



September 25, 2024

## DEEP Climate Resilience Fund and Climate Resiliency Revolving Loan Fund

### Notice of Public Meeting and Request for Information

*DEEP is issuing this Request for Information and will hold two public meetings on October 24 and October 30 to inform program design for two climate resilience funding opportunities through the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP): 1) the **DEEP Climate Resilience Fund**, including a new Deployment category of project funding and 2) a **Climate Resiliency Revolving Loan Fund** pursuant to [Public Act 24-151](#).*

**Responses are due by 5pm on November 8, 2024**

### Introduction

As DEEP prepares to issue calls for applications for an expanded DEEP Climate Resilience Fund (DCRF) grant program, it seeks feedback from stakeholders and prospective applicants on several fronts: the guiding strategic principles; structural and programmatic details for continuing the two prior **Planning** and **Advancement** funding categories; and the new funding category supporting **Deployment** of climate and energy resilience projects. Combined, these funding categories will help Connecticut communities make the long-term investments needed to prepare for the effects of climate change. DEEP also seeks feedback on how best to develop a new Climate Resiliency Revolving Loan Fund that the Legislature authorized in the 2024 session.

This Request for Information proceeds through the following sections:

1. [Background of climate change impacts and the need for resilience in Connecticut](#)
2. [DEEP's strategic Guiding Principles for supporting community climate resilience](#)
3. [Overview of the proposed structure of the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund](#)
4. [Instructions for responding to this Request for Information and public meeting notice](#)
5. [Details of the proposed DCRF structure and Request for Information questions](#)
6. [Additional considerations and questions for the DCRF](#)
7. [Climate Resiliency Revolving Loan Fund questions](#)
8. [Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Definitions](#)

### 1. Background

Overwhelming evidence shows that human-made greenhouse gas emissions are causing the climate to warm. According to the Long Island Sound Study and the University of Connecticut, Connecticut is already experiencing climate change impacts, including 8 to 9 inches of sea level

rise since 1880, accelerating coastal erosion, a warming of Long Island Sound, warmer hottest and coldest days of the year, increasing annual rainfall, decreasing annual snowfall, and more intense rainstorms. To address these problems, Connecticut is dedicating more and more resources, as detailed below, but further action is needed.

### **Extreme Weather Costs Connecticut Millions of Dollars Every Year**

Climate change impacts were felt during the severe flash flooding event on August 18, 2024, in the southwest and Naugatuck Valley areas of the state, which resulted in the loss of three lives, more than 30 roads closed due to erosion or complete washouts of culverts and bridges, and more than 2,300 homes and businesses damaged or destroyed. As the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Incident Report summarized, “[u]p to almost 16 inches of rain fell in 6-8 hours in some locations. It was determined that the rainfall was significant enough to qualify as a 1,000-year flood in some areas . . .” This tragic and costly flooding event is the latest in a series of unprecedented severe weather events in the past few years. In 2023 alone, Connecticut communities were harmed by record-breaking rainfall in July and August, and record-breaking poor air quality due to distant wildfires in June. Summer 2024 opened with a record-breaking heat wave from June 18-21 that also coincided with air quality alerts issued due to the heat contributing to elevated ozone levels.

August 18’s flooding event likely will be one of the costliest disasters<sup>1</sup> in Connecticut since Sandy for damage to public infrastructure, roads and bridges, homes, and businesses. The state [estimated in its request to FEMA for disaster assistance](#) that initial damage cost to transportation and other infrastructure is \$206 million. This includes more than \$13 million in damage to the Waterbury Line of the Metro-North railroad, \$7.45 million to DEEP-owned bridges, roads, and dams and other infrastructure, and more than \$40 million in damage to a state long-term care facility. The [initial damage assessment](#) from this unprecedented flood found that 19 homes were destroyed, and 170 homes suffering major damage. Overall, nearly 2,000 homes suffered at least some damage. More than 300 businesses reported suffering at least some damage, with 77 of them experiencing major damage. Damage assessments are still ongoing. The severity of this event resulted in flooding that occurred far outside of mapped floodplains, with many residents and businesses lacking flood insurance.

This event adds to the already significant costs of extreme weather events in Connecticut. Beginning with Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 and including the October 2011 snowstorm, Sandy, Isaias, Henri, remnants of Ida and four additional unnamed storms, Connecticut has received \$329.6 million in FEMA recovery assistance from 2011-2023, excluding funding for the COVID-19 pandemic. This is not the full cost of these disasters since this number does not include insurance payouts, private funds used for recovery, utility repairs, or other aid from the state or other federal agencies. For example, the infrastructure and housing damage to Connecticut from Superstorm Sandy alone was estimated at \$360 million. Additionally, utility costs for restoring service during extreme weather events are adding hundreds of millions of dollars to energy bills. United Illuminating and Eversource spent an estimated \$1.24 billion on storm recovery from 2017 to 2023. Going back to the major storms of 2011-2012 of the October ‘Halloween’ Nor’easter, Tropical Storm Irene, and Superstorm Sandy, Connecticut Light &

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<sup>1</sup> Damage assessments submitted to FEMA do not include damage to private utilities, including grid infrastructure owned and operated by Eversource and Avangrid (aka United Illuminating). Some storms in Connecticut have been much more costly to the private utilities than they have to public infrastructure, homes and businesses and vice versa. For example, Isaias cost the private electric distribution companies an estimated \$232 million in preparedness and recovery costs. The FEMA damage assessment for Isaias to public infrastructure was \$21.3 million.

Power incurred \$414 million in recovery costs equivalent to \$575M in 2024 dollars. Together this is nearly \$2 billion in costs to the state's two largest energy providers over the last 13 years.

### **What Climate Change Means in Connecticut**

The Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3), established pursuant to [Executive Order No. 3](#), issued September 3, 2019, concluded that because of delays in reducing (or mitigating) dangerous greenhouse gases, the extreme events we have experienced in Connecticut will worsen. The state will experience the following changes by 2050: stronger storms with more wind and rain; longer, more frequent droughts; up to 20 inches of sea level rise along the coast; increased frequency of coastal flooding with levels like those seen in Superstorm Sandy every 5-10 years; increased frequency and duration of extreme rainfall; and about 20 additional days where the temperature exceeds 90°F every year. The GC3 also found that without rapid climate mitigation action now, warming in Connecticut will accelerate and sea level rise could be as much as 80 inches, or 6.6 feet, by 2100.

