

# Maine Community Benefits Plan

## *Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR) Program (IRA Section 50122)*

### Table of Contents

Overview .....	1
1. Community and Labor Engagement .....	1
A. Public input session & Incorporation of public input into program design .....	1
B. Ongoing community engagement plan.....	3
C. Outreach strategies for target groups .....	3
2. Engage and Support a Skilled and Qualified Workforce:.....	5
A. Partnering with responsible contractors.....	5
B. Workforce education and training support .....	5
3. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) .....	6
4. Justice40 Initiative .....	8
A. Definition of disadvantaged communities .....	8
B. Rebate delivery in disadvantaged communities .....	8
C. Tracking systems for disadvantaged community engagement.....	8
D. Benefits for low-income households.....	9
5. Summary Table of Commitments.....	10
Appendix A: Priority Entities Targeted for Stakeholder Engagement in the TREC Program .....	12
Appendix B: Letters of Support.....	16

### Overview

To support program goals established by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the Home Efficiency Rebates are expected to (1) support meaningful community and labor engagement; (2) engage and support a skilled and qualified workforce; (3) advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA); and (4) contribute to the Justice40 Initiative with the goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities. This plan describes Maine’s approach to fulfilling these objectives. The plan, milestones, and progress toward them will be made accessible on the Efficiency Maine website.

### 1. Community and Labor Engagement

#### A. Public input session & Incorporation of public input into program design

Maine's plan for the use of Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR) reflects over 12 months of stakeholder engagement. This engagement has involved targeted outreach to priority community and contractor groups as well as open opportunities for public input. In January 2023, Efficiency Maine partnered with the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) and the Maine State Housing Authority (MaineHousing) to publish a draft plan for the use of IRA home energy rebate funds in Maine. This draft plan was posted to the GEO website.

Efficiency Maine, the GEO, and MaineHousing hosted a public meeting on January 23, 2023 to provide another opportunity for stakeholders to offer input on the draft plan. This meeting was announced on the GEO website and GEO social media, as well as by email via GEO and Efficiency Maine channels. Over 100 members of the public attended this meeting, which was hosted in a hybrid online (virtual) and in-person format. During the meeting, Efficiency Maine and the GEO offered an overview of the Home Energy Rebate programs and Maine's draft plan for the use of HEAR funding. Following the public meeting, the GEO hosted an online portal for the submission of written comments with an option to email them directly to GEO staff. Written comments were accepted for two weeks following the meeting with additional comments accepted beyond that timeframe. 13 attendees provided verbal comments on Maine's draft plan for the Home Energy Rebates. Another 47 comments were received in writing, both via the GEO website online portal and direct email to the GEO staff. Participants and commenters included installers, private citizens, state agencies, program service providers, elected officials, representatives of labor and workforce development, environmental advocates, community organizing groups, and members of educational institutions, among others.

Maine has sought and received input on its plan for HEAR rebates in the months before and after that January public comment period. The Efficiency Maine staff has provided regular updates on the plan for HEAR rebates to the Efficiency Maine Board of Trustees, meetings that are open to the public and include dedicated time for public comment. Efficiency Maine has also participated in a variety of webinars and outreach meetings related to plans for HEAR, including, among others:

- A webinar with the Maine BPA (affiliate of the Building Performance Association),
- Virtual meetings with multifamily building owners and architecture and engineering firms,
- Presentations to the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition,
- Discussions with Housing Authorities, and
- A presentation to Efficiency Maine's Low-income Advisory Group – an advisory panel that includes members of the Community Action Agencies, Office of the Public Advocate, the utilities, the Public Utilities Commission, and community leaders.

Throughout the preparation of the HEAR program application, Efficiency Maine, the GEO, and MaineHousing have met regularly to discuss feedback on program design received from the public via formal and informal channels across each agency.

Maine has developed and refined its plan for HEAR based on the public input received in meetings, webinars, written comments, and other public engagement. Notable themes from public engagement include:

- Prioritize low-income households, particularly renters – consumers who face higher barriers to pursuing efficiency upgrades and have less tax liability, which makes it difficult to take advantage of tax credits;

- Offer incentives for efficient new construction to support electrification, and lower operating costs, in the development of affordable housing for low-income households;
- Simplify program design and ensure that technical assistance is available to individuals/entities that do not have the capacity to plan projects with existing resources;
- Look for opportunities to align the program with contractor training grants available under Section 50123 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Maine’s plan reflects this input. For example, the HEAR budget prioritizes incentives for efficient electric HVAC in new construction of affordable housing. The planned allocation of HEAR funding to multifamily buildings serving low-income households (with income under <80% of AMI) far exceeds the minimum percentage required in DOE’s program guidance. Similarly, HEAR incentives for single-family homes will incentivize whole-home heat pump installations in manufactured homes occupied by low-income households under Maine’s plan. This prioritization similarly reflects a commitment to delivering program benefits to households with high energy burdens and who may face more barriers to pursuing efficiency upgrades. Further, as described in this plan, Maine intends to identify opportunities to align TREC implementation with relevant HEAR activities.

