



Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) Southern & Midcoast
Resilience Coordinator Collaborative (SMRCC) [Contact Information](#)

Learning Opportunities

***** = new content

Listed by Topic Area

[Community Engagement](#)

[Energy](#)

[Environment](#)

[Resilient Communities](#)

Community Engagement

***Connected Learning Ecosystems Gathering**

Target Audience: Librarians, teachers, current and former school educators, 4-H staff and volunteers, museum/science center staff, and adults who engage with youth to improve their climate and data literacy. Attendees should be part of a [Community Learning Ecosystem](#) or interested in joining one.

In-Person

Tuesday, August 12, 8:30 AM - Wednesday, August 13, 2:30 PM

University of Maine, Buchanan Alumni House, Orono, ME

The [Gulf of Maine Research Institute](#) (GMRI) facilitates the creation of Community Learning Ecosystems, peer communities for formal and informal educators in the Northeast to support STEM and climate literacy teaching. GMRI and Learning Ecosystems Northeast (LENE) are hosting a two-day event for educators to form local connections and to learn effective ways to build climate and data literacy skills for youth.

[LEARN MORE](#)

***Community-Driven Climate Action Toolkit**

Target Audience: Municipal and community groups

Online Toolkit

Compiled August 2025. [Reach out to your Regional Coordinator](#) for more information.

[A Climate to Thrive](#) (ACTT) has created the Community-Driven Climate Action Toolkit to support communities in becoming more resilient to the impacts of climate change. The toolkit is specifically designed for municipal or community groups looking to engage more people in building local resilience. Use the toolkit for practical guidance on creating local groups that address key issues when it comes to building capacity for action. [LEARN MORE](#)

CEBE Building Local Climate Leadership Toolkit

Target Audience: Municipal staff and community members interested in forming climate committees and groups

Online resource

The [Center for an Ecology-Based Economy](#) (CEBE) has launched a toolkit for Maine communities that includes a practical guide for forming climate committees and community groups. The guide includes templates for community engagement, organizational structures, successful examples, and other supplemental materials and resources. Download the toolkit [HERE](#). [LEARN MORE](#)

Community-Driven Planning for Racial and Climate Justice – Vision Power Solutions (VPS) Series

Target Audience: Facilitators, organizers, leaders, and educators who are accountable to Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Asian/Pacific Islander (API) communities

Online

All sessions 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM EST on the respective session day

First session started Thursday, February 20

VPS is a quarterly, four-part series, hosted by the [National Association of Climate Resilience Planners](#), in partnership with Rosa Gonzales and Julian Mocine-McQueen of [Facilitating Power](#), designed to build capacity for community-driven planning among facilitators, organizers, leaders, and educators who are accountable to Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Asian/Pacific Islander (API) communities. The VPS offerings are part of a larger effort to foster a facilitators' community of practice and referral network within the field of community-driven planning. The 2025 series, running February - November and will be beneficial to anyone who is interested in learning about and applying principles of community-driven planning to their work. The remaining sessions are:

- *August 21* – Session 3: Planning to Action: Why We Need Community Power in the Implementation of Solutions
- *November 20* – Session 4: Community Resilience Hubs: Actualizing Community-Driven Solutions

Register for each session individually or register for the entire series. Each session is \$100. [LEARN MORE](#) and [REGISTER](#)

Compiled August 2025. [Reach out to your Regional Coordinator](#) for more information.

ACTT Facilitation and Practice Guide

Target Audience: Facilitators, organizers, leaders, and educators with work related to climate

Online resource

A *Climate to Thrive* (ACTT) has created a guide for facilitating productive, engaging, and equitable collaboration spaces. The guide includes steps for achieving effective engagement, practicing mindfulness, and being intentional. View the guide [HERE](#). [LEARN MORE](#)

MESVI 2020: Updated Maine Social Vulnerability Index Tool

Target Audience: Planners, municipal staff, community volunteers, researchers, resilience practitioners

Online resource

The Maine Social Vulnerability Index (MESVI) team has released an updated tool using 2020 census data and revised CDC methodology. This version no longer calculates vulnerability for smaller towns and unorganized territories with limited demographic data; however, the team is working on ways to better account for these communities. [ACCESS the TOOL](#)

NOAA: Seven Best Practices for Risk Communication

Target Audience: Coastal managers, storm response leaders

Online

This self-guided module teaches participants essential skills for communicating coastal hazards preparedness and planning. This event is hosted by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management and can count towards Professional Credit for the [American Institute of Certified Planners](#). [LEARN MORE](#). Access the course [HERE](#).

