



Summit Natural Gas of Maine

2019 Community Engagement Report



Table of contents

Message from our CEO	2
Volunteerism	4
Community Giving Program	5
Educational Outreach	8
Community Partnerships	9
Renewable Natural Gas	10

Message from our CEO

We strive for excellence in all things, whether it be safety, customer service, or our community involvement. We make a positive difference in people's lives by prioritizing engagement with our customers, communities and colleagues.

In 2019, Summit Natural Gas (Summit) continued our commitment to the safety of our systems and operations. We also continued to embrace and enhance our sustainability goals, while empowering our team to spend more time volunteering in their communities.

This year, Summit donated money and time to environmental and conservation efforts, anti-poverty & hunger initiatives, educational work, economic development, safety, and health & wellness endeavors. Our hope is that these efforts will continue to aid local economies and communities throughout Maine.

Whether it's donating supplies to local schools, partnering with local chambers of commerce, or volunteering with one of Maine's many extraordinary nonprofit organizations, we want to continue to support our communities. We look forward to building on the successes of 2019

Kurt Adams
President and CEO





In 2019, Summit Natural Gas donated \$7.62 back to the community for every residential customer it serves through charitable sponsorships, community grants and organizational memberships.

2019 sponsorships included:

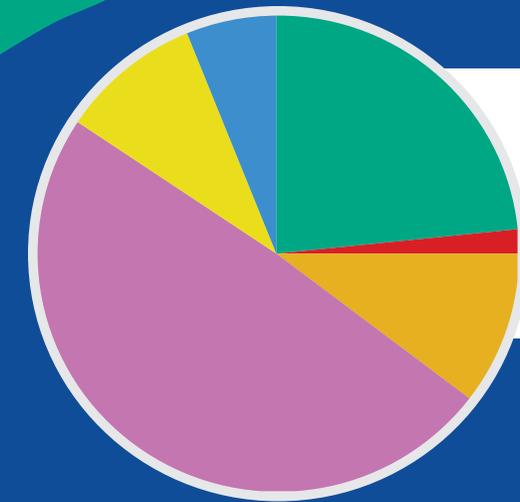
- Evening for the Environment
- Old Halloween Days
- Pine Tree Camp
- Run of the Royal Canoe Race for the Royal River Conservation Trust
- Yarmouth Clam Festival

In addition to sponsorships, each year Summit provides grants to local nonprofit organizations that focus on wellness, economic, educational, environmental and cultural initiatives.

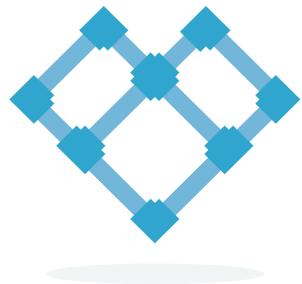
402.5
volunteer
hours

Volunteerism

At Summit Natural Gas, we know being a good friend and neighbor means committing time to worthy causes, which is why we provide every member of our team up to 20 hours of paid time off to use volunteering with non-profit organizations in the communities we serve. This year, **71% of Maine employees donated over 8 work weeks of time** to organizations and programs committed to the environment & conservation, community & economic development, anti-poverty & hunger, and many more worthy causes.



HRS	CAUSE
94	Environmental & Conservation
7	Anti-Poverty & Hunger
41.5	Educational
197	Community & Economic Development
38	Health & Wellness
25	Other



Community Giving Program

As a proud member of the communities we serve, Summit will continue to commit resources that maintain and improve Maine's sense of community. Whether it is providing funding for community events and services or offering funding to local organizations for community-building efforts, Summit is dedicated to the people we serve.

Through our Community Giving Program, we award six grants to organizations and businesses with strategies that align with Summit's key areas of interest. Priority is given to health-related and educational initiatives and programs. Our other priorities and key area of interests include economic and cultural initiatives that are geared to improve the overall well-being of our neighbors.

2019 awardees were:

Alfond Youth Center:

Alfond Youth Center received funding to run the Supplemental Nutrition Weekend Backpack Program during the months of July and August for the first time ever through the summer. A backpack includes enough food to provide 2-3 meals per day for a family of 4 for the entire weekend. Meals include a protein source, whole grains, fresh and canned vegetables, and healthy snacks. Backpacks also include home recipes on how to use and prepare fresh produce.

Augusta School District:

The Augusta School Department maintains a "Clothing Closet" located at Cony High School that furnishes Augusta school students with necessary articles of clothing that they are otherwise unable to afford. Many schools in the Augusta area use the Clothing Closet as a resource for mittens, boots, snow pants, and other articles of clothing. While the Clothing Closet receives donations from local churches, the public and "Diddos for Kiddos", the closet doesn't always have enough supplies for students' needs. Funding went directly to purchase items for the Clothing Closet.