### **B. Ongoing community engagement plan**

Maine will leverage existing practices and channels for soliciting and responding to community feedback throughout the operation of the HEAR program. As described in the Consumer Protection Plan, the toll-free Efficiency Maine Call Center has staff dedicated to fielding questions, feedback, and comments received by phone and by email. The Call Center staff also ensures that communications are directed to the appropriate Efficiency Maine program staff and implementation teams. The Efficiency Maine website and program materials feature the Call Center contact information prominently. Monthly public meetings of the Efficiency Maine Board of Trustees provide another regular opportunity for communities to provide input on program implementation.

Efficiency Maine’s program staff also engages regularly with installers through regular email newsletters and direct outbound calls. Periodic site visits or “ride-along” meetings with residential registered vendors (RRVs) (i.e., contractors) allow Efficiency Maine staff an opportunity to collect nuanced feedback from the installer community and to seek ideas for continuous improvement in the programs serving one- and two-family homes. Trainings for Qualified Partner (QP) trade allies, who serve multi-family homes, provide another opportunity for engagement with program participants to understand strengths and weaknesses of the program.

Efficiency Maine will solicit input directly from consumers as well. As described in the Consumer Protection Plan, Efficiency Maine will provide rebate recipients with the option to complete a customer satisfaction survey.

Finally, program evaluations conducted on completed project installations, to be described further in a forthcoming Evaluation Plan, will provide another opportunity for the collection of feedback on program effectiveness.

### **C. Outreach strategies for target groups**

The HEAR Education and Outreach and Education Plan describes how Maine’s IRA rebate program will market its benefits to low-income owners of single-family, manufactured (mobile) homes and to the

property owners/developers of vitally important, new, affordable housing stock. As demonstrated by the budget allocations of the plan, well in excess of 40% of the budget and the benefits will be directed to improve the housing occupied by low-income Mainers who have among the highest energy burden in the country. The very targeted nature of these two categories of consumers will significantly simplify the task of reaching out to raise their awareness of the program's existence and benefits, and to encourage their participation. For single-family homes, Efficiency Maine's outreach plan to consumers will rely on expanding its existing marketing channels – heavy collaboration with and support of trade allies (contractors) in combination with direct mail, canvassing (door-to-door) in mobile home parks, digital ads, earned media and radio. To reach developers and owner/operators of new, multifamily affordable housing, Efficiency Maine and its partners will conduct in-person meetings and events, and provide extensive written program descriptions, to target this well-identified and finite community.

Efficiency Maine will also work closely with the GEO to support the reach of the comprehensive workforce development activities it operates, including to help align those activities with the workforce needs for HEAR projects. In 2021, the GEO established the Clean Energy Partnership (CEP) to advance its clean energy, climate, economic development, and workforce goals – including Governor Janet Mills' goal of more than doubling Maine's clean energy and energy efficiency jobs by 2030. To facilitate cross-sector partnership and stakeholder engagement, the CEP established an Advisory Group comprised of members of the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, the Maine Department of Labor, Department of Economic and Community Development, the Maine Community College System, the University of Maine system, the private sector, labor unions, nonprofits, and others. All meetings are open to the public and information materials are shared on the CEP's website.

As noted above, the Plan will leverage Efficiency Maine's existing channels to engage relevant stakeholders throughout the administration of the HEAR program. Efficiency Maine has a robust network of certified trade allies – both RRVs serving residential consumers and QPs serving commercial consumers (including the multifamily sector). Efficiency Maine will use established newsletters, website channels, and the direct outreach described in the section above to ensure that these installers have access to information on HEAR-funded incentives and can serve as ambassadors of these programs to contractor organizations and to consumers. Efficiency Maine will also continue working with the Maine Community College System to support the installer training classes that the community colleges offer.

Efficiency Maine will build upon years of investment in connection points with contractors and consumers across the state to ensure the benefits of HEAR reach low-income households and disadvantaged communities. To drive demand for whole-home heat pump projects in manufactured homes, Efficiency Maine will supplement web (including social media) and mailed advertisements by adding in-person events and engagement with manufactured home communities. Efficiency Maine has also worked with the Community Action Agencies to ensure that they are familiar with the opportunities available through Efficiency Maine and prepared to inform low-income consumers about them. Across these outreach channels, and the others described in the Education and Outreach plan, Efficiency Maine has fostered a strong referral network among consumers and installers.

In deploying HEAR funding for multifamily new construction, Efficiency Maine will also work closely with MaineHousing, public housing authorities, developers of affordable housing, among other entities with deep expertise in supporting the development of housing to serve low-income households, including in disadvantaged communities. These organizations have strong ties to community organizations and will

provide a valuable conduit of feedback on program implementation needs and opportunities for improvement.

