



KENNEBEC VALLEY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



APRIL NEWSLETTER

JOINT PURCHASING PROGRAM UPDATES:

KVCOG has completed its 2026 Joint Purchasing Program bids, securing competitive pricing for several commonly used municipal materials, including calcium chloride, copy paper, plastic culverts, and geotextiles/silt fence products.

This year's awards include:

- Calcium Chloride Flake: Awarded to White Cap, with pricing at \$870/pallet.
- Copy Paper: Awarded to W.B. Mason, with bulk pricing ranging from \$36–\$54 per case depending on size and recycled content
- Plastic Culverts: Awarded to Paris Farmers Union, with pricing based on diameter (e.g., ~\$8.66/LF for 12" culverts up to ~\$48.09/LF for 36")
- Geotextiles & Silt Fence: Geotextiles awarded to White Cap and silt fence to FW Webb, with competitive per-roll pricing across material types

The Joint Purchasing Program allows participating municipalities to leverage collective buying power to secure more competitive pricing. Municipalities are encouraged to coordinate delivery schedules when possible to help vendors maximize efficiency and maintain competitive rates.

Looking ahead, solicitations for Heating Oil and Road Salt will be released in May, with awards anticipated to be posted on June 2nd.



Join KVCOG for our 4th Annual

PLANNING DAY and GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

\$35.00 per Person

To RSVP by Mail Send
Payment To:
Kennebec Valley Council of
Governments
Attn: Maggie Camden
17 Main St
Fairfield, ME 04937

Free for GA Representatives
- Please reach out if you are
unsure who your
Town/City's GA
representatives are.

Lunch and a Light
Breakfast Provided

6/9/265

9:00AM-4:00PM

Poulin-Turner Union Hall
653 Waterville Rd
Skowhegan, ME 04976



Register online via email
mcamden@kvcog.org for the
registration link or use the QR code
above.

More Information:

mcamden@kvcog.org or (207)453-4258 ext. 221

Agenda with Presenters and Schedule to Follow

Maggie Camden

Join Us for KVCOG's 4th Annual Planning Day & General Assembly Meeting

We are excited to announce KVCOG's 4th Annual Planning Day & General Assembly Meeting! This event serves as a cornerstone for our region, bringing together local leaders and partners to shape the future of the Kennebec Valley.

Connect and Learn at Planning Day

Planning Day is a premier opportunity for municipal officials and staff to:

Network: Engage with peers from our member municipalities to share successes and strategies.

Gain Insight: Attend dedicated information sessions covering the most pressing topics impacting our communities today, from legislative updates to regional development.

Collaborate: Connect directly with partner organizations and industry experts to discover new resources for your town or city.

Shape Our Future at the General Assembly Meeting

At lunch, we will convene the General Assembly Meeting. This is the designated time for General Assembly Representatives from our member municipalities to meet, discuss, and vote on essential KVCOG business matters. Your participation ensures that our regional direction remains member-driven and focused on the needs of our local communities.

For more information or to find out who your GA Representative is contact:

Maggie Camden
mcamden@kvkog.org
(207)453-4258 ext. 221

To Register Online:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/4th-annual-planning-day-and-general-assembly-meeting>

KVCOG is currently looking to expand our Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Committee, and we believe your municipality has individuals who would be excellent candidates.

The RLF Committee plays a vital role in fostering economic growth across Kennebec, Somerset, and Western Waldo Counties by reviewing loan applications and making recommendations to support local businesses.

We are particularly interested in individuals with backgrounds in:

- Banking, Law, or Accounting
- Real Estate Appraisal
- Industrial or business leadership
- Public administration

Committee members should reside in Kennebec, Somerset, or Western Waldo County. We would greatly appreciate it if you could share this opportunity with potential candidates and influential individuals within your municipality. If you know of someone who possesses a strong financial background and a passion for community development, please encourage them to send a letter of interest or questions to Maggie Camden at mcamden@kvkog.org.

MAINE DEP 2026 SOLID WASTE DIVERSION GRANT – ROUND I NOW OPEN

This grant program provides funding to support the development, implementation, or expansion of projects that increase solid waste diversion, with a strong emphasis on organics management.

