

Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2019

JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019

2018 marks GrowSmart Maine's fifteenth year of advocacy, events and community engagement designed to create support for smart growth outcomes across the state. GrowSmart Maine is participating in the public process to inform the State Strategic Plan and is seeking opportunities to ensure long-term community benefits related to Maine's Opportunity Zones. We are awaiting USDA's acceptance of the Partners for Rural America (PRA) letter to complete our designation as Maine's State Rural Development Council while engaging with our peers at PRA each month.

The Maine Alliance for Smart Growth (MASG), a program of GrowSmart Maine, continues to evolve toward making a greater impact. For the first time, GrowSmart Maine grounded legislative testimony in our role as the lead of the MASG. The bill creating Maine's Climate Change Council was endorsed from all perspectives represented in our steering committee: downtown revitalization and preservation of historic buildings, land conservation, and sustainable economic development. Quarterly steering committee meetings have included discussions with guests Tim Hobbs, Maine Director of USDA: Rural Development and Andrew Butcher, of Smart Communities Maine. In addition, GrowSmart Maine is supporting Hallowell, a member of MASG, by serving on their brownfield advisory council.

ADVOCACY

Fiscal year 2019 was a time of active engagement in policy. GrowSmart Maine shared results of our gubernatorial candidates' survey, sharing their views on managing growth and change through the smart growth lens. While the Legislature addressed 2,300 bills, we focused on those where our unique perspective offered critical points to debate. All testimony can be found on our website.

Highlights of our advocacy within and outside of the Legislature include:

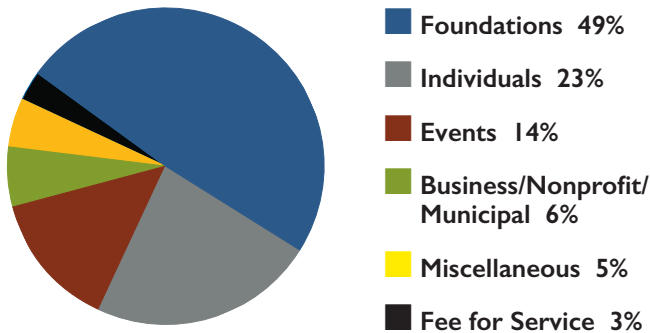
- Working within the **Maine Broadband Coalition** to provide a voice for internet users as well as trusted information to support sound policy and strategic public infrastructure and planning investments.
- **Land Use Planning Commission:** GrowSmart Maine advocated for the sustainability of rural towns near Maine's unorganized territory as the LUPC updated rules directing where development can occur in this unique ten-million-acre span of mostly undeveloped forest land across the northern half of Maine. Beyond advocating on



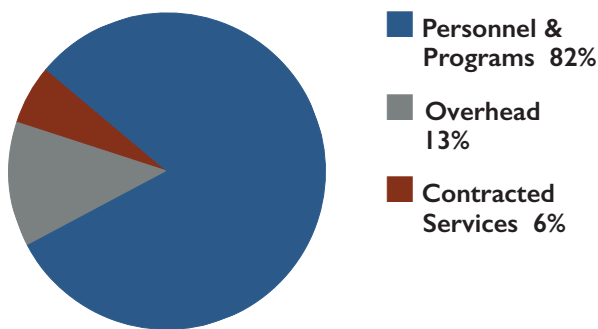
specific bills, we highlighted the value of regional planning and community engagement.

- GrowSmart Maine served on the Task Force to help shape the **Next Generation of Maine Land Conservation** and advocated for many of its recommendations.
- GrowSmart Maine connected our work with the Maine Broadband Coalition with our advocacy for smart growth in affordable housing investments. We recommended, and **MaineHousing** accepted, the ConnectME standard of 10 Mbps up and 10 Mbps down speeds as a minimum broadband standard for projects funded by Maine's Low Income Housing Tax Credit program. This consistent up/down speed is particularly important for telehealth, given the video-conferencing and data-sharing required.
- Support of the **Climate Change Council** as an essential process to ensure a coordinated, statewide approach to mitigating and adapting to changes in our climate.
- On the Federal level, we worked within coalitions to urge Maine's Congressional delegation to support sound policy and funding. With **Transportation for America**, we advocated for full funding of critical transit, passenger rail and multimodal programs at historic and/or FAST Act authorized levels this year and to set a vision for the next reauthorization, including holding the program accountable for maintaining our transportation system, building safer streets, and connecting people to jobs and services by providing reliable transportation choices. Through **MaineTogether**, we urged our delegation to work toward a long-term budget agreement that would avoid sequestration cuts to critical programs which support clean air and water, affordable housing, robust public health systems, strong fisheries, nutrition support for families in need, services for vulnerable populations and early child development.

