

Sustainability Committee Meeting Notes

Date: January 27

In Attendance: Brad, Will, Max, Bev, Kiara, Wendy

Project Updates & Grant Opportunities

Biddeford Pool Coastal Resilience Project

- **Robbie Fecteu & Brad** meeting to discuss the project.
- Plan includes **eelgrass planting** and **beach restoration**.
- Aiming to apply for **state funding** (due **March 28**).

SMPDC Grant

- Could provide **technical services** to assist with grant writing for Climate Justice New England.
- Potential funding for a **bike and pedestrian plan** (would hire a consultant).

EPA Grant

- **4% acceptance rate**—no awards in **Northern New England**.
- Funding **will no longer be distributed**.

Municipal Energy Audit

- **Mayor supports** moving forward with project.
- Estimated **\$70,000** cost for audit of all municipal buildings.
- **Efficiency Maine** does not offer incentives for municipal audits.

2025 Work Plan Updates & Next Steps

Buildings & Energy

- **Municipal Energy Audit** – Need an **RFP (Request for Proposal)** for the audit (Brad working on it).
- **Stretch Codes Adoption** – Brad & Robbie F. to meet—can Robbie attend a meeting?
- **Solar on Andrews Road** – Kiara to research how **South Portland & Falmouth** implemented **solar farms on landfills**.

Bike & Pedestrian Plan

- Awaiting updates from **SMPDC**.

EV Charging Ports

- Will to **research ordinances** on differences in **residential & commercial building codes**.

Transit-Oriented Development

- **Next Steps:**
 - **Bus stop upgrades**.
 - Invite **BSOOB** to discuss transit improvements.
 - Incorporate into the **bike & pedestrian plan**.
 - Brad to consult **city planner, David**.

Beach Management Plan

- UNE students to **develop a plan**.

Landscape Ordinance

- **Next Steps:**
 - Start drafting a **climate ordinance**.
 - Meet with **Biddeford Community Gardens**.
 - Bev to research.

Local Food Production

- **Next Steps:**
 - Expand **community gardens**.
 - Explore **vacant lots** for potential use.
 - Wendy to research options.

Shade Ordinance

- Next steps TBD.

Climate Action in Schools

- **Next Steps:**
 - Develop relationships with **teachers**.
 - Get **UNE students involved**.

Community Engagement

- **Next Steps:**
 - Create a **calendar of events** and meeting agenda items.

- Launch **newsletter ASAP**.
 - Establish a **resilience hub**.
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Public Engagement & Outreach

- **Social Media Updates:** Instagram needs **updating**.
- **Potential New Initiative:** Add **Safe Clean Water** to outreach efforts.