



Long Island Sound Study

A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



Photo credit: Almariet Roberts



Sustainable and Resilient Communities Regional Funding Workshop – Bridgeport, CT

Thursday, March 21, 2024 – 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Workshop Rules



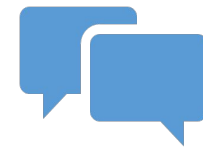
Please silence
your phones



Presentations
(not breakouts)
will be recorded
and made
available



Save questions
for designated
times



Give everyone a
chance to
participate
during the
breakouts

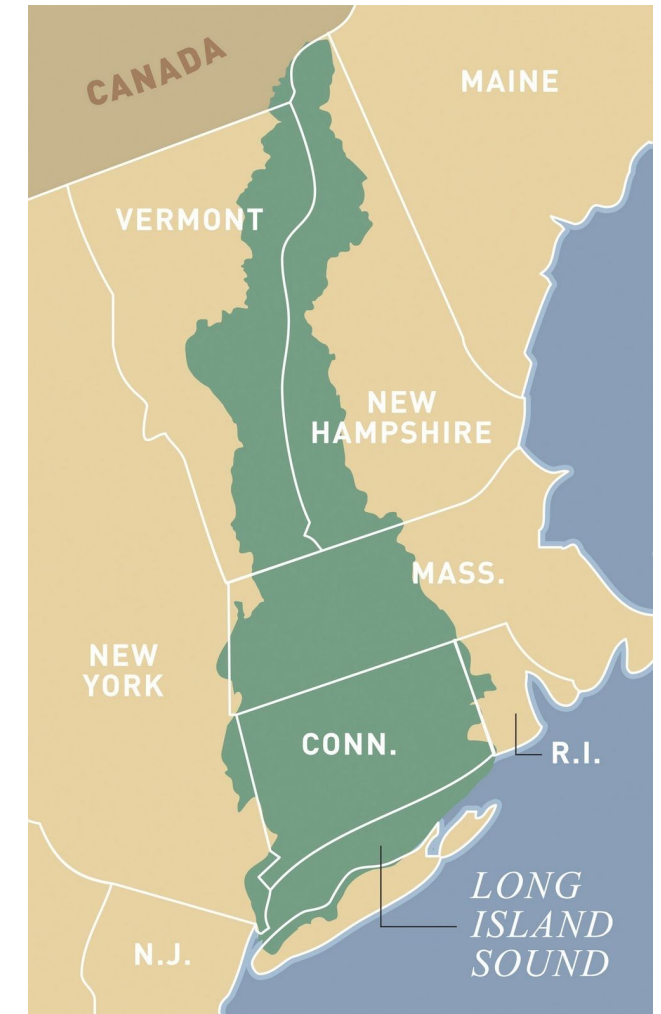


9:30 AM	Coffee / Networking
10:00 AM	Resilience Planning Steps & Resources
10:30 AM	Funder Lightning Talk Presentations
11:30 AM	Defining Environmental Justice Concerns in Connecticut
11:45 AM	Panel Discussion: Insights from Local Awardees
12:30 PM	Lunch / Networking
1:20 PM	Roundtable Discussions with Funders
2:20 PM	Wrap-up & Final Thoughts

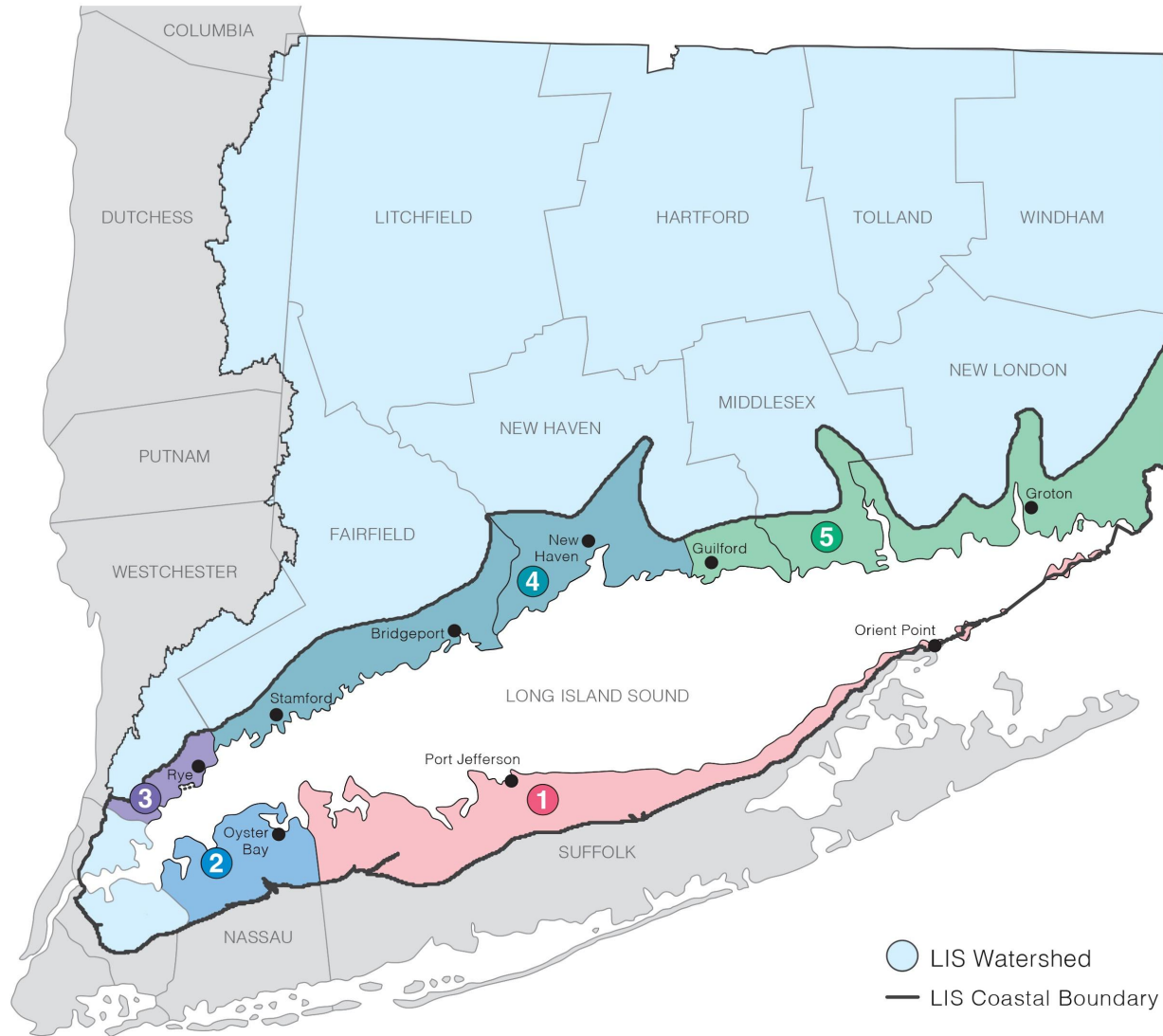


Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan Themes

1. Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds
2. Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife
3. Sustainable and Resilient Communities
4. Sound Science and Inclusive Management



The SRC Extension Professionals Team



- 1** Suffolk County
Elizabeth Hornstein
- 2** Nassau County
Sarah Schaefer-Brown
- 3** Westchester County
Sara Powell
- 4** Western CT
Deb Visco Abibou
- 5** Eastern CT
Sarah Schechter

A Sustainable and Resilient Long Island Sound Community is one which can anticipate and overcome disturbances, while achieving well-being for all.



