



The
New
Ruralism
Initiative



American Planning Association
Northern New England Chapter



New Ruralism

APA Planning Webcast Series

June 11, 2021

Tara Bamford & Jenny Whittaker

Host: Christine Dersi Davis



Agenda

- Introduction
- New Ruralism
- Virtual Tour of Case Studies
 - Maine Grains
 - The Relief Zone Community Youth Center
 - Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center
 - Kodiak Harvest Food Co-op
- Reflection on Lessons Learned
- Question & Answer
- Conclusion



No, Not New Urbanism



Strong Character

- “Soul” of great communities – helps keep them alive
- Historic fabric of stonewalls, town centers, barns
- Creates spaces where people stand and gather, smiling, hugging, talking
- Connection to natural systems
- Community celebration
- Self-sufficiency



Individualism *within* Community

- Volunteerism
- Empowerment
- Ingenuity, creativity
- Entrepreneurism
- Co-operatives
- Local ownership
- *Everyone is important*

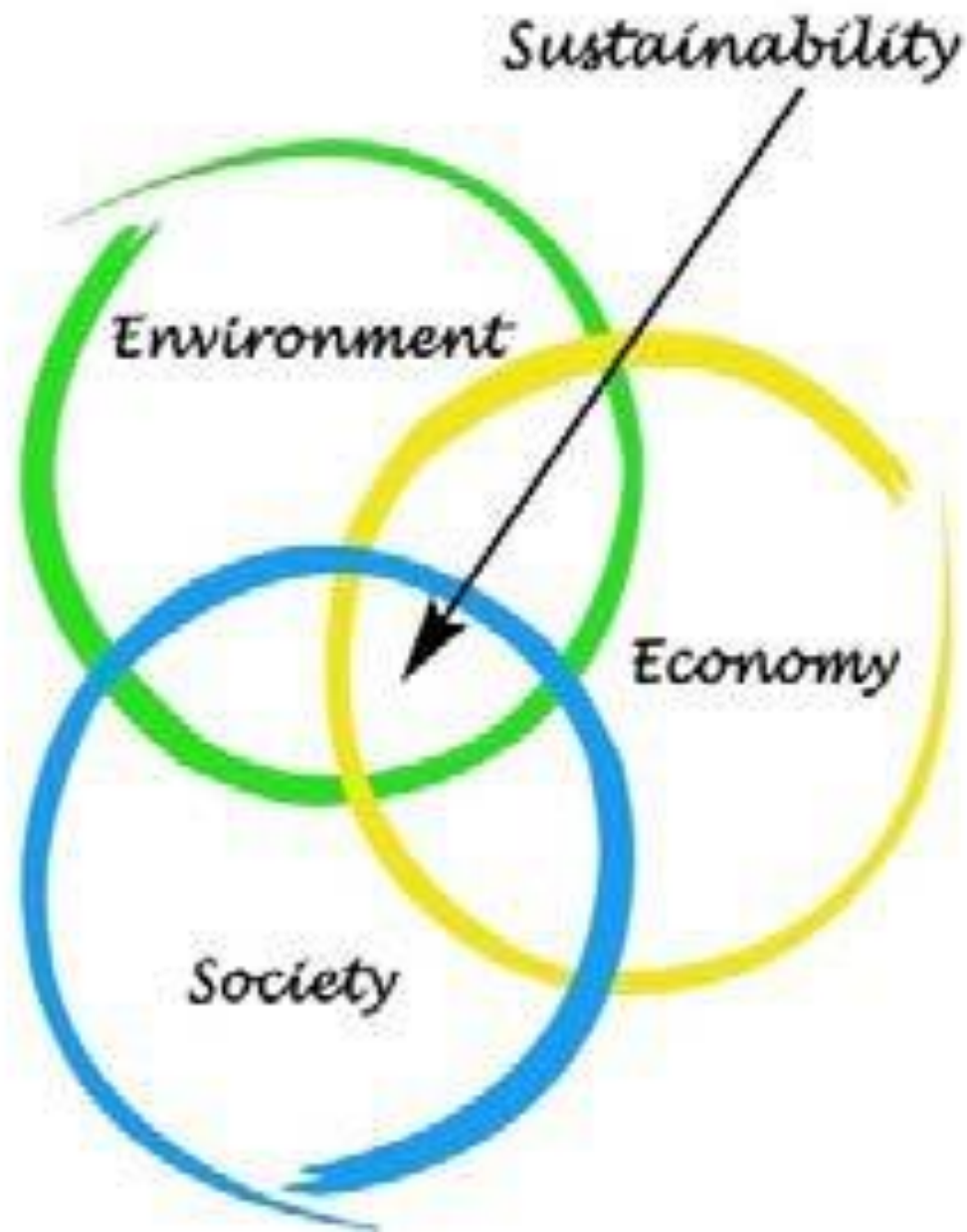


The New Ruralism Team

- Tara Bamford, Community Planning Consultant
- Jo Anne Carr, Town of Jaffrey NH & Fitchburg State University
- Peg Elmer Hough, Community Resilience Organization
- Mark Lapping, University of Southern Maine
- Chad Nability, Regional Planning Director, Grand Island, NE
- Lynne Seeley, Community Planning Consultant
- Jennifer Whittaker, University of Pennsylvania

Criteria

- Appropriately fits rural communities/areas with low population density.
- Not dependent on the existence of professional town staff.
- Locally-driven and locally supported.
- Fosters:
 - Healthy, thriving communities
 - Improvement in quality of life, livable wage jobs, meeting basic household needs, and/or long-term community sustainability
 - Growth in the local and regional economy rather than leakage of wealth outside the region



Welcome to the Northern New England APA Chapter > Knowledge Center >

Case Studies of New Ruralism

Case Studies

Click on the category below to view our current collection of case studies:

[Focusing on Food](#)

[People Helping People](#)

[Building Jobs on Our Strengths](#)

[Energy of Volunteers](#)

[Other Innovative Rural Initiatives](#)



The New Ruralism Initiative Grant Report

Lessons in New Ruralism

Fall 2020



Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts

Investing in
Economic Development

The Black Belt Treasures Center (BBTCCAC), nestled in the Black Belt, is a non-profit arts and heritage crafts from painters, sculptors, potters, quilters, woodworkers, a gallery space, studios, classrooms, the center is open for breakfasts, retail, a downtown scene, and a growing town. Home to just over twenty years of development, Black Belt is the center of a budding revitalization in the region.

