and service-learning for high school students in developmentally appropriate ways that support youth resilience, agency and hope
- iii. (NEW) Provide "Top-Down" programs for clinicians, healthcare professionals, emergency responders and managers, educators, community leaders and organizations, faith leaders, etc. (e.g., "Train the Trainer")



STRATEGY H -- (EXISTING) Engage with Maine People and Communities about Climate Impacts and Program Opportunities

Recommendation 3 -- (NEW) Form a Climate Psychology Task Force to educate climate leaders, public officials, activists, and others involved in climate resilience on psychologically sound strategies and best practices to encourage hope, foster agency and support collective action.

ACTIONS

- iv. (NEW) Provide “Bottom-Up” Resources: Peer counseling, community listening sessions, support groups, volunteer engagement, etc. to supplement mental health services and normalize support practices

- v. (NEW) Conduct a Community Preparedness Assessment among community members to aid leaders in gauging their ability to provide resources to support psychological resilience

- vi. (NEW) In clinical, healthcare and therapy settings, offer:
 - a) Provider Preparedness Assessment to gauge understanding and confidence in supporting climate-related psychological resilience
 - b) Pre-care assessment to equitably evaluate individual need for psychological resilience support



STRATEGY H -- (EXISTING) Engage with Maine People and Communities about Climate Impacts and Program Opportunities

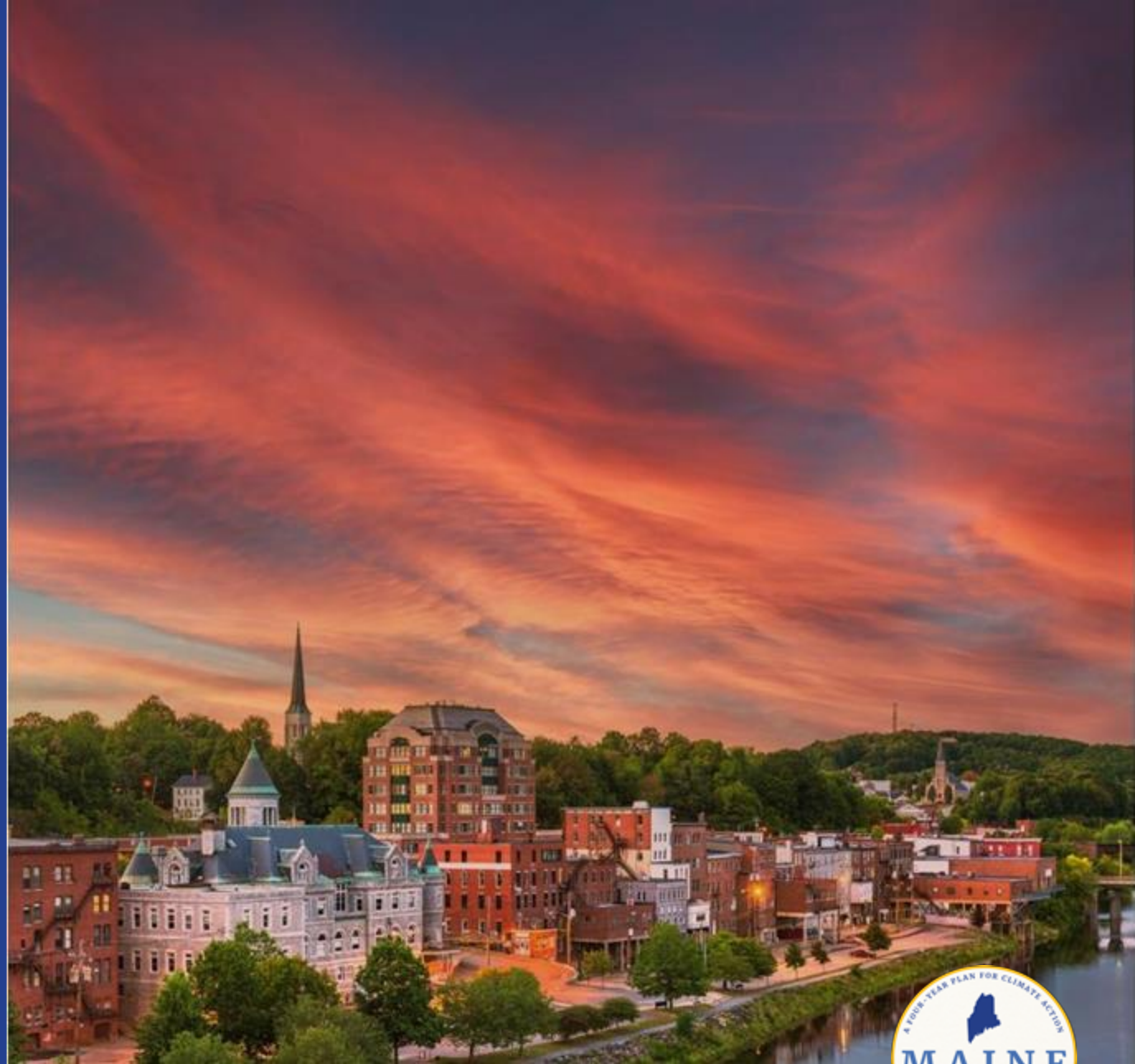
Recommendation 4 -- (NEW) Prioritize awareness and action on mental health impacts of climate-related adverse experiences, especially in youth and other vulnerable populations.

