



SNEP Network Tenets of Engagement

Through our shared values and vision, the Network aims to strengthen the partnerships across and through the Southern New England Program (SNEP). We are committed to building a strong community around existing and future water resource nexuses including stormwater controls and climate solutions that will improve *quality of life for all*. The Network is committed to supporting and developing new and existing partnerships, based on trust and mutual understanding, utilizing our technical expertise to protect and heal the environments where we/they live, work and play.

The SNEP Network believes that social and environmental issues are interconnected, it is our intention to promote and embrace diversity, equity and inclusion throughout all aspects of our work. It is our vision that the SNEP Network act as a catalyst for creating science-based solutions and a collective sense of pride and ownership of natural resources, leading to sustained financing and improved water quality and ecological health on a regional scale.

The Network's outcome goals¹ will be accomplished by **strengthening and building community capacity to move beyond planning into financing and implementation phases, and ultimately creation of sustainable programs**. The Network will ensure that assistance is provided to communities that show commitment to our shared environmental outcomes regardless of their current capacity and prior investments.

Guiding the Network's approach are the following tenets:

- 1) Conserve what we can, to preserve existing function(s), and build awareness of the many values provided by natural areas and systems.
- 2) Integrate green infrastructure and Low Impact Development into all new and re-development projects.
- 3) Work with what is already developed to restore functions that are lost, including natural hydrology, water quality, and aquatic habitat.
- 4) Build awareness of climate change impacts (current and predicted); where practical, advance community resilience to climate change effects – in progression to include mitigation, adaptation, and retreat.
- 5) Cultivate local leadership and work to get buy-in from elected officials and decision makers.
- 6) Incorporate funding and financing options to all actions.
- 7) Promote peer-to-peer exchange and widely share process approaches and results with other communities.
- 8) Actively work to include economically disadvantaged sectors and in particular, communities of color, and to understand, and where feasible, address economic and environmental considerations affecting their community.
- 9) Cultivate and strengthen community voices and a sense of ownership in our shared work. In early stages of community engagement, create "listening" opportunities for community members to voice water-related thoughts and resource concerns. Foster an inclusive process that is responsive to these concerns as the project proceeds.
- 10) Utilize a collaborative approach and promote facilitated sharing of state-of-the-art and innovative practices to raise the level of practice among Network partners, local officials, consultants, and other peers.

¹ Improve water quality and aquatic life; restore physical processes that support critical habitat and ecosystem function; and align restoration and management efforts on a regional scale that are achieved by employing innovative financing strategies for greater effectiveness and efficiency.