

GREEN DOWNTOWNS!

Celebrating the partnership between the built and natural environments to strengthen Maine's Quality of Place



Funding made possible through the Environmental Funders Network

Green Downtowns by the numbers!

Launched in
2009

\$175,000 in two
consecutive
grants from the
Environmental
Fundors Network

Preservation +
Conservation +
Healthy
Downtowns =
Quality of Place!

- \$83,500 in 8 matching grants for Main Street downtown improvements
- \$35,000 in matching grants for 3 trail links and trailheads to downtowns
- \$47,000 in downtown streetscape design help for 13 Network communities
- \$27,000 in preservation technical services to historic building owners
- 140 have attended Green Downtown training workshops and trainings

Eight Principles of Green Downtowns!

□ **Reduce/Reuse/Recycle**

- ❖ Preserve and fully use Buildings, reduce waste

□ **Healthy Communities**

- ❖ Active options, centralized social needs, local foods

□ **Green Canopy**

- ❖ Street trees, plantings

□ **Green Energy**

- ❖ Alternative sources: passive/active solar, heat pumps, attic fans, wind

□ **Urban Living**

- ❖ Upper floor living, walkable neighborhoods

□ **Storm water Planning**

- ❖ Capturing, cleaning and reusing runoff

□ **Transit**

- ❖ Public alternatives to private autos

□ **Active Transportation**

- ❖ Walking, trails, bicycles, shared autos

Green Downtowns Matching Grants

- **\$83,500 in Matching Grants to Main Street communities**

- Pedestrian Improvements
- Trees and plantings
- Recycling and streetscape improvements

- **\$35,000 in Urban Trail Planning Grants**

- Waterville – Linking library & parking to Main Street and River Trail
- Rockland – Linking Harbor Trail to Main Street
- Skowhegan – Creating trailhead from Main Street to Pedestrian Bridge

Design and Planning Assistance:

Contract with landscape architect to help 13 Maine Downtown Network communities visualize their green potential

Grant contract: \$27,000
 In kind contribution: \$20,000
 Total: \$47,000

Maine Downtown Center Green Downtowns!
 June 2010

01: Green Canopy
 • Plant trees and shrubs to provide shade and improve air quality.
 • Use native plants and species that are drought-tolerant and require less water.
 • Plant trees in clusters to create a canopy effect.

02: Active Transportation
 • Create safe routes for walking and biking.
 • Install bike racks and repair stations.
 • Encourage carpooling and car-sharing programs.

03: Stormwater Planning
 • Use permeable paving to reduce runoff.
 • Install rain gardens and bioswales to absorb water.
 • Create green roofs to reduce runoff from buildings.

04: Healthy Communities
 • Promote local food production and farmers markets.
 • Create public spaces for recreation and social interaction.
 • Encourage active lifestyles through walking and biking paths.

05: Green Energy
 • Use energy-efficient lighting and appliances.
 • Install solar panels and other renewable energy sources.
 • Encourage energy audits and conservation programs.

06: Urban Living
 • Create walkable streets and pedestrian-friendly environments.
 • Encourage mixed-use development and vibrant neighborhoods.
 • Use green roofs and vertical gardens to improve air quality.

07: Transportation
 • Improve public transit services and infrastructure.
 • Encourage carpooling and car-sharing programs.
 • Create safe routes for walking and biking.

08: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
 • Encourage recycling programs and composting.
 • Use recycled materials in construction and landscaping.
 • Promote water conservation and reuse.

Key Strategic Improvements:
 1. Restore the potential of the waters edge for healthy living and quality of life.
 2. Improve the streetscape for people and plants.
 3. Reallocate the rail line to people instead of cars.
 4. Improve the efficiency and repair the character of buildings.
 5. Create the public realm.
 6. A Green at Jiffy lot or forgotten space.

Balancing livability, sustainability, green design, urbanism, active living and ecological development.

Augusta

WBRC
 WRIGHT-PIERCE
 Landscape Architecture

DOVER-FOXCROFT

THE MAINE DOWNTOWN CENTER'S GREEN DOWNTOWNS! program is designed to accomplish two primary goals: strengthen the link between the natural and built environment in Maine's historic downtowns by making them more environmentally responsive and ecologically conscious and strengthen Maine's downtowns by building local leadership and community capacity to support sustainable green initiatives.

