



LONG ISLAND SOUND
PARTNERSHIP

Sustainable & Resilient Communities



March 2026 - Western CT



Spring is the Season for Workshops & Grants!

Welcome to spring, when everyone seems to emerge from their hibernation cave to offer workshops and grant opportunities. Fortunately, there are many funding options out there, but we know strategizing the best fit for your resilience project can be a challenge. If only all of the program officers would gather in one place so you could hear from them directly and have a chance to discuss and refine your project proposal...

Oh, right! That's why the Sustainable & Resilient Communities (SRC) team developed the Regional SRC Funding Workshops! Remember, this week is ***your last chance to register*** for the **3rd Annual SRC Funding Workshop in Connecticut** before it closes on March 26th. Join us on Tuesday, March 31st at Gateway Community College in New Haven to learn from successful awardees and hear

directly from various sustainability and resilience funders. See below for more details and [register today!](#)

In case you missed it, we recently announced two additional awardees of our Long Island Sound Resilience Planning Support Program. Congratulations to the Town of Branford and the Town of Old Lyme! See our [Planning Support Program Awards page](#) to view the press release and updated Award Slate.

Finally, thanks to all who attended our workshop in February (pictured above) to learn more about the new USGS Compound Flood Hazard Mapper Tool. We are planning to organize a virtual version later in the spring for those who couldn't attend, so stay tuned for details!

~Deb

Having trouble viewing the images? You can now view these emails on the web: [View as Webpage](#)

Assistance Opportunities

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!

What Assistance Program is right for me?

Click on the image to interact



Funding Opportunities

DUE SOON

[Office of Brownfield Remediation & Development \(OBRD - Round 23\)](#)

CT DECD's OBRD announced multiple funding availability notices of the Brownfields Program. Eligible uses of funds include costs associated with the investigation, assessment, remediation and development of a brownfield.

1. Brownfield Municipal Grant Program – Remediation & Limited-Assessment (up to \$6M)
2. Brownfield Municipal Grant Program – Assessment-Only (up to \$200K)
3. Targeted Brownfield Development Loan Program (up to \$6M)
4. Brownfield Area-wide Revitalization Grant Program (up to \$200K)

Applications Due: March 25, 2026

[DEEP Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grants](#)

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is now accepting proposals for fiscal year 2025 Clean Water Section 319 grants. Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act (Section 319) is a Federal program to control nonpoint sources (NPS) of water pollution. Connecticut receives funds from EPA for Section 319 grants that can be passed onto communities, local conservation groups, and other organizations for NPS implementation projects, plans, and statewide NPS management efforts.

Applications Due: March 26, 2026

[NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund 2026](#)

The NCRF is a national focused on reducing risks to coastal communities. The fund is now soliciting pre-proposals for coastal resilience projects that restore, increase, and strengthen natural infrastructure such as coastal marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, rivers and floodplains, coastal forest, and barrier islands that mitigate the impacts of storms and other coastal hazards to communities.

Pre-Proposals Due: March 31, 2026

OPEN OPPORTUNITIES

[Climate-Smart Forest Stewardship Grant Program](#)

CLCC's Climate-Smart Forest Stewardship Grant Program is a new initiative that enables land trusts to take care of their forests. To help land trusts face these challenges, CLCC will provide funding for land trusts that integrate climate mitigation, resilience, and adaptation strategies into their long-term forest stewardship.

Applications Due: April 30, 2026

[Long Island Sound Futures Fund is Open!](#)

Up to \$12M available

Grant range: \$50k - \$2M

The Long Island Sound Futures Fund supports projects to fully restore the health and living resources of Long Island Sound. The program is managed by NFWF in collaboration with the EPA and the Long Island Sound Partnership. NFWF is providing opportunities for applicants to get consultation on their proposals (called Proposal Labs). For those in the upper watershed, there are additional workshops as well offered by Throve Environmental.

Applications Due: May 19, 2026

Proposal Labs: March 3 - April 30, 2026 | [Register](#)

Upper Watershed Workshops: April 1-2, 2026 | [Register](#)

Upcoming Events



[EVENTS CALENDAR](#)



REGISTER NOW

Sustainable and Resilient Communities

3rd Annual Connecticut

Funding Workshop

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 10:00am-2:30pm

Gateway Community College

Lunch will be provided

- Hear about local, state and Long Island Sound funding opportunities
- Engage in discussions with funders to explore project ideas and ways to improve funding applications
- Hear from a panel of successful awardees about their experiences and strategies

[Click here for more information and Registration](#)



LONG ISLAND SOUND
PARTNERSHIP



[3rd Annual SRC Funding Workshop: Connecticut](#)

Join us for another Sustainable & Resilient Communities Funding Workshop! The event will feature lightning-round introductions to local, state, and region-specific funding opportunities, a panel with recent awardees, and small-group breakout sessions with the funders to help workshop project ideas. This will be a great opportunity to directly connect with funding and assistance organizations and get insider tips to improve your applications!

