

SOUTHEAST NEW ENGLAND PROGRAM

2021 Request for Applications for the Southeast New England Program Pilot Watersheds Initiative

Federal Agency Name: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Region 1

Funding Opportunity Title: Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Pilot Watersheds Initiative 2021

Announcement Type: Request for Applications (RFA)

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-R1-SNEP-2021B

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 66.129

Important Dates

Last day to Ask Questions	04/28/2021
Informational Webinar	May 6, 2021 12:30-2:00PM EDT: see https://www.epa.gov/snep/snep-pilot-watershed-initiative-2021 for details
Closing Date and Application Deadline	05/28/2021 is the closing date for application packages to be submitted in order to be considered for funding. Application packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through grants.gov (www.grants.gov) by 11:59p.m EST
Applicant Notification	07/30/2021 EPA expects to notify the selected applicants
Award of Funds	10/01/2021 EPA expects to award funds

Dates: Applications must be received by electronic submission through Grants.gov on or before **11:59P.M. EDT 05/28/2021**. Late applications will not be considered for funding. Questions about this RFA must be submitted in writing via e-mail and must be received by the Agency Contact identified in **Section VII** by **04/28/2021**. EPA will post written responses on EPA's website at: <http://www.epa.gov/snep>. Following evaluation of applications, EPA will notify all applicants regarding their status.

Note to Applicants: If the applicant names sub-awardees/sub-grantee and /or contractor(s) in their proposal to assist with the proposed project, please pay careful attention to the information in the CONTRACTS AND SUBAWARDS provision founds at <https://www.epa.gov/grants/grants-policy-issuance-gpi-16-01-epa-subaward-policy-epa-assistance-agreement-recipients>.

Also Note: Funding under this announcement is currently authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. While EPA expects future funding to become available, applicants should be aware that if appropriations do not become available or significant changes are made

to EPA's funding authority, EPA may be required to modify or cancel awards made under this announcement and determine whether and how to proceed. EPA expressly reserves the right to make no awards under this announcement or to incrementally fund a selected award subject to the availability of funding or other considerations.

For the purpose of this RFA:

- The “applicant” refers to the organization submitting an application.
- “We” refers to EPA
- “SNEP” refers to the Southeast New England Program. The term “SNEP geographic boundaries” refers to the area within Massachusetts and Rhode Island that includes the south-facing coastal watersheds between Westerly, Rhode Island and Chatham, Massachusetts, the watersheds of the Narragansett Bay and Buzzards Bay National Estuary Programs (NEPs), and the offshore islands of Martha’s Vineyard, Nantucket, Elizabeth Islands (Town of Gosnold, MA), and Block Island (Town of New Shoreham, RI). Projects must occur within this geographic area to be eligible to be considered for funding. A high-resolution map of the SNP area is found in Appendix A and at <https://www.epa.gov/snep/background-information-southeast-new-england-program>
- “Watershed” refers to the direct surface water drainage/runoff and/or ground water recharge area to a receiving water.
- “Shall” means “must”.
- “Pilot Watershed” refers to the watershed proposed by the applicant for targeted restoration efforts under this RFA. These watersheds should be a manageable size to allow concentration of practices or approaches capable of showing restoration progress. They should be smaller than the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC)-12 scale and may include portions of receiving waters. In cases where a watershed area is large, the applicant shall identify a discrete subwatershed in which to focus its restoration efforts. The ultimate size of each Pilot Watershed should include about the area of a typical town boundary though it may include portions of several towns in its immediate vicinity.

SUMMARY

This RFA sets forth a competitive process to solicit and select up to four entities to establish up to four Pilot Watersheds under the SNEP's new Pilot Watershed Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to demonstrate the effectiveness of concentrated, collaborative efforts and holistic (watershed scale) planning to address common environmental challenges in the SNEP geographic boundary, and ultimately to support SNEP's goals and priorities as set forth in SNEP's Five-Year Strategic Plan (<https://www.epa.gov/snep/snep-strategic-plan>). We plan to award up to four cooperative agreements under this announcement. Applications will be expected to include all the documentation necessary to respond fully to evaluation criteria described in this RFA and to serve as a grant application. We expect to select and notify applicants in July 2021 and fund up to four awards by October 1, 2021.

Led by EPA Region 1, SNEP is a geographically based program intended to serve as a collaborative framework for advancing ecosystem resiliency, protecting and restoring water

quality, habitat, and ecosystem function, and developing and applying innovative policy, science, and technology to environmental management. It was created as a response to meeting the unique difficulties of vulnerable coastal watersheds in southeast coastal New England whose economy and community health are directly tied to its ecological systems. These systems are currently impaired by a variety of stressors including excessive nutrients from wastewater and septic systems, the legacies of past industrial uses, and shifting socio-economic patterns. Traditionally, these problems have been addressed independently, separated by jurisdictions, institutional identities, and sometimes parochial interests. These factors call for a more holistic approach to protecting aquatic ecosystems and functions, one that also considers the resilience of local communities. EPA's role as a SNEP partnership facilitator among multiple organizations is central to its mission to empower collective action in these areas, and its focus on the region's ecosystems offers an opportunity to address complex common issues while also working at the local scale to align restoration and management efforts more broadly to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency.

This RFA and subsequent awards is intended to fund up to four selected entities to establish up to four Pilot Watersheds under the SNEP's new Pilot Watershed Initiative in support of SNEP's goals and priorities as set forth in SNEP's Five-Year Strategic Plan (<https://www.epa.gov/snep/snep-strategic-plan>). Applicants may submit projects for more than one Pilot Watershed; however each application must only address one potential Pilot Watershed. If an applicant wishes to submit applications for more than one Pilot Watershed, they must submit a separate application for each. All funded work must address SNEP priorities as identified in this announcement and SNEP's Five-Year Strategic Plan, and by EPA during the duration of the award, and should promote collaboration among governmental and community resource managers, technology and science practitioners, policy organizations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), tribes, and other groups, as applicable.

Specifically, we are soliciting proposals from eligible applicants to establish up to four (4) Pilot Watersheds under the SNEP Pilot Watershed Initiative contingent upon funding availability, the quality of applications received, and other applicable considerations.

Subject to the availability of appropriated funds and Agency priorities, the total estimated funding available for each award under this competitive opportunity will be up to \$150,000 per year for up to five (5) years, totaling up to \$750,000 in federal funding, with a total project period of seven (7) years.

This RFA requires the applicant to provide a minimum non-federal match of 20% of the total Federal request. See Section III.B for detailed information on the minimum cost share/match requirements. In addition to the cost share/match requirements, applicants may also include leveraging of finances and/or expertise from project partners. Leveraged resources will be evaluated as a part of the application scoring criteria.

Information relating to the RFA process as well as Q&As will be provided at www.epa.gov/snep. We encourage all potential applicants to sign up for SNEP's RFA mailing list by sending an email to SEcoastalNE@epa.gov with a request to be placed on the list to receive any updates

regarding this RFA, the review process, and/or selections. Please reference the Opportunity Number (EPA-R1-SNEP-2021B) in your email subject line.

Funding/Awards:

The total estimated funding for this competitive opportunity is up to \$3 million. We anticipate awarding up to four cooperative agreements from this announcement, subject to availability of funds, the quality of applicants received, and other applicable considerations. We anticipate funding each award with \$150,000 per year, for a total of up to \$750,000 for each award over five (5) years. All actions under these awards must be accomplished within the seven (7) year project period.

CONTENTS BY SECTION

- I. Funding Opportunity Description**
- II. Award Information**
- III. Eligibility Information**
- IV. Application and Submission Information**
- V. Application Review Information**
- VI. Award Administration Information**
- VII. Agency Contacts**
- VIII. Other Information**
- Appendices**

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A) Background for the Southeast New England Program

The objective of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) is to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters." Despite continuing progress in achieving these goals, coastal ecosystems are recognized as particularly vulnerable to upstream pollution sources, fragmented management, and the impacts of climate change. The coastal watersheds of southeast New England are prime examples of this vulnerability. The economy and community health of this region are directly tied to its unique ecological systems, but these systems are currently impaired by excessive nutrients from wastewater and septic systems, by the legacies of past industrial uses, by shifting socio-economic patterns, and other factors.

Traditionally, these problems have been addressed independently, separated by jurisdictions, institutional identities, and sometimes parochial interests. It has become clear, however, that the scope and scale of these environmental stressors calls urgently for a more holistic approach to protecting aquatic ecosystems and sustaining local communities. Created by Congress to take this approach, SNEP's and EPA's role as a partnership facilitator among multiple organizations is central to its mission to empower collective action in these areas, and its focus on the region's ecosystems offers an opportunity to address complex common issues while also working at the local scale to align restoration and management efforts more broadly to achieve greater

effectiveness and efficiency. SNEP's priorities and goals for the coming years have been laid out in its Five-Year Strategic Plan (<https://www.epa.gov/snep/snep-strategic-plan>).

B) Pilot Watershed Initiative Grant Program Details

SNEP's Five-Year Strategic Plan specifically includes a priority action to demonstrate ways to address common challenges. Under this RFA, EPA intends to award cooperative agreements to eligible entities to plan and execute collaborative restoration efforts on a small "Pilot Watershed" (as defined in the Summary Section and below in this section, I.B) scale in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of concentrated, collaborative efforts and holistic (watershed scale) planning to address common environmental challenges in the SNEP geographic boundary. Ultimately, the results of the efforts in each Pilot Watershed will inform planning and implementation in watersheds facing similar challenges across the SNEP region.

Under this RFA, eligible applicants are asked to submit proposals in which they:

- Identify the watershed/subwatershed they wish to nominate as a SNEP Pilot Watershed.
- Identify at least one of the four key environmental challenges identified as a priority below in section I.B that they wish to address in the watershed.
- Provide any necessary background information on the watershed, its environmental issues, previous work done in the watershed, and any established partnerships in the watershed.
- Describe an initial plan to address the identified environmental issue(s) in the nominated watershed over the seven (7) year project period. Initial plans:
 - do not need to be comprehensive but should adequately address the goals of this RFA and should provide sufficient detail to describe proposed actions over the project period;
 - should address how the applicant intends to leverage sources of funding and expertise from various organizations, build partnerships in the watershed, involve community members, and if appropriate, incorporate practices that promote multiple benefits of social and economic wellbeing;
 - should address specifically how EPA SNEP funding will be used; and
 - should address match/cost share requirements, including confirming cost-share for the first year of funding.
- Provide (where possible and where applicable) landowner assurance of access by EPA and partners to private land and waters necessary to conduct monitoring throughout the project.
 - Please note that the grantees will be expected to work with EPA and its partners to provide access to land and water for monitoring efforts.
- Describe how the Pilot Watershed will serve as a demonstration watershed for other cities or towns facing similar environmental challenges.
- Describe proposed program and environmental metrics to allow evaluation of outcomes resulting from the project.

- Explain how the grantee will implement the plan.