Eligible activities may include:

- Municipal or regional composting programs
- Organics recovery and recycling initiatives
- Food waste reduction and donation programs
- Reuse, repair, and upcycling projects
- Educational and outreach efforts
- Equipment purchases and infrastructure improvements



The Department anticipates making up to six awards, ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000. A 25% match (cash or in-kind) is required.

Key Dates:

- Questions Due: March 10th, 2026 (4:00 PM)
- Proposal Submission Deadline: April 13th, 2026 (4:00 PM)
- Anticipated Contract Period: June 15th, 2026 – June 15th, 2028

All proposals must be submitted through the State's Vendor Self Service (VSS) portal.

If your municipality is considering applying, KVCOG is available to assist with project development and application preparation. **Please contact: Olivia Kunesh, Environmental Coordinator at okunesh@kvkog.org or (207) 453-4258 x 219.**

COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS, ROUND 7, NOW OPEN

The Community Resilience Partnership has officially opened Round 7 of their Community Action Grants, providing no-match grant funding to support municipal projects that advance climate resilience, clean energy, and emissions reduction goals. Eligible projects include initiatives such as energy efficiency upgrades, improving/protecting drinking water/wastewater treatment/stormwater facilities, flood mitigation, capital investment plans, and other climate-focused actions aligned with Maine Won't Wait.

Application Deadline: June 5, 2026, 5 P.M. EST

An informational webinar was held on March 18th. Download the [webinar slides](#) or view the [webinar recording](#).

If your community is interested in applying, KVCOG is available to assist with project development, scoping, and application preparation. **Please contact: Grainne Shaw, gshaw@kvkog.org, (207) 453-4258 x 210 for more information.**

Maine Trails Program

The Maine Trails Program is a new statewide grant initiative created by the Maine Legislature and managed by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Bureau of Parks and Lands. The program supports the design, construction, rehabilitation, and expansion of trails for outdoor recreation and active transportation - including motorized, non-motorized, and multi-use trail projects across the state.

Established with \$30 million in state funding through 2034, the program can award up to \$7.5 million per year to leverage public and private matching contributions. Eligible applicants include municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and trail clubs, and projects are evaluated for sustainability, community benefit, accessibility, and connection to existing trail networks.

The second round of funding is open now, with applications due June 26, 2026. Whether it's improving local hiking paths, expanding multi-use corridors, or enhancing access for all abilities, this program offers an exciting opportunity to invest in Maine's outdoor recreation infrastructure and support healthy, active communities.

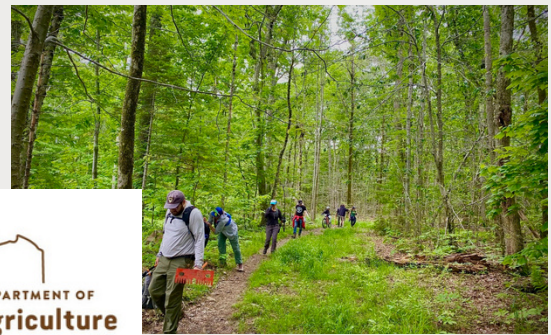
Applications due Friday, June 26. [LEARN MORE.](#)

Questions about the program or application process?

Contact:
Adam Fisher at adam.c.n.fisher@maine.gov

Fraud Alert

Municipalities across Maine are being targeted by a scam in which individuals pose as town officials and send fraudulent invoices to applicants, often requesting immediate wire payment for fabricated fees. This activity has recently been reported in multiple communities, including the City of Hallowell, and may include official-looking documents, invoice numbers, and requests to sign and return forms. Municipal staff are encouraged to remind applicants that towns will not request payment via wire transfer or send vague invoices by email. Staying vigilant and reporting suspicious communications can help prevent financial loss and protect residents and local governments.



LD 2173

We are still awaiting guidance and additional information regarding LD 2173, commonly referred to as the "fix bill." At this time, it remains unclear what specific changes the bill will introduce or how those changes may affect municipalities.



REGIONAL CEO PROGRAM IN KENNEBEC COUNTY



Requirements to Participate in Kennebec County:

- Population of less than 4,000 residents
- Need CEO services for roughly 12 hours (or less) per week

Cost to Municipalities:

For the first year while we gauge the number of hours a municipality needs in addition to any optional services, the fee for service from KVCOG will not exceed what the municipality currently has budgeted for Code Enforcement.

