

IV. Evaluation of Other State Agency NBS Programs

Section 12(c) of [P.A. 25-125](#) requires DEEP to consult with the following seven (7) state entities for their review and input to this NBS Report:

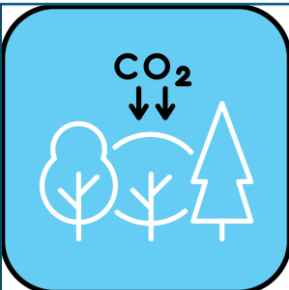
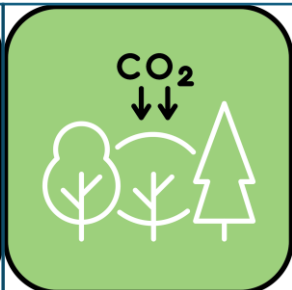
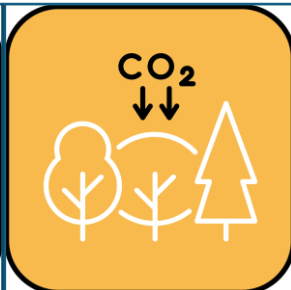
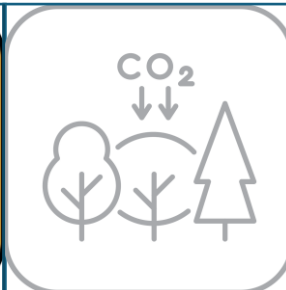
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Housing
- Department of Insurance
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Transportation
- Office of Policy and Management
- The Connecticut Green Bank

Similar to the evaluation of DEEP’s NBS programs in [Chapter III](#), this chapter focuses on the integration of the NBS programs administered by these seven state entities with the 10 NBS best practices highlighted in [Chapter II](#) and listed in Section 12(b).

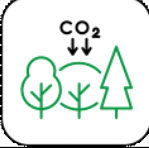

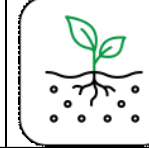

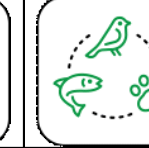


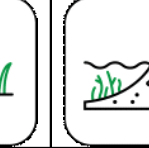
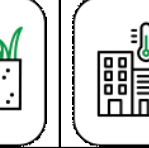
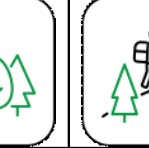
It’s important to note that each of these consulting agencies was asked to identify its own NBS programs as well as the relative priorities of the best practices (based on the criteria in P.A. 25-125). Each agency was also asked to identify opportunities for advancement of NBS for consideration in [Chapter V](#) of this report.

Again, the integration of programs and best practices is shown in several ways in this Chapter:

- A matrix of “Agency NBS Programs” provides an overview of all NBS programs “at a glance.”
- Each program includes a program description, funding source, and an analysis of which of the 10 best practices are integrated with that program.
- An evaluation of the importance of each best practice for each program is shown using the color coding as follows (an Icon Key is also available in [Appendix III](#)):

			
<p>Primary Purpose</p> <p>BLUE means this NBS practice is a TOP PRIORITY for a funding Program</p>	<p>Co-Benefit</p> <p>GREEN means this NBS practice is an ADDITIONAL BENEFIT for a funding program</p>	<p>Eligible</p> <p>ORANGE means this NBS practice is ELIGIBLE but <u>not</u> a top priority for a funding program</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p> <p>GREY means the NBS practice is NOT APPLICABLE to the NBS program</p>

Following is the distribution of best practices across the 26 NBS programs of these seven state agencies:

Other Agencies NBS Programs	Carbon sequestration	Control Invasives	Soil Health	Avoid Conversion	Restore Habitats	Climate-Smart Ag	Stormwater Management	Shoreline Protection	Urban Forestry	Open Space	Totals
											
Primary	0	2	3	0	8	0	1	0	0	1	15
Co-Benefit	2	7	8	3	4	7	5	2	4	4	46
Eligible	3	5	4	3	5	4	6	3	3	1	37
Totals	5	14	15	6	17	11	12	5	7	6	98

The number of NBS programs across these seven agencies that rank best practices as **Primary** focus areas have the strongest association with restoring habitats and lesser associations with soil health and best practices for controlling invasives. Several best practices are not identified as primary focus areas for any NBS program, notably carbon sequestration, avoiding conversion, climate-smart agriculture, shoreline protection, and urban forestry.

The number of NBS programs across seven agencies that rank best practices as a **Co-Benefit** have the strongest association with controlling invasives, soil health, and climate-smart agriculture. In contrast, several programs are under-represented in supporting best practices, notably carbon sequestration, avoiding conversion, and shoreline protection.

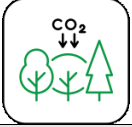






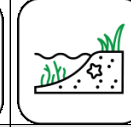


The best practices most **Eligible** for support include stormwater management, controlling invasives, and restoring habitats.

Considered cumulatively, the best practices considered by the greatest number of agency NBS programs include restoring habitats, soil health, and controlling invasives. The least considered best practices include carbon sequestration, shoreline protection, avoiding conversion, and protecting open space respectively.

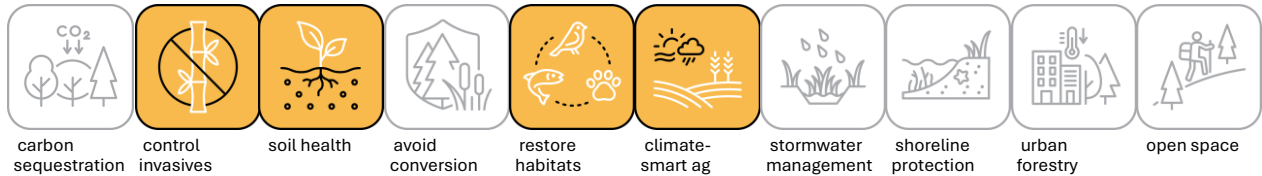
26 NBS programs across seven agencies are described individually with best practices throughout the rest of this chapter.

A. Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture (DoAg) works to support and grow the state's farming and aquaculture sectors by developing farms, promoting local products (like the [CT Grown program](#)), preserving farmland, managing animal health and regulations, and providing grants and resources for farmers. Its mission is to foster a healthy economic, environmental, and social climate for agriculture through programs for development, resource protection (like farmland preservation), and public education about agriculture's importance to Connecticut's economy and heritage. Because of the close connections between agricultural practices and land use, there are several programs of DoAg that involve nature-based solutions.

