The town of Norridgewock is a leading example of the types of projects Efficiency Maine is promoting through its small-town funding opportunities. In recent years, Norridgewock has completed nine projects that have received a total of $45,173 in efficiency incentives. The town’s fire department, airport, library, municipal garage, wastewater facility, and town offices all completed lighting projects using $33,973 in financial incentives for an estimated total annual energy savings of 46,142 kWh.

Norridgewock also installed heat pumps in its fire station, airport terminal, and library using $11,200 in financial incentives for an estimated annual energy savings of 1,625 gallons of heating oil. This translates to approximately $6,250 saved per year.

“These incentives are too good to leave on the table,” said Norridgewock Town Manager Richard LaBelle, a veteran of prior Efficiency Maine programs. “Like most municipalities, we face the ever-expanding pressure to keep taxes down. We were able to upgrade our lighting and install heat pumps at a fraction of the cost. The new lighting literally transformed these buildings, making them more inviting for public visitors and more pleasant workspaces. And the heat pumps enabled us to remove window air conditioners, dehumidifiers, and heaters under staff desks.”

In October 2022, the town of Norridgewock took advantage of the Trust’s available funding opportunity for small Maine towns and installed two additional heat pumps in the town airport. The funding for this project came from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)/Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan (MJRP).