Rhode Island Grant Funding Workshop

March 21st, 2025

10:00 am- 12:00 pm

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

Today's Agenda

10:00 Introduction and Housekeeping

Martha Sheils – NEEFC Director

10:05 Technical Assistance Spotlight

Alex Gulachenski- Senior Program Manager, SNEP Network, NEEFC

Matt Duff- Water Infrastructure Specialist, NEWIN, NEEFC

Andrea Berry- Climate Funding Manager, TCTAC, NEEFC

Tess Clark - Environmental Finance Center Network (EFCN), Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center

10:20 Overview of Funding Programs

11:25 Group Q&A

11:35 Meet the Funders!

Access Q&A and Live Closed Captioning

- You can ask questions in the Q & A box in your zoom control panel
- If you have any tech issues, use the chat feature to connect with the webinar hosts
- The webinar will be recorded and we will send the recording after the meeting
- To view closed captions, click on the closed caption feature in your zoom control panel at the bottom of your screen



New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

who we are

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional EFC

22+ years building local and regional projects & partnerships

Experienced team of planners, facilitators, technical & financial experts

Part of the **University of Maine System**

mission & values

Build community capacity to **fund & finance** environmental priorities

Prioritize working with **underserved & environmental justice** communities

Integrate **climate resilience** into all programs & projects

our programs

SNEP NETWORK

Climate Adaptation & Resilience

Watershed Management

newin New England Water Infrastructure Network

Stormwater & Green Infrastructure

Water Infrastructure

BETTER BEV Green Craft Beverage Recognition

Sustainable Operating Practices

How We Can Help

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Project Prioritization

Identify and prioritize projects and align them with community goals and objectives.



Assessment & Planning

Identify **valued community assets**, assess climate vulnerabilities and risks, and **develop adaptation strategies**.



Design & Engineering

Access tools, assistance, and pre-approved consultant pool to **support engineering & design.**



Funding & Financing

Navigate and assess funding and financing options with grant writing, and proposal support.



Implementation

Connect with **technical experts** to advance projects and policies



Maintenance

Guidance and training for on-going maintenance of **green infrastructure**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Network

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

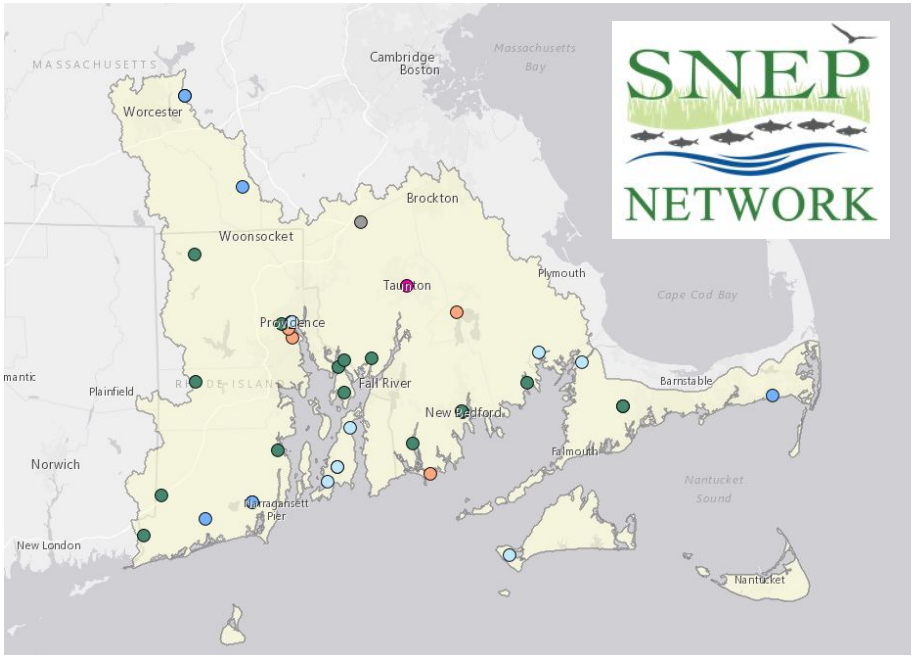
Who We Are:

We are a network of **16+ local and regional experts** with expertise in **stormwater and watershed management, sustainable financing, ecological restoration, and climate resilience.**

How We Work:

We offer **free training, tools, and technical/financial assistance** to municipalities and tribes, helping **build local capacity and advance projects** from planning to implementation.