## **2. Engage and Support a Skilled and Qualified Workforce:**

### **A. Partnering with responsible contractors**

Maine will rely upon Efficiency Maine's networks of trade allies to undertake the efficiency projects proposed in Maine's plan for the HEAR program. Over more than a decade, Efficiency Maine has developed and refined standards and requirements for these RRVs and QPs. These policies, which are described in the Consumer Protection Plan, ensure that the contractors participating in Efficiency Maine's rebate programs have the resources and qualifications to conduct projects successfully and to the benefit of the consumer. Qualifications required include completion of relevant trainings, holding necessary certificates, licensures and insurance, adherence to permitting requirements, and compliance with OSHA safety and health standards. Trade allies must, via signature, agree to Efficiency Maine's terms and conditions as well as a code of conduct. As described in the Consumer Protection Plan, Efficiency Maine has established criteria for RRVs installing whole-home heat pumps in manufactured homes above and beyond those requirements applicable to all other RRVs.

Efficiency Maine registered trainers offer opportunities for technicians to complete required trainings throughout the state. At present, trainers for Heat Pump Installer classes that meet Efficiency Maine's requirements include Eastern Maine Community College, Central Maine Community College, FW Webb Company, Kennebec Valley Community College, Maine Energy Marketers Association, and UA Local 716. Scholarships available for these trainings help to defray the cost of participation, helping reduce the barrier to companies seeking to expand their workforce and to technicians seeking to participate in Efficiency Maine's programs.

### **B. Workforce education and training support**

Efficiency Maine will work with GEO to align relevant workforce development initiatives with the needs of contractors participating in the HEAR program. The GEO is responsible for administering the Inflation Reduction Act Section 50123 State-Based Home Energy Contractor Training Grants program (TREC) funds. This program will benefit the workforce serving Efficiency Maine's existing rebate, incentive, and financing programs, as well as the workforce that will undertake projects incentivized with HEAR funding. As part of its TREC program management structure, the CEP will establish an Energy Efficiency Workforce Development Sub-Committee under its existing Advisory Group that will meet quarterly to promote stakeholder engagement and collect feedback on program design and implementation. CEP Advisory Group members and community and labor stakeholders will be invited to participate, and the subcommittee will be comprised of at least one-third members of the target beneficiaries in the TREC program. Efficiency Maine will join this subcommittee to support the coordination of the TREC program and HEAR programs. Such engagement will allow Efficiency Maine to solicit and collect stakeholder feedback and increase community buy-in and participation in the HEAR program. A full list of the priority entities that the CEP will target for stakeholder engagement in the TREC program is provided as Appendix A to this plan.

The GEO has an extensive track record of funding innovative clean energy and energy efficiency workforce development projects through the CEP. Since December 2022, the CEP has provided \$2.9

million in workforce development funding to subrecipients comprised of diverse community, education, employers, union and labor associations. As of June 2024, the CEP workforce development subrecipients had supported over 4,400 individuals through training, credentialing, and job placement, as well as clean energy education and career outreach. CEP-funded programs include labor management training programs, pre-apprenticeship programs, and registered apprenticeships.

The CEP also supports Maine businesses and contractors with entrepreneurship and innovation programs. In 2023, the CEP awarded \$1.3 million in funding for clean energy incubator and accelerator programs, including a program supporting energy efficiency contractors. This pilot program provides business advising services aimed at growing and scaling contractor businesses that deliver home weatherization and energy efficiency services in rural and low-income communities.

Maine's TREC program is expected to provide training and upskilling to 100 new energy efficiency workers, 100 existing energy efficiency workers, as well as business growth services for 20 home energy contractors. The TREC program will invest over \$1.3 million in innovative workforce development, education, and outreach programs leading to quality jobs and advancement for diverse workers, primarily in disadvantaged communities. In support of the implementation of the TREC program, Efficiency Maine will work with the GEO to align workforce programs to serve the market demand that Maine seeks to accelerate under the HEAR program. Also, RRVs and QPs will receive from Efficiency Maine program literature, checklists, and guidance (including training, as needed), on the details of Maine's HEAR program. They will also receive feedback from Efficiency Maine on the results of consumer satisfaction surveys and third-party inspections, and additional training, as needed, on any technical challenges that are being experienced with regard to specific equipment or appliances offered through the program. This is standard operating procedure in all major Efficiency Maine programs.

### **3. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA)**

Maine will leverage the CEP and TREC to introduce community members to workforce development and employment opportunities, with the aim of maximizing program benefits in Justice40 communities. Efficiency Maine will work with the GEO to identify opportunities for these TREC activities to support the workforce for HEAR projects.

The CEP will implement a combination of administrative and programmatic approaches to ensure that TREC program implementation achieves its diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility goals. Utilizing procurement procedures consistent with State and Federal regulations and standards, the GEO will encourage TREC subrecipients to include strategies for recruiting, training, and retaining individuals from underrepresented groups and disadvantaged communities. GEO's programmatic approach may include, for example, prioritizing investment into existing programs that have a track record of serving diverse populations. Subrecipients will be encouraged to include any or a combination of strategies to recruit and train individuals from underrepresented groups, including:

1. Partner with community-based organizations (CBOs): Programs will be encouraged to build strong partnerships with community-based organizations to inform program design, and support recruitment efforts. Partnering with trusted community organizations will improve the likelihood that programs meet the unique needs of the target population and have sufficient credibility to generate participant interest in the program.

