



ACTT
A Climate to Thrive

2023 Report

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A NOTE FROM ACTT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Why I Serve

ACTT was founded to address climate change through community-driven solutions, working to reduce energy use and transition to solar and other renewable power sources. Community involvement and energy equity are centerpieces of ACTT's process as the team works with householders, landlords, business owners, nonprofits, schools, and municipalities on energy audits, energy-conservation, installation of solar panels or heat pumps, and creation of community-owned solar arrays. The ACTT team also collaborates with municipalities and citizen committees throughout Maine to help towns strategically and inclusively approach climate friendly planning, including changes in policies and regulation.

Most recently, ACTT has helped towns compete for federal and state funding for energy-related projects, thereby helping to achieve their climate goals while also bringing dollars and employment to communities.

The projects and accomplishments mentioned in this newsletter demonstrate why I am so proud to serve on ACTT's Board of Directors. Thanks for reading it and for all you do to foster a healthy, livable future.

Dr. Steven Katona, ACTT Board of Directors

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ACTT's unique, essential contribution to climate solutions

“No one in Maine is doing what ACTT does.”

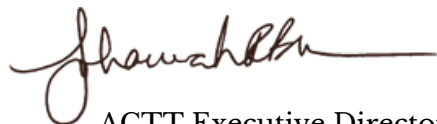
These words were recently shared with A Climate to Thrive by a renewable energy contractor working within the state. He was reflecting on the specific and critical niche ACTT fills in the field of climate solutions: we provide an unprecedented, unparalleled, unique, and strongly needed combination of commitment to community-driven solutions alongside nuanced, highly technical expertise.

These two skills do not often exist in tandem. Community-driven climate initiatives are, thankfully, springing up throughout Maine and beyond. These initiatives are often led by volunteers who have a strong link to and knowledge of the community in which they live and serve. This knowledge is critical, as it provides insight into local priorities, challenges, and opportunities. However, development and implementation of climate solutions quickly moves into highly technical territory and most of these initiatives do not hold significant expertise in detailed renewable energy planning or building science, for example. Many community groups turn to outside consultation for necessary technical knowledge and much of this consultation comes connected to special interests that can be at odds with local priorities.

On the other hand, technical expertise is typically concentrated in the hands of energy contractors, consultants, regulators, national labs, and utility experts. While some of these entities are deeply committed to climate solutions (some are not), they typically lack strong connections to communities and local insight. Furthermore, as mentioned, they typically are required to prioritize certain interests that can be at odds with local priorities. Or, due to their focus, they might lack skill in facilitating community-driven processes.

ACTT marries technical expertise and the language of community and this combination provides critical insight and results in significant impact. This impact is reflected throughout this report and the following pages call out some specific recent examples.

In 2023, it was more clear than ever that the work of ACTT is desperately needed. Thank you for the essential role you play in making this work possible!



ACTT Executive Director

ACTT STAFF TEAM

Johannah Blackman
Executive Director

Beth Woolfolk
Manager of Renewable Energy Planning & Policy

Brianna Cunliffe
Community Resilience & Engagement Coordinator

Corey McVay
Renewable Energy Solutions Coordinator

Tanvi Koushik
Climate Solutions Coordinator

Gus La Casse
Manager of Public Service Program in Community Climate Solutions & Policy Coordinator

Community-driven priorities combined with technical expertise, 2023 highlights.

Matching state and federal funding opportunities with community-driven projects

Many of the state and federal funding opportunities associated with legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act require a detailed level of technical expertise and significant time to assemble a competitive proposal. Our small, rural towns lack the expertise and capacity needed to navigate this funding landscape. ACTT has tracked opportunities and assisted our towns with specific proposals while also providing general support to communities throughout the state to ensure Maine is not left behind in accessing the current level of support *and* that support is leveraged towards solutions that truly meet the needs of our local communities. In this report, check out our work partnering with the Town of Tremont on a proposal for the Department of Energy (DOE) to fund a renewable energy powered, grid strengthening resilience hub in Tremont and our work collaborating with all five tribal communities in the state to secure a DOE prize to fund an Intertribal Cooperative Solar initiative.

