

Maine Towns are Going Solar

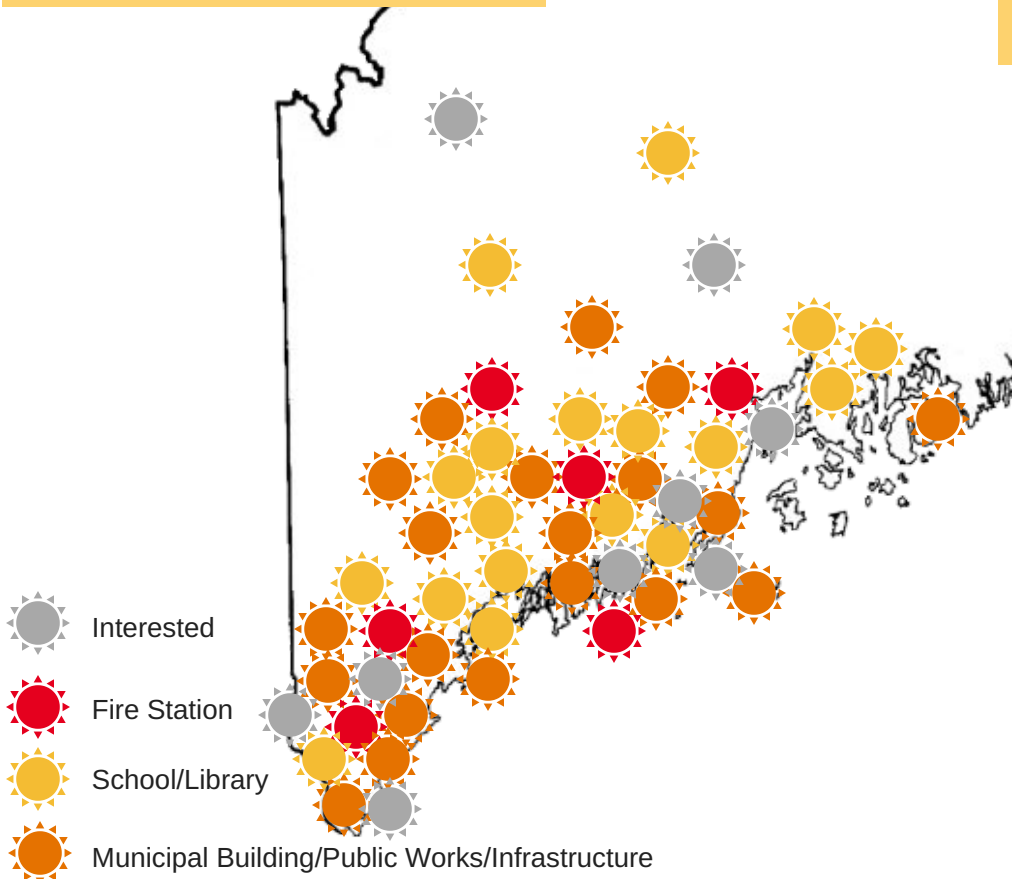
Municipal-owned solar projects are springing up in Maine, with dozens of towns and cities across the state planning and installing solar. These solar arrays are installed on town or city property to cut municipal energy bills, saving money for local taxpayers. Like other solar projects, they also benefit the economy and environment, create local jobs, and save money for every Mainer who pays a power bill. Maine could do much more to encourage municipal solar.



Mt. Blue School in Farmington benefits from a 30 kW solar electric system that will reduce the school's electricity bill for the next 25 years. The solar array is combined with energy efficiency measures that lower costs and increase sustainability.



The Town of Thomaston's wastewater treatment plant installed 78 photovoltaic panels on the roof of its building with the help of a rebate from Maine's now expired solar rebate program. The 18 kW solar array generates 13 percent of the plant's heavy electricity needs.



The Town of Dayton's municipal building, with the help of the 15 kW solar power array, enjoys electric bills of nearly zero year-round, saving thousands of dollars annually.

Whether they are adding solar arrays to town buildings, closed landfills, or other places, municipalities around Maine are looking for ways to save money by adding solar to their energy portfolio. While some projects are moving forward, others remain on hold because of the continued uncertainty in Augusta. Passing legislation that supports municipal solar will help projects like these and many more go online—a boon for towns, their residents, and taxpayers.



“Carrabassett Valley Sanitary District is exploring the possibility of adding a large solar array to otherwise unused land on its property. We see solar as an opportunity to create an additional revenue stream and to stabilize our costs, which, in turn, will benefit the residents of the town.”

- **David Keith**
Superintendent, Sanitary District



“Adding a solar array to the town’s closed landfill will be a win-win all the way around. It may produce as much as 97 percent of the town’s electrical needs, while also helping to reduce Woolwich’s carbon footprint immediately.”

- **David King, Sr.**
Chairman, Board of Selectmen in Woolwich

Operational Municipal Solar Projects

- Appleton** Public Library
- Bangor** Bangor High School
- Bar Harbor** Public Works
- Belfast** Fire Station, Landfill, and Middle School
- Boothbay** Public Works, Fire Station, and Recycling Center
- Brunswick** Brunswick High School
- Cumberland** Greely High School
- Damariscotta** Great Salt Bay School
- Dayton** Municipal Office Building
- Eliot** Public Works
- Falmouth** Falmouth School Department
- Farmington** Mt. Blue School
- Freeport** Public Library
- Gorham** Municipal Center
- Gray** Gray-New Gloucester High School
- Hampden** Weatherbee School
- Lincolnton** Public Library
- Manchester** Fire Station
- Monhegan** Monhegan Plantation Power District
- Montville** Public Works
- New Gloucester** Water District
- Rockland** Aqua Maine Water Treatment Plant
- Rockport** Camden Hills Regional High School
- Scarborough** Public Works and Fire Station
- Searsmont** Municipal Office Building
- South Berwick** Public Library
- South Portland** City Planning Office
- Thomaston** Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Topsham** Mt. Ararat Middle School
- Waterville** Sewerage District
- Wells** Wells Town Garage
- Whitefield** Fire Station
- Windham** Fire Station and Municipal Office Building
- Winthrop** Winthrop High School
- Yarmouth** Town Garage, Water District, and High School
- York** York School Department