With this RFA, we seek to fund up to four eligible entities to operate in up to four Pilot Watersheds in the SNEP region ([Regional Map](#)) to demonstrate the cumulative effectiveness of collaborative and coordinated funding, planning, and implementation of best management practices (BMPs) or new technologies and approaches to holistically address environmental issues in a watershed. Each application should only address one potential Pilot Watershed. These “Pilot Watersheds” should be relatively small to confine activities to a manageable size to allow concentration of practices or approaches capable of showing restoration progress. They should be smaller than the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC)-12 scale and may include portions of receiving waters. In cases where a watershed area is large, the applicant shall identify a discrete subwatershed to focus its restoration efforts. The ultimate size of each Pilot Watershed will be determined by the applicant. The application shall state the size of the proposed Pilot Watershed and explain why the size of the selected watershed is amenable to showing a positive environmental response to the applicant’s proposed environmental actions. The applicant should describe why the selected watershed size is amenable to a reasonable monitoring effort to show environmental results.

Projects must address at least one watershed in each of the four major SNEP regions, namely: Buzzards Bay Watershed (jurisdiction of the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program <https://buzzardsbay.org/watershed-study-area/watershed-jurisdiction/>), Narragansett Bay Watershed (jurisdiction of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program <https://www.nbep.org/study-area>), the southern draining portions of Cape Cod, and one from the off-shore islands of Martha’s Vineyard, Nantucket, Elizabeth Islands (Town of Gosnold, MA), and Block Island (Town of New Shoreham, RI). A high-resolution map of the SNEP area is provided at <https://www.epa.gov/snep/background-information-southeast-new-england-program> and in Appendix A. EPA intends to make at least one award to high ranking applicants addressing a Pilot Watershed in each geographic area. If there are no high-ranking applicants in each geographic area, then EPA may make more than one award in each geographic area.

Applicants for the RFA should select a sub-watershed/watershed (“Pilot Watershed”) with a common environmental challenge important to the SNEP region as a whole, that the applicant wishes to address, and in which they plan to operate under this agreement. We are seeking Pilot Watersheds that demonstrate solutions to the following priority challenges:

- (1) nutrient pollution leading to impairment of surface water;
- (2) harmful algal blooms, including both excessive nuisance algae and toxin producing algal blooms;
- (3) restoration of an impaired urban watershed by incorporating solutions that offer social and economic benefits as well as protect and improve water quality and/or habitat; and
- (4) restoration and/or protection of natural system function, including efforts to increase habitat connectivity, or prevent the potential loss of saltmarsh predicted from climate change.

The strongest applicants will be active in the proposed watershed with connections to other organizations working in the area.

The applicant should build upon previous planning, implementation, or monitoring efforts in the proposed Pilot Watershed. These previous efforts could include watershed-based plans (WBPs), targeted watershed management plans, comprehensive wastewater management plans, total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), scientific studies, Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs) created by the two National Estuary Programs in the SNEP region, BMP implementation, environmental monitoring, and/or education and outreach efforts.

Previous efforts need not have been conducted by the applicant. Funding under this award may not be used towards projects funded by other awards (e.g. CWA 320 awards), but could instead be used to build upon projects, studies, or plans funded by other awards. To better illustrate where the applicant plans to work, the application shall include a map of the proposed sub-watershed area and shall indicate its location in one of the four major SNEP.

Applicants should describe how their plans will address the nominated watershed's environmental challenge in a measurable way over a five to seven-year timeframe and include analysis of the need for the funding, BMPs/implementation projects, any new technologies or approaches to be used in the Pilot Watershed, partnerships and collaborative efforts, local, state, and federal government engagement, potential social and economic co-benefits, community outreach, and the planned use of additional leveraged funding, and any environmental monitoring, including proposed environmental metrics. See note below.

NOTE: In addition to SNEP funding for applicant activities under this RFA, we intend to fund (through another mechanism) environmental monitoring in each selected priority watershed to evaluate the success of the applicant team's efforts. This monitoring will be conducted before, during, and after BMPs are installed or other actions are taken in order to capture the cumulative effect of management actions and projects in the watershed and the extent to which the environmental challenge is being addressed or mitigated.

Selected applicants will be expected to report on program and environmental metrics as the award progresses. Because each Pilot Watershed will likely address differing environmental issues, specific metrics will be finalized by EPA and the applicant at the time of award, but generally are expected to be selected from a list of common SNEP metrics currently under development. These could include such measures as pounds of nitrogen removed per year by a BMP, number of local entities engaged, or amount of funding leveraged. We will work with the grantee to ensure the reporting burden is commensurate with the funding level. Please see **Appendix D** for the current list of proposed metrics.

It is critical for applications to demonstrate how applicants plan to effectively work with multiple organizations in the watershed to coordinate and leverage funds, time, and resources. Proposals must focus on at least one of the four (4) priority challenges outlined above, propose a combination of practices and approaches to solve the priority watershed issue(s), document commitments from current and future partners in the watershed, explicitly list federal and non-federal funding sources that the applicant intends to solicit/use to leverage against the funds

provided by EPA (please note that **only** non-federal funds can be used as match), and describe how the applicant intends to involve multiple organizations in the planning, coordination, and implementation of practices. A letter of support and commitment to participate in the watershed pilot initiative must be provided by the municipal government(s) located in the watershed. Ultimately, the applicant should propose how the project will build a sustainable coalition of funders and project partners from state, municipal, federal, non-governmental, foundation, tribal, and other organizations.

The importance of partnerships to the Pilot Watershed Initiative cannot be overstated. The purpose of the Initiative is to provide financial assistance to support a collaborative, holistic approach to addressing targeted water quality problems on the watershed scale. Key to this will be collaborative problem solving which builds upon existing stakeholder knowledge, utilizes inter-disciplinary approaches (social, economic, environmental), and community engagement. The perspectives and knowledge of multiple partner organizations will foster a comprehensive solution to the water quality problems of the Pilot Watersheds.

The application should also describe how the applicant will communicate lessons learned from the project, including instructive case studies, to other cities and towns facing similar challenges in the SNEP region and beyond. The Pilot Watersheds are meant to serve as demonstration areas/examples for other watersheds, and as such applicants must describe how they will engage with other communities/groups at multiple levels (municipal, state, federal, tribal, NGO) both during and after the project period. Applicants must be able to provide evidence of support by the municipality(ies) in which they propose to work.

Applicants should also demonstrate how their Pilot Watershed plan addresses the goals and priority actions set forth in the SNEP Five-Year Strategic Plan. These include: 1) increase local capacity to complete projects and adopt new policies; (2) increase available solutions; (3) ensure diverse representation; (4) demonstrate ways to address common challenges; and (5) increase community leaders' understanding of the benefit of restoration projects. Taking these actions will enable progress toward the desired outcomes of:

- waters that support native seagrasses and aquatic life, plentiful native fish and shellfish, and a variety of water-based recreation opportunities;
- watersheds that provide essential ecological functions, species diversity, and protection from both human-based and naturally occurring environmental stressors, and healthy, connected natural lands support a variety and range of native plant and wildlife communities; and
- communities that share robust water-based economies, strive to foster equity in environmental health and economic outcomes, protect and provide access to natural lands, open spaces and parks, encourage local food sources, and are adapting for resilience to expected impacts of climate change.

Applicants should also demonstrate how they plan to continue efforts begun under their award beyond the life of the grant. This should include plans to continue addressing the environmental challenge, keeping partnerships alive, continuing to seek sources of funding, providing

operations and maintenance on any BMP implementation projects, and accounting for predicted impacts of climate change.

Although we expect that the majority of award and leveraged funds will go to implementation projects, funding may also be used as appropriate for permitting/financial streamlining efforts, funding coordinator or other critical staff position, or project administration. Applicants should ensure that if selected they will be able to be engaged with relevant monitoring activity(ies) during the life of the grant and provide input on the planning, coordination, and implementation of monitoring. While new monitoring is not required, applications that propose to assist with monitoring, as match or otherwise, may be considered stronger.

The applicant will be expected to confirm access for EPA or its contractors or partners to appropriate land and/or water monitoring sites. This can be done in the application if possible, but must be done, as a term of the award agreement, before monitoring can start.

Ultimately, the goal of the SNEP Pilot Watershed Initiative is to show how collaboration and targeted funding can be used effectively to address an environmental challenge at a watershed scale in a demonstratable way. EPA intends to use the lessons learned from these Pilot Watersheds to demonstrate and apply solutions to similar issues in other watersheds across the SNEP region.

C) EPA Strategic Plan Linkage

The activities to be funded under this solicitation support EPA's FY 2018-22 Strategic Plan. Awards made under this solicitation will support Strategic Plan Goal 1 "A Cleaner, Healthier Environment: Deliver a cleaner, safer, and healthier environment for all Americans and future generations by carrying out the Agency's core mission", Objective 1.2 "Provide for Clean and Safe Water" of the EPA Strategic Plan. All applications must be for projects that support the goals and objectives identified above. The Strategic plan can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/strategicplan>.

D) Expected Outputs and Outcomes

For this RFA:

- The term "outcome" means the result, effect or consequence that will be achieved by carrying out an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work product that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related, or programmatic in nature, must be quantitative, and may not necessarily be achievable within a grant funding period. ***For this RFA, "Desired Outcomes" describe the project metrics and conditions that we aim to achieve for the SNEP region that are found in the SNEP Strategic Plan. Efforts to achieve these outcomes will steer the actions necessary to meet specific five-year targets; these outcomes include:***
 - waters that support native seagrasses and aquatic life, plentiful native fish and shellfish, and a variety of water-based recreation opportunities;

- watersheds that provide essential ecological functions, species diversity, and protection from both human-based and naturally occurring environmental stressors, and healthy, connected natural lands support a variety and range of native plant and wildlife communities; and
- communities that share robust water-based economies, strive to foster equity in health and economic outcomes, protect and provide access to natural lands, open spaces and parks, encourage local food sources, and are adapting for resilience to expected impacts of climate change.
- The term “output” means an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work product related to an environmental goal and objective that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable over the term of the grant funding period. ***For this RFA, “Outputs (Actions)” are detailed activities that SNEP and our partners will undertake during each five-year period in order to meet quantitative targets, work towards accomplishing desired outcomes, and ultimately achieve the 2050 regional vision and goals.***

Applicants should consider the following questions when developing output and outcome measures of quantitative and qualitative results:

- What are the measurable short term and longer-term results the projects funded will achieve?
- How will progress be measured in achieving the expected results (including outputs and outcomes) and how will their proposed approach use resources effectively and efficiently?
- Are there ways to incorporate social and/or economic benefits as part of a broader environmental improvement effort?

E) Statutory Authorization for Award

Authorization for SNEP funding is contained in Public Law 116-260, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, which gives EPA the authority to award grants and cooperative agreements to carry out the SNEP, including planning, research, monitoring, outreach, and implementation projects within the SNEP geographic area.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

A) Funding Amount and Expected Number of Awards

EPA expects to award up to four (4) cooperative agreements for activities under this RFA. The total estimated funding available for awards under this competitive opportunity is up to \$150,000 per award per year for up to five years. Funding for each agreement is not to exceed \$750,000 total over five years through FY2025. The total amount of funding competed under this opportunity is \$3,000,000. All funding decisions are subject to funding availability, quality of proposals, and other applicable considerations.

EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals and make no award under this announcement. EPA intends to make at least one award to high ranking applicants addressing a Pilot Watershed in each geographic area. If there are no high-ranking applicants in each geographic area, then EPA may make more than one award in each geographic area. EPA also reserve the right to make additional awards under this announcement, consistent with Agency policy and guidance, if additional funding becomes available after the original selections are made. Any additional selection for awards will be made no later than six months after the original selection decision.

