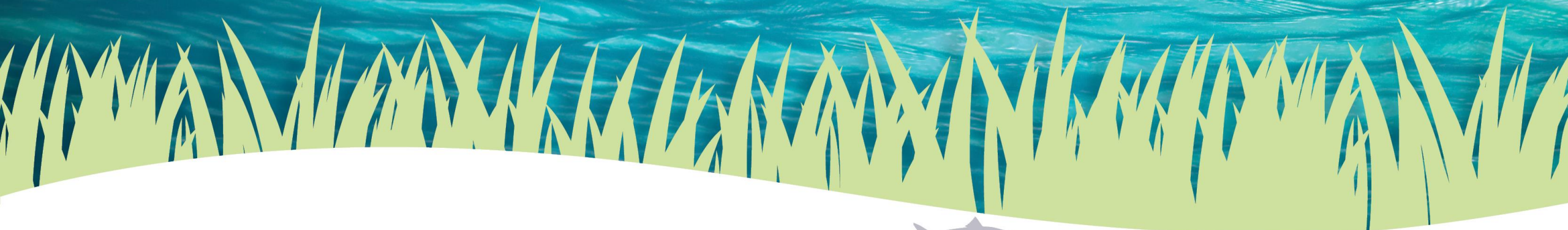


SNEP 2023 Stormwater and Natural Infrastructure Grant

Informational Webinar



U.S. EPA, Southeast New England Program



June 1, 2023, 12:30-2:00PM (EST)



Funding Opportunity Information



- CFDA: 66.129
- RFA Link:
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=347853>
- Opportunity #: EPA-I-R1-SNEP-2023B



- Please mute/video off during presentation
- This meeting is being recorded
- Slides/recording will be posted to SNEP webpage
- Questions will be addressed at the end of the presentation
- Questions and answers will be posted on SNEP webpage

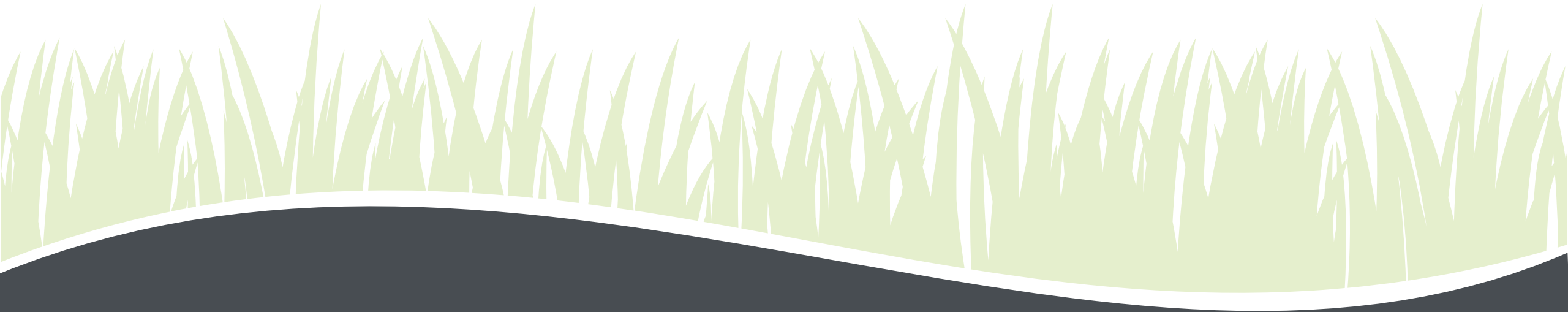
Agenda



- SNEP Overview
- Background and Priority Topics
- Funding Overview
- RFA Review Criteria
- Build America, Buy America Act
- Question & Answer Period