DoAg NBS Programs										
Ag Enhancement Grant	N/A	Eligible	Eligible	N/A	Eligible	Eligible	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Climate Smart Ag & Forestry Grant	Eligible	Co-benefit	Co-benefit	Eligible	Eligible	Co-benefit	N/A	N/A	Co-benefit	N/A
Farm Transition Grant	N/A	Eligible	Eligible	N/A	Eligible	Eligible	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Farmland Restoration, Climate Resiliency, & Disaster Preparedness Grant Program	Eligible	Co-benefit	Co-benefit	Eligible	Eligible	Co-benefit	N/A	N/A	Eligible	N/A
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program	N/A	Eligible	Eligible	N/A	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	N/A	N/A	N/A

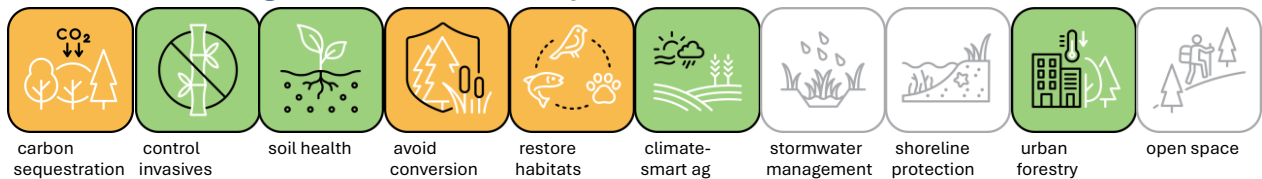
Agricultural Enhancement Grant



Funding source: Community Investment Act

Supports municipalities, nonprofits, and councils of government with projects that support agricultural viability.

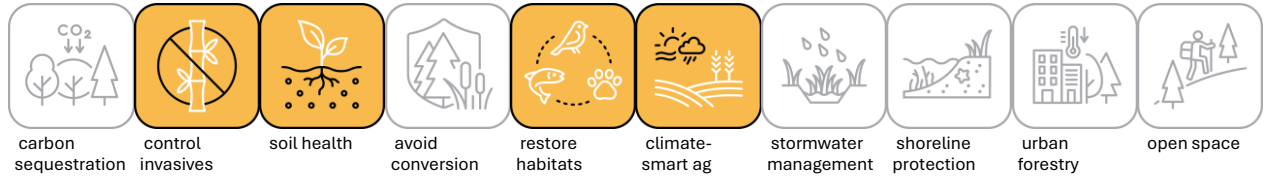
Climate Smart Agriculture & Forestry Grant



Funding source: State special allocation

Awarded in FY 2024 with projects still ongoing to provide funds to farmers to support implementation of climate smart ag and forestry practices.

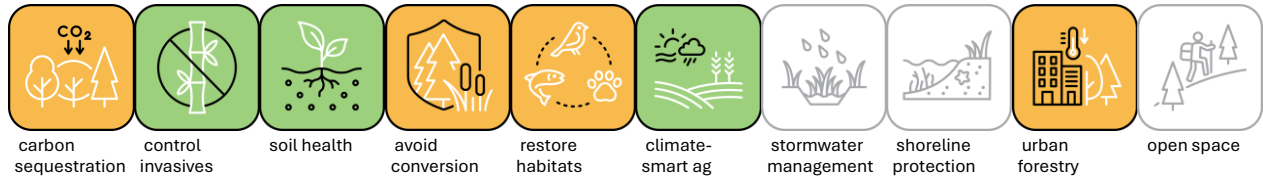
Farm Transition Grant



Funding source: Community Investment Act

Supports farms looking to expand, diversify, and transition their agribusinesses.

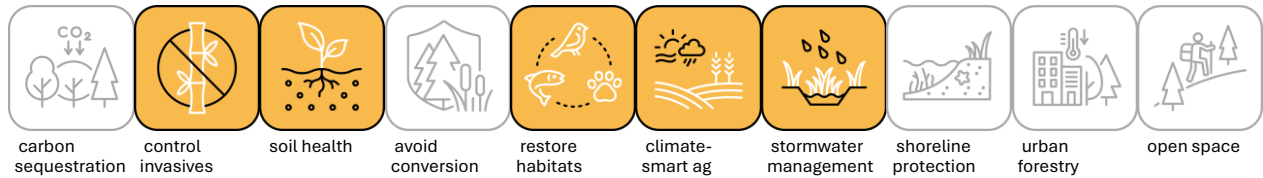
Farmland Restoration, Climate Resiliency & Disaster Preparedness Grant



Funding source: State Bonding

Supports farmers with conducting farmland restoration and improving climate resiliency on farms through the development of a Farmland Restoration & Climate Resiliency Plan.

Specialty Crop Block Grant



Funding source: Federal (USDA Agricultural Marketing Service)

The Specialty Crop Block Grant program provides funds to eligible applicants to increase the competitiveness of specialty crops through an annual allocation.

B. Department of Housing

The Department of Housing (DOH) works to ensure everyone has access to quality, affordable housing by promoting development, preservation, and revitalization, aiming to eliminate homelessness and strengthen communities through funding, policy, and partnerships with local entities. They manage programs for renters (like Rental Assistance & Section 8), homeowners (like down payment assistance), and developers (grants, loans, tax credits) for new construction, rehabilitation, and special needs housing. DOH leads state housing policy, working with various agencies and stakeholders to create inclusive housing opportunities for all income levels.

DOH did not identify any specific NBS funding programs that it administers. However, DOH did share its “Sustainability Values and Goals” statement (updated August 2025) which is provided as guidance to developers of housing projects funded by the agency. Some of the top-line values and goals that can be related to nature-based solutions include the following statements:

- DOH promotes housing projects that emphasize convenient walkable designs, biking infrastructure and access to public transportation ...
- DOH promotes protection of our finite natural lands by supporting sustainable land use practices ...; and
- DOH promotes climate resilience, energy efficiency, and sustainable building standards ...

Although the DOH values and goals are guidance to housing developers rather than required attributes, there are examples of projects such as Resilient Bridgeport which advances several of DOH’s sustainability values and goals.

Resilient Bridgeport consists of two integrated projects in the South End of Bridgeport, the “Rebuild by Design” (RBD) Project and the “Flood Risk Reduction Project” working together to reduce flood risk, enhance climate resilience, and support the long-term viability of this highly vulnerable coastal community.