B) Award Type

We intend to award cooperative agreements under this solicitation. Cooperative agreements provide for substantial involvement between the EPA Project Officer and the selected applicant(s) in the performance of the work supported. Although EPA will negotiate precise terms and conditions relating to substantial involvement as part of the award process, the anticipated substantial federal involvement for these projects may include:

- close monitoring of the successful applicant's performance to verify the results proposed by the applicant;
- collaboration during performance of the scope of work;
- in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.317 and 2 CFR § 200.318, review of proposed procurements;
- approving qualifications of key personnel (EPA will not select employees or contractors employed by the award recipient); and
- review and comment on reports prepared under the cooperative agreement (the final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient).
- Providing, through contracts, interagency agreement, or other mechanisms outside the scope of this RFA, environmental monitoring for the selected Pilot Watersheds.

EPA does not have the authority to select employees or contractors employed by the recipient. The final content of Pilot Watershed final reports rests with the recipient.

C) Partial Funding

In appropriate circumstances, EPA reserves the right to partially fund applications by funding discrete portions or phases of proposed applications. If EPA decides to partially fund an application, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice the applicant or affect the basis upon which the application, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected for award, and therefor maintains the integrity of the competition and selection process.

D) Expected Project Period

The expected project period for these assistance agreements is up to seven (7) years, with funding provided on an annual basis for up to five (5) years. No commitment of funding can be made beyond the first year. The expected start date for the awards resulting from this RFA is October 1, 2021.

E) Award Funding and Incremental Funding/Full Funding

Awards may be fully or incrementally funded, as appropriate, based on funding availability, satisfactory performance, and other applicable considerations.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A) Eligible Applicants

In accordance with Assistance Listing 66.129, assistance under this SNEP RFA is available to state, local, and Tribal governments; institutions of higher education; nonprofit institutions and organizations; and interstate agencies. Private businesses, federal agencies, and individuals are not eligible to apply; however, they may work in partnership with eligible applicants on these projects.

For-profit organizations are not an eligible entity for this funding opportunity. Additionally, non-profit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply.

B) Cost Sharing/Match Requirements

All applicants must demonstrate that they can contribute a minimum non-federal cost share/match of 20 percent of the federal request.

Match/cost shares can be in the form of cash or in-kind contributions, such as the use of volunteers and/or donated time, equipment, expertise, salaries, or other verifiable costs and must be carefully documented. Involvement from foundations, watershed groups, private sector, eligible governmental, as well as non-conventional partners can help with match. The match/cost share must be for allowable project costs under the SNEP funding authority described in sub-section I.E, and any restrictions on the use of grant funds also apply to the use of cost share/matching funds. In the case of salaries, applicants may use either minimum wage or fair market value. All funds are subject to federal audit. Applicants that do not describe how they will meet the minimum match/cost share requirements in their submission will not be considered for funding. Other federal grants may not be used as cost share/match for this solicitation without specific statutory authority. Regulations governing match/cost share requirements are at 2 C.F.R. § 200.306. To calculate the minimum match under this RFA, divide the total federal request by five using the following formula.

Total Federal Funds Requested (\$) divided by five (5) = minimum cost share/match (\$)

In this instance, a request for \$750,000 requires a match of \$150,000 in cash and/or in-kind contributions. The federal funds plus the match is the total project cost.

Although cost share/ match is required as an eligibility condition under this competition, under Section V of this announcement EPA will evaluate proposals based on a leveraging criterion.

In order to be considered for evaluation, any leveraged funds/resources, and their source, must be identified in the proposal (See Section IV of the announcement). Leveraged funding or other resources need not be for eligible and allowable project costs under the EPA assistance agreement unless the Applicant proposes to provide a voluntary cost share as its form of leveraging (see below). Leveraging other than match/ cost share is not included in the project budget on the grant forms but should be included in the grant workplan in the form of a statement to the effect that the applicant is expected to produce the proposed leveraging consistent with the terms of the announcement and their proposal.

If EPA accepts an offer for a voluntary cost share, applicants must meet their sharing commitment as a condition of receiving EPA funding. The recipient is legally obligated to meet any proposed voluntary cost share that is included in the approved project budget because the grant agreement includes the cost share/ match. Applicants may use their own funds or other resources for a voluntary cost share if the standards at 2 CFR 200.306 are met. Only eligible and allowable costs may be used for cost shares/ match. Other Federal grants may not be used as cost shares/ match without specific statutory authority (e.g. HUD's Community Development Block Grants).

C) Threshold Eligibility Criteria

Only proposals from eligible entities (see Section III.A above) that meet the following threshold eligibility criteria will be evaluated. Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration as a result of the threshold eligibility review will be notified within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination.

a. Applications must substantially comply with the application submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV of this solicitation or else they will be rejected. However, pages in excess of the page limitation expressed in Section IV will not be reviewed and the information in those pages will not be considered in the evaluation.

b. In addition, initial applications must be submitted through Grants.gov as stated in Section IV of this solicitation (except in the limited circumstances where another mode of submission is specifically allowed for as explained in Section

IV) on or before the application submission deadline published in Section IV of this solicitation. Applicants are responsible for following the submission instructions in Section IV of this solicitation to ensure that their application is timely submitted.

c. Applications submitted after the submission deadline will be considered late and deemed ineligible without further consideration unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate that it was late due to EPA mishandling or because of technical problems associated with Grants.gov or relevant SAM.gov system issues. An applicant's failure to timely submit their application through Grants.gov because they did not timely or properly register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov will not be considered an acceptable reason to consider a late submission. Applicants should confirm receipt of their application with [SECoastalNE@epa.gov] as soon as possible after the submission deadline—failure to do so may result in your application not being reviewed.

d. Applications that do not address one of the four key environmental challenges identified as a priority in section I.B will be deemed ineligible.

e. Applicants must support projects that address SNEP priorities within the SNEP boundaries (see Section I).

f. Applications must address one watershed from one of the four major SNEP regions as described in Section I. Applications that do not address a watershed or address more than one watershed in the same application will be ineligible. Applicants that wish to address more than one watershed must submit one application per watershed.

g. Applicants must indicate that they have the authority and ability to work in their proposed Pilot Watershed area.

h. Applicants must demonstrate that they have the support of the municipality(ies) in which the Pilot Watershed is located. This support may be in the form of an endorsement, commitment to participate in the project, match/cost share, or letter of support.

i. Projects must occur within the SNEP geographic area to be eligible to be considered for funding. A high-resolution map of the SNEP area is found in Appendix A and at <https://www.epa.gov/snep/background-information-southeast-new-england-program>

j. Ineligible activities: If an application includes any ineligible tasks or activities, that portion of the application will be ineligible for funding and may, depending

on the extent to which it affects the application, render the entire application ineligible for funding.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A) Requirement to Submit Through Grants.gov and Limited Exception Procedures

Applicants, except as noted below, must apply electronically through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) under this funding opportunity based on the grants.gov instructions in this announcement. If an applicant does not have the technical capability to apply electronically through grants.gov because of limited or no internet access which prevents them from being able to upload the required application materials to [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), the applicant must contact OMS-ARM-OGDWaivers@epa.gov or the address listed below in writing (e.g., by hard copy, email) at least 15 calendar days prior to the submission deadline under this announcement to request approval to submit their application materials through an alternate method.

Mailing Address:
OGD Waivers
c/o Jessica Durand
USEPA Headquarters
William Jefferson Clinton Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N. W.
Mail Code: 3903R
Washington, DC 20460

Courier Address:
OGD Waivers
c/o Jessica Durand
Ronald Reagan Building
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Rm # 51278
Washington, DC 20004

In the request, the applicant must include the following information:

- Funding Opportunity Number (FON)
- Organization Name and Unique Entity Identifier (e.g., DUNS)
- Organization's Contact Information (email address and phone number)
- Explanation of how they lack the technical capability to apply electronically through Grants.gov because of 1) limited internet access or 2) no internet access which prevents them from being able to upload the required application materials through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

EPA will only consider alternate submission exception requests based on the two reasons stated above and will timely respond to the request -- all other requests will be

denied. If an alternate submission method is approved, the applicant will receive documentation of this approval and further instructions on how to apply under this announcement. Applicants will be required to submit the documentation of approval with any initial application submitted under the alternative method. In addition, any submittal through an alternative method must comply with all applicable requirements and deadlines in the announcement including the submission deadline and requirements regarding application content and page limits (although the documentation of approval of an alternate submission method will not count against any page limits).

If an exception is granted, it is valid for submissions to EPA for the remainder of the entire calendar year in which the exception was approved and can be used to justify alternative submission methods for application submissions made through December 31 of the calendar year in which the exception was approved (e.g., if the exception was approved on March 1, 2018, it is valid for any competitive or non-competitive application submission to EPA through December 31, 2018). Applicants need only request an exception once in a calendar year and all exceptions will expire on December 31 of that calendar year. Applicants must request a new exception from required electronic submission through Grants.gov for submissions for any succeeding calendar year. For example, if there is a competitive opportunity issued on December 1, 2018 with a submission deadline of January 15, 2019, the applicant would need a new exception to submit through alternative methods beginning January 1, 2019. Please note that the process described in this section is only for requesting alternate submission methods. All other inquiries about this announcement must be directed to the Agency Contact listed in Section VII of the announcement. Queries or requests submitted to the email address identified above for any reason other than to request an alternate submission method will not be acknowledged or answered.

B) Submission Instructions

The electronic submission of your application must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. For more information on the registration requirements that must be completed in order to submit an application through grants.gov, go to [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and click on "Applicants" on the top of the page and then go to the "Get Registered" link on the page. If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage your office to designate an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible. Please note that the registration process also requires that your organization have a Unique Entity Identifier (e.g. DUNS number) and a current registration with the System for Award Management (SAM) and the process of obtaining both could take a month or more. Applicants must ensure that all registration requirements are met in order to apply for this opportunity through grants.gov and should ensure that all such requirements have been met well in advance of the submission deadline. Registration on grants.gov, SAM.gov, and DUNS number assignment is FREE.

Applicants need to ensure that the AOR who submits the application through Grants.gov

and whose Unique Entity Identifier (e.g., DUNS number) is listed on the application is an AOR for the applicant listed on the application. Additionally, the Unique Entity Identifier listed on the application must be registered to the applicant organization's SAM account. If not, the application may be deemed ineligible.

To begin the application process under this grant announcement, go to [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov) and click on "Applicants" on the top of the page and then "Apply for Grants" from the dropdown menu and then follow the instructions accordingly. Please note: To apply through Grants.gov, you must use Adobe Reader software and download the compatible Adobe Reader version. For more information about Adobe Reader, to verify compatibility, or to download the free software, please visit [Adobe Reader Compatibility Information on Grants.gov](https://www.adobe.com/reader/compatibility)

You may also be able to access the application package for this announcement by searching for the opportunity on [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov). Go to [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov) and then click on "Search Grants" at the top of the page and enter the Funding Opportunity Number, **EPA-R1-SNEP-2021B**, or the CFDA number that applies to the announcement (CFDA **66.129 EPA**), in the appropriate field and click the Search button.

Please Note: All applications must now be submitted through [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov) using the "Workspace" feature. Information on the Workspace feature can be found at the [Grants.gov Workspace Overview Page](https://www.Grants.gov/Workspace/Overview).