FY2019 Revenue: \$214,000



FY2019 Expenses: \$210,000



Fiscal Year 2019 net income was on budget. Business/government/non-profit memberships were above last year's level and we received funding from two new foundations while fee-for-service revenue was below budget. Total equity is up 6% over FY2018.

EVENTS

SMART GROWTH WORKSHOPS: We are building an integrated suite of workshops to provide a deeper dive into key smart growth principles. Working with several partners, focus will include smart communities technology, energy efficiency and weatherization, municipal tools to support farmland and open space, redevelopment of graying commercial strips, and affordable housing. We rounded out 2018 with two such workshops; "Housing Choices for a Well-Rounded Community" September 13 in Kennebunk and on November 3, a "Rural by Design" Forum in Topsham.

SUMMIT 2018 – The Power of Localism

Tapping Into a Maine Tradition: We brought our annual event to Bangor on October 11th. Keynote speakers Bruce Katz, co-author of "The New Localism" and Jase Wilson of Neighborly, dove into the power of local action in separate presentations followed by shared discussion with the audience. Relevant breakout sessions and City Experience tours of downtown Bangor brought fresh perspective to the power of local action.

The event highlighted the 2018 Smart Growth Awards, with six winners chosen from a high-quality field of 30 nominations.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Making Headway in Sanford: This program is the beginning of a larger neighborhood planning effort addressing the pending closure of an elementary school in the Lafayette neighborhood. Working with an existing group of community and municipal representatives, Making Headway added a new focus and energy to broader discussions of the re-purposing of the Lafayette School and strengthened connections within that group. Small community-led projects created a brand for the neighborhood by installing signs that designate the area as "The Eastside" and the Lafayette Children's Crosswalk, a rainbow crosswalk in front of the school. Two unanticipated outcomes from this effort were an art project by current students, reflecting on the theme, "Lafayette Students Speak" which was showcased at City Hall in June, and action by the Sanford Public Works Dept. to add a caution light and signage to improve the safety of the crosswalk.

Climate Table Energy Efficiency and Messaging:

GrowSmart Maine served an advisory role in the Island Institute's Weatherization Week program in Milbridge with local community organization Mano en Mano. The Implementation Team catalyzes local efforts by developing tools and information that allow a community to adapt a model to their needs. We served as a member of the Energy Efficiency Subcommittee which offers high-level advisory support to the implementation team, tracks progress on the EE Action Plan, and reports to the Climate Table Steering Committee. GrowSmart Maine provided the Maine Climate Table Communications Training "Communicating with Mainers on Climate Change" Workshops through 2018.

ON THE HOME FRONT

We relocated our office to Augusta, as the Gardiner building was repurposed as a brewery and coffee shop. We continue to enjoy the efficiencies of a shared workspace, now on Water Street in downtown Augusta. Both Gardiner and Augusta are seeing significant new business and cultural activity, and we are gratified to support both cities by locating in the heart of their downtowns. There were staffing changes as well, with Tyler Kidder departing GrowSmart Maine to join the Onion Foundation while re-joining our board, and Jodi Castallo returning to Maine to become our Community Outreach Director. Board and staff are updating our five-year strategic plan and redesigning our website to better demonstrate the value of smart growth and more readily share community resources with Mainers.

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North Star Planning
Otis Federal Credit Union
Ransom Consulting

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Auburn Housing Authority
City of Eastport
City of Hallowell
The Commons Eastport
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The Lafayette Children's Crosswalk, Sanford, part of "The Eastside" Project.

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Great Falls Construction
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Northern Maine
Development Corp
Piscataquis County Economic
Development Council
The Quoddy Tides
Sunrise County Economic
Council

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Platinum

Allan, E. Davies
Bouvier, Rachel
Casey, Becca
Eppich, Carl
Hall, William
King, William
MacPherson, Susan
Miley Foundation
Richert, Evan
Rumpf, Thomas
Smith, John F.

Stockly Fund at Maine
Community Foundation
Stockwell, Sally
Webster, David &
Leivian, Marilyn
Wolpow, Sarah
Zinchuk, Robin

Gold

Barringer, Richard
Bragg, Jane & Franklin
Conard, Gianne
Davies, Richard
Grassi, Anthony
Hach, Bryce
Hakanson, Eric & Sandra
Hermann, Frederick
Kiermaier, Lock
Miles, Frank
Norris, Bo
Smith, Nancy E.
Tietenberg, Tom
Tolman, Andrew
Walworth, Edward & Candace
Watson, John