Advocating and educating in support of community-driven policies

This year, the Maine state legislature considered several critical and complex pieces of legislation related to the renewable energy transition. Our utility companies and fossil fuel interests poured thousands of dollars into extensive lobbying efforts and circulated misinformation related to each bill. ACTT stepped in to provide clear, factual information based on our experience implementing community-driven solutions on-the-ground and our resulting awareness of how each proposed piece of legislation would actually impact Mainers, with a particular eye to equity impacts. We supported dozens of citizens in writing testimony, ensuring that community members had a voice in the process, not just those with special interests. As a result, we played a significant role in preserving net-energy-billing in Maine while making critical, equity-based updates to the policy and simultaneously requiring that our utilities start accurately accounting for the benefits solar generation brings to the local grid.

Community-driven priorities combined with technical expertise, 2023 highlights.

Translating the regulatory process into community-based language and facilitating access to that process

Similarly, when the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) began an integrated grid planning process to investigate how the commission can support transitioning Maine's grid to the grid of the future - a reliant, clean energy-driven grid that is simultaneously more resilient to climate impacts and more affordable - we knew we needed to participate. The MPUC processes can be very inaccessible to community members, as the processes typically occur during the weekday, are not widely publicized, and are dominated by highly technical language. As a result, the loudest voices at the PUC are typically the utilities and other special interest groups. We wanted to be sure community interests and community-driven climate solutions were represented and considered. We attended all relevant meetings (and will continue to do so), elevating the community-driven approach to the best of our ability, and also worked to support others in learning how to navigate and participate in the PUC processes, thereby increasing community voices beyond our own.

Supporting community-driven initiatives statewide

In late 2021, ACTT started Local Leads the Way, an initiative that provides support, networking, training, and more for community-driven climate initiatives throughout Maine. Within this work, ACTT brings the experience and insights we have gained over the past eight years to many groups largely composed of volunteer community members who are just beginning their own solutions-focused initiatives in communities throughout Maine. This work has further clarified the importance of ACTT's technical insight and experience filtered through our on-the-ground work in community-driven solutions. Through sharing technical insights from this perspective, we help accelerate planning and projects for others throughout the state. We also learn a great deal from other communities throughout the process, as they encounter their own unique challenges, solutions, and opportunities. This learning further deepens what we bring to our own work on MDI and beyond.

A Year in Numbers

2023 AT A GLANCE

\$169,665

Funds obtained for MDI towns through grants ACTT wrote to the Maine Community Resilience Partnership

21

Number of public educational programs

33

Number of Climate Ambassadors participants

24

Number of communities regularly supported through Local Leads the Way

\$100,000

Funds obtained in support of an Intertribal Cooperative Solar initiative through a Department of Energy Prize

3

Number of MDI towns ACTT is currently assisting with municipal solar planning

\$1,606,000

Funding application to the Department of Energy's Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas grant for the Town of Tremont

3

Number of positions added to the ACTT Staff Team

\$35,000

Grants made to support EV charger installation through the Downeast and Blue Hill Peninsula EV projects

318 kW

Amount of solar generation added on MDI in the first nine months of 2023



ENERGY PROJECTS

2023 MDI Energy Projects Overview

Municipal Solar Project Support for Bar Harbor, Mount Desert, and Southwest Harbor

MDI Cooperative Solar Project

Technical assistance through Department of Energy's Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project, focused on siting & planning for microgrid-based resilience hubs