The RBD Project, which is currently under construction with a projected completion date of June 2027, emphasizes nature-based and adaptive infrastructure, including an elevated Johnson Street Extension to maintain emergency access, targeted roadway re-grading to improve drainage, and a 2.5-acre stormwater park with a pump station system to capture, treat, and convey stormwater to Cedar Creek. These features reduce chronic flooding, improve water quality, and create community green space.

Complementing this, the planned Flood Risk Reduction Project provides coastal protection for approximately 64 acres through a system of buried steel sheet pile (I-wall), earthen berms, and concrete T-walls with deployable flood gates, along with raised roadways for dry egress. A pump station and green infrastructure such as bioswales and rain gardens manage internal drainage and discharge filtered stormwater to Bridgeport Harbor.

RBD Stormwater Park
View towards Iranistan Ave.



Together, these projects integrate gray and green infrastructure to lower flood risk, maintain critical access during emergencies, and advance nature-based solutions that align with DOH’s goals for sustainable land use, climate resilience, and enhanced community livability.

C. Department of Insurance

The Connecticut Insurance Department (CID) is protects consumers by regulating the state’s insurance industry, ensuring companies act fairly, remain financially solvent, and provide accessible products, all while fostering a competitive market through enforcement, education, and outreach, and working with national bodies like the National Association of Insurance

Commissioners ([NAIC](#)). Because insurance is a global industry, the CID also works with the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) to enhance supervision and use of best practices worldwide. CID handles consumer complaints, licenses agents, and oversees company operations to safeguard policyholders' interests.

CID does not provide insurance directly and did not identify any specific NBS funding programs that it administers. However, CID did provide significant information about the connections between the insurance industry and climate/resiliency considerations.

For example, since 2022 the CID has been requiring the industry to participate in the climate disclosure survey which requires insurers doing business in Connecticut to disclose how they are considering the impacts of climate on their financial decisions. In 2022, insurance regulators adopted the Financial Stability Boards disclosure recommendations by the Task Force on Climate and Financial Disclosure (TCFD). Industry has been required to disclose annually their financial risk disclosures related to climate and resiliency in Connecticut. These include existing information available such as the [NAIC Climate Risk Disclosure Survey, Connecticut Bulletin No. FS-44](#) (Guidance for Connecticut Domestic Insurers on Managing the Financial Risks for Climate Change), Own Risk Solvency Assessment (ORSA) Summary Report filings, and SEC-required disclosures, if applicable.

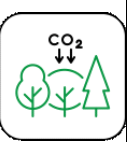





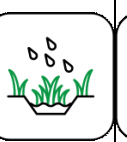
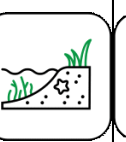
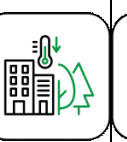

CID is able to review insurance providers to determine the following:

- The governance structure in place through which board members and senior management have oversight over material climate-related risks.
- How climate risks are incorporated into the company's overall business strategy.
- Whether the insurer considers the impact of climate change risks when determining its investment strategy and/or monitoring the risks in its investment portfolio.
- Whether the insurer's business continuity plan address a wide range of relevant natural and man-made disasters, such as climate change.
- Whether the insurer runs climate-based stress scenarios to determine the impacts on assets.
- Whether various catastrophe models are used to help establish appropriate underwriting and reinsurance standards.

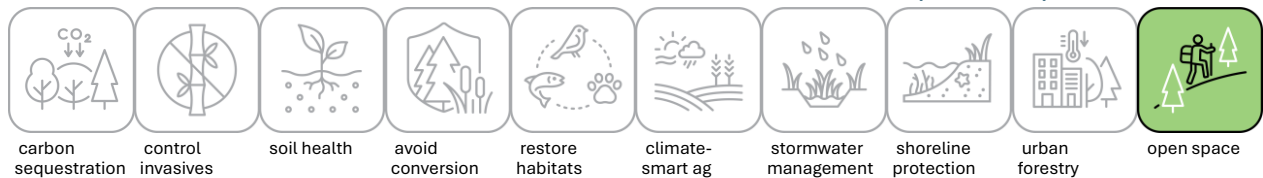
Specifically related to nature-based solutions, the CID continues to participate in and contribute to the Sustainable Insurance Forum (SIF). SIF is a global network of insurance supervisors and regulators launched in 2016 to address sustainability issues, particularly climate change, within the insurance sector. Convened by the United Nations Development Programme (formerly UNEP FI) with the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS), SIF aims to integrate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors into insurance supervision, covering over 90% of the global market. Several SIF workstreams, including the Transition Plans Working Group and the Capital and Supervisory Framework Working Group, provide opportunities for CID to consider further engaging on work relating to biodiversity and nature related risk to build on the 2021 [SIF Scoping Study: Nature-related Risks in the Global Insurance Sector](#), and perhaps also on the 2024 UN Environment Programme report, [Insuring a Resilient Nature-Positive Future: Global guide for insurers on setting priority actions for nature](#).

D. Department of Public Health

The Department of Public Health (DPH) is dedicated to protecting and improving the health and safety of all Connecticut residents through a diverse set of programs and services. DPH works to ensure communities have access to quality care. DPH monitors environmental factors like drinking water quality as well as responds to public health emergencies, licenses healthcare facilities and providers, provides health-related data and statistics, and more. There are several programs and policies at DPH that are related to NBS.

DPH NBS Programs										
Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Co-benefit
Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund	N/A	Eligible	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Eligible	N/A	N/A	N/A
Farm to School Grant Program	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Co-benefit	Co-benefit
Recreational activity permitting on water company land	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Primary purpose
Water Company Land Permitting	N/A	N/A	N/A	Co-benefit	N/A	N/A	Co-benefit	N/A	N/A	N/A

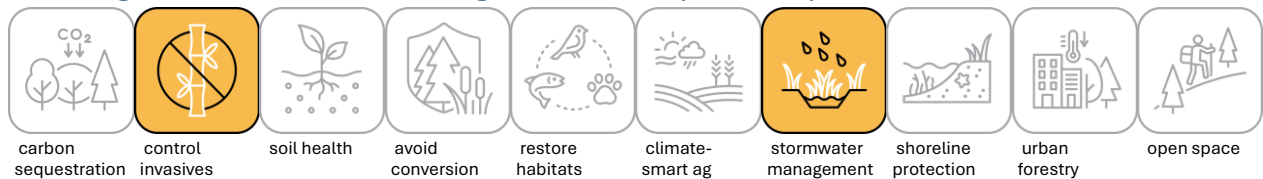
Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act



Funding source: Federal (U.S. EPA)

Under the BEACH Act, the EPA awards grant funding (typically funded) to CT DPH to monitor water quality. CT DPH utilizes CT DEEP and local health partners for the collection, transport, and testing of water samples from coastal state beaches. CT DPH compiles testing data and reports it to the EPA BEACON system. When bacteria levels are too high to safely recreate, the public is notified via beach advisories or closings.