2. Customized Program Design: Programs should customize their training and curriculum to address potential barriers faced by the target populations from disadvantaged communities or underrepresented groups. Sample design strategies could include customized curricula such as contextualized English for multilingual adults, earn as you learn models, innovative program delivery such as mobile units or hybrid learning, and/or paid on the job training opportunities.
3. Wrap-around supports: Programs will be encouraged to develop a plan to provide wrap-around supports to address life circumstances that may inhibit participation. Subrecipients will be encouraged to make strong linkages to their local Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) service providers for trainee enrollment and support with needs such as transportation and childcare. The CEP will facilitate connections between subrecipients and the regional workforce development boards and WIOA service providers.
4. New outreach and delivery methods: New outreach and delivery methods may include curriculum and training programs that address the specific learning styles and challenges faced by disadvantaged and underrepresented communities. Programs may develop contextualized messaging and materials that can be shared with CBOs to be distributed through existing information channels used by the populations they serve. For example, if targeting New Americans, programs should translate their materials into multiple languages and use popular communication technologies such as WhatsApp.
5. Partner with local educators currently serving diverse students: Geographic proximity is an important component of effective recruitment. Programs may include partnerships with regional adult education providers, career and technical education schools and centers, community colleges, community action programs, and nonprofit social services in areas that currently serve racially diverse students.
6. Promote entrepreneurship among diverse business owners: The CEP will seek to invest in programs that promote entrepreneurship among current and aspiring business owners from disadvantaged communities or underrepresented groups. The CEP will support direct connections, where applicable between diverse contractors and business owners to targeted programs within the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development and other state, local and community-based programs who support diverse businesses in Maine.

Efficiency Maine will engage with the TREC program to support the TREC workforce development initiatives focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. Through the administration of the HEAR program, Efficiency Maine will facilitate connections between established contractors and local workforce development initiatives. Strategies may include encouraging contractors to register for CEP workforce development updates, cross-promoting training opportunities or providing direct introductions to CEP staff to connect with workforce training initiatives in their region. Efficiency Maine will also work with GEO to make training and educational materials developed for HEAR-eligible projects (e.g., whole-home heat pump installations in manufactured homes) available to the TREC program. Examples may include installation checklists, in-house videos, tutorials, infographics, webinars, templates, shareable PowerPoint slides, or workshops and outreach. Through continued support for training providers, including the community colleges, Efficiency Maine will work to support engagement and recruitment of technicians from the communities that receive project investment under the HEAR program.

## **4. Justice40 Initiative**

### **A. Definition of disadvantaged communities**

Maine will use the Climate Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) to define disadvantaged communities. CEJST includes indicators associated with climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development. Maine's plan for HEAR deployment will ensure that program benefits flow to low-income households (income <80% of AMI), located within and outside of CEJST-identified disadvantaged communities.

### **B. Rebate delivery in disadvantaged communities**

As described in the Education and Outreach plan, Maine will rely upon the strong network of installers, community organizations, and agencies that serve low-income households to inform developers and consumers of HEAR-funded project opportunities. Efficiency Maine will include a description of the CEJST mapping tool in program materials, along with a link to the online mapping tool. Efficiency Maine will encourage installers and developers to use this tool in their project prospecting process. In program materials and outreach, Efficiency Maine will highlight the financial incentive available under HEAR for installers that complete projects in disadvantaged communities.

Maine will provide eligible entity representatives with this installer incentive for heat pump installations in homes located in disadvantaged communities. The incentive will be set at \$200 and subject to a cap of \$1,000 for multifamily buildings. In standing up the HEAR program, Efficiency Maine will establish a dedicated tracker for identifying projects located in disadvantaged communities. As part of final invoice processing and rebate award, Efficiency Maine will remit this additional installer incentive to the eligible recipient for those projects located in a disadvantaged community.

Efficiency Maine will also conduct targeted advertising and events to promote interest in whole-home heat pump projects in manufactured homes. Efficiency Maine will consider opportunities to direct this outreach to the specific geographical areas included in the CEJST-identified disadvantaged communities. In events and direct outreach to educate developers of low-income multifamily construction, Efficiency Maine will work with MaineHousing to ensure that projects include buildings in disadvantaged communities.

### **C. Tracking systems for disadvantaged community engagement**

In administering HEAR funding, Efficiency Maine will track projects located in CEJST-identified disadvantaged communities to ensure that at least 40% of benefits flow to these communities, consistent with Justice40. Efficiency Maine will track and report the percentage of rebate funds awarded to projects in disadvantaged communities. As part of this tracking, Efficiency Maine will monitor multifamily project pipelines and quarterly program activity in single-family homes to ensure that Maine remains on track to achieve this allocation of benefits to disadvantaged communities.

