



Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Network Solicitation for 2022 Community Assistance Projects

The Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Network invites you to apply for **FREE** Community-based Technical, Financial and Training Assistance for Stormwater Management and Ecological Restoration to advance or continue your stormwater, financing, or climate resiliency planning projects.

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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 8, 2022
Application Deadline	July 12, 2022
Final Decisions & Award Notifications	August 5, 2022

Background

The [SNEP Network is a partnership of organizations](#) representing environmental nonprofits, academic entities, regional planners, and consultants who offer technical assistance, training and workshops in leadership development, financing, stormwater/watershed management, ecological restoration, and climate resilience. Services are made available at **NO-COST** to communities in the Southeast New England region.

For more background information on the SNEP Network and the solicitation process, click [HERE](#).

The Opportunity

The solicitation for the 2022 SNEP Network Community Assistance Projects 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. **Projects that build upon or advance existing work with the Network and projects with environmental justice and underrepresented communities will be prioritized.**

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. This offering of SNEP Network training and technical services will be delivered between September 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023.

The SNEP Network is offering the following training and technical services for the 2022 Community Assistance Projects Solicitation:

- Participation in the Stormwater Planning Series to build community cohesion in approach to retrofitting drainage systems to address identified stormwater problems
- Sustainable Funding and Financing (e.g., climate planning, prioritization, and finance, leadership engagement, stormwater or other forms of environmental finance, etc.)
- Assessment of bylaw/ordinances to support low impact development (LID) and green infrastructure (GI) planning and designs
- Guidance on riparian buffer restoration work and communication strategies
- Stormwater planning and management
- Other services (*A full list of SNEP Network Partner services is available [HERE.](#)*)

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, meeting specific MS4 permit requirements is not the main goal. 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. **The SNEP Network will prioritize projects that build upon or advance existing work with the Network and/or projects that advance environmental justice.**

Past community assistance projects can be found [HERE.](#)

How to Indicate Interest

Submit a Call for Participants Application to the New England Environmental Finance Center (NE EFC) via the SNEP Network's website at:

<https://snepnetwork.org/community-assistance-projects-round-3/>

Contact phaeng.southisombath@maine.edu for questions and assistance related to submissions including if you need an alternative format for submitting this application. More information check out the [SNEP Network project solicitation one pager](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

If you have specific questions about the viability of a proposed submission for services in advance of responding to this CFP, not covered in the FAQ, please do not hesitate to reach out to phaeng.southisombath@maine.edu.

The Application

Applicants will be scored based on the following questions. **Please download the [application template](#) and submit via the SNEP Network's Website at:**

<https://snepnetwork.org/community-assistance-projects-round-3/>

Applicants **will be asked to select no more than 2 areas** of technical assistance.

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- Guidance on riparian buffer restoration work and communication strategies
- Stormwater planning and management
- Other services (*Please specify*)

Additionally, applicants will be asked to **answer the following questions in 500 words or less**, being as succinct as possible.

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. Who would participate on behalf of your community, and what other groups would you partner with (please provide all names, positions, and organizations)?
4. 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.
5. How does your project advance your community's practice and/or capacity for long-term stormwater management and/or climate resilience?
6. 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 following selection criteria will be used by the SNEP Network’s selection committee to evaluate eligibility and rank applications for selection (total of 100 points possible):

Does the application align with the Network’s available 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 services contribute to a regional or watershed scale approach to stormwater management and/or ecological restoration, or lead to identification of on-the-ground projects or adoption of new approaches to advance the community’s stormwater or climate resiliency planning?	15 Points
Does the application 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 include efforts to engage underrepresented communities within the project area?	15 Points
Does the application build upon prior efforts by the community to achieve healthy watersheds, sustainable financing and/or long-term climate resilience through stormwater management and habitat restoration?	15 Points
Does the application describe how the community will leverage community partners and organizations to engage community members?	15 Points
Does the application describe how the applicant can leverage other resources to advance their financing ability?	10 Points

Expected Local Commitment

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) 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:

Expected Minimum Commitment:

Applicants chosen to receive services will assist in developing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to be signed by NE EFC and the community or organization’s leadership that describes the services that will be provided and the commitments of support for the implementation of services. Depending on the awarded services, this may include 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.