Energy

***Energy Code Training Sessions**

Target Audience: Code enforcement officers, builders

In-Person

Sessions vary in location, duration, and date

The [Maine Governor's Energy Office](#) is funding [passivehausMAINE](#) through the Clean Energy Partnership to host training on how to meet the new [Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code](#) (MUBEC) building and health standards. In addition, sessions will address how to build durable, low-carbon structures. [LEARN MORE](#)

- [Lincoln/Millinocket](#) – September 18, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Compiled August 2025. [Reach out to your Regional Coordinator](#) for more information.

- [Waterville/Colby College](#) – October 16, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- [Freeport](#) – November 6, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- [Bangor/Brewer](#) – December 11, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

***Bright ideas for a Stormy Future: Strengthening Southern Maine’s resilience to power outages – GPCOG and SMRCC Grid Resilience Series Session Two**

Target Audience: Municipal staff, elected officials, and resilience committee members
Online

Tuesday, August 19, 12:00 PM

The [Greater Portland Council of Governments](#) (GPCOG) and the [Southern & Midcoast Resilience Coordinator Collaborative](#) (SMRCC) are hosting Part 2 of the Municipal Grid Resilience Webinar series launched in June. The second session of this series will feature Karina Graeter, Sustainability Division Director at [Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission](#) (SMPDC) to discuss findings from grid reliability and power outage assessments across Southern Maine. Join the session to learn why outages occur, the impacts on businesses, governments, and communities, and to participate in the conversation on how to contribute to grid resilience. Watch the recording for Part 1 [HERE](#). [REGISTER](#).

Direct Pay Federal Clean Energy Tax Credit Resources

Target Audience: Municipalities, school districts, non-profit organizations, Tribal Nations
Online Toolkit

Through federal law, Direct Pay (also known as “Elect Pay”) allows entities with no federal tax liability to utilize federal clean energy tax credits by receiving reimbursements for clean energy investments. To ensure access to these resources, the Governor’s Energy Office (GEO) and the Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF) are working to connect eligible Maine entities to these tax credit opportunities. Eligible clean energy investments include installation or purchase of electric vehicles, solar, and geothermal.

Access the GEO Direct Pay homepage [HERE](#) to learn about organization and project eligibility. On the homepage, access resources such as factsheets, deadlines, and frequently asked questions.

If you are a tax-exempt entity and have placed a clean energy project in 2024 or are planning to place a project in 2025, complete the Direct Pay Survey [HERE](#). Completing the survey helps GEO and GOPIF connect eligible organizations to technical assistance.

For additional questions about Direct Pay, contact DirectPayTaxQuestions@maine.gov.

DOE Direct Pay for Schools and Nonprofits Webinar Recordings

Target Audience: Schools and nonprofits, organizations supporting schools and nonprofits

Online Recordings

Webinar recordings from the Department of Energy's Renew America's Schools Program that aim to inform schools about Direct Pay options for funding energy improvements. A [101 "Beyond Grants" webinar](#) provides a high-level overview of Direct Pay for schools and nonprofits and how it differs from other types of federal funding. Unlike a grant, tax credits are unlimited and generally non-competitive. Credits can be combined with grants – as long as the combined value of a grant and tax credit do not exceed the total cost of a project. Direct Pay applies to clean energy machines such as geothermal heat pumps, solar energy, energy storage, clean commercial vehicles, and in specific locations, EV chargers.

A [201 "Going Deeper" webinar](#) goes more in depth and discusses how understanding important terms and concepts pertaining to these tax credits can prepare schools and partners to access this opportunity. Direct Pay tax credits are in statute until 2032. Tax credit rates depend on many factors, and projects meeting certain requirements can receive much higher credits. Location, prevailing wage and apprenticeship, and domestic content were discussed in more detail during this webinar.