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 9:30am - 2:30pm

[Register for the Funding Workshop](#)

[MetroCOG: Urban & Community Forestry Peer Learning Exchange](#)

This event, supported by The Nature Conservancy, MetroCOG, and partners, will be an interactive opportunity to advance urban and community forestry initiatives for the health and well-being of Connecticut residents.

[Register](#) | **Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 9:00am-1:00pm**

Location: Burroughs Community Center, Bridgeport

Basic Training for New Land Use Commissioners

Designed for newer commissioners or those seeking a refresher on the basics. The training is recommended by CT OPM to meet 3 hours toward the mandated requirements.

Register | **Saturday, April 18, 2026 | 9:00am-12:30pm**

Location: UConn Middlesex County Extension Center

FEMA Elevation Certificate Virtual Workshop

CT DEEP is hosting this all-day training opportunity to understand how to both 1) fill out and 2) review submittals using FEMA's Elevation Certificate. The workshop is limited to 50 participants with Connecticut registrants receiving priority. 6 CECs are available for CFMs.

Register | **Thursday, April 23, 2026 | 9:00am-4:30pm**

Map Reading & Mapping Resources for Land Use Commissioners

Learn fundamentals of reading a site plan & accessing site mapping data on [CT ECO](#). Earn 3 possible training hours toward mandated training requirements. Attendance may be in-person or virtual.

Register | **Saturday, May 16, 2026 | 9:00am-12:30pm**

Location: UConn Middlesex County Extension Center

Featured Resources

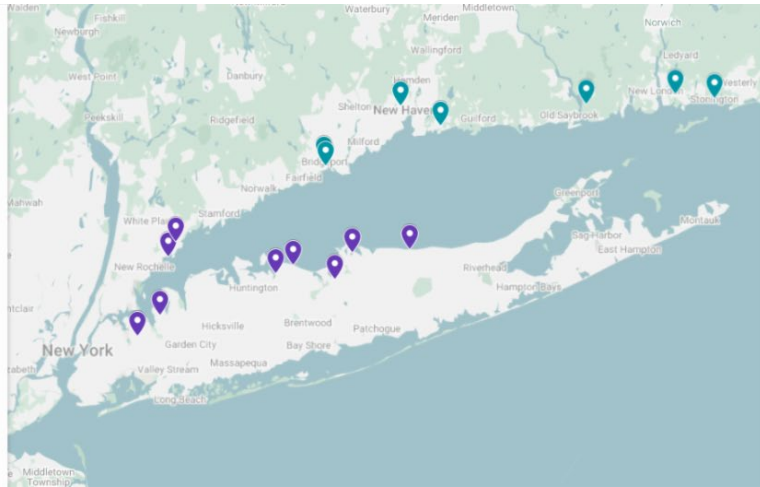
Press Release: Over \$1M Awarded to Support Resilience Planning in 16 Long Island Sound Communities

In November, the Sustainable & Resilient Communities (SRC) team announced the awardees of the Long Island Sound Resilience Planning Support Program. In Connecticut, we were able to fund an additional two projects, adding them to this slate of awards, and we distributed a new press release to share the news. Altogether, we now have 16 coastal communities in the Long Island Sound region supported by the second round of the program, totaling \$1,036,021 in planning support to advance resilience-focused projects.

For the full details, please see the [Press Release](#) and [Updated Award Slate](#) at: lisresilience.org/planning-support-program-awards/.

