

### Lines from Lincoln Street

We are gearing up for another exciting WindowDressers season! We expect to hold more Community Workshops this year with the involvement of several new communities, including Lewiston, Machias, Norway, Sacopee Valley (Parsonsfield) Washburn/Presque Isle, and South Portland.

This expansion has been fueled by grants from the Maine Community Foundation and the Maine Commission for Community Service. We are grateful for their support as we continue to reach out to more communities in Maine. Our volunteers are already out measuring, while our Local Coordinators and their teams are out promoting and organizing in their communities.



Some of our early-season Community Workshops are already full. Please let others know they should get their orders in soon!

Laura Seaton  
Community Workshops Director

### Welcome, Meaghan LaSala!

WindowDressers is fortunate to have Meaghan LaSala join us recently as a member of the administrative team as Program Assistant. Educated at NYU and the University of Southern Maine, she brings broad nonprofit experience in a variety of settings through her work in social media, journalism, fundraising, social justice and climate change, environmental science, communication, and the arts.



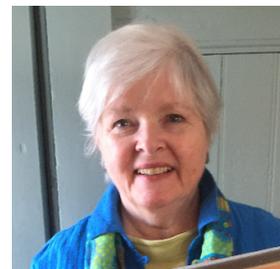
Meaghan wrote recently, “All of my experiences lead me to the conviction that the only way we can solve the many overlapping problems we face as a society is with the kind of neighbor-to neighbor, grassroots foundation that WindowDressers exemplifies.”

### President’s Message

How do we benefit from saving energy through using inserts? What I hear most from those who place inserts in their windows is how it has improved their comfort level. Some have shared that inserts even help in the summer, by preventing the draft of warm air seeping in, and allowing the cool air from the evening to last longer.

Before a Community Workshop (CW) can begin, the production process starts in late winter and early spring and then goes all summer: ordering all the wood (80-100,000 feet); culling each stack of 10 foot pieces of pine to get the straightest of slats; preserving the white painted sticks to minimize sticking; trucking, including loading and unloading of the wood and driving it from Searsmont to Rockland.

Then there is estimating and ordering screws, glue, poly, foam, the various tapes, and making of all of the jigs which help us be more efficient and precise when making the inserts. Finally, the work in the field takes hundreds of volunteers participating in 33 community workshops around Maine.



Behind the scenes, there are the computer program improvements, the revised and improved website and Facebook.

This newsletter addresses the impact Window Dressers has on R-values, fuel use, lowering the consumption of wood, propane, electricity, and oil through efficiency and sustainability, and we're proud to be contributing to that through the work we do.

With all of us working together we manage to provide thousands of inserts to hundreds of Mainers, giving them not just physical warmth and lower fuel bills, but real warmth, by caring about them and the environment.

Thank you all,  
Dianne Smith  
President

## WindowDressers and Energy Conservation

This issue is devoted to how everyone associated with WindowDressers makes, and continues to make, efforts on behalf of people and the planet through conservation of energy and environmental protection.

Every day our insulating interior window inserts are making the lives of Maine's citizens better, saving fuel, keeping them warm, improving building efficiency, and showing how a community of volunteers makes it happen.

And the work that everyone involved with WindowDressers does reaches beyond its Maine's borders. It's part of a worldwide movement that has captured the hearts and minds of thousands of people who believe in being stewards of the earth through sustainability, as well as preserving and protecting the land and natural resources, and sustaining all humans and other creatures who inhabit the land, sea and air.

Here are insights from several of Maine's workshop coordinators that show how WindowDressers staff, board, and its hundreds of volunteers have contributed to that effort so admirably.

### **Sam Saltonstall (Peaks Island)**

In 2011 my Peaks Island church decided to build window inserts for the fellowship hall. We found the design online, picked up some wood, shrink plastic and weatherstripping, and used a tape measure to get dimensions. One Sunday afternoon, a group of willing volunteers assembled for a frustrating exercise; I had not thought things through, and it was not fun.

A few months later I met WindowDressers founders Dick Cadwgan and Frank Mundo at a conference. What they offered seemed magical: a laser to measure with, completed insert frames, and all the tools and materials our Peaks Environmental Action Team (PEAT) would need to assemble inserts, right down to printed labels and friendly guidance. We recruited customers, and held our first community build. People had so much fun working with their neighbors that the word spread. Seven years later, on an island of only 1,000 year-round residents, they are still at it.

With the help of the Island Institute a couple of years later, PEAT implemented Green In '15, twelve months of residential energy efficiency opportunities. We surveyed folks about their needs, held a big meeting, and ended up weatherizing 108 homes with an Efficiency Maine contractor. We formed the first of several heat pump purchase groups, sold 1,100 LED bulbs delivered right to

the island, and pulled down a grant to help weatherize the island school.

