Stormwater Planning Series 2023-2024 Cohort Call for Participants

The Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Network invites you to apply for the SNEP Network Stormwater Planning Series 2023/2024 Cohort! This facilitated training series offers FREE training and technical assistance to help guide your community through the process of developing a conceptual design for a nature-based stormwater retrofit in a selected drainage area in your community.

Site visit with New Bedford/Groundwork Southcoast, as part of the SNEP Network Stormwater Planning Series, New Bedford MA

Timeline

Solicitation Release Date	Week of July 18th
Application Deadline	Friday, September 8th
Final Decisions & Award Notifications	Week of September 18th

SNEP Network Mission:

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

How to Apply

Submit an application to the New England Environmental Finance Center (NE EFC) via the SNEP Network's website at: https://snepnetwork.org/stormwater-planning-series-2023-2024/

Contact leah.soloway@maine.edu for questions and assistance related to submissions, including the need for an alternative format for submitting this application or with specific questions about the viability of a proposed submission for services in advance of responding to this call.

SNEP Network 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.

The Opportunity: Stormwater Planning Series (2023-2024 Cohort)

The Stormwater Training/Facilitated Planning Series guides communities through the process of developing a conceptual design for a nature-based stormwater retrofit option in their selected drainage area. Participants will use the tools and techniques presented in the training to identify **low-cost stormwater solutions to address the stormwater problem at their specific location.** The training materials draw from up-to-date techniques presented in the New England Stormwater Retrofit Manual completed in 2022, and the extensive experience of the SNEP Network's team. Each session also includes discussion and sometimes brief presentations by participants fostering peer to peer learning.

By participating in the Stormwater Planning Series, communities will:

- Translate the tools and techniques presented in the training sessions to the identification of low-cost solutions to address stormwater problems in specific locations within their selected drainage area
- Generate conceptual designs, magnitude of order cost estimates, and pollutant reduction stormwater credits for green infrastructure installation and/or stormwater retrofits
- Employ and assess low-cost strategies to managing stormwater that fit with their municipal/tribal culture and operation and maintenance regime
- Demonstrate understanding and confidence when meeting with engineers and other project consultants
- Demonstrate understanding of strategies and tools for engaging stakeholders in developing stormwater solutions

Each community selected to participate in the series will be assigned a member of the SNEP Network team to facilitate their participation in the series. At the outset of the series, a site visit to the selected area is scheduled for the SNEP Network team and community members to see and discuss first-hand the selected area's challenges and opportunities with respect to managing stormwater. In between the training sessions, participants have "homework assignments" to advance their design concepts and are offered planning sessions with the SNEP Network team to assist with their project and answer questions as needed.

Communities are encouraged to invite an interdisciplinary team to participate in the planning series including municipal/tribal staff, board members, and/or community members to build a common understanding of options for managing stormwater and cohesion in developing stormwater solutions that align with their communities' culture and maintenance capacity.

The planning series is held virtually with five 2-hour training sessions over the course of six months. The five training sessions include:

- Session 1: Series Overview and Understanding the Target Stormwater Problem(s)
- Session 2: Options for Retrofitting Existing Drainage Systems and Greening Urbanized Landscapes
- Session 3: Developing Conceptual Designs
- Session 4: Calculating Estimated Costs and Water Quality Benefits of Conceptual Design Stormwater Control Measures
- Session 5: Putting it all Together and Developing Key Messages

See the curriculum for more information on the training sessions. Training sessions are subject to change based on updates made after the 2022-2023 cohort. This offering of SNEP Network's stormwater planning series will be delivered between October 15, 2023 and March 31, 2024.

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.

Examples of past conceptual designs from the Stormwater Planning Series include:

- **South Kingstown, RI:** Improving water quality in the Saugatucket River and mitigating localized flooding by retrofitting a parking lot, installing a bioretention swale, and creating a vegetative buffer.
- **Westerly, RI:** Creating a linear green infrastructure treatment train (Sediment forebay > Bioretention swale > Wet pond) to mitigate localized flooding and improve water quality in the Pawcatuck River.
- **Mashpee, MA:** Improving water quality in Santuit Pond by contouring parking lot to direct the flow of stormwater to bioretention systems/rain gardens as well as retrofitting leaching catch basins.
- **Shrewsbury, MA:** Improving quality of Jordan Pond (nutrient impaired) by installing underground infiltration trenches in town road rights of way at four locations in the upper watershed.

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/stormwater-planning-series-2023-2024/

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

1. Please provide us with some background on stormwater/stormwater programs in your community. What stormwater problem(s) or issue(s) are you seeking assistance to address?

2. What led to your interest in the SNEP Network Stormwater Planning Series? How might it benefit your community?

3. Who would participate on behalf of your community, and what other groups would you partner with (please provide all names, positions, and organizations)? *(Engaging stakeholders from community organizations, environmental justice groups, and/or economically disadvantaged sectors of your community is strongly encouraged. Priority will be given to applicants that have diverse representation on the project team.)*

4. How does your participation in the stormwater planning series advance your community's practice and/or capacity for long-term stormwater management and/or climate resilience?

5. Please describe any funding and/or resources available to advance the design and/or installation of stormwater treatment units in your city/town.

Applicants who build upon or advance existing work with the Network and/or projects with environmental justice and underrepresented communities will be prioritized. Municipalities, tribes and/or organizations must have their leadership's support and must commit to participation.

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 80 points possible):

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 resilience planning?	20 Points
Does the application demonstrate a commitment from the community's staff and leadership to improve the level of practice toward a long-term and/or sustainable approach to stormwater management, ecological restoration and climate resilience?	20 Points
Does the application include efforts to engage underrepresented communities within the project area?	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

No cost-share is required, however applicants must commit staff and/or volunteer board members' time to attend the training sessions and ensure completion of the selected conceptual design for their drainage area.

The SNEP Network is administered by the New England Environmental Finance Center and is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast New England Program