Finding climate resources should be easy

The Long Island Sound Resilience Resource Hub is here to help your community. Learn about environmental challenges, planning solutions, and how to implement and sustain projects now.

Select your Planning Phase, Location, and/or Topic of interest to access a filtered selection of our curated resources and tools.

Planning Phase

Select a Planning Phase



Location

Select a Location



Topic

Select a Topic



[Get Started](#)



Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



Resilience Planning Steps & Resources

Great Meadows Marsh Restoration
Credit: Deb Visco Abibou



Steps to Community Resilience Planning



LEARN

Identify
Risks



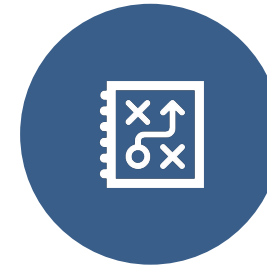
PLAN

Identify
Strategies to
Mitigate Risks



IMPLEMENT

Secure Funding
to Implement
Strategies



SUSTAIN

Maintain,
Evaluate, and
Adapt

Resilience Planning Guide

PERSISTS* Decision Support Criteria can help prioritize projects

Permissible – Can get all necessary permits and/or permissions

Equitable – Considers input from and impacts to vulnerable populations

Realistic – Has community support and can be realistically achieved

Safe – Enhances or maintains the wellbeing of communities

Innovative – Process has considered innovative options including nature-based solutions

Scientific – Incorporates the best available science

Transferable – Can serve as model for other communities

Sustainable – Socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable

*Adapted and adopted from Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation. (2020). [*Resilient Connecticut Planning Framework*](#).

A Guide to Resilience Planning

Use the PERSISTS criteria below to help identify, prioritize, and implement high-impact projects

PERSISTS Framework adapted and adopted from Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation. (2020). Resilient Connecticut Planning Framework.

P

Permittable

E

Equitable

R

Realistic

S

Safe

I

Innovative

S

Scientific

T

Transferable

S

Sustainable

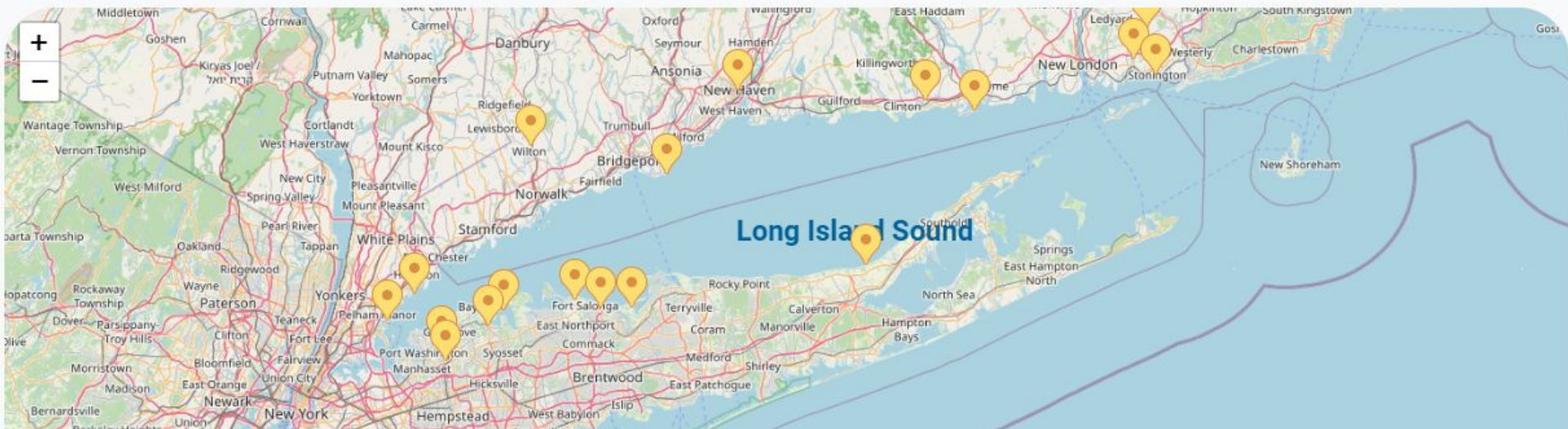
Resilience Tools & Strategies

- 1. Preserve/restore natural defenses**
 - Beaches, dunes, coastal bluffs, wetlands, seagrass beds
- 2. Upgrade, elevate, remove, or relocate at-risk infrastructure**
 - Roads, culverts, dams, buildings, sewers/septic systems, stormwater systems
- 3. Use nature-based solutions**
 - Living shorelines, green infrastructure, reforestation, riparian buffers
- 4. Amend/update codes, ordinances, regulations, and policies**
- 5. Participate in State Climate Certification Programs**

Case Studies

Case Studies

Learn about other climate change resiliency projects in the Long Island Sound.



Historic Funding is Available for Resilience Projects!

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

- Includes funding to upgrade transportation infrastructure, restore coastal/aquatic habitats, protect water quality, improve community resilience, advance environmental justice, and more

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

- Includes \$20B for resilience and conservation solutions for agriculture, forests, and coastal habitats

INFRASTRUCTURE BILL BREAKDOWN

Key projects in the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill:


- 💡 \$73 billion for the electricity grid
- 🚆 \$66 billion for rail
- 📡 \$65 billion for broadband
- ☀️ \$47 billion for climate resiliency
- 🌿 \$21 billion for environmental projects
- 🔧 \$15 billion for removing lead service lines
- 🚗 \$7.5 billion for electric vehicles
- 🏠 \$2 billion for underserved rural areas

Source: U.S. Transportation Dept. | Nov. 14, 2021



Credit: The New York Times

Funding Database



Funding Database

Find funding for your project

Filters

Select one or more of the filters below to find relevant tools and resources for your needs

Status

Select a Status ▼

Planning Phase


Select a Planning Phase ▼


Location

Select a Location ▼

Topic

Select a Topic ▼

 Funding

 Open: Due on Mar 8, 2024

2 days
remaining to apply

No pre-defined funding range

Working Lands Climate Corps

The Working Lands Climate Corps will provide technical training and career pathway opportunities for young people, helping them deliver economic benefits through climate-smart agriculture solutions for farmers and ranche...


Habitat


Land Use

Environmental Justice

Community Engagement

View Details

 Funding

 Open: Due on Mar 11, 2024

5 days
remaining to apply

less than \$1M

Connecticut Recreational Trails Program

Break Down Barriers Program

Track One

LIS Resilience Planning Support Program

Focus: **Planning and Project Scoping**

Eligible Applicants: Municipalities,
Community Organizations

Closed: Next round anticipated in Fall
2024

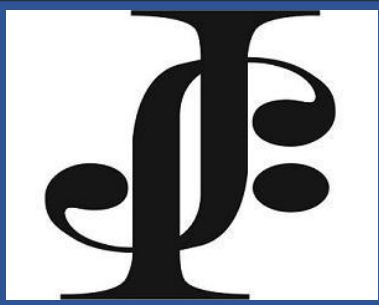
Track Two

LIS Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program

Focus: **Grant Preparation and Writing**

No match required, up to \$9,950 per
application

Rolling: Open until all available
funding has been allocated



Tripp Killin

Jeniam Foundation

Executive Director

LIS Stewardship Fund

LIS Stewardship Fund



- **What does your program fund?**
 - Non-profits working on components of the CCMP
- **What are the priorities for your funding?**
 - Capacity, Piloting, and Collaboration

- **When is the funding available?**
 - RFP In Nov/Dec, Proposals due Feb
- **How much \$ is available?**
 - \$15k - \$200k totaling \$.5M
- **Are there match requirements?**
 - No
- **Who is eligible?**
 - 501(c)(3) public charities

LIS Stewardship Fund



Tips for Success

- **The most important tip for success:**
 - Write to the RFP
 - **Three things applicants should keep in mind:**
 1. Pick one Priority
 2. Specifically mention the parts of the CCMP that apply
 3. A few sentences on maintaining success
 - **Other things new applicants should know about this funding opportunity:**
 - Our program wants to get you ready for the larger programs
-



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES

Shahela Begum

Restore America's Estuaries

Program Director

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF)

sbegum@estuaries.org

<https://estuaries.org/liscif/>

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES

- **What does your program fund?**

- Projects located in environmental justice communities to address environmental issues and improve the quality and accessibility to the Long Island Sound.
- LISCIF also provides technical assistance for capacity building.