What led to this success? Retired folks with time to make it happen, a small community with a vibrant email system, support from WindowDressers and the Island Institute, and the idea that Green In '15 was an integrated program worth taking advantage of. But it was without a doubt the window insert success early on that got it all started.

Recipients knew they were getting a bargain. But they also got more than they bargained for: a sense of community pride that many diverse neighbors could accomplish so much by working together.

### **Toby Martin (Islesboro)**

Three miles off Lincolnville in midcoast Maine, between Camden and Belfast, Islesboro includes the home of Frank Mundo. Mundo and his colleague, Dick Cadwgan, lived in Rockport, the town next to Camden, created WindowDressers in 2011, and began building the organization's first insulating window inserts in their basements and garages. Just six years later, in 2017, WindowDressers staff and volunteers in 27 towns across the state had produced over 6,000 inserts to save energy and money for Maine's residents, winning a number of energy conservation awards along the way.

In 2012, Mundo took his inserts message to Islesboro and convinced the island's Community Care Committee (CCC), which already ran community lunch and food pantry programs on the island, to add the inserts initiative to their activities. Every September since that time, island volunteers have gathered at the Community Center, the Second Baptist Church and the UpIsland Church, assembling and delivering over 800 window inserts for the town's residents. They've saved thousands of dollars in fuel expenses and prevented tons of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere. Many of the volunteers have returned to make inserts each fall, some from the start, including the CCC's chair, who is also involved in energy advocacy and works with Mundo on two of the island's energy committees and WindowDressers. The work and the spirit generated have been contagious.

WindowDressers has become an integral partner in Islesboro's sustainability efforts, a part of its growing weatherization, fuel conservation and clean energy efforts. It's an important piece of the statewide Maine energy awareness fabric, and, by committing itself to volunteer community outreach, it contributes to the growing worldwide stewardship to protect our planet.

Sharon Klein (Orono)

Window inserts are an ideal example of a sustainable energy solution with benefits in all 4 aspects of sustainability:

- **Technical:** they are efficient and adaptable to existing windows;
- **Economic:** they save money;
- **Environmental:** they cut emissions and prevent other harmful effects associated with fossil fuels;
- **Social:** they are convenient, easy-to-use, help people in need, and improve comfort.

For these reasons, I have made WindowDressers community workshops a key focus for service-learning in my 2 sustainable energy courses at the University of Maine for the last 3 years.

Since 2015, as local coordinator for Bangor, I have engaged more than 200 students in 4 community workshops to help build more than 1,000 inserts. Students have also helped quantify energy, money, and emissions savings associated with window inserts for homes with different existing fuel and window types (See figures 1-2 below).

In addition to these quantifiable savings, customers report many other benefits: reduced drafts, improved comfort, reduced noise level, reduced condensation, and a strong sense of community associated with the workshops. With so many benefits, there is something for everyone to enjoy about window inserts!

Cliff Babkirk (Sanford)

"The Last Piece of the Puzzle"

It was in the spring of 2008 when we received our notice to submit our prepayment of \$4800 for oil for the coming winter. This was the defining event that sent us on a different path to reducing energy costs and lowering our carbon footprint.

After some investigation of geothermal we decided to convert to heating (and cooling) our home using a ducted All-Climate-Heat-Pump (ACHP) made by a Bangor, Maine company. It reported technology way ahead of what was currently available.

That was installed in the fall of 2008. At the same time we commissioned an energy audit to understand what other steps we could take to lower our energy costs. In preparation for the audit work, a whole house energy monitoring system was installed to record the improvements.

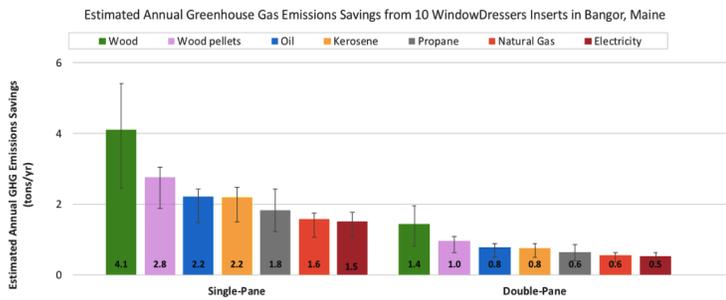
Over the next year and a half we set about to implement each audit recommendation to include R50 insulation of the attic, basement wall and rim joist foam insulation, and air sealing of both the attic and basement interfaces. It did not include replacing windows but indicated there was opportunity there.

After one winter of using the ACHP and realizing an increase in electrical usage of 60%, we made the decision to install a 8200kw solar array in the spring of 2011. That now provides between 60-75% of our energy needs.