KVCOG's Regional Code Enforcement Officer Program services are now available to its member municipalities in Kennebec, Somerset, & Western Waldo County. Monday, March 2nd, we discussed the details of the 1st Regional Code Enforcement Officer program in the State of Maine, the success we are having thus far, the different components of the program, & the benefits this program will provide to your municipality & the region.

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**Missed the session and
interested in hearing more?
[View the fact sheet for
program details here](#)**

Or contact:
Jessie Cyr, Economic and
Community Development
Director
jcyr@kvkog.org
(207) 453-4258 x 220

2026 MAINE INFRASTRUCTURE ADAPTATION FUND

The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) will be seeking applications for the 2026 Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund. **The purpose of this fund is to provide one-time funding to municipal, tribal, and infrastructure districts to adapt their critical infrastructure to reduce vulnerability to climate change.** The goal of this program is to reduce the existing infrastructure risk to climate change impacts, such as sea level rise, increased precipitation, and other related climate risks, and provide increased resilience. All projects are encouraged to utilize nature-based solutions (NbS) and/or a combination of green (natural) and gray (structural) solutions (hybrid) where applicable; however, NbS is not a requirement for this program.

Eligible properties include publicly owned infrastructure in municipalities, tribal communities, and infrastructure districts. This grant is federally funded, and therefore, privately or state-owned infrastructure are not eligible to apply.

Eligible projects include stormwater systems upgrades, water system upgrades, and other interventions that support public infrastructure repair to reduce or eliminate climate impacts.

Additional eligible projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Stabilizing coastal or inland shoreland through the use of vegetation and biodegradable materials (the construction of hard shoreline stabilization structures are not eligible for funding unless they are part of a hybrid green and gray adaptation action);
- Replacing existing stream crossings with structures that comply with MaineDOT's 100-year flood standards and ensure habitat connectivity

- Adapting stormwater infrastructure to accommodate the increase in extreme precipitation events;
- Scoping and design, and/or construction of wastewater treatment plants upgrades for increased resilience to climate change stressors;
- Transportation resilience projects;
- Upgrading, retrofitting, or relocating existing infrastructure to reduce risk from weather and climate impacts (construction of new facilities is not an eligible activity under this grant opportunity).

All projects are subject to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) environmental compliance review prior to the release of funds. **Projects must be completed by September 30, 2029.** The State anticipates awarding up to \$13.8 million to eligible proposals through Maine's NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge award.

The Request for Applications (RFA) will open in late March 2026 and is expected to remain open for approximately six weeks. **The RFA will be posted here:**

<https://www.maine.gov/dot/programs-services/environmental-efforts/climate-initiative/adaptation> in late

March 2026. Please note that the requirements for the grant application are subject to potential modifications. In the event of any discrepancies between this document and the RFA, the RFA will be considered the final document.

The State Anticipates Awarding up to:

\$13.8 Million

Eligible Activities Include: Scoping and Design

Applicants may request up to

\$75,000

Construction Projects

Applicants may request up to

\$3,000,000

A Combination of Scoping, Design, and Construction

Applicants not to exceed

\$3,000,000

Applicants are required to provide a minimum of 5% local match (cash or in-kind) of the total project costs.

All local match must be raised or appropriated by the entity applying. All local match amounts must be directly related to the proposed project and tasks. Costs incurred prior to the effective date of the grant agreement, including application preparation costs, will not be considered as part of the match requirements.

This grant program is reimbursement only.

Contact Info:
Lirella Jaen, Transportation Planning Specialist
Maine DOT
Adaptation.DOT@maine.gov



Community Greenhouse Grant

Community Greenhouse Grant RFA and Online Application Opens March 18

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Community Greenhouse Grant application opens on Wednesday, March 18, 2026.

Please review the Request for Applications (RFA) and all related documents on the [program website](#) before applying.

Application Deadline: April 28, 2026, no later than 12:00 p.m., ET.

Information Sessions: Online information sessions will be hosted through Zoom on the following dates and times:

- Register: Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Grant Purpose: The purpose of this funding opportunity is to fund projects that will deliver the greatest measurable benefit by enhancing food production opportunities through investments in shared, educational-use, durable greenhouses. This RFA provides instructions on how schools, community centers, and other public entities may apply for one-time grant funding for durable greenhouse structures, including, but not limited to, structures made of glass or polycarbonate, and associated siting and installation costs. Eligibility to Apply: Schools, colleges, universities, community centers and public entities located in Maine are eligible to apply.