Application Submission Deadline: Your organization's AOR must submit your complete application package electronically to EPA through [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov) no later than **05/28/21** 11:59 PM ET. Please allow for enough time to successfully submit your application and allow for unexpected errors that may require you to resubmit.

Please submit *all* of the application materials described below using the Grants.gov application package accessed using the instructions above.

Application Materials

The following forms and documents are required under this announcement:

Mandatory Documents:

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
2. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
3. EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
4. EPA Form 4700-4 Preaward Compliance Review Report
5. Narrative Proposal (Project Narrative Attachment Form)-prepared as described in Appendix B of the announcement (refer to Section I.B for required content)
6. Budget Detail (Budget Narrative Attachment Form) – See Appendix C for information

7. Support Materials (Other Attachment Form)

- a. Resumes of curriculum vitae of staff that will be working on the Pilot Watershed Program
- b. Letters of commitment from any partners identified in the proposal in order to confirm their partnership.
- c. Letters of support and commitment for all cities and town government in which the Pilot Watershed is located.
- d. Confirmation (or process to confirm) access to private property by their owner(s) required to carry out monitoring of water, priority habitat and practices installed as part of the agreement.
- e. List documenting past or ongoing federal and/or non-federally funded assistance agreements administer by the applicant, including documentation supporting grant performance and meeting of reporting requirements.
- f. Documents of non-profit status if appropriate.
- g. Verification of proposed sources of non-federal match to the application. See Appendix B for additional details.

Applications submitted through grants.gov will be time and date stamped electronically. If you have not received a confirmation of receipt from EPA (not from grants.gov) within 30 days of the application deadline, please contact **Ian Dombroski** (Dombroski.Ian@EPA.GOV; 617-918-1342). Failure to do so may result in your application not being reviewed.

C. Technical Issues with Submission

1. Once the application package has been completed, the "Submit" button should be enabled. If the "Submit" button is not active, please call Grants.gov for assistance at 1-800-518-4726. Applicants who are outside the U.S. at the time of submittal and are not able to access the toll-free number may reach a Grants.gov representative by calling 606-545-5035. Applicants should save the completed application package with two different file names before providing it to the AOR to avoid having to re-create the package should submission problems be experienced or a revised application needs to be submitted.
2. Submitting the application. The application package must be transferred to Grants.gov by an AOR. The AOR should close all other software before attempting to submit the application package. Click the "submit" button of the application package. Your Internet browser will launch and a sign-in page will appear. **Note: Minor problems are not uncommon with transfers to Grants.gov. It is essential to allow sufficient time to ensure that your application is submitted to Grants.gov BEFORE the due date identified in Section IV of the solicitation.** The Grants.gov support desk operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except Federal Holidays.
A successful transfer will end with an on-screen acknowledgement. For

documentation purposes, print or screen capture this acknowledgement. If a submission problem occurs, reboot the computer turning the power off may be necessary and re-attempt the submission.

3. Transmission Difficulties. If transmission difficulties that result in a late transmission, no transmission, or rejection of the transmitted application are experienced, and following the above instructions do not resolve the problem so that the application is submitted to [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) by the deadline date and time, follow the guidance below. The Agency will make a decision concerning acceptance of each late submission on a case-by-case basis. All emails, as described below, are to be sent to **Ian Dombroski** (Dombroski.ian@epa.gov; 617-918-1342) with the FON in the subject line. If you are unable to email, contact **Ian Dombroski** at **617-918-1342**. Be aware that EPA will only consider accepting applications that were unable to transmit due to [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) or relevant <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/> system issues or for unforeseen exigent circumstances, such as extreme weather interfering with internet access. Failure of an applicant to submit timely because they did not properly or timely register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov is not an acceptable reason to justify acceptance of a late submittal.

a. If you are experiencing problems resulting in an inability to upload the application to Grants.gov, it is essential to call [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) for assistance at 1-800-518-4726 before the application deadline. Applicants who are outside the U.S. at the time of submittal and are not able to access the toll-free number may reach a Grants.gov representative by calling 606-545-5035. Be sure to obtain a case number from Grants.gov. If the problems stem from unforeseen exigent circumstances unrelated to Grants.gov, such as extreme weather interfering with internet access, contact **Ian Dombroski** at **617-918-1342**

b. Unsuccessful transfer of the application package: If a successful transfer of the application cannot be accomplished even with assistance from Grants.gov due to electronic submission system issues or unforeseen exigent circumstances, and you have already attempted to resolve the issue by contacting Grants.gov, send an email message to **Dombroski.ian@epa.gov** prior to the application deadline. The email message must document the problem and include the Grants.gov case number as well as the entire application in PDF format as an attachment.

c. Grants.gov rejection of the application package: If a notification is received from Grants.gov stating that the application has been rejected for reasons other than late submittal and it is too late to reapply, promptly send an email to **Dombroski.ian@epa.gov** with the FON in the subject line within one business day of the closing date of this solicitation. The email should include any materials provided by Grants.gov and attach the entire application in PDF format.

Please note that successful submission through Grants.gov or via email does not necessarily mean your application is eligible for award.

C) Programmatic Capability and Past Performance

Submit a list of federally and/or non-federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not Federal contracts) similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than 5 agreements, and preferably EPA agreements) and describe (i) whether, and how, you were able to successfully complete and manage those agreements and (ii) your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including whether you adequately and timely reported on your progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes of those agreements (and if not, explain why not) and whether you submitted acceptable final technical reports under the agreements. In evaluating applicants under these factors in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current/prior grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or past reporting information, please indicate this in the application and you will receive a neutral score for these factors (a neutral score is half of the total points available in a subset of possible points). If you do not provide any response for these items, you may receive a score of 0 for these factors.

In addition, provide information on your organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and your staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.

D) Leveraging

Demonstrate how you will coordinate the use of EPA funding with other Federal and/or non-Federal sources of funds/resources to leverage additional resources beyond the grant funds awarded and any required cost share for applicants specified in Section III of the announcement to carry out the proposed project(s) and/or that EPA funding will complement activities relevant to the proposed project(s) carried out by the applicant with other sources of funds or resources. Describe the type and amount of leveraging proposed, how you will obtain the leveraged resources, the likelihood the leveraging will materialize during grant performance, the strength of the leveraging commitment, and the role the leveraged funds/resources will play in the overall project. Selected applicants are expected to abide by their proposed leveraging commitments during grant performance and the failure to do so may affect the legitimacy of the award.

E) Partnerships

Provide a clear and concise description of how the proposed project promotes collaborations with partners from multiple stakeholder groups, such as municipal, state,

federal, or tribal governments, NGOs, industry, academia, etc., to develop and implement solutions that will address environmental issues at the watershed scale. We encourage applicants to seek diversity in partnerships in an effort to enhance the process of achieving the project's goals.

- Describe how the project will accomplish its goals through the use of appropriate and diverse partnerships from multiple stakeholder groups.
- Identify and describe all partners involved, including those partnerships that may be under development. Include the following details about each of your partners. If you are not planning on collaborating with other stakeholders or having partners for project performance, you must describe how you can effectively perform the project without such collaboration or partnerships:
 - Planned roles of each partner listed in your Project Summary.
 - What resources each partner brings to the partnership.
 - How the partner has a vested interest in working with this partnership [other than just getting income from a sub-award or contract].
 - How the applicant plans to maintain and sustain these relationships on into the future.

Applicants working with partners must submit letters of commitment from partners in order for those partnerships to be evaluated (See Section V for the evaluation criteria on partnerships). Letters should be from partners representing different stakeholder groups. The letters must be submitted by the applicant with the other application documents by the submission deadline. The letters of commitment should include information about the role and activities each partner or stakeholder organization will perform as well as any resources the partner or stakeholder will provide. If no letters of commitment are included, then it will be assumed the applicant has no partners. Partnerships and collaboration with other interested stakeholders in performance of the project are integral to the success of this program. If an applicant does not demonstrate such partnerships or collaboration as described above, they must be able to convincingly demonstrate in their application how they can effectively perform the project without any partners or collaboration. Given the nature of this program, failure to demonstrate effective partnerships or collaboration with other stakeholders, or having less partners/collaboration than recommended above, will likely adversely impact the applicant's scoring under the relevant evaluation criteria in Section V and render the application less competitive than others that include partnerships and collaboration. All letters of commitment must be submitted by the applicant with its application package by the submission deadline.

F) Confirmed Match

The applicant shall provide evidence of the strength of support and specific details of the ability to provide match for all five years of funding. This can be through letters of confirmation or other means as the applicant sees fit.

Please note that this will be evaluated in Section V, and applications that provide specific and detailed information demonstrating that the applicant will be able to meet the required match for the five years will score higher than applicants that are unable to provide such information.

G) Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation

Additional provisions that apply to this solicitation and/or awards made under this solicitation, including but not limited to those related to confidential business information, contracts and subawards under grants, and proposal assistance and communications, can be found at EPA Solicitation Clauses. These, and the other provisions that can be found at the website link, are important, and applicants must review them when preparing proposals for this solicitation. If you are unable to access these provisions electronically at the website above, please communicate with the EPA contact listed in this solicitation to obtain the provisions.

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A) Evaluation Process

After we review applications for threshold eligibility as described in Section III, eligible applications will be reviewed by a team of professionals from EPA with a working knowledge of the technical and programmatic aspects needed to rigorously evaluate these Pilot Watershed proposals. All reviewers will sign a conflict-of-interest statement indicating there is no real, or perceived, conflict of interest.

B) Evaluation Criteria: Maximum Score 135 Points

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Points out of 135</u>
Watershed Description/ Relation to EPA Identified Priority Environmental Challenge(s)	Under this criterion, the reviewers will evaluate the application based on how well the applicant: a. Describes the location, unique resources, geographic extent (size) and justification of the geographic extent of the proposed Pilot Watershed (see Section I.B). The applicant should include a map of the proposed Pilot Watershed and indicate which of the four major SNEP sub-regions the watershed is in. (8 pts.) b. Describes the current environmental conditions in the proposed watershed, including describing how those conditions reflect one or more of the four priority environmental challenges (Section I.B) they propose to address (10 pts.)	20

	c. Links the proposed activities to EPA's Strategic Plan (Section I.C) and the SNEP Strategic Plan. (2 pts.)	
Proposed Pilot Watershed Plan & Activities	Under this criterion, the reviewers will evaluate the application based on how well the applicant: a. Describes how the plan demonstrates the effectiveness of concentrated, collaborative efforts and holistic (watershed scale) planning to address common environmental challenges. (12 pts.) b. Describes previous work done in the watershed, recommendations for next steps or implementation priorities, and any established partnerships. (6 pts.) c. Describes the predicted outputs and outcomes (Section I.D) of their proposed project and the specific plan for how EPA SNEP funding will be used, the necessity for this funding, and how this funding will result in short- and long-term progress in watershed. (7 pts.) d. Describes how they plan to continue addressing the priority environmental challenge beyond the life of the award (including continued partnerships and building new partnerships). (5 pts.)	30
	Under this criterion, reviewers will evaluate the application based on: a. The quality and extent to which the applicant provides a clear and concise description of how the proposed project promotes collaborations with partners from multiple stakeholder groups, such as industry, NGOs, academia, municipal, state, federal, or tribal government, etc., to develop and implement solutions that will address issues at the watershed scale. The description should include the following: - planned roles of each partner listed on the Project Summary - how each partner will contribute to the project, - what resources each partner brings to the project - how the partner has a vested interest in working with this partnership (other than just getting income from a sub-award or contract) - how the applicant organization plans to sustain these relationships on into the future (10 pts.) b. Letters of Commitment. Applicants will be evaluated based on the quality of the letters of commitment submitted with the application. The letters should explain the partners' role in the project, what resources (funding, in-kind, technical assistance, etc.) they are bringing to the effort, and their interest in the project and community. If no letters are submitted, then the applicant will be evaluated based on how well they demonstrate that they can effectively perform the project without partners. (4 pts.) Note: Partnerships and collaboration with other interested stakeholders in performance of the project are integral to the success of this program. If an applicant does not demonstrate such partnerships or collaboration, they must be able to convincingly demonstrate in their application how they can effectively perform the project without any partners or collaboration. Given the nature of this program, failure to demonstrate effective partnerships or collaboration with other stakeholders will likely adversely impact the applicant's scoring under this criterion and render the application less competitive than others that include partnerships and collaboration. If an application has no commitment letters and does not demonstrate how the applicant can effectively perform the project without partners or collaboration, they may receive a zero for this criterion. c. Demonstration of: (i) how the applicant will coordinate the use of EPA funding with other Federal and/or non-Federal sources of funds/resources/expertise/partnerships to leverage additional resources beyond the grant funds awarded and any required cost share for applicants specified in Section III of the announcement to carry out the proposed project(s) (3 pts.)and/or	20
Partnerships & Leveraging		

