



## Powering Our Future

Program Schedule for January 28, 2018  
Mount Desert Island High School, Bar Harbor  
Admission is free. Donations are welcome!

- 2:00 – 2:30 p.m. Doors Open – Music by the MDIHS Jazz Combo
- 2:30 – 2:40 p.m. Welcome from the ACTT Board of Directors
- 2:40 – 3:05 p.m. *“Transforming a Century-Old Energy Delivery System”*  
Keynote Speaker Josh Castonguay
- 3:05 – 3:20 p.m. MDI Community Success Stories
- 3:20 – 3:30 p.m. Weatherize MDI Launch
- 3:35 – 4:15 p.m. Workshop Session One
- 4:20 – 5:00 p.m. Workshop Session Two
- 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Food, Exhibits, Music by Ryan Blotnick  
and Daniel Fisher-Lochhead

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[www.aclimatetothrive.org/](http://www.aclimatetothrive.org/)

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# A Climate To Thrive (ACTT)

is a nonprofit organization committed to achieving energy independence for Mount Desert Island by the year 2030. We are island residents, businesses, and municipalities working together to make our community a model of environmental sustainability and economic vitality.

Since our official launch in January 2016, ACTT has worked on many projects – including Solarize MDI, LED bulb distribution, municipal energy benchmarking, home composting – that promote clean energy, reinvent local food systems, improve efficiency, move toward zero waste, develop climate-friendly transportation, and influence public policy.

Energy independence, in little more than a decade, is an ambitious effort. Help ACTT create a positive future for MDI by joining our efforts.

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## ACTT Board of Directors

*Gary Friedmann, Chair* – Bar Harbor.

*Dennis Kiley, Vice Chair* – Mount Desert.

*John Craigo, Secretary* – Bar Harbor.

*Johannah Blackman* – Mount Desert.

*Ken Colburn* – Bar Harbor.

*Glenon Friedmann* – Bar Harbor.

*Bonnie Norwood* – Southwest Harbor.

*Ruth Poland* – Mount Desert.

*Richard Sassaman* – Bar Harbor.

**Office Staff:** *Joe Blotnick*, Coordinator – Tremont. *Jill Higgins*, Project Manager – Tremont.

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## We Appreciate our Partners Who Support ACTT's Mission of Energy Independence for Mount Desert Island.

Acadia National Park

Bar Harbor Community Farm

Barn Arts Collective

College of the Atlantic Campus Sustainability and Zero Waste Clubs

College of the Atlantic Community Energy Center

Community School of Mount Desert Island

Ellsworth Green Plan Steering Committee

Four Winds Design

Healthy Acadia

Jackson Lab Green Team

Maine Coast Heritage Trust

MDI Biological Laboratory

Mount Desert Island Regional School System

Schoodic Institute

Sierra Club Maine



## Keynote Speaker Josh Castonguay

Josh Castonguay, Vice President of Innovation at Vermont's Green Mountain Power, has responsibility for the company's engineering team as well as GMP's innovation and transformation. After graduating from the University of Maine in 2003 with a degree in Electrical Engineering Technology, he immediately went to work at GMP as an engineer.

Before becoming Vice President, Castonguay held various executive positions at the company, including leading its field organization and control centers.

He heads the efforts to transform GMP's energy delivery system and customer energy experience as it shifts from a large-scale power plant and transmission-based system to a distributed energy model that is much more home-, business- and community-based.

As part of his mission, GMP became the first energy company in the nation to offer customers access to Tesla's Powerwall home battery system when it was released in 2015. Such efforts, the *New York Times* wrote in a July 2017 article, "have won plaudits from national green-energy advocates who see the utility as a leader in helping redesign the electric system, which is undergoing enormous changes as renewable sources of energy become more popular and other technologies give customers more control."

# ACTT Summit 2018 Workshops

## **Transforming Century-Old Energy Delivery Systems, a Q & A**

*Josh Castonguay, Vice President, Chief Innovation Executive, Green Mountain Power*  
in the Auditorium, Session 1

Green Mountain Power in Vermont focuses on transforming the energy delivery system to one that relies on many distributed resources vs. fewer large-scale resources with large transmission lines. We'll discuss these challenges and opportunities and the importance of making this transition.

## **Weatherize MDI: Warmth, Cost Savings, and Climate Friendly Solutions**

*Mark Burnett, New England Energy Consulting; Joe Blotnick, ACTT Coordinator*  
Room 108, Session 1 and Session 2

Want a home that's more comfortable in winter and summer? ACTT's newest project seeks to weatherize at least 75 homes on MDI. Find out how you can reduce your home energy bills by 40% or more, and help us help islanders who need it the most.

