SNEP Network Stormwater Planning Series 2024-2025 Cohort Solicitation

The Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Network invites you to apply for the SNEP Network Stormwater Planning Series 2024-2025 Cohort! This planning series offers **FREE** training and technical assistance to help guide you and your team through the process of developing a conceptual design for a nature-based stormwater retrofit in a selected drainage area in your community.

Photo: Site visit with Swansea, MA, in 2023 as part of the SNEP Network Stormwater Planning Series.

Timeline

Solicitation Release Date	Week of November 4th, 2024
Application Deadline	December 13th, 2024
Final Decisions & Award Notifications	December 30th, 2024

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-2024-2025/

Contact Leah Soloway (leah.soloway@maine.edu) for questions and assistance, including submitting this application in an alternative format or with specific questions about the viability of a proposed submission.

SNEP Network Background:

The SNEP Network is a partnership of environmental organizations, 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 (2024-2025 Cohort)

The SNEP Network Stormwater 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 virtual planning meetings with their member(s) of the SNEP Network team to assist with their homework assignment and answer questions as needed. At the end of the training series, participating communities will be offered consultant services to advance their conceptual designs; specifically, the consultant will conduct site assessments (soils and surveying) and prepare 30% design plans.

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 2023-2024 cohort. This offering of SNEP Network's stormwater planning series will be delivered over a six month period from January through June 2025.

Rationale/Broader Impacts: The technical assistance offered via the training series will help improve awareness of best practices as well as the co-benefits of effectively managing stormwater including increased climate resilience and public safety. While it 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 a 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.

Eligibility

You must be a municipality, Tribe, or non-profit organization within the SNEP Region to apply. View the SNEP Region map.

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-2024-2025/**

Please answer the following questions in 500 words or less (for each of the 4 questions). Please be as succinct as possible.

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

2. How will participation in the stormwater planning series benefit your community? More specifically, how does it advance your community's capacity for long-term stormwater management?

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. 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 100 points possible):

Will the services lead to identification of on-the-ground projects or adoption of new approaches to advance the community's stormwater planning?	30 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?	30 Points
Does the application include efforts to engage underrepresented communities within the project area?	20 Points
Does the application describe how the applicant can leverage other resources to advance their financing ability?	20 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. Selected applicants will commit to participating in five 2-hour training sessions plus the time required to complete the homework assignments (est. 2 hours per session).

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