



Long Island Sound Study  
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound

# Sustainable & Resilient Communities



September 2024 - Western & Eastern CT



## August Storms Underscore Need for Community Resilience

On Sunday, August 18th, 2024, parts of Connecticut experienced storms that resulted in catastrophic flooding in the southwestern part of the state. Precipitation amounted to over 10 inches within a 24-hour period causing devastating flooding, damaging homes, washing out roads, and tragically claiming lives. The overwhelming amount of runoff also had devastating impacts on local food systems, wiping out crops and contaminating waterways, leading to the shutdown of shellfisheries. This event highlights the urgent need to identify our climate vulnerabilities, improve and adapt our infrastructure to sustain expected impacts, and develop resilient systems in our communities that are prepared to mitigate the effects of these increasingly common 1,000-year events. If you were impacted, please see the information below about state funding for recovery.

*Image credit: Drone footage still of Stevenson Dam, Oxford. Michael Sequence, Contributor, CT Insider.*

## Funding Opportunities

**Now you can browse and filter funding opportunities through our [Funding Database](#) on the [LIS Resilience Resource Hub](#)!**

### **Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund**

In partnership with the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) is announcing a request for applications (RFA) for the **second round of funding for the Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF)**. LISCIF provides technical and financial assistance to communities with environmental justice concerns and improves the quality and accessibility of the Long Island Sound. Up to \$1.5 million in competitive grants will be distributed in this round of funding. RAE will also facilitate annual peer-to-peer learning and information sharing meetings among awardees and key stakeholders in the region. [Download the Request for Applications here.](#)

**Letters of Intent Due: November 22, 2024**

**Full Proposals (invited) Due: March 14, 2025**

Informational webinars | [Register here](#)

**Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 11:00am**

**Tuesday, September 24, 2024, 1:00pm**

### **Connecticut State Funding for Flood Recovery**

In response to the record rainfall on August 18th, 2024, micro-grants of up to \$25,000 are now available for small businesses and nonprofit organizations in Fairfield, Litchfield, and New Haven Counties that experienced damage from the floods. Grants can be used to cover various expenses to help in the recovery, including those associated with cleanup efforts, replenishing lost inventory, and replacing equipment.

**Applications will be accepted on a Rolling Basis**

### **Long Island Sound Schools Network**

Calling all CT and NY teachers in the Long Island Sound Watershed. **Apply today** to become a Long Island Sound School and join the network of people inspiring the next generation of stewards.

**Application Due: September 30, 2024**

### **Rooting Resilience: Funding and Technical Assistance for Urban and Community Forestry Projects**

The Rooting Resilience Program will provide funding and technical assistance to community-based projects that build resilience and enhance communities' abilities to plan and carry out forestry projects. This opportunity is available for projects located in federally designated disadvantaged communities, including urban, suburban, and rural communities.

**Application Deadline: October 23, 2024**

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## Long Island Sound Grant Writing Support

Looking for help preparing a competitive grant application? How about help that is FREE to you with *no match requirement*? If that sounds good to you, check out the **Long Island Sound Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program!**

[Learn more here.](#)

This program assists with the development of sustainability and resilience focused projects that impact communities in the [LIS coastal boundary.](#)

[Access the Request for Proposals here!](#)

Review answers to [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) here.](#)

**Applications are accepted on a rolling basis (as funding allows).** Click the orange button to review our EASY, five-question application form!

[\*\*Apply Here\*\*](#)

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## Upcoming Events

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### **Be a Better Coastal Adaptation Practitioner with Behavior Change**

Caroly Shumway of the Center for Behavior and Climate (CBC) will share the benefits of incorporating behavioral tools into your coastal adaptation efforts to improve the likelihood of success for community projects and policy initiatives alike.

**Thursday, September 19, 2024, 1:00pm | [Register](#)**

### **CT Sustainability & Climate Week: Rebuild by Design's Atlas of Accountability**

As extreme weather continues to impact the U.S., Rebuild by Design has launched the **Atlas of Accountability**, a mapping tool designed to help communities and policymakers understand their localized climate-fueled exposure to extreme weather disasters. Building on Rebuild by Design's 2022 report, "**Atlas of Disaster**," this tool analyzes county-level extreme weather disaster declarations and post-disaster federal assistance. The analysis highlights the urgency of bipartisan cooperation and the need to unite across the urban-rural divide.

**Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 1:00pm | [Register](#)**

### **CT Sustainability & Climate Week: UConn Climate Corps' Climate Adaptation Projects in Communities**

The UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) and Connecticut Sea Grant present this webinar about the Climate Corps program – where undergraduate students learn from extension professionals and apply that knowledge to climate adaptation projects with municipal or community partners throughout the region. We will hear from former students about their experience in the program, and a community partner from the Alliance for the Mystic River Watershed will speak about how working with the Climate Corps has benefitted their organization. Learn more about this program and how they could partner with your organization!

**Thursday, September 26, 2024, 2:00pm | [Register](#)**

### **Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Training Webinars**

The Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund will host two Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Training webinars. The first will share information on the basics of developing a QAPP, and the second will provide examples and guidance.

Webinar 1 - QAPP 101

**Thursday, September 26, 2024, 10:00 – 11:30 AM | [Register](#)**

Webinar 1 - QAPP Examples and Guidance

**Thursday, October 3, 2024, 10:00 – 11:30 AM | [Register](#)**

### **Sustainable CT Awards Celebration**

Join Sustainable CT in Old Saybrook on November 13th to help honor their 2024 certified towns and Climate Leaders. Registration is required. Reach out to [info@sustainablect.org](mailto:info@sustainablect.org) with questions.

**Wednesday, November 13, 2024 | [Register](#)**

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# Sound Bites

## National Estuaries Week

National Estuaries Week kicks off on September 21st! Here are some ways to participate:

- Host a restoration project
- Share your support on social media
- Explore your nearest estuary



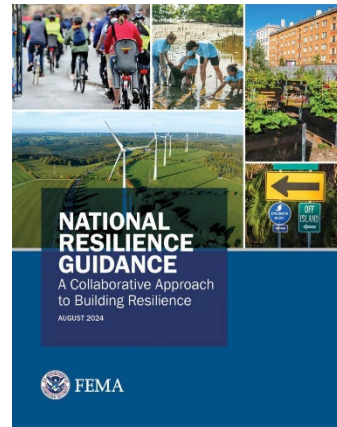
## #DontTrashLISound

The #DontTrashLISound Campaign kicked off on August 17th and will continue until **International Coastal Cleanup Day on September 21st**. Check out this [link](#) to learn more about local cleanups, social media posts, and giveaways.

## National Resilience Guidance: A Collaborative Approach to Building Resilience

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released their National Resilience Guidance with the goals to:

- Promote a common understanding of resilience.
- Emphasize the critical relationship between chronic community stressors and acute shocks.
- Address the resilience roles of individuals, organizations, and all levels of government.
- Provide an actionable approach to resilience planning and implementation.
- Incorporate a community resilience maturity model that walks through concrete steps to build resilience.



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## Newsletters Archive

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You can [find past newsletters here.](#)

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