



Stay in Touch - Keep Talking About It - and Together, Let's Turn Community Conversations into Action

ABCD Final Presentation & Celebration

Tuesday, August 29th at 5:00 PM
Abbott Room at Belfast Free Library

5:00 - 5:45 PM Mingling & light refreshments
5:45 - 7:00 PM Presentation & time for conversation

Join the ABCD team, Sarah Kirn, Misty Mallar and librarian Brenda Harrington as we highlight our efforts of the past three years to engage the community in conversations about climate resiliency for Belfast.



The ABCD team: Sarah Kirn, Misty Mallar and librarian Brenda Harrington.

From 2020-2023, ABCD has held over 40 educational programs & community climate conversations, engaging over 1,500 people. You can find these on our [YouTube ABCD playlist](#), and highlighted in our Event summaries and links to [ABCD website archive](#) at belfastlibrary.org/abcd-events.

Although the funding for this IMLS grant program is ending, the Library will continue offering educational programs on the climate crisis and supporting community climate action.

Please join us to reflect and celebrate, and to recognize the many local organizations we have partnered with on education and climate action.

"Climate Action Plan for Belfast" ~ Republican Journal

On August 14, the Republican Journal reported on the "standing room only" presentation of the City Of Belfast Climate Action Plan (CAP) by the Belfast Climate Crisis Committee (now the Climate, Energy and Utilities Committee / CEUC).



“The presenters, past members of the CCC (Fred Bowers and Barbara Bell), and present members of the CEUC (Jerry Brand, Jon Beal and Bernie Baker), focused on the challenges to the city of Belfast posed by climate change, and initiatives for adaptation of our critical infrastructure to enable Belfast to be resilient with equity for all residents. [...] In addition to critical infrastructure, the [CAP] includes initiatives that can be taken by property owners, such as rain gardens to reduce flooding and installation of heat pumps in homes to reduce energy costs.”

Community News

Climate Action Plan for Belfast

Updated 19 hrs ago

It was standing room only Aug. 8 when the Belfast Free Library All of Belfast Climate Dialogues team hosted the Belfast Climate Crisis Committee (now the CEUC) for a presentation of the City Of Belfast Climate Action Plan.

The CAP was presented to Belfast City Council on June 4 and is awaiting adoption. Some of the recommended actions are already underway, and a search for funding for others is occurring.

Attendees expressed an interest in participating in some form of a climate action advocacy organization to become further involved.

[Read the article at the Republican Journal](#) or [on the ABCD site](#) & view the recording on YouTube.

Rising Fear & Our Response to Climate Change

This heartfelt piece is from Johannah Blackman, Executive Director of Mount Desert Island's [A Climate To Thrive](#), excerpted from ACTT's August 2023 email newsletter.



Johannah's reflections really spoke to us (the ABCD team). We have been talking weekly about the sense of panic that is rising, as it seems the world is simultaneously flooding and on fire. We wanted to share these thoughts on **using this opportunity to work on climate change from a place of calm, creativity and collaboration - not just a place of fear:**



“As heat domes settled over parts of the globe, as wildfires and flash floods destroyed neighborhoods and communities, and as Maine spent a solid month under clouds and fog, I have felt fear rise in people near and far. In some ways, this is good: many people are sitting up and paying attention to climate change.

However, I worry about fear. For some time now, those of us working on climate change have wondered what a global response will look like if that response ultimately comes as a reaction to horrific events. This response will be shaped extensively by fear. How will that change the response? What will be lost that might have been present had we responded from a less reactionary place, with enough focus and calm to consider nuance and be deliberate and comprehensive in solutions?

[...] As I feel fear about climate change understandably rise, including within myself, I fervently hope we continue to open our minds to nuanced, collaborative solutions, not just the most obvious fixes. I hope we continue to listen to the communities impacted and served, and not just the forces that will have the power and funds to swoop in and sell quick-fixes. I hope we do not lose sight of the tremendous opportunity within working to address climate change. May our fear drive us not towards paranoid reactivity but towards conscious involvement and creativity.”

~ *Johannah Blackman, Executive Director of A Climate To Thrive, August 2023 newsletter*

[Learn more about A Climate to Thrive and their work on solar, building solutions, transportation and more Mount Desert Island and in Maine at **aclimatetothrive.org**](#)

**Stay in touch ~ keep talking about it ~
and together, let's turn conversations into action!**

The ABCD project endeavored to help connect the dots between climate concern, climate hope, and climate action. There are things each of us can work on today - from taking small personal actions to working towards big systemic change. We all matter. Together, we can - and are - making a difference. And nothing feels as hopeful as taking action with others against climate change.



Although the ABCD grant funding is coming to a close August 31st, the Library will continue in its role as an educator, convenor and amplifier of efforts to address the climate crisis and become more resilient as a community.

Stay tuned to the [ABCD Home Page](#) for local climate action news updates and the [ABCD Events page](#), [Library Calendar](#) for upcoming events. Follow the Library on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for updates.

There are currently several exciting conversations happening around forming a local Belfast-area group to work on climate initiatives!

If you are interested in learning more and getting involved, please talk with Brenda Harrington, Adult Programming Librarian and she will connect you with those individuals who are starting to take the lead on creating a local climate action network.

Email: bharrington@belfastlibrary.org

Phone: (207) 338-3884 ext. 30.

Thank you to all who have participated in and supported All of Belfast Climate Dialogues for the past three years!

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.