## **Connection, Compassion, and Communion with the Earth**

*John Craig, ACTT Board of Directors*  
Room 116, Session 1 and Session 2

We've heard for decades that we're destroying our ecosystem, but not much has changed. We'll look at the writings of Thomas Berry, David Fleming, Joanna Macy, and others to explore the shift in consciousness necessary to move toward the rediscovery of our place as a part of the whole.

## **Engaging Hearts and Inspiring Action: Applying Climate Psychology to Create Positive Change**

*Dennis Kiley, ACTT Board of Directors; President, EcoPsychology Initiative*  
Room 132, Session 1 and Session 2

This workshop will share the key insights of climate psychology so that people know best how to enact meaningful and substantive environmental change. Understanding the ways people think, act, and feel enables us to plan our actions to be most successful.

## **Food, Climate Change, Composting, and MDI's New FarmDrop**

*Jill Higgins, ACTT Project Manager; Hannah Semler, Healthy Acadia; Yaniv Korman, COA*  
Room 110, Session 1 and Session 2

Our choices of what we eat and where we source our food makes a difference. We'll share what ACTT has been doing in this area, including the new Winter FarmDrop partnership with Healthy Acadia, and exciting possibilities for regional composting.

## **Help Set Up ACTT's New Community Outreach Program: 'The 10% Challenge'**

*Glenon Friedmann, ACTT Board of Directors; Farmer, Bar Harbor Community Farm*  
Room 119, Session 1

Can 10% of MDI residents reduce their energy consumption by 10% in 2018? Give us your ideas about how ACTT can best implement this sustainable living program. (And don't forget to take the Challenge yourself.)

## **MDI's Path to 100% Solar Energy**

*Gary Friedmann, ACTT Board Chair; Vice Chair, Bar Harbor Town Council*  
in the Auditorium, Session 2

What would energy independence actually look like? We will examine MDI's annual energy consumption and explore what it would take to generate this from the sun. Residents interested in working together to make this transition are invited to learn more and find a level of engagement that works for them.

## **Rethinking Plastics – How can Individuals and Communities Reduce Plastic Waste?**

*Carey Donovan and Ted Koffman, ACTT Zero Waste Committee; Anita King, Ban the Bag in Belfast*  
Room 114, Session 2

Plastics, inexpensive and extremely versatile, last for hundreds of years and harm our environment as well. Much of it ends up in the ocean. Join us for a discussion about the problem of plastics, and a look at what we all can do to reduce plastic waste.

## **From Sustainability to Abundance – A Changing Mindset Enhances Our Willingness to Act**

*Jay Friedlander, COA Faculty, Sharpe-McNally Chair of Green and Socially Responsible Business*  
Room 117, Session 1

An alternative mindset can give people the ability to spur innovation, strengthen communities, and expand economic opportunity, which ultimately benefits the '3 Ps': people, profit, and the planet. In this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to apply this perspective to MDI.

## **Driving Electric in Maine**

*Barry Woods, Director of Electric Vehicle Innovation, ReVision Energy*  
Room 115, Session 1 and Session 2

Come discuss the current status of EVs and their infrastructure in Maine, and benefits of driving electric vehicles. This workshop includes a summary of next-generation battery electric vehicles, and those benefits that would be most interesting to consumers.

## **Mount Desert Sustainability Committee – a Local Government Volunteer Initiative**

*Gordon Beck and Phil Lichtenstein, Mount Desert Sustainability Committee*  
Room 118, Session 1 and Session 2

A volunteer citizen advisory committee to the Town of Mount Desert meets every month to recommend sustainability projects, which so far have included streetlight conversion to LEDs, a solar power array for the Public Works garage, electric vehicle charging stations, recycling, energy benchmarking, and more. We'll share our history, process, challenges, and success stories.

## **Solar Energy for Your Home**

*Chuck Piper, Sundog Solar*  
Room 113, Session 1 and Session 2

Learn how you can incorporate solar energy into your home. Topics of discussion will include solar electric systems and solar hot water.

## **Solar Energy Storage for MDI**

*Hans Albee, PE Engineer, ReVision Energy*  
Room 117, Session 2

Renewable energy sources are poised to replace fossil fuels. Energy storage will be a key part of the clean energy revolution. Learn how energy storage through new battery technology can make the electric grid more stable, reliable, and resilient.

