

Sustainable & Resilient Communities



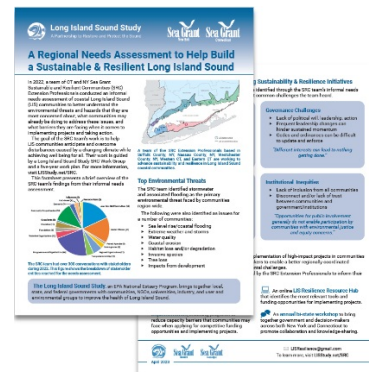
June 2023 - Western & Eastern CT



Your Needs, Your Long Island Sound

Last year, many of you generously shared your time to speak with me or my colleagues to help us better understand your concerns about environmental threats, the resilience projects you hope to implement, your challenges, and the types of support that you would like to see. We've now summarized the findings from the Needs Assessment in a one-page fact sheet:

[**A Regional Needs Assessment to Help Build a Sustainable and Resilient Long Island Sound**](#)



Have a look to see what other communities in the Long Island Sound area have shared, and see below for relevant upcoming workshops, funding opportunities, and other initiatives aligned with your needs!

Upcoming Events

CT DEEP recently announced the next round for two opportunities: The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA), and the Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Program (UGCG; see Current Funding Opportunities section below for more details). Along with CT DEEP, Regional Councils of Government (COGs) and the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) are offering regional information sessions to help applicants understand more about the application process, eligible projects, and compatible

funding opportunities. [Sign up to attend an *in-person* Regional Information Session!](#)

NVCOG OSWA/UGCG Regional Information Session

- Naugatuck Valley COG
49 Leavenworth Street
Waterbury, CT
June 22, 2023, 6:00pm - 7:30pm
[REGISTER HERE](#)

SCRCOG OSWA/UGCG Regional Information Session

- South Central Regional COG
127 Washington Ave. 4th floor
North Haven, CT
June 26, 2023, 6:00pm - 7:30pm
[REGISTER HERE](#)

MetroCOG OSWA/UGCG Regional Information Session

- MetroCOG Regional Office
1000 Lafayette Blvd
Bridgeport, CT
June 29, 2023, 10:00am - 11:30am
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Can't make it in-person?

CLCC will host office hours devoted to OSWA, UGCG, and CLCC grant programs the first and third Tuesdays of each month this summer, from 10-11am via Zoom. [Find more info here.](#)

Current Funding Opportunities

[Community Investment Fund 2030](#)

Round 3 of Connecticut's Community Investment Fund is now available. Recently awarded projects include repair and upgrades to stormwater infrastructure (Hamden), improving stormwater management (Norwich), and flood mitigation (Stratford). Hurry! The application deadline is June 30, 2023.

[Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program](#)

CT DEEP's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) Grant Program provides financial assistance to municipalities and nonprofit land conservation organizations to acquire land for open space, and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II water supply property.

[Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Program](#)

CT DEEP's Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Program provides funding assistance to develop or enhance urban open spaces for public enjoyment and/or environmental education.

New Upcoming Funding Opportunity Announced!

The Long Island Sound Study (LISS) is introducing a new grant opportunity: the [Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund \(LISCIF\)](#). It is a partnership between Restore America's Estuaries (RAE), EPA, and LISS made possible with funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Request for Proposals (RFP) is expected to drop this fall.

The LISCIF program will support community-driven activities that address challenges/risks faced by communities with environmental justice concerns within the Long Island Sound watershed and in alignment with the LISS Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan. The program will also build capacity through technical support, tech-transfer meetings, and peer-to-peer learning.

Looking for more?

[See our comprehensive list of current and upcoming funding opportunities here!](#)

Need help with your grant application?

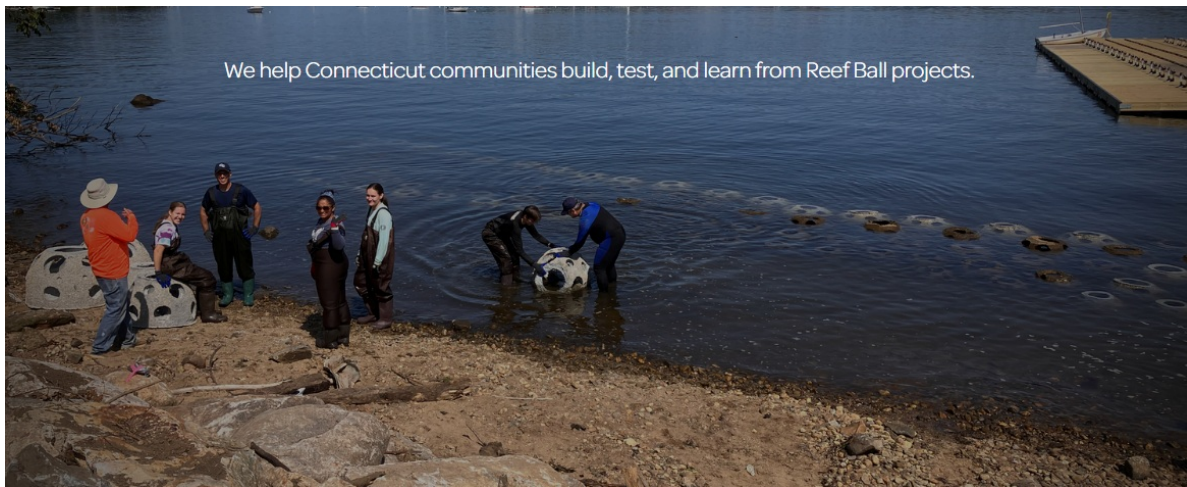
Apply to the [Long Island Sound Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program](#)

Open to municipalities and community organizations, this funding opportunity facilitates the hiring of grant preparation and writing support to assist with the development of a grant application for sustainability and resilience-focused projects within the LIS coastal boundary. Up to \$9,950 in funding is available per application and match is not required!

[Visit the CT Sea Grant website](#) for program details.

Review the updated [FAQ Document](#) and [Example Application](#) for further guidance.

New Reef Ball Initiative



[Connecticut Reef Ball Collaborative](#)

Do you know of any sites in southeastern Connecticut that would be good candidates for a reef ball pilot project? The Connecticut Reef Ball Collaborative, a new initiative supported by The Nature Conservancy in CT, Connecticut College, and the Reef Ball Foundation, is looking to support eligible projects through financial, training, and other resources. Learn more on their [website](#) or reach out to Tim Clark, Resilient Southeastern CT Project Manager, at timothy.clark@tnc.org for more information.

CT Sea Grant's 2022 Annual Report Now Available

[Connecticut Sea Grant's 2022 Annual Report](#) is now available as a downloadable pdf. It offers highlights of CTSG's accomplishments for the 2021-22 Sea Grant fiscal year, which runs from February 2021 through January 2022. The annual report features information about CTSG's budget and summaries of projects and programs in: fisheries and aquaculture; workforce development; resilient communities; environmental literacy; coastal ecosystems and watershed; and research, presented alongside multiple engaging images showcasing our work.



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