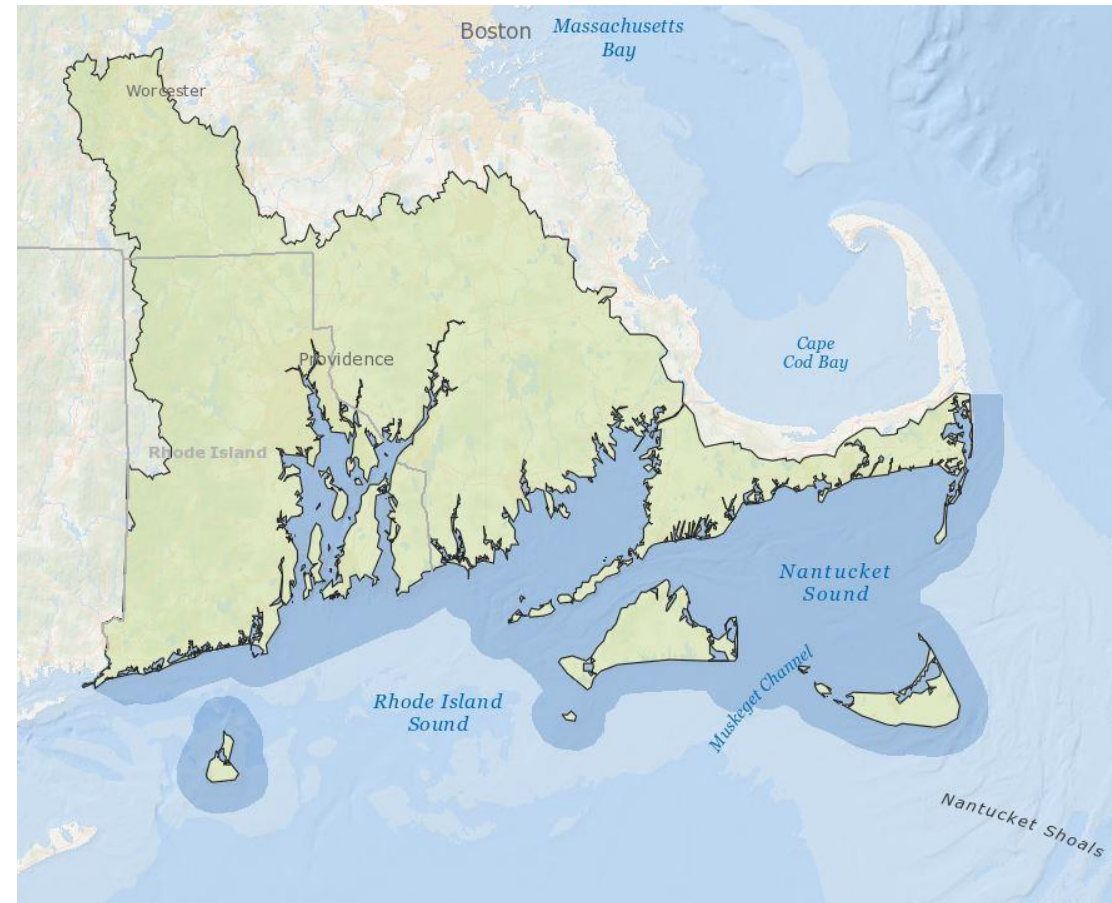
Background and Priority Topics



SNEP Overview



- Southeast New England Program
- EPA Led (Region 1)
- Established in 2012, funded since 2014
- Rhode Island and S.E Massachusetts
- Foci:
 - Water Quality/Habitat
 - Climate Resilience
 - Innovation
 - Collaboration
 - Transferability
 - Holistic Approaches
 - Environmental Justice





Program Vision 2050

A resilient ecosystem of safe and healthy waters, thriving watersheds and natural lands, and sustainable communities in the SNEP coastal watershed region

Resilient Ecosystem of Safe and Healthy Waters

- Waters support native seagrasses and aquatic life, plentiful native fish and shellfish, and a variety of water-based recreation opportunities

Thriving Watersheds and Natural Lands

- Watersheds provide essential ecological functions, species diversity, and protection from both human-based and naturally occurring environmental stressors, and healthy, connected natural lands support a variety and range of native plant and wildlife communities

Sustainable Communities

- Communities share robust water-based economics, protect and provide access to natural lands, open spaces and parks, encourage local food sources, and are adapting for resilience to expected impacts of climate change

