

CIRCUITS DAY TWO



Track 2: Place-based Solutions for Equitable Growth

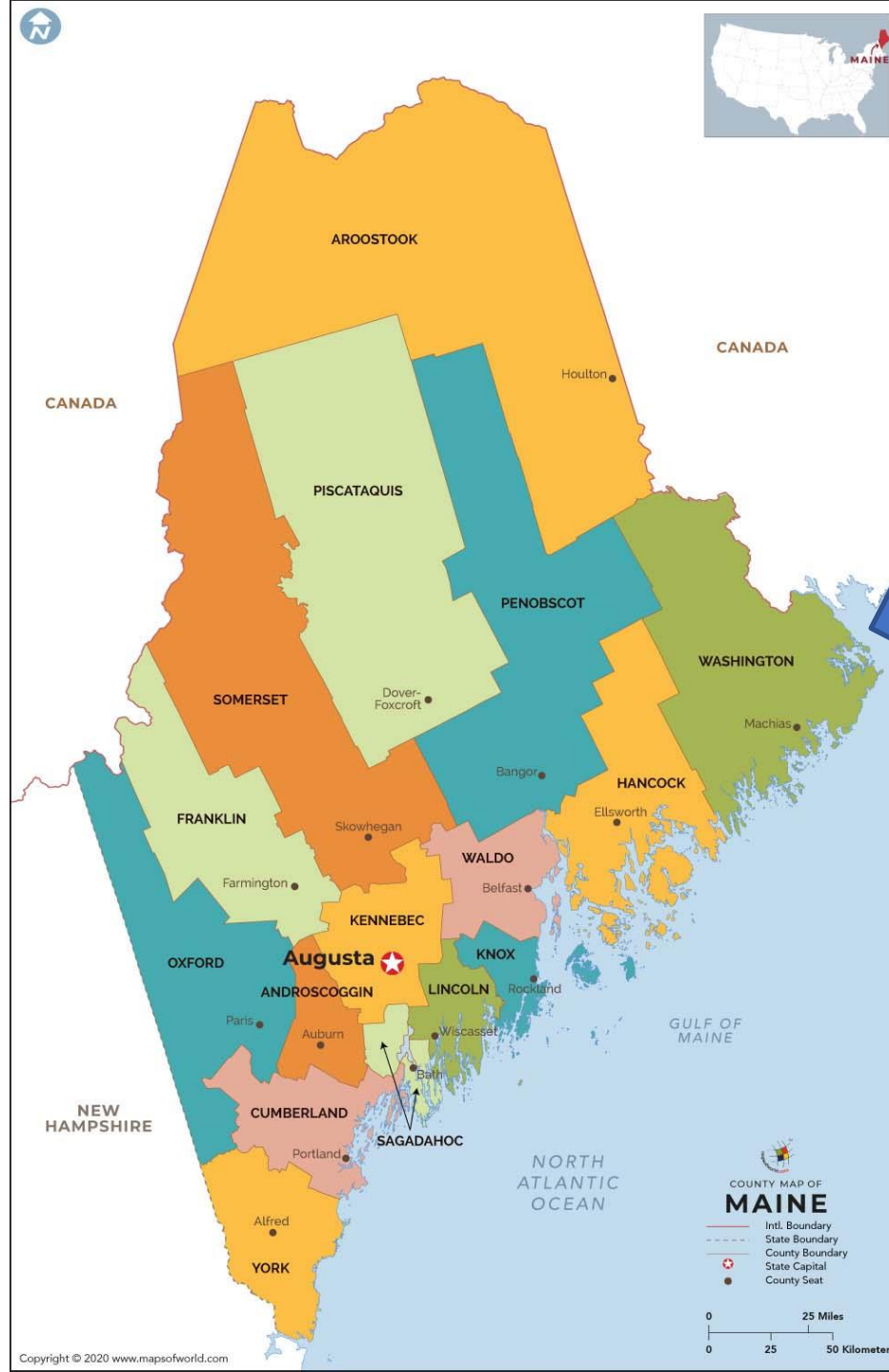
# Clean Energy in Rural and Remote Communities

DEC 5 • 3-4PM • ROOM 207A

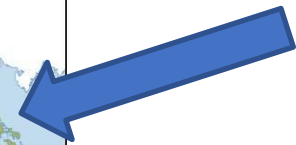


# Sunrise County Economic Council

*Tanya Rucosky Community Resilience Coordinator  
Sunrise County Economic Council*