### **Ways Connecticut Communities Can Respond to the Effects of Climate Change**

These rapidly changing conditions pose new challenges for municipalities and communities to invest in planning, programs, and projects to prepare and protect businesses and residents from the impacts of climate change. Investments in clean energy-powered microgrids can provide 24-7 backup power for communities and critical facilities during prolonged power outages, which will be more frequent as storms and extreme weather intensify. As flood risk increases along and near our waterways, communities can establish stormwater authorities to encourage property owners to incorporate green infrastructure or nature-based solutions, such as bioswales and rain gardens, on their property to prevent flooding from stormwater runoff and improve water quality. Stormwater authority revenues can be used to raise matching funds needed to obtain federal grants for construction or support ongoing maintenance of new stormwater infrastructure. Planting trees to expand urban tree canopy cover and establishing cooling centers are two strategies communities are using to combat the dangerous health effects of extreme heat waves. These are just a few of the myriad approaches that municipalities can deploy to implement effective climate resilience actions across the state.

### **How DEEP Has Supported Climate Resilience**

Throughout the last decade, DEEP has been proud to play an important role in catalyzing community resilience planning and investment in the state, leveraging the agency's programmatic mission in management of natural resources, energy and environmental infrastructure. Examples include:

- The DEEP Urban and Community Forestry grants increase urban tree cover, which provide shade and reduce stormwater runoff, building neighborhood-level climate resilience to impacts such as hotter temperatures and stormwater flooding.
- The FY24/25 Priority List for the DEEP Clean Water Fund provides a \$20 million Reserve for Construction of Green Components<sup>2</sup> and a \$20 million Reserve for Construction of Resiliency Projects.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Green components can include green infrastructure to reduce stormwater runoff, energy efficiency projects that reduce energy consumption at the treatment plant, and renewable energy projects that provide power to a publicly owned treatment works.

<sup>3</sup> Resiliency projects include any project that allow wastewater infrastructure to better withstand the effects of severe weather events and expected climate change impacts such as an increase in frequency and severity of precipitation events, flooding, storm surge, wave action, and sea level rise.

- The Long Island Sound Study, steered by CT DEEP along with partners at EPA and NY State Department of Conservation, supports construction and restoration of coastal wetlands, including the award-winning living shoreline at Stratford Point, which used reef balls to reduce wave energy, allowing for marsh restoration.

In 2012, DEEP launched the nation’s first statewide microgrid grant program (established under Public Act 12-148, § 7), to support local distributed energy generation for critical facilities after multiple episodes of severe weather that caused widespread power outages for extended periods. Under the Microgrid Grant Program, grants were awarded for design, engineering and electrical infrastructure costs as well as for Class I and Class III generation and energy storage. Through four rounds of the [Microgrid Grant Program](#) awarded by DEEP since 2013, 11 grants, totaling more than \$22.2 million, have been issued to fund 10 separate microgrid projects, all of which are operational.

The funding and scope for the Microgrid Grant Program were expanded in 2020 (see [Public Act 20-5](#), §15) to add resilience projects as an eligible use of funding. DEEP then launched the [DEEP Climate Resilience Fund \(DCRF\)](#) in 2022. To ensure that Connecticut’s communities are at the front of the line for largely competitive federal resilience investments, this program seeks to help Connecticut communities develop a climate resilience project pipeline that can win competitive federal grant funding to substantially fund those projects’ implementation and construction. In June 2023, the first round of funding under the expanded Microgrid and Resilience Grant and Loan Pilot Program through the DCRF was [announced](#), awarding more than \$8.8 million to fund 21 climate resilience plans and projects in 17 Connecticut communities.<sup>4</sup>

The 2024 legislative session increased the amount of state general obligation bond funds authorized for DCRF; and enacted a new Climate Resiliency Revolving Loan Fund ([Public Act 24-151](#) § 58-59) capitalized with \$10 million in state bond funds to make low-interest loans to municipalities and private entities for infrastructure repairs and resiliency projects in response to unplanned climate events. These funds may not be used for rehousing or temporary assistance costs. DEEP may also use the funds to administer the loans.

## 2. Strategic Principles

DEEP’s strategy for supporting community climate resilience is centered on the following five strategic principles—centering nature-based solutions; support for planning and community engagement; maximizing federal funding; establishing predictable and equitable state and local match support; and leveraging multiple state and federal funding sources. These principles are described below.

### 1. Comprehensive, Complementary Approaches that Prioritize Nature-Based Solutions

The DEEP Climate Resilience Fund prioritizes the integration of nature-based solutions in climate resilience wherever applicable. Nature-based solutions include sustainable planning, design, environmental management, and engineering practices that incorporate natural

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<sup>4</sup> Recognizing a need for further clarity on eligibility for the DCRF, [Public Act 23-157](#) amended the Microgrid and Resilience Grant and Loan Pilot Program in [C.G.S. § 16-243y](#) to expand the list of eligible applicants to explicitly include regional council of governments, public authorities, municipal corporations, and state and federally recognized tribes.

features or processes into the built environment to promote adaptation and resilience. These solutions use natural features and processes to:

- Reduce flood risk
- Improve water quality
- Restore and protect wetlands
- Stabilize shorelines
- Protect coastal property
- Reduce urban heat
- Combat climate change
- Add recreational space

Green infrastructure is a form of a nature-based solution that uses plant and soil systems, such as rain gardens, tree boxes, or bioswales, to reduce stormwater runoff and flooding. Building on the charge in Governor Lamont's Executive Order 21-3 and the recommendations of the Governor's Council on Climate Change, DEEP is ensuring that nature-based solutions are centered and considered in our funding priorities.

## **2. Support for Planning and Community Engagement**

The Governor's Council on Climate Change January 2021 report included an equity lens, recognizing that a truly effective response to climate change must prioritize equity and environmental justice at every step. The Council's Equity and Environmental Justice working group provided four core concepts of equity, including *procedural equity* (or equitable planning and implementation) that states, "equitable planning and implementation require that communities have a meaningful opportunity to participate. Policy makers must collaborate with communities to learn about their perspectives so that solutions meet community needs. Equitable planning focuses on the local level and ensures that local communities have the opportunity to provide input on policies that directly affect them."

In keeping with the GC3 commitment to procedural equity, DEEP requires community engagement at the beginning and throughout the project pipeline development and provides funds for these actions to ensure that local communities have the structure and resources to shape successful climate resilience solutions.

The GC3 also had a clear charge from Governor Lamont in EO3 to ensure that climate resilience and adaptation solutions were informed by the "most current and locally scaled scientific information and analysis available with respect to the effects of climate change, including sea level rise, changes in precipitation and temperature patterns, and storm preparedness." Funding the planning process provides resources to ensure these climate impacts underpin projects in the pipeline.

As called for in Governor Lamont's Senate Bill 11 [\*AAC Coordinating Connecticut Resiliency Planning and Broadening Municipal Options for Resilience\*](#), local government in Connecticut needs to incorporate climate resilience into their planning processes. The DCRF funds climate vulnerability assessments and the development of strategies to reduce and avoid risk. Such planning may be used to inform or update local Plans of Conservation and

Development, Hazard Mitigation Plans or other related plans to include climate resilience and adaptation.