Goals and Key Actions



Increase Local Capacity to Complete Projects and Adopt New Policies

Increase Available Solutions

Ensure Diverse Representation in Program Decision-Making

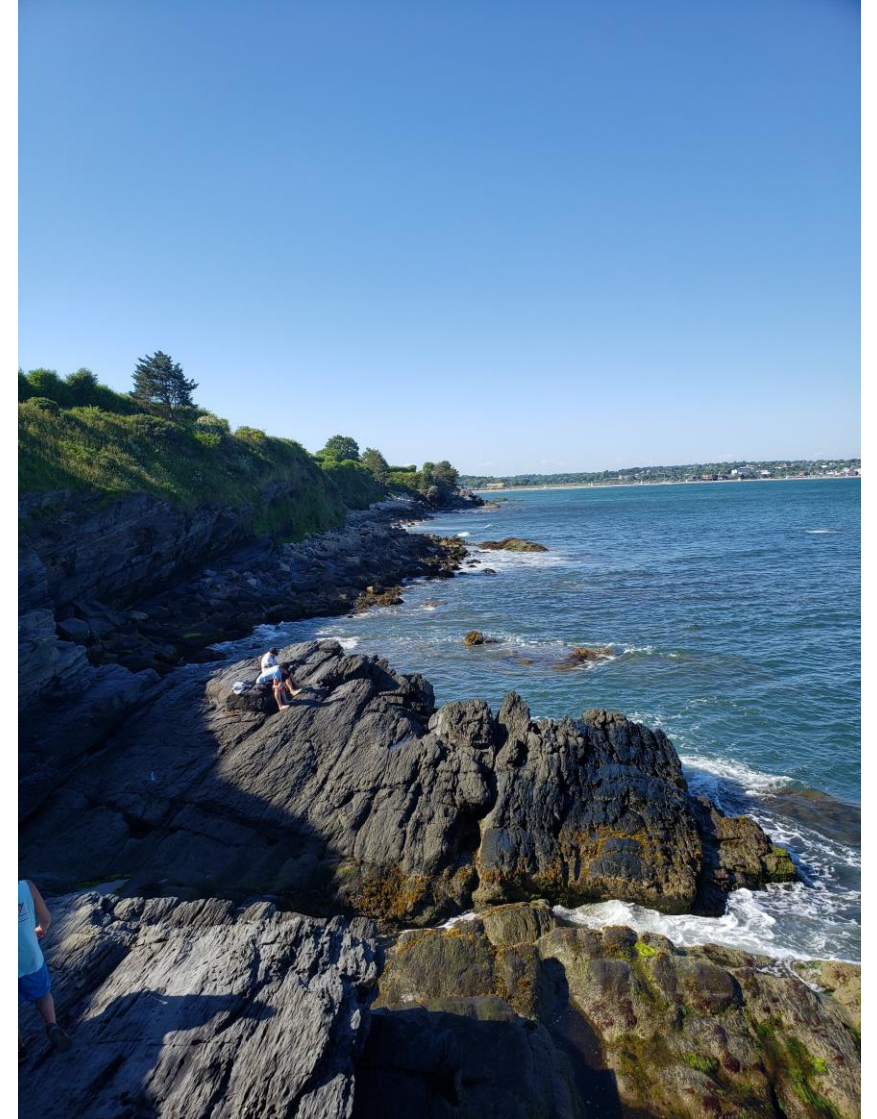
Demonstrate Ways to Address Common Challenges

Increase Community Leaders' Understanding of the Benefits of Restoration Projects

Current Foci



- Reducing nutrients from septic systems, stormwater, and fertilizer
- Addressing and monitoring harmful algal blooms
- Testing innovative solutions such as permeable reactive barriers and aquaculture
- Restoring saltmarsh, eelgrass, and riparian buffers
- Evaluating and quantifying ecosystem service benefits