Intertribal Cooperative Solar

Tremont Resilience Hub Planning and Grant Application

A note from Beth Woolfolk, Manager of Renewable Energy Planning & Policy

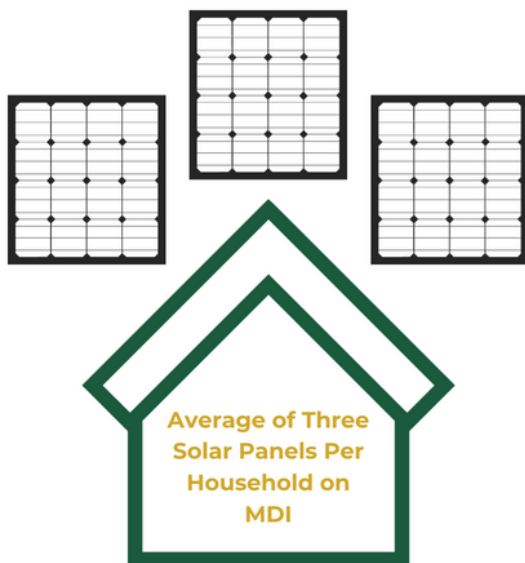
As an organization, ACTT has helped facilitate the addition of more than 4 megawatts of distributed, locally-owned solar to our grid. By coupling a bulk purchase rate for rooftop residential solar installations with strong community outreach and education, our SolarizeMDI campaigns alone have helped over 140 islanders transition to solar energy. Through this work, we've witnessed firsthand the gap that currently exists between those who can and cannot afford the upfront costs of these systems. We have found that those who can least afford to install an array tend to have the highest energy burden and stand to benefit the most from owning solar. This has led ACTT to develop MDI Cooperative Solar to provide an opportunity for solar ownership, and the accompanying opportunity for long-term investment and equity-building, to low-income community members.

We are sharing this work in cooperative solar ownership beyond MDI. In partnership with ACTT, a coalition of all five tribal communities in Maine were recently awarded \$100,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy's Energizing Rural Communities Prize competition. This award is already being applied towards the development of an intertribal community-owned solar program, in partnership with the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy at Pleasant Point, Passamaquoddy at Indian Township, Maliseet, and Mi'kmaq tribal communities. Alongside increasing access to clean energy ownership to low and middle-income community members, these projects also increase local energy literacy in the communities served.

ENERGY PROJECTS

ACTT is also currently supporting all four MDI towns in transitioning off fossil fuels and to owned renewable energy generation. We are working with the Town of Bar Harbor to help drive forward the process of constructing their own municipal array while assisting the towns of Mount Desert and Southwest Harbor to analyze their municipal buildings and land for solar pre-development alongside accompanying economic modeling designed to identify the most beneficial financial pathway to solar ownership. As with all ACTT projects, alongside community ownership, a strong focus is placed on responsible siting practices.

Until recently, most of ACTT's energy projects have primarily focused on solar. While adding renewable energy to our grid is critical, to successfully decarbonize our electrical system, we must also move towards more complex systems that include battery storage and smart grid technology. Over the last year, we have been working with Sandia National Labs through the Department of Energy's Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP). We have gathered community stakeholder input from across the island to inform two tailored analyses from the DOE. The Resilience Node Cluster Analysis Tool (ReNCAT) will allow the community to site microgrids - complex systems that combine generation, storage, and demand management technology - in a way that reduces the energy burden for the greatest number of people. The Microgrid Design Toolkit will help the community analyze the available technology size systems correctly, and run an economic analysis on various potential designs. Both tools are incredibly exciting because they provide us with tangible data that will support communities across the island in making key decisions about how to make the most impactful investments.



Member of the Sandia National Laboratories Team sharing Microgrid Design Toolkit with MDI stakeholders in September

ENERGY PROJECTS

The tools we have gained through ETIPP combined with our understanding of MDI's grid limitation and opportunities when we supported the Town of Tremont by developing an application for the Department of Energy's Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas Fixed Award Grant Program. The team proposed to equip the Tremont Town Office with rooftop and ground mount photovoltaic solar arrays, a lithium-ion battery, and energy efficiency improvements, enabling the facility to retain power for five or more days during power outages. These technologies would allow the facility to serve as a "resilience hub": a warming and/or cooling center and critical services provider for town residents during power outages.