- **What are the priorities for your current funding cycle?**

- CCMP Themes: Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds, Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife, Sustainable and Resilient Communities, Sound Science and Inclusive Management.

- Projects that result in quantifiable pollutant prevention or reduction.
 - Restoring habitat within the Important Coastal Habitat Types targeted by LISS.
 - Projects that foster a diverse balance and abundant populations of fish, birds, and wildlife.
 - Public engagement, knowledge, and stewardship.
 - Projects that enhance community resilience and sustainability.
 - Planning and design that set-the-stage for implementation of water quality projects, eligible habitat restoration projects and resilience projects.
 - Community-based science projects.
 - Data management and integration projects.
-

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES

- **When is the funding available?**

- 1st round of funding for 2024 – Awardees selected in April; projects start July 1, 2024.
- 2nd rounding of funding RFA will be released early 2025.

- **How much \$ is available?**

- \$1.5 million for each round of funding, from anywhere between \$5,000 - \$100,000 per project.

- **Are there match requirements?**

- No match requirements.

- **Who is eligible?**

- Eligible Applicants include non-profit organizations, Tribes, state, county, local governments, and their subdivisions, and academic institutions.
 - Projects funded under LISCIF must be completed within the LIS geographic region
-

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES

- **The most important tip for success:**
 - Schedule a 1-1 call to discuss your project idea and utilize grant resources to apply for LISCIF.
 - **Three things applicants should keep in mind:**
 1. LISCIF has a library of resources on grant writing, creating a budget, preparing full proposals: <https://estuaries.org/liscif/events-and-trainings/>
 2. LISCIF not only provides financial assistance for projects but also, capacity building opportunities for applicants who have not historically received federal grants.
 3. The intention with LISCIF is to remove as many barriers as possible to support the Justice 40 initiative and make the process less intimidating.
 - **Other things new applicants should know about this funding opportunity:**
 - Annual Learning Exchange for organizations to learn from another, attend trainings, and strengthen regional networking/collaboration.
 - Initial up-front costs for projects, for the first two months, for organizations indicating need.
-



Melinda Wilson

State of CT, Department of Economic and Community Development

Assistant Director, Community Investment Fund 2030

Community Investment Fund 2030

Community Investment Fund 2030



- **What does your program fund?**

- Capital Projects
- Small Business Programs
- Planning

- **What are the priorities for your next funding cycle?**

- Grants further consistent and systematic fair, just and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved and marginalized communities that have been denied such treatment.

- **When is the funding available?**

- At least twice annually through 2027; Spring and Fall

- **How much \$ is available?**

- Up to \$875,000,000; \$175,000,000/year

- **Are there match requirements?**

- No match required

- **Who is eligible?**

- Municipalities, Non-profit Organizations and Community Development Corporations in Public Investment Communities and/or Alliance Districts (currently 55 municipalities)

Community Investment Fund 2030



- **The most important tip for success:**
 - Intentional, transformational projects
 - **Three things applicants should keep in mind:**
 1. Read the Notice of Funding Availability, CIF Policy, and FAQs at portal.ct.gov/communityinvestmentfund
 2. Talk with CIF staff; schedule a 1:1 at portal.ct.gov/communityinvestmentfund
 3. Align the project with local and state priorities
 - **Other things new applicants should know about this funding opportunity:**
 - Minimum request is \$250,000. Minimum Capital or Small Business Program budget is \$1,500,000. Planning Grants are awarded for a set amount of \$250,000. CIF request amount is unlimited.
-

Amanda Bassow

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Regional Director, Northeast

Long Island Sound Futures Fund

Long Island Sound Futures Fund



- **What does your program fund?**
 - Water quality, habitat restoration, species conservation, resilience, environmental education and stewardship projects
 - **What are the priorities for your current funding cycle?**
 - Clean Waters & Healthy Watersheds
 - Thriving Habitats & Abundant Wildlife
 - Sustainable & Resilient Communities
 - **When is the funding available?**
 - Request for Proposals: 3/1 - 5/13/2024
 - **How much \$ is available?**
 - \$12 million – Grant Range: \$50k to \$1.5m
 - **Are there match requirements?**
 - 50% of requested amt. from LISFF
 - **Who is eligible?**
 - 501(c), local/state government, educational institutions
-

Long Island Sound Futures Fund



Tips for Success – Long Island Sound Futures Fund

- **The most important tip for success:**
 - Read & consider the full Request for Proposals to understand proposal submission & grants management responsibilities
 - **Three things applicants should keep in mind:**
 1. Consider Evaluation Factors from the RFP when developing proposal content
 2. Research costs to fully inform budget preparation
 3. Characterize direct value of the project to Long Island Sound
 - **Other things new applicants should know about this funding opportunity:**
 - Funds are available for both planning and implementation projects
 - More match makes a proposal more competitive
-



DEEP Climate Resilience Fund

Sarah Watson

Connecticut Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP)

Senior Analyst in the Office of Climate Planning

DEEP Climate Resilience Fund



DEEP Climate Resilience Fund

- **What does your program fund?**
 - Climate resilience planning and project advancement. Future to include municipal match funding.
 - **What are funding priorities?**
 - Community resilience planning
 - Resilience project advancement
 - Competitive fed grant applications
 - **When is the funding available?**
 - To be determined
 - **How much \$ is available?**
 - To be determined, but applications must be above \$50-\$100K
 - **Are there match requirements?**
 - No
 - **Who is eligible?**
 - Anyone*
-



Tips for Success - DEEP Climate Resilience Fund

- **The most important tip for success:**
 - Clearly and simply communicating your project/plan proposal
 - **Three things applicants should keep in mind:**
 1. Community engagement
 2. Clear connections to community climate resilience
 3. Contracting processes take time.
 - **Other things new applicants should know about this funding opportunity:**
 - Program is in transition, so have patience for when new rounds will be announced.
-



Danica Doroski

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

State Urban Forester

Urban Forest Equity Grant Program

Urban Forest Equity Grant Program



- **What does your program fund?**

- Urban forestry projects that will benefit disadvantaged communities. This could include tree planting, stewardship, planning, invasive control, education, and urban wood utilization.

- **What are the priorities for your current funding cycle?**

- Workforce development and extreme heat mitigation.