About Camden, AL

Black Belt Treasures is located in Alabama, near the Alabama Georgia border. The town serves as the economic center of the county. Home to just over twenty years of development, Black Belt is the center of a budding revitalization in the region.

Originally a cotton-based economy, the region continues to struggle with levels of unemployment.

Case Studies of Small Town & Rural Innovation | 1



Quimper Village: Building Senior Co- housing in Port Townsend, WA

About Port Townsend, WA

Quimper Village, a senior co-housing community, is located in the Victorian waterfront town of Port Townsend, WA. Home to 44 people, this intentional self-governing community is demonstrating a new model of senior living that allows residents to age in place while remaining an active part of the vibrant Port Townsend town.

At the tip of the Quimper Peninsula in Jefferson County, Port Townsend guards the entrance to the Puget Sound and the greater Olympic Peninsula. A little over two hours north of Seattle, the town of 9,315 people is often ranked one of the best places to retire in the country. Once a major seaport to the Pacific Northwest, the town's maritime economic wealth is reflected in Victorian-era housing looking out over an active and architecturally significant Main Street corridor. One of only three Victorian Seaports on the National Register of Historic Places, the entire downtown core is preserved as a National Historic District. Walkable tree-lined streets, locally owned businesses, multiple festivals, and abundant arts and culture organizations contribute to the town's charm. With the Olympic Mountains as a backdrop and the Salish Sea at the doorstep, the region's protected beaches, temperate climate, and natural beauty attract visitors from across the country.



Figure 1. Port Townsend is in Jefferson County, in northwest Washington.

Port Townsend's population reflects its reputation as an ideal retirement location. With a median age of 55 years, residents are around eighteen years older than the state's median age. More than half of residents have a bachelor's, master's, professional, or doctoral degree compared to around 35% of people statewide. Median household incomes at \$50,330, however, are much lower than the statewide average of \$66,174, perhaps due to the high number of retirees.

The town's numerous natural, cultural, and historic assets have contributed to steady population growth that is projected to continue. With seasonal tourists and new permanent residents increasing, vacant land



Figure 2. Each home in Quimper Village has a small front yard and porch facing neighbors' front doors to encourage interaction with other community members.