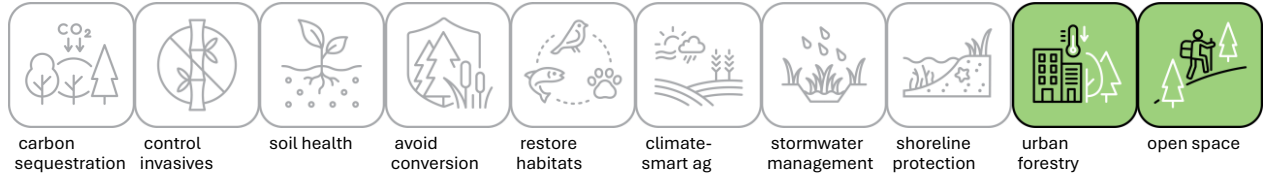
Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF)



Funding source: Federal (U.S. EPA) + 20% state match

Under DWSRF, the EPA provides a capitalization grant (typically funded) to CT DPH based on the results of the Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment. The state then contributes an additional 20% match. These comprise the revolving loan fund, which provides loans and other assistance to water systems to address risks to human health, ensure compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, and assist systems with the most critical need.

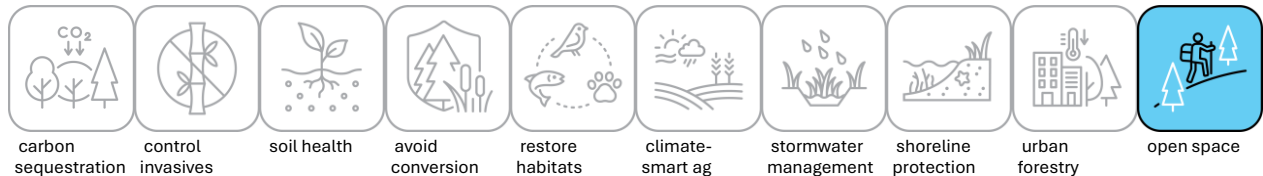
Farm to School Grant Program



Funding source: Federal (USDA Food and Nutrition Service)

Under the USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service, CT DPH was awarded funding (funded once) from 2020-2024 for the Farm to School Grant Program, supporting Farm to Early Care and Education programming like gardening, agricultural education, and improving access to local produce for meals and lessons. Most recently, funds from SNAP-Education and Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant helped sustain these efforts. All funding has lapsed as of 10/1/2025, though community gardens remain functional at sites that worked to establish them. CT DPH plans to apply for a FY 2026 Farm to School Grant to continue existing work, evaluate program effectiveness, and identify sustainability mechanisms.

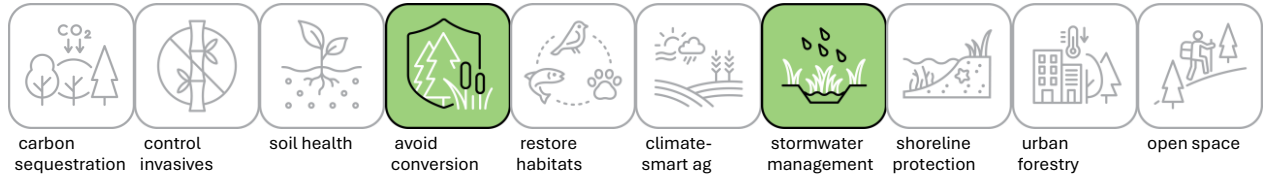
Recreational Activity Permitting on Water Company Land



Funding source: n/a

CGS Section 25-43c states that recreational activities, which could include hiking or shoreline or boat fishing, may be allowed by water companies on reservoir and aquifer protection areas, but only with rules developed in consultation with CT DPH and, in some instances, CT DEEP. CT DPH must issue a permit for these activities, and the agency can impose conditions or prohibit recreation altogether to protect drinking water quality. Importantly, Section 25-43c explicitly allows public recreational access on certain water-company lands and reservoirs through the permitting process.

Water Company Land Permitting



Funding source: n/a

CGS Section 25-32 requires that a water company must obtain a permit from the Commissioner of Public Health to sell, lease, assign, or change the use of any water company land, and provides restrictions for the sale of water company land and allowable and prohibited uses of water company land. The limits on the sale, development, and alteration of lands provide protection for forests and wetlands, which could have positive downstream effects on water quality.

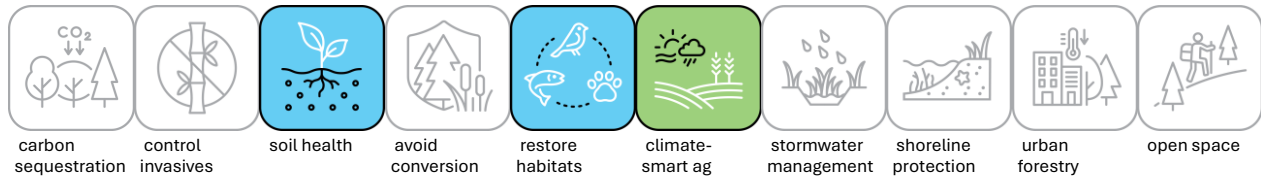
E. Department of Transportation

The Department of Transportation (CTDOT) provides safe, efficient, and accessible multi-modal transportation for Connecticut residents, managing highways, rail (CTrail, Metro-North), buses, and ferry operations, with a core mission of “improving lives through transportation.” CTDOT focuses on safety, economic vitality, and quality of life through infrastructure maintenance, planning, and operations. With over 3,715 miles of state-maintained state roads to steward in addition to responsibilities associated with bus, rail, ferry, ridesharing, bridges, and related infrastructure, the CTDOT has a significant presence throughout the state.

CTDOT has several programs and project specifications that can be associated with specific individual projects, funding opportunities, and site characteristics appropriate for investments in nature-based solutions.