- **When is the funding available?**

- Applications due April 17th

- **How much \$ is available?**

- Over \$2 million

- **Are there match requirements?**

- No match required

- **Who is eligible?**

- State and local government, federally recognized tribes, non-profit organizations, public institutions of higher education

Urban Forest Equity Grant Program



- **The most important tip for success:**
 - Demonstrate local buy-in and ongoing community engagement
 - **Three things applicants should keep in mind:**
 1. Projects **MUST** demonstrate direct benefit to disadvantaged communities as defined by the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#).
 2. Clear methodology and deliverables are key for review committee to gauge feasibility, keep your scope of work clear, concise and focused.
 3. Applicants can access ongoing assistance through the UCF Program's bi-weekly [office hours](#).
 - **Other things new applicants should know about this funding opportunity:**
 - This is a large allocation of money for only a small pool of eligible areas, if you are working in or plan to work within the areas identified as “disadvantaged” we strongly encourage you to apply!
-



Lindsay Suhr

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Office Director, Land Acquisition and Management

- 1) Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant (OSWA)**
 - 2) Urban Green & Community Garden Grant (UGCG)**
-

Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant



- **What does your program fund?**
 - Purchase of permanent interests in land
 - **What are the priorities for your next funding cycle?**
 - 4 main areas for scoring:
 1. Administrative
 2. Public Access & Outdoor Recreation
 3. Environmental Justice & Equity
 4. Climate Change & Natural Resources
 - **When is the funding available?**
 - Next round will open end of May/early June
 - **How much \$ is available?**
 - Based on appraisal price of property
 - **Are there match requirements?**
 - Up to 65% or 75% of fair market value price covered depending on location
 - **Who is eligible?**
 - Municipalities, non-profit conservation organizations & water companies
-

Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant



Tips for Success

- **The most important tip for success:**
 - Call us if you have questions
 - **Three things applicants should keep in mind:**
 1. Need an appraisal and appraisal review for application
 2. Should work on a purchase and sale agreement with current property owner
 3. The process can be complicated and take quite some time
 - **Other things new applicants should know about this funding opportunity:**
 - Best contact for questions is Allyson Clarke – Allyson.Clarke@ct.gov
-

Urban Green & Community Garden Grant



- **What does your program fund?**

- Creation, enhancement or restoration of urban green space: green infrastructure, community gardens, passive recreational trails, etc.

- **What are the priorities for your next funding cycle?**

- Green infrastructure – rain gardens, bioswales, native plantings

- **When is the funding available?**

- Next round will open end of May/early June

- **How much \$ is available?**

- No upper limit on request, but can only be 20% of yearly grants from OSWA/UGCG pool of funding

- **Are there match requirements?**

- 50 %

- **Who is eligible?**

- Distressed municipality or targeted investment community, but current legislation may change that

Urban Green & Community Garden Grant



Tips for Success

- **The most important tip for success:**
 - Clear budget and project proposal tied to drawing/site plan
 - **Three things applicants should keep in mind:**
 1. Volunteer hours/donated materials count as match
 2. Can be used for a portion of a larger park improvement project
 3. Cannot be used to pay for park infrastructure – playgrounds, ball fields, courts, etc.
 - **Other things new applicants should know about this funding opportunity:**
 - Best contact for questions is Jamie Sydoriak – Jamie.Sydoriak@ct.gov
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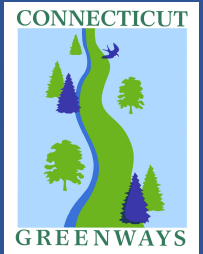
Kimberly Bradley

**CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection,
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation**

CT Trails and Greenway Program Coordinator

Connecticut Recreational Trails Grant Program

CT Recreational Trails Grant Program



- **What does your program fund?**

- Planning and design and construction of new trails;
- Maintenance and restoration of existing trails;
- Acquisition of land or easements for a trail, or for trail corridors;
- Educational programs

- **What are the priorities for your current funding cycle?**

- Community connectivity
- Increased Accessibility
- Environmental Justice

- **When is the funding available?**

- Dec- March 11, 2024, Anticipate Fall 2025

- **How much \$ is available?**

- \$10 million 2024/ \$10 million 2025

- **Are there match requirements?**

- 20 % Match Requirement

- **Who is eligible?**

- Nonprofits, Municipalities, COGs, Tribal Gov.
-

CT Recreational Trails Grant Program



- **The most important tip for success:**
 - Clear and complete application, review grant application guidelines and follow the templates.
- **Three things applicants should keep in mind:**
 1. Projects need to address trails as the primary focus!
 2. Planning/ Design projects can include environmental review information and public outreach within the scope.
 3. Projects NEED to have access and approval, even on state lands.
- **Other things new applicants should know about this funding opportunity:**
 - CT Recreational Grant Guidelines and an interactive Story Map Tool can be found here:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Business-and-Financial-Assistance/Grants-Financial-Assistance/CT-Recreational-Trails>



Erik Bedan

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP)

Supervising Environmental Analyst, Watersheds Program

Federal Clean Water Act § 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grant

CWA § 319 NPS Management Grant



- **What does your program fund?**
 - The program funds both planning and implementation projects that address nonpoint source water pollution.
 - **What are the priorities for your [current/next] funding cycle?**
 - FY24 priorities included:
Projects within or benefiting designated environmental justice communities; projects that advance climate resilience through NPS solutions; Watershed Based Plan Implementation Projects; Projects within Priority Watersheds; High impact or ready-to-implement projects; agricultural projects.
 - **When is the funding available?**
 - CT DEEP accepts project proposals annually and typically between November - February. Awards are announced the following summer, and the funding is available after a contract agreement is established.
 - **How much \$ is available?**
 - About \$1.2 million annually is available for project funding.
 - **Are there match requirements?**
 - Funds have a 40% match requirement for each awarded grant, match may be waived in certain circumstances.
 - **Who is eligible?**
 - Municipal, state, and regional governments, quasi-state agencies, schools and universities, nonprofit organizations, community groups. Recipients must be registered with the CT Secretary of State.
-

CWA § 319 NPS Management Grant



Tips for Success -

- **The most important tip for success:**
 - Submit a completed application to address NPS pollution, including milestones and measurable outcomes that a project is anticipated to have upon completion.
 - **Three things applicants should keep in mind:**
 1. Contract process for the award with DEEP is comprehensive – funding is not immediately available, careful planning required with budgeting and partners.
 2. The program is prioritizing funds for fewer, larger projects annually.
 3. Projects for stormwater permit requirements are not eligible; but addressing stormwater above and beyond the permit requirements may be eligible.
 - **Other things new applicants should know about this funding opportunity:**
 - Awards vary in range, many between \$100,000 - \$400,000 but there are no restrictions in the application.
 - CT DEEP has recently made efforts to streamline the grant process; applicants should be ready to submit a workplan soon after project award notification.
-



Binu Chandy

Dept. of Economic & Community Development

Director, Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development

Binu.Chandy@ct.gov

860.500.2454

Brownfield Remediation/ Limited Assessment Grant



- **What does your program fund?**

- Brownfield cleanup, limited investigation

- **What are the priorities for your current funding cycle?**

- Maximize impact of brownfield funding and programs

- **When is the funding available?**

- Competitive rounds/2 x year

- **How much \$ is available?**

- Remediation grant max - \$4m

- **Are there match requirements?**

- None

- **Who is eligible?**

- Municipalities/municipal entities

Brownfield Remediation/ Limited Assessment Loan



- **What does your program fund?**

- Brownfield cleanup, limited investigation

- **What are the priorities for your current funding cycle?**

- Maximize impact of brownfield funding and programs

- **When is the funding available?**

- Competitive rounds/2 x year

- **How much \$ is available?**

- Remediation loan max - \$4m

- **Are there match requirements?**

- 10% match

- **Who is eligible?**

- Private developers

Brownfield Assessment-only Grant



- **What does your program fund?**
 - Brownfield investigation
- **What are the priorities for your next funding cycle?**
 - Have a pipeline of potential brownfield projects

