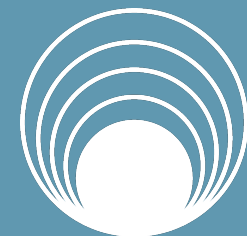


Investing in Coastal Maine's Housing Stock

M-DASH Eastport Task Force Meeting
April 6, 2021

Suzanne MacDonald & Emma Wendt



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Sea Level Rise

Relevant Background

Affordable Housing

- Policy work
 - \$30M bond
- Support for island affordable housing groups, aging in place initiatives
 - Island Fellows program
- Leadership trainings
- Case studies, data

Reducing Energy Costs

- Weatherizing 25% of island homes
- Developing community-owned solar and wind projects
- Supporting community education efforts to better understand and tackle these issues

Barriers to Weatherization in Rural Communities

- **Geographic**

- Geographic isolation & dispersed population
- Lack of energy efficiency contractors



- **Financial**

- Upfront cost
- Lower incomes, higher energy burdens
- Credit access and debt aversion



- **Awareness & Access**

- Lack of access to traditional marketing channels
- Lack of awareness or skepticism of existing resources



Bridging Strategies

- Go in on it together: collective purchasing
 - Weatherization Weeks, LEDs, heat pumps
- An extra set of hands
 - Island Fellows



Partnering in Eastport

Emerging collaborations on:

- **Island Fellow**

- City applied for a 2-year Island Institute Fellow to support work on energy, housing, and broadband internet, beginning in September 2021

- **Microgrid**

- City applied for technical assistance to help design microgrid project with local input, beginning in June 2021

- **Seafood/working waterfront**

- Cobscook Bay Resource Center is providing input on strategies to reduce energy costs for waterfront businesses

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