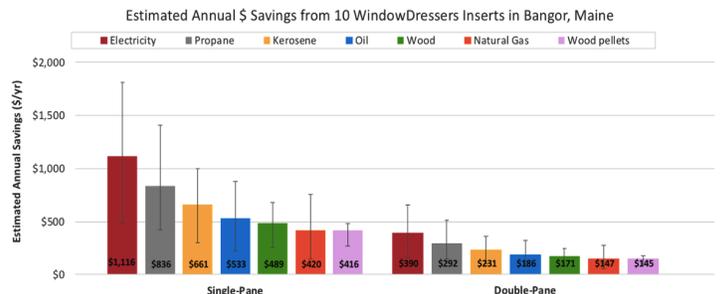
In late 2016, at the Portland workshop. I was introduced to the WindowDressers experience of providing lost cost, efficient, reusable inside storm windows to communities in Maine.

In early 2017, all (24) of our windows were fitted with window inserts. We saw an immediate reduction in drafts and condensation and improvement in comfort and humidity retention. We expect an additional reduction in electrical usage once we close out 2018.

Window inserts were the last piece of the puzzle in lowering our energy costs and carbon footprint.



\*Error bars show range of uncertainty associated with heating degree days (i.e., daily difference between inside and outside temperatures), R-value of insert, fraction of energy savings from infiltration, fuel prices, and boiler/furnace/stove efficiency.



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## The Lighter Side

### Conversation

*(Overheard at a recent Community Workshop after the volunteers had gone home.)*

**Foam:** Thank goodness they've left.

**Heat Gun:** You can say that again. I've been overheated all day.

**Foam:** That's nothing compared to being blasted with a hair dryer and spread on a dirty floor simply because I won't expand!

**White Tape:** What about me? First they strip my backing off, stick me to an insert, and then they pull my other backing off, too. I feel totally exposed, and there is nothing I can do about it.

**Film:** Well, at least you get covered up with cozy foam for the winter. What about us? They stick us in a leaky old window and we're supposed keep all the drafts out. It's freezing! And people never acknowledge our existence - they just look right through us!

**White Tape:** Sheesh, at least you get to see the light of day.

**Film:** Yeah, but we're forever worrying about those cactus plants they set on their window sills and those cats that want to bat at the flies!

**Frame:** Hey, how about a little pity for me, and the torture I experience when they try to squeeze me into a window opening that's a little too small. It's excruciating. I may have a loose screw and a warped view of my job saying this, but I could really use a square deal!

**Clear Tape:** Complain, complain, that's all I ever hear from you guys. But I'm the only one stuck in a box dispenser rolling around and around in circles. Criminy, it gets dizzy in there.

**Foam:** Well, just remember this - we get a whole summer off under a sheet in a cool basement.

**White Tape:** Yeah... maybe it's not so bad being a window insert. And we do get to stick together.

**Frame:** Yep, we have a job to do, and we do it well...

*(Sounds of snoring.)*

## Notes From the Field

**BELFAST** — Corliss Davis and Dean Anderson report that one of their insert customers has come up with two innovative ideas. She foils the cats that perch on her windowsills by making protective coverings to go over the inside of the window inserts, and, to keep cool, she leaves the inserts in during the summer to insulate the house against the heat.

**LIBERTY** — Local community coordinator Mondrian Shumate reports that she is excited to see where ReVision Energy and WindowDressers go in the future, and feels their ongoing partnership is "a pretty great match of ideals and goals to work together." To get ready for their upcoming winter workshop, the team at ReVision Energy has started calling past customers and volunteers and already have multiple orders. "We frequently mention WindowDressers and recommend using inserts in conjunction with our installations of air source heat pumps," she says. ReVision planned a training session for late August, plans to measure throughout the fall, and will begin building in early January.

**WISCASSET** — To get ready for their upcoming fall workshop, Sam and Kayda Selby have been busy contacting local sources of orders and volunteers in Lincoln County. They have had press releases in the papers, reached out to local realtors, clergy, energy auditors, and service agencies, placed information sheets in public town spots, and staffed an information booth at the election polls. It's no wonder orders have been coming in!

***We welcome your contributions to the newsletter: letters to the editors, pictures taken at community workshops, and any writing that portrays the spirit of WindowDressers and its volunteers, staff, board, and others who have been providing service to communities throughout Maine, may be emailed to [mtm.tpsmail@yahoo.com](mailto:mtm.tpsmail@yahoo.com). Upcoming submission deadlines are October 15 for the winter issue, and February 15 for the spring 2019 issue.***

***Many thanks to all who made this issue possible, especially WD staff, board, workshop coordinators, the editors, Meaghan LaSala, and other contributors, for their efforts.***