# Rhode Island Grant Funding Workshop

March 25th, 10:00am-12:00pm

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

# Today's Agenda

**10:00 Introduction, Housekeeping, & NEEFC / SNEP Network Overview**

- Martha Sheils, Director, New England Environmental Finance Center (NEEFC)
- Alex Gulachenski, Senior Program Manager, SNEP Network, NEEFC

**10:10 Resource Spotlight: Introducing the NEEFC's New England Funding Navigator Tool**

- Andrea Berry- Climate Funding Manager, NEEFC

**10:20 Overview of Funding Programs**

**11:20 Group Q&A**

**11:30 Meet the Funders!**

# Access Q&A and Live Closed Captioning

- You can ask questions in the Q & A box in your zoom control panel
- If you have any tech issues, use the chat feature to connect with the webinar hosts
- The webinar will be recorded and we will send the recording after the meeting
- To view closed captions, click on the closed caption feature in your zoom control panel at the bottom of your screen

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

## who we are

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** Regional EFC

**22+ years** building local and regional projects & partnerships

Experienced team of planners, facilitators, technical & financial experts

Part of the **University of Maine System**

## mission & values

Build community capacity to **fund & finance** environmental priorities

Prioritize working with **underserved & environmental justice** communities

Integrate **climate resilience** into all programs & projects

## our programs

SNEP NETWORK

Climate Adaptation & Resilience

Watershed Management

newin New England Water Infrastructure Network

Stormwater & Green Infrastructure

Water Infrastructure

BETTER BEV Green Craft Beverage Recognition

Sustainable Operating Practices

# Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Network

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

## Who We Are:

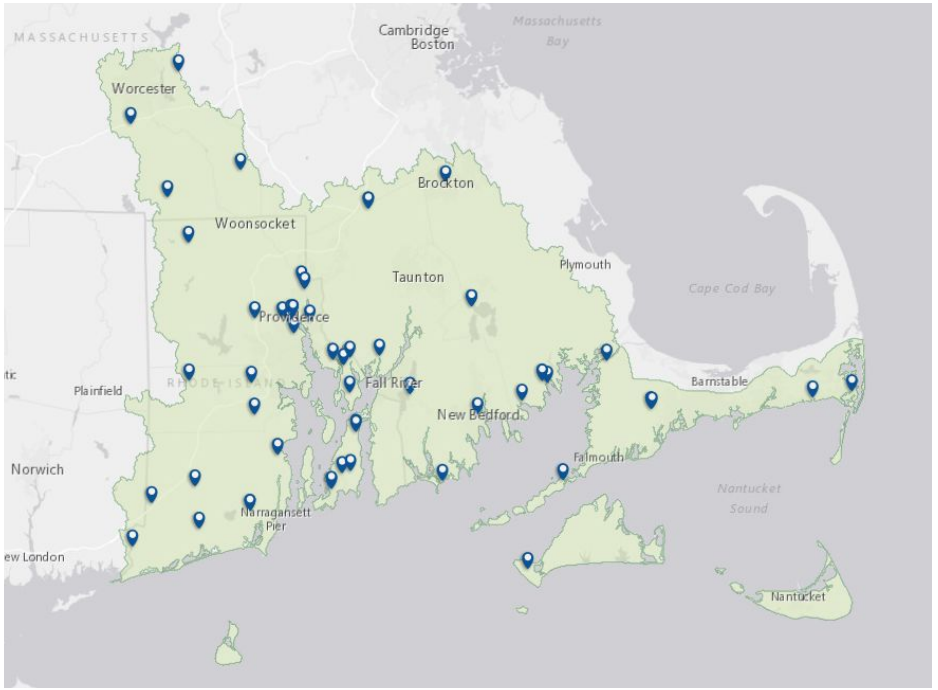
A network of **15+ local and regional experts** with expertise in **stormwater and watershed management, sustainable financing, and climate resilience.**

## How We Work:

We work with municipalities, organizations, and Tribes to build local capacity and advance projects from planning to implementation **with a suite of free services:**

- Trainings and workshops
- In-depth technical assistance
- Regional tools and resources

***Our upcoming community assistance project solicitation will open in June 2026.***




*Map of the SNEP Region and SNEP Network Assistance Projects from 2019-2026*

# We are a collaborative network

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

Audubon Society of Rhode Island

Blackstone Watershed Collaborative

CAPE COD COMMISSION

Danica Belknap CONSULTING

ELIZABETH SCOTT CONSULTING

GROUNDWORK Rhode Island

KIMBERLY GROFF CONSULTING

Mass Audubon

Narragansett Bay Research Reserve

SRPEDD Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District

SAVE THE BAY NARRAGANSETT BAY est.1970

Syracuse University College of Engineering & Computer Science Environmental Finance Center

The Nature Conservancy The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island