CTDOT NBS Programs										
Aquatic Organism Passage	N/A	N/A	Primary purpose	N/A	Primary purpose	Co-benefit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Compensatory Mitigation	Co-benefit	Primary purpose	Primary purpose	Co-benefit	Primary purpose	N/A	Co-benefit	Co-benefit	N/A	Co-benefit
Control and Removal of Invasive Vegetation	N/A	Primary purpose	Co-benefit	N/A	Primary purpose	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fisheries Enhancements	N/A	N/A	Co-benefit	N/A	Primary purpose	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Monarch Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)	N/A	Co-benefit	Co-benefit	N/A	Primary purpose	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MS4 Water Quality BMPs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Co-benefit	N/A	Primary purpose	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pollinator Program	N/A	Co-benefit	Co-benefit	N/A	Primary purpose	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Site-Specific Seed Mixes	N/A	Co-benefit	Co-benefit	N/A	Primary purpose	Co-benefit	Co-benefit	Co-benefit	N/A	N/A
Soil Health Specifications	N/A	Co-benefit	Primary purpose	N/A	Co-benefit	Co-benefit	N/A	N/A	Co-benefit	N/A
Stream Crossing Design / Wildlife Shelves Crossing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Primary purpose	Co-benefit	Co-benefit	N/A	N/A	N/A

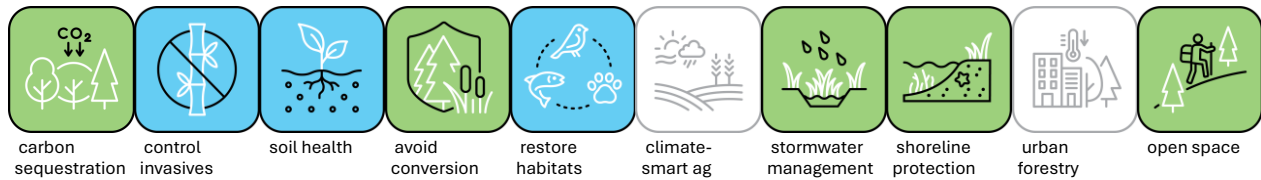
Aquatic Organism Passage



Funding source: Federal/State (Project Specific)

The purpose of **aquatic organism passage** in construction projects and permits is to facilitate the movement of aquatic species, ensure regulatory compliance, protect natural resources, mitigate indirect impacts, enhance ecosystem resilience, and foster collaboration with regulatory agencies. Commitments for protecting migratory and resident fish populations include in-water time of year (TOY) restrictions, maintaining a minimum hydraulic opening within watercourses, soft starts for vibratory impacts (1 hour before and after sunrise/set), lighting preventing measures, and confinement of in-water work areas.

Compensatory Mitigation

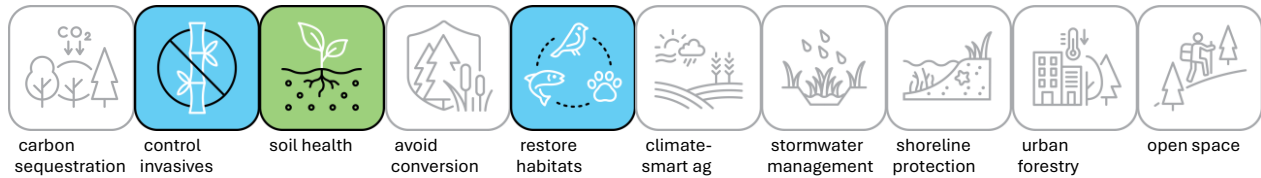


Funding source: Federal/State (Project Specific), In-Lieu Fee Program (AudubonCT)

The mitigation process is closely tied to the CTDOT permit application and regulatory review process, which is coordinated by the Office of Environmental Planning (OEP). The purpose for mitigation is to compensate for permanent impacts to the regulated area(s). Temporary impacts may be considered for additional compensation to account for temporal losses if the temporary impacts are in place for extended durations on a project. CTDOT ensures that all environmental regulations, laws, and practices are adhered to and that any necessary permits are obtained before construction begins. Mitigation is tied to the total permanent impact a project may have and therefore often requires mitigation to compensate for those impacts by creating or enhancing new wetland habitat. The size of the mitigation areas would be based on ratios (2:1 or 3:1 or 4:1) that depend upon the type of resources being impacted.

Special contract provisions to develop a site provide the means and methods for the contractor(s) to complete the necessary work to adhere to the conditions of the permit and CTDOT regulatory commitments. These provisions play a vital role in safeguarding sensitive ecosystems during construction projects.

Control and Removal of Invasive Vegetation

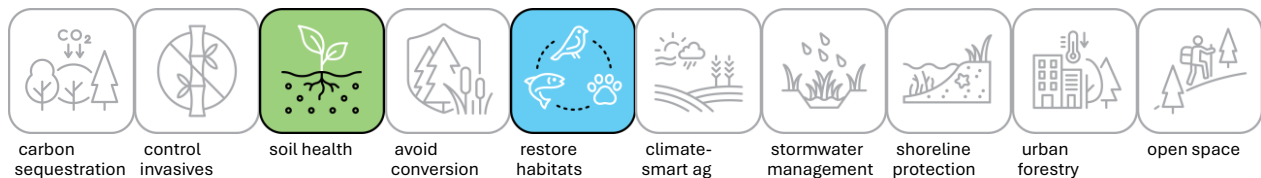


Funding Source: Federal/State (Project Specific)

CTDOT's project specification provides the means and methods to control invasive species on projects. Additionally, this specification can be used for Maintenance Highway Operations for use along various state routes.

The specification for the control and removal of invasive species includes the development and implementation of an Invasive Vegetation Removal Plan (IVRP). The IVRP requires identification and treatment methods for the control of invasive vegetation onsite. This work also includes the removal and off-site disposal of invasive vegetation from within the project limits in accordance with the accepted IVRP. Invasive control and removal application(s) treat all areas within the optimal growing season (between April 15 and October 15). Additional spot treatment measures may be warranted within the same optimal growing season in any year throughout the life of the contract including a one-year warranty if full control and removal of the invasive species is not achieved within the project limits as outlined in the IVRP or as accepted by the CTDOT.