- **When is the funding available?**
 - Competitive rounds/2 x year
- **How much \$ is available?**
 - Assessment max - \$200K
- **Are there match requirements?**
 - No
- **Who is eligible?**
 - Municipalities/municipal entities

Brownfield Area-wide Planning Grant



- **What does your program fund?**
 - Planning activities
 - **What are the priorities for your next funding cycle?**
 - Comprehensive planning
 - **When is the funding available?**
 - Competitive rounds/1 x 2 year
 - **How much \$ is available?**
 - \$200K
 - **Are there match requirements?**
 - Ten percent
 - **Who is eligible?**
 - Municipalities/municipal entities
-

DECD Brownfield Programs

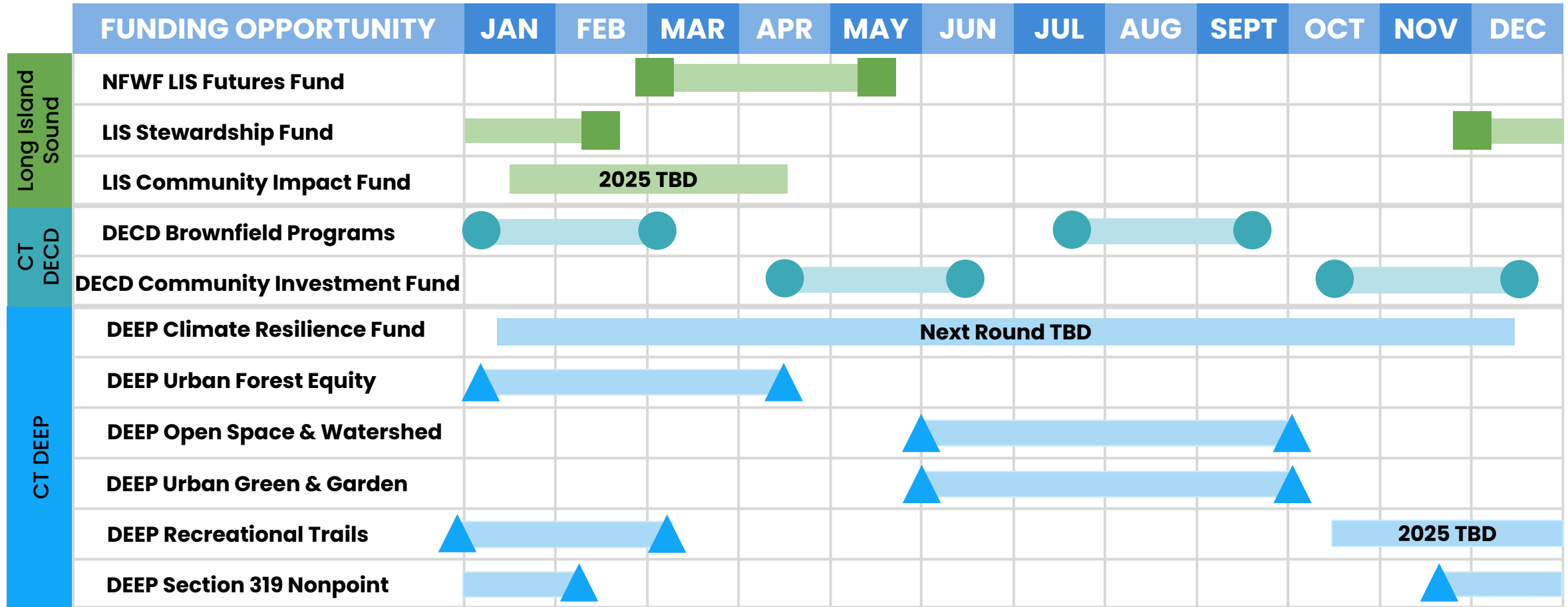


Tips for Success

- **The most important tip for success:**
 - Public/private partnerships; shovel-ready projects
 - **Three things applicants should keep in mind:**
 1. Pre-plan (get your ducks in a row)
 2. Office of Brownfields available to discuss project and options pre-submission
 3. Read application documents
 - **Other things new applicants should know about this funding opportunity:**
 - Our Website – www.ctbrownfields.gov; Hotline #: 1.860.500.2395; join mailing list or send request for meeting
-

Funding Calendar - Connecticut

Anticipated RFP Release through Submission (or Pre-proposal) Deadline





Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



Identifying Environmental Justice Concerns

Sliver by the River
Credit: Deb Visco Abibou



Different funds use different definitions & criteria

- **Federal funding sources through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**
 - ➔ Contribute to Justice40 goal
 - Require CEJST tool criteria to define “disadvantaged”
 - e.g., DEEP Section 319, DEEP Urban & Community Forestry
- **State programs**
 - Many require criteria set forth in CT General Statutes
 - e.g., DEEP CRF, DEEP Open Space, DEEP Recreational Trails
 - Executive Order 21-3 prioritizes vulnerable populations
 - ≥40% of awards must go to vulnerable communities
 - DEEP CRF

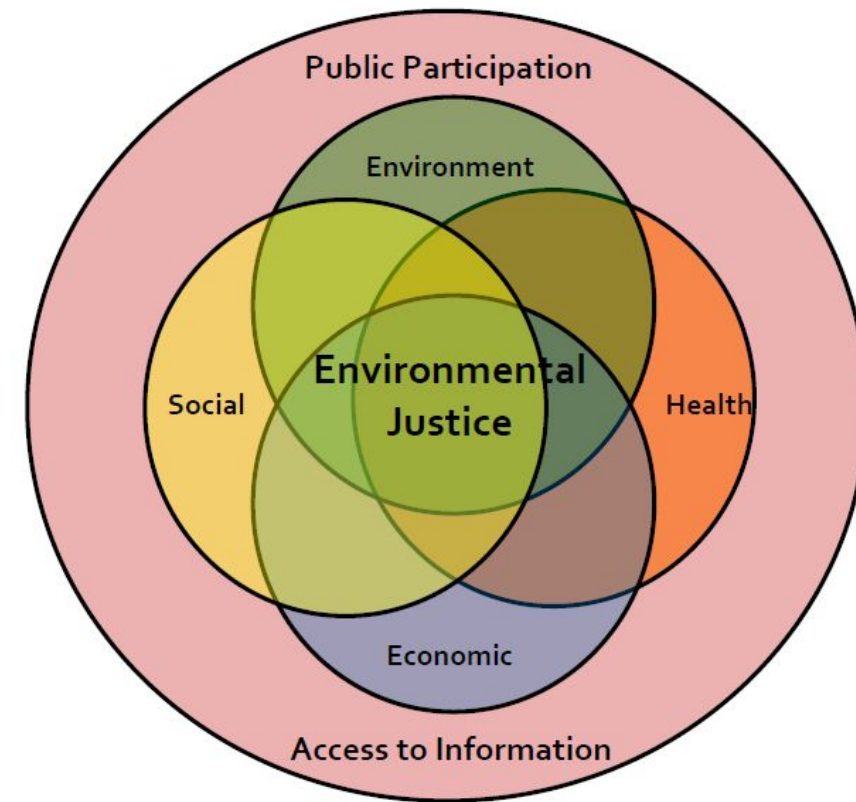
Justice40 Initiative Goal

40% of benefits from certain federal funds flow to *“disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.”*