MAINE community-led Energy & Climate Action Network (MAINECAN) Sign-up

Target Audience: Community-driven climate committees, leaders, decision-makers, practitioners

Online Sign-up Form

The MAINE community-led Energy & Climate Action Network (MAINECAN) supports and connects local community groups in Maine that are interested in implementing projects to help make their communities more resilient to a changing climate and access the benefits of a sustainable energy transition. MAINECAN is asking anyone, group, organization, etc. wishing to be part of the network to complete a questionnaire, providing information to be included in a resource hub – [the MAINECAN website](#). Complete the form [HERE](#) or [LEARN MORE](#)

The Foundations of Community Solar Development

Target Audience: Community-based organizations and others looking to learn about solar project development

Online

This is a free online course aimed at accelerating equitable community solar projects, developed by the University of New Hampshire's Carsey School of Public Policy in collaboration with expert organizations. The course consists of 8 self-paced modules

Compiled August 2025. [Reach out to your Regional Coordinator](#) for more information.

designed for community-based organizations, small solar developers, and others looking to build “credit-ready” solar projects that benefit communities. Participants can earn a certificate and digital badge after completing the course and assignments.

[REGISTER](#)

Maine Clean Communities Municipal EV Toolkit

Target Audience: Local leaders and others looking to learn about electric vehicles (EVs)

Online Toolkit

In a collaboration between the Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission (SMPDC) and the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG), the EV Readiness Toolkit has been developed to help local leaders electrify municipal fleets by providing guidance on EV adoption, fleet transitions, and infrastructure development.

Watch the [EV Toolkit webinar](#) and [LEARN MORE](#)

Online Electric Boat Course Toolkit

Target Audience: General audience ages 15+

Online Toolkit

The Island Institute's Toolkit for the Electrification and Decarbonization of Maine's Commercial Boats provides marine businesses and municipalities with resources to transition to electric propulsion. The Toolkit includes funding opportunities, educational materials, FAQs, and success stories, with ongoing updates to reflect industry advancements. Contact: Phoebe Walsh (pwalsh@islandinstitute.org, (207) 535-9249)

[LEARN MORE](#)

Free Online Electric Boat Course

Target Audience: General audience ages 15+

Online

From the Island Institute, Kennebec Valley Community College, Mid-Coast School of Technology, Maine Electric Boat Company, and Bayside Marine

LEVEL 1 – ELECTRIC BOAT MOTOR: FOUNDATIONS

Requirements: This course is intended for a general audience, ages 15 and up. No prior marine engine experience needed, just a desire to learn about electric boats.

Description: This course provides an introduction to electric boats to help the general public and those already in the field gain an understanding of the benefits of electric boats and potential career opportunities in the sector. Access the webinar recording

[HERE](#). [LEARN MORE](#)

Environment

Compiled August 2025. [Reach out to your Regional Coordinator](#) for more information.

***Coffee & Climate: Living Shorelines in Maine**

Target Audience: General audience; Anyone interested in learning more about Portland and South Portland's climate action plan and how to be involved

Online

Friday, August 8, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

The next session of Coffee & Climate will feature a discussion on Living Shorelines with Pete Slovinsky from the Maine Geological Survey. Join the meeting to learn more about nature-based solutions as a means to prevent coastal erosion and improve ecosystem health. The Sustainability Offices for the City of Portland and South Portland host Coffee & Climate as part of [One Climate Future](#), the Cities' climate action plan. [LEARN MORE](#) or [REGISTER](#)

***Decision Support Tool for Nature-Based Strategies in Southern Maine**

Target Audience: Municipal staff, planners, and regional partners

Online Tool

Developed to support implementation of the *Climate Ready Coast – Southern Maine* plan, this interactive tool helps identify where nature-based strategies may be suitable and feasible. Created in response to community feedback, the tool provides site-specific bio-physical and socio-political information to support decision-making along the southern Maine coast. Created by the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve in partnership with Nearview, LLC, Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission, and York County Soil and Water Conservation District, with guidance from a regional advisory team. [LEARN MORE](#)

***Aquaculture for People and Planet**

Target Audience: Anyone interested in climate-friendly food production

In-Person

Wednesday, September 24, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Maine Beer Company, Freeport, ME

The seventh short film in the Island Institute's *Climate of Change* series, *Aquaculture for People and Planet*, explores how Maine seafood businesses can lower their carbon footprints through sustainable aquaculture practices. A panel after the screening will feature local aquaculturists and Island Institute staff who will discuss low-emission seafood more in depth. [REGISTER](#) or [LEARN MORE](#)

Natural Hazards and Land Use Planning for Maine Communities Recorded Webinar Series

Target Audience: Municipal staff, committees, and people interested in mitigating natural hazard impacts

Online

The Maine Coastal Program, Maine Geological Survey, and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry's Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning has recordings of a webinar series about minimizing the impacts of natural hazards and enhancing community resilience. Watch the series recordings [HERE](#).