Size of Delaware and Rhode Island Combined  
(3,200 mi<sup>2</sup>)



Population of Poughkeepsie  
(31,555)



# Challenges



## Economic

- Median Household Income : \$51,669 (Nationally \$80,610)
- 17.5% living in poverty (22% of children in poverty)

## Elderly and Disabled:

- 25% over 65
- 23% disabled

# Challenges

## Tiny Towns

- Largest town: Calais  
3,078 people
- Smallest– Beddington–  
21 people



# Challenges

## Low Capacity

- Most towns run by volunteer select boards
- 1-2 town employees if that
- Focus on vehicle registrations and snow removal



## Town Offices Hours

The Town Office will be open every Thursday from 8am to 3pm. Office may close due to State or Federal Emergencies or inclement weather.

If you wish to register your vehicle, boat or pay your taxes, please call the office at 207-638-2514 to verify we are open.





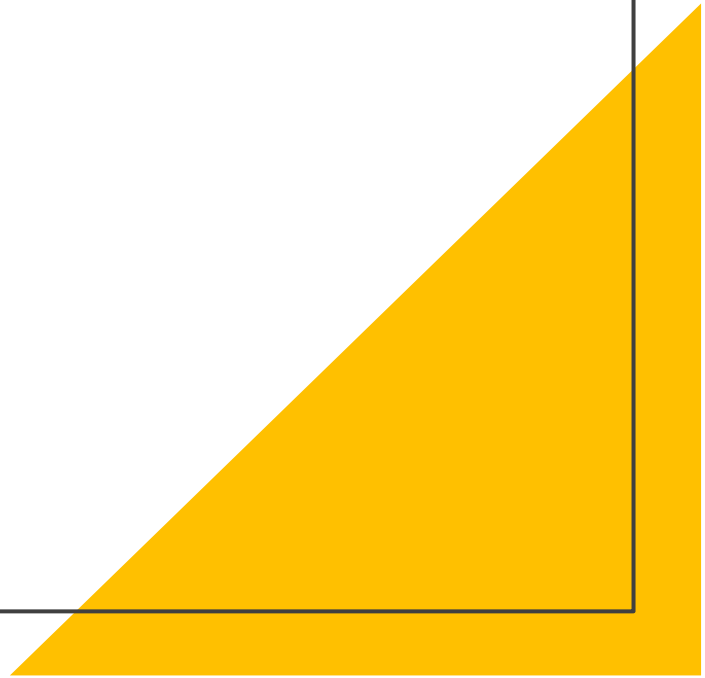
# Challenges

## Old Homes

- Poorly insulated
- Dependent on home heating oil and propane

## Cheap Land

**KINGDOM LOT  
PRICE IMPROVEMENT**  
Steuben & T7, Maine  
+/- 750 acres  
\$699,000



# Strengths

- Deeply Resilient
- Strongly connected to and supportive of each other
- Highly engaged communities



