



# PENOBSCOT CLIMATE ACTION

February 2026

## PCA BACKGROUND & ACTIVITIES

Penobscot Climate Action (PCA) is a regional collaboration in the Greater Bangor area to strengthen the region's people, infrastructure, and economy in the face of a changing climate. A formal planning effort took place from 2022 to 2024 which resulted in the following resources specific to local needs/interests:

- Vulnerability Assessment
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory
- Climate Action Plan

See the [PCA website](#) for more information:

### PCA Committee

To support the implementation of plan recommendations a committee of local stakeholders (including municipal staff, business/organization representatives, and residents) was formed. The PCA Committee meets quarterly to share information and identify areas for collaboration.

### PCA Working Groups

Working Groups are created to focus on particular PCA Climate Action Plan recommendations. Currently, two working groups are active.

- **Public Advisory Working Group:** This group provides continuous and specialized attention to the PCA Committee's public outreach and engagement strategy.  
(We author this newsletter!)
- **Resilience Hub Working Group:** This group is supporting the implementation of [Toolkit #9](#). Current group activities include collecting data about the region's emergency preparedness.

If you are interested in getting involved please fill out the form on our website or contact: [info@bactsmppo.org](mailto:info@bactsmppo.org).

## NEWSLETTER INTRODUCTION



Hello Reader!

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the PCA Newsletter. We created this space to keep you informed and engaged with climate action right here in the **Greater Bangor, Maine region**. In each issue, we'll bring you a mix of local updates and practical insights, including:

- **Project Spotlights:** Updates on past, present, and future initiatives shaping our community.
- **Local Action:** Tangible ways you can get involved and make an impact nearby.
- **Sustainability Stories:** A closer look at how our region is already advancing environmental efforts.

If you have information that should be featured in this newsletter please reach out to: [info@bactsmppo.org](mailto:info@bactsmppo.org). See archived project updates and newsletters on [PCA website](#).

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Looking to save money on your energy bills and/or reduce your carbon footprint? Buildings in the Penobscot region are responsible for about 60% of the region's greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, building retrofits are one of the highest-impact actions individuals can take to reduce their footprint. There are several financial incentives available for these upgrades.

**TIP:** Consider conducting an energy audit before any type of energy efficiency project to determine the improvements that will have the highest impact on energy bills. If a home lacks insulation and is drafty, it will be more worthwhile for the owner to air seal and insulate first rather than add a heat pump initially (which may result in high electricity bills if the home isn't properly weatherized).



Efficiency Maine offers residential rebates for single-family homes, duplexes, and condos, as well as separate incentives for multi-family, commercial, and governmental entities. There are substantial rebates available for new heating systems, heat pump hot water heaters, insulation, electric vehicles, appliances, and lighting.

In order to claim rebates from Efficiency Maine, residential customers must use one of the organization's registered vendors and commercial customers must use one of their qualified partners. Efficiency Maine has tools on their website to find vendors or contractors nearby.

If customers don't have enough cash to cover the rest of the cost of an upgrade, Efficiency Maine offers home energy loans to help pay for upgrades.

Visit [www.efficiencymaine.com](http://www.efficiencymaine.com) for more information.

### CITY OF BANGOR PROGRAMS

#### Homeowner Grants

In addition to rebates from Efficiency Maine, the City of Bangor is also offering grants for energy efficiency upgrades to qualified City residents. For owner-occupied housing where the homeowner makes less than 80% of the area median income, grants up to \$2,000 per home for heat pumps or weatherization are available.

#### Landlord Grants

The City is also offering grants up to \$2,000 for weatherization to landlords for rental units. These grants are meant to fill funding gaps between what Efficiency Maine and any other grants will cover for a project, so the total City grant amount may be less than \$2,000. Half of this funding for landlords is limited to units rented to low-moderate income tenants while the other half is not income-limited. For the landlord weatherization program, we require an energy audit to be done beforehand and can help coordinate this; the grant funding can be used to cover the energy audit cost as well.

Contact [robyn.stanicki@bangormaine.gov](mailto:robyn.stanicki@bangormaine.gov) or [stan.grunder@bangormaine.gov](mailto:stan.grunder@bangormaine.gov) for more information.

## GREEN TIP

#### Weatherization

Use weather stripping around the house to keep out drafts and reduce energy use by as much as 25%. This is a great project that kids can help with!

## THANK YOU FOR FOLLOWING ALONG!

<https://www.penobscotclimateaction.org/>