New Ruralism Case Studies

LOCATION	PROJECT
Kodiak Island Borough, AK	Kodiak Harvest Food Coop
Skowhegan, ME	Somerset Grist Mill
Plymouth, NH	Local Foods Plymouth
Vermont	Farm to Plate
Port Clyde, ME	Fresh Catch
Frewsburg, NY	Relief Zone Community Youth Center
Port Townsend, WA	Quimper Village
Lubec, ME	Lubec Community Outreach Center
Jaffrey, NH	Monadnock at Home
Bowdoinham, ME	Successful Aging in Place
Camden, AL	Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center
Mad River Valley, VT	Mad River Valley Economic Study
Deer Isle, ME	Island Employee Cooperative
Bethlehem & Berlin, NH	Women's Entrepreneurial Network
Thetford, VT	Home Energy Action Team
Plymouth, NH	Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative
Allen, IN	NewAllen Alliance
Norwich, VT	SmartCommute Program
Grand Lake Stream, ME	Downeast Lakes Land Trust
Northfield, VT	Water Street

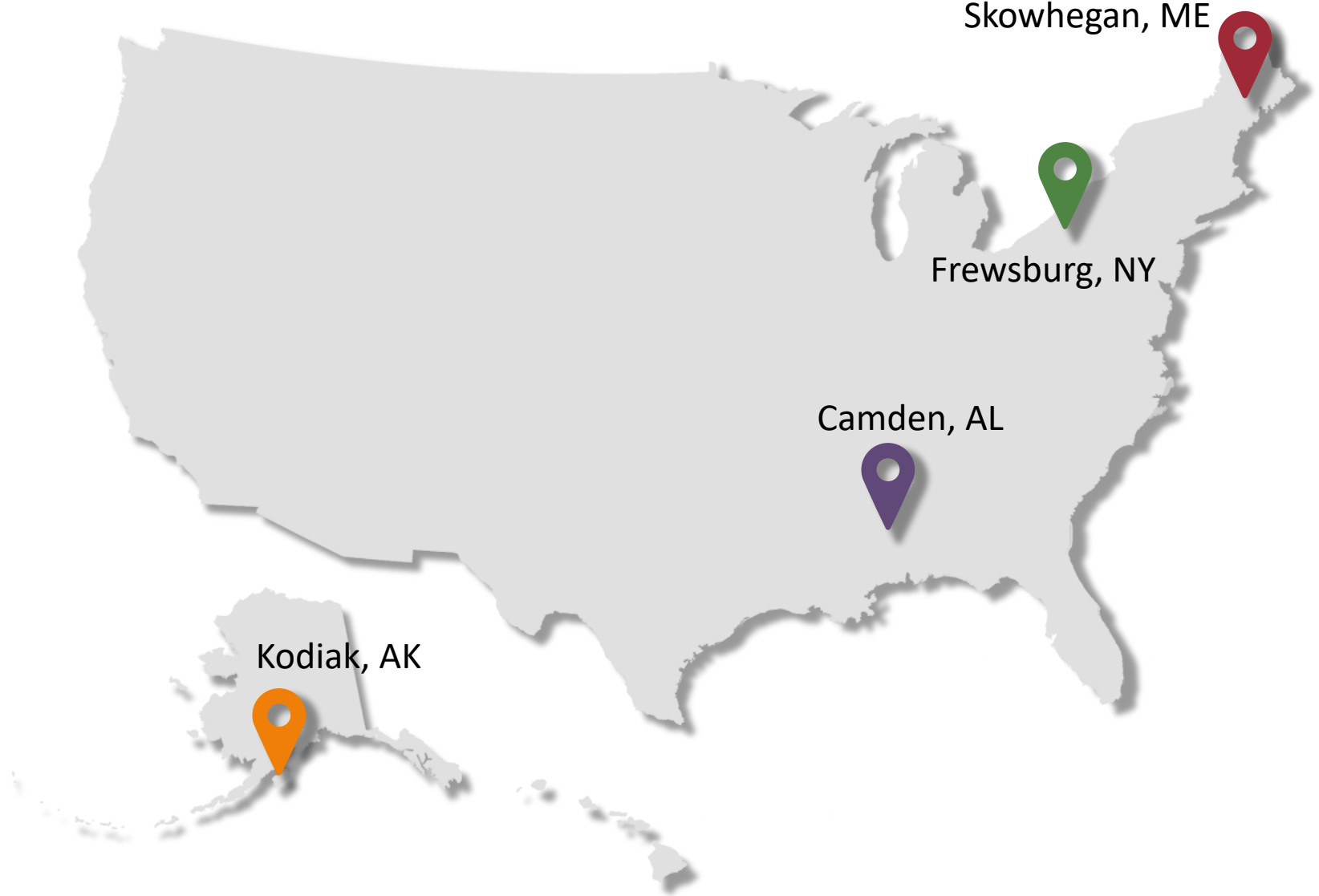
Featured Communities

Skowhegan, ME

Frewsburg, NY

Camden, AL

Kodiak, AK



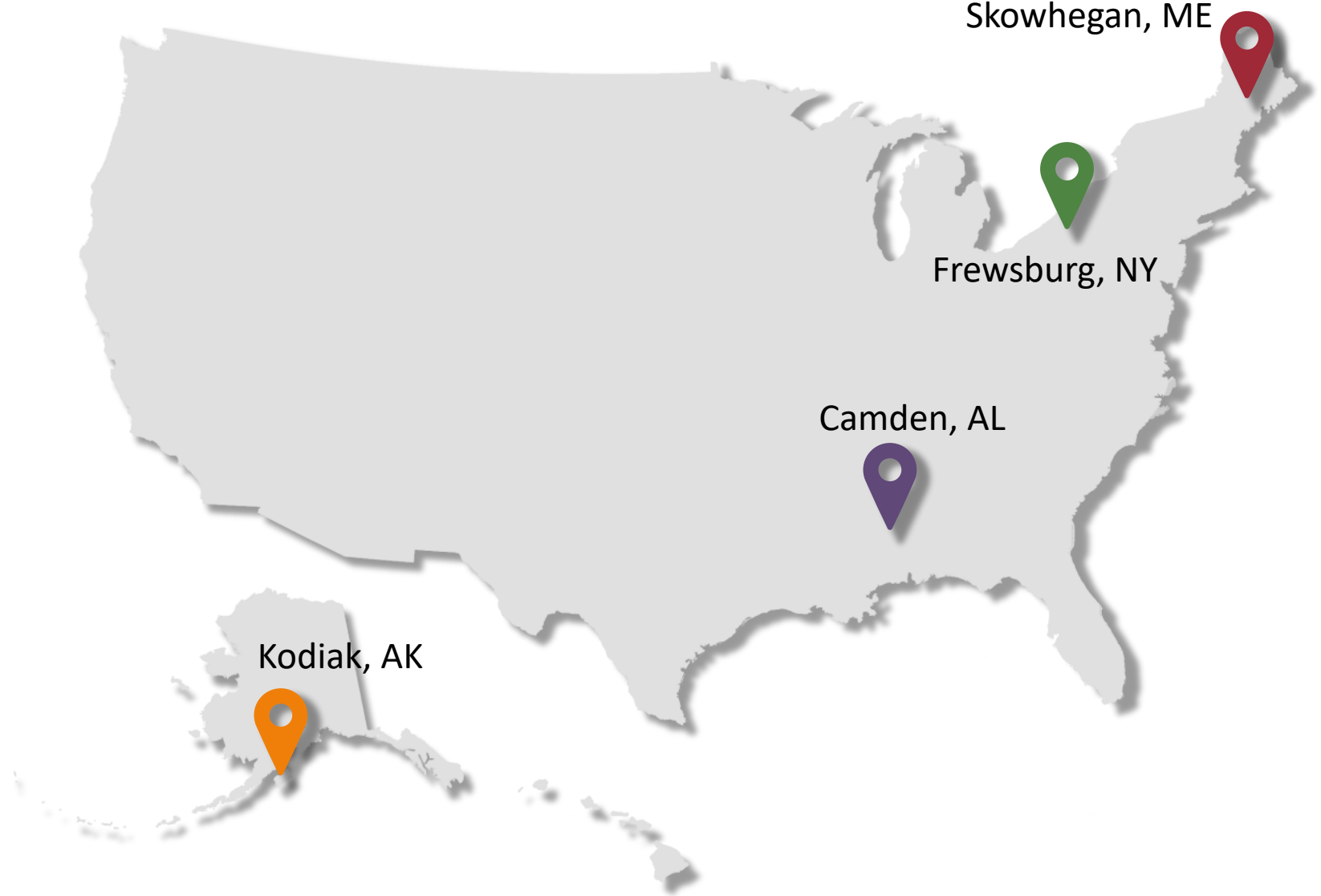
Featured Communities

Skowhegan, ME

Frewsburg, NY

Camden, AL

Kodiak, AK



MAINE GRAINS.

