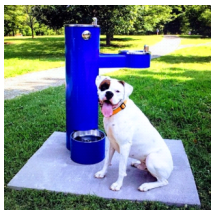


## Community Roundup of Belfast Springtime Events & Actions Addressing Climate Change

Happy Spring! As you'll see in this issue, there is a great deal of spring-like energy and excitement in Belfast for learning about, talking about, and doing something about climate change.

If you know of other events, please share them with us at [abcd@belfastlibrary.org](mailto:abcd@belfastlibrary.org). And please share your experiences of getting involved with any of the events & activities below!



### Help raise funds to install refillable water bottle stations in Belfast

The Creation Care Committee of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Belfast, has announced a public fundraising campaign for three public access refillable water bottle stations, with attached pet water bowls, for downtown Belfast. These stations will help with efforts to eliminate single-use plastic water bottles.

**To make these a reality before the summer tourist season begins the committee must raise approximately \$20,000 by April 30.**

**You can help by sending your donation** to the fiscal agent for this project: Friends of Belfast Parks, a 501(c)(3) organization.

Your donation is tax deductible.

Mail checks to:

Friends of Belfast Parks  
PO Box 947

Belfast, Maine 04915

(Include "water fountains" in the memo.)



### 'Stop Funding Fossil Fuels' Belfast rally on Tuesday, 3/21

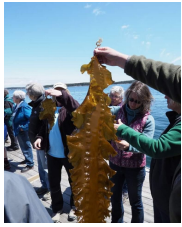
Four U.S. banks - Bank of America, Citibank, Chase, Wells Fargo - lead the world in funding new fossil fuel projects.

This rally is sponsored by **Third Act Maine** which welcomes planet lovers of all ages. Third Act is a national climate organization started by environmentalist Bill McKibben for folks aged 60 and over. Older folks in the 'third act' of their lives have unique power in their numbers and experience, wisdom and share of financial assets.

**Tuesday, March 21 is Third Act's National Day of Action to send a message to the banks.**

Third Act Maine is hosting 2 powerful, fun events - one in Portland's Monument Square from 3-4:30 and an event in Belfast from 8-9am.

If you are interested in carpooling to Portland and/or joining the Belfast rally please **email** [3rdactmidcoastmaine@gmail.com](mailto:3rdactmidcoastmaine@gmail.com) or call 207-573-0430 for more details.



## Penobscot Bay Stewards program application (deadline March 31)

The Penobscot Bay Stewards, a signature program of Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition, invites applications for the 2023 program. The program will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays between May 9 and June 15 and is free of charge.

It only requires a good pair of shoes and an eagerness to learn about a range of topics including Penobscot Bay history, marine habitats, the culture of the Wabanaki, water quality, and current regional issues with environmental impact.

Learn more and apply at [belfastbaywatershed.org/pen-bay-stewards](http://belfastbaywatershed.org/pen-bay-stewards).

Application deadline is March 31.



## "Rx for a Chaotic Climate: Healthy Soils" ~ Belfast Garden Club lecture on Tuesday 3/28

In recent years, Mainers have noticed chaotic weather patterns caused by climate change. State representative and soil scientist Laurie Osher will discuss practices that preserve and enhance soil organic matter to increase sequestration of carbon in soils. She will outline bills she's worked on to improve land management to decrease climate change impacts on our \$3.6 billion agricultural industry. She will speak about helping communities in Penobscot, Piscataquis and Aroostook counties obtain funding from the state so they can become more resilient to climate changes.

Tuesday, March 28 at 6:30 PM on Zoom

Learn more and register for the Zoom link at [belfastlibrary.org/abcd-events](http://belfastlibrary.org/abcd-events)

Co-sponsored by Belfast Garden Club and ABCD.

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## "Walk & Roll Belfast" Group

### What's a Active Transit aka Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan?



A new group called "Walk & Roll Belfast" is being created to help citizens create more active transit in our community.