	(ii) that EPA funding will complement activities relevant to the proposed project(s) carried out by the applicant with other sources of funds or resources. Applicants will also be evaluated based on the type and amount of leveraging proposed, how the applicant will obtain the leveraged resources, the likelihood the leveraging will materialize during grant performance, the strength of the leveraging commitment, and the role the leveraged resources will play to support the proposed project activities. (3 pts.)	
Programmatic Capabilities	Under this criterion, reviewers will evaluate the applicant based on their programmatic capability to successfully perform the proposed activity taking into account the applicant's: a. Past performance in successfully completing federal- and non-federally-funded assistance agreements (including federal grants and cooperative agreements, but not federal contracts) similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project within the last five years (applicants should include no more than five, preferably EPA agreements). Successful completion of federally funded assistance agreements also includes the applicant organization's history of meeting reporting requirements and submission of acceptable final technical reports under those agreements. (6 pts.) b. Extent and quality to which they adequately documented and/or reported on their progress in achieving the expected results (e.g. outcomes and outputs) under federal agency assistance agreements performed within the last five years, and if such progress was not being made, whether the applicant adequately documented and/or reported why not, and internally developed proper corrective actions. (3 pts.) c. Organizational experience and staff expertise, including: i. Relevant staff technical expertise/qualifications, knowledge, and resources, or the ability to obtain experience and qualified staff, to successfully achieve the environmental goals for their proposed application; and (5 pts.) ii. Relevant organizational and administrative capacity, experiences, travel capabilities (e.g. ability to conduct site visits, meet with partners, and perform oversight to successfully administer the execution and management of this award), and technical and outreach expertise to accomplish the proposed plan of work successfully. (6 pts.) NOTE: In evaluating applicants under items a. and b. of these criteria, the Agency will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including Agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g. to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). If the applicant does not have any relevant or available past performance, they must indicate this in the proposal and will receive a neutral score for these subfactors. A neutral score is half of the total points available in a subset of possible points. If the applicant does not provide any response for these items, they will receive a score of zero for these subfactors.	20
Cost Effectiveness & Match	Under this criterion, reviewers will evaluate the application based on the degree to which it: a. is cost-effective, considering the following factors: organizational overhead; indirect cost; prudent cost allocation over the life of the award; organizational and partner resources brought to the effort; consistency with proposed budget detail; and ability to perform the duties within the operational range of budgets provided by SNEP. (5 pts.)	10

	b. demonstrates the strength of support and level of specificity in their plan to procure match. Applications that provide specific and detailed information demonstrating that the applicant will be able to meet the required match for the five years will score higher than applicants that are unable to provide such information. For example, applications that include letters of commitment demonstrating an organization's commitment to provide match will be evaluated favorably under this criterion. (5 pts.)	
Tracking and Measuring of Environmental and Programmatic Results	Under this criterion, reviews will evaluate the application based on the degree to which it demonstrates the applicant's ability to: a. Identify specific environmental results that will be targeted by the activities proposed under this award, including co-benefits if appropriate. (4 pts.) b. Track and measure their progress in achieving environmental results, including milestones for the tasks being proposed and for achieving anticipated the outputs and outcomes described in Section I.D, including cobenefits if appropriate (5 pts.) c. Track and measure SNEP proposed SNEP project metrics in Appendix D (also refer to Section I.B). (5 pts.) d. Plans to ensure access to land and water by EPA and partners to enable pre and post monitoring of environmental results. (2 pts.) e. Assess effectiveness of its approach for the proposed tasks, including the incorporation of standardized monitoring, measuring, and reporting. (4 pts.)	20
Transferability of Results	Under this criterion, reviewers will evaluate the application based on the degree to which the application includes an adequate plan to: a. Gather and develop information to support and communicate lessons learned from the proposed activities, including being available to present results as a demonstration project both during and after the life of the award. (6 pts.) b. Document and distribute result in a timely manner, including information materials and recommendations to key partners in the SNEP region and other appropriate audiences upon completion of the award. (4 pts.)	10
Timely Expenditure of Funds	Under this criterion, reviewers will evaluate the application based on: The approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that award grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner, and before the end of the project period. (5 pts.)	5

C) Review and Selection Process

Eligible proposals will be evaluated and ranked using the criteria stated in Section V.B above by a panel of reviewers from EPA with a working knowledge of the technical and programmatic aspects needed to rigorously evaluate these Pilot Watershed proposals. The review team will then forward their rankings and evaluation to the selection official for final selections.

In making the final funding decision, the selection official will first consider funding an application in each of the four sub-regions; contingent upon receiving at least one qualified and high-quality application from each sub-region (Buzzards Bay NEP Watershed, Narragansett Bay NEP Watershed, Cape Cod (portion not within the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program's jurisdiction), the Islands).

If no applications or only low-quality applications are received from a SNEP sub-region, the selection official will consider the highest scoring remaining applications regardless of sub-region.

In the case that applications have the same score or are closely scored the selection official will consider the following other factors: geographic distribution, diversity of Priority Environmental Challenges, diversity of proposed technologies/approaches/practices to address the Priority Environmental Challenges, and programmatic goals and priorities.

D) Additional Provisions Incorporated by Reference

Additional provisions that apply to this solicitation and/or awards made under this solicitation including the clause on Reporting and Use of Information Concerning Recipient Integrity and Performance can be found on the [EPA Solicitation Clauses](#) page. These, and the other provisions that can be found at the website link, are important, and applicants must review them when preparing applications for this solicitation. If you are unable to access these provisions electronically at the website above, please communicate with the EPA contact listed in this solicitation to obtain the provisions.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A) Award Notification

We anticipate notification to successful applicants will be made via telephone or electronic or postal mail by **July 30, 2021**. The notification will be sent to the original signer of the application or the project contact listed in the application. This notification, which informs the applicant that its application has been selected and is being recommended for award, is not an authorization to begin work. The official notification of an award will be made the EPA Region 1 Grant's Office. Applicants are cautioned that only a grants officer is authorized to bind the Government to the expenditure of funds; selection does not guarantee an award will be made. For example, statutory authorization, funding or other issues discovered during the award process may affect the ability of EPA to make an award to an applicant. The award notice, signed by an EPA grants officer, is the authorizing document and will be provided through electronic or postal mail. The successful applicant may need to prepare and submit additional documents and forms (e.g., work plan), which must be approved by EPA, before the grant can officially be awarded. The time between notification of selection and award of a grant can take up to 90 days or longer.

B) Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The following information will be helpful in preparing the application. A listing and description of general EPA regulations applicable to the award of assistance agreements

may be viewed at:

http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/applicable_epa_regulations_and_description.htm.

Federal Requirements: An applicant selected for federal funding may need to adjust their forms prior to award (see Appendix B for the list of required materials). We reserve the right to negotiate and/or adjust the final cooperative agreement amount and work plan content prior to award consistent with agency policies.

Indirect Costs: Indirect costs are those costs incurred by an organization for common or joint objectives and that cannot be readily identified with a particular final cost objective, project or program but are, nevertheless, necessary to the general operation of its activities. Indirect costs generally include, but are not limited to, facilities operation and maintenance costs, depreciation, and administrative expenses.

If indirect costs are budgeted in the assistance application and the non-profit organization or educational institute does not have a previously established indirect cost rate, it will need to prepare and submit an indirect cost rate proposal and/or cost allocation plan in accordance with the appropriate federal cost principle, 2 C.F.R. Part 220 (OMB Cost Principles for Educational Institutions) and 2 C.F.R. Part 230 (OMB Cost Principles for Non-profits) within 90 days from the effective date of the award. Alternatively, and in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.414(f), any non-Federal entity that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate, except for those non-Federal entities described in Appendix VII to Part 200—States and Local Government and Indian Tribe Indirect Cost Proposals, paragraph D.1.b, may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs which may be used indefinitely. Costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such time as a non-Federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the non-Federal entity may apply to do at any time.

If a local government does not have a previously established indirect cost rate, it will need to prepare its indirect cost rate proposal and/or cost allocation plan in accordance with 2 C.F.R. Part 225 (OMB Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments). The local government recipient whose cognizant federal agency has been designated by OMB must develop and submit its indirect cost rate proposal to its cognizant agency within six months after the close of the governmental unit's fiscal year. If the cognizant federal agency has not been identified by OMB, the local government recipient must still develop (and when required, submit) its proposal within that period. If a state government agency does not have a previously established indirect cost rate, it agrees that it will prepare its indirect cost rate proposal in accordance with 2 C.F.R. Part 225. The state government agency must send its proposal to its cognizant federal agency within six months after the close of the governmental unit's fiscal year.

Incurred Costs: Funding eligibility ends on the date specified in the award. The time expended and costs incurred in either the development of the proposal or the final assistance application, or in any subsequent discussions or negotiations prior to the award, are neither reimbursable nor recognizable as part of the recipient's cost share.

Allowable Costs: EPA project officers and grant specialists have been provided guidance on determining the allowability and reasonableness of certain cost items under assistance agreements. The guidance indicates that the use of EPA grant funds for evening banquets, evening receptions or for light refreshments and meals at meetings, conferences, training workshops, and outreach activities (events) must be justified by the assistance recipient, identified in the budget detail, must be allowable under the OMB Cost Principles, and approved by the EPA Award Official. Further, EPA will not approve the use of grant funds for any portion of an event where alcohol is served, purchased, or otherwise available even if grant funds are not used to purchase the alcohol.

EPA Requirements for Quality Management Plans and Quality Assurance Plans: In accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 1500.12, projects that include the generation or use of environmental data are required to submit a Quality Management Plan (QMP) or Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).