Empowering communities *to achieve healthy watersheds, sustainable financing, and long-term climate resilience through management of stormwater and restoration projects.*



Map of the SNEP Region and SNEP Network Assistance Projects from 2019-2024

SNEP Network Services

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Trainings & Webinars

- On-Demand **trainings, & webinars**
- **In-person & In-depth workshops**
- **Cohort-based trainings:** peer-to-peer learning, leadership exchange, community facilitation

Technical Assistance

- **On-demand TA requests:** Online portal for small scope or short-term requests
- **Community Assistance Projects**: In-Depth assistance to communities to advance projects towards design or implementation (By application)

Regional Initiatives

- **Tailored Tools & Resources:** Broadly applicable to meet communities' needs throughout the region.
- Collaborative projects **to address common challenges, & develop collective solutions** at a regional scale

Upcoming Dates:
Community Assistance Projects – Applications opens **July 2025**.
Stormwater Planning Series – Applications open **Fall 2025**.

Request FREE Technical Assistance:
https://snepnetwork.org/assistance-form/

We are a collaborative network

Audubon Society of Rhode Island

Blackstone Watershed Collaborative

CAPE COD COMMISSION

ELIZABETH SCOTT CONSULTING

GROUNDWORK Rhode Island

KIMBERLY GROFF CONSULTING

Mass Audubon

Narragansett Bay Research Reserve

SRPEDD Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District

SAVE THE BAY NARRAGANSETT BAY est.1970

Syracuse University College of Engineering & Computer Science Environmental Finance Center

The Nature Conservancy of Massachusetts

The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island

SC STORMWATER CENTER

GROUNDWORK Southcoast

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND University of Rhode Island NEMO

To Learn More:
https://snepnetwork.org/

SNEP NETWORK

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

*"The SNEP Network is a project of the **New England Environmental Finance Center** and is funded by the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast New England Program**.*

newin New England Water Infrastructure Network

a program of the new england environmental finance center

NEWIN helps communities access funding for drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and nonpoint source pollution needs

Who We Are

A regional network of experienced **water infrastructure technical assistance providers.**

UMass Boston Sustainable Solutions Lab

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

MOONSHOT MISSIONS

SC University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center

Quantified Ventures

RCAP Solutions

How We Work

Develop **customized technical, financial, and managerial solutions** to water challenges.

Collaborate to **advance projects to funding and implementation.**

Our Values

Reduce local and regional barriers communities face in accessing funding

Prioritize **new borrowers** and systems experiencing **pressing water challenges.**

APPROACH

Who We Work With

Core Partners

- MOONSHOT MISSIONS
- UMass Boston Sustainable Solutions Lab
- RCAP Solutions
- Quantified Ventures
- SC STORMWATER CENTER

Federal Government

State Agencies

Tribes

Municipalities

Water Utilities

Manufactured Housing Communities

Engineers

Consultants

Community-Based Organizations

newin
New England Water Infrastructure Network
new england environmental finance center

newin
New England Water Infrastructure Network
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Bridging the gap between community water challenges & investment in water infrastructure

NEWIN works to bring communities to the point of applying for and securing project funding, with assistance at every step of the process.



Request Assistance: neefc.org/water-infrastructure

Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC)

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center



New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

UMass Boston

Environmental Protection Network

New England Rural Health Association

Email: TCTAC@uconn.edu

Website: https://thriving-communities-technical-assistance.program.uconn.edu/

What's the Scope of the TCTAC?

