



Energy Resilience Committee Newsletter

WINDOW DRESSERS COMMUNITY BUILD AND INSERTS

Hello Penobscot Nation! Back by popular demand, WindowDressers has returned for another Community Build. WindowDressers' window inserts are a great way to save money by stopping pesky drafts in your home's windows and providing extra insulation for your windows against the harsh Maine winters.



These excellent cost-saving tools are available at no cost or low cost based on need and availability. WindowDressers can keep their prices low through their cooperative system of customer engagement: Community Builds. If you aren't already aware of their incredible work, Community Builds are a volunteer run system buy which organizers and motivated members of the community come together to measure windows and construct inserts. If you would like to get involved by donating to the organization, providing a hot meal, or lending some of your time, follow the volunteer link below!



Order Here:



The Penobscot Nation is partnering with Window Dressers to provide free insulating inserts to tribal citizens, but supplies are limited! Use the code "Penobscot Member" when ordering to get free inserts, while supplies last.

<https://windowdressers.org/sign-up-for-inserts/>

The Orono Community Build is scheduled for 10/15/26-10/21/26 at the Keith Anderson Community Center, 19 Bennoch Road, Orono, ME 04473. For more information about the build, contact Meghan Hess at mhess@orono.org or the Window Dressers service team at info@windowdressers.org.

Volunteer Sign up:



<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/1152250350091/true#/invitation>



Images from WindowDressers Website

GREEN WORKFORCE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

2026 HEAT PUMP TECHNICIAN TRAINING



Image from ALF-CIO Website

Are you looking to start a new career? Do you want to expand your current business to new markets? Would you like to join a nationally recognized labor union? Have you ever thought of being a part of the green economy of the future? Look no further than the 2026 Heat Pump Technician Training Program!

The Penobscot Nation is pleased to announce that our partnership with the Maine AFL-CIO via the Union Construction Academy is bringing back the heat pump technician training program for Fall 2026. This is a pre-apprentice program focused on heat pump installation and maintenance. Through this program, trainees will gain vital hands-on experience, refine their soft skills, and learn about unions and the labor movement.

Requirements for participation include:

- Recognized Wabanaki Tribal Member
- High School Diploma or equivalent
- Valid driver's License, 18 years and up
- Ability to attend in-person training & complete remote learning

Maine AFL-CIO Website:



<https://maineaflcio.org>

Program FAQs:



<https://maineaflcio.org/union-construction-academy-main-faq-0>

The training will encompass an online portion that can be completed at your own pace through the month of September, followed by three days of in-person learning. The training will be offered from October 12th-14th at the IBEW Local 1253 training center, located at 142 Elm Street, Newport, ME 04953. This program is offered free of charge to Penobscot citizens, but space is limited. **If you are interested, be sure to submit an application before August 7th.**

Link to Application:



<https://forms.gle/uynduz7SMcSU3Qip6>

*Follow-up interviews for trainees will take place from 8/10/26-8/14/26

Jack Clark, Sustainable Energy Coordinator |
Kelsey Flores, Wabanaki Sustainable Energy Coordinator

RESOURCE HUB

\$500 HEAT PUMP BONUS OFFER FROM EFFICIENCY MAINE TRUST

Efficiency Maine offers rebates and incentives for a variety of home efficiency upgrades, including a new limited-time \$500 whole-home heat pump bonus.

This combines with current rebates ranging from \$3000-\$9000. If this sounds appealing to you, you will have to act quickly! This program is only available for upgrades completed with rebates emailed or postmarked from March 1st through December 31st 2026.

EMT Bonus Offer Details:



<https://www.efficiencymaine.com/whole-home-heat-pump-rebates/>

GIVE WELL-LOVED ITEMS A NEW LIFE



As an alternative to buying new, consider buying second hand or repairing what you have at home. This can be a great way to interact with your community and reduce your impact. Check out:

<https://bangormakerspace.org>

SHARING CAN CREATE COMMUNITY



Not everyone needs their own Hoover, lawnmower, or drill. By sharing, you help to protect the environment and get to engage with your neighbors. Facebook pages like Buy Nothing Groups make this a breeze. Also, consider the Bangor Public Library's Library of Things!

REDUCE YOUR ENERGY USE



Electricity is costly for your wallet and the planet! Consider swapping to LED lights, turning off and unplugging electronics when not in use, or looking for energy star labels when shopping. Power strips can also be a great way to disconnect a lot of devices all at once!

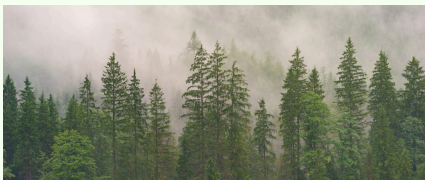
NE HEAT PUMP ACCELERATOR



Efficiency Maine and NEHPA are helping New England access affordable HVAC.

[Learn more →](#)

CLIMATE ACTION TOOLKIT



A Climate to Thrive's toolkit is supporting communities in a changing climate.

[Access the toolkit →](#)

CLIMATE RESILIENCE MATERIALS



Maine Public Health Association hosts a curated list of Climate Resilience Materials.

[Read more →](#)

RESILIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

PENOBSCOT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (PEP) KITS

Over the last year, Penobscot Citizens and Employees have been able to assemble and distribute 114 PEP kits to Penobscot Households. These PEP Kits were designed to provide up to 48 hours of essential emergency supplies, helping families remain safe during emergency situations. Some of the supplies included in these kits were:

- Solar Powered Radio/Lanterns
- Emergency sleeping bags, blankets, and ponchos
- MREs, water purification tablets, emergency candles
- Drybags, 5-gallon pails, water carriers, and much more!



These PEP kits included critical supplies for maintaining access to water, food, shelter, and communication channels. This initiative reflects the Penobscot Nation's commitment to community resilience. We extend our sincere gratitude to the many volunteers whose time and effort made this initiative possible, as well as to every citizen who participated.



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE ENERGY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE?

Thank you for reading our newsletter! Are you looking to get more involved in resilience practices? Do you want to learn more about renewable technologies or energy efficiency measures? The sustainable energy team wants to hear from you!



The Department of Natural Resources is looking to restart the Energy Resilience Committee. This committee would ideally meet monthly or quarterly with the Sustainable Energy Coordinators to guide community-led initiatives, provide feedback on priority initiatives, and stay informed on upcoming opportunities and resources.

ERC Survey:



<https://forms.gle/cVEu6qmo9K6mfLHW5>

This initiative is currently in its infancy, and we are looking to gauge community interest and what ways we can best serve the Penobscot Nation.

Feel free to contact Kelsey Flores or Jack Clark with any questions or concerns 4
Kelsey Flores: Kelsey.Flores@penobscotnation.org
Jack Clark: Jack.Clark@penobscotnation.org