The QMP must document quality assurance policies and practices that are sufficient to produce data of adequate quality to meet program objectives. The QMP should be prepared in accordance with EPA QA/R-2: EPA Requirements for Quality Management Plans (refer to <https://www.epa.gov/quality/epa-qar-2-epa-requirements-quality-management-plans>, Chapter 2). The recipient's QMP should be reviewed and updated annually as needed. The QMP must be submitted to the EPA project officer at least 45 days prior to the initiation of data collection or data compilation.

The recipient must develop and implement quality assurance and quality control procedures, specifications and documentation that are sufficient to produce data of adequate quality to meet project objectives. The QAPP is the document that provides comprehensive details about the quality assurance/quality control requirements and technical activities that must be implemented to ensure that project objectives are met. The QAPP should be prepared in accordance with EPA QA/R-5: EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans. The QAPP must be submitted to the EPA project officer at least 30 days prior to the initiation of data collection or data compilation. Requirements for QAPPs can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/quality/guidance-quality-assurance-project-plans-epa-qag-5>.

C) **Reporting**

Quarterly reports via email to the Project Officer will be required as a condition of this award. The reports must be Microsoft Office Suite (i.e., Word, Excel) format. Quarterly reports should include information on expenditures, project progress, outreach, collaborative efforts, and any other information that will inform the Project Officer of the

nature of the grantee's work. The specific format of these progress reports will be agreed upon by the grantee and Project Officer at the outset of the grant.

Upon completion of the grant period the grantee will also need to submit a final report to the Project Officer no later than 90 days after the end of the grant period. The nature and format of this final report will be agreed upon by the grantee and Project Officer during the final year of the grant.

D) Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation

Additional provisions that apply to this solicitation and/or awards made under this solicitation, including but not limited to those related to DUNS, SAM, copyrights, disputes, and administrative capability, can be found at [EPA Solicitation Clauses](#). These, and the other provisions that can be found at the website link, are important, and applicants must review them when preparing applications for this solicitation. If you are unable to access these provisions electronically at the website above, please communicate with the EPA contact listed in this solicitation to obtain the provisions.

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS

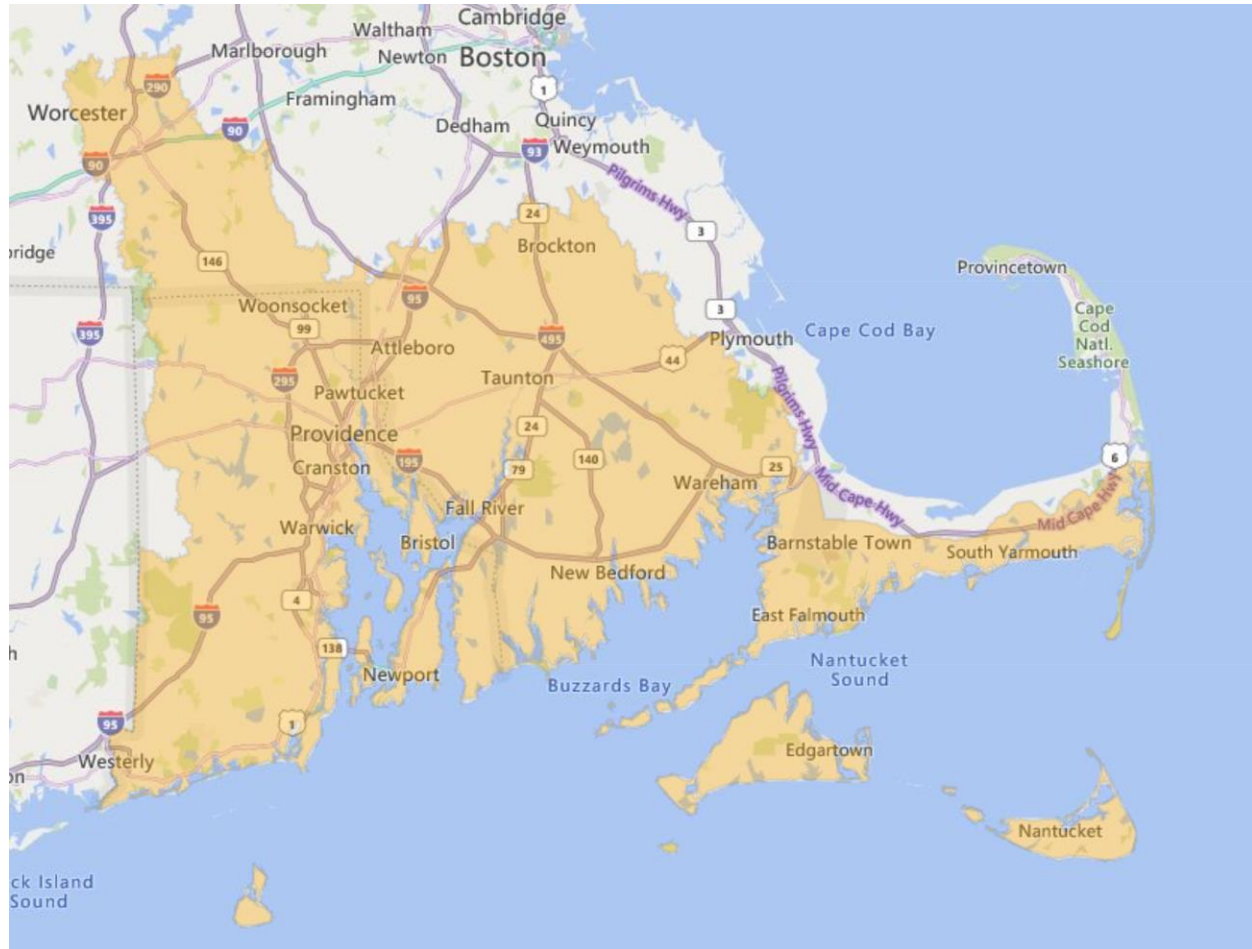
For administrative and technical issues regarding this RFA, please contact SNEP via email at SECoastalNE@epa.gov. All questions must be received in writing via email with the reference line referring to this RFA (RE: RFA EPA-R1-SNEP-2021B) by **04/28/2021**. All questions and answers will be posted on <http://www.epa.gov/snep>. In addition, information about the informational webinars will also be posted on this same website.

VIII. OTHER INFORMATION

In developing the proposal, the applicant may find the following documents helpful:

- Southeast New England Program Website <https://www.epa.gov/snep>
- EPA Requirements for Quality Management Plans and Quality Assurance Plans <https://www.epa.gov/quality>
- EPA Strategic Plan <http://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/strategicplan>
- Please visit the EPA Grants website (<http://www.epa.gov/ogd>) for questions about grant issues such as costs or eligibility.
- SNEP 5-Year Strategic Plan: <https://www.epa.gov/snep/snep-strategic-plan>

APPENDIX A. SNEP Map



The SNEP geographic region includes land areas in Massachusetts and Rhode Island including the south-facing coastal watersheds between Westerly, Rhode Island and Chatham, Massachusetts, the watersheds of the Narragansett Bay and Buzzards Bay National Estuary Programs (NEPs), and offshore islands of Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Elizabeth Islands (Town of Gosnold, Mass) and Block Islands (Town of New Shoreham, RI). An interactive map can be found at <https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=596401a1439e48a8a02ce9473b453c41>.

APPENDIX B. Checklist of Required Materials and Description of Proposal Content

Please note checklist is for application preparation purposes only, please do not submit.

Required Materials (as outlined in Section IV.A)

Mandatory Documents:

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
2. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
3. EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
4. EPA Form 4700-4 Preaward Compliance Review Report
5. Narrative Proposal (Project Narrative Attachment Form)-prepared as described in Appendix B of the announcement (refer to Section I.B for required content)
6. Budget Detail (Budget Narrative Attachment Form) – See Appendix C for information
8. Support Materials (Other Attachment Form)
 - h. Resumes of curriculum vitae of staff that will be working on the Pilot Watershed Program
 - i. Letters of commitment from any partners identified in the proposal in order to confirm their partnership.
 - j. Letters of support and commitment for all cities and town government in which the Pilot Watershed is located.
 - k. Confirmation (or process to confirm) access to private property by their owner(s) required to carry out monitoring of water, priority habitat and practices installed as part of the agreement.
 - l. List documenting past or ongoing federal and/or non-federally funded assistance agreements administer by the applicant, including documentation supporting grant performance and meeting of reporting requirements.
 - m. Documents of non-profit status if appropriate.
 - n. Verification of proposed sources of non-federal match to the application. See Appendix B for additional details.

Recommended Format for Proposal Narratives

Proposal narratives must be no longer than 12 numbered pages (“Pages” refers to one side of a single-spaced, typed page; i.e., a double-sided page equals two pages) 8.5x11 inches, single spaced, font size no smaller than 10pt) and must address the evaluation criteria in Section V.B. The first page should include applicant contact information and the proposal’s title. The 12 pages do not include the Support Materials listed above or, the budget detail, the SF-424, SF-424A, Key Contacts Form, or EPA Form 4700-4. The application should include the following information:

- Pilot Watershed Description/ Relation to EPA Identified Priority Environmental Challenge(s)
 - Map of Proposed Pilot Watershed

- Indication of which of the Four Major SNEP Areas the Watershed is in.
- Description of How the Pilot Watershed Would Address one of EPA's Priority Challenges
- Proposed Pilot Watershed Plan including BMPs, technologies and approaches that will be implemented
- Partnerships & Leveraging
- Programmatic Capability
- Cost Effectiveness & Match
- Monitoring, Tracking and Measuring of Environmental Results
- Transferability of Results
- Efforts to Serve as a Demonstration Watershed for Other Towns
- Timely Expenditure of Funds

APPENDIX C. General Budget Development Guidance

Please use the following link for guidance on budget development:

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/rain-2019-g02>.

Appendix 2 in the following document contains a sample budget the applicant might find useful:
<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-05/documents/applicant-budget-development-guidance.pdf>.

Note to Applicants: If the applicant names sub-awardees/sub-grantee and/or contractor(s) in their proposal to assist with the proposed project, please pay careful attention to the information in the CONTRACTS AND SUBAWARDS provision founds at

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/grants-policy-issuance-gpi-16-01-epa-subaward-policy-epa-assistance-agreement-recipients>.

APPENDIX D. Proposed Project Metrics

Please note these metrics are still under development and are meant for reference purpose only. Final metrics to be tracked by the applicant will be determined after awards are made.