Resilient Communities

***Community Conversation on Planned Relocation & Flood Adaptation Toolbox**

Target Audience: Sustainability professionals, people working to support Maine's Green Economy

Online

Thursday, August 14, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

The [Southeast New England Program \(SNEP\) Network](#) is hosting an online discussion-based session on community-driven relocation to remove flood risk. Emma Gildesgame from [The Nature Conservancy](#) will discuss strategies communities can look to implement for relocation that balances social, economic, and environmental factors equitably. Join the conversation to ask questions and share perspectives on the role of community relocation in coastal planning processes. [REGISTER](#) or [LEARN MORE](#)

***Core 1 and 3 Transfer Station Operator Training**

Target Audience: Transfer station operators, anyone seeking Transfer Station Operator Certification, or anyone interested in waste storage and handling

In-Person and Online

Wednesday, August 20

Maine DEP Augusta – Conference Room 118

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP) is offering an introductory course on regulations that impact transfer stations and how to identify and manage hazardous waste. In-person attendees are eligible to complete the Transfer Station Operator Certification Exam after Core 3 if Cores 1, 2, and 3 are completed.

Contact: Randee McDonald (randee.mcdonald@maine.gov, (207) 451-2554)

[REGISTER](#) or [LEARN MORE](#)

- Core 1: *Transfer Station Operator Training* – 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Compiled August 2025. [Reach out to your Regional Coordinator](#) for more information.

- Core 3: *Hazardous and Special Waste Training* – 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

***Local Leads the Way Monthly Call**

Target Audience: Community members, community leaders

Online

Monday, September 8, 12:00 PM

[Local Leads the Way](#) was developed and is hosted by [A Climate to Thrive \(ACCT\)](#). This monthly Zoom meeting provides support to communities throughout the state who are engaged in community-driven, solutions-focused climate action. Local Leads the Way hosts monthly meetings open to anyone involved in or contemplating community-driven climate action. Through these meetings, participants share resources, build networks of support, participate in trainings, and collaborate. [LEARN MORE](#) or [REGISTER](#). In July, Local Leads the Way hosted a meeting on **Energy Coaching Programs** to support communities in navigating energy project funding opportunities. Another Energy Coaching Program meeting is planned for early September. Respond to the Doodle Poll to provide your input for a meeting time [HERE](#).

Local Solutions: Bouncing Forward to Create Resilient Communities Conference

Target Audience: Federal, State, and Tribal representatives, non-profits, private businesses, scientists, community groups involved in decision-making and project implementation

In-Person

Thursday, September 18 - Friday, September 19, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Dartmouth College, Irving Building 33 Tuck Mall Hanover, NH 03755

This conference will focus on social and climate resilience with both hands-on training and sessions on how to implement change on local and regional levels. Topics include: affordable housing, community health, energy, and flood resilience. Attendees will learn next steps for implementing resilient practices into their work that take all perspectives into account. Registration is currently \$225. [LEARN MORE](#)

National Adaptation Forum: Moving Towards Preparedness for Extreme Weather Events

Target Audience: Anyone interested in learning about extreme weather preparedness

Online

This National Adaptation Forum's series focuses on enhancing community preparedness and resilience before disasters strike. Watch the series recordings [HERE](#).

Compiled August 2025. [Reach out to your Regional Coordinator](#) for more information.

Center for Local Aid Support Transportation Resources

Target Audience: Transportation professionals and others looking to learn about transportation

Online Toolkit

The Federal Highway Administration's Center for Local Aid Support offers an archive of online training modules for transportation professionals, focusing on professional development and transportation solutions. These courses may qualify for professional credits, depending on guidelines. Access the library [HERE](#). Learn more about [MAINE'S LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM \(LTAP\)](#).