Efficiency Maine will also track and report the portion of HEAR rebate funding allocated to low-income households (<80% of AMI). The allocation of funding and associated benefit to low-income households will far exceed the minimum levels established in DOE's program guidance (reference Appendix A to the Home Energy Rebates Program Requirements: Required Allocations). Indeed, upon program launch, Efficiency Maine will limit rebate eligibility to heat pump projects in low-income manufactured homes



and in low-income multifamily new construction. Only after monitoring program performance and project uptake will Efficiency Maine consider broadening eligibility for HEAR incentives for single-family homes to moderate income households (>80% and <150% of AMI).

#### **D. Benefits for low-income households**

Maine’s plan for HEAR implementation limits project eligibility in single-family homes to whole-home heat pump installations in manufactured homes. Qualifying homes must rely upon delivered fuels for space heating (e.g., oil, kerosene, or propane) and must not have an existing heat pump. As shown on Efficiency Maine’s website, a home heated with a ducted heat pump is expected to save hundreds to over a thousand dollars annually compared to a home heated with an oil, kerosene, or propane furnace (see <https://www.efficiencymaine.com/at-home/heating-cost-comparison/>). Efficiency Maine will continue to monitor heating costs<sup>1</sup> across fuel types and to limit qualifying heat pumps to high-performing units to ensure that heat pump installations will reduce overall energy costs for the consumer. Consistent with DOE program requirements, customers will be provided with an estimate of utility bill impacts as part of the home assessment. Following project completion, Efficiency Maine will also ask customers whether they have switched any relevant heating assistance benefit to electricity to further ensure that overall heating costs for the customer do not increase. Where appropriate, Efficiency Maine will help the household work with their Community Action Agency to properly assign this benefit.

Benefits of a whole-home heat pump system extend beyond direct savings on energy costs. The addition of an efficient source of cooling in warmer months offers enhanced home comfort. Program requirements will ensure that the existing furnace is removed as part of the heat pump installation, eliminating that indoor combustion. Furthermore, households using electric heat are insulated from the high volatility of energy prices for delivered fuels. Reducing combustion of oil and kerosene in these homes also significantly reduces localized air pollution emissions that contribute to acid rain and particulates, smog, and carbon dioxide. A switch to heat pumps also dramatically reduces the risk of fuel spills from leaky storage tanks that threaten wells relied upon by many of Maine’s rural communities.

For HEAR-funded multifamily new construction, the “home assessment” will include an estimate of the expected operating costs of the efficient system relative to the baseline, code-compliant alternative. Savings associated with the more efficient system will benefit building residents.

Efficiency Maine will work with installers to ensure that households receive information on how to use their heating system to maximize performance and reduce operating costs. Efficiency Maine will supplement its existing materials where needed to ensure that such education is readily accessible to residents of apartments as well as households residing in single-family homes.

Maine will also leverage the TREC program, alongside the HEAR program, to prioritize workforce development projects in disadvantaged communities. The CEP anticipates investing in projects serving

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<sup>1</sup> GEO conducts a weekly survey of heating fuel prices, obtained from fuel retailers statewide. This information is reflected in the Heating Fuel Prices tracker on GEO’s website at <https://www.maine.gov/energy/heating-fuel-prices>.

four disadvantaged communities throughout the state. Priority disadvantaged communities may include the following tracts, identified using CEJST:

- Augusta, ME Tract 23011010400.
- Biddeford, ME Tract 23031025201 and 23031025202.
- Lewiston, ME Tract 23001020400.
- Portland, ME Tracts 23005000500, 23005000600, 23005000300, 23005002300.
- Bangor, ME Tract 23019000200.
- Calais, ME Tract 23029955500

Efficiency Maine will work with the CEP to facilitate connections between identified project developers or contractors working in disadvantaged communities and local workforce development initiatives funded by the TREC grant. Additionally, the TREC program will support small contractor firms in disadvantaged communities through targeted educational opportunities to prepare contractors to deliver the type of HVAC installation that may be relevant to HEAR-funded projects. Efficiency Maine will work with the TREC program to provide educational materials that can be utilized by local training programs to encourage participation in the Home Energy Rebates program.