## **Solar Opportunity for Businesses and Farms**

*Andrea Russell, COA Sustainability Coordinator; Community Energy Center Program Manager*  
Room 114, Session 1

Learn about College of the Atlantic's 'Solar for Businesses and Farms' project, supported by a grant from the USDA Renewable Energy Development Assistance program, which provides free solar energy assessments for Hancock County businesses and agricultural producers. Each participant receives a free analysis describing their solar power potential and possible funding mechanisms.

# ACTT Thanks the Musicians Sharing Their Music With Us in Support of Climate Action.

## The Mount Desert Island High School Jazz Combo

Bonnie Snyder, voice; Chase McGee, bass;  
Alec Fisichella, trumpet; Dawson Burnett, drums

### Ryan Blotnick, guitar; Danny Fisher-Lochhead, saxophone

These two musicians, having spent time in New York City's jazz and improv worlds, have come back to Maine and now live on MDI. Both skilled composers, they will perform original music as well as some jazz standards.

Ryan's most recent CD *Kush*, his fourth, was released last year on the Songlines label (Vancouver, BC). He's looking forward to playing in New York, Switzerland, and Italy this spring. Danny has recorded four CDs as well, for Fishkill Records (Brooklyn NY.) He's just returned from a premiere of some of his large-ensemble music in Oakland, California.



Introducing! MDI's new FarmDrop Weekly Online Farmers' Market – a collaboration between Healthy Acadia and A Climate to Thrive. Now you can pre-order top quality and sustainably grown local food (and fresh, sustainably harvested seafood from the Port Clyde Fisherman's Co-op) and pick it up on Friday afternoons (3-6) at Floret in Town Hill. Meet the FarmDrop vendors, try samples of their products, and buy delicious healthy take-out food and treats.

Ordering is open every week from 10 AM Saturdays to 10 AM Thursdays. It's quick & easy, and you can order as often or infrequently as you choose. The FarmDrop model reduces food waste because farmers and food artisans only harvest and make what they know will be sold.

You'll also be supporting Healthy Acadia's food security projects with the 10% FarmDrop Handling Fee, all of which goes to rescuing food from farms and delivering it to food pantries and meal sites. This project helps reduce our carbon footprint and packaging waste, supports our local economy, and builds food security for MDI. Check it out at [mdi.farmdrop.us/](http://mdi.farmdrop.us/)

# Thanks to Those Who Provided Educational Exhibits Today

A Climate to Thrive / Emera Maine

FarmDrop – Healthy Acadia

Friends of Acadia / Jackson Laboratory Green Team

PassivHaus Maine / ReVision Energy

Sundog Solar / Window Dressers

Weatherize MDI - New England Energy Consulting

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## *Special Thanks To Our Sponsors*



And thank you to Bar Harbor Bank & Trust Company for sponsoring ACTT's Solarize MDI campaign.



## In 2018, Weatherize Your Home for Savings and Comfort

A Climate to Thrive (ACTT) has geared up to launch its next big project toward energy independence: *Weatherize MDI*.

“If you’ve ever thought about tightening your home or business, this is the time to do it!” says Gary Friedmann, ACTT board chair. “Significant discounts and top-notch service from our pre-vetted contractor make this a no-brainer.”

In 2017, ACTT’s Solarize project was Maine’s largest, saving homeowners 10% off their solar panels through bulk purchasing. Our contractor for *Weatherize MDI*, New England Energy Consulting, will provide free energy consultations, and give participants a 10% discount on air sealing and insulation, along with discounts on energy-efficient heating units and water heaters. They also make it easy to get low-interest financing and rebates through Efficiency Maine, with the largest rebates (up to 95%) available for those families living in mobile homes or who receive heating assistance.

Contracts must be signed by the end of

April to get this special pricing.

*Weatherize MDI* information-sharing programs will be held at island libraries and open houses in February and March.

Owners Mark and Dawna Burnett of New England Energy Consulting, both retired veterans, have a commitment to customer education, service, and cost savings, and a wealth of knowledge and experience with weatherization, energy efficiency, and environmental practices.

“Preventing energy waste is the most cost-effective, environmentally friendly way to address climate change,” says ACTT Coordinator Joe Blotnick. “Basic air sealing alone can save you 10–15%, easily paying for itself in a year or two. In addition to lowering energy bills, weatherization can reduce asthma and improve your health in the process.”

For more information on making your home warmer and cozier next winter, as well as cooler this summer, sign up at [www.aclimatetothrive.org/weatherizemdi](http://www.aclimatetothrive.org/weatherizemdi) for your free *Weatherize MDI* consult.