EPA’s Environmental Justice

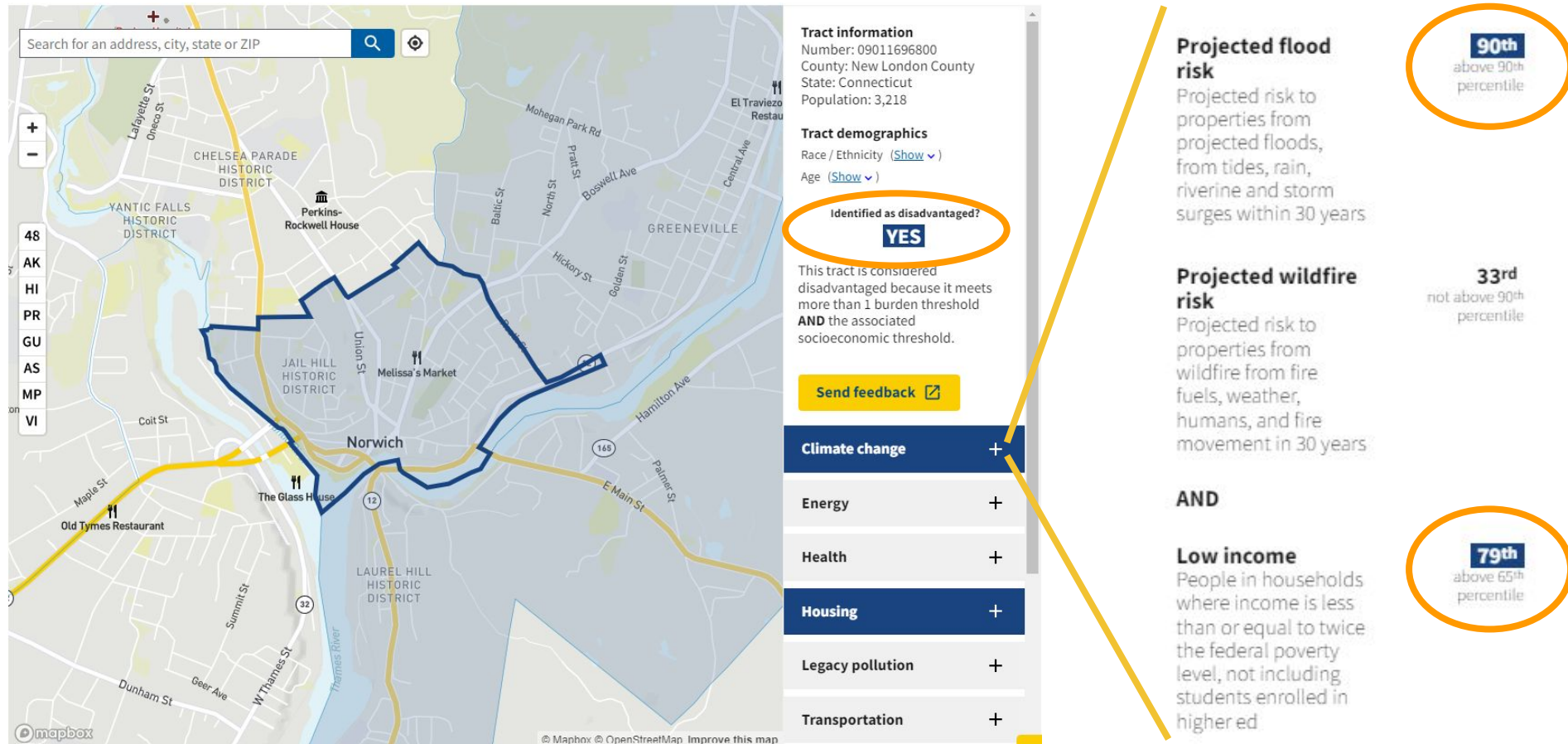
“the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

*This **goal** will be achieved when everyone enjoys: (1) The same degree or protection from environmental and health hazards, and (2) Equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.”*



credit: EPA Region 2

Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)



- “Disadvantaged” = Census tracts that meet ≥ 1 burden and assoc socioeconomic thresholds
- Federally Recognized Tribes also included

Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Sec. 16-243y

- **“Vulnerable communities”** are populations that may be disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change, including, but not limited to,
 - low and moderate income communities,
 - environmental justice communities,
 - communities eligible for community reinvestment pursuant to section 36a-30 and the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977,
 - populations with increased risk and limited means to adapt to the effects of climate change,
 - or as further defined by CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) in consultation with community representatives.
- **“Environmental justice communities”** are:
 - (A) a US census block group for which 30% or more of the population have an income below 200% of the federal poverty level, or
 - (B) a distressed municipality.



