



Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Network ROUND II CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS (CFP)

Seeking Participants to Receive Community-based Technical,
Financial and Training Assistance for Stormwater Management and
Ecological Restoration
in the Southeast New England Program Watershed

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The Southeast New England Network ([SNEP Network](#)) is seeking applications from municipalities, tribes and nonprofits representing communities in the Southeast New England region (*see Attachment 1, SNEP Boundary Map*) to receive technical, financial, and/or training assistance focused on stormwater and watershed management and ecological restoration and sustainable finance.

SNEP Network Mission:

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

Timeline

Solicitation Release Date	June 16, 2021
Information Session (Morning)	June 29, 2021 (11AM-12PM)
Information Session (Evening)	June 30, 2021 (6PM-7PM)
Application Deadline	July 21, 2021
Final Decisions & Award Notifications	August 6, 2021

Background

The SNEP Network is a partnership of organizations representing environmental nonprofits, academic entities, regional planners, and consultants who offer training and workshops in leadership development, financing, stormwater/watershed management, ecological restoration, and climate resilience (*see Attachment 2, SNEP Network Partners*). Through the Call for Participants, the Network partners' services are made available at **no-cost** to communities in the Southeast New England region to support community

efforts to protect, maintain and restore healthy watersheds, establish sustainable financing, and build long-term climate resilience through enhanced stormwater management and ecological restoration. Augmenting the Network partners' capacity is a pool of pre-qualified consultants.

The SNEP Network is administered by the [New England Environmental Finance Center](#) working under a 5-year cooperative agreement with the US EPA's Southeast New England Program. The Network encompasses partners having a wide range of skills and expertise representing organizations across Southeast New England and beyond. Utilizing a collaborative problem solving approach, the SNEP Network delivers creative and effective solutions to build local capacity for improving watershed health, sustainable financing approaches, and improved on-the-ground stormwater management practices.

The Opportunity

This Call for Participants is specifically focused on community-scale and/or watershed-scale planning opportunities for communities to build local capacity and move towards more sustainable financing and long-term climate resilience through enhanced stormwater management and ecological restoration efforts. The Network welcomes the opportunity to leverage the work of partnerships and/or build upon prior efforts as well as projects that kick-start a community's initial effort to address a specific water resource concern. Partnerships that support and empower local community-based groups in particular will be prioritized.

The Network will provide feasibility and planning services to help a community better understand what information and processes will lead to improved stormwater and watershed management or ecological restoration and enhanced climate resilience. This could include enhanced efforts to expand the geographic scope of stormwater retrofits, advance restoration activities to achieve multiple benefits (e.g. water quality, flooding and/or climate resiliency) or advance programmatic improvements such as asset management and financing solutions. Municipalities, tribes and/or organizations must have their leadership's support for the project and must commit leadership and/or staff participation in the project. Services are intended to be provided over a period of several months to a year. ***Environmental Justice and underrepresented communities are strongly encouraged to apply.***

The Network will identify and select communities in the SNEP region to receive support from the Network partners based on the responses to the solicitation. The Network's training and technical service's strategic areas currently includes the following:

- Sustainable Financing (e.g., Climate Planning and Finance, Climate Leadership Training, Peer-to-Peer Exchanges, and Asset Management Training)
- Stormwater Management
- Implementing Low Impact Development (LID) and sustainable land use planning
- Green and Nature Based Infrastructure Solutions
- Community-based climate resilience planning
- Pollutant Load Assessment and Tracking

This offering of SNEP Network training and technical services will be delivered between September 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022. A core group representing the community's leadership will work with the SNEP Network team to develop a detailed schedule of customized services to meet the community's needs as described in their responses to this CFP. While this technical assistance will help improve awareness of best practices? and may help communities meet the requirements of MS4 (stormwater) permits, the SNEP Network is primarily focused on creating more efficient and effective stormwater/watershed management and ecological restoration outcomes for communities, rather than meeting specific MS4 permit requirements. The Network acknowledges that state governments and/or regional organizations in Massachusetts and Rhode Island have made significant investments and progress assisting with municipal community resilience, and our services are intended to complement and leverage this ongoing work.

