C&I CUSTOM PROGRAM UPDATE

Efficiency Maine's Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Custom Program provides Maine businesses and institutions with incentives for site-specific energy efficiency projects that require a tailored engineering analysis. Our newsletter keeps interested parties informed about important program updates, new project awards, and recently completed projects. We welcome the opportunity to share our successes and encourage business owners, institutional decision makers, and the contractor community to invest in energy efficiency.

What's New?

Manufacturer Program Opportunity Notice (PON) – Maine manufacturing facilities are now eligible for enhanced incentives for efficiency projects that reduce the use of natural gas, oil, biomass, and other fuels. Bonus incentives are available for beneficial electrification and heat recovery projects. Projects awarded through this PON will be supported with American Rescue Plan Act funds allocated to Efficiency Maine through the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan. For more information, visit https://www.efficiencymaine.com/manufacturer-thermal-efficiency-projects/.

Energy Storage System (ESS) Pilot PON – All Maine customers (including commercial businesses, non-profits, institutions, and government) that pay demand charges on their electricity bills are eligible for performance-based incentives for the deployment of battery systems during summer peak demand conditions. For more information, visit https://www.efficiencymaine.com/energy-storage-system-projects/.

R-22 Refrigerant Phase-Out – Manufacturing R-22 refrigerant or importing it to the United States was banned effective January 1, 2020, and supplies of recycled R-22 are expected to diminish and become prohibitively expensive. As facilities with R-22 chillers make plans to replace equipment, our program is eager to influence purchasing decisions in favor of more efficient chiller options. If you have a project you're considering, please reach out to custom@efficiencymaine.com.

Recently Awarded Projects

Boyne Resorts (Sugarloaf Mountain and Sunday River), Carrabassett Valley and Newry – High Efficiency Snow Guns

Efficiency Maine is happy to help Maine's ski areas extend the ski season and reduce operating costs by improving the efficiency of their snowmaking equipment.

Two of Maine's top ski resorts, Sugarloaf and Sunday River, were each awarded funding for upgrades to more than 200 tower-mounted snow guns that maximize the efficiency of these models. The upgrades are expected to reduce the equipment's compressed air usage by as much as 80%.

Sugarloaf and Sunday River are owned by Boyne Resorts, a collection of 12 mountain and lakeside resorts, ski areas, and attractions spanning from British Columbia to Maine. Highly skilled members of the company's global team worked with Efficiency Maine to make substantial improvements to the overall productivity and efficiency of snowmaking operations at both resorts.

Snowmaking is a labor- and energy-intensive process that requires large amounts of compressed air and water. Premium snowmaking equipment produces high-quality snow over a wider temperature range while requiring less compressed air than conventional technology. Utilizing premium equipment allows Sugarloaf and Sunday River to continue providing a superior snow surface and skiing experience to Mainers and those from beyond our borders.

- Project Cost: $4,250,000
- Efficiency Maine Incentive: $1,619,793

Recently Completed Projects

Bath Iron Works (BIW), Bath – HVAC Upgrades

Bath Iron Works (BIW) recently used Efficiency Maine financial incentives to upgrade its air filtration and make-up air systems to high-efficiency options.

BIW is a major shipyard that has been building U.S. Navy warships in Bath for more than 100 years. The primary structural assembly building is nearly 170,000 square feet with 80-foot ceilings. It houses the majority of the facility's welding operations.

Originally, the assembly building's heat was provided by 19 Modine unit heaters equipped with steam coils. The building operated at a significant negative pressure; exhaust fans pulled air out of the building and uncontrolled make-up air came in through infiltration. This caused the building to experience fume accumulation, cold temperatures, and considerable energy loss. In 2018, BIW launched an effort to upgrade the building to improve air quality, increase winter space temperatures, reduce the negative pressure, and save energy.

During its bid solicitation process, BIW received two separate proposals for new air filtration and make-up air systems – one high-efficiency, more expensive option, and one lower-efficiency, less expensive option. Both systems would accomplish the company's goals for the project, but by offering a financial incentive to defray the upfront incremental cost differential, the C&I Custom Program was able to encourage BIW to select the high-efficiency option.

Efficiency Maine Trust is happy to support BIW's pursuit of healthier, more energy-efficient work environments.

- Approximate Project Incremental Cost: $1,800,000
- Efficiency Maine Incentive: $752,143

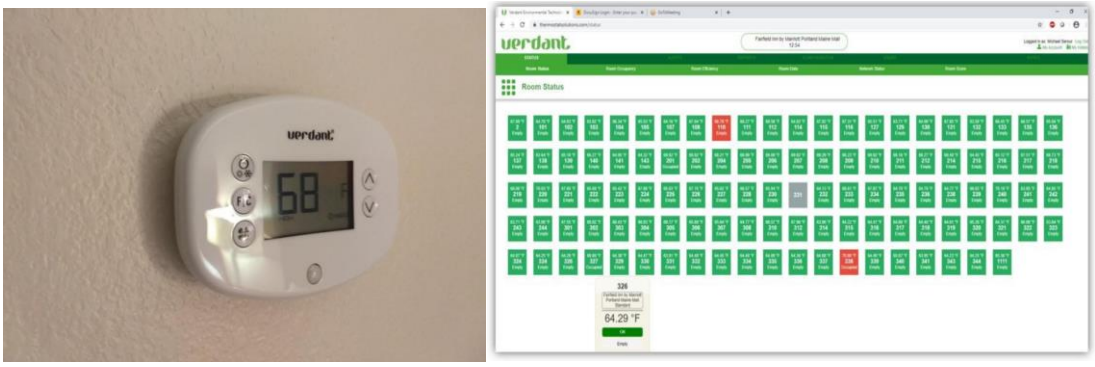
Fairfield Inn, Scarborough – Guest Room PTAC Controls

The Fairfield Inn in Scarborough sought the help of the Efficiency Maine C&I Custom Program to install wireless, centrally connected thermostats and associated controls to reduce the runtime of guestroom heating and cooling systems.

Each of the 116 guestrooms at the Fairfield Inn has a packaged terminal air-conditioner (PTAC) unit for heating and cooling. Originally, these units were controlled using in-room wired thermostats with no remote-access capabilities. With temperature modifications reliant upon manual adjustments at each unit in each room, the PTACs would often run when the rooms were unoccupied. This resulted in a considerable amount of unnecessary energy use.

The new wireless, centrally connected thermostats now communicate with the in-room PTACs via a wireless receiver and have occupancy sensing and automatic temperature setback control. All thermostats are connected to and controlled by an online, remote management system that can adjust setback limits based on a programmed allowable recovery time. This maximizes potential savings without adversely impacting guest comfort.

- Approximate Project Cost: $30,000
- Efficiency Maine Incentive: $14,706



Wireless guestroom thermostat (L) and online management platform showing real-time room temperatures (R).

Get Started

- Watch our C&I Custom Program introductory video.
- Review additional C&I Custom Program eligibility and incentive information on our website.
- Are you interested in saving energy but not sure where to start? Consider a free Scoping Audit.
- Do you have a project idea but need help conducting energy analysis and putting together an application? Consider a Technical Assistance Study.
- Do not hesitate to contact the C&I Custom Program at 207-358-7957 or custom@efficiencymaine.com.