### **3. Maximizing Federal Resilience Funding**

Given the scale of investment needed to improve community climate resilience, it is critical that Connecticut communities can obtain federal funding for projects as much as possible, to stretch state and local funding further and minimize cost burdens on local communities. The Federal government has billions of dollars of funding available for community climate resilience through the following competitive programs:

- [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) program](#)
- [FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\)](#)
- [FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Program \(FMA\)](#)
- [National Fish and Wildlife Federation \(NFWF\) National Coastal Resilience Fund \(NCRF\)](#)
- [NFWF Long Island Sound Futures Fund \(LISFF\)](#)
- [DOE Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas Program](#)
- [DOE Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program](#)
- [DOE Long-Duration Energy Storage Demonstrations Program](#)
- Subawards DEEP can make pursuant to Connecticut's formula funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - § 40101(d), Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid ([DOE Grid Resilience Formula Funding](#))

### **4. Establishing Predictable, Equitable State and Local Match for Federal Resilience Funding**

Most federal funding programs require some form of state or local match funding as a condition of receiving a grant. The state bond fund authorizations that comprise the DCRF are an important source of state funding that can be used for non-federal match components of these federal grants. DEEP's goal in allocating these DCRF funds is to help them serve as many communities and projects as possible, by (1) ensuring communities pair some level of local contribution with the DCRF funds, with state/local match ratios that are adjusted to allow somewhat lower local match contributions for distressed municipalities; (2) establishing a regular, recurring Request for Proposals schedule for awarding state DCRF matching funds, to give communities and municipalities a predictable pathway for obtaining state match commitments; and (3) utilizing state DCRF matching funds together with new financing instruments that can generate local revenue, such as [stormwater authorities](#) and [climate resilience boards](#), to fund cost share components for community climate resilience projects.

### **5. Leveraging Other State and Federal Funding Resources for Climate Resilience**

In addition to the DCRF, DEEP and sister agencies administer many complementary programs that are available to fund projects, or elements of projects, that will improve community climate resilience (see examples below). DEEP is using these funding sources to help eligible applicants navigate and tap into other funding sources in the following ways:

- 1) DEEP may refer or encourage DCRF applications to consider submitting applications for other DEEP funding sources that align with their projects' goals.
- 2) DCRF Planning and Advancement funding should be used by applicants to identify funding sources to implement their projects.
- 3) DEEP will engage staff from agencies across state government that are involved in resilience in the application review process to raise awareness of projects coming through the pipeline and identify other applicable state agency funding opportunities that DCRF applicants may also be eligible for.
- 4) DEEP may encourage or prioritize projects for funding that use other state incentive programs, such as the Non-residential Renewable Energy Solutions and Energy Storage Solutions programs.

DEEP grant programs that can support climate resilience

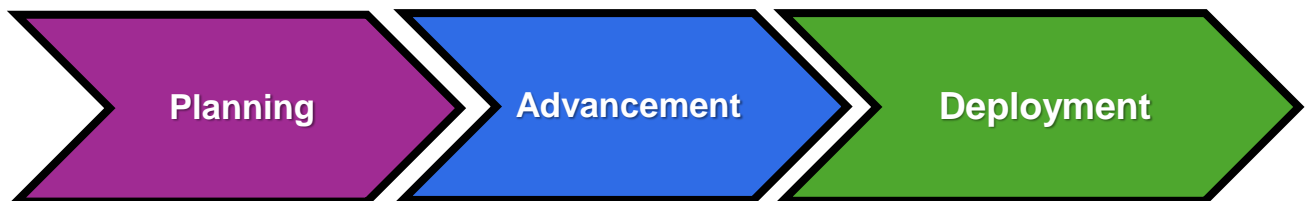
- [DEEP Clean Water Fund](#)
- [DEEP Urban and Community Forestry Grant Programs](#)
- [DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program](#)
- [DEEP Urban and Community Garden Grant Program](#)

State grant, incentive, or financing programs that can support climate resilience

- [DECD Connecticut Communities Challenge Grant](#)
- [CT Green Bank Smart E-Loan for energy efficiency and resilience](#)
- [DEMHS Hazard Mitigation Assistance Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Non-residential Renewable Energy Solutions \(NRES\) Program](#)
- [Energy Storage Solutions \(ESS\)](#)

These five strategic principles inform the design of the proposed DCRF structure, which is detailed in the following section.

### 3. Overview of the Proposed DEEP Climate Resilience Fund (DCRF) Structure



DEEP proposes the following structure for the Climate Resilience Fund. Each component is expanded upon in [Section 5](#) of this document. Additionally, DEEP proposes that it may also use applications submitted through the DCRF Request for Proposals to point applicants towards other state or federal funding programs that align with their project goals.

**Planning:** Funds community-level climate resilience planning for municipalities and neighborhoods that have yet to conduct resilience planning or that need to update resilience plans.

**Advancement:** Funds identified climate resilience project advancement activities, including project scoping, feasibility studies, and preliminary design and engineering.

**Deployment:** *New in 2024*, this category funds the deployment of climate resilience projects by providing a share of the costs of construction. DEEP proposes three subcategories of deployment funding:

1) *Matching Funds:* State bond funds for a portion of the non-federal cost share required for federal resilience grant applications. For example, the state may contribute a portion of the 25% of a resilience project's cost *not* covered by FEMA hazard mitigation assistance and grant programs. This subcategory covers federal grant programs not covered by the other two subcategories.

2) *Microgrid and Energy Resilience Funds:* State bond funding and federal Department of Energy (DOE) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grid resilience formula and cost share for DOE competitive funding for microgrids and energy resilience construction grants to support critical facilities to avoid outages or provide clean backup electric supply during electric grid outages.

3) *Long Island Sound Study and Coastal Zone Management (LISS and CZM) Funds:* federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds to support resilience projects or implementation of coastal habitat restoration, land acquisition in environmental justice communities, and other projects encouraged through the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) or the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program administered by DEEP.

## 4. Instructions for Response to this Request for Information

DEEP is seeking input from the public about the overall approach DEEP will be taking to the DCRF, including the five principles, the program structure, and other related information.

### Eligible Respondents:

Anyone can respond to this Request for Information, including eligible applicants for the programs and residents who would benefit from the programs.

- Eligible applicants for the **Climate Resilience Fund** include, but are not limited to, local or regional governmental entities, municipal corporations, regional council of governments, public authorities, state and federally recognized tribes, electric distribution companies, participating municipal electric utilities, energy improvement districts, nonprofit entities, academic entities, and private entities.
- Eligible applicants for the **Climate Resiliency Revolving Loan** fund are municipalities and private entities.