SC UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE STORMWATER CENTER

GROUNDWORK Southcoast

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND University of Rhode Island NEMO

**To Learn More:**
https://snepnetwork.org/

SNEP NETWORK

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

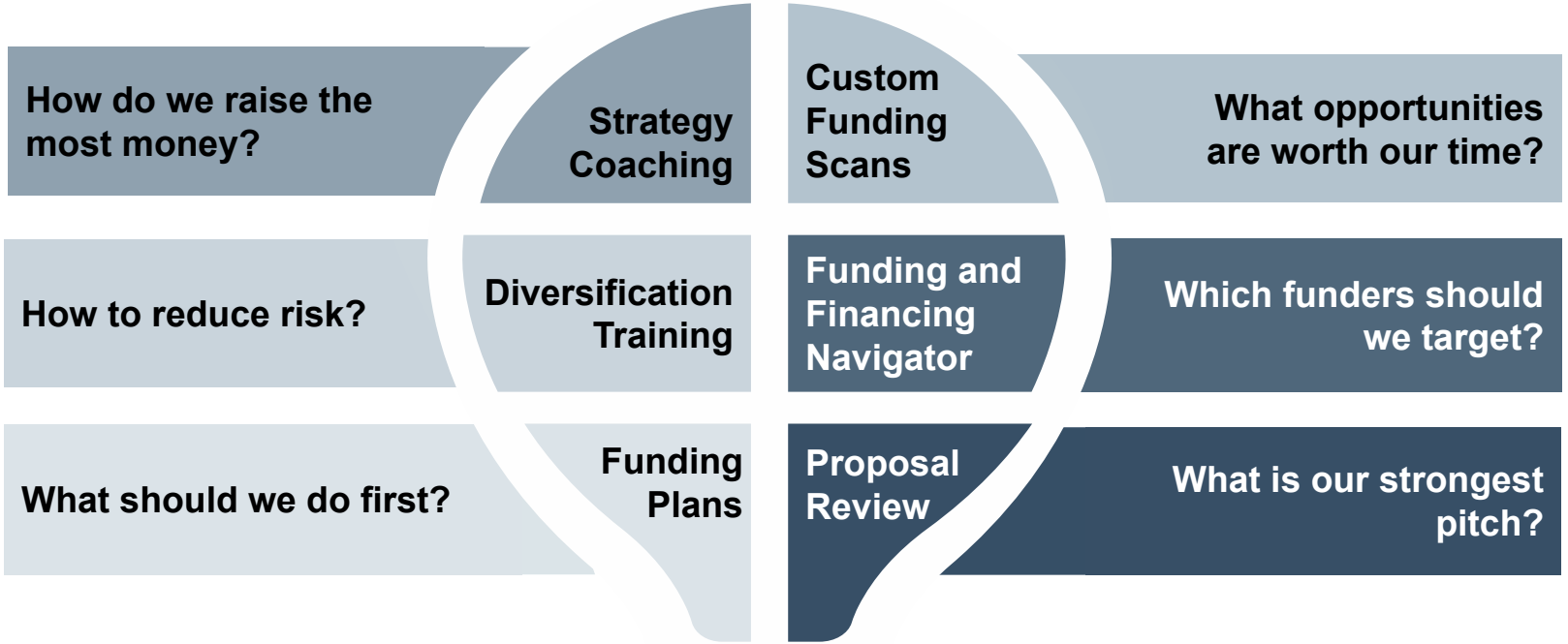
*The SNEP Network is a project of the **New England Environmental Finance Center** and is funded by the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast New England Program**.*