All of ACTT's energy projects center energy justice as a driving focus. Local ownership, siting, and project management are at the core of all our work and the benefits of this approach are clearly reflected in the data. While MDI represents less than 4% of Versant Power Bangor Hydro territory, we represent 21.5% of all small distributed solar. In other words, we have nearly six times the amount of distributed solar per person on MDI than the average person in Versant Power's Bangor Hydro territory. These projects keep the equity associated with new clean energy generation in our community while simultaneously improving the surrounding grid infrastructure and reducing outages, thereby increasing our local resilience and reducing the need for costly distribution and transmission upgrades.

MDI's Population
in Relation to
Versant Power
Bangor Hydro
Territory



MDI's Total Distributed Solar
in Relation to
Versant Power
Bangor Hydro
Territory



MUNICIPAL PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

SUPPORT FOR MUNICIPAL PROJECTS

Tremont Community Resilience Planning Process

Greenhouse Gas Inventories for Towns of Tremont & Mount Desert

Southwest Harbor enrollment process in Maine Community Resilience Partnership & first grant application

Municipal Solar Projects

Mount Desert & Tremont focused support pilot

*A note from Brianna Cunliffe,
Community Engagement and Resilience Coordinator*

In February 2023, A Climate to Thrive began facilitating the creation of Tremont’s Community Resilience Plan. This plan, which is made possible by a Climate Action Grant from Maine’s Community Resilience Partnership, is designed to serve as a flexible, practical roadmap to support Tremont’s commitment to cultivating climate-related resilience. Taking a holistic approach to planning with a resilience lens fits Tremont’s distinctive needs and character, as the town grapples with anticipated impacts from flooding and sea level rise, changes to its central fisheries, and challenges with infrastructure and transportation. Looking beyond resilient physical infrastructure and emissions reduction, the plan also considers social infrastructure to support vulnerable neighbors during disaster, the intersections of economic diversification opportunities and climate workforce needs, and other solutions that address multiple issues simultaneously.

Community input has driven plan creation. We have collected over 250 comments from over 60 different stakeholders within the Tremont community with knowledge of needs and priorities associated with small businesses, education, construction, the working waterfront, seasonal residents, resource managers, food systems stakeholders, and more.



Residents of the Town of Tremont meet with ACTT and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute to share vulnerability and resilience concerns

MUNICIPAL PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The conversations we have facilitated with community members have been pivotal to shaping the Community Resilience Plan, ensuring that the strategies it contains are of practical use to Tremont and reflect the town's specific needs. Many towns emerge from similar planning processes with lengthy, polished documents containing ambitious goals. But if these goals are generic and not backed by community buy-in, there is rarely the energy needed for implementation. By centering community priorities and visions throughout the process, we don't just write the plan, we simultaneously build the supportive structures and continuing investment the town needs to transform the vision into a reality.

The effectiveness of this approach is already evident in the way it has helped Tremont and A Climate to Thrive collaborate to seize key opportunities like the Energy Improvements in Rural/Remote Areas Grant. We were able to confidently pursue this transformational funding for a resilience hub because we knew that the project we proposed was grounded in community needs. Having a plan in place bolsters municipalities' competitiveness for funding opportunities. Supporting municipalities in accessing funding like this multiplies impact and helps drive forward projects that lead the state and the region, providing models for other communities to emulate.

As we prepare to bring the working draft of the Community Resilience Plan back to stakeholders and community members for their feedback this winter, we anticipate that their sustained involvement will only strengthen Tremont's roadmap to a thriving future.

Brianna Cunliffe has been working with ACTT since September 2022 through an Island Institute Fellowship

The Town of Bar Harbor is so fortunate to partner with A Climate to Thrive on the Town's Higgins Pit Solar Array Project. The expertise and support of ACTT from the inception of the project to current buildout has been vital to the success of the project! We hope to continue our successful partnership with not only the solar array project, but other endeavors in the future.