Background



- Dense Development
- Nutrient Pollution and Flooding From Stormwater
- Salt Marsh has Been Degraded/Lost
- Salt Marsh Impacted by Sea Level Rise
- Floodplain Disconnected/Degraded
- Riverine/Estuarine Connectivity Lost



Overall Emphasis



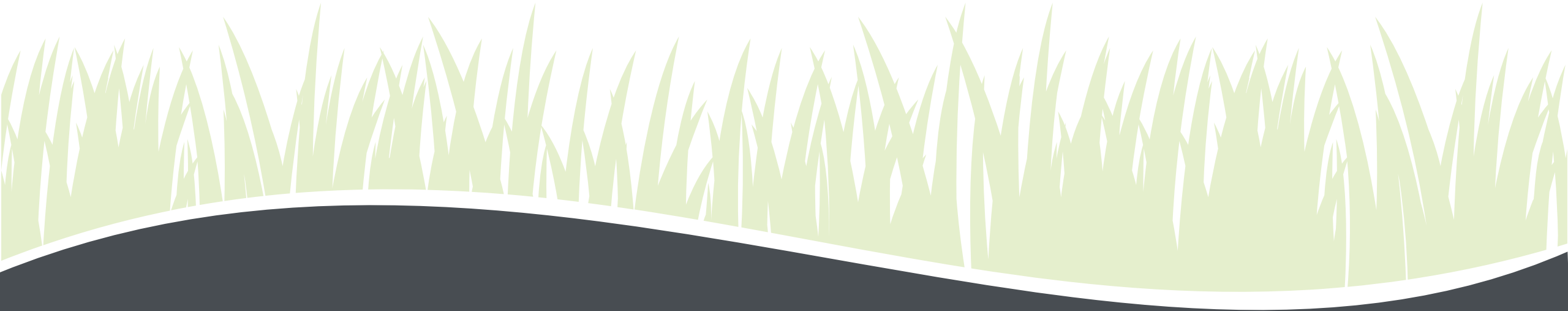
Projects which:

- Take holistic and multi-disciplinary approaches;
- Take place in the SNEP region;
- Produce multiple benefits (environmental, social, economic, carbon-sequestration, ecosystem service improvements, etc.);
- Support or and/or leverage larger efforts, projects, or plans;
- Seek to plan or design for future, large-scale projects; and/or
- Implement projects consistent with SNEP's Strategic Plan.



Priority Topics

**(Must Address at Least One; Other Topics Beyond
Priority May Be Included with Justification)**



Priority Topics



Stormwater Infrastructure and Roadway Runoff

- Green infrastructure/stormwater improvement projects that specifically address water pollution and flooding while also promoting access to open space, green space, and/or habitat improvement.
- Development of joint municipal/tribal equipment/resource sharing program pertaining to Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE), stormwater monitoring, outfall mapping, stormwater control measure maintenance, and/or stormwater design.
- Green roadway planning, design, and stormwater mitigation. Emphasis on including these elements in broader infrastructure projects, especially those pertaining to the redevelopment of low-lying roads subject to flooding.



Priority Topics



Salt Marsh

- Maintaining and restoring habitat connectivity of coastal waters and saltmarsh to support ecological function and future marsh migration.
- Supporting saltmarsh restoration, protection, and/or migration through holistic planning, applied research of new technologies or approaches, or implementation.
- Salt marsh land acquisition planning (the actual acquisition of land *cannot* be funded under this solicitation).



Priority Topics



Riparian Areas, Floodplain, and Inland Wetlands

- Design and/or implementation of riparian or floodplain restoration adjacent to major rivers that discharge to coastal waters.
- Design and/or implementation of riparian, floodplain or wetland habitat restoration along estuaries and coastal rivers and ponds.
- Analysis of gaps in riparian buffer areas around major river corridors, estuaries and coastal waterbodies for potential acquisition or easement (the actual acquisition of land *cannot* be funded under this solicitation).