ACTIONS

- i. (NEW) Provide individuals, emergency responders, care providers and social service providers with trainings, practices, strategies, and skill sets to respond to both emergent and slow-moving climate impacts for mental health and healing
- ii. (NEW) Review and require disaster management and emergency response plans to incorporate mental health considerations and services
- iii. (NEW) Expand investment in mental healthcare and related services, in general; the need will grow.
- iv. (NEW) Complete assessments of mental health preparedness within communities (especially for those experiencing disruption), among emergency responders and social service providers responding to those experiencing climate-related disruption and providing referral services, and within state agencies and programs.



Discussion

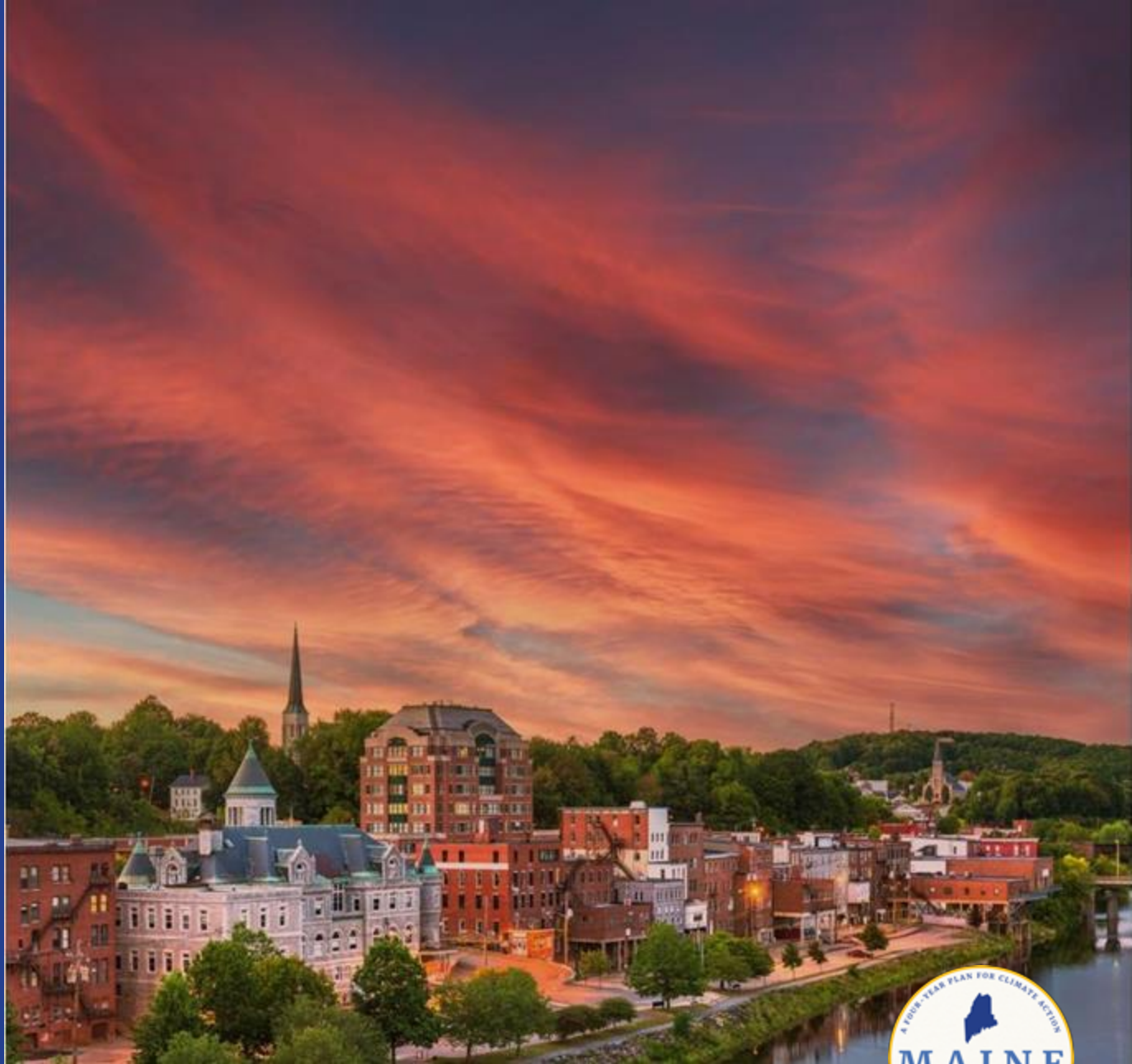


April 26, 2024

Community Resilience Working Group Meeting



Next Steps and Adjournment



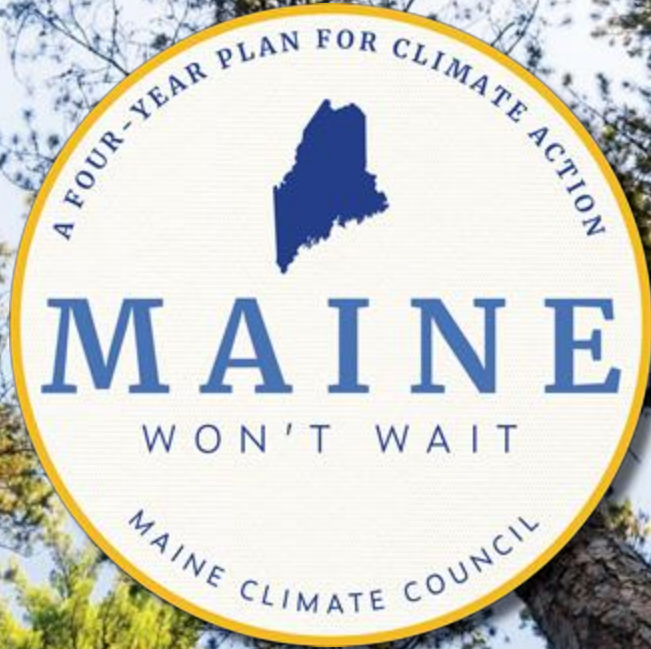
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Co-chairs / Melanie

- Send a survey for further feedback
- Incorporate feedback from this discussion/survey into the deliverable
- Incorporate the funding and finance policies
- Incorporate metrics
- Report back to you all before next meeting

Next meeting: Thursday, May 23, 9-12 pm – In-person, location TBD



A FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION



MAINE

WON'T WAIT

MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL