



ISLAND  
INSTITUTE®



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

## WHERE WE WORK:

### Maine's 120 coastal and island communities



Number of Island Institute projects  
2012 - 2019



The Island Institute works to sustain Maine's island and coastal communities, and exchanges ideas and experiences to further the sustainability of communities here and elsewhere.

Monhegan

Matinicus

Rockland  
North Haven  
Vinalhaven  
Islesboro  
Swan's Island  
Isle au Haut  
Frenchboro  
Bar Harbor  
Islesford  
Great Cranberry

Eastport

### SELECTION OF PARTNER COMMUNITIES BEYOND THE MAINE COAST:

- Millinocket, ME
- Great Lakes Islands
- Alaska
- Molokai, HI
- Martha's Vineyard, MA
- Nantucket, MA
- Cuttyhunk, MA
- Provincetown, MA
- Rappahannock County, VA
- Prudence Island, RI
- Block Island, RI
- Star Island, NH
- Daylesford, Australia
- Samsø, Denmark
- Tokyo, Japan
- Plus statewide program replication and scaling with Maine partners (Broadband, Energy)

For 35 years, the Island Institute has collaborated with thousands of dedicated people who care about the coast of Maine and believe that a sustainable future for our communities and the environment is crucial.

To help navigate through the unique challenges facing our coast, we engage with residents, municipalities, and advisors to advance a shared understanding of our civic vulnerabilities. We characterize ourselves as a *listening organization* that provides needed resources to facilitate practical community solutions.

Our commitment is to serve the whole coast as an integrated system, in support of the many community members who encourage us all to reach aspirational goals that result in more positive outcomes for Maine. This year's report highlights how we engage in community issues, support students, build capacity, and provide technical assistance and access to capital for coastal businesses.

We increasingly seek to build connections between people and communities — here in Maine and beyond — to enable us all to thrive in rapidly changing times. As you make this work possible, we thank you for your vision and support.



Rob Snyder  
President



Joe Higdon  
Chair, Board of Trustees

STRENGTHENING  
COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIES

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ENHANCING  
EDUCATION  
& LEADERSHIP

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DELIVERING  
& SHARING  
SOLUTIONS

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## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ECONOMIES

### The Island and Coastal Business Launchpad

assists businesses on all  
15 year-round islands and  
in 50+ coastal communities.

**431**

businesses received  
business counseling  
and training



### Broadband Expansion for Maine's Coast and Islands

Rural communities struggle to make an economic case for private providers to expand broadband service. This challenge led to a regional project with a goal of seeing coastal communities obtain national broadband speeds by 2025.

With our support

**38**

communities are studying  
network design options

**9**

communities now enjoy  
community-driven  
high-speed internet  
or increased speeds



### AQUACULTURE ON THE RISE

Our third cohort of Aquaculture Business Development program participants are learning everything they need to know about farming shellfish and seaweed. Lobstermen and women are diversifying their incomes by starting new sea-farming businesses.

**22**

individuals participated  
in our Aquaculture  
Business Development  
program in 2018

**54**

cohort members are  
in new aquaculture  
businesses

Contributing

**\$44,000,000**

to Maine's economy  
by 2025

## Sea level rise resiliency program helps coastal communities prepare for needed infrastructure upgrades

Maine has long been looked to as a model on working waterfront preservation, and as the impacts of climate change become clear, we help communities lead the way in developing solutions that build economic and environmental resiliency.

**210**

individuals participated in resiliency trainings

**9**

coastal communities received ShoreUp planning grants



**300+**

Maine artists and makers represented in our gallery

**55%**

of retail sales returned to Maine artists

**50**

Maine artists received one-on-one business mentoring

## *Archipelago* THE ISLAND INSTITUTE STORE



**Boosting the creative economy of the Maine coast and islands**

ENHANCING  
EDUCATION  
& LEADERSHIP

23

island and coastal  
schools

138

participants

7

community  
organizations



SUSTAINABLE COASTAL COMMUNITIES, EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, AND SCHOOLS

SUCCESS, an education-focused collaboration between the Island Institute and College of the Atlantic (COA), successfully completed the final year of a three-year program supported by **The Fund for Maine Islands**.

SUCCESS provided a high-quality professional development program for pre- and in-service teachers. The emphasis was on increasing understanding of and access to place-based and experiential education. Based on the lasting connections that were built during the three years, we expect the collaboration between COA, Island Institute, and island and coastal schools to continue.

### The Fund for Maine Islands

*The Fund for Maine Islands supports joint Island Institute and College of the Atlantic programming related to agriculture, energy, climate change, and education.*



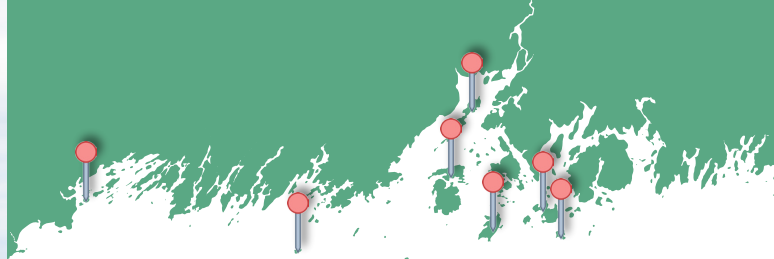
### EXPANDING STUDENT HORIZONS

**The Geiger Scholarship** is in its fourth year of providing funding to Maine's island students to expand their horizons through off-island enrichment and travel experiences. Students from middle school through college have traveled in Maine and beyond to other parts of the U.S. and the world.

21 students received  
scholarships



Island Fellows program  
strengthens communities  
and allows Fellows  
to grow as leaders



49

collaborations with local organizations

285

community members engaged with Fellows  
for their community projects

50%

of Fellows have chosen to stay in  
Maine communities post-fellowship  
since the program started in 1999



**DELIVERING  
& SHARING  
SOLUTIONS**

Dan DeBord –  
MONHEGAN  
ISLAND FELLOW

Dan is working with the Monhegan community to bring high-speed broadband access to the island. He is also helping to increase the capacity of municipal leaders with research and process design.



## DELIVERING & SHARING SOLUTIONS

**The Island Energy Conference** brought together island leaders and energy experts from Maine and abroad to discuss energy challenges and solutions. This year's theme, "Resilient Together", highlighted what islanders are doing to increase the resilience of their energy systems and communities in the face of an increasingly unpredictable world.

**85**  
participants

**15**  
states represented

**The Island Teachers Conference** was the largest and most well-received in recent history. Our theme was "Small School Solutions – Meeting Island Students Where They Are" and featured Islesboro Central School on its personalized learning plans for all high school students, and a presentation and workshop on the impact of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) on students.



**141**  
participants

**12**  
island and coastal schools

## The Artists and Makers Conference



*"The best artist conference in the state of Maine."*  
- arts organization director

**170**  
Maine artists and crafters participated

## COALITION BUILDING

### Bridging the Rural Efficiency Gap

Rural areas of Maine and the U.S. face higher energy burdens than their more populated counterparts. Building off the success of our five years of community weatherization programs, our Bridging the Rural Energy Efficiency Gap project connects energy efficiency experts from Maine, Alaska, New Hampshire, and Vermont to shine a light on the unique heating challenges faced by rural residents.



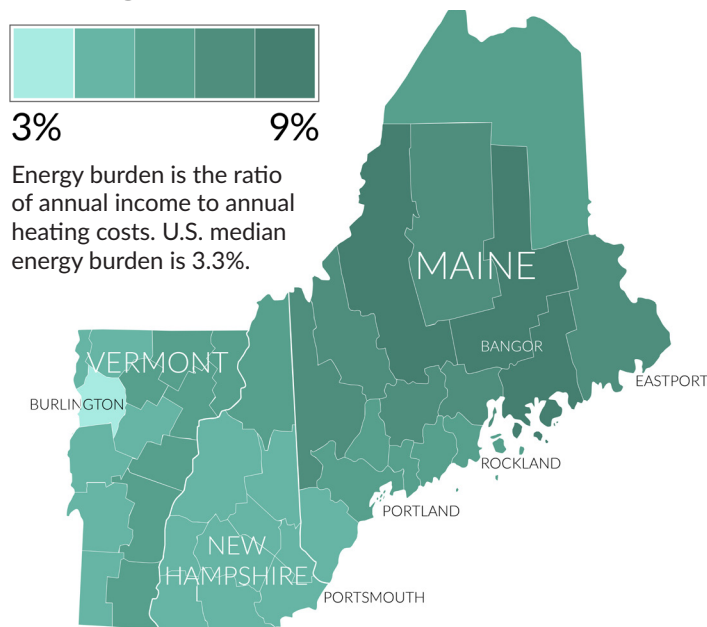
The financial benefits of energy efficiency improvements can be significant for islands and other rural areas in our region, but it can be difficult to find financing for energy upgrades or a contractor. By creating resources including a video series, a white paper, and toolkit, and presenting at regional and national conferences, we help implementers overcome these challenges.

### Energy Burden



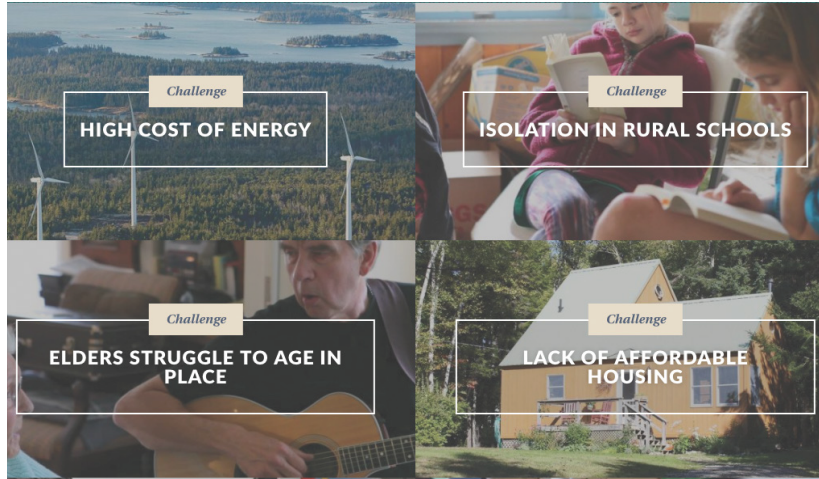
3% 9%

Energy burden is the ratio of annual income to annual heating costs. U.S. median energy burden is 3.3%.





## SHARING WHAT WORKS



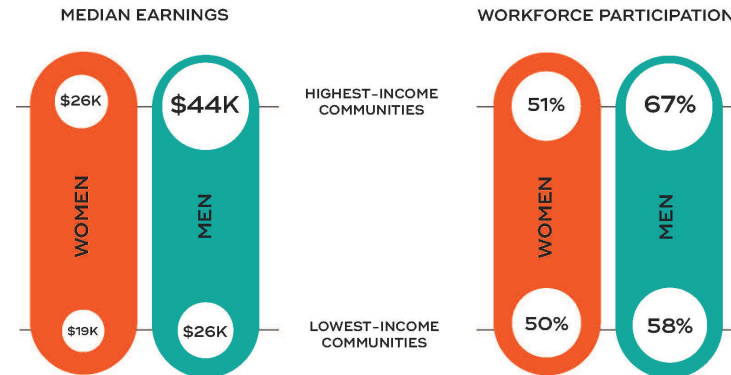
Our **What Works** online library houses a growing number of solutions to coastal community challenges.

When communities are faced with limited resources, efficiencies matter. We share these working examples to accelerate problem solving, inspire, and motivate action. Residents of Maine's small communities are implementing innovative projects up and down the coast, and their ingenuity informs similar communities here, across the country, and around the world.