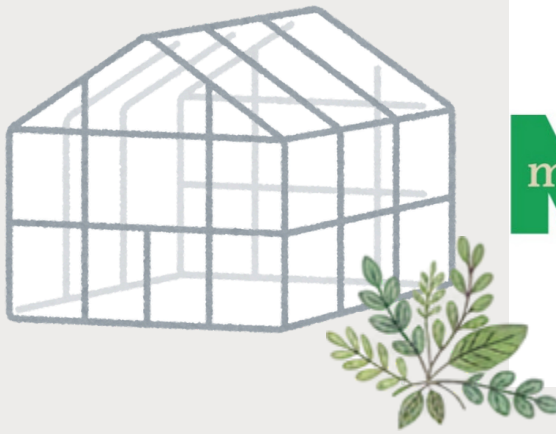
For the purpose of this RFA, "public entity" means:

- A state agency or authority;
- The University of Maine System, the Maine Maritime Academy, and the Maine Community College System; and
- A county, municipality, or school district.

Funding Available: DACF anticipates awarding up to \$500,000 through this grant opportunity.

Award Range: Award ranges will be between \$25,000 and \$250,000

[Learn More](#)





RECYCLING MARKETS DISCUSSION SUMMARY

GUEST SPEAKER: VICTOR HORTON, MAINE RESOURCE RECOVERY ASSOCIATION (MRRA)

KVCOG hosted this discussion on Wednesday, April 1st that provided an overview of current recycling markets in Maine and what those conditions mean for municipal recycling programs. The discussion covered pricing trends, market volatility, and common challenges.

Cardboard (OCC):

- ~\$70/ton (March 2026) | Down from ~\$110/ton (Sept. 2024)
- Has generally hovered between \$60-\$75/ton over the past year

Newspaper:

- ~\$45/ton, but currently selling closer to ~\$135/ton, but because freight costs are high (~\$68/ton), significantly reducing net value

Mixed Paper:

- ~\$20-\$25/ton less than newspaper

Office Paper (if separated):

- ~\$115-\$140/ton | Previously exceeded \$200/ton (2023)

PET Plastics (#1):

- ~\$10/ton (March 2026) | Down from ~\$130/ton (Oct. 2025)
- Previously as high as ~\$270-\$287/ton (2024-2025)
- Market impacted by closure of processing facilities

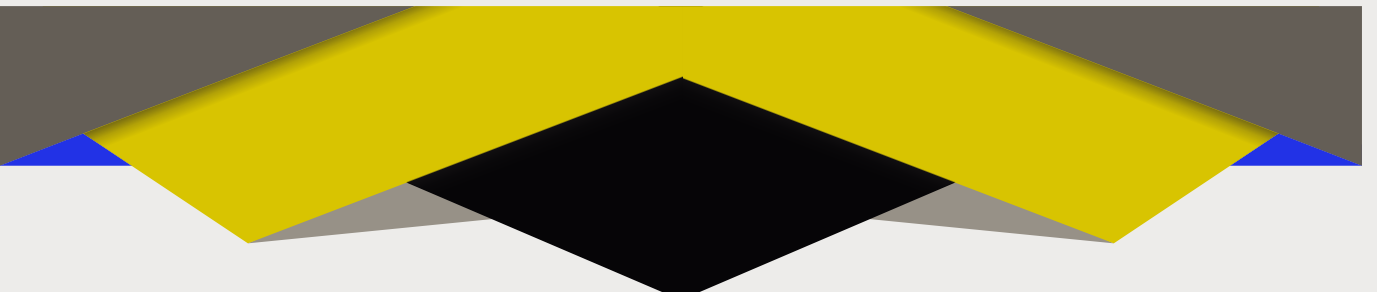
HDPE Plastics (#2):

- Natural (milk jugs): ~\$1,400/ton | Colored: ~\$100/ton

#3–#7 Plastics:

- ~\$30-\$40/ton (if separated)
- Limited and inconsistent markets

Steel Cans:

- ~\$225/ton (Feb. 2026)
- 

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES



The Community Resilience Partnership team is excited to offer a [Lunch and Learn webinar series](#) for prospective applicants!