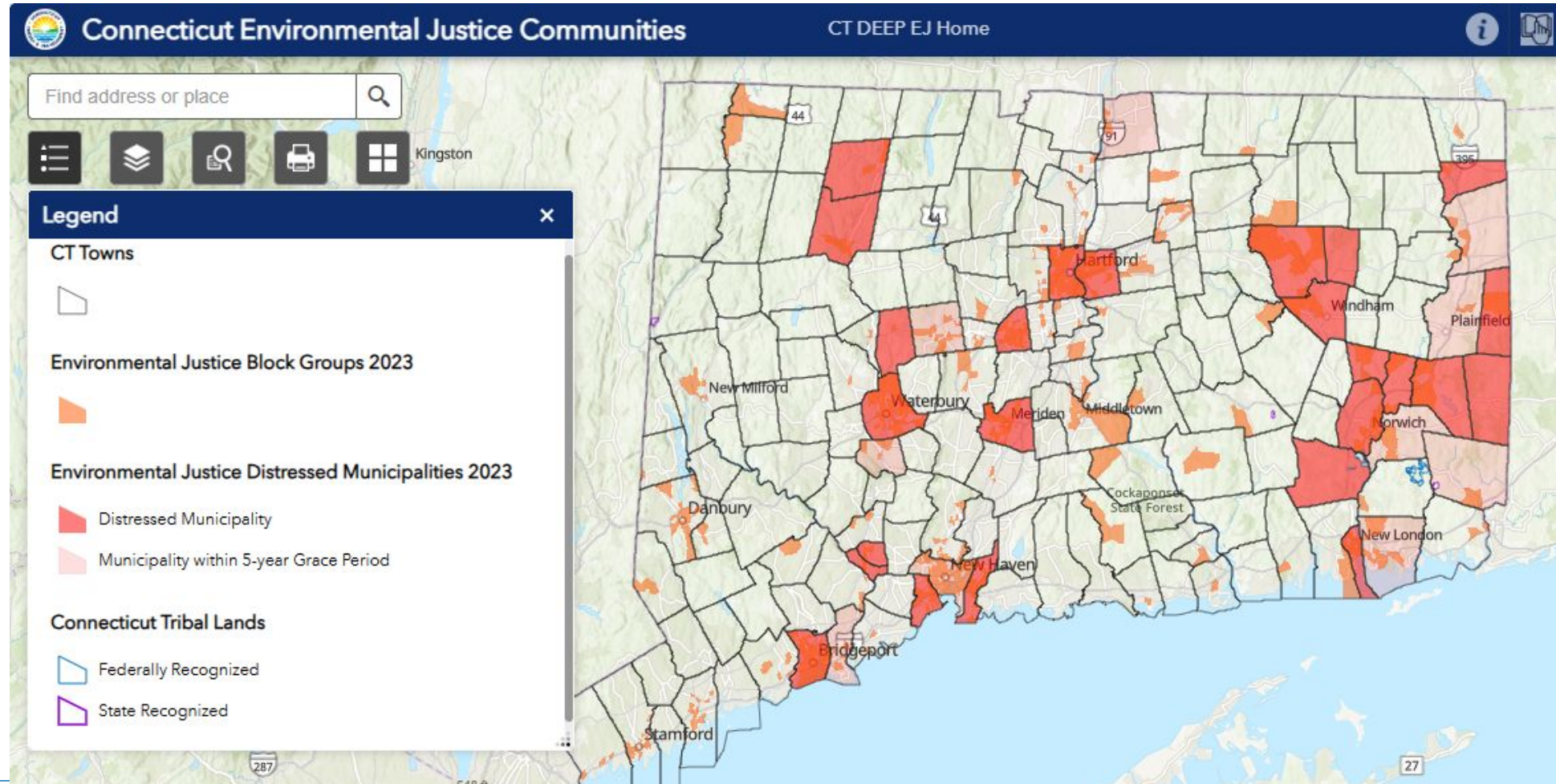
CT DECD Distressed Municipalities List

- Identifies the state's most fiscally and economically distressed municipalities
- Based on:
 - tax base
 - personal income of residents
 - residents' need for public services
- Updated annually
- Includes 5-year grace period for those who graduate

2023 Distressed Municipalities - Ranked

Municipality	Score	Rank
Windham	1,454	1
Griswold	1,360	2
Hartford	1,348	3
New London	1,347	4
East Hartford	1,318	5
Torrington	1,316	6
Norwich	1,313	7
Ansonia	1,312	8
Waterbury	1,302	9
Derby	1,299	10
Sprague	1,287	11
Bridgeport	1,283	12
New Britain	1,269	13
Putnam	1,252	14
Sterling	1,246	15
Mansfield	1,230	16
Winchester	1,224	17
Lisbon	1,202	18
Plymouth	1,199	19
Meriden	1,198	20
Chaplin	1,188	21
Montville	1,183	22
West Haven	1,180	23
Voluntown	1,170	24
East Haven	1,133	25

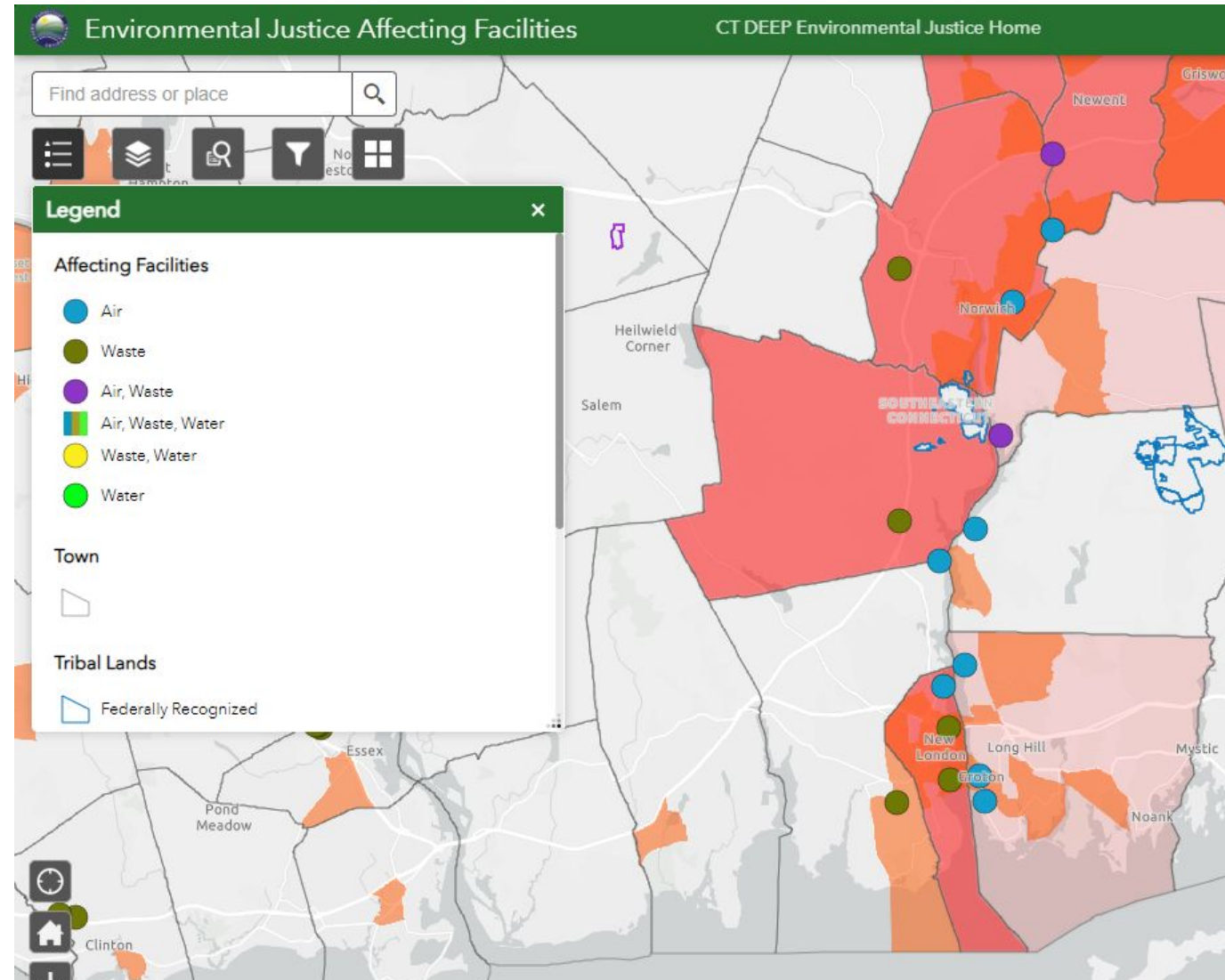
CT DEEP Connecticut Environmental Justice Communities Map