SNEP Project-Level Metrics --to be added as reporting requirements as applicable to the project's purpose			
Problem to Be Addressed	Project Activity	Metric	Additional Guidance
Education and Awareness			
Lack of Awareness: Land Use Impacts on Environment and/or Sustainability	Conduct targeted outreach to raise public awareness of issues	# people targeted by education efforts	Provide # people educated about land use impacts on water quality, habitat and/or community sustainability. In NOTES section: describe the type of participants e.g., general public, farmers, students, teachers, etc. as well as the type of outreach conducted (Newsletter, Social Media Posts, Local News Segment etc.). Please also note if outreach was targeted specifically at marginalized, underserved, or environmental justice communities. If the exact number of people is not known, provide an estimate.
Lack of Awareness: Land Use Impacts on Environment and/or Sustainability	Conduct targeted outreach to raise public awareness	# people demonstrating a minimum level of knowledge or attitude	Provide # people targeted that are demonstrating a minimum level of knowledge or attitude. In NOTES section: describe specific method to document improvement in knowledge, attitudes or skills e.g., signed pledge, increase in

			knowledge based on pre and post testing after information about topic provided etc. If you are not able to measure and document results do not use this metric
Capacity Building and Training			
Increase Implementation Success: Municipalities, Tribes and NGOs	Increase local implementation	# of municipalities, tribes, and NGOs that go on to successfully implement projects/policies after assistance from the Network.	Enter # municipalities, tribes, or NGOs that have received technical assistance and then implemented new projects or policies.
Increase Direct Assistance and Training: Municipalities, Tribes and NGOs	Increase direct technical assistance to cities and towns, tribes and NGOs	# of municipalities, tribes, and NGOs that receive direct community assistance.	Enter # municipalities, tribes, or NGOs that have received technical assistance
Increase Direct Assistance and Training: Municipalities	Provide technical assistance to cities and towns	# of municipalities in the SNEP region that have engaged with the SNEP Network through direct assistance or training.	Enter # municipalities that have received technical assistance or training from the SNEP Network
Increase Direct Assistance and Training: Municipalities, Tribes and NGOs	Increase training opportunities for cities and towns, tribes and NGOs	# of professional development opportunities made available to municipalities, tribes, and NGOs.	Enter # professional development opportunities, noting those with professional accreditation or continuing education credit, as applicable.
Increase Direct Assistance and Training: Municipalities, Tribes and NGOs	Provide peer-to-peer training	# of peer-to-peer exchanges to share successful approaches to addressing regional challenges.	Enter # peer-to-peer exchanges
Increase Direct Assistance and Training: Municipalities, Tribes and NGOs	Increase knowledge of best management practices	# of municipalities, tribes, and NGOs receiving training, outreach and education to share and promote best practices across southeast New England.	Enter # municipalities, tribes, or NGOs that received direct assistance and/or training on selection and use of best management practices.

Increase Direct Assistance and Training: Financing	Increase understanding of financing options	# of enhanced training opportunities made available to municipalities, tribes, and NGOs on traditional and innovative financing for environmental projects.	Enter # enhanced training opportunities provided about financing options
Increase Direct Assistance and Training: Financing	Increase development of financing plans	# of municipalities and tribes that, with Network assistance, complete a finance plan including analysis of needs and priorities as well as potential funding mechanisms.	Enter # municipalities and tribes that received SNEP Network assistance and completed a finance plan.
Increase Direct Assistance and Training: Stormwater	Increase knowledge of new stormwater practices	# of enhanced training opportunities made available to municipalities, tribes, and NGOs on innovative stormwater practices.	Enter # enhanced training opportunities focused on stormwater
Increase Direct Assistance and Training: Nature-based Solutions	Increased planning to use nature-based stormwater practices	# of municipalities and tribes that, with Network assistance, update and incorporate nature-based stormwater management programs and/or site plans	Enter # municipalities and tribes that received SNEP Network assistance to update and incorporate nature-based stormwater practices in their stormwater management plans and/or site plans.
Increase Direct Assistance and Training: Nature-based Solutions	Adoption of holistic planning regulations	# of municipalities and tribes that adopt low impact development, open space, or green infrastructure ordinances.	Enter # municipalities and tribes that have adopted new open space, or green infrastructure ordinances.
Increase Direct Assistance and Training: Nature-based Solutions	Increased knowledge and use of holistic planning	# of municipalities and tribes that complete Bylaw Review Tool/Low Impact Development Checklist trainings and/or use the Bylaw Review Tool/ Low Impact Development Checklist.	Enter # municipalities and tribes using these SNEP Network tools.
Lack of Awareness: Land Use Impacts on Environment and/or Sustainability	Provide training to the public or stakeholders	% people demonstrating a minimum level of knowledge, attitudes or skills after a training/event/workshop/webinar etc.	Provide % people targeted that are demonstrating a minimum level of knowledge, attitude, or skill. In NOTES section: describe specific method to document improvement in knowledge, attitudes or skills e.g., signed pledge, increase in

			knowledge based on pre and post testing after information about topic provided etc. If you are not able to measure and document results do not use this metric
Lack of Awareness: Land Use Impacts on Environment and/or Sustainability	Educate local government entities	# government entities participating	Provide # of different government entities participating in project activities. A participating entity could be a county, municipal or tribal board or department. In NOTES section: describe specific government entities participating e.g. Barnstable County Health Department, Falmouth Department of Public Work, etc.
Lack of Awareness: Land Use Impacts on Environment and/or Sustainability	Educate the public	# workshops, webinars, stakeholder meetings	Enter # workshops, webinars, stakeholder meetings held. In NOTES section: provide a short description of the type/content of event
Lack of Awareness: Land Use Impacts on Environment and/or Sustainability	Engage volunteers	# volunteers participating	Enter # volunteers participating in the project. In NOTES section: provide a short description of the type of volunteer and the type of volunteer engagement
Lack of Awareness: Land Use Impacts on Environment and/or Sustainability	Increase partner collaboration	# partner organizations on the project	Enter # partner organizations engaged in the project
Nutrient, Sediment and Bacteria Reduction			

Degraded Water Quality: Stormwater	Reduce impervious surfaces	# square feet of impervious surface removed, disconnected, or retrofitted	Enter # square feet of impervious surface removed, disconnected, or retrofitted. In NOTES section: describe the type of impervious surface removed
Degraded Water Quality: Stormwater	Install green infrastructure	# square feet of green infrastructure installed	Enter # square feet of green infrastructure installed. In NOTES section: describe the type of green infrastructure installed (e.g. raingardens, bioswales, pervious pavement, bioretention basins, etc.)
Degraded Water Quality: Stormwater	Install green infrastructure	# acres of urban/suburban catchment area treated with green infrastructure	Enter # acres treated by green infrastructure practice or approach
Degraded Water Quality: Stormwater	Install green infrastructure	# acres of impervious cover area treated with green infrastructure	Enter # acres of impervious cover treated by green infrastructure practice or approach
Degraded Water Quality: Stormwater	Install green infrastructure	\$ cost of materials, labor, and installation of a green infrastructure project	Enter \$ cost of materials, labor, and installation of a green infrastructure project. In NOTES section: describe the type of practice or approach
Degraded Water Quality: Stormwater	Manage stormwater to reduce runoff	# gallons (volume) of stormwater prevented or reduced from directly entering waterway annually	Enter # gallons (volume) stormwater prevented or reduced from directly entering the waterway annually. In NOTES section: describe the type of practice implemented e.g., riparian restoration, green roof, bioswale, raingarden, rain barrel etc.
Degraded Water Quality: Stormwater	Manage stormwater to reduce nitrogen	# pounds of nitrogen discharge avoided per year	Enter estimated # pounds nitrogen per year load reduction resulting from installation or use of a BMP. In NOTES section: describe the method to be used to prevent or reduce nitrogen.

Degraded Water Quality: Stormwater	Manage stormwater to reduce phosphorus	# pounds of phosphorus discharge avoided per year	Enter estimated # pounds phosphorus per year load reduction resulting from installation or use of a BMP. In NOTES section: describe the method to be used to prevent or reduce phosphorus.
Degraded Water Quality: Stormwater	Manage stormwater to reduce sediment	# pounds of sediment discharge avoided per year	Enter estimated # pounds sediment load reduction per year resulting from installation or use of a BMP (pounds sediment captured or retained per year).
Degraded Water Quality: Stormwater	Manage stormwater to reduce bacteria	% bacterial colonies reduced from directly discharging to waterway per year based on pre-BMP loading rates (fecal indicator bacteria: <i>e. coli</i> (fresh water) or <i>Enterococci</i> (saline water))	Enter estimated % bacterial colonies reduced or prevented from discharging directly to a waterway through installation or use of a BMP or conservation practice per year. In NOTES section: describe the method to be used to prevent or reduce bacterial pollution.
Degraded Water Quality: Stormwater	Manage stormwater to reduce bacteria	# bacterial colonies (Billion MPN/year) reduced or prevented from directly discharging to waterway annually (fecal indicator bacteria: <i>e. coli</i> (fresh water) or <i>Enterococci</i> (saline water))	Enter estimated # bacterial colonies (Billion MPN/year) reduced or prevented from discharging directly to a waterway through installation or use of a BMP or conservation practice annually. In NOTES section: describe the method to be used to prevent or reduce bacterial pollution.
Degraded Water Quality: Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF)	Manage WWTF to reduce phosphorus	# reduced phosphorus load from wastewater treatment facilities (pounds/year)	Enter estimated # pounds phosphorus that is no longer discharged to surface water or groundwater through optimization, an upgraded or relocated WWTF process.

Degraded Water Quality: Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF)	Manage WWTF to reduce nitrogen	# reduced nitrogen load from wastewater treatment facilities (pounds/year)	Enter estimated # pounds nitrogen that is no longer discharged to surface water or groundwater through optimization, an upgraded or relocated WWTF process.
Degraded Water Quality: Onsite Wastewater Systems	Manage onsite wastewater systems to reduce nitrogen	# onsite wastewater treatment systems providing improved nutrient reduction (ex. innovative/alternative septic systems, composting toilets, etc.)	Enter # and type of improved onsite wastewater treatment. Examples include innovative/alternative nitrogen reduction septic systems, composting, packaging, incinerating, and urine diverting toilets installed.
Degraded Water Quality: Onsite Wastewater Systems	Manage onsite wastewater systems to reduce nitrogen	# pounds reduced nitrogen load from improved onsite wastewater systems (pounds/year)	Enter estimated # pounds of nitrogen per year that is no longer discharged to surface water or groundwater through use of onsite wastewater system (innovative/alternative nitrogen reduction septic system, composting, packaging, incinerating, and urine diverting toilets installed).
Degraded Water Quality: Habitat Improvement	Use habitat improvement to reduce phosphorus	# pounds of phosphorus discharge avoided per year	Enter the # pounds of phosphorus load reduction per year resulting from habitat improvement projects annually (Pounds of phosphorus reduction per year). In NOTES section: describe the type of habitat improvement practice implemented e.g., riparian restoration, soil health system, streambank or in-stream restoration, culvert/stream crossing improvement, etc.