Priority Topics



Habitat Connectivity and Aquatic Organism Passage

- Assessment, prioritization, and/or design of culvert enhancement or removal projects to reduce flooding, build climate resilience, and improve water quality, habitat connectivity and aquatic organism passage.
- Removal or replacement of culverts to reduce flooding, building climate resilience, and improve water quality, habitat connectivity and aquatic organism passage.
- Assessment, prioritization, and design for dam removal or aquatic passage (such as fish ladders). This can include the development of strategies to address and/or incentivize removal of small dams on private land with landowner permission.
- Parcel acquisition planning in support of dam removal or aquatic fish passage (the actual acquisition of land *cannot* be funded under this solicitation).

Priority Topics



Urban Area Resilience and Habitat Restoration

- Habitat creation, restoration, and/or protection projects that provide multiple benefits to residents in urban areas (ex. access to natural lands, recreation, resilience to large storms).
- Urban stream and habitat protection bylaw, regulation, or policy development.
- Resilience to flooding and anticipated impacts of climate change on waters and habitat in urban areas.
- Land acquisition planning to support habitat or floodplain restoration and water quality improvement in urban areas (the actual acquisition of land *cannot* be funded under this solicitation).



Priority Topics



Monitoring

- Monitoring of previously completed habitat restoration projects to evaluate impacts of the approach on habitat targets or ecosystem services.