**SIGN UP to learn more:** Send your email address to [walkandrollbelfast@gmail.com](mailto:walkandrollbelfast@gmail.com) to be added to the list!

Learn more about active transit from the Belfast Pedestrian, Biking & Hiking Committee, and what's happening in Belfast with transportation: [abcdbelfast.omeka.net/items/show/134](http://abcdbelfast.omeka.net/items/show/134)



## **Belfast Senior College 6-week course on Climate Change**

### **"Climate Change: Forests, Farms, Habitat, and Sustainability of All Living Things"**

In this 6-week class at Belfast Senior College, attendees will hear from local land and forest preservation groups who steward the beautiful lands and waters of mid-coast Maine. They will describe their programs, goals and challenges in the face of climate change.

The course will initiate conversations on how we can protect and sustain these resources for future generations.

Speakers include Belfast Free Library's ABCD project, Georges River Land Trust, Coastal Mountains Land Trust, Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition, and the Waldo County Soil & Water Conservation District. Moderated by Fred Bowers, former soil and water scientist and the Chair of the Belfast Climate Crisis Committee.

**March 30 - May 4th, 2023**

**Thursdays from 9:30 - 11:30 am**

**In-person at Hutchinson Center**

**Learn more and sign up here:**  
[belfastseniorcollege.org](http://belfastseniorcollege.org).



## **Local Leads the Way meeting on April 10**

Several folks from Belfast, including Climate Crisis Committee and ABCD team members, have been regularly attending A Climate To Thrive's Local Leads the Way monthly meetings.

The last one was an invigorating discussion on community-driven climate action planning. The group dove into the benefits of a community-driven approach to planning, how that approach can help build capacity for implementation, and accompanying challenges and opportunities.

The discussion was fruitful - and extremely relevant to Belfast's current efforts - and the next meeting will continue with this topic, starting with implementation.

**Monday, April 10 at 4:00 PM on Zoom**

**Register for the meeting here:**  
[aclimatetothrive.org/localleadstheway](http://aclimatetothrive.org/localleadstheway)

*A Climate To Thrive is a fantastic organization working towards energy independence for Mount Desert Island by 2030 - and building a network of community-driven, solutions-focused climate action throughout the state of Maine.*



## BAHS Engineering Class Designing new Instrument Mast for City Landing

City of Belfast  
Climate Crisis Committee



Jerry Brand of the Belfast Climate Crisis Committee (CCC) reports that he is **working with Dave Thomas's Engineering class at Belfast Area High School (BAHS)** to design and document in CAD the parts for a new Instrument Mast for the City Landing. This will consolidate existing weather and tide instruments at one location and add new sensors.

The new sensors are provided through **US Harbors**, and include a Tide Gauge, a Weather Station, and Time Lapse Video Camera. All instrument outputs either are or will be available to the **Marine Science program at BAHS** and the **Harbor Office**, and will be displayed on the Maine Harbors and Weather Underground websites.

This extremely detailed hyper-local data is already providing insights into the progressing weather changes, and will prove invaluable as Belfast makes decisions on how to adapt in the future.

With the enthusiastic help from the BAHS students, and the support of materials and facilities from **Front Street Shipyard** and **Belmont Boatworks**, the new mast should be in place by early summer 2023.

This project is a collaborative effort of the CCC and the Belfast Harbor Committee working with BAHS.

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**Sign up to receive this newsletter by email: [www.belfastlibrary.org/abcd-newsletter](http://www.belfastlibrary.org/abcd-newsletter)**

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*The All of Belfast: Climate Dialogues (ABCD) project is capturing community perspectives - photographs, written stories, videos and more - on the ABCD website. This collection will help increase our awareness of each others' experiences, create a point of reference for the future, and perhaps prompt us to take action now in preparation for the challenges ahead. This project of the Belfast Free Library was made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. IMLS grant number: APP-246100-OLS-20. Read the proposal on the IMLS website.*