## Notice of Public Meetings and Written Comment Opportunity:

By way of this Notice, DEEP requests feedback on the Climate Resilience Fund and the Climate Resiliency Revolving Loan fund proposals and questions. Responses to questions and other related public comments may be provided in writing to DEEP via email at [DEEP.climateresilience@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.climateresilience@ct.gov) by **5pm on November 8, 2024** or during two virtual public meetings. Responses may include answers to as many or as few questions as is relevant or practical to the respondent.

Please ensure that e-mail screening software (if used) recognizes and accepts e-mails from [DEEP.climateresilience@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.climateresilience@ct.gov). You do not need to respond to all questions or sub-questions to submit a response. Please submit your response as either a Microsoft Word or PDF file. Please label your responses according to the category and question number (e.g. Advancement Q2). Shorter responses or general thoughts/feedback can be submitted in the body of an email.

- **Meeting 1 on October 24, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.:**
  - To register: [https://ctdeep.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMoc-6rrT4tGtIF1\\_cABn6-2ciC80G4V6q1](https://ctdeep.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMoc-6rrT4tGtIF1_cABn6-2ciC80G4V6q1)
  
- **Meeting 2 on October 30 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.:**
  - To register: [https://ctdeep.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYld-Cori8jGNJeN\\_XHbBqPTzebLsQloHes](https://ctdeep.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYld-Cori8jGNJeN_XHbBqPTzebLsQloHes)

**Can't join us?** These meetings will be recorded and made available on the website: [DEEP Climate Resilience Fund \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/deep/ClimateResilienceFund).

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## 5. Proposed DEEP Climate Resilience Fund Structure

DEEP proposes the following the structure and program details for the continuation of the two prior categories of funding of **Planning** and **Advancement** of projects (previously project development), and the addition of a new funding category supporting the **Deployment** of climate and energy resilience projects. Additionally, DEEP proposes that it may also use applications submitted through the DCRF Request for Proposals to point applicants towards other state or federal funding programs that align with their project goals.

### Planning

This category uses state bond funds to support comprehensive community-level climate resilience planning for regions, municipalities, and neighborhoods with identifying their vulnerabilities and risks to climate-related hazards and developing a plan to address those issues. Specifically, the Planning category funds comprehensive climate resilience planning to jumpstart the development of a community's resilience project pipeline and accelerate efforts to reduce risks to climate-related hazards. Grantees can use this funding to examine vulnerability to climate-related hazards, such as flooding, extreme heat, and/or extreme storms, and also assess and identify solutions for reducing risks and impacts to residents, including power and energy resilience.

In order to develop the more comprehensive and up-to-date climate resilience planning, recipients can reference and update previous resilience planning efforts provided they advance previous efforts and add additional hazards and assessments as necessary, including, but not limited to, flooding, sea level rise, extreme heat, extreme storms, drought, windstorms, assessing energy and grid resilience, including for vulnerable populations and critical facilities, and identifying project needs and local policies that can be implemented. The primary final deliverable must be a plan that can be implemented and should identify potential funding sources, and prioritize actions and projects.

#### Examples of Eligible Types of Climate Resilience Planning:

- Flood risk planning
- Extreme heat planning
- Sea level rise planning
- Community energy resilience planning

**Proposed Eligible Applicants:** municipal governments, regional council of governments, neighborhood organizations and non-profits, academic institutions, state and federally recognized tribes

**Proposed Funding Ranges:** \$100,000 to \$250,000

**Proposed Period of Performance:** Up to 24 months/2 years upon contract execution

**Proposed Cost Share:** No financial cost share, but DEEP is considering whether to require at least 100 hours of staff time as cost share for municipal government staff

#### Proposed Review Criteria for the Planning Category

- Overall potential impact of the plan to improve community climate and/or energy resilience

- Clearly identifies the planning scale as regional, municipal or neighborhood level (“hyper-local”)
- Degree to which the vulnerability assessment and planning process is collaborative and stakeholder-driven
- Demonstrated plan to have participation from multiple local government departments
- Demonstrated collaboration and partnership between local government and relevant community organizations for plan development
- Strength and depth of stakeholder and community involvement and engagement, with at least three (3) public meetings, including one (1) to communicate report findings
- Examination of current and future climate conditions out to at least 50 years due to climate change and sea level rise for planning and assessment
- Vulnerability assessment centers on impacts from climate change and resulting community impacts, including to identified critical facilities<sup>5</sup> and [community lifelines](#)
- Vulnerability assessment examines social vulnerability
- Vulnerability assessment and plan must address multiple climate-related risks, including flooding, sea level rise, extreme temperatures, drought, windstorms, severe weather, tropical storms, etc.
- Vulnerability assessment and plan must use the most recent climate projection data to examine how climate-related risks will change at least 50 years in the future.
- Planning serves or benefits environmental justice or vulnerable communities
- For neighborhood-level planning: demonstrated collaboration and partnership with community organizations and local governments
- Inclusion of prioritized list of next steps that:
  - Incorporates the Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaption’s (CIRCA) [PERSISTS](#) framework for project identification, if applicable
  - Identifies federal resilience grant competitions targeted for funding future implementation steps
  - Includes a locally derived match funding strategy exercise that examines measures authorized in An Act Concerning Climate Change Adaptation ([Public Act 21-115](#))
- Exploration of solutions that incorporate co-benefits (i.e., addresses multiple issues, creates an amenity to the community, reduces GHG emissions, comprehensive approach to risk reduction)
- Exploration of nature-based solutions and hybrid approaches, if applicable
- Proposal is technically sound and feasible, with a clear, logical, and achievable work plan and timeline
- Proposal costs are allowable and reasonable
- For those applicants who have previously received funding through DEEP, past performance will be a factor considered in the approval process

**Request for Information Questions for Planning:**

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<sup>5</sup> See Critical facilities definition in Section 8 of this document.

1. Please share your thoughts on the proposed structure of this funding category.
2. Should DEEP require local governments to provide staff time as cost share to ensure meaningful participation? Is 100 hours an appropriate and feasible amount? If not, what is an appropriate and feasible amount?
3. Should funding under this category **only** be available to communities that have not previously conducted climate resilience planning?
4. Should DEEP encourage or require the inclusion of assessing vulnerability to power outages and energy resilience in the final plan?
5. Should DEEP require applicants to assess for multiple climate-related hazards?
6. What else should DEEP consider for this funding category? Specifically, what else should DEEP consider for energy resilience planning?
7. How should DEEP define and consider nature-based solutions for community climate resilience planning purposes?
8. Should DEEP budget for and provide a process to award planning grants on an emergency or non-competitive basis to communities that have been impacted by an extreme weather event to enable them to develop recovery or reconstruction plans that increase resilience to climate events in the future?

## Advancement

The Advancement category leverages state and federal funding to advance previously identified climate and energy resilience projects, accelerating grantees into developing competitive grant applications for resilience programs that fund construction or implementation. As in the previous round of the DCRF, Advancement grantees will be required to conduct a local match funding assessment as applicable, draft federal and state grant applications for construction as applicable, and demonstrate how they will include climate change in project designs.