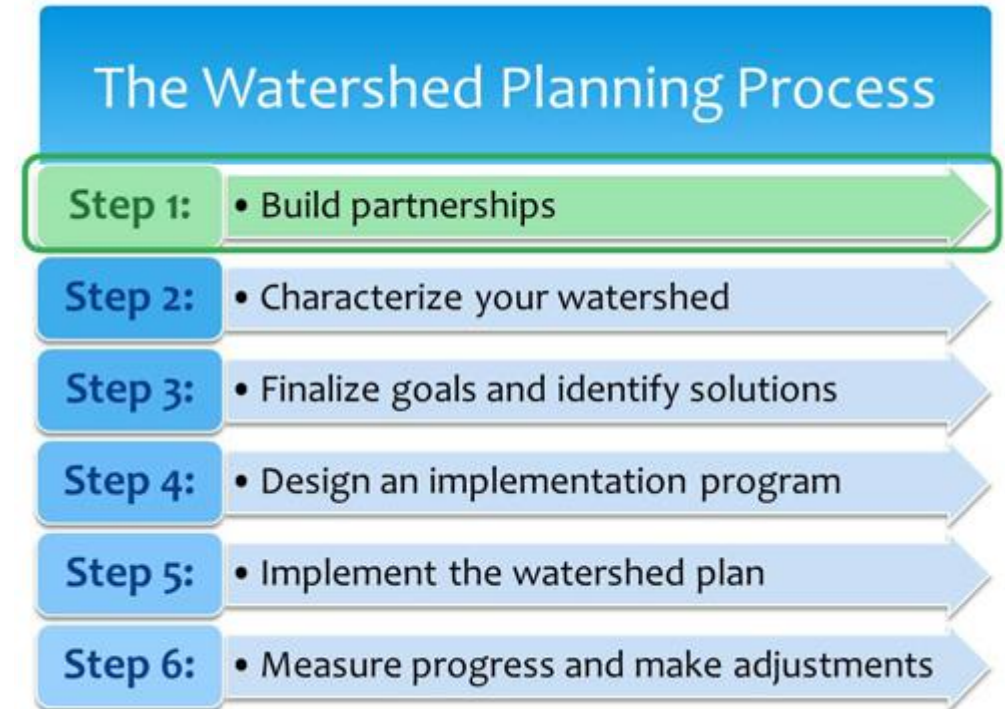


Priority Topics



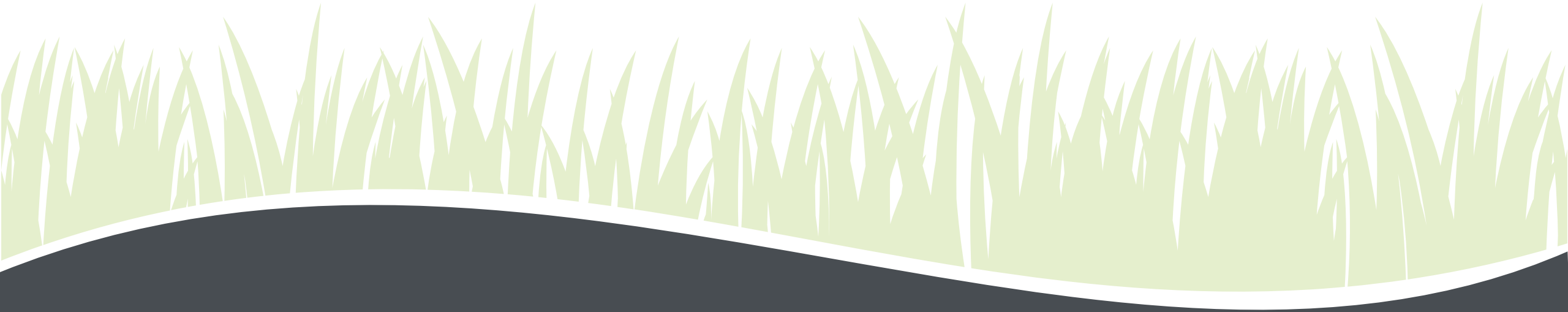
Municipal and Tribal Planning

- Watershed or town wide comprehensive infrastructure planning and management for stormwater, habitat, water quality improvement, natural open space and/or climate resilience.
- Planning/guidance/template development for managed retreat of saltmarsh or development in areas threatened by storm hazards and sea level rise.





Funding Overview



SNEP Stormwater & Natural Infrastructure



Funding:

- \$2,300,000 total (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)
- \$400,000-\$600,000 per grant
- Up to 6 grants total
- No match requirement

Project Period:

- Up to 5-year project period

Other Details:

- Build America Buy America
- Project Signage
- Applications completed through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) (CFDA 66.129)



SNEP Stormwater & Natural Infrastructure



Important Dates:

- Opened: 05/01/2023
- Informational Webinar:
06/01/2023 12:30-2:00pm (EST)
- Last Day to Ask Questions:
06/23/2023
- Application Deadline: 06/30/2023
11:59PM (EST)
- Notification of Selection/Rejection:
Fall 2023
- Public Announcement: TBD



SNEP Stormwater & Natural Infrastructure



- All applicants must substantially comply with eligibility requirements (Sections III & IV of RFA)
- Eligible Entities:
 - State, Local, Tribal Governments/Departments
 - Institutions of Higher Education
 - Nonprofit Institutions and Organizations
 - Interstate Agencies
- Ineligible Entities
 - Private Business*
 - Federal Agencies
 - Individuals*



*these entities are encouraged to partner with eligible entities

SNEP Stormwater & Natural Infrastructure



- Submissions must be received before June 30, 2023 11:50PM (EST) via Grant.Gov
- Must Support EPA's Strategic Plan Goals (Section I.E)
- Must Include all Mandatory Documentation (Section IV.F)
- Must Address at Least One Priority Topic
- Must Occur in the SNEP Region
- 12 Pages Max



SNEP Stormwater & Natural Infrastructure



Mandatory Documents:

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
- EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
- EPA Form 4700-4 Pre-Award Compliance Review Report
- Budget Detail (Budget Narrative Attachment Form)
- Project Narrative Attachment Form: Use this to submit your Project Narrative, prepared as described in Section IV.F
- Support Documents (See Next Slide)