This series is designed to help communities prepare strong, competitive applications by highlighting funded projects, sharing practical lessons from peer communities, and connecting participants with resources and state agencies. Sessions will focus on mobilizing volunteers for resilience projects, waste diversion and circular economy initiatives, flood resilience and vulnerability assessments, and energy efficiency in municipal buildings. Each session has its own unique registration link. All sessions take place from 12PM-1PM.

Schedule:

March 25 - Mobilizing Volunteers for Resilience Projects

Learn how communities engage volunteers and service fellows to expand capacity and deliver impactful resilience projects.

[Register on Zoom.](#)

April 1 - Waste Diversion & Circular Economy

Explore practical approaches to waste reduction, composting, recycling, and shared community resources.

[Register on Zoom.](#)

April 15 - Flood Resilience & Community Vulnerability Assessments

Understand flood risks, vulnerability assessments, and strategies for local planning and mitigation.

[Register on Zoom.](#)

April 29 - Powering Resilient Communities: Energy Efficiency in Municipal Buildings

See how communities are lowering energy costs, improving building efficiency, and investing in clean energy solutions.

[Register on Zoom.](#)



NEW RESOURCES FOR THE HOUSING OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (HOP)

The Housing Opportunity Program is pleased to announce the release of two resources to support municipalities with the implementation of LD 1829, LD 427, and LD 997.

The first resource is a second round of Municipal Ordinance Development Grants. These grants provide financial support to municipalities to update ordinances to comply with LD 1829, LD 427 and LD 997. The Program Statement, posted on [HOP's website](#), provides information about the grant opportunity and how municipalities can apply. Municipalities may apply for this grant opportunity on a rolling basis until July 31, 2026. All grant applications must be submitted through the [MOCA Submittable Grants Portal](#). For assistance, [watch this video](#) on signing up for the Submittable platform and completing the grant application.

The second resource is HOP's updated Housing Legislation Guidance Document (formerly known as LD 2003 Guidance Document). This guidance document provides information to municipalities about how to adapt municipal land use ordinances to comply with recent housing legislation including LD 997, LD 427 and LD 1829. This document can be found on [HOP's website](#). This document will be updated if LD 2173 is enacted.

Questions? Please contact the Housing Opportunity Program at housing.moca@maine.gov.



KVCOG will be hosting an in-person Housing Opportunity Program Technical Assistance Session to support municipalities preparing ordinance updates and grant applications under the Municipal Ordinance Development Grants. Date and Time TBD.

This session will provide:

- An overview of eligible uses of funds
- Guidance on ordinance amendment requirements
- Application tips and timeline planning
- Time for questions and discussion

To RSVP or request the Zoom link, please contact:
Jessica Cobb, Senior Planner
jcobb@kvkog.org or (207) 453-4258 x 218



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS (CDBG)

The following programs are available to Maine Communities and in certain instances, Counties through the Office of Community Development. For specific information on applications dates and program eligible activities, refer to the individual application packages and the current **Program Statement**.

Program	Letter of Intent Due By	Application Due By
Downtown Revitalization	January 23 rd , 2026	March 6 th , 2026
Economic Development	July 3 rd , 2025	Per Invitation
Housing Assistance	March 20 th , 2026	May 15 th , 2026
Public Infrastructure	January 16 th , 2026	March 13 th , 2026
Public Service	April 24 th , 2026	June 6 th , 2026
Community Enterprise	February 20 th , 2026	April 10 th , 2026
Special Projects/Urgent Need	TBD	TBD

Full program descriptions and application materials are available on the **Maine DECD website**.

Questions? Contact:
Jessie Cyr, Economic and Community
Development Director
jcyr@kvcog.org
(207) 453-4258 x 220





KENNEBEC VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT

KVCOG remains committed to supporting our member municipalities through thoughtful planning, strong partnerships, and strategic investment in our region's future.

Regional service. Local results.

For questions or to discuss upcoming initiatives, please contact our office at (207) 453-4258 or info@kvcog.org. You can find our full contact information [here](#).

~ Joel, Diana, Grainne, Jeff, Jessica, Jessie, Jeannette, Maggie, Melanie, Olivia, and Turner ~