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Environmental Quality

- Air Quality; Water Treatment; Land Use; Waste Management; Sustainability

Energy Justice

- Infrastructure Resources; Energy Efficiency; Clean Transit EV (Micromobility); Broadband Access

Climate Adaptation

- Risk Assessment; Project Planning; Policy Analysis; Environmental and Social Resilience

Environmental Health

- Air Quality; Asthma; Lead; Mercury; Drinking Water; Transportation Pollution, etc.

What Services Does the TCTAC Offer?

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Grant Preparation & Submission

- Connect to funding resources
- Proposal submission assistance
- Grant writing support
- Proposal review support
- Post-award grant management support

Technical Consultations

- Summarize technical documents
- Translate documents into plain terms and languages beyond English
- Review and analyze data
- Support technical planning for grants and projects

Training Programs & Tools

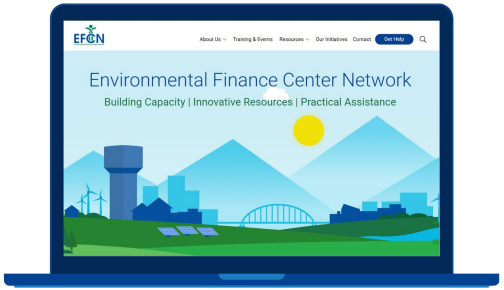
- Live Webinars
- Recorded video-based learning
- Workshops
- Other tools and learning materials

Environmental Finance Center Network

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

FREE Technical Assistance (TA) services for Small Systems

EFCN environmental finance center network



efcnetwork.org

The **Environmental Finance Center Network (EFCN)** is a university- and non-profit-based organization creating innovative solutions to the difficult how-to-pay issues of environmental protection and environmental infrastructure.

The EFCN aims to assist public and private sectors through **training, direct professional assistance, production of durable resources, and innovative policy ideas.**

Environmental Finance Center Network

Support for Small Water and Wastewater Systems Nationwide

Who is eligible for EFCN services?

- **Small drinking water systems** serving 10,000 people or fewer
- **Small wastewater systems** with an average daily wastewater flow of less than 1 million gallons per day.
- **Decentralized systems**



EFCN Partners

Tackle Your TMF Challenges: EFCN Services

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

Funding & Financial Management	*Identify best-fit funding programs, eligibility and timeline guidance, application support, find match or supplemental funding.*
Asset & Utility Management	*Creating an asset management plan, repairing or replacing equipment, managing utilities effectively, planning for climate-related threats.*
Regulatory Compliance & Reporting	Davis-Bacon Act and BABA guidance, managing NPDES permits, understanding SDWA compliance.
Public Engagement & Partnerships	Public engagement strategies, training for boards and elected officials, public involvement in decision-making, group facilitation, regionalization & partnerships.
Workforce Development & Leadership	Workforce challenges and solutions, leadership development, succession planning, job description review, recruitment support, salary studies or comparisons.
Technical Support	Math, operator training, water reuse and recycling, I/I management, cybersecurity, water loss auditing, GIS mapping, chlorine disinfection, PER review, **and more!**

EFCN environmental finance center network

Learn more by visiting ***efcnetwork.org/get-help***

Municipal Resilience Program

Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank

RHODE ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

$24.5 million in action grants allocated to date

50+ total projects funded; 25% required match

MRP changes coming later this year. Grant funding for planning/ design and smaller projects. A Revolving fund for larger construction projects

MRP Program Information

Project Types

- **Green stormwater infrastructure**, **coastal and riparian resiliency**, road elevation, **floodproofing or elevation of pump stations**, berms and levies, **culvert resizing**, energy infrastructure resiliency watershed restoration, and **urban tree planting**, etc.
- Funding for planning /design, outreach, modeling, permitting, and construction
- Projects which are shovel-ready shall receive priority