Falmouth Food Pantry:

The Falmouth Food Pantry provides support for over 300 families unable to meet the nutritional needs of their households in Falmouth and surrounding communities. The Pantry also assists families in crisis through advocacy, personal support, and home deliveries when possible. Collaborating with Cultivating Community and its New American Farmers Program in West Falmouth, the Food Pantry was able to purchase fresh produce that is grown locally without pesticides.

Gardiner Public Library:

The library shares its resources through a statewide library system and an inter-library loan system in addition to providing fast and free broadband connection for people using the library. The network system is old and needs to be improved in order to provide better service and statistics information. Funding went towards these necessary improvements.

Lawrence Backpack Program:

This program provides bags of food for students in high school and junior high school at MSAD #49. The bags are distributed at the end of the week for weekends and week-long breaks. On average, the program hands out 30 bags each week. Students at the school help manage the program with the assistance of a JMG Specialist.

West Side Trail - Yarmouth (Phase 2):

The West Side Trail (WST) is envisioned as a trail connection from the southern tip of Cousins Island to the northern end of town along the CMP transmission line. Phase 1 of the project was built over the last 8 years and has provided more than 8 miles of trail accessible from a variety of locations. Phase 2 will add 2.5 miles of trail to the network and incorporate universal access standards, making it suitable for families with young children, people using mobility devices, those with disabilities, and the elderly, and will add 2.5 miles of trail to the network.



Annual Coat Drive and Cans for a Cure

This year, Summit Natural Gas continued its partnership with Cans for a Cure. The initiative began as a way to honor and celebrate the memory of a beloved coworker who lost her fight against cancer. Throughout the year, employees collect cans, bottles, and monetary donations in each Summit office for the Cans for a Cure program. In 2019, Summit matched donations up to \$1,000, which brought the total donated in 2019 to over \$2,000!

Again this year, employees donated time, clothing, and funding to provide new and gently used coats, hats, and gloves for underserved children in need of warm winter clothing. The supplies are donated to Farrington Elementary School, where many of their 370 students are on free or reduced pay lunch and do not have suitable clothing to withstand harsh winter weather. This year, employees donated 17 coats, 11 pair of ski pants, 8 pair of mittens, 9 hats and 2 scarves (all brand new).



Educational Outreach

One of our core values as a company is the safety of our communities, customers, and employees. Because of this, Summit Natural Gas developed a natural gas safety presentation for kids. In 2019, Summit gave natural gas safety presentations to close to 75 elementary students. The presentation is focused on educating 3rd-4th graders on natural gas and how to be safe using it, including "call 8-1-1 before you dig", safety around construction sites, and what to do if you smell gas. We also work to educate the communities we serve about natural gas safety through safety presentation with public safety officials and local citizens.



United Way Campaign

United Way mobilizes our community in ways that no single agency, individual, or government can to enhance the ability of people to care for one another. Since beginning a partnership with United Way in 2018, Summit has donated up to \$5,000 annually for charitable organizations throughout our communities. Employees can help by being an advocate, giving, and/or volunteering with the United Way. Summit matches employee contributions to the United Way Campaign up to \$5,000 annually.

Going Green with Renewable Natural Gas

Starting on November 1st, Summit Natural Gas of Maine (Summit) launched a new voluntary renewable attribute¹ program that was recently approved by the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC).

Since coming to Maine in 2013, Summit has reduced carbon emissions by an estimated 69,000 metric tons a year through conversions from dirtier fuel sources like oil to cleaner burning natural gas and more energy efficiency appliances. That's like taking 15,000 cars off the road forever. Now, with its renewable program, our company is taking its commitment to reducing green-house gas emissions even further.

In addition to the voluntary customer option, Summit is matching five percent of residential heating demand this year with the

purchase of renewable attributes at no cost to customers. Our hope is that this will help jumpstart the renewable biofuels market and spur investment in new technologies that mitigate one cause of climate change.

Customers enrolling in the voluntary program may elect to match 10 to 100 percent of their average annual usage with renewable attributes derived from landfill waste.

The attributes are derived from biomethane, which is derived from the decomposition of naturally occurring organic waste from landfills, waste treatment plants, industrial sites and farms. Unless captured and reused, much of the emissions created from the organic waste at these facilities would be released into the atmosphere.

¹Our renewable attributes are derived from biomethane. When biomethane is produced, two products are created simultaneously, methane and renewable attributes. Methane is the physical, tangible commodity that is used in homes and businesses. Renewable attributes are the intangible benefits associated with the creation of methane from renewable materials. Renewable attributes from biomethane are similar to Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), the intangible benefits created by the generation of electricity using renewable sources (solar, wind, hydro, etc.). Currently, the source of the renewable attributes is not in Maine, and Summit is not purchasing the methane itself. The company is simply purchasing the attributes and matching them with the methane that we normally deliver to our customers here in Maine.



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