# Fundraising and Financing Environmental Projects: Strategy and Support

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

# We offer responsive fundraising support

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

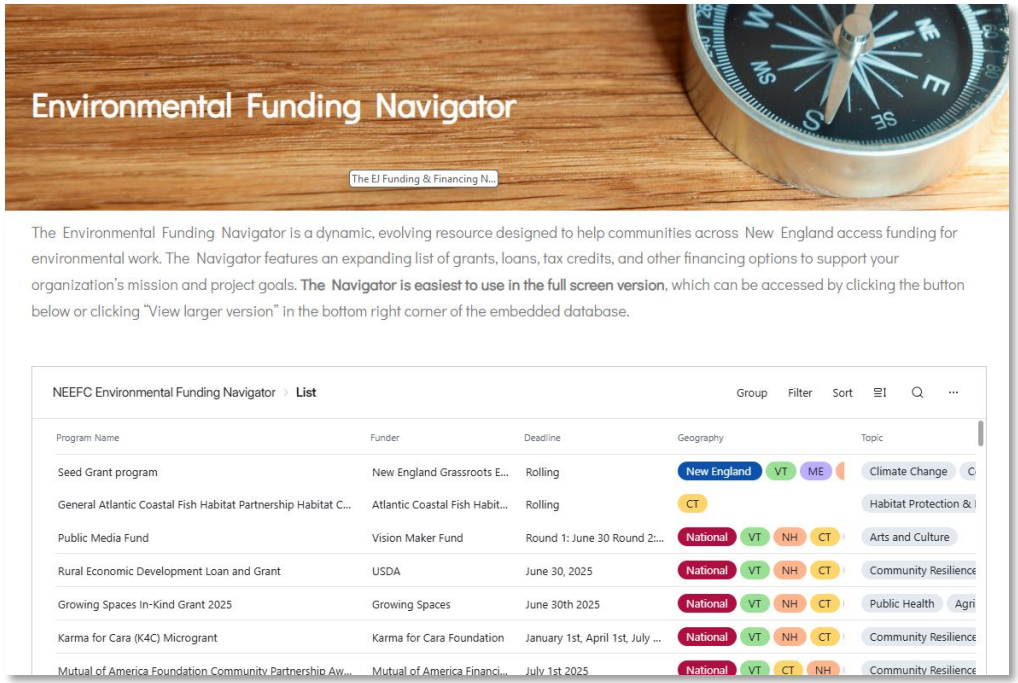


# The Funding & Financing Navigator

Dynamic database of New England environmental grant opportunities!

Highlights:

- 600 grant opportunities & growing
- Easily filterable and sortable
- Downloadable lists
- Multiple display modes (list, gallery, calendar)
- Includes grants, loans, tax credits, and soon to include technical assistance programs and helpful resources




