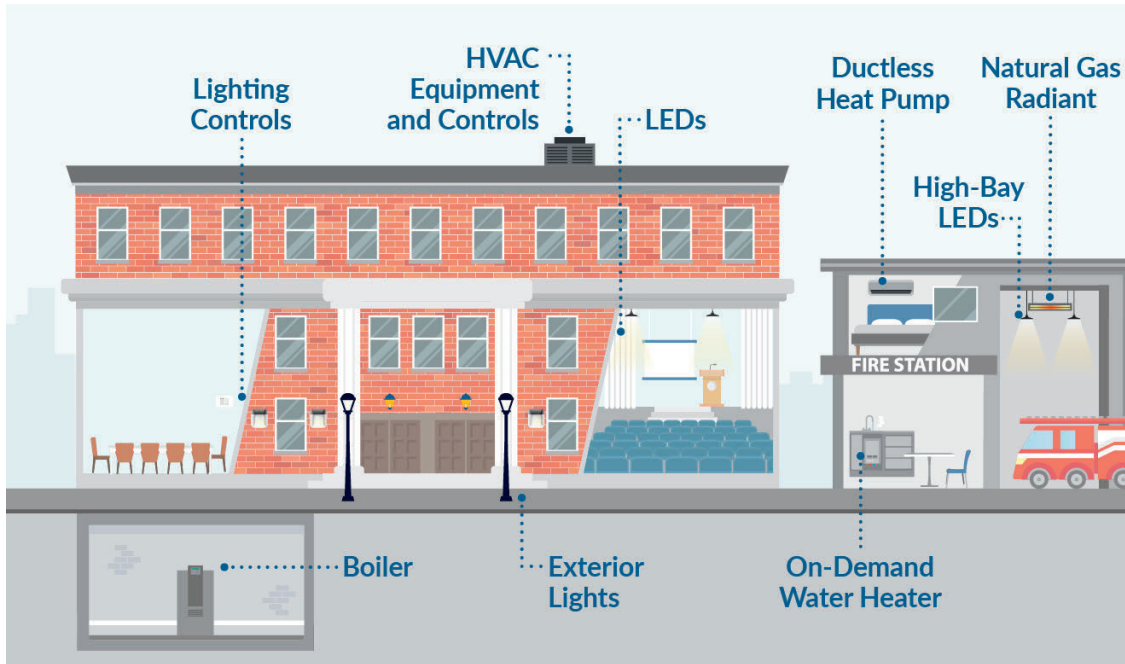


Community Climate Conversation: Modernizing Our Homes & Buildings



Maine municipalities are often faced with budget pressures and high operating costs to maintain older municipal buildings. Energy efficiency is a great way for municipalities to save energy and money, and improve comfort, safety, and maintenance costs. Image credit: Efficiency Maine

You're invited! Join us for a community climate conversation about modernizing Belfast's homes & buildings for energy efficiency and cost savings and to help us reduce greenhouse gases.

Thursday, December 8th at 6:00 pm
Belfast Free Library in the Abbott Room (in person)
with Zoom option also available

Join us for this third in our [series of community climate conversations](#) that began on June 14th seeking public input to develop a climate action plan for Belfast.

The discussion will invite public input on ideas for how Belfast **homes, businesses and municipal buildings (both existing and new)** could be modernized for cost- and energy-savings.

Maine Won't Wait, the state's 4-year climate action plan, notes that "Heating, cooling, and lighting of buildings are responsible for almost one-third of Maine's greenhouse gas emissions. Maine can reduce greenhouse gases by modernizing our buildings to use cleaner energy, increase energy efficiency, and utilize lower-carbon building materials." According to **Belfast's 2019 Communitywide Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions**, Transportation accounts for 49% of emissions, and Residential Energy and Commercial Energy combined account for 50% of emissions. (residential energy contributes 33% and commercial energy 17%.) Actions to reduce emissions in all of these sectors will be a key part of a climate action plan for Belfast.

Our conversation will be grounded in the State of Maine's goals and progress, as well as sharing examples of actions that are currently being undertaken by several Maine communities. There will be a brief summary of the actions Belfast is already taking to modernize buildings and increase energy efficiency.

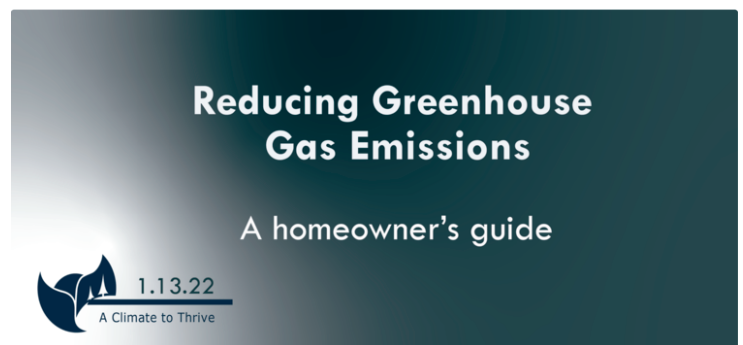
We will encourage audience participation to **discuss ideas and actions property owners can take to save money and energy in heating, cooling and lighting their homes and businesses, and take part in planning what our community should do in coming years.**

Co-sponsored by ABCD and the City of Belfast Climate Crisis Committee (CCC).

Go to www.belfastlibrary.org/abcd-events
or call Brenda Harrington at 207-338-3884 ext. 30 to learn more.



Take [Efficiency Maine's Residential Tour](http://www.energymaine.com/residential-virtual-tour) to learn more about increasing energy efficiency in homes:
www.energymaine.com/residential-virtual-tour



For additional inspiration, check out the "[Homeowner's Guide to Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction](#)" video from our friends at A Climate To Thrive on Mount Desert Island:
www.aclimatetothrive.org/educationseries

Rain Garden Follow-up

Our second Community Climate Conversation event on October 18th, on the topic of **“Creating Resilience to Big Storms and Flooding”**, attracted an engaged audience of 40 citizens. Attendees were energized by brainstorming actions the community could take together - most particularly the idea of creating a rain garden in a public location in Belfast and using it as an educational model.



Residential rain garden in Leominster, Massachusetts. Photo credit: Environmental Protection Agency

We are excited to have lined up a follow-up event about rain gardens on **February 2, 2023** (with snow date of February 9), **“Rain Gardens and Other Water Management Techniques for Your Property”** with presenter Rebecca Jacobs of the Knox County Soil & Water Conservation District. Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 2 at 6:00 PM at the Belfast Free Library, and in the meantime, let’s get excited to plan a community rain garden!



Happy Holidays from the ABCD team!
Wishing you a warm, safe and light holiday season.



Learn more about the ABCD project on the Library website, Facebook, and Instagram, and by chatting with your librarians.

Sign up to receive this newsletter by email: www.belfastlibrary.org/abcd-newsletter

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.