SNEP Stormwater & Natural Infrastructure

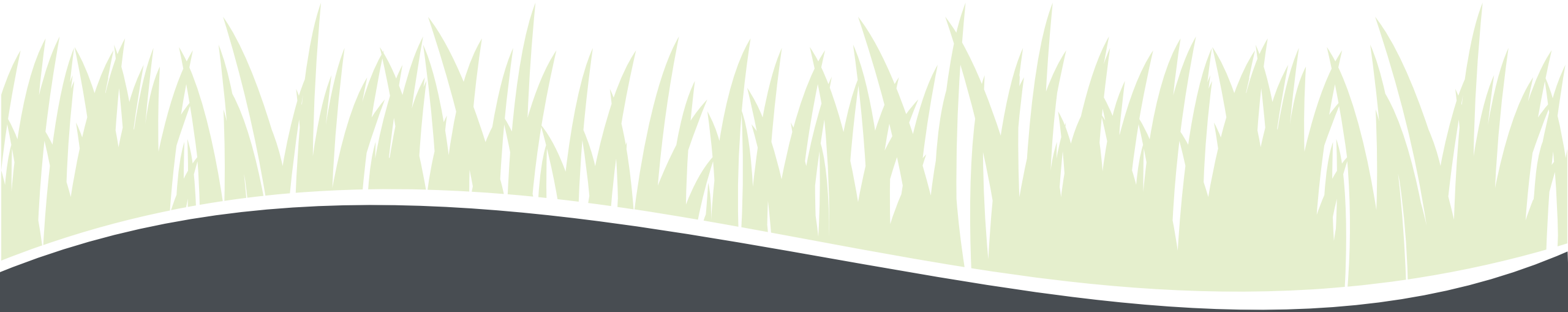


Supporting Documents (“Other Attachments Form”)

- Resume or CV of staff that will be working on the grant
- Letters of commitment from any partners identified in the proposal in order to confirm their partnership
- List documenting past or ongoing federal and/or non-federally funded assistance agreements administered by the applicant, including documentation supporting grant performance and meeting of reporting requirements
- Documentation of non-profit status if appropriate
- Verification of proposed sources of leveraged funding



Request for Applications Review Criteria



Review & Grant Process



- Threshold Eligibility Determination/Notification
- Merit Review by EPA and State Staff
- Review Meeting
- Topic/Geographic Distribution
- Selection Finalization/ Notification
- Processing by Grants Department/ Project Officer
- Award

Scoring Criteria



Scoring Criteria (100 Points Total)

- Problem Description/Site Selection (25 pts)
- Project Description/ Project Impact (25 pts)
- Leveraged Funds/Partnerships (10 pts)
- Programmatic Capabilities (5 pts)
- Cost Effectiveness (5 pts)
- Monitoring/Tracking of Results (5 pts)
- Transferability of Results (10 pts)
- Timely Expenditure of Funds (5 pts)
- Priority Topics (10 pts)

Problem Description/Site Selection



- Demonstrates that the current conditions in the proposed project area would benefit from proposed project activities. Demonstrates that the problem(s) to be addressed in their proposal impacts water quality, habitat, or resilience
- Justifies their proposed project area

Project Description/Project Impact



- Clearly and concisely describes their proposed project and demonstrates its effectiveness in addressing the problem.
- Demonstrates how their proposed project will contribute to improved water quality, habitat, and/or resilience to expected impacts of climate change.
- Demonstrates that their project will implement EPA's SNEP Strategic Plan.

Leveraged Funds/Partnerships



- Coordinates the use of EPA funding with other Federal and/or non-Federal sources of funds/resources to leverage additional resources beyond the grant funds awarded to carry out the proposed project(s) and/or Demonstrates how their proposed project will contribute to improved water quality, habitat, and/or resilience to expected impacts of climate change.
- Will use EPA funding to complement activities relevant to the proposed project(s) carried out by the applicant with other sources of funds or resources. Applicants will also be evaluated based on the type and amount of leveraging proposed, how the applicant will obtain the leveraged resources, the likelihood the leveraging will materialize during grant performance, the strength of the leveraging commitment, and the role the leveraged resources will play to support the proposed project activities.

Programmatic Capabilities



- Past performance in successfully completing and managing the assistance agreements identified in response to Section IV.A of the solicitation,
- History of meeting the reporting requirements under the assistance agreements identified in response to Section IV.A of the solicitation including whether the applicant submitted acceptable final technical reports under those agreements and the extent to which the applicant adequately and timely reported on their progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes under those agreements and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately reported why not,

Programmatic Capabilities (continued)



- Organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and
- Staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.