**This tool is still in development, so please share your feedback!**

# Funding Scans By Topic: An Example

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

**What you might look for:**

## Stormwater, Green Infrastructure, Nature-Based Solutions

## For RI-Based Groups

## Beyond Federal Funding

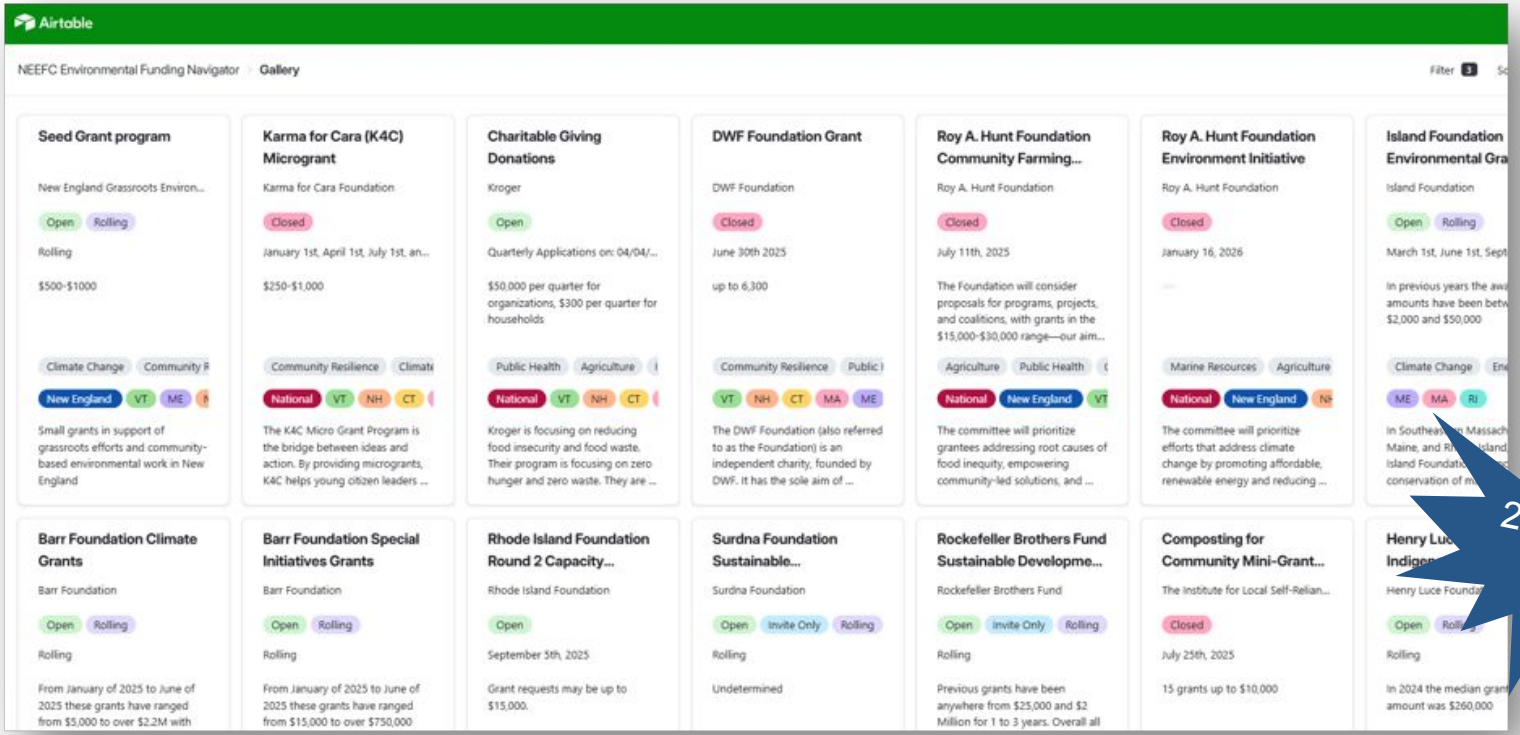
# Funding Scans By Topic

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

## What we would search:

# Funding Scans By Topic

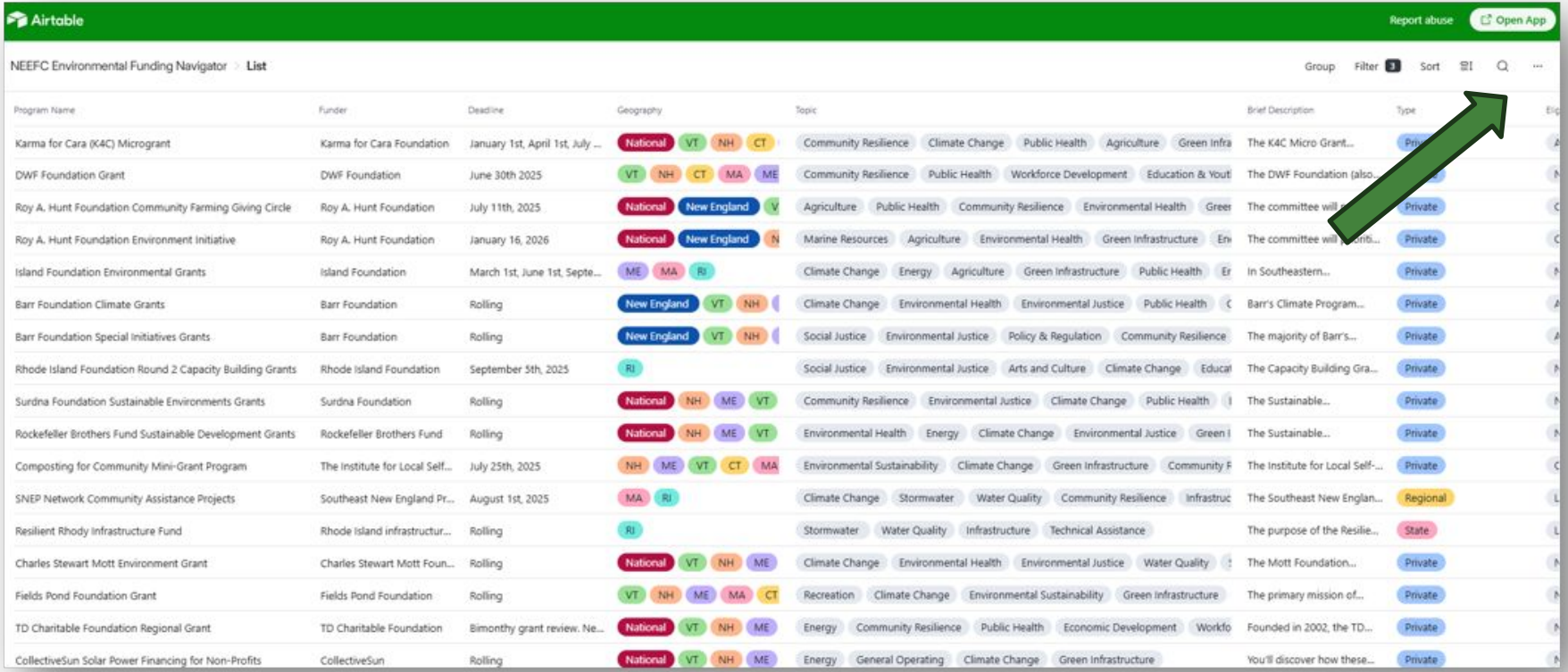
## What we found:



# Funding Scans By Topic

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

## What we found:




| Program Name | Funder | Deadline | Geography | Topic | Brief Description | Type |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Karma for Cara (K4C) Microgrant | Karma for Cara Foundation | January 1st, April 1st, July ... | National VT NH CT | Community Resilience Climate Change Public Health Agriculture Green Infra | The K4C Micro Grant... | Priv |
| DWF Foundation Grant | DWF Foundation | June 30th 2025 | VT NH CT MA ME | Community Resilience Public Health Workforce Development Education & Yout | The DWF Foundation (also... | |
| Roy A. Hunt Foundation Community Farming Giving Circle | Roy A. Hunt Foundation | July 11th, 2025 | National New England V | Agriculture Public Health Community Resilience Environmental Health Gree | The committee will ... | Private |
| Roy A. Hunt Foundation Environment Initiative | Roy A. Hunt Foundation | January 16, 2026 | National New England N | Marine Resources Agriculture Environmental Health Green Infrastructure En | The committee will ... | Private |
| Island Foundation Environmental Grants | Island Foundation | March 1st, June 1st, Septe... | ME MA RI | Climate Change Energy Agriculture Green Infrastructure Public Health Er | In Southeastern... | Private |
| Barr Foundation Climate Grants | Barr Foundation | Rolling | New England VT NH | Climate Change Environmental Health Environmental Justice Public Health | Barr's Climate Program... | Private |
| Barr Foundation Special Initiatives Grants | Barr Foundation | Rolling | New England VT NH | Social Justice Environmental Justice Policy & Regulation Community Resilience | The majority of Barr's... | Private |
| Rhode Island Foundation Round 2 Capacity Building Grants | Rhode Island Foundation | September 5th, 2025 | RI | Social Justice Environmental Justice Arts and Culture Climate Change Educat | The Capacity Building Gra... | Private |
| Surdna Foundation Sustainable Environments Grants | Surdna Foundation | Rolling | National NH ME VT | Community Resilience Environmental Justice Climate Change Public Health | The Sustainable... | Private |
| Rockefeller Brothers Fund Sustainable Development Grants | Rockefeller Brothers Fund | Rolling | National NH ME VT | Environmental Health Energy Climate Change Environmental Justice Green I | The Sustainable... | Private |
| Composting for Community Mini-Grant Program | The Institute for Local Self... | July 25th, 2025 | NH ME VT CT MA | Environmental Sustainability Climate Change Green Infrastructure Community F | The Institute for Local Self-... | Private |
| SNEP Network Community Assistance Projects | Southeast New England Pr... | August 1st, 2025 | MA RI | Climate Change Stormwater Water Quality Community Resilience Infrastruc | The Southeast New Englan... | Regional |
| Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund | Rhode Island infrastructur... | Rolling | RI | Stormwater Water Quality Infrastructure Technical Assistance | The purpose of the Resilie... | State |
| Charles Stewart Mott Environment Grant | Charles Stewart Mott Foun... | Rolling | National VT NH ME | Climate Change Environmental Health Environmental Justice Water Quality | The Mott Foundation... | Private |
| Fields Pond Foundation Grant | Fields Pond Foundation | Rolling | VT NH ME MA CT | Recreation Climate Change Environmental Sustainability Green Infrastructure | The primary mission of... | Private |
| TD Charitable Foundation Regional Grant | TD Charitable Foundation | Bimonthly grant review. Ne... | National VT NH ME | Energy Community Resilience Public Health Economic Development Workfo | Founded in 2002, the TD... | Private |
| CollectiveSun Solar Power Financing for Non-Profits | CollectiveSun | Rolling | National VT NH ME | Energy General Operating Climate Change Green Infrastructure | You'll discover how these... | Private |

# How to Access the Funding Navigator

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

It's easy!

1. Use the link to access the funding navigator tool
2. Choose the format you want to search with
3. Filter, sort, and group to get to your personalized opportunity list!

**Funding & Financing Navigator:**

**https://neefc.org/environmental-funding-navigator/**

Email andrea.berry@maine.edu with any issues

# We're here to help!

https://neefc.org/funding-and-financing-assistance/

andrea.berry@maine.edu

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

# SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants (SWIG)

## Funding Amount:

- $10,000 - $250,000
- $1.8 M available region-wide (Rhode Island plus Southeastern Mass.)

## Important Dates:

- LOI application open through Mar. 27
- Expected start date of funded projects Sept. 1
- 21 month project period: grants must be completed by June 30, 2028

## Project Types

1. Partnerships & community-based
2. Planning, design, permitting, construction, etc.
3. Stormwater, habitat, urban parks, green streets, coastal adaptation, in-water work, workshops, watershed plans, etc.
4. Innovative technologies

## Project Priorities

- Clean Water
- Healthy Ecosystems
- Sustainable Communities

Projects must support EPA/SNEP Strategic Plan

Capacity-building through sharing of information & experience

Outreach & community engagement

www.snepgrants.org

# 2026 SNEP Restoration Capital Mini-Grants

## Funding Amount:

- $1000 - $10,000; $100,000 available region-wide
-

## Important Dates:

- RFP to be released later this year

## Project Types

1. For purchase of materials, supplies and equipment needed for restoration activities, projects and programs.

   In 2025, the program funded the purchase of water quality monitoring equipment, soils, plant material, boats, motors, tractors, mowers, and even an e-bike with a watering tank for maintaining stormwater plantings.