2025 Awardees

- 2025 - City of Bridgeport
- 2025 - Neighborhood Housing Services of New...
- 2025 - PT Partners
- 2025 - Town of Branford
- 2025 - Town of Groton
- 2025 - Town of Old Lyme
- 2025 - Town of Stonington
- 2025 - Great Neck Village Officials Association ...
- 2025 - Hen Island Nature Society Inc.
- 2025 - Kissena Synergy
- 2025 - Rye Sustainability Foundation
- 2025 - Salonga Wetland Advocates Network (S...
- 2025 - Setauket Harbor Task Force
- 2025 - Village of Head of the Harbor
- 2025 - Village of Northport
- 2025 - Village of Shoreham



[From Storm to Sanctuary: the Critical Stages to Restoring Sunken Meadow State Park after Superstorm Sandy](#)

Check out this [Sound Spotlight article](#) from the Long Island Sound (LIS) Partnership that takes an in-depth look at the process of Sunken Meadow's restoration project to restore 70-80 acres of tidal habitat. Learn more specifics about the project's funding and on-the-ground impact, via our detailed [Case Study on the LIS Resilience Resource Hub](#).



[MyCoast Connecticut Interest Form](#)

ICYMI in my last newsletter, MyCoast has been offered in a few CT towns, and the team is looking to expand STATEWIDE! This tool invites residents to take photos of high tides, flooding, and storm damage. The photos then can be used to support local planning, increase awareness, and build a stronger, more resilient shoreline for all! Interested in participating? Fill out this [MyCoast Connecticut Interest Form](#), and we'll keep you in the loop as we seek funding for the expansion.

In the meantime, check out the [MyCoast Connecticut Website](#) for instructions on how to use the tool and the [MyCoast Project page](#) for updates and events.

Resilience Roles

[Watershed Programming & Monitoring Coordinator](#)

The Southwest Conservation District (SWCD) is seeking to fill a full-time position. The role includes coordinating the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative and leading water quality sampling efforts using SWCD lab facilities in Hamden, CT. Click the title above for more details!

Application Deadline: March 27, 2026

[CIRCA Job Opportunities](#)

The [Connecticut Institute for Resilience Planning & Climate Adaptation \(CIRCA\)](#) research team currently has three job openings!

- [Research Associate 1- Physical Oceanography and Coastal Engineering](#)
- [Research Assistant 3 - Hydrologic & Hydraulic Engineer/Scientist](#)
- [Oceanographic Research Assistant 1](#)

Application Deadline: April 10, 2026

Sound Shares

Abstract Submissions Open! 2026 Long Island Sound Research Conference June 4-5, 2026 in Mystic CT

We welcome oral presentations and posters across disciplines in natural and social sciences that contribute to the four themes of the Long Island Sound Partnership CCMP:

- Clean waters and healthy watersheds
- Thriving habitats and abundant wildlife
- Sustainable and resilient communities
- Informed and engaged public

Abstract submissions: [Abstract Submission form](#)

Deadline for abstract submission: April 3, 2026

Registration will open soon

For more information: [2026 Research Conference - Long Island Sound Partnership](#)



Photo Credit: Syma A. Ebbin

Now Accepting Abstracts: 2026 Long Island Sound Research Conference Level Rise: Measurement, Understanding, Adaptation

The Long Island Sound Research Conference convenes researchers and partners working in the Sound and its watershed to share science, connect across disciplines, and support collaborative solutions. Held biennially and rotating between Connecticut and New York, the conference highlights research aligned with the four goals of the Long Island Sound Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP).

Oral presentations and posters are welcomed across disciplines in natural and social sciences that contribute to the four themes of the [Long Island Sound Partnership CCMP](#):

- Clean waters and healthy watersheds
- Thriving habitats and abundant wildlife
- Sustainable and resilient communities
- Informed and engaged public
-

June 4-5, 2026 | Mystic, CT

Abstract Submission Deadline: April 3, 2026



Showing Sea Grant's Value

We are thrilled to let you know that Congress has funded the Sea Grant Program for fiscal year (FY) 2026! This would not have happened without the massive outpouring of support from our partners like you. More than **18,000 around the nation** joined in letting Congress know the importance of funding Sea Grant. While we celebrate this news for FY 2026, it's already time to start ensuring we get our FY 2027 funds! I wondered if you would be again willing to sign your name to show your

support for Sea Grant. This year, we're asking you to sign your name if you agree to the statement, "I value Sea Grant." You can sign the statement [here](#).

Newsletters Archive & Sign Ups

[View as Webpage](#)

[Find past newsletters here.](#)

[Sign Up for the Western CT SRC
Newsletter!](#)

[Sign Up for the Eastern CT SRC Newsletter!](#)

Deb Visco Abibou, PhD

*Extension Professional
Sustainable & Resilient Communities
Western CT*

Connecticut Sea Grant
deb.abibou@uconn.edu

Long Island Sound Partnership
Sustainable & Resilient Communities