Cost Effectiveness



- Under this criterion, the reviewers will evaluate the application based on the degree to which it is cost-effective, considering the following factors: organizational overhead; indirect cost; prudent cost allocation over the life of the award; organizational and partner resources brought to the effort; consistency with proposed budget detail; and ability to perform the duties within the operational range of budgets provided by SNEP.

Monitoring/Tracking of Results



- Describes anticipated environmental results to be achieved, the plan to monitoring and track the outcomes, outputs, and metrics related to their proposed project.
- Described the specific SNEP metrics they proposed to track and report on during the life of the grant (See Appendix B)

Transferability of Results



- Demonstrates that their proposed project could serve as an example for other groups/areas.
- Plans to gather and develop information to support and communicates lessons learned from the proposed activities.
- Plans to share and disseminate their results to serve as a model for other groups/areas to learn from, including being available to present results during and after the period of the award.

Timely Expenditure of Funds



- Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on their approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner.

Priority Topics



- Under this criterion, the reviewers will evaluate the application based on the extent and quality to which the applicant addresses one or more of the priority topics described in Section I.B.



Build America, Buy America



Build America, Buy America (BABA)



BABA requires federal infrastructure projects to source American made materials:

1. **All iron and steel** must be American made, “from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings...”
2. **Manufactured products** must also be made in the U.S., meaning the “cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost”
3. **Construction materials** like lumber, plastics, glass, non-ferrous metals, etc., must be sourced from the U.S.

Build America, Buy America (BABA)



Two important general waivers have already been approved

1. Projects receiving under **\$250,000** of federal funding will be exempt from BABA requirements
2. Up to 5% of the **total project** costs can be used on materials that do not meet BABA requirements

Other waivers may be granted for specific projects or materials after going through a specific application process

For additional questions search “EPA BABA” or go to

<https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/build-america-buy-america-baba>

BIL Signage Requirement



- Required for all construction/infrastructure projects or projects viewable by public
- Signs should be in place before “dirt is moved” and must remain in place during the course of the project.
- Should be made of recycled material when possible
- EPA may request verification of signage
- Eligible expense
- More specifics in the terms and conditions of the award

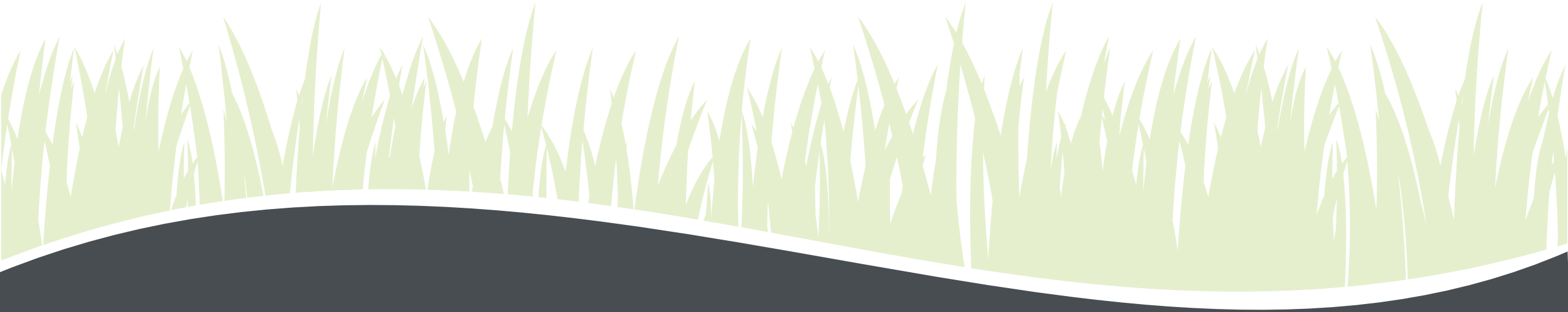


Please Direct Additional Questions to SECoastalNE@epa.gov
by June 23, 2023, 11:59p EST

Application Deadline: June 30, 2023, 11:59p EST



Question and Answer Period





Thank You For Your Time and Attention!