## Project Priorities

- Purchase of items that will support the work of municipalities, non-profits, and other organizations working to foster clean water, healthy ecosystems and sustainable communities in the SNEP region.

- Land and water stewardship organizations are encouraged to apply.

# Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

RHODE ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

## Funding Amount:

- No set cap on funding amounts for low-interest loan financing
- Loans range from $200k - $100 million
- Combination of EPA cap grants, revolved funds, state match

## Important Dates:

- RIDEM FY27 CWSRF PPL currently open, **closes 3/27**
- RIIB project solicitations now, used by RIIB to forecast FY27 funding needs, if funding needed from bond market

## Project Types

1. Funds wastewater, stormwater collection, treatment facilities; nonpoint source pollution management, etc.
2. Can fund planning, design, equipment, & construction for clean water projects
3. Funding for public entities, local governments, water authorities/districts
4. All loans have ⅓ interest rate subsidy. Disadvantaged clients eligible for forgiveness

## Program Priorities

- Maintain a sustainable and affordable funding source for water quality improvements
- WWTFs, eligible stormwater work, septic repairs/cesspool replacement, resilience of CW infrastructure, etc.
- Subject to credit review, availability of funds, and Board approval
- Ex. NBC CSO Project, Warwick Sewer Oakland Beach, Central Falls Facility Plan

https://www.riib.org/

# Resilient Rhody Revolving Fund/Municipal Resilience Program

RHODE ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

## Funding Amount:

- $24 million+ in grants to date
- $2 million in loan financing
- RRIF accepting applications - smaller projects <$5 million
- Larger multi-million projects in 2027, queue projects now

## Important Dates:

- Next round of resiliency grants expected in early summer 2026
- Green Economy Bond on the November 2026 Ballot. Additional $20 million for RRIF

## Project Types

1. Stormwater management, coastal resiliency, floodproofing of critical infrastructure, culvert resizing, watershed restoration, tree plantings berms/levies, dam projects, etc.
2. Funding for design/engineering & construction
3. Ex. RRIF Example: Bristol Silver Creek Watershed Loan

## Program Priorities

- Flood adaptation and mitigation
- Stormwater improvements and BMPs
- Nature-based solutions
- Disadvantaged/rural communities
- RRIF modeled after CWSRF, water quantity vs. quality
- New opportunities with RRIF - sustainable funding source for larger resiliency projects
    - Ex. Dams failures, urban stormwater systems, systemic coastal erosion, etc.

https://www.riib.org/

# New England Water Infrastructure Network (NEWIN)

## Program Overview

EPA-funded technical assistance program housed at the New England Environmental Finance Center (University of Southern Maine). We provide **free, hands-on support** to help communities and water systems move projects from early concepts to **SRF-ready implementation**. We're **not a funder**—we help you successfully navigate SRF and related funding pathways.

- Support with SRF navigation (fit, timelines, application steps)
- Project development + readiness (scope, phasing, cost, required docs)
- Coordination support (operators, boards, partners, state agencies)

## RI Project Examples

1. **Trinity Lutheran Water System (Ashaway, RI):** On referral from the Rhode Island Department of Health, NEWIN and RSOL are helping Trinity respond to **PFAS noncompliance** by coordinating the admin + technical steps needed to access **$675,000 in Emerging Contaminants grant funding**, including finalizing the preliminary engineering scope and preparing the application package.
2. **Sherwood Valley Co-Op (Coventry, RI):** CDI is supporting a **wastewater PER** in coordination with EPA's **CAWAG** effort, while Sherwood advances a **$300,000 CWSRF application** (18 priority points on RI's FY26 PPL) and strengthens eligibility through **income surveys** and upcoming System for Award Management (**SAM) registration** support.

## Program Priorities

**How NEWIN helps (what you get from TA)**

We can support:

- **SRF navigation:** fit/eligibility, pathway, timelines, and what the state typically needs
- **Project development:** defining scope, alternatives, preliminary costs, packaging phases
- **Application readiness:** checklists, document coordination, narrative support, benefit statements
- **Community + stakeholder support:** meeting prep, partner coordination, operator/board communication
- **Implementation support:** next steps after listing/offer—keeping the project moving toward bid/contract

https://neefc.org/water-infrastructure/

# Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program

DEM RHODE ISLAND

## Funding Amount:

- Anticipated funding in the next Request for Proposals: $750,000 (depends on final FY26 allocation, may vary slightly)
- 60% Grant/40% Match split

## Important Dates:

- Expecting a Request for Proposals to be issued in late April or May 2026
- Will be administered through the State of Rhode Island's new Grants Management System (EUNA/eCivis)

## Project Types

1. Stormwater Green Infrastructure (note: cannot include MS4 systems)
2. Habitat Restoration (dam removal, culvert upgrades)
3. Litter/Trash Removal
4. Elimination of cesspools and/or substandard on-site wastewater treatment systems (OWTS)

