



Municipal Data Across Sectors for Health (M-DASH)
City of Eastport

Task Force Meeting
April 6, 2021 – 10a.m.-12p.m.

Zoom Recording available here: <https://bit.ly/3cUHsOz>

Attending: Tess Ftorek, Jeanne Peacock, Lynn Rutledge, John Ferland, Polly Sullivan, Cammi Deschene, Jim Porter, Ellen Angel, Dyan Walsh, Debbie Pottle, Suzanne MacDonald, Bridget Gifford, Dale Basher, Emma Wendt, Susy Kist, Bob Lewis, Jess Maurer, Effie Rorke, Anne Schroth

Meeting Notes

I. Welcome and Overview

- a. This is our 3rd Task Force Meeting
 - i. First 2 meetings centered on collecting/analyzing data
 - ii. At 2nd meeting (2/2/21), 3 issues came to the surface:
 - 1. Food Insecurity
 - 2. Income Insecurity
 - 3. Housing Insecurity
 - iii. Most participant energy is around housing (repair, weatherization, etc.). Held deep dive discussion on housing on 3/2.
 - iv. Today will be hearing presentations about models, opportunities, resources that could support a project focused on housing.

II. City of Eastport – Updates

- a. Eastport applied for an Island Institute Fellow to work on housing assessment, refining needs, public outreach, and liaison with this group.
 - i. Decision should be made by June.
 - ii. If accepted, the Fellow would start in September for a 2-year commitment.

III. Presentations

- a. ORPC & Island Institute
 - i. **John Ferland, Ocean Renewable Power Company**
 - 1. John is a member of M-DASH Eastport task force, specially to assist with energy discussion as it relates to housing.
 - 2. ORPC develops underwater power systems; Eastport has long been product development center and test site. Has worked closing with the community, contractors, marine monitoring systems, etc.
 - 3. Developed expertise in microgrid operation. Looking to create more of a commercial project in Eastport with this kind of project in mind.
 - 4. Recently collaborated with the Island Institute to assist Eastport in applying for funding program to get assistance in developing a community energy plan.
 - ii. **Suzanne MacDonald & Emma Wendt, Island Institute**
 - 1. Island Institute has worked on affordable housing and reducing energy costs for Maine's island and coastal communities in various ways.
 - 2. See slides attached.

b. Efficiency Maine

i. **Bridget Gifford, Program Manager**

1. Goal of Efficiency Maine is to get better energy efficiency for everyone in Maine. Includes enhanced incentives to low- and moderate-income Mainers.
2. *See slides attached.*

IV. Questions/Discussion

a. For Island Institute

i. How to calculate “energy burden”?

1. Annual spend on energy / income. There are national and state figures available, but that’s a great idea to try to get more specific data.
2. Island Institute calculated energy burden by county in Maine a few years ago and mapped it - you can find it on page 11 of this report:
<https://www.islandinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Bridging-the-Rural-Efficiency-Gap-final-report.pdf>

ii. When Island Institute did weatherization week projects on islands, how was it paid for?

1. Island Institute would put in for a bit of total cost (e.g.\$50) and covered cost of getting contractors to island (travel; barges; lodging; etc.)
2. For vast majority of jobs, about \$200 co-pay for residents.
3. Doing this with communities was crucial because they found ways for those who could not cover it, to get it done.
4. USDA is another resource for housing repair and rehabilitation.
5. Very helpful to have someone available to patch together for homeowners how to pay for this.
6. Having community-wide program helps normalize the work and gets everyone excited about participating.

b. For Efficiency Maine

i. Efficiency Maine is not really getting resources to Eastport. Why?

1. Need to spread the word more?
2. New models of delivery? (e.g. Weatherization Week – collective purchase model that Suzanne talked about.
3. Challenge with installers?
 - a. Yes, especially for low- and moderate-income program.
 - b. Efficiency Maine does have specific partnerships with plumbers around ME, only about 21 in the state, though. They bundle whatever we need (eg 8 projects) to get them to go out to a particular area.
4. Could you work with Community Colleges to incorporate training work into curriculum for interns etc.?

ii. What is total cost, if rebate for heat pump is \$2000?

1. Overall costs for typical installation in low-income program is a unit of about 15,000 BTU and total cost of around \$3500. Low end is about \$3100. So, co-pay is still substantial.

- iii. Does Efficiency Maine work with senior housing developments?
 - 1. For heat pumps, we are focused on single family homes.
 - 2. For other multifamily tenant programs: we do not have large low-income commercial offering, depends on type of facility they are living in.
- c. For Downeast Community Partners (Dale Basher)
 - i. Is Downeast Community Partners (Community Action Agency) doing any weatherization program and/or heat pumps for LIHEAP families?
 - 1. Yes - working on both with Maine Housing
 - a. Weatherization Assistance Program – anyone LIHEAP is eligible but we have 40% walk away from houses that we visit because criteria are so strict. Often, the people who need it the most don't get it because of rigid regulations.
 - b. Also do Indoor air quality testing.
 - c. Heat Pump program: Just recently rolled out heat pump program. Have done 17 so far this year; plan to do 100 heat pumps this year for LIHEAP families.
 - d. We do have a few people in Eastport identified for installation.
 - e. Still doing intake for 30 more.
 - f. Hoping to get more funding if we can quickly install the 100 we have.
 - g. Also working on solar assistance. Want to create solar array to power the heat pumps.
 - ii. DCP also has an energy savings solar project in Franklin, ME; producing energy credits.
 - iii. DCP also has pilot project with Maine Seacoast Mission: using volunteers to fix homes up to a level that DCP can then come in to weatherize. Eliminating “deferrals” of services. Could we figure out how to get them to come to Eastport?

V. Next Steps

- a. Consensus: **Housing Insecurity** will be the first priority area for action planning.
- b. Action Planning
 - i. See draft Action Planning Tool
 - 1. We began filling this out during the meeting.
 - 2. All participants should fill it in for themselves and return to Anne (aschroth@healthypeninsula.org) to synthesize.
- c. Funding Opportunities
 - i. Maine Community Foundation Washington County Fund?
 - ii. EPA 2021 Healthy Communities Grant Program?
- d. Next Meeting
June 1, 2021, 10a.m.-12noon