Island Institute

Working to sustain Maine's island and coastal communities, and exchange ideas and experiences to further the sustainability of communities here and elsewhere.
Heating on the Islands

• Higher dependency on imported fuels creates host of challenges

Source: Waypoints, 2017
Heating on the Islands: An Inspiration?

© Frank Bruckmann
Heating on the Islands: Accessing EE

“You can’t get theya from heeya!”

A barge unloads an insulation truck on Monhegan Island, Maine. Source: Portland Press Herald
Lessons from the Islands: Collective Purchase Impacts & Takeaways

• 380+ island homes air sealed on 14 islands
  • 20% of year-round homes
• >8,500 LEDs delivered
• >1,600 interior storm window inserts built
• >75 heat pumps installed

• Limitations to traditional/market-based approach
• Barriers to awareness, availability of services, and affordability can be addressed by:
  • Utilizing community networks
  • Investing in contractor relationships
  • Leveraging other financial resources
Heating on the Mainland: Community-based Energy Efficiency

• Scale EE and its benefits by moving beyond a home-by-home approach to leverage:
  • Community networks
    • Community-based social marketing
  • Community resources
    • Financial, volunteer
  • Community development, economic goals

Takeaways from the Mainland: Community-based Energy Efficiency

• Investing in shared ownership of EE goals can unlock new opportunities

• Approaching partnerships with reciprocity can further enhance outcomes
  • Support new partners by providing info, time
  • Listen to and learn from their unique perspectives
  • Respect, invest in their mission
Heating in the “Region”

## Heating in the “Region”: Bridging the Rural Efficiency Gap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Maine</th>
<th>Alaska</th>
<th>New Hampshire</th>
<th>Vermont</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Households</strong></td>
<td>553,823 (39th)</td>
<td>251,899 (49th)</td>
<td>518,245 (40th)</td>
<td>257,004 (48th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent Population in Rural Areas</strong></td>
<td>61.3% (1st)</td>
<td>33.9% (14th)</td>
<td>39.7% (11th)</td>
<td>61.1% (2nd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent of Homes Built Before 1940</strong></td>
<td>23% (8th)</td>
<td>1% (51st)</td>
<td>21% (12th)</td>
<td>24% (7th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Heating Oil Consumption Per Capita</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approximate Median Household Income</strong></td>
<td>$46,033 (33rd)</td>
<td>$67,825 (2nd)</td>
<td>$62,647 (7th)</td>
<td>$52,776 (20th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Median Population Age</strong></td>
<td>44.5 (1st)</td>
<td>33.5 (50th)</td>
<td>42.7 (3rd)</td>
<td>43.1 (2nd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Energy Expenditures Per Capita</strong></td>
<td>$4,565 (5th)</td>
<td>$7,487 (1st)</td>
<td>$3,934 (19th)</td>
<td>$4,273 (9th)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Sources: U.S. Census, U.S. EIA*
Takeaways from “Region”: “Bridging” Models & Tools

• Weatherize Upper Valley (VT/NH)
• Sustainable Southeast Partnership (AK)
• Home Energy Savings Program (ME)
• Hui Up refrigerator exchange (HI)
• On-bill financing
• Upstream rebates
• Staged upgrades

Image Credit: Clean Energy Works
Early Takeaways from the “Region”:

• Maine is doing well
• Access to data enables strategic decision-making
• Investing in on-going collaborations enhances ability to meet heating goals
• Complete findings to be published in mid-2018
Recommendations

• Continue to support policy and program design that reflects the realities of our state’s demographics and geography in order to maximize impact

• Look to other sectors, states for input and partnership in designing and attaining our goals

• Resource the work to provide expanding (or at least consistent) access to programs
  • Financial resources, information exchange

• Invest in projects that have the potential to simultaneously address multiple energy and economic challenges