## Project Priorities

- Eligible applicants: municipalities and non-profit organizations
- Proposed projects must be covered under existing EPA-approved watershed plans
- Projects that reduce stormwater pollution by infiltrating runoff through nature-based solutions
- Upland litter/trash removal from waterways and riparian areas
- Removal of wildlife passage barriers (culverts, dams)

https://dem.ri.gov/environmental-protection-bureau/

# Narragansett Bay & Watershed Restoration Fund (BWRF)

DEM RHODE ISLAND

## Funding Amount:

The BWRF was included in the Green Bond within Governor's FY27 Proposed Budget. If accepted by the legislature and approved by voters in November, we would expect to have an RFP sometime in 2027.

50% Grant/50% Match split

## Important Dates:

To be determined, depending on availability of funds from legislative approval and the results of the 2026 ballot initiatives.

## Project Types

1. Installation of green stormwater infrastructure
2. Replacement of sub-standard culverts with new structures that improve stormwater conveyance and wildlife passage
3. Riparian buffer and aquatic habitat restoration
4. Control of aquatic invasive species

## Project Priorities

- Eligible applicants: municipalities and non-profit organizations
- Implementation-ready projects
- Capital projects - must have a long-lasting impact
- Can be leveraged with other funding opportunities (i.e. Section 319 federal funds or Climate Resilience Fund)

https://dem.ri.gov/environmental-protection-bureau/

# USDA-NRCS Watershed Programs in Rhode Island (EWP and WFPO)

## Funding Amount:

**EWP Program:** $920M FY 2025
- Up to 75% (LRAs 90%)

**WFPO Program:** $150M Annually
- Up to 100% (Construction)

Technical Assistance: **100%**

## Important Timelines:

**EWP Program**
- Request: 60 Days
- DSR: 60 Days
- 220 Days or 18 Months

**WFPO Program**
- PIFR: 6 Months
- Plan: 18 Months
- Design: 24 Months
- Construction: 60 Months

## Project Types

**EWP**

1. Debris Removal
2. Streambank Protection
3. Drainage Facilities
4. Vegetative Cover
5. Levees and Structures
6. Conservation Practices
7. Property Buyouts
8. *Floodplain Easements*

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**WFPO**

1. **Flood Prevention**
2. **Watershed Protection**
3. Public Recreation
4. Public Fish and Wildlife
5. Ag Water Management
6. Municipal Water Supply
7. Water Quality

## Project Criteria

### EWP Program
- Provide protection from additional flooding or soil erosion;
- Reduce threats to life and property;
- Restore the hydraulic capacity to the natural environment; AND
- Be economically and environmentally defensible and technically sound.

### WFPO Program
- Public Sponsorship
- Watershed Projects $\leq$ 250,000 Acres
- Agricultural benefits, including rural communities, must be $\geq$ 20% of the total benefits for the project.

Watershed Programs - Rhode Island | NRCS

# Ocean State Climate Adaptation and Resilience (OSCAR) Grant

## Funding Amount:

- **Funds Available: ~$1 million**
- **Required Match: None**

## Important Dates:

- **Remaining funds to be released 2026**

## Project Types

**1.** Projects that reduce the vulnerability of low-lying infrastructure on public land through measures that include **removal and relocation of infrastructure**
**2. Restoration of river and stream floodplains**, including regrading of banks
**3. Revegetation**
**4. Acquisition** of that area of land necessary to maintain and preserve public access
**5. Redesigning, resizing, and replacing culverts** and bridge spans at existing wetland crossings
**6. Additional adaptation and resilience projects** deemed to be eligible under R.I. Gen. Laws § 46-23.3-5

## Project Priorities

- Planning, Design, Construction, among other activity types
- Entities who own or control public land are eligible
- Feasible and technically sound climate adaptation solutions
- Habitat restoration and public access co-benefits
- Environmental Justice and Community Engagement criteria

RIDEM OSCAR Webpage

# Climate Resilience Fund (RIDEM CRF)

DEM RHODE ISLAND

## Funding Amount:

- **Funds Available: $2 million**
- **Required Match: 25%**

## Important Dates:

- **RFP Release April 2026**

## Project Types

**1. Removal, Relocation or Redesign of Infrastructure** - engineering and construction projects to redesign, relocate or remove vulnerable facilities and infrastructure (e.g., culverts, dams, buildings/facilities, roadways/evacuation routes in both coastal and riverine areas) to protect and preserve function over the design life of the infrastructure or eliminate risk by removing the structure, given projected climate change impacts.