## 5. Summary Table of Commitments

<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Year 1 Milestone</b>	<b>Year 2 Milestone</b>	<b>Year 3 Milestone</b>	<b>Year 4 Milestone</b>	<b>Year 5-7 Milestone</b>
<b>Community and Labor engagement</b>					
Efficiency Maine join Clean Energy Partnership Energy Efficiency Workforce Sub-Committee	Attend 4 quarterly meetings and prepare 1 presentation	Attend 4 quarterly meetings and collect feedback on HEAR program	Attend 4 quarterly meetings and integrate feedback	Attend 4 quarterly meetings and share outcomes	Attend 4 quarterly meetings and discuss sustainability beyond HEAR performance period
Utilize Clean Energy Partnership communication channels to reach workforce organizations	Provide introductory HEAR info and any updates 2 times/year via CEP newsletter, website etc.	Provide HEAR updates (e.g., new guidance, cumulative results) 2 times/year via CEP newsletter, website etc.	Provide HEAR updates (e.g., new guidance, cumulative results) 2 times/year via CEP newsletter, website etc.	Provide HEAR updates (e.g., new guidance, cumulative results) 2 times/year via CEP newsletter, website etc.	Provide HEAR updates (e.g., new guidance, cumulative results) 2 times/year via CEP newsletter, website etc.
Use Efficiency Maine communication channels to reach	Share introductory HEAR info and	Share HEAR updates (e.g., new program	Share HEAR updates (e.g., new program	Share HEAR updates (e.g., new program	Share HEAR updates (e.g., new program

workforce organizations	any updates via at least 4 newsletters	guidance and cumulative results) via at least 2 newsletters	guidance and cumulative results) via at least 2 newsletters	guidance and cumulative results) via at least 2 newsletters	guidance and cumulative results) via at least 2 newsletters
<b>Investing in Job Quality and a Skilled Workforce</b>					
Efficiency Maine to support the GEO's administration of TREC through regular feedback and technical assistance, as needed	Attend 4 quarterly meetings with GEO/CEP	Attend 4 quarterly meetings with GEO/CEP	Attend 4 quarterly meetings with GEO/CEP	Attend 4 quarterly meetings with GEO/CEP	Attend 4 quarterly meetings with GEO/CEP
<b>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility</b>					
Efficiency Maine provide HEAR rebate educational materials for TREC funded workforce training organizations serving individuals from underrepresented communities and those facing systemic barriers to employment	Efficiency Maine develop and share educational materials with CEP. These will include a minimum of two webinar recordings and two sets of program guidelines (for each HEAR initiative, respectively).	TREC subrecipients utilize materials	TREC subrecipients utilize materials	TREC subrecipients utilize materials	TREC subrecipients utilize materials
Efficiency Maine support GEO's dissemination of information on supportive services available through workforce	GEO prepares materials for Efficiency Maine to distribute to contractor channels	Efficiency Maine distributes materials via at least 2 newsletters and includes on website	Efficiency Maine distributes materials via at least 2 newsletters and includes on website	Efficiency Maine distributes materials via at least 2 newsletters and includes on website	Efficiency Maine distributes materials via at least 2 newsletters and includes on website

development initiatives					
<b>Justice40 Initiative</b>					
Allocate at least 40% of rebate funding to projects in DACs <sup>2</sup>	Invest 40% of rebate funding to DACs	Invest 40% of rebate funding to DACs	Invest 40% of rebate funding to DACs	Invest 40% of rebate funding to DACs	Invest 40% of rebate funding to DACs
Allocate at least 75% of rebate funding to low-income households (HH) (<80% of AMI), including in multifamily <sup>3</sup>	Invest 75% of rebate funding to low-income HH	Invest 75% of rebate funding to low-income HH	Invest 75% of rebate funding to low-income HH	Invest 75% of rebate funding to low-income HH	Invest 75% of rebate funding to low-income HH
Efficiency Maine facilitate connections between contractors conducting projects in DACs and local TREC funded workforce initiatives to promote quality jobs for members of disadvantaged communities	Promote TREC workforce initiatives with Efficiency Maine trade allies, connect interested contractors to CEP via at least 2 newsletters, 1 targeted email to contractors in priority DACs, and posting on website.	Promote TREC workforce initiatives with Efficiency Maine trade allies, connect interested contractors to CEP via at least 2 newsletters, 1 targeted email to contractors in priority DACs, and posting on website.	Promote TREC workforce initiatives with Efficiency Maine trade allies, connect interested contractors to CEP via at least 2 newsletters, 1 targeted email to contractors in priority DACs, and posting on website.	Promote TREC workforce initiatives with Efficiency Maine trade allies, connect interested contractors to CEP via at least 2 newsletters, 1 targeted email to contractors in priority DACs, and posting on website.	Promote TREC workforce initiatives with Efficiency Maine trade allies, connect interested contractors to CEP via at least 2 newsletters, 1 targeted email to contractors in priority DACs, and posting on website.

**Appendix A: Priority Entities Targeted for Stakeholder Engagement in the TREC Program**

Organizations	Description and expertise	Activities and deliverables
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<sup>2</sup> Though this table reflects the minimum 40% spending target by year, actual annual spending may fluctuate. Maine intends to hit the 40% target over the life of the program.

<sup>3</sup> Though this table reflects the minimum 75% spending target by year, actual annual spending may fluctuate. Maine intends to hit the 75% target over the life of the program.