Project Priorities

- Supports resilience related infrastructure projects: improve community resiliency and strengthen public safety
- Project must involve the removal, relocation or redesign of Infrastructure OR incorporate Nature-Based Solutions
- For RI municipalities that have completed community resilience workshops (MRP 2.0 coming)
- Example: Truman Drive, Pump Stations, Atwood/Hartford Ave

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank

RHODE ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

Funding Amounts: No set cap

Loans with up to 20-year terms with interest rates 33% below market rate

Applicant must first apply to RIDEM to be placed on PPL which opens each spring. Then they can apply to RIIB for loan financing.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Project Types

- Funds wastewater, stormwater collection, treatment facilities; nonpoint source pollution management, etc.
- Can fund planning, design, engineering, & construction for clean water eligible project types
- Funding for public entities, local governments, water authorities/districts
- Some communities may be eligible for partial forgiveness

Project Priorities

- Long-term financing solutions for water quality improvement projects
- Ability/amount of water contamination which can be mitigated determines application favorability
- Subject to credit review, availability of funds, and Board approval
- Example: NBC CSO Project, WWTF Upgrades, Roger Williams Park TMDL projects

Grant opportunities through the Office of Water Resources

RIDEM

Funding Amount:
Varies by grant program; generally $50,000 - $400,000

Important Dates: Section 319 Non-Point Source RFP likely in Late Summer/ Early Fall 2025.

Project Types	Project Priorities
Section 319 Non-Point Source Pollution Management Program	Anticipating an RFP in Fall 2025; dependent on the FFY25 budget. Program page: 2023 Nonpoint Source (NPS) Implementation Grants | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Narragansett Bay & Watershed Restoration Fund (BWRF)	No RFP currently planned (not included in the 2024 Green Bond); information on past and current projects: Narragansett Bay and Water Restoration Fund (BWRF) Grants | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Wastewater Treatment Facility Resiliency Fund (WWTFRF)	No RFP currently planned (not included in the 2024 Green Bond); information on past and current projects: Wastewater Treatment Facility Resilience Fund | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

EJ Seed Grants and Tiers 1-3: Environmental Justice for New England

Funding Amount:

Up to $75,000

Important Dates:

Applications are due May 30, 2025, 5pm Eastern Time

Project Types

Seed Funds

Seed Funds, up to $75,000, is available for **community work by severely capacity constrained community-based organizations,** which are defined as comprised of four (4) or less full-time equivalent (FTE) paid staff members at the time of application (for example, if there are 8 staff that are all ½ time – that is 4 FTE).

Eligibility

Eligible applicants include:

- Nonprofit and community-based organizations
- Tribal governments (both federally recognized and state-recognized) and intertribal consortia
- Native American Organizations

https://environmentaljusticenewengland.org/grants/

EJ Seed Grants and Tiers 1-3: Environmental Justice for New England

Funding Amount:

Up to $150,000 for 1 year

Important Dates:

Application deadline of May 30, 2025, 5pm Eastern

Project Types

Tier 1 Grants - Assessment Projects

Tier 1 will grant up to $150,000 for one year.

Projects in this tier should begin to assess a local community's environmental justice landscape.

Project Examples

Example project activities include but are not limited to:

- Research that informs project design
- Sampling
- Testing
- Monitoring
- Investigations
- Surveys and studies
- Public education
- Community surveys, listening sessions, focus groups, or other forms of engagement

https://environmentaljusticenewengland.org/grants/

EJ Seed Grants and Tiers 1-3: Environmental Justice for New England

Funding Amount:
Tier 2 will grant up to $250,000 for up to two years

Important Dates:
Friday, May 30, 2025, 5PM EST

Project Types

Tier 2 - Planning Projects

Projects in this tier should include plan formulation and partnership development activities to address identified environmental justice concerns. Example project activities include but are not limited to:

Project Examples

- Planning
- Partnership building
- Developing communications and outreach plans
- Developing curricula, toolkits, or guidelines
- Developing social media plans and content
- Producing videos or printed materials
- Building or strengthening partnerships and collaboration
- Public outreach
- Training activities for community
- Projects and activities to spur community involvement

https://environmentaljusticenewengland.org/grants/

EJ Seed Grants and Tiers 1-3: Environmental Justice for New England

Funding Amount:
Tier 3 will grant up to $350,000 for up to two years

Important Dates:
Friday, May 30, 2025, 5PM EST

Project Types

Tier 3 - Implementing Projects

Projects in this tier should support implementation projects informed by community planning and research. Projects may have educational and outreach components but must focus on developing tangible community assets or providing defined community benefits. Examples of project activities include but are not limited to:

Project Examples

- Strengthening cumulative impact, public health, or environmental justice protections
- Increasing access to healthy food
- Reducing the use of pesticides or toxic substances
- Cleaning up contaminated sites
- Conducting healthy home assessments
- Leading environmental justice educational programs
- Creating community resilience hubs

https://environmentaljusticenewengland.org/grants/

National Coastal Resilience Fund

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Funding Amount:
-$139 million in 2024
-2024: $100K-10M per application, depending on category
-2024: Match not required but encouraged to demonstrate broad support for the project

2025 Anticipated Timeline*:
-RFP release: March
-Pre-proposals due: April
-Full proposal invites sent: June
-Full proposals due: July
-Awards announced: November

**subject to change*

Project Types

- **Community Capacity Building and Planning** that engages stakeholders and builds the capacity to plan and execute a variety of future resilience strategies, projects, and other activities.
- **Site Assessment and Preliminary Design** of best options to address restoration and resilience goals of pre-identified and prioritized communities.
- **Final Design and Permitting** for on-the-ground projects. Funding may be used for developing conceptual or preliminary designs into final designs and engineering plans, continued stakeholder engagement, detailed cost estimates, communications with permitting officials, and tasks to position projects for implementation.
- **Restoration and Monitoring** of projects that have been prioritized through planning, address coastal resilience, have completed all design and engineering plans necessary for implementation, and are ready to secure or have secured all permits and other approvals necessary for implementation.

Project Priorities

NFWF will make investments in planning, design, and restoration projects that:

- **Identify or implement nature-based solutions**
- **Benefit coastal communities by reducing threats from coastal hazards**
- **Benefit fish and wildlife habitat**
- Additional consideration will be given to projects that are **community led** or incorporate direct community outreach and engagement, and projects that incorporate **innovative, sustainable, or transferable approaches.**
- Projects **must be located within the coastal areas** of U.S. coastal states, including the Great Lakes states, and U.S. territories and tribal lands.
- Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state and territorial government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations, educational institutions, or commercial (for-profit) organizations.

SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants (SWIG)

Restore America's Estuaries

Funding Amount: $20,000 - $500,000

Important Dates:
2025 application now open through April 18.

Project Types

- Up to 2-year grants
- Partnerships & community-based
- Planning, design, permitting, construction, etc.
- Stormwater, habitat, urban parks, green streets, coastal adaptation, in-water work, workshops, watershed plans, etc.
- Innovative technologies

Project Priorities

- Clean Water
- Healthy Ecosystems
- Sustainable Communities

Projects must support EPA/SNEP Strategic Plan

Capacity-building through sharing of information & experience

Outreach & community engagement

Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

Funding Amount:

$75,850 for **Outreach/Education**
$75,000 for **Research**
$877,400 for **Planning Projects** (topic TBA)

Important Dates:
Outreach/Education due April 11
Research TBA
Planning TBA (IIJA/BIL)

Project Types

Outreach/Education *Examples*:

- In-school and informal watershed education programs and events
- Public outreach campaigns
- Community science monitoring projects
- Demonstration projects
- Educational multimedia

Research projects must respond to priorities in the NBEP Research Plan (2024).

Planning projects include site-specific studies, desktop and field assessments, designs, plans, and permitting.

