

The [DEEP Climate Resilience Fund](#) supports communities with grants for planning for the effects of climate change and developing projects to improve resilience. To ensure projects lead to developing a resilience project pipeline that can compete for and win federal grants for construction and implementation, DEEP requires that grantees use the PERSISTS decision-support framework. The PERSISTS Framework was developed by the UConn [Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation \(CIRCA\)](#). If you have questions about PERSISTS, please email circa@uconn.edu and DEEP.climate resilience@ct.gov.

Track 1 – Planning: applicants and grantees, DEEP encourages incorporating components of the PERSISTS framework where appropriate, particularly in prioritizing identified next steps.

Track 2 – Project Development: applicants and grantees, DEEP requires applicants to connect the PERSISTS decision-support criteria framework to their proposed project.

ABOUT PERSISTS

PERSISTS is a multi-criteria framework developed in collaboration with stakeholders during the Resilient Connecticut [Phase I workshop](#) in May, 2019. Similar to other approaches, including FEMA’s [STAPLEE](#) method, PERSISTS helps project developers evaluate climate resilience actions and strategies for their potential to balance multiple goals and priorities among stakeholders. PERSISTS is comprised of 8 categories:

- **Permittable** – Can be authorized through necessary Federal, State, and local permits
- **Equitable** – Ensures that benefits are equitable among populations
- **Realistic** – Can be realistically engineered and is plausibly fundable
- **Safe** – Reduces risks to people and infrastructure
- **Innovative** – Process has considered innovative options
- **Scientific** – Apply and improve on the best available science
- **Transferrable** – Can serve as model for other communities
- **Sustainable** – Socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable and supported by the public and leadership

During Phase II of [Resilient Connecticut](#), a workshop with the [Resilient Connecticut Collaborative](#) further developed a series of leading questions for each category of PERSISTS, that can help facilitate a review of alternative strategies and adaptation options in the planning process. These questions are provided as guidance and decision supportive for planning and engagement teams, to help facilitate a discussion with stakeholders on the values, feasibility, and tradeoffs between different alternative adaptation strategies and resulting project design approaches.

PERSISTS Decision Support Criteria	
Permittable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there historic or ecological sensitivities to consider in the project area? • What Federal, State and local permits would be required and is it likely the project can get all necessary permits? • How long is the permitting process likely to take?
Equitable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the alternative reduce risk and/or provide benefits to vulnerable populations? • Have community members been involved in developing the strategy or project? • Does the alternative increase or decrease environmental burdens for the community; or increase environmental justice?
Realistic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the project approach reasonably proportionate to the identified problem? (This indicates a realistic pathway for funding) • Are there state or federal grants available to help with implementation? • Is there potential for local or state match funding for implementation?
Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the project reduce risks to people, infrastructure or critical community lifelines? • Does the project potentially decrease or increase emergency response needs in the area? • Does the project improve mobility without increasing evacuation needs?
Innovative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there an opportunity to apply a new approach to planning, design, engagement, or financing that has been successful in other places? • Is there an opportunity to incorporate nature-based solutions and improve ecological function as part of the adaptation strategy?
Scientific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the project utilize the best available local climate science from CIRCA and/or Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) Science and Technology Working Group?
Transferable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the benefits of implementing the project extend beyond the local community? • Does the project create a model for local, state, or Federal funding in CT?
Sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there strong support from political leadership, municipal staff, and the local community to implement the strategy or project? • Is there potential significant state support for the project (state agency involvement, state or regional priority, etc.?) • Would ecosystem services and ecological functions be improved or impaired? • Does the project increase or decrease the potential for carbon emissions?