Supported activities include studies and designs for climate resilience projects to address flooding or extreme heat; ecological resilience projects such as coastal habitat restoration and living shorelines; stormwater authority feasibility studies; feasibility and design for community Resilience Hubs; and grid resilience feasibility studies to assess whether clean back-up generation and/or a microgrid during times of electric grid outages makes sense for the community, what configurations and components are needed to meet their specific energy resilience needs, and/or configurations to participate in state programs supporting clean energy like the Energy Storage Solutions, Residential Renewable Energy Solutions, and Non-residential Renewable Energy Solutions programs.

DEEP may release one or more requests for applications in the Advancement category, including energy resiliency feasibility studies for critical facilities in environmental justice communities, based on project types. DEEP may use some or all of the criteria below in reviewing applications. DEEP may offer funding for applications using funding streams other than bond funding authorized in [C.G.S. § 16-243y](#), including federal sources, other state funding sources, and/or recommending low-interest loans through the Connecticut Green Bank. Projects selected under the Advancement category may need to meet additional requirements of the applicable funding source.

**Proposed Eligible Applicants:** entities that have the capacity to implement or support implementation of climate and energy resilience projects, including local or regional governmental entities, municipal corporations, regional council of governments, public authorities, state and federally recognized tribes, electric distribution companies, participating municipal electric utilities, energy improvement districts, nonprofit entities, academic entities and private entities on behalf of any public entity

**Proposed Funding Ranges:** \$200,000 to \$650,000

**Proposed Period of Performance:** Up to 18 months upon contract execution

**Proposed Cost Share:** No financial cost share

**Proposed Review Criteria for Advancement**

- Project's overall potential to improve community climate or energy resilience
- If applicable, application identifies and aligns with federal or state resilience grant programs that the applicant intends to pursue to fund implementation
- Project or need is identified in previous planning activities
- Project is consistent with the municipal Plan of Conservation and Development
- Project incorporates the impacts of climate change into design
- Project serves or benefits environmental justice or vulnerable communities
- Strength and depth of stakeholder and community involvement and engagement, with at least two (2) public meetings, including one (1) to communicate results
- Project connects with CIRCA's [PERSISTS](#) framework
- If applicable, final report includes a draft project narrative for federal or state applications
- Final report includes a locally derived match funding strategy exercise that examines measures authorized in An Act Concerning Climate Change Adaptation ([Public Act 21-115](#)) and other potential local funding mechanisms such as project revenue streams as applicable
- Project includes elements of nature-based solutions, if applicable
- Project has co-benefits (i.e., reduces GHG emissions, addresses multiple issues, creates an amenity to the community, comprehensive approach to risk reduction)
- Project is technically sound and feasible, and the proposal sets forth a clear, logical, and achievable work plan and timeline
- Project costs are allowable and reasonable
- For those applicants who have previously received funding through DEEP, past performance will be a factor considered in the approval process
- Project is located in an area of the electric distribution system that has a higher frequency and/or duration of power outages

**Examples of Eligible Climate or Energy Resilience Project Advancement Activities:**

- Project scoping
- Preliminary solutions identification, including site studies, project prioritization, project site plans
- Preliminary designs
- Engineering studies and analyses, including hydrologic and hydraulic studies

- Feasibility analyses for energy resilience and stormwater authorities
- Environmental compliance data collection
- Incorporating environmental planning and historic preservation considerations
- Benefit-cost analysis, such as required for FEMA grants
- Federal and state grant application writing
- Community engagement to support all activities
- Additional activities that lead to the development of a competitive application to federal resilience competitions

**Request for Information Questions for Advancement:**

1. Please share your thoughts on the overall proposed category.
2. Please share your thoughts on the proposed funding range of \$200,000 to \$650,000. Is this range sufficient for proposed eligible activities?
3. What else should DEEP consider for this funding category?
4. For non-energy resilience projects, DEEP proposes that eligible applicants for this category only includes entities that are able to implement a federally funded climate resilience infrastructure project. Should DEEP include any of the other entities that are eligible for funding under [C.G.S. § 16-243y](#)? Why or why not?
5. Should DEEP include a list of types of eligible projects, particularly related to impacts from power outages? If so, what examples should DEEP include given the above proposed Advancement program requirements?
6. How should DEEP prioritize nature-based solutions? What sorts of nature-based solutions should DEEP consider in applications?
7. Should DEEP provide additional funding amounts beyond the proposed cap specifically for stormwater authority feasibility studies and/or nature-based solutions? If so, how much should DEEP allow?
8. Should DEEP limit eligibility for microgrid feasibility studies solely to municipal critical facilities in environmental justice communities as defined in [C.G.S. § 22a-20a](#)?
9. Is 18 months a sufficient amount of time to complete a microgrid feasibility study?
10. What other federal, state, utility funding sources are available to support energy resilience projects, including microgrids?
11. Do the proposed evaluation criteria allow climate resilience projects and energy resilience projects to reasonably be evaluated against each other? Which, if any, of the proposed evaluation criteria should not apply to climate resilience projects or energy resilience projects?

## Deployment

New in 2024, this category includes multiple state and federal funding pools to assist municipalities with construction and other climate and energy resilience implementation activities. Separate RFPs and calls for applications will be released under each subcategory, listed below. DEEP may offer funding for applications using sources other than the Climate Resilience Fund, including federal sources, other state funding sources, and/or recommending low-interest loans through the Connecticut Green Bank. Projects selected under Deployment funding may need to meet additional requirements of the applicable funding source. Funding levels may also be determined by the applicable funding source.

**DEEP proposes three subcategories of Deployment funding:**

**1) Matching Funds:** state bond funds for a portion of the non-federal cost share required for federal resilience grant applications. For example, the state may contribute a portion of the 25% of a resilience project's cost *not* covered by FEMA hazard mitigation assistance and grant programs. This subcategory covers federal grant programs not covered by the other two subcategories.

**2) Microgrid and Energy Resilience Funds:** *Microgrid and Energy Resilience Funds:* State bond funding and federal Department of Energy (DOE) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grid resilience formula and cost share for DOE competitive funding for microgrids and energy resilience construction grants to support critical facilities to avoid outages or provide clean backup electric supply during electric grid outages.

**3) Long Island Sound Study and Coastal Zone Management (LISS and CZM) Funds:** federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds to support project advancement or implementation of coastal habitat restoration, land acquisition in environmental justice communities, and other projects encouraged through the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) or the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program administered by DEEP.