www.maine grains.com

#mainegrains IG

@mainegrains FB

amber@mainegrains.com

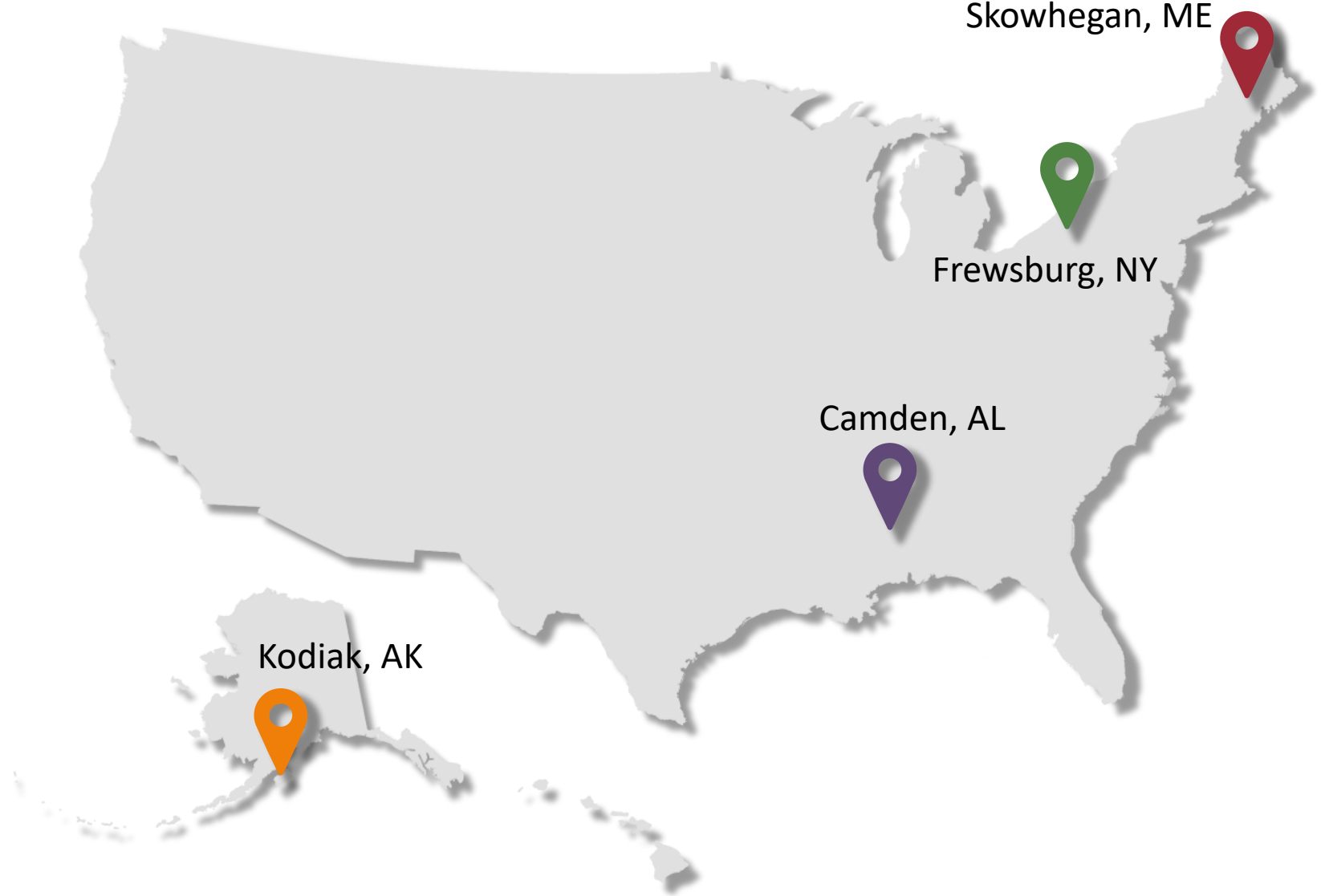
Featured Communities

Skowhegan, ME

Frewsburg, NY

Camden, AL

Kodiak, AK





Black Belt Treasures

CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