Available Services

The following is an inventory of some available services that can be provided via one or more Network teams. The full list of services can be found on the SNEP Network website here: https://snepnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SNEP-Services-Matrix_Round-II-CFP.docx-3.pdf

1. Training:

- Financing trainings focused on long-term sustainable resources for communities to plan and implement stormwater/watershed management and ecological restoration projects;
- Training focused on enhancing leadership skills of elected or appointed leaders as well as senior professional staff (e.g., mentorship skill development, effective governance and policy development, environmental finance, effective communication tools, and problem solving skills);
- Training or workshops focused on community climate resilience and adaptation planning, and implementing nature based solutions such as green or natural infrastructure.

2. Technical Assistance:

- Assistance in planning and, as relevant, engineering to develop conceptual designs for catchment-area or sub-watershed wide best management practice retrofits for stormwater and watershed management including nature-based approaches using green and natural infrastructure concepts;
- Assistance in programmatic assessment of stormwater management financing needs, adoption of an asset management approach for stormwater infrastructure, and/or development of communication strategies to support community engagement;
- Desktop mapping and analysis using ArcGIS for assessing priority drainage basins, pollutant loading and “hotspots”, and green and natural infrastructure analysis;
- Assistance in utilizing EPA’s Pollutant Load Accounting and Tracking spreadsheet to assess advancements made towards attaining pollutant reduction requirements in specific watersheds and/or town-wide, and ultimately in improving water quality and meeting water quality standards.
- Assistance completing Low Impact Development (LID) checklists and/or identifying opportunities to adopt low impact development and associated best management practices for stormwater/watershed management and ecological restoration in local plans and ordinances/bylaws;
- Assistance in identifying low-cost “every day” stormwater retrofits and maintenance recommendations to enhance pollution prevention and mitigate localized flooding;
- Assistance in planning and prioritization of land conservation/protection, agricultural conservation practices, riparian buffer restoration, and habitat restoration efforts linked to the community’s long-term watershed protection and/or climate resilience objectives.
- Assistance with community engagement, partnership building and facilitation for stormwater/watershed management, ecological restoration, and climate resilience planning across the Southeast New England watershed (including tribal and environmental justice communities)

How to Indicate Interest

Municipalities, tribes or nonprofits working in communities within the SNEP area (see Attachment 1, SNEP Boundary Map) are welcome to apply for training and technical services assistance. ***Indigenous and immigrant communities and communities of color are encouraged to apply.***

Submit a Call for Participants Application to the New England Environmental Finance Center (NE EFC) via the SNEP Network’s website at <http://snepnetwork.org/call-for-participants>. Contact phaeng.southisombath@maine.edu for questions and assistance related to submissions including if you need an alternative format for submitting this application.

If you have specific questions about the viability of a proposed submission for services in advance of responding to this CFP, please contact the appropriate SNEP Network Liaison listed below:

- Contact Elizabeth Scott at elizabethscottri@gmail.com or 401-743-3934 for projects located in Rhode Island.
- Contact Kimberly Groff at kimberlygroffma@gmail.com or 508-932-5528 for projects located in Massachusetts.

The SNEP Network will provide two opportunities via ZOOM Meeting to answer any questions about the training and technical assistance services on **June 29, 2021 from 11:00am-12:00pm** or **June 30, 2021 from 6:00pm-7:00pm**. The SNEP Network will provide a short presentation on the SNEP Network CFP application and process to interested communities, followed by a Q & A session. For more information and meeting links, go to: <https://snepnetwork.org/call-for-participants-round-2/>

All of the following questions will require a response via the online Call for Participants Application form. Please be as succinct as possible to meet the 500 word limit per question.