8 Steps to GREENER Buildings:

- Calculate the size that you are rehabilitating a historic building, the present building is an existing building.
- Take advantage of inherent energy conservation features of historic commercial buildings such as shaded walls, masonry construction, high ceilings, and windows.
- Restore historic windows rather than replace them. Use new window units where necessary.
- Insulate roof and foundation, unless adjacent space will be used.
- Weatherstrip doors, install door frames, and construct an interior vestibule if feasible.
- Take advantage of advances in heating and cooling technology to improve energy efficiency and comfort.
- Install savings at standard windows to help pay for the energy and to pay for the weatherstripping.
- Install a green roof to save energy, reduce storm water runoff, and make downtowns cooler in summer.

UTILITIES:
 Bury electrical wires to eliminate visual clutter and increase sidewalk space.

BUILDING FABRIC:
 Restore windows to their original condition, restore original storefront, including roof and recessed doors. Restoring existing buildings preserves construction materials and contributes to the long-term integrity of the historic downtown.

FULL OCCUPANCY:
 Encourage residents or other uses in upper stories of downtown buildings.

LIGHTING:
 Phase in new, energy-efficient LED lamps that reduce energy consumption and support the downtown's historic character.

INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS:
 Relocate crosswalks to shorten crossing distances and construct with durable surfaces, such as pavers that complement the downtown aesthetic. Bollards at crossings create display space and seating areas, while reducing crossing distances.

SIGNAGE IMPROVEMENTS:
 Create a plaza at the entrance to the new waterfront park on Main Street with interpretive signage, a downtown business directory, and places to sit and congregate.

STORMWATER PARK:
 Replace asphalt and gravel with a stormwater "park" that receives and cleans stormwater runoff from building roofs and parking lots, with a path to the Chamber of Commerce.

FARMERS MARKET:
 New, consolidated waterfront parking area can double as farmer's market and provide flexible plaza space for special events.

GREEN ROOFS:
 Insulate buildings, detain stormwater, reduce ambient air temperatures in summer, and create opportunities for urban agriculture, where existing buildings can support them.

REGIONAL BUS STOP:
 Integrate a stop for regional bus service within the downtown to make public transit more visible and accessible.

INCREASED PLANTINGS:
 In parking lots and allows reduce ambient air temperatures in summer, manage glare, and make downtown more attractive.

PLAZAS AND POCKET PARKS:
 Reimagining underutilized and "left over" spaces make the downtown a more viable and attractive place to live, work and play.

PEDESTRIAN WAYS:
 Convert narrow alleys to pedestrian ways to improve pedestrian access to downtown parking areas.

THE MASONIC BLOCK **DOWNTOWN DOVER-FOXCROFT**

The 8 Principles of GREEN DOWNTOWNS!

- REDUCE/REUSE/RECYCLE:** Fully utilizing buildings enhances downtown character.
- HEALTHY COMMUNITIES:** Active options, central gathering places, local foods.
- GREEN CANOPY:** Street trees and plantings make downtowns more attractive and livable.
- GREEN ENERGY:** Alternatives such as passive solar, solar pumps, solar fans, and wind.
- URBAN LIVING:** A mix of uses makes it possible to work, play and learn without leaving downtown.
- STORMWATER PLANNING:** Sustainable stormwater practices protect the downtown and water quality.
- TRANSIT:** Public alternatives make downtowns livable by connecting everyone to everything.
- ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION:** Walking trails, bike paths, and shared auto.

Building Preservation/Conservation

\$20,000
contract over
two years

Additional
donated
services by MP
in 2010 of
\$7,500

19 projects in
15 communities
benefitted

All 27 MDC
communities
eligible for
training and
technical
services

- Contract services with Maine Preservation Field Service Technicians



BARBĀ + WHEELLOCK

**95 people across Maine attended
Training and Conference sessions
in 2010**

GREEN DESIGN

DOWNTOWN INSTITUTE 2010

MAINE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION/MAINE DOWNTOWN CENTER

APRIL 9, 2010



ARCHITECTURE PRESERVATION DESIGN



The Future of Green Downtowns?

It takes ALL of us to embrace the full potential of Maine's Quality of Place.

Maine's Green Downtowns program provides leadership and matching grant funding in support of sustainable, walkable, livable downtowns!

- **Vision:**
 - ❖ Every Maine citizen appreciates, understands and has a deep personal conviction about this program
- **Goal:**
 - ❖ All MDC communities model the way for others by actively demonstrating the value of the Eight Principles of Green Downtowns
 - ❖ MDC and partners develop and deliver a comprehensive PR/marketing campaign to instill the Green Downtowns! ethic statewide
 - ❖ Favorable public policies and incentives are adopted, continued and financially supported as a **legacy for the future**

**To Launch a *Green Downtowns!* Program in YOUR Downtown,
contact**



A program of the **MAINE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**

mdf.org

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