www.blackbelttreasures.com



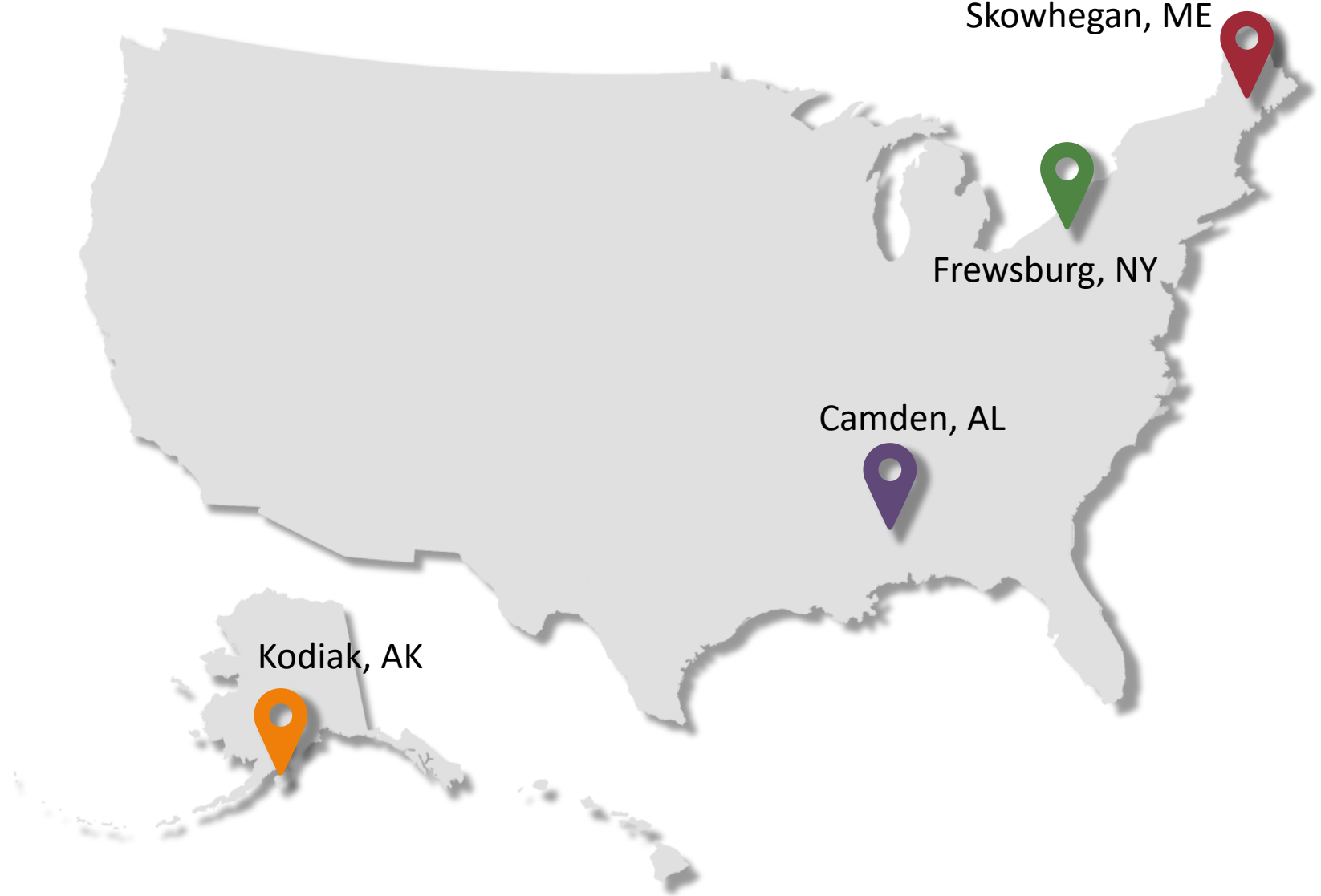
Featured Communities

Skowhegan, ME

Frewsburg, NY

Camden, AL

Kodiak, AK





The Relief Zone
Community Youth Center

Tara Bamford



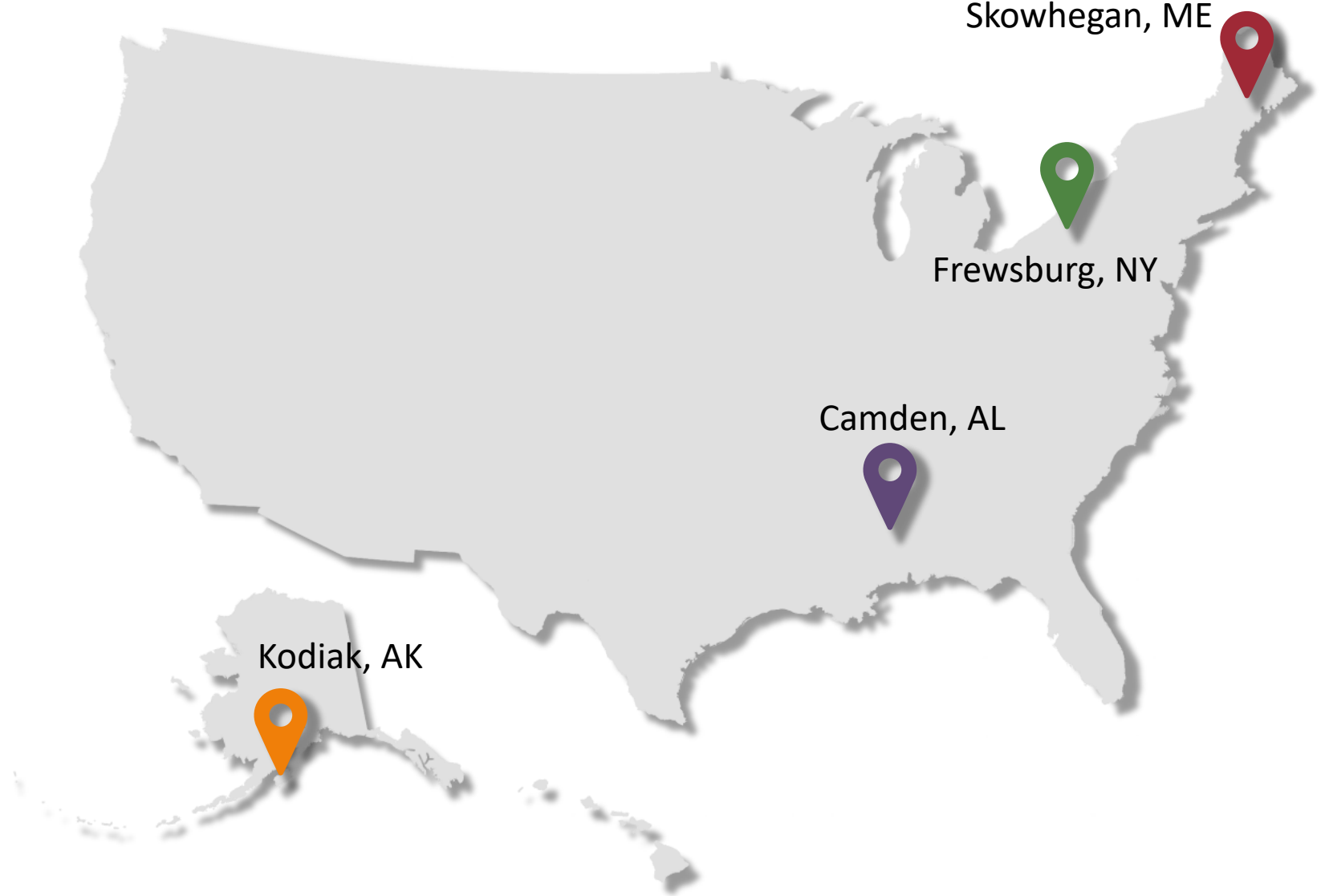