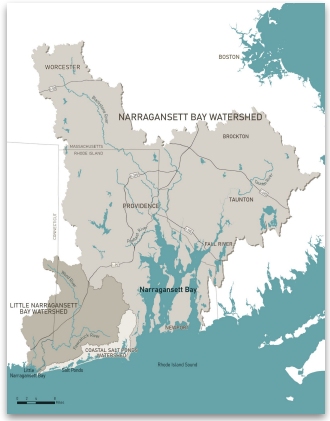
Project Priorities

Federal subawards; all costs reimbursable.

Outreach/Education

- Maximum award is $15,000.
- Non-profit organizations, schools, civic associations, colleges and universities, and local and state governments and agencies located in the Narragansett Bay Region are eligible.

Is your project location eligible? Visit our website for a searchable map.



Join our mailing list for funding announcements (https://nbep.org).

Ocean State Climate Adaptation and Resilience (OSCAR) Grant

RIDEM

Funding Amount:
$1mm
No required match

Important Dates:
RFP Expected 2025

Project Types

- Projects that reduce the vulnerability of low-lying infrastructure on public land through measures that include **removal and relocation of infrastructure**
- **Restoration of river and stream floodplains**, including regrading of banks
- **Revegetation**
- **Acquisition** of that area of land necessary to maintain and preserve public access
- **Redesigning, resizing, and replacing culverts** and bridge spans at existing wetland crossings
- **Additional adaptation and resilience projects** deemed to be eligible under R.I. Gen. Laws § 46-23.3-5

Project Priorities

- Funds Planning, Design, Construction, among other activity types
- Entities who own or control public land are eligible to apply
- Strong focus on projects delivering feasible and technically sound climate adaptation solutions with habitat restoration and public access co-benefits
- Environmental Justice and Community Engagement scoring criteria

Climate Resilience Fund

RIDEM

Funding Amount:
$2mm
Match 25% of grant award

Important Dates:
RFP Expected 2025

Project Types

- **Removal, Relocation or Redesign of Infrastructure** - engineering and construction projects to redesign, relocate or remove vulnerable facilities and infrastructure (e.g., culverts, dams, buildings/facilities, roadways/evacuation routes in both coastal and riverine areas) to protect and preserve function over the design life of the infrastructure or eliminate risk by removing the structure, given projected climate change impacts.
- **Nature-Based Solutions -** projects that protect or enhance Rhode Island's natural systems in the face of projected climate change impacts. Projects can include green infrastructure projects that utilize vegetation and pervious surfaces to manage coastal, riverine, and inland flooding, erosion and storm damage. Projects can also include the restoration of natural shorelines and riparian habitats so as to enhance the protection of communities.

Project Priorities

- Funds Design, Construction, among other activity types
- Planning & Scientific Research not considered
- Land acquisition may be 50% or less of project costs
- Gov't and non-profit entities are eligible to apply
- Strong focus on projects delivering feasible and technically sound climate adaptation solutions with co-benefits
- Proposals should address:

  1. The expected near-term (0-10 years) and long-term (10-25 years) benefits to improve ecosystems and community resilience; and

  2. How the project is consistent with state resilience plans, local hazard mitigation plans, and all applicable laws.

Questions?

Instructions for entering funder rooms

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

- We will now be moving to Zoom meeting rooms
- Links to the funder rooms can be found in the **webinar chat**, in the **linked PDF**, and in your **email** (check your inbox!)
- You can move around freely between meetings by clicking on the link for the corresponding meeting room
- **You will not need to return to the webinar when done in the meeting rooms**

If you're having trouble, come back to the main webinar and message the hosts using the chat function

Meet the Funders!

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

Room	Funding Program(s)
1	• State Climate Resilience Bond Funds (RIDEM) • Ocean State Climate Adaptation and Resilience fund (OSCAR fund) -RIDEM • Grant opportunities Rhode Island DEM • SNEP Network
2	• Municipal Resilience Program (RIIB) • Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) • NEWIN
3	• NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund • Environmental Finance Center Network (EFCN) • SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants • Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
4	• EJ for New England Seed Grants and Tiers 1-3 • TCTAC