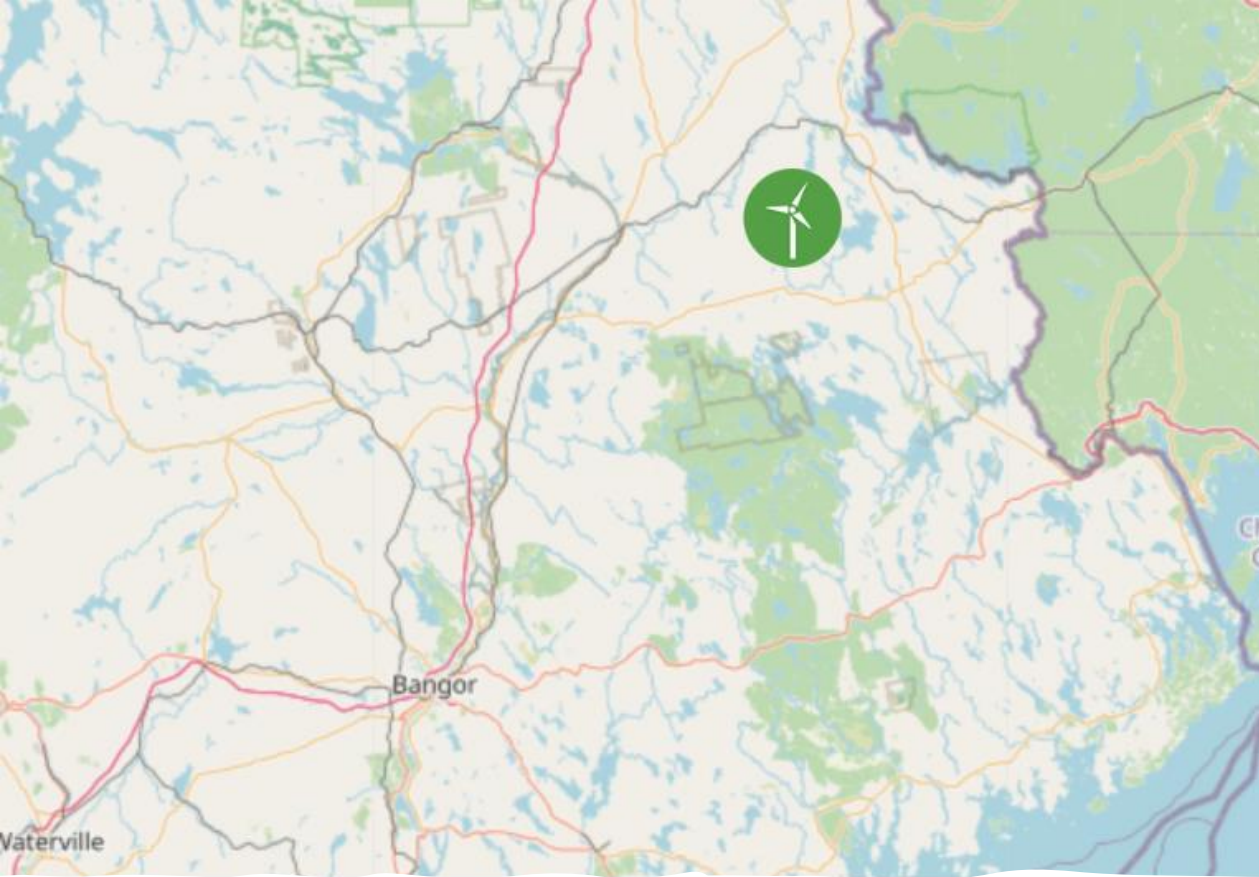
# Are rural communities interested in clean energy projects?

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Yes, “90% of Maine people support the development of wind power as a source of electricity.”

but...