**Proposed Eligible Applicants:** Eligible applicants will be determined by the subcategories listed below

**Proposed Funding Levels:** Funding levels will be specific to subcategories

**Proposed Overall Review Criteria:** These general criteria may be integrated into each of the RFPs issued for the subcategories of funding, where applicable

- Project's overall potential to improve community climate or energy resilience
- Project or need is identified in previous planning activities
- Project is consistent with the municipal Plan of Conservation and Development
- Project incorporates the impacts of climate change into design
- Project serves or benefits environmental justice or vulnerable communities
- Project connects with CIRCA's [PERSISTS](#) framework
- Project includes elements of nature-based solutions, if applicable
- Project has co-benefits (i.e., reduces GHG emissions, addresses multiple issues, creates an amenity to the community, comprehensive approach to risk reduction)
- Project is technically sound and feasible, and the proposal sets forth a clear, logical, and achievable work plan and timeline
- Project costs are allowable and reasonable
- For those applicants who have previously received funding through DEEP, past performance will be a factor considered in the approval process
- Project is located in an area of the electric distribution system that has a higher frequency and/or duration of power outages

### **Proposed Structure for *Matching Funds*:**

This subcategory provides a portion of match funding for municipalities seeking federal funds for construction of resilience projects. DEEP will provide awardees with a commitment for a portion of the non-federal cost share or local match for federal resilience grant competition applications, including FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities or NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund for example. Any resilience project that is eligible for a federal grant program not covered by the other two subcategories would be eligible for Matching Funds as long as it also meets that state's review criteria. If the federal application is successful, DEEP will provide a grant for the awarded amount. The long-term vision of this category is to create a biannual priority list similar to that of the [Clean Water Fund](#) for resilience funding.

**Proposed Funding Range:** The base percentage is 25% of the non-federal cost-share portion, which varies depending on grant program. Additional amounts can be awarded to projects based on the following:

- 10% for communities with stormwater authorities
- Up to an additional 25% of the non-federal cost-share portion for applicants that serve and/or benefits environmental justice communities as defined in [C.G.S. § 22a-20a](#)
- Up to an additional 15% for projects that incorporate nature-based solutions
- The maximum percentage provided, **up to \$5 million**, is 75% of the non-federal cost share portion

**Eligible Applicants:** Entities that are eligible to receive federal resilience grants and also have the capacity to implement climate resilience projects, including local or regional governmental entities, municipal corporations, regional council of governments, public authorities, and state and federally recognized tribes

**Proposed Period of Performance:** Concurrent with the federal grant program if applicable. For full cost of construction projects, the period of performance is three years

### **Proposed Program Requirements:**

- Applicants must be applying to federal resilience grant funding
- Application for federal funding ***must*** be for construction and implementation. Note: final design and permitting components are eligible for funding as long as majority of the grant is for construction/implementation
- DEEP will provide a letter of commitment for state bond funds for applications
- Awardees must notify DEEP upon award announcement if their federal application is successful or not
- Commitment letters will **not** transfer to other grant programs or years. If the application to federal funding is not successful, awardees must reapply for future consideration
- Applications for projects developed through the [Resilient Connecticut](#) process will be prioritized



- Applications for projects in environmental justice communities as defined by the [CEJST tool](#), [designated Community Disaster Resilience Zones \(CDRZs\)](#), or projects in census tracts with a Social Vulnerability Index of greater than 90 will be prioritized
- At least 40% of the funding must go to vulnerable communities as defined in [C.G.S. § 16-243y](#). Applications serving these communities will be prioritized
- Match for federally funded studies, plans, designs, or other activities similar to those funded under Advancement are **not** eligible under this category

### **Proposed Structure for *Microgrid and Energy Resilience Funds*:**

This funding uses state bond funds authorized through the Microgrid and Resilience Grant and Loan program and may also use Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grid resilience formula funding for microgrids and energy resilience construction grants to support critical facilities to avoid outages or provide clean backup electric supply during electric grid outages. This subcategory may also provide non-federal cost-share for federal DOE energy resilience grants.

Microgrid and energy resilience construction grants for municipalities, private developers, or other entities that (A) connect one or more municipal critical facilities or hospitals to a microgrid, or (B) provide clean backup power to critical facilities in an area of the electric distribution system that has a higher frequency and/or duration of power outages.

A microgrid is defined in [C.G.S. § 16-243y](#) as a group of interconnected loads and distributed energy resources within clearly defined electrical boundaries that acts as a single controllable entity with respect to the grid and that connects and disconnects from such grid to enable it to operate in both grid-connected or Island Mode. Critical facilities are defined in [C.G.S. § 16-243y](#) to include any hospital, police station, fire station, water treatment plant, sewage treatment plant, public shelter, correctional facility, or production and transmission facility of a television or radio station, whether broadcast, cable or satellite, licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, any commercial area of a municipality, a municipal center, as identified by the chief elected official of any municipality, or any other facility or area identified by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as critical. Energy resilience may include clean backup power to critical facilities, such as wastewater treatment plants that otherwise may not be able to connect to a microgrid.

DEEP may release a draft request for applications for review and comment with more specific eligibility requirements in advance of accepting applications for funding for this funding category.

**Eligible Applicants:** Any local or regional governmental entity, municipal corporation, regional council of governments, public authority, state and federally recognized tribe, electric distribution company, participating municipal electric utility, energy improvement district and nonprofit, academic and private entity

### **Proposed Funding Range:**

- Microgrid and energy resilience construction grants. Funding amounts are carried forward from the last round of grant funding and are subject to change when the final program design is complete: Up to \$4,000,000 per grant, including:

- Up to \$7,000/kW for eligible design, engineering and electrical interconnection infrastructure costs
- Up to \$250/kW for new Class I and Class III generation resources, except for Anaerobic Digestion, which is capped at \$1,000/kW, and
- Up to \$1,000/kW for new energy storage
- If the qualifying generation technology is sited on a brownfield, the project is eligible for an additional grant of \$100/kW – \$250/kW, which is included in the \$4,000,000 maximum grant

**Proposed Cost Share:**

- Cost share must be provided for projects that include Class I or Class III generation. DEEP will provide up to \$250/kW for new Class I and Class III generation resources, except for Anaerobic Digestion which is capped at \$1,000/kW, and \$1,000/kW for new energy storage
- Eligible applicants that are not connecting a municipal critical facility must provide 100% cost share

**Proposed Program Requirements:**

- Microgrid and energy resilience construction grants for: (1) microgrid eligible design, engineering and electrical interconnection infrastructure costs for eligible critical facilities; and (2) Class I or Class III generations resources, or energy storage systems connected to a microgrid or to provide clean backup power for critical facilities, such as wastewater treatment plants. Priority will be given to municipal critical facilities.
- Priority will be given to applicants who have received or will apply for federal funding to receive financial or technical assistance for the project, including but not limited to:
  - [DOE Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas Program](#)
  - [DOE Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program](#)
  - [DOE Long-Duration Energy Storage Demonstrations Program](#)
  - Subawards DEEP can make pursuant to Connecticut’s formula funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - § 40101(d), Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid ([DOE Grid Resilience Formula Funding](#))

