

CT DEEP Long Island Sound Ecosystems Grant

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: If a project has elements of both Habitat Restoration and Green Infrastructure, is there any guidance as to which track it should fall under?

A1: Review your project to see if it leans more towards one category than the other, look at your project goals and review the evaluation criteria for both categories. Also review the budget, is there significantly more money to be spent on habitat restoration or green stormwater infrastructure? We encourage projects like this to reach out to our program email DEEP.EcosystemsGrant@ct.gov to set up a meeting to discuss further.

Q2: Is it generally anticipated that award/contracting processes would support work starting at some point in calendar year 2026?

A2: Generally, yes. Please see the timeline section on page 4 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for typical contracting times.

Q3: Are no cost extensions possible, if necessary, after the two years?

A3: Yes, extensions are possible but please plan for your project to be completed within 2 years from contract execution date.

Q4: For any leveraged funds – will awardees be required to track and report these if included in the application?

A4: No, DEEP will not be tracking or asking for reporting on leveraged funds. We ask that you include them in your application so we understand the larger context of what applicant resources, partners and programs, if any, are supporting the project.

Q5: Can you expand on the opportunity for site visits?

A5: DEEP encourages applicants to reach out to us to discuss their projects and schedule site visits. Please email DEEP.EcosystemsGrant@ct.gov.

Q6: Are there Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) or Women Business Enterprise (WBE) requirements?

A6: This grant program is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Long Island Sound Partnership. DEEP is required to pass-down the terms and conditions of the EPA award to all sub-awards. One of the terms and conditions is “utilization of disadvantaged business enterprises,” which requires the funding recipient to make good faith efforts during procurement. Please see item #27 of this document for more information: [EPA General Terms and Conditions effective October 1, 2024 or later](#)

Q7: What are the procurement rules under this grant?

A7: This grant program is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Long Island Sound Partnership. DEEP is required to pass-down the terms and conditions of the EPA award to all sub-awards. Prospective applicants should review the terms and conditions available here for the requirements associated with procurement: [EPA General Terms and Conditions effective October 1, 2024 or later](#). Item #8(5), “establishing and managing subawards,” provides an overview of the applicable “flow-down” requirements, which includes the procurement standards in 2 CFR 200. “Procurement” is a broad term, and the document provides guidance on a wide range of topics that may apply based on the type of project (for example, item #49 addresses the Build America, Buy America requirements that apply to construction projects). Prospective applicants can follow up with DEEP if they have specific procurement questions.

Q8: What are examples of coastal habitat restoration projects?

A8: Projects from this category could include, but aren’t limited to, restoring river connectivity and fish passage, restoring tidal wetlands, and implementing living shorelines. Examples of specific projects include the Strong Pond Dam Removal in Wilton, CT and the completed Great Meadows Marsh shoreline restoration project in Stratford, CT.

Q9: What are examples of green stormwater infrastructure projects?

A9: DEEP considers green stormwater infrastructure a broad category of best management practices (BMPs) working independently or in concert to reduce non-point source pollution from stormwater runoff. DEEP has funded various green stormwater infrastructure projects including, but not limited to, bioretention features (swales and rain gardens), infiltrating tree wells, pervious pavement, and stormwater wetlands. Some specific locations to observe green stormwater infrastructure BMPs include the Hole-in-the-Wall parking lot in Niantic, CT; various practices at UConn in Storrs, CT; and a large-scale rain garden at Town Center Park in Hamden, CT.

Q10: For green infrastructure projects, since they are eligible across most of the state, is there any prioritization you're making as far as proximity to waterways connecting to the Long Island Sound? For example, would projects along a larger river be a higher priority than projects along smaller tributaries?

A10: DEEP often funds green stormwater infrastructure projects within proximity to a waterbody, however the higher priority is the significant impact the project would have at reducing non-point source pollution. As a hypothetical comparison, a project that infiltrates 250,000 gallons of stormwater runoff annually a mile from a stream has a more significant impact and higher priority than a project infiltrating 10,000 gallons of stormwater runoff annually in close proximity to a stream.

Q11: Can you talk about the prioritization of construction projects over planning/design?

A11: One of the evaluation criteria awards points to projects that are ready for implementation - fully designed, fully permitted.

Q12: Is there any consideration about improving water quality with respect to adjacent urban populations?

A12: One of the evaluation criteria awards bonus points to projects that are located in municipalities that are more developed.

Q13: Is there any coordination between this program and other Long Island Sound Partnership funding opportunities? Do you encourage funding from this program to be leveraged as match for other opportunities?

A13: This program, although administered by DEEP, uses federal dollars. We encourage funding from this program to be leveraged as match for other opportunities if and where applicable and allowable.

Q14: Are there any restrictions on grantees that have received previous grants?

A14: There are not any restrictions, however, performance in other DEEP awards will be taken into consideration.

Q15: Who can we talk to about eligibility of a specific project?

A15: Please contact our Program Lead, Mindy Gosselin, via the program email DEEP.EcosystemsGrant@ct.gov.