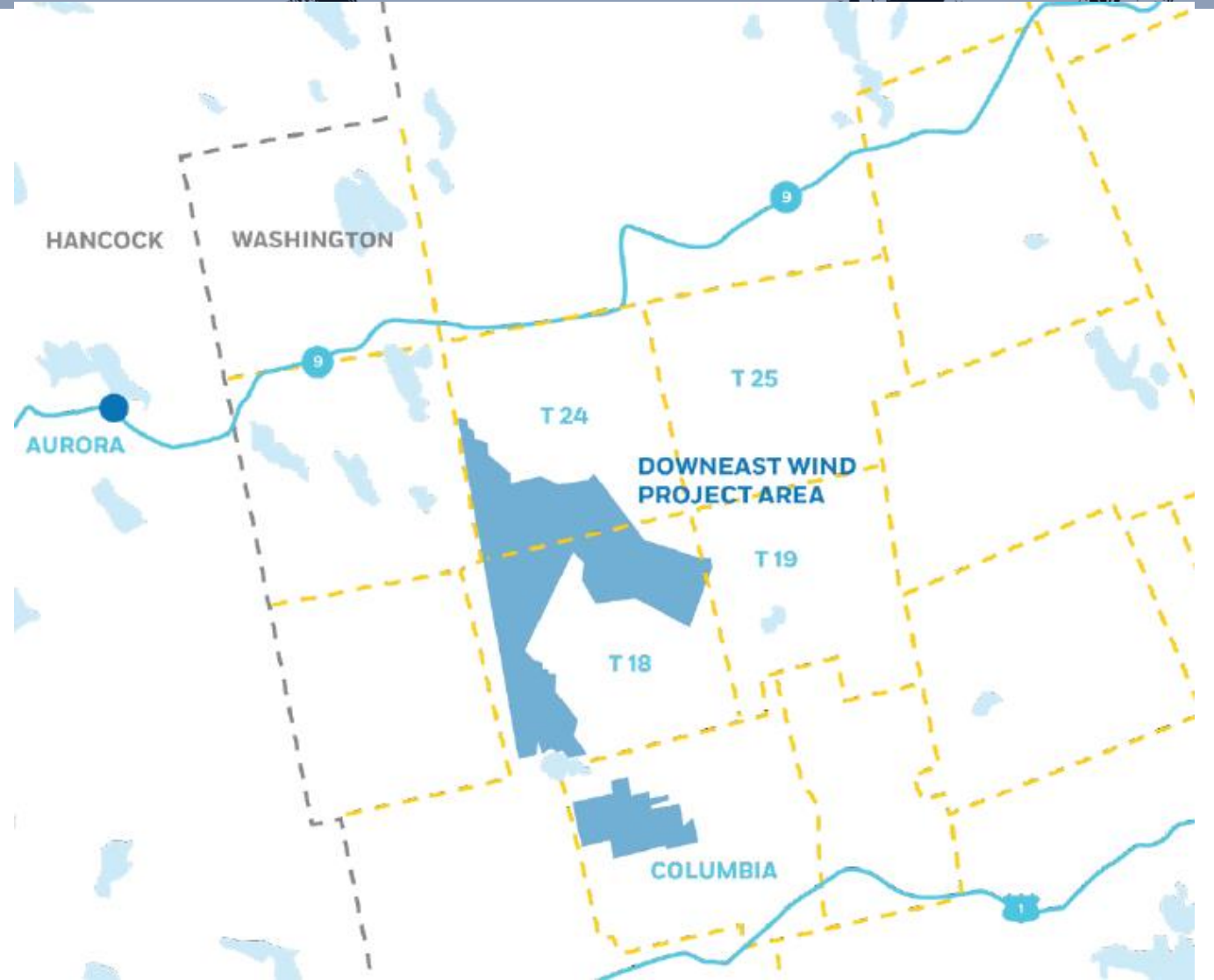


## First Wind and Downeast Wind: Case Studies in Community Informed Green Energy Development

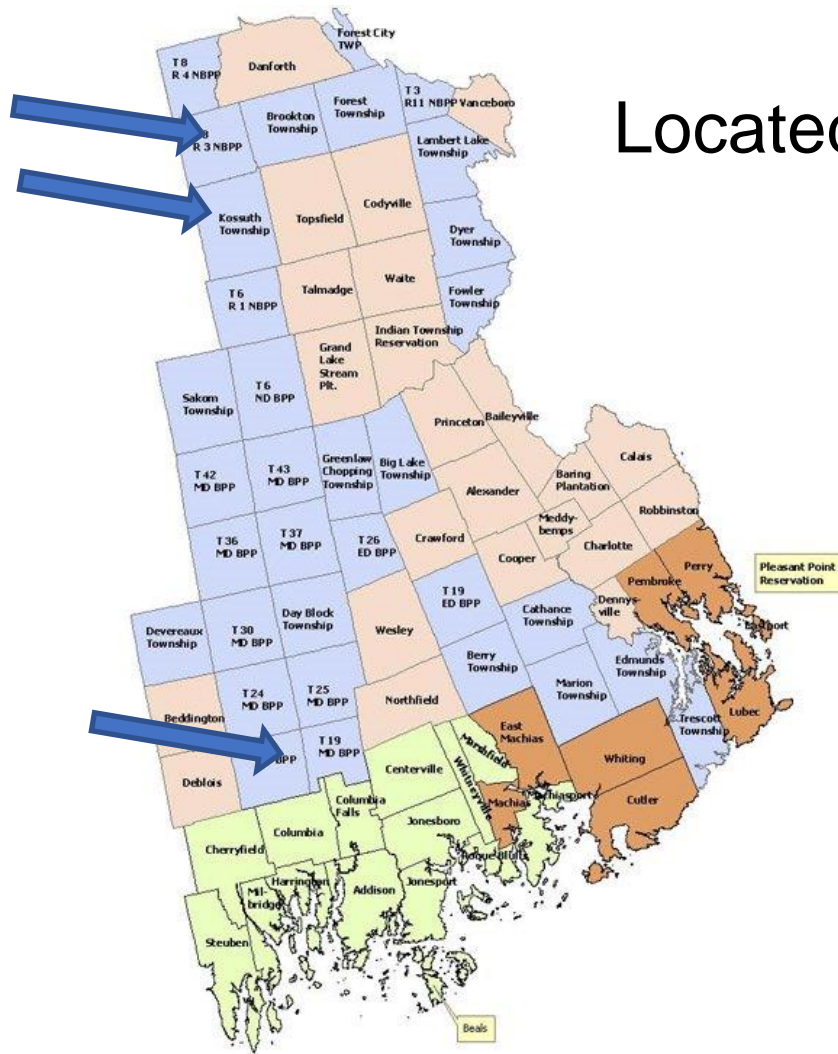
The Stetson I and II Wind Farm consists of 55 wind turbines, with a total capacity of 82.5 Megawatts on Stetson, Jimmy, and Owl mountains.

