

THE TOWN OF ELIOT IS TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Climate Change in Maine

Climate change is the long-term shifting of temperatures and weather patterns. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated by the burning of fossil fuels are a central cause of climate change. In Maine, most GHG emissions come from transportation, followed by residential, commercial, and industrial sources. While climate change is a global issue, there are significant local impacts and solutions.

RISING TEMPERATURES

- **Increased annual average temperatures & more summer days over 90°** - Maine's annual temperature has increased 3.2°F since 1895 and extreme heat days are expected to be 2 - 4 times more frequent by 2050.
- **Shifting seasons** - Warming has shortened Maine's winters and lengthened the summers by two weeks on average over the last century, a trend that is expected to continue as temperatures increase.

FOOD SYSTEMS & AGRICULTURE

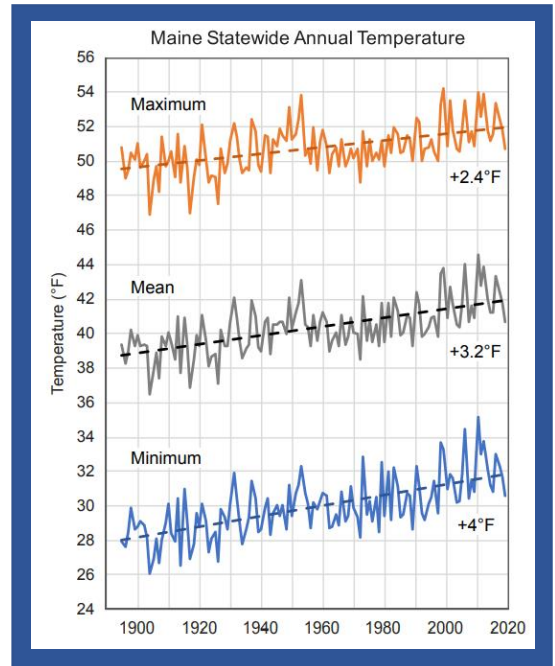
- Warming temperatures are bringing longer growing seasons, but also potential damages from heat stress and shifting weather patterns to workers, crops, and livestock.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- **Increasing sea level** - By 2050, Maine will likely experience between 1.1 feet and 1.8 feet of sea level rise, and between 3.0 and 4.6 feet of sea level rise by 2100, with higher amounts possible. Shorelines will likely experience increased erosion.
- **More intense and frequent storms** - Maine's annual precipitation (rain and snowfall) has increased more than 6 inches since 1895, and extreme precipitation events (1" to 4" or more) are becoming more frequent.
- **Changes to wildlife and natural areas** - Wildlife and habitats, including wetlands, are under stress from climate change. Extreme precipitation and temperatures are already contributing to stress on native tree species.

PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Greater risk to socially vulnerable populations** - Increasing temperatures and more high-heat days are putting people at risk, especially those who are elderly, have health issues, or have limited access to home air conditioning.
- **Increasing injuries and illness** - Warmer and shorter winters have already contributed to an increase in tick-borne illnesses like Lyme disease. Extreme weather may cause injuries and deaths, outbreaks of waterborne diseases, and food-borne illnesses following power outages, as well as mental health stress.



Sea level rise will cause regular flooding of tidal areas along tidal waterbodies, including **Spinney Creek** and the **Piscataqua River**, and may cause saltwater contamination of groundwater aquifers.

Flip the page to learn how Eliot is planning for climate change!

ELIOT is JOINING the 'COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP' to SUPPORT LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION



The **Community Resilience Partnership** is a new program from the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF), helping Maine communities reduce emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change. The Partnership provides both grant funding and direct support to municipal and tribal governments for climate mitigation and adaptation projects.

To receive access to grant funding and technical support, communities, including Eliot, must first enroll in the Partnership. **Once enrolled, Eliot can apply for Community Action Grants of up to \$50,000 for municipal projects, or \$125,000 for multi-municipal projects, to support projects that reduce energy use and costs and/or make the community more resilient to climate change effects.**

Eliot is enrolling in the Community Resilience Partnership to better understand community needs and priorities for addressing local impacts of climate change and so the Town can pursue grant funding for priority projects that will make the community more resilient. As part of the enrollment process, **the Planning Office and Conservation Commission are holding a community workshop for local residents, businesses, and organizations to discuss climate change impacts** facing Eliot and share thoughts about actions the town can take to address those impacts and enhance the community's resilience.

3 Steps to Enroll in the Community Resilience Partnership



Complete a pair of community self-assessments



Hold a workshop to discover your priority actions for climate resilience and clean energy



Adopt a municipal resolution of commitment to climate action

ELIOT CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Join us and share your concerns about climate change and thoughts about what the town can do to be more resilient!

Tuesday, October 25th, 2022

4:30 – 6:00 pm

Green Acre

61 Green Acre Drive, Eliot, ME

**registration is encouraged, but not required*

Light refreshments will be provided

Hosted by the Eliot Planning Office and Conservation Commission

LEARN MORE & REGISTER FOR THE WORKSHOP

To learn more about what the Town is doing to prepare for climate change visit:

<https://www.eliotmaine.org/planning-department/pages/community-resilience-partnership>

To register for the Community Workshop, scan the QR code below