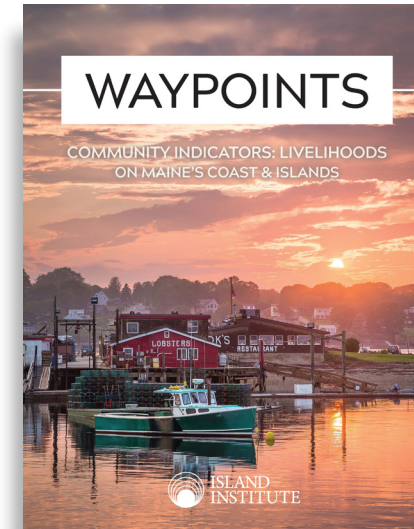
Explore at: [islandinstitute.org/whatworks](http://islandinstitute.org/whatworks)

## COMMUNITY DATA AIDS DECISION-MAKING

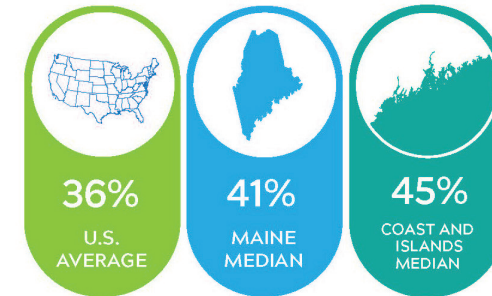
*Waypoints Community Indicators: Livelihoods on Maine's Coast and Islands* is dedicated to quantifying the ways coastal Mainers make a living. Our *Waypoints* publications provide island and coastal leaders and partners with clear data about our communities. The easy-to-use format helps meet local needs for planning and decision-making. Data in these publications are aggregated and analyzed by the Island Institute community data team and articulated through maps and charts illustrating the unique qualities of Maine's coastal and island communities.



Explore at: [www.islandinstitute.org/waypoints](http://www.islandinstitute.org/waypoints)



## AVERAGE PART-TIME OR SEASONAL WORK



Our publications engage, connect, and inform through news and stories of our coast and islands



# 52,000

monthly copies of *The Working Waterfront* newspaper are distributed to homes and businesses from Portland to Eastport and 8,000 subscribers receive the e-weekly newsletter.

The 2018 *Island Journal* explores innovative waterfronts and waterfront innovators. Highlights include profiles of the dynamic people leading the way along our coast and stories about Bucksport, Belfast, and the Cranberry Isles.

*“As a longstanding family foundation, we constantly evaluate and shift our support to organizations that continue to grow and maintain their relevance. We have consistently supported the Island Institute because its commitment to community-driven programming means it is always growing and evolving, and its mission and vision remain fresh.”*

## OUR MEMBERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

The Island Institute is grateful to the 3,000+ members and Island Partners who support our work each year.

Do you know someone who cares about the future of Maine’s island and coastal communities?

Invite them to join us at [www.islandinstitute.org/membership](http://www.islandinstitute.org/membership)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

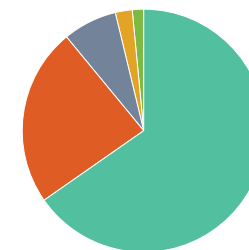
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## FINANCIAL REVIEW

### OPERATING REVENUE\*

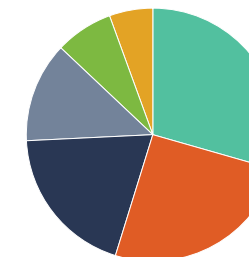
Government Grants	\$114,764
Contributions	4,931,867
Product	543,571
Earned Income	170,047
Other Income	1,792,374
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,552,623</b>



\*Does not include permanently restricted contributions

### OPERATING EXPENSES

Strengthening Economies	\$1,635,605
Enhancing Education & Leadership	411,290
Delivering & Sharing Solutions	1,081,244
<b>PROGRAM TOTALS</b>	<b>3,128,139</b>
Fundraising - General	711,545
Capital Campaign	308,997
General & Administrative	1,408,426
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,557,107</b>



Fiscal year:  
July 2017-June 2018

**FY2018 NET ASSETS \$33,748,763**

The Island Institute enjoyed solid financial results during the fiscal year. The three major strategic initiatives received broad support from donors. The strong balance sheet and results from operations will allow the organization to fulfill our commitments to the priorities highlighted herein.



— OUR MISSION —

The Island Institute works to sustain Maine's island and coastal communities, and exchanges ideas and experiences to further the sustainability of communities here and elsewhere.