Silver

Brookes, Kenneth
Cram, James

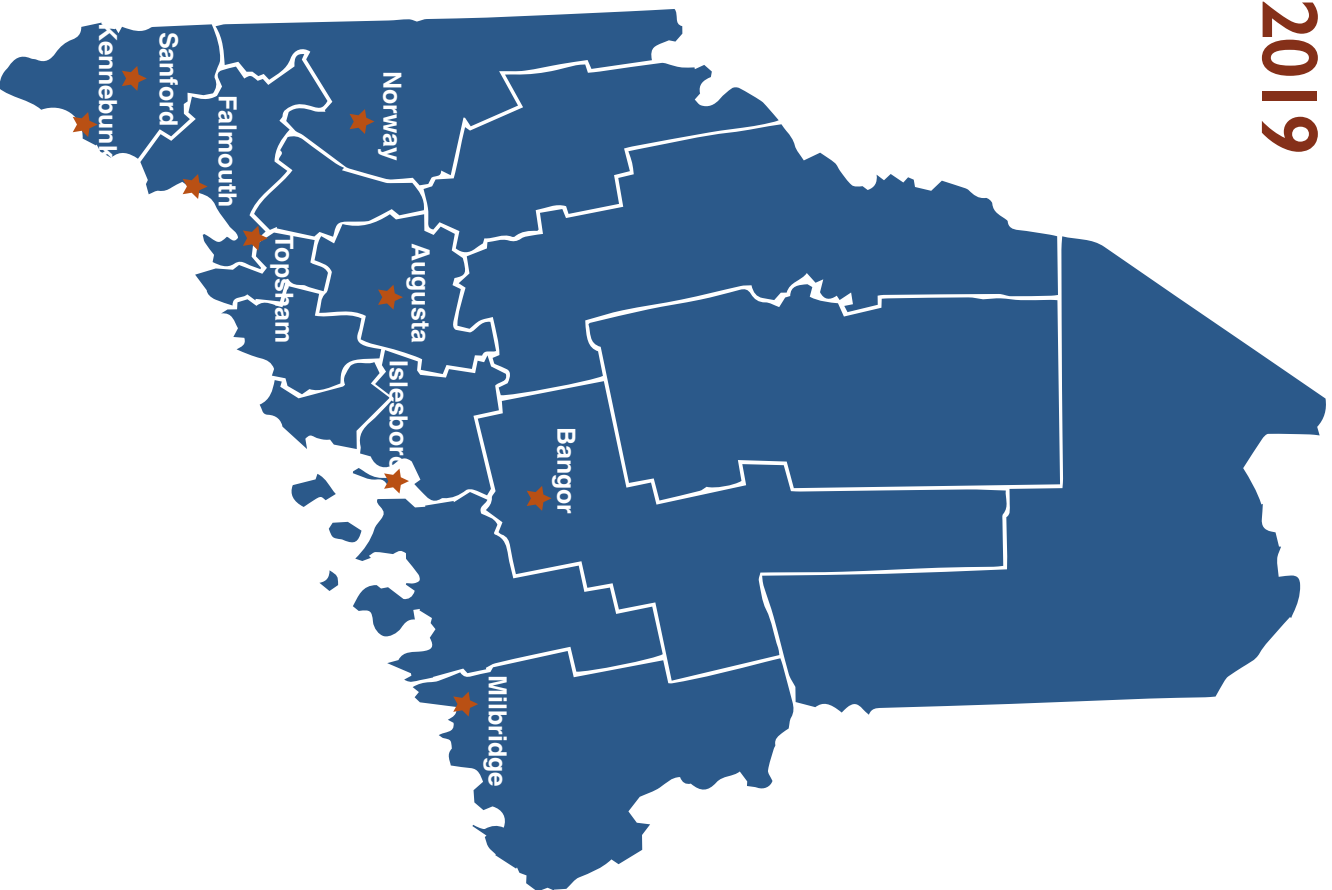
Dzenis, Ruta
Gosline, Ann
Graham, Rebecca
Gray, Jennifer
Hansen, Sarah
Hawkins, Deborah
Jaegerman, Alexander
Kidder, Tyler
Koffman, T.S.
Lachman, Denis
Levine, Jeff
Ludewig, Nancy &
C. Douglas
McCarthy, Kate
Pierce, Daniel & Sarah
Rector, Christopher &
Elisabeth
Richmann, James

Individual

Bowman, Peter
Brain, Nancy R. &
Watson, John C.
Cole, Peter
Daniels, Ellie
Glassberg, Andrew
Hilton, Gwen
Kahl, Steve
Lones, Audrey
Ludwig, Michael
Miller, Christopher
Miller, Lisa
Miller, Markos
Peterson, Jessica
Piotti, John
Proulx, Andrew
Shankman, Neil
Spiller, Philip
St. Pierre, James
Trice, Elizabeth
Wakefield, Victor
Winstead, Christopher
Young, Paul

GrowSmart Maine Community Engagement

2019



2010-2019