Maine Municipal, Regional, & Statewide Plans

Target Audience: Municipal staff, community members working on comprehensive plans

Online Toolkit

The Maine Municipal, Regional, & Statewide Plans StoryMap is a useful tool for accessing and reviewing plans from across the state. The ArcGIS StoryMap allows communities to draw inspiration from effective strategies, anticipate challenges, and gather ideas to enhance their own planning initiatives. The platform covers a range of topics, including climate change, housing, land use, economic growth, transportation, and hazard mitigation. [LEARN MORE](#)

Municipal Planning Assistance Program – Maine Comprehensive Plan Data Portal and Mapping Services

Target Audience: Municipal staff, community members working on comprehensive plans

Online Toolkit

The Maine Comprehensive Plan Data Portal and Mapping Services StoryMap provides a centralized resource for key data and maps required for making comprehensive plans. By consolidating information from state and federal sources, the StoryMap simplifies the planning process, helping Maine communities save time and effort. [LEARN MORE](#)

Community Resilience Partnership Building Stronger Communities Online Learning Series – Recordings of past presentations

Target Audience: Community leaders and volunteers serving communities enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership, those currently enrolling, those interested in enrolling

Online Recordings

Building Stronger Communities Learning Opportunities are designed for community members and leaders of municipalities already enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership, those currently enrolling, as well as those interested in enrolling. The ongoing series covers a variety of topics, including specific guidance and funding

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opportunities for sea level rise, electrification, efficiencies, renewable energy, planning, stormwater management, green infrastructure, transportation, and more. The series highlights the successes and challenges of town-specific projects and provides a wide range of resources and tools to help enrolled and enrolling towns to build stronger communities. SMRCC encourages communities to use these recordings for educational and engagement purposes. [VIEW RECORDINGS HERE](#)

Directory of Recordings

Title	Recording Date
Sea Level Rise From Understanding to Action	November 21, 2022
Introducing the Community Resilience Partnership	December 13, 2022
Climate Change From Understanding to Action	December 29, 2022
Funding Projects into the Future	January 10, 2023
\$125,000 Community Action Grants for Regional Projects	January 31, 2023
Efficiency Maine Incentives and Services for Municipal Energy Upgrades	February 14, 2023
Landfill Solar	March 9, 2023
Building Stronger Communities – Municipal Broadband & Digital Equity	March 13, 2023
Launching and Funding Transportation Projects with the Maine Department of Transportation	March 21, 2023
Municipal EV Development	April 11, 2023
Municipal Energy Generation	April 26, 2023
Municipal Solar Site Planning & Ordinance Development	May 3, 2023
Nature Based Solutions & Funding	September 26, 2023
Climate Action Planning	October 24, 2023
Social Vulnerability Assessments & Equitable Engagement	October 24, 2023
Funding Resilience Projects with FEMA	November 28, 2023
Grid Conversation with CMP	January 23, 2024
Grid Conversation with GEO	January 30, 2024
(With Casco Bay Coastal Academy) Climate Change and Drinking Water Part 1	January 18, 2024
(With Casco Bay Coastal Academy) Climate Change and Drinking Water Part 2	February 22, 2024
Getting Out of Harm's Way: Let's Talk About Community-led Relocation	March 26, 2024

Compiled August 2025. [Reach out to your Regional Coordinator](#) for more information.

Title	Recording Date
(With Casco Bay Coastal Academy) Habitat Conservation for Climate Resilience for Coastal Communities	April 24, 2024
(With Casco Bay Coastal Academy) Habitat Conservation for Climate Resilience for Inland Communities	May 8, 2024

Contact Information

Where can you get help and learn more?

Communities can contact their county-specific Regional Coordinator.

York and Southern Oxford County communities contact:

[Melanie Nash](#), Sustainability and Resilience Planner

[Karina Graeter](#), Sustainability Division Director

[Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission \(SMPDC\)](#)

Cumberland County communities contact:

[Gretchen Anderson](#), Sustainability Program Coordinator

[Sara Mills-Knapp](#), Director of Sustainability

[Greater Portland Council of Governments \(GPCOG\)](#)

Lincoln County communities contact:

[Laura Graziano](#), Community Resilience Planner

[Curtis Brown](#), Land Use and Transportation Planner

[Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission \(LCRPC\)](#)

Sagadahoc, Knox, and Southern Waldo County communities contact:

[Meg Rasmussen](#), Sustainability Program Director

[Midcoast Council of Governments \(MCOG\)](#)

For general inquiries about support offered through the Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) Southern & Midcoast Regional Coordinator Collaborative (SMRCC) contact [Gabe McPhail](#).