

# Southeast New England Program Network

Bridging the gap between community water resource challenges and project implementation

#### About the Network

The Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Network, created in 2019, consists of 15 local partner organizations with expertise in stormwater management, watershed planning, funding and financing, leadership development and climate resiliency. The SNEP Network organizes and brings together partners, meeting communities where they are at, to advance solutions to the implementation phase.

#### What We Do

The Network offers a full complement of **free** training and leadership development, and technical and financial assistance services. The Network works collaboratively with municipalities, organizations, and tribes within the SNEP region to build their local capacity and advance their level of practice for stormwater and watershed management, ecological restoration, climate resilience, and sustainable financing.

#### Our Tools and Resources

**Stormwater Retrofit Manual:** The New England Stormwater Retrofit Manual provides essential tools and techniques to design and size stormwater control measures to mitigate stormwater impacts from developed sites.

**Bylaw Review Tool**: The Bylaw Review Tool allows communities to compare local land use regulations with best practices designed to assist communities in applying cost-effective low impact development (LID) techniques.

**Buffer Restoration Guide:** This guide provides property owners with "how to" steps for restoring buffers along a river, pond, lake, or the coast from a degraded condition to a naturally vegetated, healthy habitat.



**Tree Trench Options Guide:** This guide is a tool to assist with the design of tree-based stormwater treatment units especially useful in dense urban settings having limited space and little to no street trees to reduce heat island effects.

**Stew-Map:** The Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project (Stew-Map) is a public database and dashboard that maps where stewardship organizations work and how they are connected to each other with the goal of strengthening community capacity for stewardship in this region.

The Network develops capacity in the communities we work with by helping them apply these tools to raise their level of practice and achieve their stormwater management and climate resilience objectives. We work with communities to ensure that their projects are replicable, scalable, and fundable.

To Learn More about the Network Visit snepnetwork.org

## **Example Projects**

#### **Stormwater Planning Series:**

The Stormwater Training/Facilitated Planning Series uses the Stormwater Retrofit Manual to guide SNEP communities through the process of developing a conceptual design for a nature-based stormwater retrofit option in their selected drainage area. Participants use the tools and techniques presented in the training to identify low-cost stormwater solutions. To date, we have assisted 9 communities with developing their own concept designs for stormwater solutions: the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe/Mashpee, MA; Providence, RI; South Kingstown, RI; Warren, RI; Westerly, RI; Shrewsbury, MA; New Bedford, MA/Groundworks Southcoast; Marion, MA; and North Kingstown, RI. Many of these have moved forward to implementation.



### Climate Resilience Planning and Financing:

The SNEP Network assists communities with planning, prioritization, peer-to-peer engagement, and sustainable financing to improve local climate resilience. Examples of past projects include creating a *Climate Resiliency and Infrastructure Stabilization Fund* for the Town of Bourne, MA; Conducting climate resilience and financing prioritization assessments and facilitating an Aquidneck Island leadership exchange with Portsmouth, RI, Newport, RI, and Middletown, RI; Assisting the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah finalize a Tribal Climate Adaptation Plan, and; Prioritizing nature based solutions projects as part of a collaborative process with the Towns of Easton, MA Foxborough, MA, Mansfield, MA, Norton MA, and Sharon, MA.

#### Santuit Pond Project: Stormwater/Watershed Management:

The SNEP Network is working jointly with the Mashpee Wampanoag and the Town of Mashpee to evaluate and implement interim measures to address nutrient pollution in Santuit Pond. The Network is also assisting with capacity building to plan and manage water quality issues related to stormwater on a watershed scale which includes participation in the stormwater planning training series, assistance with the Watershed Based Plan, feasibility study, alum treatment dosing study, and communications and outreach to the community.



#### Audubon Society of Rhode Island

- Blackstone Watershed Collaborative
- Cape Cod Commission
- Environmental Finance Center at the University of North Carolina
- Elizabeth Scott Consulting

## **SNEP Network Partners**

- Mass Audubon
- Kimberly Groff Consulting
- Save the Bay
- Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD)
- Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University
- The Nature Conservancy of

#### Massachusetts

- The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island
- Throwe Environmental
- University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center
- University of Rhode Island



The SNEP Network is led by the New England Environmental Finance Center, a non-profit technical assistance provider for EPA Region 1.