



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

Sustainable & Resilient Communities



December 2024 - Western & Eastern CT



Photo Credit: Anya Grondalski

Resilience Field Trips and Workshop Sessions Recap!

Thank you to all who joined us for the Hamden Bioretention Project Tour earlier this month (pictured above). We had a great time exploring the site and learning from the project team who developed the system. We even dodged a rogue snow squall! We also want to thank those who participated in our 3rd Annual Sustainable and Resilient Communities Workshop last week! Session topics included the latest about the SRC Assistance Programs, new tools for both Connecticut and New York,

and how to consider relocation, buyouts, and land use policies in planning for coastal inundation. If you missed the workshop sessions or want to revisit them, you can now access the recordings and slides on the [Long Island Sound Resilience Resource Hub](#).

Wishing everyone a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season, and we'll see you in 2025!

Funding Opportunities

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

Visit our [Assistance Programs page](#) and use our handy flow chart to determine which SRC assistance program may be right for you!



2nd Round of the Long Island Sound Resilience Planning Support Program NOW OPEN!

Deadline to apply is February 7th, 2025.

This program provides planning support to advance climate resilience-focused projects by matching communities within the Long Island Sound (LIS) coastal boundary across CT and NY with qualified contractors to assist with assessing local climate risks, conceptualizing project ideas, and conducting preliminary planning efforts. Support is provided at no cost to the communities and no match is required! See the [Request for Expressions of Interest](#).

Fifteen projects—5 in CT and 10 in NY—are being supported through the program's first round. These projects include climate vulnerability assessments and resilience plans, watershed-based plans, natural resource inventories, conceptual designs for flood mitigation opportunities, and landscape design plans. [Here is more information about the projects supported through the first round.](#)

The LIS Resilience Planning Support Program was created by New York Sea Grant and Connecticut Sea Grant and funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Long Island Sound Study.

CT DEEP Clean Water Fund Priority List

Through the Clean Water Fund, CT DEEP is able to provide grants and low-interest loans for infrastructure projects to meet clean water needs such as addressing combined sewer overflows, nutrient pollution, wastewater collection infrastructure needs, and projects using green infrastructure and addressing resiliency.

Applications due: January 17, 2025

National Estuary Program Watersheds Grant

The NEP Watersheds Grant Program is a nationally competitive grants program designed to support projects that address urgent and challenging issues threatening the well-being of estuaries within the 28 NEP boundary areas.

Applications due: January 17, 2025

Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund

This competitive grant program seeking proposals to restore and protect the health and living resources of Long Island Sound. LISSF is interested in empowering communities of all kinds (including communities typically underrepresented in environmental programs and projects) to access, improve, and benefit from Long Island Sound, its waterways, and surrounding lands.

Applications due: January 30, 2025

CT DEEP Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grants

DEEP's Section 319 program awards grants for projects that address Nonpoint Source impacts in surface waters including creation and implementation of approved Watershed Based Plans.

Applications due: February 13, 2025

Partners for Places - Round 22

Partners for Places aims to enhance local capacity to build equitable and sustainable communities in the United States and Canada. These matching awards support the planning and implementing of urban sustainability and green stormwater infrastructure projects.

Applications due: February 28, 2025

Climate Smart Communities Initiative

This initiative (CSCI) provides funding, expertise, training, and other resources to help communities advance their climate resilience plans and projects while also developing the strategies and capacities that communities nationwide will need as climate impacts intensify.

Applications Due: March 3, 2025

NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants

NOAA is seeking proposals for transformational projects that will restore coastal habitat and strengthen community resilience. This funding prioritizes habitat restoration actions that rebuild productive and sustainable fisheries, contribute to the recovery and conservation of threatened and endangered species, use natural infrastructure to reduce damage from flooding and storms, promote resilient ecosystems and communities, and yield socioeconomic benefits.

Applications Due: April 16, 2025

Resilience Roles

Save the Bay Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for volunteer opportunities that might bring you face-to-face with the local species that live in Narragansett Bay waters? Consider volunteering at the Hamilton Family Aquarium. Click [here](#) for more information on the available opportunities.



Featured Resources

[Strategic Flooding Mitigation for Connecticut: Challenges and Solutions](#)

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) recently released a comprehensive report on understanding and addressing the occurrence of local flooding. Developed in collaboration with leading engineering firm Fuss & O'Neill, the study was motivated by the need to address the growing concerns surrounding flood risks across Connecticut. The report evaluates current flood management practices and outlines a series of strategic interventions actionable recommendations to enhance community resilience.

[Opportunities for Federal Support of Community-Driven Relocation](#)

This new report shares all of the federal resources on the topic of **community-driven relocation** (a term that describes a situation where a community decides it will relocate, in whole or in part, to reduce the risk faced by communities and individuals)! The report provides background on community-driven relocation, an overview of the current federal legal and programmatic landscape, and potential next steps that Federal agencies can take, as part of a whole-of-government approach, to support communities contemplating relocation.

Sound Bites

[Foundations of Shellfish Farming | Connecticut Aquaculture and Fisheries](#)

Register today for Foundations of Shellfish Farming, an in-person training course for new and prospective farmers and those who simply seek to learn more about aquaculture practices and techniques. Check out the [course website](#) for more information.



[Connecticut Sea Grant Annual Report 2024](#)

Check out the 2024 Connecticut Sea Grant highlights to see our stats this year and get some insight into what we and our colleagues have been working on. Highlighted initiatives include our [Planning Support and Grant Writing Assistance programs](#), which have helped foster sustainability and resilience around the Long Island Sound. We've had a year full of awesome projects and we're excited to see what 2025 brings!

[Connecticut Sea Grant Site Review](#)

Connecticut Sea Grant will be reviewed on January 7-9, 2025 by a team convened by the National Sea Grant College Program. This notice invites you to participate in our review by emailing your comments about Connecticut Sea Grant to oar.sg-feedback@noaa.gov by 12/30/2024. Please put "Connecticut Sea Grant site review" in the email subject line.

[Connecticut Sea Grant 2026-2028 Omnibus Call For Research Proposals](#)

Connecticut Sea Grant has just issued its biennial call for research proposals for its 2026-2028 Omnibus funding cycle. We welcome proposals from natural and social scientists that are responsive to the priorities identified within this call. Preliminary proposals must be submitted via e-mail to SeagrantResearch@uconn.edu and received by Connecticut Sea Grant Office by 4:30 p.m. EST on Friday, February 14, 2025. Check out the [Request for Proposals](#) for more details.

*Wishing
you safe
harbors
this holiday
season
and in the
new year!*



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