Maine Community College System	Statewide community college system offering associate degrees, certifications and workforce training programs	Participation on CEP advisory group. Coordinate to leverage existing programs, facilities, equipment, instructors etc. to improve or expand relevant training programs.
Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine's Workforce	Coordination of all short-term workforce training programs for Maine's Community Colleges	Participation on CEP advisory group. Coordination to leverage resources and expand or launch energy efficiency related workforce training programs
University of Maine System	Statewide public University system offering research, resources, and 4-year degree programs in a range of related subjects	Participation on the CEP advisory group provides input and expertise to support TREC program design and implementation.
Maine Department of Education: Adult Education	A public system of over 70 adult education programs throughout the state that offer education and career pathways for adults, many of whom are from disadvantaged and underrepresented populations	Support in design and delivery of new short-term training or pre-apprenticeship programs for new workers, and also support with recruitment from disadvantaged and underrepresented populations
Maine Department of Education: Career and Technical Education	A statewide public system of career and technical education centers with certification programs in a range of trade related industries	Support in design and delivery of new short-term training or pre-apprenticeship programs for new workers
Maine Department of Labor	Provides a range of supports to workers and businesses in Maine	Engagement through CareerCenters, Industry Partnerships and Maine Apprentice Program for recruitment and training of TREC participants. Support as needed with data and employer engagement.
Coastal Counties Workforce Inc. Workforce Development Board	Administers regional WIOA funding including contracts, grant administration, data, and recently awarded USDOL BIG Green Jobs for ME program grant funding	Leverage resources from existing grants and programs to support trainees. Coordinate employer outreach across programs.
Northern Maine Workforce Development Board	Administers and oversees the delivery of WIOA Title 1B, Adult, Dislocated worker, and Youth funded services in the Northern Maine region	Support with regional employer coordination and streamlined referrals to WIOA services for trainees, and leveraged use of WIOA funds for on-the-job training

Central Western Maine Workforce Development Board	Administers and oversees the delivery of WIOA Title 1B, Adult, Dislocated worker, and Youth funded services in the Central Western Maine region	Support with regional employer coordination and streamlined referrals to WIOA services for trainees, and leveraged use of WIOA funds for on-the-job training
Statewide WIOA service providers	Provides WIOA case management services and wrap around supports	Participant enrollment into WIOA or BIG (CCWI region only) grant, provision of wrap around support, employment tracking
Energy efficiency contractors/employers (various)	Industry expertise and understanding of hiring needs in the field.	Engagement in development and provision of new worker training programs, internship/field placements, apprenticeships, potential employment of trainees into energy efficiency technician roles
Coastal Enterprises Inc nonprofit community development organization	Community development financial institution with new Weatherization Accelerator to support weatherization businesses. Also offers business advising and financing through multiple programs across the state including Small Business Development Centers.	Referrals of potential contractors interested in starting a weatherization business. Possible member on subcommittee, and source of capital and advising for contractor business growth.
Four Directions Development Corporation	CDFI that improves the social and economic conditions of the Native American tribes in Maine — the Maliseet, Mi'kmaq, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot — through education and investment in affordable housing, tribal business ventures, and Native entrepreneurship	Resource for contractor business development - small business financing and counseling services. Possible member of Subcommittee or subrecipient.
Maine Community Action Partnership	A network of 10 community action programs in Maine who administer weatherization programs	Support design of weatherization training programs, potentially offer in house weatherization training program within action agencies, support recruitment from disadvantaged communities
Efficiency Maine	Efficiency Maine provides consumer information, marketing support, demonstration pilots,	Serve on advisory board, provide guidance on new rebate contractor requirements and administration, promote grant

	discounts, rebates, loans, and other initiatives to promote high-efficiency equipment and operations that help Maine's homes, businesses, and institutions reduce their energy costs and lower their greenhouse gas emissions	engagement opportunities with registered vendors, provide technical assistance on curriculum as needed
Maine State Housing Authority	Oversees Home Energy Assistance Program, Heat Pump Program, Weatherization Program and Central heating Improvement Program. Received BIL funding to provide weatherization training and technical assistance.	Serve on advisory board, leverage resources, technical assistance on weatherization training plan, engage contractors, promote training opportunities with Maine Housing residents.
Build Green Maine	A Building Performance Institute affiliated Test Center offering BPI training and Certifications	Engagement on relevant BPI training programs for new and incumbent workers and contractors
Maine AFL-CIO	State federation of 140 local labor unions. Launched a Union Construction Academy of Maine pre-apprenticeship with focus on diverse populations.	Engagement to develop plan for expanded pre-apprenticeships serving diverse populations
UA Local 716 Maine Plumbers and Pipefitters	Plumbers and pipefitters union. Offers resources, training, and apprenticeship opportunities	Engagement to design new worker and upskilling training opportunities related to energy efficient HVAC employment
Association of General Contractors of Maine	Represents general contractors across Maine and offers a construction pre-apprenticeship program	Potential expansion of construction pre-apprenticeship to include insulation/weatherization components. Support with contractor engagement.
Other Community based organizations	Promotion and recruitment of diverse and disadvantaged communities. Example CBOs include MaineWorks, StartSmart, CEI Womens Business Center, New Mainers Resource Center, Office of New Americans, Gateway Community Services, Mano en Mano.	Promotion and recruitment of diverse participants into training programs

## **Appendix B: Letters of Support**

See files attached below.