1. What water resource problem(s) or issue(s) are you seeking assistance to address?
2. What training and/or technical assistance is your community requesting?
3. What are the biggest challenges that your community faces in effective stormwater/watershed management and ecological restoration (e.g., flooding, groundwater recharge, erosion, poor water quality)? How will this project help to address these challenges?
4. Who would participate on behalf of your community, and what other groups would you partner with (please provide all names, positions, and organizations)? Have each of the named people and/or organizations committed to full engagement? How will you engage members of your community in this project?
5. Will this project impact communities of color, indigenous people, and/or economically disadvantaged sectors of your community? If so, please explain how, and how members of these communities will be engaged in this work.
6. How does your project build your community’s capacity for long-term stormwater management and/or climate resilience?
7. How will your community leverage other resources to ensure your community’s stormwater management or climate resilience goals continue to advance beyond this project?
8. Are you willing to be a mentor to other communities in the SNEP region? If so, in what areas can you provide expertise?

How Applicants Will Be Evaluated

The SNEP Network Core Team, composed of the NE EFC, EPA Region 1, Elizabeth Scott Consulting, Kimberly Groff Consulting, and Throwe Environmental, will evaluate all submissions and select communities to receive services based on successfully completing the Call for Participants Application and meeting the selection criteria. The SNEP Core Team reserves the right to reject any or all submissions that do not meet the goals and terms of this CFP.

The following selection criteria will be used to evaluate eligibility and rank applications for selection (total of 100 points possible):

Does the application for services align with the Network’s outlined services and mission to empower communities to achieve healthy watersheds, sustainable financing and long-term climate resilience through stormwater management and habitat restoration?	15 Points
Will the results of the training and/or technical assistance have utility and relevance to other communities in RI and MA within the SNEP watershed and improve knowledge transfer and learning?	15 Points

Will the services contribute to a regional or watershed scale approach to stormwater management and/or ecological restoration, or lead to identifying on-the-ground projects or adopting new approaches to problem solving?	15 Points
Does the application for services demonstrate a commitment from the community's staff and leadership to improve level of practice - towards a long-term and/or sustainable approach to stormwater management, ecological restoration and climate resilience?	15 Points
Does the application for services include efforts to engage the underrepresented communities within the project area?	15 Points
Does the application for services describe how they will leverage community partners and organizations to engage community members?	15 Points
Does the application for services describe how the community can leverage other resources to advance their financing ability?	10 Points

Local Commitment Expected

Applications selected to receive services through this solicitation will require the following commitments. No cost-share is required, however applicants must commit staff and/or volunteer board members' time (estimated at 60 hours per person over 6 months) to ensure completion of training and implementation of technical assistance services from the SNEP Network. The entity must also agree to submit documentation of time spent on the project using the in-kind services form provided by NE EFC. Time committed will include the following activities:

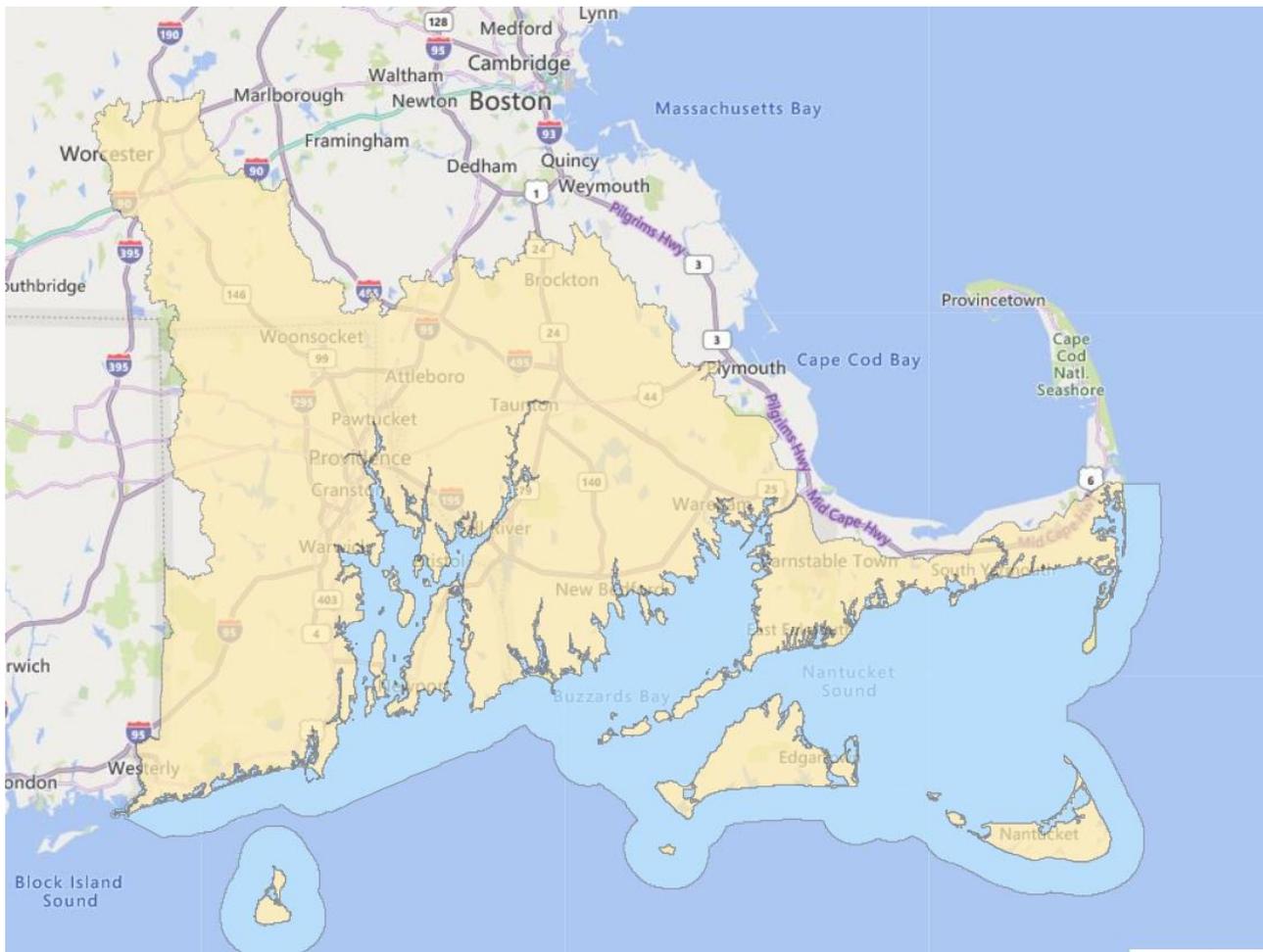
Minimum Commitments Expected:

Successful applicants chosen to receive services will be required to assist in developing a memorandum of understanding that describes the services that will be provided and the commitments made by the applicant to support the implementation of services. Depending on the awarded services, this may include a signed letter of support from leadership of the organization, involvement of key community leaders, community outreach and engagement efforts, presentations of findings including possible financing and leadership training, and intent to leverage the results of services to the broader SNEP region as a peer mentor/resource.

Additional commitments expected include:

- Establish a single point of contact to manage a core team (or steering committee) within the community to steer the project;
- Identify and complete outreach to critical stakeholders, partners and community officials who will be involved in the training or technical assistance, including outreach to indigenous and immigrant communities, and communities of color;
- Attend all meetings, trainings and workshops and provide support to coordinate, schedule, send invitations and document meetings as needed;
- Provide access to relevant planning documents, budget information, and other relevant information and data as needed;
- Consider nature-based solutions (green and natural infrastructure) and regional partnerships during meetings, trainings or workshops for achieving sustainable, long-term climate resilience;
- Upon completion of the project, provide feedback to the SNEP Network on your level of satisfaction with the services received, and offer testimony of your experience and lessons learned for other communities
- Participation in an end-of-year workshop with other SNEP Network assistance recipients to share experiences and ideally identify opportunities for future peer-to-peer exchanges.

Attachment I: SNEP Boundary Map



Attachment II: SNEP Network Partners

- Audubon Society of Rhode Island
- Brown University
- Cape Cod Commission
- Elizabeth Scott Consulting
- Kim Groff Consulting
- Rhode Island School of Design
- University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center
- EFC at Syracuse
- Save the Bay
- The Nature Conservancy-Massachusetts
- The Nature Conservancy-Rhode Island
- The University of Rhode Island-NEMO
- The University of Rhode Island-MPA Program
- Mass Audubon
- Throwe Environmental
- EFC at Chapel Hill

