Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Network Solicitation for 2025 Community Assistance Projects

The Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Network invites you to apply for **FREE** community-based technical, funding/financing, and training assistance to begin or advance your community's stormwater management, ecological restoration, or climate resilience initiatives.

SNEP Network Mission

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

Timeline

Solicitation Release Date	July 1st, 2025
Application Deadline	August 1st, 2025
Final Decisions & Award Notifications	August 29th, 2025
Delivery of Services	October 1st 2025 – September 30th, 2026

Background

The SNEP Network is a partnership of environmental nonprofits, academic entities, regional planning agencies, and consultants who provide technical assistance and training to municipalities, organizations, and tribes to advance stormwater and watershed management, ecological restoration, and climate resilience in Rhode Island and Southeast Massachusetts. The SNEP Network is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast New England Program and is committed to building capacity in conjunction with EPA's Southeast New England Program within EPA Region 1. **Services are made available at NO COST to communities in the Southeast New England region (SNEP Region Map).**

The Opportunity

The solicitation for the 2025 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.

The SNEP Network prioritizes projects that emphasize capacity building, leadership development, building partnerships, leveraging existing work, and/or include communities who have not previously worked with the SNEP Network.

The SNEP Network is offering the following categories of training and technical assistance for the 2025 Community Assistance Projects Solicitation:

- Stormwater Planning and Management
- Ecological Restoration (e.g., floodplain/riparian buffer restoration, salt marsh restoration, water quality pollution prevention and/or, culvert assessments)
- Climate Resilience (e.g., climate planning, prioritization of resilience actions)

- Funding & Financing (e.g. project scoping, enterprise fund feasibility assessment)

A detailed table of the available services can be found **here.**

How do our Community Assistance Project Services Work?

- If selected, SNEP Network partner organizations will work with community representatives to finalize the project scope and develop a detailed schedule of customized services to address your community needs based on your application.
- The SNEP Network does not provide grants but instead offers technical assistance to build local capacity and to help communities identify the best path forward. In the course of an assistance project, if specialized support is required to advance the project—like modeling or design— the Network may utilize its consultant pool funds to provide consultant services at no cost to your community.
- While meeting specific MS4 permit requirements is not the goal of this technical assistance, this assistance may help improve awareness and the capacity to advance best practices in stormwater management.
- Our services are intended to complement and leverage the existing community resilience programs offered by state governments and/or regional organizations in Southeast Massachusetts and Rhode Island. We encourage communities to familiarize themselves with each state's available opportunities.

Eligibility:

- You must be a municipality, Tribe, or non-profit organization within the SNEP Region to apply. View the SNEP Region map.
- 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.
- The authorized entity to act must be included in the project application (For example: if a project proposal includes designs on town property, the town must be involved).

How to Apply?

Submit a Call for Participants Application via the SNEP Network's website at:
https://snepnetwork.org/2025-community-assistance-projects-solicitation/

Have Additional Questions?

Office Hours:
If you'd like to discuss your specific project idea and ask questions related to the SNEP Network services available for your project, we encourage you to sign up for a 15-minute consultation. Office hours are offered by our Massachusetts and Rhode Island Liaisons via zoom.

Office Hours will be available the week of July 14th:

- Massachusetts Link: Book here *(Click 'Jump to the Next Bookable Date')*
- Rhode Island Link: Book here *(Click 'Jump to the Next Bookable Date')*

Note: Office hours are optional and not required to submit an application.

General Questions about the Application:
If you have questions about the application process, eligibility, or required materials:

- Refer to the SNEP Network Project Solicitation One-Pager
- Review our Frequently Asked Questions

Still can't find what you're looking for?
Please don't hesitate to reach out SNEP Network Program Manager Alex Gulachenski at alex.gulachenski@maine.edu.

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/2025-community-assistance-projects-solicitation/**

Below is a listing of the services being offered in support of stormwater and watershed management, funding/financing, ecological restoration and climate resilience. Communities proposing more complex projects may request multiple complementary services (e.g., assistance in stormwater planning, community outreach and meeting facilitation). Applicants are asked to select no more than 3 services.

Stormwater Management & Planning

- ☐ Stormwater Management Program Needs Assessment
- ☐ Stormwater Hot Spot Mapping & Prioritization (identification of impervious surfaces)
- ☐ Stormwater Planning Series *Requires a known site and municipal support.*
- ☐ Community Engagement & Stakeholder Facilitation

Ecological Restoration

- ☐ Salt Marsh Restoration / Mitigation
- ☐ Riparian/Coastal Buffer Restoration
- ☐ Water Quality Projects
- ☐ Culvert Assessments
- ☐ Community Engagement & Stakeholder Facilitation

Climate Resilience:

- ☐ Climate Resilience Action Prioritization

Funding & Financing:

- ☐ Stormwater Enterprise Fund Assessment
- ☐ Project Scoping Services for grant/funding applications

Answer the following questions in 500 words or less (being as succinct as possible):

1. What problem(s) or issue(s) are you seeking assistance to address? Please specify if it is site-specific, town-wide, regional (more than one town), or watershed scale?

2. Briefly explain the services you selected above and how you hope to address your challenge/problem.

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. How does your project advance your community's capacity for long-term stormwater/watershed management and/or climate resilience? Alternatively, explain how this project builds upon prior efforts toward healthy watersheds, sustainable financing, or climate resilience.

5. Does your project have any region-wide applicability, or the potential to identify and address further needs? Is your project innovative? Does your project advance climate resiliency planning in your community?

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):

1. Does the application seek assistance that is within the Network's available services and mission? Is the application clear about what specific service(s) are being requested? *Mission:* To empower communities to achieve healthy watersheds, sustainable financing and long-term climate resilience through stormwater management and habitat restoration?	35 Points
2. 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?	20 Points
3. Does the application describe how the community will leverage community partners and organizations to engage community members?	15 Points
4. 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
5. Will the services contribute to a regional or watershed scale approach to stormwater management and/or ecological restoration, or lead to identification/implementation of on-the-ground projects or adoption of new approaches to advance the community's stormwater or climate resiliency planning?	15 Points

Expected Local Commitment

While no cost-share is required, the applicant's leadership must commit staff and/or volunteer board members' time to ensure the completion of training and technical assistance services from the SNEP Network. The applicant must also agree to submit documentation of time spent on the project using the in-kind services form provided by NEEFC.

Applicants chosen to receive services will assist in developing a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to be signed by the SNEP Network project manager, the NEEFC, and the community or organization's leadership that describes the services that will be provided and the participation of staff person(s) to the implementation of the agreed upon services. Depending on the awarded services, these may include the involvement of key community leaders, community outreach and engagement efforts, amplification of findings at a public workshop(s)or conference(s), and the intent to leverage the results of services to the broader SNEP region as a peer mentor/resource.