Degraded water quality: Habitat Improvement	Use habitat improvement to reduce nitrogen	# pounds of nitrogen discharge avoided per year	Enter estimated # pounds of nitrogen load reduction per year resulting from habitat improvement annually (pounds of nitrogen reduction per year). In NOTES section: describe the type of practice implemented e.g., riparian restoration, soil health system, streambank or in-stream restoration, culvert/stream crossing improvement, etc.
Degraded Water Quality: Lawn Fertilizer	Reduce lawn fertilizers application to reduce nutrients	# acres with reduced use of lawn fertilizers that include phosphorus and nitrogen	Enter # acres where lawn fertilizer is no longer applied or where application is reduced.
Degraded Water Quality: Agriculture	Use agricultural conservation practices to reduce nutrients.	# agricultural acres using nutrient management practices	Enter # agricultural acres with farmers using nutrient management practices to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus discharged to ground water or waterways.
Degraded Water Quality: Agriculture	Use agricultural conservation practices to reduce sedimentation	# agricultural acres using conservation practices	Enter # agricultural acres with farmers using conservation practices to improve soil health and reduce erosion and sedimentation to waterways.
Degraded Water Quality: Agriculture	Use agricultural conservation practices to reduce nutrients.	# pounds of phosphorus discharge reduced per year	Enter estimated # pounds of phosphorus reduced and not released per year to ground water and waterways by farms using nutrient management practices. Note type of practice.
Degraded Water Quality: Agriculture	Use agricultural conservation practices to reduce nitrogen	# pounds of nitrogen discharge reduced per year	Enter estimated # pounds nitrogen reduced and no longer released per year to ground water and waterways by farms using nutrient management

			practices. Note type of practice.
Degraded Water Quality: Constructed Wetland	Use constructed wetlands to reduce nutrients	# acres of constructed wetlands used to reduce nutrients entering waterways.	Enter # acres constructed wetlands used to treat nutrients.
Degraded Water Quality: Fertigation	Use fertigation to reduce nutrients	# acres of land area fertilized through fertigation well(s).	Enter # acres of land that is fertilized through fertigation and not through the application of traditional lawn fertilizers.
Trash and Microplastics			
Degraded Water Quality: Plastic	Prevent or reduce litter, floatables and marine debris	# pounds of floatable debris reduced or prevented from entering the waterway per year	Enter # pounds of floatable debris prevented or removed from entering or removed from waterway per year.
Restoration of Habitat Function			
Degraded Habitat Function: Land Restoration	Restore important coastal habitat of Southeast New England	# acres of coastal habitat restored	Enter # acres restored. In NOTES section: describe the specific type of habitat to be restored from this list: Beaches & Dunes; Cliffs & Bluffs, Estuarine Embayments, Coastal Island Forests, Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Grasslands, Intertidal Flats, Rocky Intertidal Zones, Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (eelgrass, shellfish reefs) Tidal Wetlands, Riparian land, Lake/Pond Habitat, restored cranberry bog.
Degraded Habitat Function: Spread of non-native species	Eliminate invasive plants	# acres managed to treat invasive plants	Enter # acres managed to treat invasive plants. In NOTES section: provide examples of invasive to be addressed and the method(s) of treatment

Loss of Habitat: Wetlands	Preserve inland wetlands	# acres of inland wetland permanently protected beyond that afforded by state and federal wetland regulation	Enter # acres of newly protected wetland as a result of the project. Protection mechanisms does not include state and federal regulations, and instead includes conservation easement or fee simple ownership.
Loss of Habitat: Fisheries Passage	Remove fish passage barriers	# fish passage barriers rectified	Enter # barriers rectified by removing dams, removing or resizing culverts, improving road/stream crossings. In NOTES section: describe type of barrier removed, resized, improved, and fish species benefited
Loss of Habitat: Fisheries Passage	Remove fish passage barriers	# miles of river or stream opened for fish passage	Enter # miles opened for fish passage due to removal of a barrier (ex. dams/remove or resize culverts, improve road/stream crossings). In NOTES section: enter miles of riverine migratory corridor opened (streams, creeks, rivers) and fish species benefited.
Resilience to Climate Change: Land Conservation	Protect critical habitat corridors	# acres of protected habitat corridor lands in natural state	Enter # acres of protected Habitat Corridor land to support continued species diversity over time through conservation easement or fee simple ownership. In NOTES section, enter source of information designating area as critical habitat corridor. Additionally, add the type of protected habitat
Resilience to Climate Change: Land Conservation	Protect core habitat	# acres of protected core habitat	Enter # acres of Protected Core Habitat land to support continued species diversity over time through conservation easement or fee simple ownership. In

			NOTES section, enter source of information designating area as core habitat corridor. Additionally, add the type of protected habitat
Loss of Habitat: Pond, Lake and Estuary Shoreline Buffer	Protect waterbody buffer area	# acres of protected water buffer area (non-riverine)	Enter # acres of Protected Priority Buffer Area around ponds, lakes and estuaries to provide pollutant attenuation and support habitat function through conservation easement or fee simple ownership.
Degraded Habitat Function: Pond, Lake and Estuary Shoreline Buffer	Restore degraded waterbody buffer area	# acres of restored water buffer area (non-riverine)	Enter # acres of water buffer area restored through removal of structures, roads, or planting of native vegetation.
Degraded Habitat Function: River Shoreline Restoration	Restore riverine riparian areas	# linear shoreline of riparian habitat restored	Enter # linear feet of riparian shoreline habitat restored along a river through removal of structures or planting of native vegetation.
Loss of Habitat: Saltmarsh	Restore saltmarsh	# acres of restored saltmarsh	Enter # acres of saltmarsh restored through elimination of invasive species, improved flushing, runnels, or other methods.
Loss of Habitat: Saltmarsh	Protect saltmarsh	# acres of protected saltmarsh	Enter # acres of saltmarsh permanently protected by conservation easement or fee simple land ownership (including protection through providing migration potential)
Community Sustainability			

Local Planning: Water Pollution and Habitat Restoration	Create or enhance plan to reduce water pollution and restore habitat	# plans developed	Enter # plans developed to reduce water pollution and restore habitat through updated land development practices, mitigation of pollution sources and other techniques. In NOTES section: describe the plan being prepared e.g. Nine Element Watershed Based Plan, Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), Site restoration or water quality improvement plan OR ONE specific type of plan to be developed: 1) Preliminary Community Engagement, Planning and Prioritization; 2) Project Preliminary Design and Site Assessment;) Project Final Design and Site Assessment; 3) Project Final Design/Permitting; 4) Implementation
Local Planning: Climate and Community Resilience	Create or enhance plan to improve resilience to changing climatic conditions	# plans developed	Enter # plans developed to improve resilience to changing climatic conditions (ex. resilience/sustainability, natural hazard mitigation). In NOTES section: describe the plan being prepared e.g. Hazard Mitigation/Coastal Resilience Plan, Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), Site restoration OR ONE specific type of plan to be developed: 1) Preliminary Community Engagement, Planning and Prioritization; 2) Project Preliminary

			Design and Site Assessment; 2) Project Final Design and Site Assessment; 3) Project Final Design/Permitting; 4) Implementation
Technical Assistance: Climate and Community Resilience	Provide technical assistance to communities	# communities receiving technical assistance to plan and design site-level remediation.	Enter # communities that receive site planning and design assistance
Reduced Health and Wellbeing: Land Protection	Protect public open space to provide recreation and wellbeing	# acres of accessible open space created or conserved	Enter # acres of public open space (natural areas, parks) that is accessible to the public.
Loss of Water-based Economy: Land Protection	Protect lands critical to support priority species supporting the region's water-based economy	# acres of land protected	Enter # acres of land and the species it is intended to protect.
Reduce Climate Stress: Floodplain Function	Restore floodplain areas	# acres of floodplain restored	Enter # acres of flood plain restored to serve its function to reduce storm impacts through removal of structures or planting of native vegetation.
Reduce Climate Stress: Shoreline Stabilization	Stabilize vulnerable shoreland from storm damage	# acres of newly stabilized shoreland protecting against storm impacts.	Enter # acres of land serving as protection from storms through shoreline stabilization.
Improve Fiscal Wellbeing: Adopt Strategy	Adopt municipal or tribal finance strategies	# municipalities and tribes that have a natural resource focused financing strategy.	Enter # municipalities and tribes with an adopted finance strategy.

Overburdened Communities: Technical Assistance and Funding	Provide technical assistance and funding to over-burdened and under-served areas	# of environmental justice communities receiving SNEP assistance.	Enter # communities that have received SNEP assistance through a direct award from EPA, the Network or SWIG.
Monitoring and Research to Track Results and Inform Management			
Research new methods or tools: Applied Research Studies	Study new technologies, models, methods, or approaches	# applied research studies completed with findings reported to management	Enter # applied research studies completed with findings reported to SNEP managers and stakeholders. In NOTES section: describe the focus of the study, the SNEP-regional entities who will use the studies, and how the information will be used to inform management of Southeast New England or support the activities of key stakeholders such as citizen scientists
Share Project Benefits: Fiscal Wellbeing	Determine ecosystem services achieved by projects	# projects that include valuation of project's contribution to ecosystem services	Enter # projects that include ecosystem service valuation. Note: indicate if the valuation is of environmental, social, and/or economic change in value.
Track Environmental Change: Direct Work and Track Results	Monitor to track change in environmental condition	# monitoring programs	Enter # monitoring programs established or underway. In NOTES section: describe the type and scope of monitoring conducted e.g., parameter(s).
Leveraged Funding			
Demonstrate Program Benefit: Fiscal Commitment	Leverage funding	\$ funding leveraged (including match, over-match, and non-match eligible leveraged funds)	Enter \$ amount of total project value above that provided by EPA/SNEP
Develop, Test and Evaluate Priority Innovative Technologies			

Degraded Water Quality: Wastewater	Increase use of IA septic systems	# towns that include use of nitrogen-reducing IA onsite septic systems as means to reduce their nitrogen impacts.	Enter # towns that have new IA nitrogen- reducing septic systems installed.
Degraded Water Quality: Ground Water	Increase use of PRBs to reduce nitrogen	# linear feet of permeable reactive barrier for nitrogen mitigation in ground water	Enter # linear feet and location of permeable reactor barrier installed. Note: this metric does not include wastewater technologies that incorporate a permeable reactive barrier.
Degraded Water Quality: Stormwater	Develop and use nitrogen-reducing stormwater practices	# stormwater infiltration technologies capable of reducing nitrogen released to ground water or surface water.	Enter # stormwater infiltration practices installed to reduce nitrogen. Note: include type of practice installed.
Loss of Habitat and Function: Saltmarsh	Increase resiliency of saltmarshes	# acres with installed technologies or approaches to protect saltmarshes from sea level rise.	Enter # acres of saltmarsh with increased resilience due to installation of new technologies or use of new approaches. In notes identify type of technology used (ex. runnels, thin layer deposition)
Loss of Habitat and Function: Eelgrass	Restore and increase resiliency of eelgrass	# acres of new eelgrass habitat	Enter # acres of additional eelgrass habitat. In notes identify method of restoration (seed planting, plant transplant, other mechanism).
Degraded Water Quality: Agriculture and Wetlands	Develop new ways to reduce nitrogen from cranberry bogs and wetlands	# technologies or approaches to reduce nitrogen from cranberry bogs and wetlands	Enter # technologies installed in cranberry bogs or wetlands to reduce their discharge of nitrogen to downgradient waterways. In notes, identify technology used (ex. wetland bioreactor).
Degraded Water Quality and Habitat Function: Aquaculture	Increase aquaculture	# acres of aquaculture to reduce nutrients and sustain the seafood economy	Enter # acres occupied by oysters, clams, kelp, or other aquaculture for the purpose of reducing nutrients and sustaining a seafood

			economy. Specify type in notes.
Degraded Water Quality and Habitat Function: Oyster Reef	Increase oyster reef habitat	# acres oyster reef restoration and construction	Enter # acres oyster reef restored or constructed for the purpose of restoring habitat function and, addressing habitat loss.
Degraded Water Quality and Habitat Function: Harmful Algal Blooms	Increase treatment of HABs	# waterbodies using in situ (in surface water) treatment technology(ies) to reduce HABs	Enter # waterbodies or waterways using an in situ technology to reduce HABs. In notes identify technology used (ex. floating wetlands, water circulator, dredging)