# First Wind and Downeast Wind: Case Studies in Community-Informed Green Energy Development

- 126 MW of capacity
- Sited on wild blueberry barrens



# What they did right



Located project in area of extremely low population

Responded to community feedback

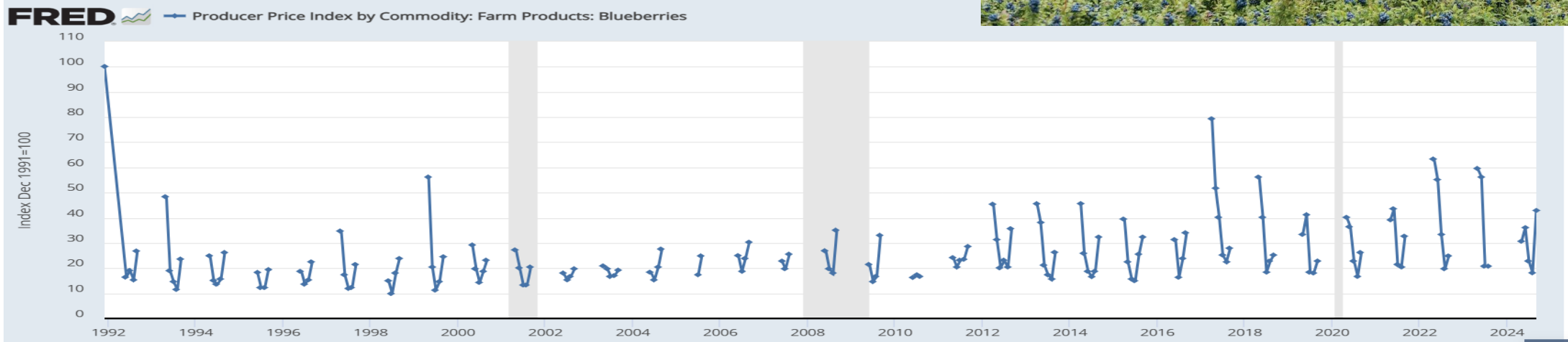
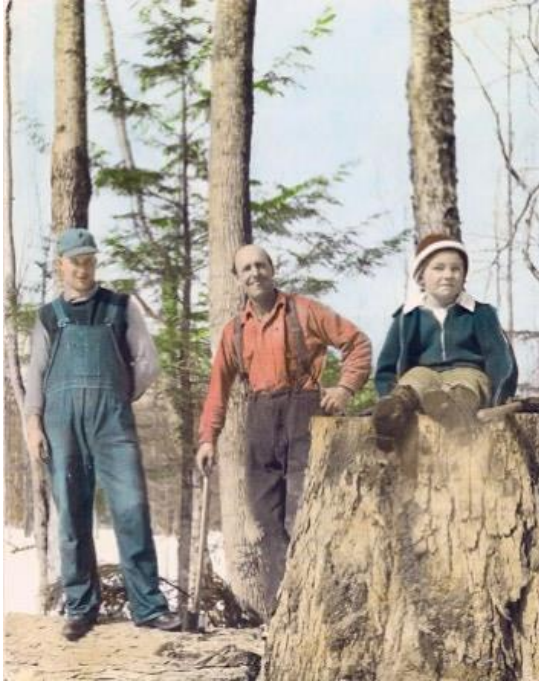
Roads and locations designed to limit disturbance of people and wildlife



# What they did right

Dealt with only a handful of large landowners

Stabilized earnings for natural resource-based businesses





What they did right

Projects have small footprint on the landscape

# What they did right

Started community engagement several years before project work began



Hired local vendors

\$7.5 million program providing grants and loans to start-ups in the unorganized territories over as well as a community grants program





Occurring quickly  
on small pieces  
of land without  
any community  
consultations in  
the most  
populated areas



Large highly visible footprint on landscape

# Community Feels:

- Invaded
- Character of the community threatened
- Unequal burden of decarbonizing
- Taken advantage of
- Only benefits to landowner—not community






**Way forward for solar**

# Resources and Contacts

Hicks, D. Dignity; Its  
Essential Role in Resolving  
Conflict. Yale University  
Press

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