

**York River Watershed Grants Program – Project Summary Report  
Provided to the York River Stewardship Committee  
May 18th, 2026**

Project name: 4th Annual Climate Action Fair

Project summary:

York Ready for Climate Action's (YRCA) annual Climate Action Fair, held on May 2, 2026, featured hands-on activities and local resources to help attendees live more sustainably. Highlights included an EV showcase, DIY climate solutions and demonstrations, vendors offering information on heat pumps, solar, insulation, and other green technologies, and local organizations focused on climate and environmental action. Visitors explored sustainable practices like clothing repair and upcycling with local thrift stores, composting, and improved recycling methods.

YRCA welcomed a range of vendors including Evergreen Home Performance and Mitsubishi Electric, social service organizations like YCSA and Mainspring, as well as environmental engagement organizations like the White Pines Programs and the York Land Trust. Due to support from YRSC, we were able to provide a hub for educational material and resources for our community.

Attachments:

- A Climate Advocate's Guide to the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan
- YRCA Brochure
- Solar Breakdown Handout | This was developed as a newsletter that would also be distributed and explained at our Solar Table at the Fair.
- Pictures from Fair



# Climate Action

## PROTECTING YORK'S FUTURE

*A Climate Advocate's Guide to the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan*

### The Opportunity: Resilience

The York River is one of the most resilient coastal ecosystems in the Northeast. Even under an extreme **6-foot sea level rise**, this watershed has the unique potential to sustain vital habitats—if we act now.

### THE CLIMATE REALITY FOR YORK

- **Sea Level Rise:** Expect 1ft of rise by 2045, turning minor tidal events into extensive floods.
- **Infrastructure Risk:** Our roads and culverts are not built for modern precipitation or tidal surges.
- **Coastal Flooding:** Cumulative impacts of SLR and nor'easters are identified as one of the most significant threats to the region.

### ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

- **Marsh Migration:** Protect the 245 acres identified as critical "moving space" for habitats escaping rising seas.
- **Resilient Infrastructure:** Demand that town culverts and bridges be designed for future climate peaks, not historical averages.
- **Smart Zoning:** Push for "Low Impact Development" (LID) to manage runoff and protect water quality.

### TAKE ACTION LOCALLY

- ✓ **Support Land Conservation:** Undeveloped forest blocks and wetlands act as natural sponges and buffers, these and other vegetated buffers are key.
- ✓ **Sustainable Lawns:** Adopt "YardScaping" practices to keep chemicals out of our changing river.
- ✓ **Policy Change:** Encourage the town to update zoning and ordinances to keep development out of upland natural areas where salt marshes will move into as sea level rises.

**Change is Possible if We Work Together! Learn More**





# ABOUT US

We are a community-powered organization raising awareness of climate change and driving solution-focused action through inclusive, local partnerships that create lasting impact and serve as models for other communities.

Contact Us For More Info or to get Involved!



✉ info@yrca.org  
🌐 yrca.org

Clean energy isn't simple. That's why resources and work like this matter. Funding this work makes clean energy possible.

Funding for this brochure was provided by the York River Stewardship Committee and the National Park Service Wild and Scenic Rivers Program.



# YORK READY FOR CLIMATE ACTION



## GOALS

York Ready for Climate Action is a 501C(3) organization that aims to:

- Build resilience through community-driven climate action.
- Assist residents in reducing energy use, making their homes more comfortable and efficient.
- Include all residents in climate solutions, particularly underserved or vulnerable segments of our community.
- Establish York as a force for sustainability and climate action in Maine.

# WHAT IS CLIMATE ACTION?

It's more than a climate plan, it's changes made by community members and the government that are intended to cut our carbon emissions, reduce the impact of climate change and adapt to the unavoidable impacts. YRCA's work helps the Town and the State achieve their climate plan goals



# ENERGY COACHES

Energy Coaches provide residents with individualized information and support to reduce energy use and save money. Trained volunteer coaches inform residents of their options and best practices, as well as rebates and other financial incentives.

# HOUSEHOLD EQUITY FUND

The Household Equity Fund provides financial assistance for energy upgrades for low- and middle-income residents.

# ECOHOMES

EcoHomes is a monthly newsletter that showcases eco-friendly actions that residents can implement at home and in their daily-lives.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Climate Action Fair

Annual event at York High School featuring energy efficiency experts, sustainability ideas, electric car showcase, food and fun.

## York Public Library Seminar Series

A series of interactive sessions exploring key aspects of climate change and addressing questions from our community.

## Tour of Homes

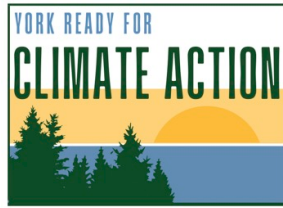
York residents open their homes to showcase various green home designs and eco-solutions from retrofits to a net-zero build.

## Business Partnerships

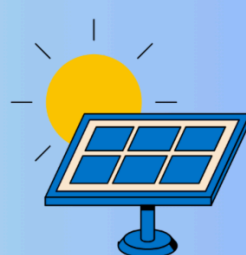

Special events throughout the year that are hosted by local businesses to highlight and support YRCA programs.

## Please Join Us

- ON A COMMITTEE
- AS A VOLUNTEER
- AS A DONOR
- AS A COACH



York Ready For Climate Action  
**EcoHOMES May  
Action**  
Additional Solar options for all!



- Solar is now accessible to almost everyone
- Community solar offers easy savings without rooftop panels
- New options (co-ops, plug-in solar) are expanding access

## Hello EcoHomes Friends,

Last month, we talked about homes with good roofs for solar. This month, we expand upon these Solar Options, offering possibilities for renters and homeowners with poor roofs for solar, as well as good solar homes.

For Maine residents who are renters or homeowners without a suitable site for rooftop solar, there are still several ways to access renewable energy. Community solar has become one of the primary alternatives, offering both subscription and ownership models that allow participation without installing panels at home.

The community solar industry has matured in recent years, with early challenges—particularly around billing—largely improved. For those who may have tried it in the past and were dissatisfied, advocates say it may be worth reconsidering.

The subscription model is by far the most widely used option. To participate, residents must have an account with Central Maine Power (CMP). Customers enter into a contract with a company that owns a solar farm in Maine, leasing enough panels to match their electricity usage. In return, they typically receive a 15% to 20% discount on the energy produced, though rates may vary and can sometimes be negotiated. These agreements generally carry no long-term obligation and are relatively easy to terminate.



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Billing structures differ between providers. Some customers receive two separate bills—one from CMP and another from the solar company—while others may have access to a single-bill option. Timing can also vary, with some companies billing in the same month and others introducing a delay of two to three months.

Several providers operate in Maine, each with distinct billing practices:

- Nautilus bills based on consumption, offers a one-bill option, and charges within the same month.
- Nexamp bills based on production, does not offer a one-bill option, and typically has a two- to three-month billing delay.
- PowerMarket bills based on consumption, without a one-bill option, and also has a two- to three-month delay.
- Ampion follows a similar model, billing on consumption with a two- to three-month delay and no one-bill option.
- Join Solar (Novel) bills on production, does not offer a one-bill option, and also has a two- to three-month delay.

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In addition to these established companies, newer organizations are entering the space. The Maine Community Power Cooperative, for example, is developing smaller solar arrays—approximately two acres in size—with the goal of protecting farmland. The cooperative also prioritizes low- and moderate-income households and offers a 20% discount for qualifying participants.

For those interested in a more investment-based approach, the ownership model allows customers to purchase panels in a Maine solar farm. The number of panels purchased can offset part or all of a household's electricity use. Costs are comparable to rooftop solar installations and come with similar advantages and drawbacks. ReVision Energy is currently a provider of this model. While solar co-ops and shared ownership systems also exist in Maine, they can be difficult to locate. One consideration for buyers is liquidity, particularly if they move outside the CMP service area.

Beyond community solar, additional technologies are beginning to gain attention. Plug-in solar (“Balcony Solar”) systems —portable units that plug into a standard electrical outlet—are designed especially for renters. These systems typically produce 450 and 1,200 watts(or .45 kilowatts - 1.2 kilowatts) of electricity and are widely used in Germany. Solar generators are another accessible option. Available in a range of sizes, these systems combine solar panels, battery storage, and an inverter to convert solar energy into usable power. They are commonly used for emergency backup, outdoor activities such as camping or RV travel, and off-grid applications.

With a growing range of options, energy advocates say there are now more ways than ever for Maine residents—regardless of housing situation—to participate in solar energy.

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## Upcoming Events

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**YRCA'S Climate Action Fair this Saturday, May 2nd, 10 am- 2 pm.**  
Featuring affordable solution for households, including hands-on activities and DIY demos.

Kittery Can Presents- **Spring Into Clean Energy**  
**Thursday, May 7, 6-8 pm Rice Public Library**

Topics Include:

- Energy Affordability
- Energy Efficiency
- Community Solar
- Rebates & Incentives

Learn more about this event @ <http://www.kitterycan.org/>  
Learn about clean energy and energy efficiency in Maine.

York Land Sale presents- **A Native Plant Sale @ The York Land Trust.**  
**Saturday May 9th 10-2**

Keep the Conversation Going,

**The EcoHomes Team**

*The EcoHomes Team*

York Ready for Climate Action | P.O Box 448 | York, ME 03909 US

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