

# CRP Community Action List

8 Strategic categories for climate action in Maine



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# Community Resilience Partnership

## List of Community Actions

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"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 to aid in determining where progress has already been made, then as a guide for identifying future priorities and funding opportunities.

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 \$100,000 for collaborative projects from a cohort 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 demonstrate that Efficiency Maine's incentives are being applied first to the project budget.

For each application for a Community Action Grant, the applicant(s) should develop and track metrics, both for success of the project and progress toward long-term community goals. The Maine Won't Wait Climate Action Plan has a list of metrics the state will track, should the community need examples."

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## Strategy Area A: Embrace the Future of Transportation

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

A1	Purchase or lease electric vehicles for municipal or tribal government-owned vehicle fleets. (Grants capped at \$2,000 per light duty EV.)
A2	Install EV chargers in public parking areas.
A3	Adopt ordinances to encourage EV charging infrastructure, including at multifamily dwellings, businesses, and public parking areas.
A4	Adopt an anti-idling ordinance.

### 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.
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.

## Strategy Area B: Modernize Maine's Buildings

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

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.
B2	Upgrade to energy efficient interior lighting in municipal/tribal buildings.
B3	Upgrade to energy efficient appliances in municipal/tribal buildings.
B4	Install a heat pump system or VRF system for heating/cooling and heat pump water heating in municipal/tribal buildings.
B5	Upgrade streetlights and exterior lighting for municipally/tribally-owned facilities with energy efficient LED lighting (and minimize light pollution with downlighting where possible).
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).
B8	Require EV charging readiness and solar energy readiness for all new construction.
B9	Support regular professional development for code enforcement officers, especially Efficiency Maine's code trainings.
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).

## 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.
C5	Adopt a streamlined permitting process for small-scale renewable energy installations.

### 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.
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.).

## 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.
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.
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.
E3	Create or update a watershed plan to identify flooding and water quality priorities and adaptation options.
E4	Develop a natural resource and habitat inventory that includes climate stressors and impacts.
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.
E10	Identify and protect open space in the floodplain to increase flood buffers and community resilience.

## 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.
F6	Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
F7	Enroll in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS) at Class 9 or better, reducing flood insurance premiums for community residents.
F8	Achieve CRS Class 6 or better, maximizing flood insurance savings for community residents.
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.

### Strengthen Public Health

F13	Identify and plan to reduce public health threats in the community that are exacerbated by climate change.
F14	Develop and implement an extreme temperatures emergency plan, including strategies that increase use of cooling centers by residents.
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.
F17	Implement school-based programs to educate students about prevention of mosquito- and tick-borne diseases.



## 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 and wastewater treatment 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.

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.

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.

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.

**Note:** 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 .