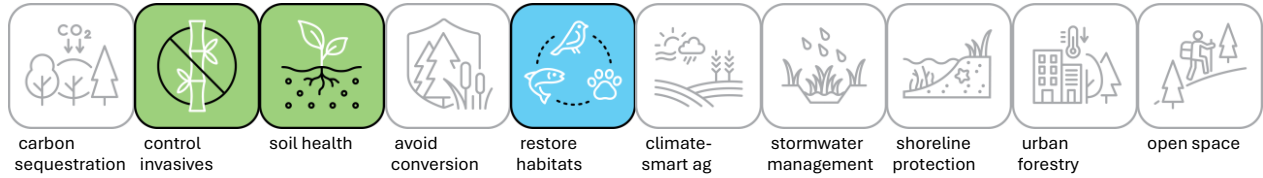
Fisheries Enhancements



Funding source: Federal/State (Project Specific)

Fisheries enhancements is a permitting commitment made by CTDOT with the regulatory agencies to mitigate environmental impacts, restore fisheries habitats, promote fish passage, and supports biodiversity. Fisheries enhancements are implemented in construction under the guidance of CTDEEP Fisheries and CTDOT Office of Environmental Planning (OEP) personnel. This includes reviewing and approving streambed material and boulders required to restore habitats that support fish life cycles and biodiversity. Enhancements may involve activities such as the creation of spawning habitats, installation of structures (like rock weirs, j-hooks, step pools, streambank revetment, root wads, channel or toe boulders, and fish ladders) that provide shelter and feeding areas for fish, as well as improve fish and other aquatic passage within the waterway.

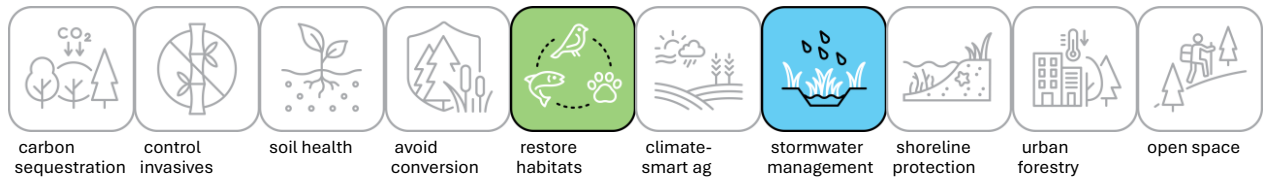
Monarch Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)



Funding source: Federal/State (Project Specific)

CTDOT enrolled in the voluntary Monarch CCAA program in October 2025, committing to implement conservation / vegetation management practices on enrolled CTDOT rights of way throughout the state to provide a net benefit to monarch butterflies. The agreement provides regulatory assurances that additional conservation measures will not be required on enrolled lands if the monarch is listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

MS4 Water Quality BMPs

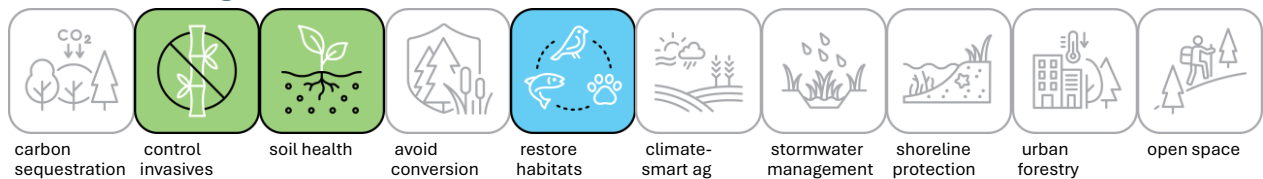


Funding source: State (Project Specific)

The MS4 program seeks to implement structural water quality improvement measures (aka, BMPs) both as part of transportation capital projects and separately through identifying and implementing stand-alone MS4 retrofit projects. All projects that impact drainage are required to prepare documentation noting efforts to reduce directly connected impervious area (DCIA).

This includes using the CTDOT MS4 Project Design Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) Worksheet to guide project designs towards implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are feasible given project-specific constraints. The maximum extent practical worksheet is a tool used to track the required metrics that must be reported to CT DEEP annually in order to comply with the CTDOT MS4 General Permit. It also demonstrates that stormwater mitigation was pursued in a project's design to the maximum extent practical. Best management practices include natural dispersion utilizing methods such as vegetative filters, infiltration trenches, infiltration basins, grass channels, dry water quality swales, and supplemental check dams.

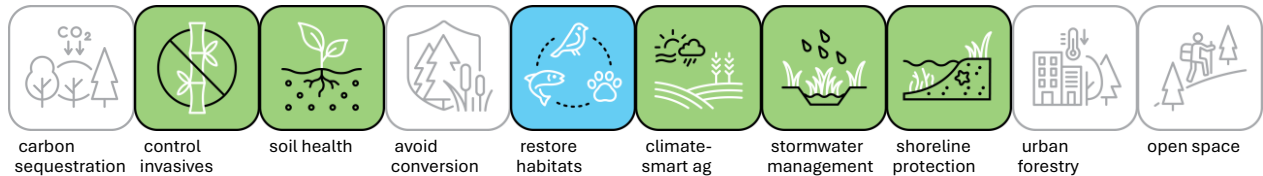
Pollinator Program



Funding Source: Federal/State (Project Specific)

Pursuant to Public Act 16-17, CTDOT implemented a pollinator program by establishing conservation areas in selected locations within the state highway system. The designation of conservation areas is determined by several factors including available space, sight line distances, terrain characteristics, soil conditions, and the existing presence of invasive plants and woody vegetation. Reduced mowing practices allow the existing seedbank to germinate, set seed, and propagate for increased pollinator habitat.

Site-Specific Seed Mixes

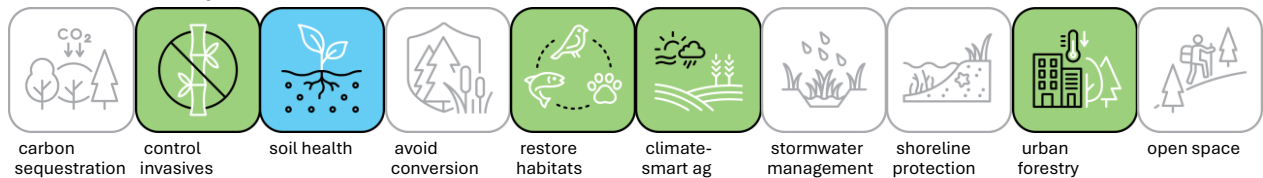


Funding source: Federal/State (Project Specific)

A wide variety of site-specific seed mixes are used to establish slope/ground disturbed stabilization. The type of seed mix is based on the project location and what resource is being impacted. Each of the seed mixes (conservation seeding for slopes, wetland grass establishment, floodplain establishment, shoreline grass establishment, and wildflower establishment), sites are typically not maintained and allowed to germinate and grow to provide vital vegetation for wildlife species such as bees and monarch butterflies. Shoreline seeding is placed along the shore because the seed mix is salt tolerant. Wetland seeding is placed to reestablish disturbed areas in environmentally sensitive areas where the wetland seed mix is capable of growing under wet conditions.