**2. Nature-Based Solutions -** projects that protect or enhance Rhode Island's natural systems in the face of projected climate change impacts. Projects can include green infrastructure projects that utilize vegetation and pervious surfaces to manage coastal, riverine, and inland flooding, erosion and storm damage. Projects can also include the restoration of natural shorelines and riparian habitats so as to enhance the protection of communities.

## Project Priorities

- Design, Construction, among other activity types
  - Planning & Scientific Research not considered
  - Land acquisition may be 50% or less of project costs
- Gov't and non-profits eligible
- Feasible and technically sound climate adaptation solutions with co-benefits
- Proposals should address:
  - Near-term (0-10 years) and long-term (10-25 years) benefits
  - Project consistency with state resilience plan & local plans

RIDEM CRF Webpage

# Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

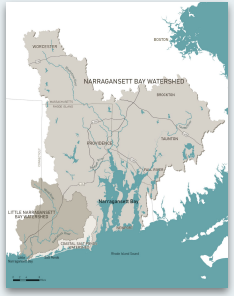
## Funding Amount:

- $75,000 for Outreach and Education
- $877,400 for Planning Projects (topic TBA)

## Important Dates:

- Outreach and Education proposals open now, due April 10
- Planning RFP TBA

Is your project location eligible? Visit our website for a searchable map.




## Project Types

**Outreach/Education** *Examples*:

- In-school and informal watershed education programs and events
- Public outreach campaigns
- Community science monitoring projects
- Demonstration projects
- Educational multimedia

**Planning** projects include site-specific studies, desktop and field assessments, designs, plans, and permitting.

## Project Priorities

Federal subawards; all costs reimbursable. Match *not* required for these opportunities.

**Outreach/Education**

- Maximum award is $15,000.
- Non-profit organizations, schools, civic associations, colleges and universities, and local and state governments and agencies located in the Narragansett Bay region are eligible.

**Planning** projects should align with priorities in the 2026 NBEP CCMP.

**Join our mailing list for funding announcements (https://nbep.org).**

# National Coastal Resilience Fund

## Funding Amount:

- 2025: $78M awarded
- 2025: Match not required but encouraged to demonstrate broad support

## Important Dates:

- RFP release: Feb 20, 2026
- Pre-proposals due: March 31, 2026
- Full proposal invites sent: mid-late May
- Full proposals due: June 24, 2026
- Awards announced: early Dec.

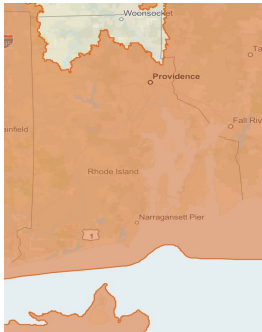
## Project Types

1. **Community Capacity Building/Planning** that engages stakeholders, builds capacity to plan/execute future resilience projects
2. **Site Assessment/Preliminary Design** to address restoration/resilience goals of pre-identified and prioritized projects
3. **Final Design/Permitting** to develop conceptual/preliminary designs into final designs and engineering plans, detailed cost estimates, communications with permitting officials
4. **Restoration/Implementation** of previously prioritized resilience projects with all designs, plans, and permits necessary for implementation

## Project Priorities

NFWF makes investments in projects that:

- Identify/implement **nature-based solutions**
- Benefit **community resilience** by **reducing risks** from **coastal hazards**
- Benefit **fish and wildlife habitat**
- Benefits to **critical infrastructure**
- Additional consideration to projects with community outreach/engagement and innovative, sustainable, transferable approaches
- Must be located within **coastal footprint**
- Eligible applicants: 501(c)3s, govt. agencies, Tribes, academic institutions, for-profits




**www.nfwf.org/ncrf | ncrf@throwe-environmental.com**

# Questions?

# Instructions for entering funder rooms

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

- We will now be moving to Zoom meeting rooms
- Links to the funder rooms can be found in the **webinar chat**, in the **linked PDF**, and in your **email** (check your inbox!)
- You can move around freely between meetings by clicking on the link for the corresponding meeting room
- **You will not need to return to the webinar when done in the meeting rooms**

If you're having trouble, come back to the main webinar and message the hosts using the chat function

# Meet the Funders!

New England neefc Environmental Finance Center

| Room | Funding Program(s) |
|---|---|
| 1 | • State Climate Resilience Bond Funds (RIDEM)<br>• Ocean State Climate Adaptation and Resilience (OSCAR) Fund<br>• Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program<br>• Narragansett Bay & Watershed Restoration Fund (BWRF)<br>• SNEP Network |
| 2 | • Resilient Rhody Revolving Fund/Municipal Resilience Program<br>• Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF)<br>• New England Water Infrastructure Network (NEWIN)<br>• USDA-NRCS Watershed Programs in Rhode Island (EWP and WFPO) |
| 3 | • NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund<br>• SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants<br>• Narragansett Bay Estuary Program<br>• NEEFC's Funding Navigator Tool |