

## AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

Good afternoon all,

We cannot believe it's already approaching Labor Day Weekend, and the temps are cooling off. Here is our August newsletter--feel free to reach out with any questions!

### General News and Announcements

-We received an exciting email from the Maine Climate Council: The MCC is poised to receive funding through the federal Inflation Reduction Act to help Maine reach its climate and energy goals through the ***Maine Won't Wait four-year climate action plan***. This funding is to be distributed to communities with climate related projects. So far, Maine has been reaching target milestones, as the Maine DEP just released a report: Maine's emissions are 25% lower in 2019 than 1990.

- MCOG is participating in a \$1 million FAME Direct Loan to American Unagi, a startup aquaculture firm in Waldoboro. The FAME Direct Loan, including MCOG's \$100,000 commitment, will be used to supplement construction financing and to purchase and install aquaculture recirculating systems and other equipment. FAME financing will leverage approximately \$8.7 million in project financing, including Gorham Savings Bank loans and equity raised by the company.

- The Maine Farmland Trusts has shared with our organization the *Balancing Solar Development and Farmland Protection: A Solar Siting Guide for Maine Towns*, a new resource to support balanced solar siting in communities across Maine (attached, and also available at: <https://www.maineFarmlandtrust.org/farm-viability/farmland-and-solar-development/>).

This resource supports municipalities in the critical role they play in balancing the important interests of solar energy generation and protection of agricultural resources. It offers general agricultural solar siting guidelines, compiles relevant provisions from solar ordinances that have been adopted by towns in Maine and New England, and takes a deeper dive into some of the different approaches that Maine communities are taking to support balanced solar siting at the local level and what they have learned so far through this process. This guide is the result of insight and contributions from numerous municipal officials, farmers, partner organizations and other stakeholders. Maine Farmland Trust produced this resource in collaboration with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry as part of the Second Edition of *Cultivating Maine's Agricultural Future*, a policy and planning guide for Maine municipalities. The full updated municipal guide will be finalized later this year.

### Dates and Deadlines

-September 14<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 1pm at the Rockland Career Center (91 Camden St #201), is a career fair with the Penquis Head Start Team. More information can be found [here](#).

-On September 16<sup>th</sup>, join the Island Institute at the Climate Symposium—Sharing Climate-Forward Innovations! Registration and information is [here](#).

-The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grant program has a deadline of 4:30 p.m. on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Rural small businesses and agricultural producers are invited to apply. Visit the [program website](#) for additional information and see the "To Apply" tab for the new applications templates. Please send specific questions to Katrina Shaw at [katrina.shaw@usda.gov](mailto:katrina.shaw@usda.gov).

### **Lower your energy costs:**

- Towns under 5,000 population are eligible for Efficiency Maine's municipality program for energy efficient upgrades. See [here](#) for more information.

- If you are applying for a Community Action Grant relating to EV chargers and/or municipal HVAC, Lighting, and Refrigeration, there are three supplemental funding opportunities:

-- [Efficiency Maine Incentives for Small Municipality Retrofits HVAC, Lighting, and Refrigeration](#)

-- [Level 2 Electric Vehicle \(EV\) Charger Incentives for Rural Communities](#)

- and (for municipalities or other eligible entities partnering with a school) [Efficiency Maine HVAC, Lighting, and Refrigeration Project Incentives for Schools](#)

### **MCOG welcomes new staff:**

- Michael joined the Mid-coast Council of Government team in the summer of 2022 where he brings his experience as a Redevelopment Planner and a passion for design, finance, and analytics. He is committed to seeking out opportunities to expand the housing supply and strengthen local economies by working with communities and building upon their existing strengths.

Michael was born and raised in northern New Jersey, received his bachelor's degree from Arizona State University, and returned to New Jersey where he earned his Master of City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University. After relocating to Maine, where his siblings had been living, Michael reengaged as a Planning consultant, serving communities across eastern New England. In his personal life, Michael likes to spend his time skiing in the winter, sailing in the summer, and hiking any time. Michael holds an AICP certification, New Jersey Professional Planner's license, and Maine real estate license; in addition to being a member of the American Planning Association, Congress for New Urbanism, Maine Real Estate and Development Association, and the Greater Portland Board of REALTORS®.



In short—Michael loves buildings, enjoyable spaces, and the development of places people can thrive.

We hope you enjoy the holiday weekend!

Best,

The MCOG Team

Mathew Eddy, Brian Dancause, Meg Rasmussen, Max Johnstone, Michael Martone, Mary Jane West, Charlotte Nutt

165 Main Street, Suite F

PO Box 62

Damariscotta, ME 04543

207-443-5790