July 8, 2024

Efficiency Maine  
Augusta, ME  
Michael Stoddard  
Executive Director

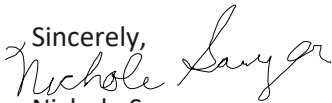
RE: Support for Efficiency Maine in Administering Inflation Reduction Act Home Energy Rebates

Dear Mr. Stoddard:

Washington County Community College (WCCC) is pleased to learn of the opportunity to expand funding for energy efficiency and beneficial electrification projects in Maine through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Home Energy Rebates Programs. We would like to convey our support for Efficiency Maine in administering those funds. As a higher education program focused on improving Maine's workforce, we are excited to support the project focusing on clean energy.

Located in Calais Maine, Washington County Community College is committed to providing relevant short-term, certificate, and degree training in the clean energy sector. We are a leader in hybrid and electric vehicle technician training, deliver the 40-hour heat pump training, and have partnered with our regional community action agency to deliver energy auditor and weatherization training tied to apprenticeship programming. We are also in the process of developing a new HVAC program that will provide the area with much-needed technician training. In addition, our electrical program is a highly regarded option, training up to eighteen electricians each year. This program has embedded solar training content into the regular curriculum, and we have plans to offer short-term workforce training on solar applications and systems.

WCCC has a strong appreciation for Efficiency Maine's work as our state's independent administrator of energy efficiency and clean energy programs. These programs support a vibrant and growing "clean tech" economy in Maine, relying on a dedicated community of trade allies – electricians, plumbers, builders, heating system and insulation technicians, architects, engineers, retailers, and wholesalers – to drive results. We have every confidence that, with the addition of IRA Home Energy Rebate funds, Efficiency Maine will continue to build upon its track record of success, and we are excited about the partnership opportunities.

Sincerely,  
  
Nichole Sawyer

Dean of Workforce Development and Community Engagement  
Washington County Community College  
nsawyer@wccc.me.edu





July 8, 2024

Efficiency Maine  
Augusta, ME  
Michael Stoddard  
Executive Director

RE: Support for Efficiency Maine in Administering Inflation Reduction Act Home Energy Rebates

Dear Mr. Stoddard:

Eastern Maine Community College (EMCC) is pleased to hear about the opportunity to expand funding for energy efficiency and beneficial electrification projects in Maine through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Home Energy Rebates Programs. EMCC would like to convey its support for Efficiency Maine in administering those funds.

EMCC delivers associate degrees, certificates, and short-term training in career fields that support the state's energy efficiency goals, including heat pump installation, electrical, and plumbing. Our intent is to expand these offerings to include short-term training to address weatherization installations. In addition to our main campus in Bangor, EMCC also provides training and educational opportunities in the rural areas we serve.

Eastern Maine Community College has a strong appreciation for Efficiency Maine's work as our state's independent administrator of energy efficiency and clean energy programs. These programs support a vibrant and growing "clean tech" economy in Maine, relying on a dedicated community of trade allies – electricians, plumbers, builders, heating system and insulation technicians, architects, engineers, retailers, and wholesalers – to drive results. We have every confidence that, with the addition of IRA Home Energy Rebate funds, Efficiency Maine will continue to build upon its track record of success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Russell", with a long, sweeping underline.

Liz Russell  
President

July 8, 2024

Efficiency Maine  
Augusta, ME  
Michael Stoddard  
Executive Director

RE: Support for Efficiency Maine in Administering Inflation Reduction Act Home Energy Rebates

Dear Mr. Stoddard:

**Central Maine Community College (CMCC)** is pleased to hear about the opportunity to expand funding for energy efficiency and beneficial electrification projects in Maine through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Home Energy Rebates Programs. **CMCC would like to convey its support for Efficiency Maine in administering those funds.**

CMCC, located in Auburn, ME, enrolls over 4,000 students annually. Students are enrolled in degree, certificate or industry certification programs or short-term workforce training programs. The College offers associate degrees, certificates and training in the electrical and plumbing trades. One such short-term training is Heat Pump Installer, a 40-hour course that covers how to professionally install heat pump indoor units, outdoor units, and line sets. Upon completion of this course, and the separately offered EPA Section 608 Refrigerant Handling course, the student will qualify to work for Maine contractors installing heat pumps statewide. CMCC is an Efficiency Maine Registered Trainer for Heat Pump Installer Training.

CMCC has a strong appreciation for Efficiency Maine's work as our state's independent administrator of energy efficiency and clean energy programs. These programs support a vibrant and growing "clean tech" economy in Maine, relying on a dedicated community of trade allies – electricians, plumbers, builders, heating system and insulation technicians, architects, engineers, retailers, and wholesalers – to drive results. We have every confidence that, with the addition of IRA Home Energy Rebate funds, Efficiency Maine will continue to build upon its track record of success.

Regards,

*Betsy H. Libby*  
Betsy H. Libby, EdD