The Town of Bar Harbor, like many of the other towns on MDI, has set ambitious goals to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. While we believe strongly in these goals, the work involved in achieving the goals is complex and challenging. ACTT has provided invaluable support, not just to Bar Harbor, but to all the towns on the island, and has worked to bring us together collaboratively as well. This support accelerates our progress substantially.

- Sarah Gilbert, Bar Harbor Town Treasurer

Towns of Tremont & Mount Desert, Focused Support Pilot

In July 2023, ACTT helped draft and submit a grant to the Maine Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) on behalf of the towns of Tremont and Mount Desert. Both towns had identified the need for dedicated personnel support focused on implementing climate mitigation and resilience activities, but both towns currently lacked the capacity to establish such a position. The CRP offered an opportunity to explore a partnership and pilot this type of personnel support while ACTT took on the work of hiring, training, and supervision, activities the towns currently did not have capacity to conduct. The grant focused on a set list of activities to be conducted over 22 months with three full days of support weekly. The activities selected aligned with both community- and town-identified priorities as well as the CRP's list of fundable activities. The grant was successful (and was the largest award made in that grant cycle) and work began November 6.

Activities include:

- Exploring energy efficiency improvements and funding for the two schools
- Supporting development of solar ordinances for both communities
- Integrating the results of vulnerability assessments being conducted in both communities into the county's emergency management plan and accompanying maps
- Developing heating and cooling centers in both towns
- Developing a peer-to-peer check-in network in both towns
- Developing a plan and identifying funding to support improving waste management in both towns
- Developing ordinances to support local food production in the Town of Tremont
- Integrating planning for vehicle fleet electrification into Mount Desert's town budget and Capital Improvement Plan

Over the last twelve months, ACTT has played a vital role in several aspects of Tremont's goals and initiatives. Not only did the Town of Tremont contract with ACTT for our Resiliency Plan and all that goes along with that, the staff at ACTT have gone above and beyond with grant work, from bringing grants to our attention to writing the grants and providing grant reporting help. Being a smaller town, the Town of Tremont would not have been able to complete a lot of this work with the staff and time we would have to devote to it.

On top of all of this, ACTT staff has been a valuable sounding board and resource when the town is in need of help or advice within their realm of expertise. Some of this help would come at a significant cost to the taxpayers, if at all, if it were not for ACTT. Much thanks and appreciation to the dedicated staff at ACTT! - Jesse Dunbar, Tremont Town Manager

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

Climate Ambassadors Program Spotlight

In late 2022, ACTT launched a Climate Ambassadors program. In 2023, we ran three sessions of the program and spent time collaborating with one of our summer interns to update the curriculum, with a particular focus on climate justice in Maine.

The Ambassadors program is a true synthesis of ACTT's technical expertise with our focus on community-driven solutions. The program supports participants of all ages and backgrounds in learning basic climate science, developing and understanding of top solutions and how those are playing out at the international, national, state, and local levels, and then mapping their own unique potential contribution to solutions, grounded in an appreciation of both their spheres of influence and the importance of mental and emotional health within climate action. The program culminates in supporting participants as they prepare to engage in many different ways within their communities, from facilitating action groups at their churches and workplaces to organizing an art project focused on climate solutions to participating in local town committees.

As we continue to refine and facilitate this program, with an eye to a middle school curriculum and an abbreviated program for municipal leadership, the work dwells precisely in the nexus of our years of experience developing and implementing highly technical solutions, the priority we place on community-leadership in solution development and implementation, and our knowledge of the structural changes needed to support this type of work.

The climate ambassador training was very inspiring! The communications, power point presentation, special guests, and resources were excellent; better than many professional development workshops I have attended as a former school administrator. Before the training, I was overwhelmed by the scope of the climate crisis and now feel empowered to have conversations with others.

- Leeann Rhoades, Southwest Harbor

I had no idea when I signed into my first Climate Ambassador class that I'd be starting on a journey to climate activist. I signed on because I wanted more information about Maine's climate situation. I sort of considered it an intellectual inquiry. As the sessions moved along, and I was asked to consider my own community and how I could bring my new knowledge home, it became clear that an "ideas only" approach wasn't going to fit the crisis we are living through.

So, I got inspired and busy. We started a climate action committee here in my town, I gave a talk at my local library, and this fall we're having both climate conversations at our library and a series of panel discussions that are being co-sponsored by the town of Camden. All due to the great inspiration of A Climate to Thrive. - Molly Mulhern, Camden

LOCAL LEADS THE WAY

Support for Community-Driven Climate Action throughout Maine

After ACTT received calls for support and guidance from eight different communities in just one week in late 2021, we started *Local Leads the Way*, a program that provides support to communities throughout the state of Maine who are engaged in **community-driven, solutions-focused climate action**.

Since January, 2022, Local Leads the Way has hosted 22 monthly meetings open to anyone involved in or contemplating community-driven climate action. Through these meetings, participants share resources, build networks of support, participate in trainings, collaborate, and reduce duplication of effort.

Through these meetings, we've heard a resounded need for personnel support, particularly support focused on the type of community-driven energy solutions that ACTT has become known for. To meet this need for support, and to help rural and energy justice communities access the many benefits that accompany the transition to clean energy, we are planning an AmeriCorps program, funded by an AmeriCorps planning grant administered through Volunteer Maine. Gus LaCasse joined the ACTT team in September 2023 to spearhead the process, and since then, plans for FLEET - Fellows Leading an Equitable Energy Transition - have powered forward. With guidance from an Advisory Council comprised of energy equity leaders from throughout the state, ACTT is planning a fellowship through which members will support host communities through a community-driven planning process focused on identifying energy resilience projects that align with local priorities. FLEET Fellows will provide essential education and information, facilitate community conversations and decision-making processes, and build local infrastructure to support project implementation. ACTT will apply for an AmeriCorps implementation grant in April 2024 and, if successful, the project will go live at some point next year.

In the meantime, we are actively working to develop additional support structures for community-driven climate solutions initiatives throughout Maine and beyond, all based in the feedback we collect through Local Leads the Way

Your Local Leads the Way has hit the nail on the head, identifying the pressing need local climate activists across the state have for a forum on important state initiatives and ideas on how others are doing the work. This is a great way to avoid reinventing the wheel and to build local capacity. It has already helped us here at York Ready for Climate Action (YRCA). We've connected with several communities who are trying out programs similar to our EcoHomes and Energy Coach programs, and it has introduced us to people and organizations with whom we already are planning collaborations.

Bravo! I look forward to seeing LLW become even more of a resource for all of us to share.

- Rozanna Patane, York Ready for Climate Action Now

SUMMER INTERNSHIP, 2023

Reflections from the 2023 Summer Interns

Hello, my name is Lily Crikelair! I grew up in Bar Harbor and graduated from MDI High School in 2020. I'm now in my final year at Oberlin College in Ohio, majoring in history with a minor in environmental studies. This summer, I worked as a part of ACTT's renewable energy team, doing research about energy policy, electric utility regulation, and solar development. I spent time studying ways that other states have handled issues with integrating solar into their electric grids, looking for insight into ways ACTT and local communities might be able help address some of the struggles Maine has recently faced with regards to solar development. I learned an incredible amount from my time as an intern this summer and was very grateful to be a part of the ACTT team for a little while!

Hi, I'm Troy Julian. I'm a fourth-year student at College of the Atlantic studying human ecology with a focus on sustainable business and entrepreneurship, along with some dabbling in architecture. At A Climate to Thrive this summer, I used my experience in business and economics to help further the development and adoption of renewable energy and energy storage technologies on Mount Desert Island. Some notable projects that I worked on include electricity bill analysis for the town of Mount Desert, participating in site walks with solar contractors, and conducting solar canopy research. I also worked on bill analysis of the solar array powering the Town of Tremont's municipal energy use, analyzing the money the town has saved over the last five years through their solar array power purchase agreement. As a self-proclaimed Excel spreadsheet nerd, I was super happy to be doing solar economic analysis over the summer.

There's a long road ahead to creating a sustainable future when the climate crisis is behind us, and I'm excited to be on that road and be a part of a team that's creating the sustainable future of Mount Desert Island.

My name is Alexandra Löfgren and I'm a third year student at College of the Atlantic. I'm originally from the northern part of Sweden, but was happy to stay on MDI this summer for my internship with A Climate to Thrive. Through my internship, I was able to utilize many of my passions as I worked with climate communication and education. One example of my work this summer was a set of visionary workshops for youth with a focus on radical systemic change. These workshops are important as young people are rarely given the chance to expand or share their visions when talking about the ongoing climate crisis and the many crises with which it intersects.

We rarely hear stories that touch upon the radically different kinds of communities and systems that we need to inhabit in order to be able to coexist, both human and nonhuman species alike. In this workshop series, we hope to create new stories by moving beyond loneliness and despair, creating a space where we, as young people, finally have an opportunity to think about our longings, hopes and visions. Our visions are later going to be used as guidance for systemic change on MDI, while building new collaborations with already existing grassroots organizations around the island and the rest of the state. I also completed a grant application to continue this workshop series beyond this summer.

2023 ANNUAL BUDGET OVERVIEW

ACTT's fiscal year currently matches the calendar year. Here, we share our projected 2023 budget. Year-to-date expenses as of October 31, 2023 match projections reflected here.

Summary of Revenues and Expenses

EXPENSES

Direct Program and Project Expenses: \$230,900

Core Organizational Support - Management & General Operations: \$62,350 :

Core Organizational Support - Development: \$36,750

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$330,000

REVENUE

Private Foundation Grants: \$108,000

Federal and State Grants & Prizes: \$17,000

Contracted support for MDI Municipalities (80% grant funded through state and federal grants): \$80,000

Philanthropic Donations: \$125,000

TOTAL REVENUE: \$330,000

A note on year-to-date revenue as of October 31, 2023:

We have reached 2023 projections/goals for private foundation grants and federal and state grants and prizes. We are on-track to match budget projections for contracted support for our island's municipalities.

As of October 31, 2023, we have raised \$75,000 in philanthropic donations and are headed into our largest fundraising push of the year. You will find our annual appeal and a return envelope within this report. Thank you to everyone who has supported our work this year and in years past and thank you to everyone who will give in the coming weeks as we work to raise the additional \$50,000 of philanthropic donations to meet our 2023 budget goals.

ACTT thanks the following foundations and businesses for their 2023 support:

ONION FOUNDATION

MAINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

ELMINA B. SEWALL FOUNDATION

DAVID ROCKEFELLER FUND

HATTIE A. & FRED C. LYNAM CHARITABLE TRUST

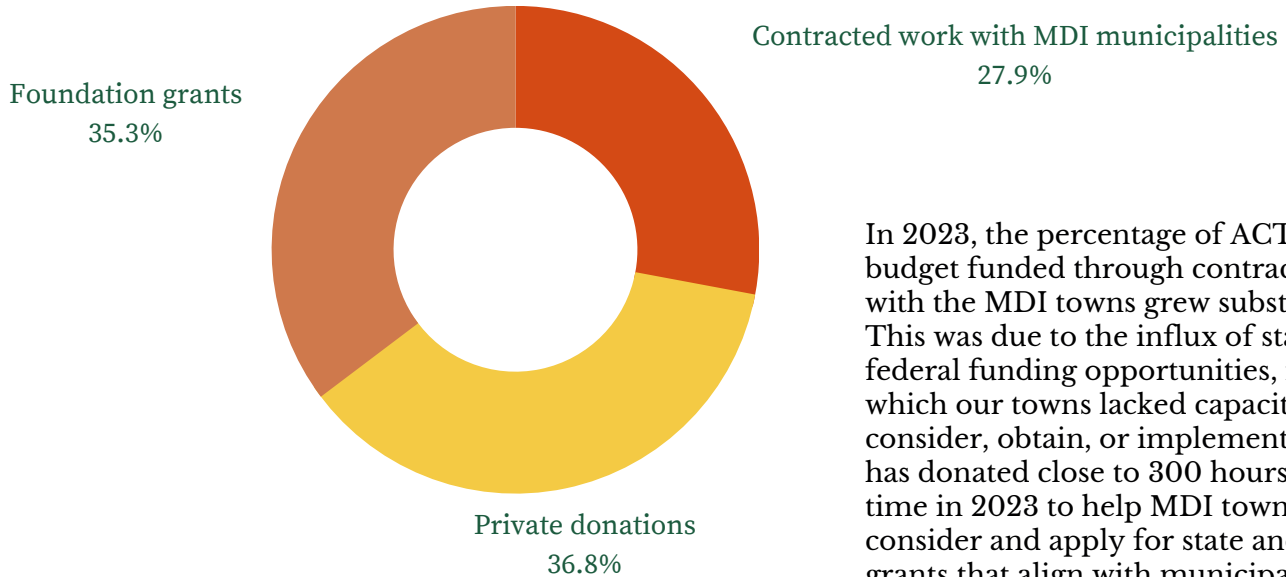
MACHIAS SAVINGS BANK

KNOWLES COMPANY

SHAW CONTEMPORARY JEWELRY

CORNELIA COGSWELL ROSSI FOUNDATION

ACTT'S FUNDING SOURCES



Private donations make up nearly 40% of ACTT's annual budget. This unrestricted, flexible funding is essential and has been critical to ACTT's success over the past eight years. Flexible funding allows us to:

- Nimble take advantage of opportunities as they arise;
- Support our towns in state and federal grant applications and project planning before those grants are obtained;
- Provide education to inform state planning, programs, and policy with on-the-ground, community-driven priorities;
- Develop innovative solutions, leveraging both our technical expertise and our knowledge of community needs. Examples of this type of work include the cooperative solar project and the Climate Ambassadors Program.

In 2023, the percentage of ACTT's budget funded through contracted work with the MDI towns grew substantially. This was due to the influx of state and federal funding opportunities, much of which our towns lacked capacity to consider, obtain, or implement. ACTT has donated close to 300 hours of staff time in 2023 to help MDI towns consider and apply for state and federal grants that align with municipal priorities. We donated a similar amount of time in 2022, and are currently contracted to help implement grants received by the MDI towns in both 2022 and 2023.

My wife Betsy and I gladly support ACTT every year because it serves as the ideal link between the individual, the community, and the region when it comes to stepping up to create a pathway through global warming.

ACTT has become a proven leader in its field. It has helped us to see that climate change is ultimately best addressed at the national and global levels when individuals have combined forces in their local community to push appropriate climate agendas up to the state level. State representatives and leaders in turn carry this important work onto the national scene. Simply put, global warming is addressed at the global level because of the groundswell that is created within communities by local organizations.

ACTT empowers us all to make a difference and we are proud to be involved in the process.

- John Cochran, Annual ACTT supporter

ACTT through the years: community-driven climate solutions at work!



Board member Andy Griffiths shares building solutions information at the polls.



Our first Pizza in the Park community conversation about climate solutions.



Tremont's municipal array, the first on a capped landfill in our utility's territory.



Elaine Eaton, member of the Tremont Sustainability Committee & ACTT Energy Committee is interviewed for a spot on National Public Radio covering responsible solar siting and community ownership.



Summer ACTT Interns enjoy a gorgeous meeting location.

ACTT through the years: community-driven climate solutions at work!



ACTT staff and volunteers march in a July 4 parade during our early years.



ACTT interns and staff meet with ReVision Energy at the Long Pond Community Solar array at the Southwest Harbor transfer station.



ACTT team member Beth Woolfolk collects sign-ups for Solarize 2.0 at the polls.



ACTT's Executive Director, Johannah Blackman, delivers a keynote at Hallowell's launch of their own community-driven climate solutions initiative.



An early participant in the first Solarize MDI!



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