Featured Communities

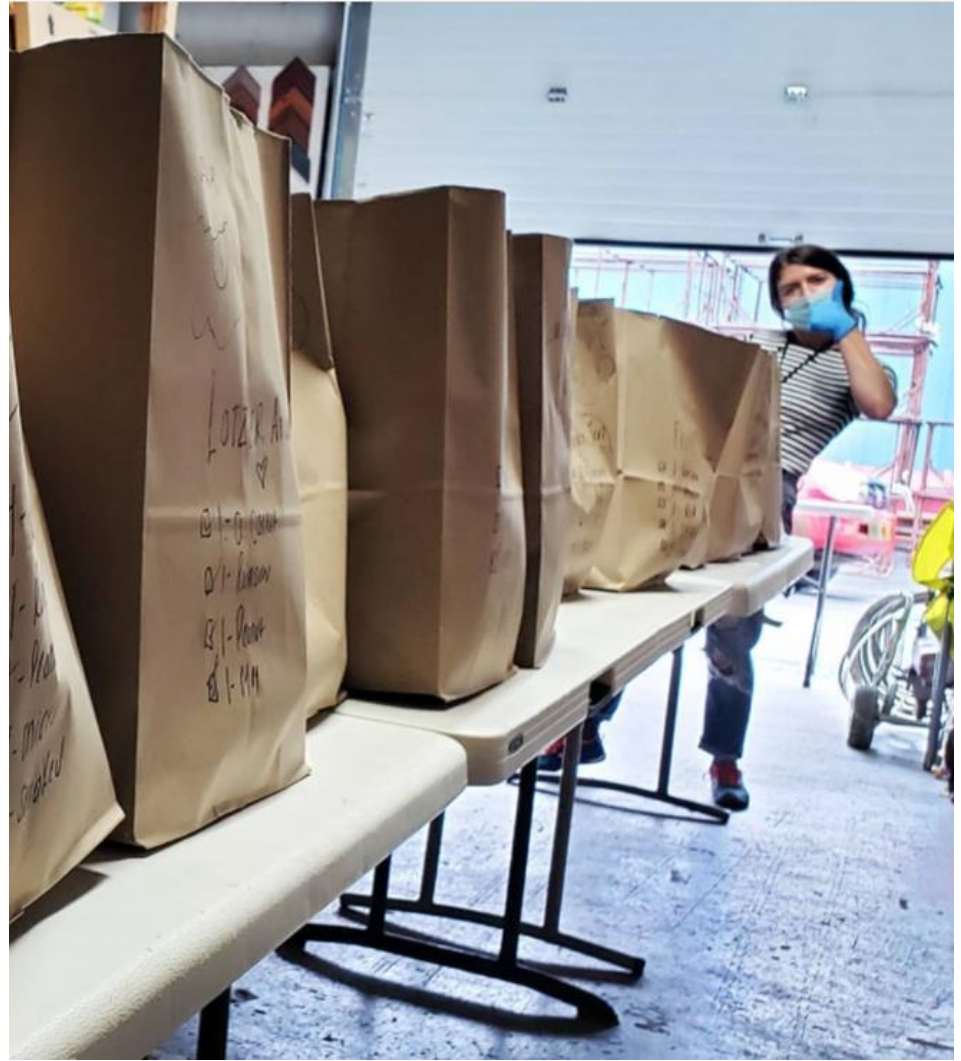
Skowhegan, ME

Frewsburg, NY

Camden, AL

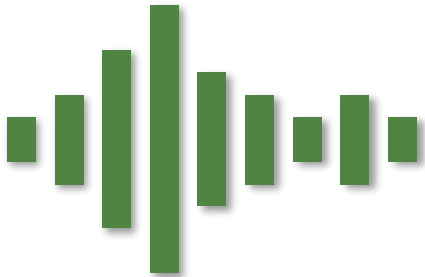
Kodiak, AK





KODIAK HARVEST FOOD CO-OP

Lessons & Reflections



1

Build strong
relationships



2

Celebrate
incremental
wins



3

Communicate
and share out
often





Be adaptable
and listen



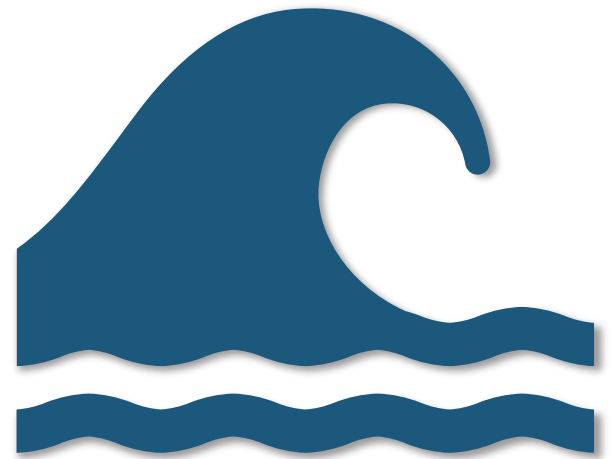
5

Learn from other
communities



6

Look for the long
term ripple
effects



Facilitated Q&A



<https://nne.planning.org/knowledge/new-ruralism/>