**Proposed Review Criteria Specific to *Microgrid and Energy Resilience* Funds:**

**Proposed review criteria specific to energy resilience projects**

- Applicant is working with the electric distribution company (EDC) or municipal electrical utility (MEU) to ensure the project can safely connect and disconnect from the grid
- The proposed project shall not have a negative impact on other EDU/MEU customers that are not included in the microgrid, nor impede efforts by the EDU/MEU to restore service to its customers during or after an emergency
- Project demonstrates how it will meet all applicable compliance and safety standards
- Project can operate independent of the grid for a period of nineteen consecutive days

- Project commits to operating for a period of 10 years
- Project demonstrates community benefits while disconnected from the grid
- Applicant demonstrates it has or will contract with entities who have sufficient financial, managerial and operational capabilities

**Proposed review criteria specific to energy resilience projects seeking a subaward from federal Grid Resilience Formula Funding:**

- Identification of the program metrics that are met by the proposed project and reporting on the extent to which the project meets the objectives as measured by the associated metrics
- The extent to which the proposal is affordable and cost-effective, including consideration of other funding sources and evaluation of benefits including reduced energy burden, enhanced resilience, furtherance of climate goals, improvements to equity, and creation of workforce opportunities
- Demonstrated ability of the proposed project to achieve each of the stated Policy Goals
- The extent to which the proposed project provides Community Benefit(s)
- Whether the proposed project provides direct benefits to an environmental justice community, as defined in Connecticut Public Act No. 20-6
- Project readiness, with preference given to projects that can begin construction sooner compared to others or projects that have already demonstrated outreach to the impacted communities (especially DACs)

**Proposed Structure for *LISS and CZM* Funds:**

This subcategory uses federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds to support implementation of coastal habitat restoration, land acquisition in environmental justice communities, and other projects encouraged through the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) or the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program administered by DEEP. The objective of this funding is to increase ecological resilience through landscape-scale habitat restoration, restoration planning, and land conservation in coastal ecosystems and promote coastal resilience in underserved coastal communities as well as those most vulnerable to climate impacts.

**Types of Projects Funded:**

Projects under this category must fall into **one of three** categories:

**1. Habitat Restoration – Implementation/Construction Projects**

- Project examples include: habitat enhancement or restoration of Important Coastal Habitat Types, reducing barriers (e.g., under-sized culverts and dams) to fish passage, and restoring or enhancing habitat to improve resilience, such as restoration of coastal marshes and wetlands, living shorelines, etc.

**2. Land Conservation/Acquisition (Fee Simple or Conservation Easement)**

- All projects **must** be accessible to the general public for passive recreational purposes
- It is required that a permanent conservation easement be provided to the State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to ensure that the

property remains in a natural and open condition for the conservation, open space, or green space purposes for which it was acquired

- Projects will require documents similar to those required by the [CT DEEP Open Space and Watershed Acquisition \(OSWA\) grant program](#) (yellow book appraisal, property boundary map, etc.)
- Projects that provide direct access to Long Island Sound will be prioritized
- Projects with marsh migration potential and/or restoration value will be prioritized

### **3. Construction of Green Stormwater Infrastructure**

- Projects must focus on any of the following: reducing stormwater runoff, reducing flooding, replenishing groundwater through infiltration, reducing urban heat island effects, enhance riparian buffers
- Project examples include green roofs, rain gardens, bioswales, permeable pavements, green streets, and rainwater harvesting

**Eligible applicants:** Municipal entities, Councils of Government, Non-profits, Land Trusts, Academic institutions, Federally recognized tribes

#### **Proposed Funding Ranges:**

- Habitat Restoration Implementation: \$200,000 to \$1,000,000
- Land Conservation/Acquisition: \$300,000 to \$1,000,000 (up to 85% of the appraised value)
- Construction of Green Stormwater Infrastructure: \$300,000 to \$1,000,000

#### **Proposed Cost Share:**

- Not required

#### **Proposed program requirements for FY25:**

- Habitat restoration and land conservation projects must fall within the [Long Island Sound Coastal Watershed boundary](#). Fish passage projects may be in any portion of the Connecticut Long Island Sound Study Area
- All projects must accelerate one or more goals of the [LISS CCMP](#)
- All projects, except land conservation projects, must provide demonstrated benefit to an [environmental justice community](#) defined in [C.G.S. § 22a-20a](#). Depending on federal funding requirements, this may change to federal definitions
- Land conservation projects must be located within an [environmental justice community](#) defined in [C.G.S. § 22a-20a](#). Depending on federal funding requirements, this may change to federal definitions
- All projects must build [adaptive capacity of ecosystems and communities](#) as defined by EPA
- Projects with willing landowners and/or strong partnership around the project will be prioritized
- Implementation projects require [Build America, Buy America](#)

## **Request for Information Questions for Deployment:**

### **Overall Questions**

1. Please share your thoughts on the overall proposed category.
2. Anything else DEEP should consider?

### **Questions specific to *Matching Funds*:**

3. DEEP proposes that eligible applicants for this category only includes entities that are eligible for a federal grant competition and can implement a federally funded climate resilience infrastructure project. Should DEEP include any of the other entities that are eligible for funding under [C.G.S. § 16-243y](#)? Why or why not?
4. Should DEEP align application periods with anticipated grant competition Notice of Funding Opportunities? If not, how should DEEP structure application periods to align with competitions?
5. What else should DEEP know about meeting federal competition application timelines?
6. Should DEEP award the overall amount based on percentages for specific criteria, such as project is located in an environmental justice community, project includes nature-based solutions, and/or the project is in a community with a stormwater authority? If so, what should DEEP consider in establishing these criteria for prioritization?
7. What additional review criteria should DEEP include for this funding category?
8. Should DEEP allow a commitment letter to be transferable or apply to multiple applications if an applicant is unsuccessful in the first federal grant application? If so, what should those parameters be?
9. Beyond FEMA BRIC, what other types of federal funding competitions should applicants be eligible to target?
10. Should DEEP have a funding cap on the amount and percentage of non-federal cost share/match provided? If so, what should DEEP consider as those caps? What should DEEP consider the overall maximum potential award for matching funds?
11. Is there anything else DEEP should consider for this funding subcategory?

### **Questions specific to *Microgrid and Energy Resilience Funds*:**

12. What microgrid configurations for construction grants should be considered?
13. What grant funding structure would be optimal for securing financing for the matching funds for the balance of microgrid construction costs?
14. Is there anything else DEEP should consider for this funding subcategory?

### **Questions specific to *LISS and CZM Funds*:**

15. What are your thoughts on the proposed structure?
16. What are your thoughts on the proposed funding ranges?
17. Is there anything else DEEP should consider for this funding subcategory?

