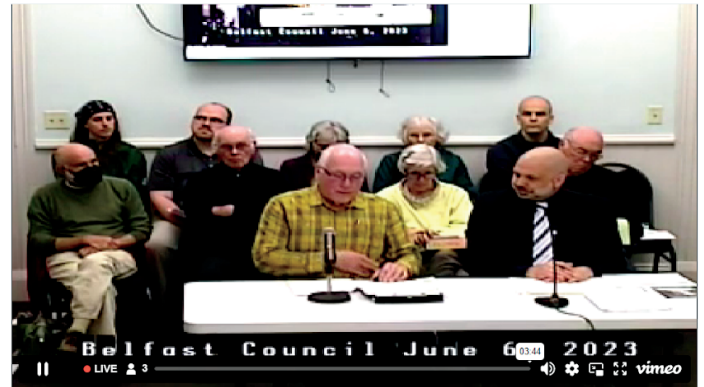




Climate Action Plan final draft complete; Belfast application for Community Resilience Partnership

On June 6, 2023 the Belfast City Council and Climate Crisis Committee (CCC) held a 'Community Resilience Partnership' Public Workshop to review the components of the application for enrolling in Maine's Community Resilience Partnership. With acceptance into the CRP program, Belfast would be eligible for State grant awards (up to \$50,000 twice a year) to help reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy, and become more resilient to climate change effects.



June 6, 2023 ClimateWorkshop

City of Belfast Maine meeting

Economic Development Director Thomas Kittredge presented a draft Community Resilience Self-Evaluation & List of Community Actions (part of the CRP application). The CCC provided the Council with a short summary of 6 suggested priority actions for Belfast (see below), derived from the final draft of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) which was submitted to the Council on June 5, 2023.

Table 1. CCC Suggested Priority items for CRP Funding. (Not ranked in any order)

Proposal	Page in Belfast CAP	List of 72
Feasibility study of city buildings for installation of heat pumps	12	D-4
Organize plans for emergency shelters	9	F-14
Develop detailed model of present electrical demand in Belfast as critical tool for planning	13	C-1
Develop criteria and procedures for permits and strategies for shoreline protection	16	E-8, E-9
Study feasibility of achieving 30/30 plan outlined in Maine Won't Wait	15	E-2
Invest in a Sustainability Coordinator [employee, entity, or contractor]	2	

The CAP and the above short list of recommendations come directly from the CCC's community outreach, including a series of "Community Climate Conversations" held by All of Belfast Climate Dialogues & the CCC to vet priorities and collect public feedback & ideas.



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In next steps following the June 6th meeting, each Council member was asked to select their top 2 recommended priority actions or issues to focus on. With this direction, Kittredge is drafting a resolution of commitment for the Council to discuss and adopt at the June 20th City Council Meeting. This resolution provides the final step allowing Belfast to complete its application to the CRP.

Once the City's application has been accepted, the prioritized action areas will become the focus for developing implementation grant applications for the next 1-3 years.

Check out the links on www.belfastlibrary.org/abcd-newsletter for some examples of what other Maine communities are doing with their grants (and other documents referenced above).

ABCD would like to congratulate and thank the CCC members for their outstanding efforts in completing the CAP and for volunteering their expertise and time. Thank you to City staff and the City Council for moving this process forward to enroll Belfast in the Community Resilience Partnership. Thank you to all community members who have contributed their ideas.

Learn more & show your support

Please consider attending the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 20th at 7:00 PM to show your support for the Community Resilience Partnership enrollment, and the presentation of the Climate Action Plan to the City Council. Alternately you may write an email or letter to the City Council, to be shared during the meeting. Thank you!

Running for City Council: what better way to be an engaged citizen?

If you've ever considered serving on the City Council and want to learn more, please join Belfast City Councilor Mike Hurley on Monday, June 19 for a Zoom class on "How to run and serve on the Belfast City Council."

Here is a description from Mike: "Have you ever wanted to serve as a city councilor? On June 19th at 6:30 I'll start a 3 evenings zoom class on "how to run and serve on the Belfast City Council." I have not had an opponent in years! This November my seat will be up. I'll tell you everything about serving you want to know and all that you do not want to know. The good and the bad. This will be anonymous for you so if you secretly have wanted to run or you were reluctant you can watch without worries. This class will be fun. I have served 9? 10? Terms as Mayor or Councilor and will impart all it takes."

Time: Monday, June 19, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83314051443>

If you need a phone number to call in, or you have questions for Mike, please reach out to him at mike@pilut.com.

Report on Sustainable Communities Day



On June 1, 2023 ABCD co-sponsored the Sustainable Communities Day organized by the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition. Held in conjunction with the annual Pen Bay Stewards Training, this event was intended to create connections among organizations with a sustainability-related mission and showcase their work for the interested members of our community.

The event took place at the Belfast Boathouse, with an afternoon of presentations and local businesses and nonprofits exhibiting around the room. It was inspiring to see the many organizations that are offering solutions to help us reduce our carbon footprint and green our economy.



Brenda Harrington (from ABCD) was invited to give an overview of the Community Climate Conversations series hosted by the Library's ABCD program and co-sponsored by the Climate Crisis Committee. She shared some of the ideas suggested by attendees at the programs as well as some of our key takeaways.

At each of the four conversations we heard the need for education about available resources and leadership. In particular, there was a clear call for an organization or alliance to connect the groups already working towards sustainability and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

Following the presentations on June 1st, the panel discussion was a chance for the audience to ask questions and make suggestions as to what they see as next steps. These included:

- What would it take for Belfast to be a sustainable city?
- Suggestion to encourage the City of Belfast to implement policies that require "Sustainability tied to economic development."
- What are the next steps to forming a coalition of climate action groups? Who or what organization might fill this role?
- Suggestion to start by joining an existing effort – volunteer with one of the groups in the room.

From the discussion it is clear that there is an interest in forming a coalition, but no one is taking the charge to organize it, yet.

If you are interested in meeting to discuss forming a Climate Action Network, contact Brenda at bharrington@belfastlibrary.org.

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.