Turf establishment, turf establishment-lawn, and low growth mix are maintained seed mixes that are typically placed along the highways, medians, and local roads. Seed mixes play a vital role in environmental protection, soil stabilization, site restoration, focusing on specific ecological functions such as erosion control, habitat creation, and biodiversity enhancement.

Soil Health Specifications



Funding source: Federal/State (Project Specific)

Several specifications in the [“Standard Specifications for Roads, Bridges, Facilities and Incidental Construction” Form 819 \(2024\)](#) relate to measures that can be taken to protect soil health:

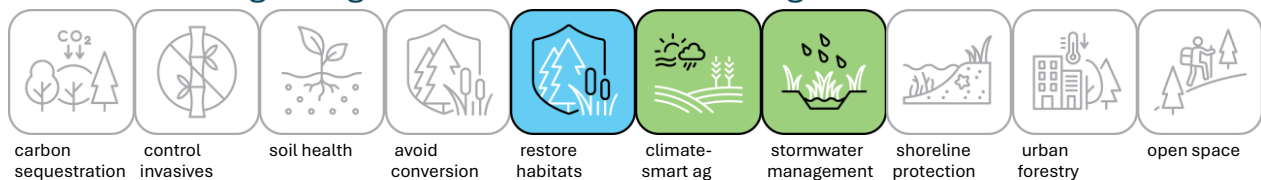
- **Section 9.44 Topsoil:** Work shall consist of furnishing, placing and shaping topsoil in areas shown on the plans or as directed by the Engineer. The topsoil shall be placed to a depth of 4 inches unless stated otherwise in the Contract. Section 9.44 ensures quality control, supports environmental protection, provides guidance for contractors, and integrates with other specifications to promote effective and sustainable landscaping practices.

- Section 9.49 Furnishing, Planting, and Mulching Trees, Shrubs, Vines, and Ground Cover Plants:** Shall consist of furnishing trees, shrubs, vines and ground cover, preparation of planting areas, plant layout, planting, staking and guying, fertilizing, watering and mulching, as indicated on the plans or in the Contract. Section 9.49 emphasizes care for living plants, compliance with regulatory requirements, material specifications, standardization of practices, and environmental enhancement, all of which contribute to the successful establishment of vegetation in roadside development.
- Section M.13 Roadside Development:** Consist of Topsoil and Planting Soil, Agricultural Ground Dolomitic Limestone, Fertilizer, Seed Mixtures, Mulch Materials, Compost, Plant Material, Sod and Erosion Control Matting. Roadside Development specifications serve to enhance aesthetic value, control erosion, protect the environment, improve safety, manage stormwater, standardize practices, and support wildlife habitat. These provisions are essential for creating and maintaining functional, safe, and visually appealing roadside areas in construction projects.

In addition, there are special provisions on projects that can only be altered with consent from CTDOT as the owner supplementing standard specifications for specific contract needs. These “owned special provisions” define unique project work, procedures, or requirements not covered in standard documents or the qualified products list.

Special provisions for soil are crucial for developing and implementing innovative soil management practices, spurring plant growth, maintaining soil quality, providing site-specific adaptations, offering guidance for effective use, and with engineered slopes. These provisions play a vital role in the successful execution of construction projects while addressing the unique challenges that can be posed by site specific soil conditions.

Stream Crossing Design/Wildlife Shelves Crossing



Funding source: Federal/State (Project Specific)

Stream crossing design BMPs include wildlife considerations such as including constructed banks on each side of a stream and through the crossing to tie into the existing streambanks outside a bridge/culvert span. This BMP supports proper alignment to prevent bank erosion or streambed scour. At a minimum one of the banks requires a wildlife shelf, according to the USACE regulatory requirements. The constructed banks (with a wildlife shelf) will allow for terrestrial passage for wildlife and prevent flow from being focused to one side and scouring the bed, especially against the structure’s sidewall which may undermine the footings in the case of spans.

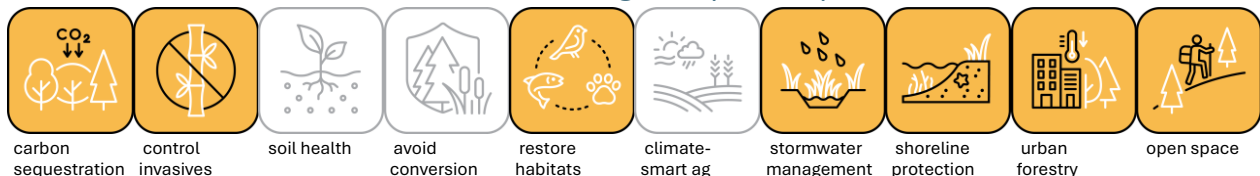
F. Office of Policy and Management

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) is the Governor's primary staff agency, responsible for formulating, analyzing, and implementing state public policy, implementing and monitoring the execution of the enacted budget, and managing intergovernmental relations. OPM oversees the

executive agencies that report to the Governor and assists state and quasi-public agencies and municipalities in implementing the law and public policy on behalf of the people of Connecticut. OPM provides interagency and intergovernmental support towards land use, natural resource protection, climate solutions, and resilience primarily through these functions within the agency:

- Office of Responsible Growth, Intergovernmental Policy and Planning Division: The Office of Responsible Growth (ORG) focuses on intergovernmental land use issues through several programs including the development and implementation of Connecticut’s C&D Plan, the oversight and administration of the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act, and through participation and coordination of the state Water Planning Council and Interagency Drought Workgroup. In addition to these programs, ORG participates in several interagency efforts regarding natural resource protection and climate resilience.
- Climate and Infrastructure Policy, Office of the Secretary: The Climate & Infrastructure Policy Development Director leads inter-agency and intergovernmental collaboration on climate mitigation, resiliency, and sustainability issues, particularly with fiscal policy, state facilities, plans, and operations as well as leading the development and implementation of climate and infrastructure strategies for OPM and with the Office of the Governor.
- State Bond Commission: The Secretary of OPM is the Secretary of the State Bond Commission and is responsible for maintaining the records and minutes of the proceedings of the Commission. The Secretary reviews agency requests for bonding of capital projects for submittal to the State Bond Commission. Staff at OPM support the completion of the Annual Information Statement, which is a comprehensive report providing updated financial, economic, and operational information about the state, published by the Office of the Treasurer. This report discusses the work done across the Executive Branch, including in the climate mitigation and resiliency context, to protect state investments.

Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP)



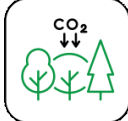









Funding source: State/Bonding

The Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) is focused on supporting smaller municipalities throughout the state by providing grants geared towards economic development, conservation and environmental protection, historic preservation, and quality-of-life capital projects. STEAP provides funding to support municipal government services and fiscal stability for localities that are ineligible to receive Urban Act funding. Examples of eligible STEAP projects that could incorporate nature-based solutions include park, landscape, and streetscape improvements, land acquisition, pedestrian infrastructure improvements, and pollution management projects. STEAP grants are awarded by OPM and administered by various state agencies. The program is bond funded and grants are distributed based on funding availability.

G. The Connecticut Green Bank

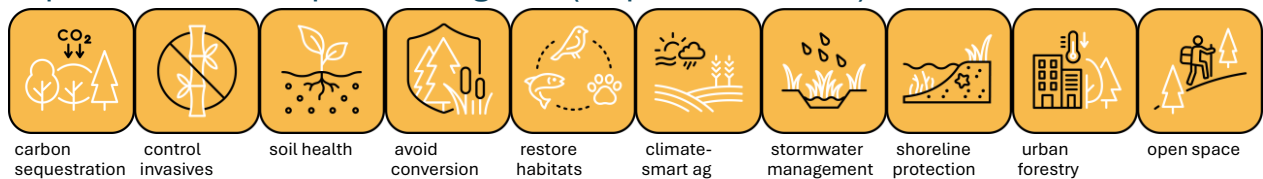
The Connecticut Green Bank is a quasi-public state agency. As the nation’s first state-level green bank, the Green Bank remains a leader in the clean finance movement, leveraging public and private funds to scale-up projects to confront climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing climate adaptation and resilience across Connecticut. The Green Bank’s success is helping Connecticut create jobs, increase economic prosperity, promote energy security, and address climate change.

In 2021, the Green Bank’s model was expanded through Public Act 21-115 to include environmental infrastructure, related to water, waste and recycling, climate adaptation and resiliency, agriculture, land conservation, parks and recreation, and environmental markets, including carbon offsets and ecosystem services. The Green Bank’s approach to environmental infrastructure includes nature-based solutions as well as hard infrastructure improvements that can increase both social and ecological resilience.

CT Green Bank NBS Programs										
Capital Solutions	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
C-PACE Resilience	Co-benefit	N/A	Co-benefit	Co-benefit	Co-benefit	Co-benefit	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Co-benefit
Smart-E (Homeowner Loan Product)	N/A	Co-benefit	N/A	N/A	Co-benefit	N/A	Eligible	Eligible	Co-benefit	N/A

The Green Bank has expanded its portfolio of loans available for homes and commercial properties to include the financing of nature-based solutions along with a host of climate adaptation and resilience measures. Projects that embrace nature-based solutions, including natural infrastructure that promote stormwater management, healthy vegetation, soils, and aquatic ecosystems that offer flood control and hazard risk reduction, are eligible to be financed.

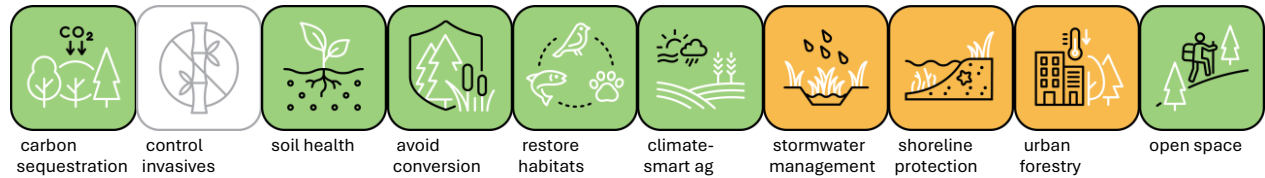
Capital Solutions Open Rolling RFP (Capital Solutions)



Funding source: CT Green Bank

The **Capital Solutions Open Rolling RFP (Capital Solutions)** loan offering provides access to capital for Connecticut projects that catalyze clean energy deployment and energy efficiency, reduction of greenhouse gases, environmental infrastructure, improved public health outcomes, job creation and economic development. More information on Capital Solutions is available at <https://www.ctgreenbank.com/investment-solutions/green-bank-capital-solutions/>

Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE)

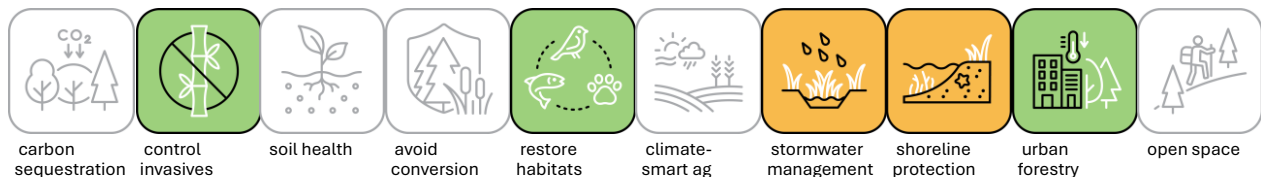


Funding source: CT Green Bank

Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) is a commercial product that supports eligible resilience improvements. Applicants complete a resilience study that assesses the expected cost savings of the resilience improvements over the useful life of the improvements. Nature-based solutions, natural infrastructure that promotes stormwater management, healthy vegetation, soils, and aquatic ecosystems such as flood control and hazard risk reduction are within the C-PACE Resilience eligibility.

The Green Bank facilitates lending offerings through C-PACE both through projects originated by the Green Bank and via those originated through other capital providers. For projects not originated by the Green Bank, other qualified capital providers can offer funding through the C-PACE program with private capital, with the Green Bank serving as program administrator. More information on C-PACE is available at <https://www.ctgreenbank.com/building-solutions/c-pace/>

Smart-E



Funding source: Private capital for Smart-E loans is available through a network of Connecticut credit unions and local banks, supported by a Green Bank loan loss reserve

Smart-E is a lending product for homeowners that includes many improvements that can be financed with this low interest, flexible term loan including nature-based resilience measures. Nature-based measures include replacing impervious surfaces, planting native and/or shade trees, and tree removal. More information on Smart-E is available at <https://www.ctgreenbank.com/home-solutions/smart-e-loans/>

V. Opportunities to Advance NBS Programs

Section 12(a) of [P.A. 25-125](#) requires DEEP to evaluate how to integrate and advance NBS in Connecticut to help our state meet the massive challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and restoring ecosystem resilience. This Chapter is dedicated to identifying programs and approaches that will advance NBS going forward.

Recent swings in federal policy and related funding mechanisms related to programs associated with climate- and nature-based solutions are good reminders that future funding for current