## 6. Additional Considerations for the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund

### Defining and Prioritizing Nature-Based Solutions and Green Infrastructure

The DEEP Climate Resilience Fund, pursuant to [Executive Order 21-3, § 9 C](#), currently defines nature-based solutions as including “but not be limited to, green infrastructure as defined by the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1362(27)), natural infrastructure and nature-based infrastructure as defined by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”) in NAO 216-117, nature-based solutions as promulgated by FEMA in their Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities program, and climate-smart agriculture and forestry strategies as promulgated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) and for flood prevention, climate resilience and erosion control systems as defined by Public Act 21-115, gray infrastructure, and non-structural, project solutions.”

#### Questions About Nature-Based Solutions and Green Infrastructure:

1. How should DEEP further refine its definition of nature-based solutions for the purposes of community climate resilience? How should this definition differ from a definition for ecological resilience?
2. What sorts of projects or project components should be considered as eligible for funding prioritization under nature-based solutions? How should DEEP evaluate these projects or project components?
3. What sorts of project components should NOT count as green infrastructure or nature-based solutions?
4. What else should DEEP be considering for nature-based solutions and green infrastructure?

### In-kind Contractor Actions

DEEP may develop a competitively procured consultant list to conduct Benefit Cost Analyses (BCA) for FEMA grant applications and other resilience-related tasks that also are eligible activities. Such a list could be used by DEEP to support DCRF grantees. For example, DEEP may make BCA support available on a first-come, first-served basis specifically for Matching Funds applicants. DEEP may also make inclusive community engagement consultants and technical support available to grantees.

#### Questions About In-Kind Contractor Actions

1. What is the interest level for this type of support?
2. If you are a potential applicant for Matching Funds, would you have already completed a BCA by the time you would apply for this program?
3. What sort of requirements should DEEP put in place for procuring and accessing this type of support?
4. For potential consultants, what is a reasonable amount of turnaround time for a consultant team to develop a BCA for such applications?
5. Should DEEP consider using the results of the BCA to inform its awarding decision for Matching Funds?

6. Are there circumstances where it might be preferable for DEEP to award a CRF Planning or Advancement grant and handle all contracting and payments using DEEP's competitively procured consultant list? If so, what might those circumstances be and what should requirements be for grantees to access this level of support?
7. If DEEP procures a consultant list for inclusive community engagement, would grantees prefer to let those expert consultant teams provide support and management of community engagement needs? Would technical assistance on community engagement be preferable?
8. What else should DEEP consider?

## 7. Climate Resiliency Revolving Loan Fund

[Public Act 24-151](#) § 58-59 awarded \$10 million in state bond funds to DEEP to establish a Climate Resiliency Revolving Loan Fund. § 59 of [this statute](#) further states that:

- This revolving loan fund may be granted to “municipalities and private entities for infrastructure repairs and resiliency projects in response to unplanned climate events.”
- “Such repairs and projects may not include rehousing or temporary assistance costs.”
- DEEP shall develop eligibility criteria and application forms for selecting applicants.

### Questions About the Climate Resiliency Revolving Loan Fund

Please provide feedback to DEEP within the parameters of the enabling legislation on the following:

1. How should DEEP set up such a program based on the above statutory requirements?
2. Who should the eligible applicants and entities be?
3. What sorts of projects should be eligible projects?
4. What sorts of projects should NOT be eligible projects?
5. What should DEEP consider when developing eligibility criteria? Do you have any suggestions for criteria?
6. What information should DEEP require in applications for loans?
7. What sort of projects and applicants should DEEP prioritize?
8. Should DEEP allow this funding to be used for private dam repairs and safety?
9. Should this revolving loan fund only open for applications immediately following an extreme event? If so, what should extreme event thresholds be?
10. Should this funding be available for construction and implementation activities only? Should it be an additional funding source for projects submitted under Deployment in the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund?
11. What is the level of interest in securing revolving loan funds?
12. Anything else DEEP should consider for establishing a climate resilience revolving loan fund?

## 8. Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Definitions

**Anaerobic Digestion:** A system where bacteria biologically digest and break down organic material in the absence of oxygen (or “anaerobically”).

**BCA:** Benefit Cost Analysis

**BIL:** Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

**CGS:** Connecticut General Statutes

**Critical facilities:** Critical facilities (as defined by C.G.S. § 16-243y) include any hospital, police station, fire station, water treatment plant, sewage treatment plant, public shelter, correctional facility or production and transmission facility of a television or radio station, whether broadcast, cable or satellite, licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, any commercial area of a municipality, a municipal center, as identified by the chief elected official of any municipality, or any other facility or area identified by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as critical. Energy resilience may include clean backup power to critical facilities, such as wastewater treatment plants that otherwise may not be able to connect to a microgrid.

**CZM:** Coastal Zone Management

**DEEP:** Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

**DCRF:** DEEP Climate Resilience Fund

**DOE:** Department of Energy

**Environmental justice community:** Environmental justice community (as defined by C.G.S. § 22a-20a) means (A) a United States census block group, as determined in accordance with the most recent United States census, for which thirty per cent or more of the population consists of low income persons who are not institutionalized and have an income below two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level; or (B) a distressed municipality, as defined in subsection (b) of § 32-9p.

**EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency

**FEMA:** Federal Emergency Management Agency

**GC3:** Governor’s Council on Climate Change

**HMGP:** Hazard Mitigation Grants Program

**IJA:** Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

**LIS:** Long Island Sound

**LISS CCMP:** Long Island Sound Study Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan

**Microgrid:** A microgrid (as defined in Public Act 12-148, §7) means a group of interconnected loads and distributed energy resources within clearly defined electrical boundaries that acts as a



single controllable entity with respect to the grid and that connects and disconnects from such grid to enable it to operate in both grid-connected or Island Mode.

**NFWF:** National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

**NCRF:** National Coastal Resilience Fund

**NOAA:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**PERSISTS decision-support framework:** Permittable Equitable Realistic Safe Innovative Scientific Transferrable Sustainable

**Resilience:** Resilience (as defined in C.G.S. § 16-243y) means the ability to prepare for and adapt to changing conditions and withstand and recover rapidly from deliberate attacks, accidents or naturally occurring threats or incidents, including, but not limited to, threats or incidents associated with the impacts of climate change.

**Vulnerable communities:** Vulnerable communities (as defined in C.G.S. § 16-243y) means populations that may be disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change, including, but not limited to, low and moderate income communities, environmental justice communities pursuant to § [22a-20a](#), communities eligible for community reinvestment pursuant to § [36a-30](#) and the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, 12 USC 2901 et seq., as amended from time to time, populations with increased risk and limited means to adapt to the effects of climate change, or as further defined by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in consultation with community representatives.