- As defined by CGS: census block group data and Distressed Municipalities list

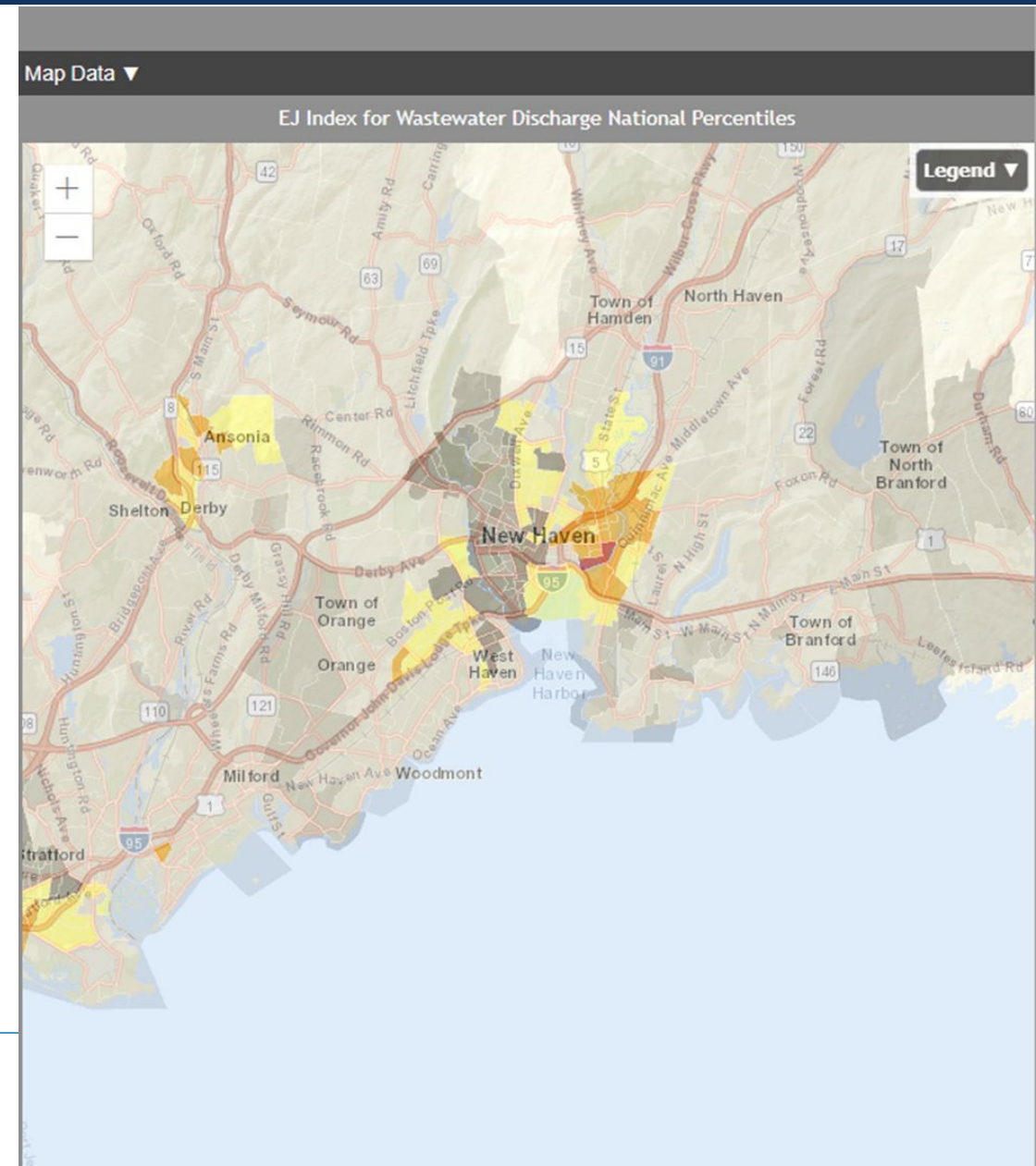
CT DEEP Environmental Justice Affecting Facilities

- Map displays the “affecting facilities” in EJ communities / census block groups.
- Affecting facilities are defined in [section 22a-20a of the CGS](#) as any of the following:
 - electric generating facility >10 megawatts;
 - sludge or solid waste incinerator or combustor;
 - sewage treatment plant >50M gallons/day;
 - intermediate processing center, volume reduction facility, or multitown recycling facility with a combined monthly volume >25 tons;
 - new or expanded landfill, including those containing ash, construction and demolition debris, or solid waste;
 - medical waste incinerator; or
 - major source of air pollution, as defined by the federal Clean Air Act
- Affecting facilities are subject to certain EJ actions:
 - Applicants must enter into a community environmental benefit agreement with the municipality



Tools for Identifying Potential EJ Needs

- **National/Regional**
 - EPA EJ Screen 2.0
 - Neighborhoods at Risk
 - TNC Coastal Resilience
- **State-specific**
 - CT EJ Screen
- **Supplement baseline screening with local information, knowledge, and experience!**



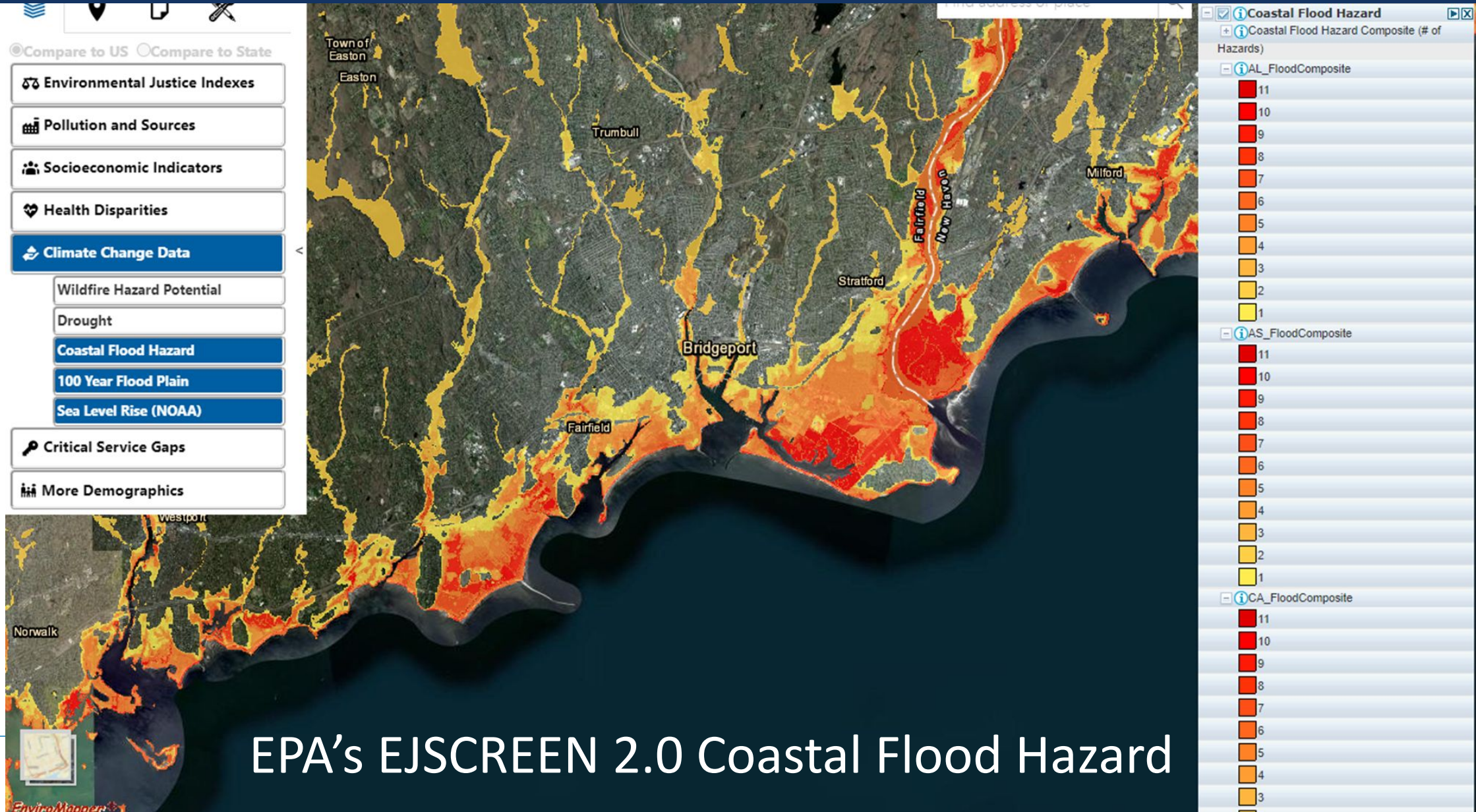
Defining Environmental Justice Concerns

EPA's EJSCREEN 2.0

- EPA's web-based GIS tool for nationally consistent EJ **screening** and mapping
- Combines environmental and demographic data to highlight areas where **vulnerable populations** may be **disproportionately impacted** by pollution
- May help users identify areas of risk based on:
 - Socioeconomic indicators (low-income, etc.)
 - Environmental indicators (air quality, etc.)
 - Greater than usual indicator combinations



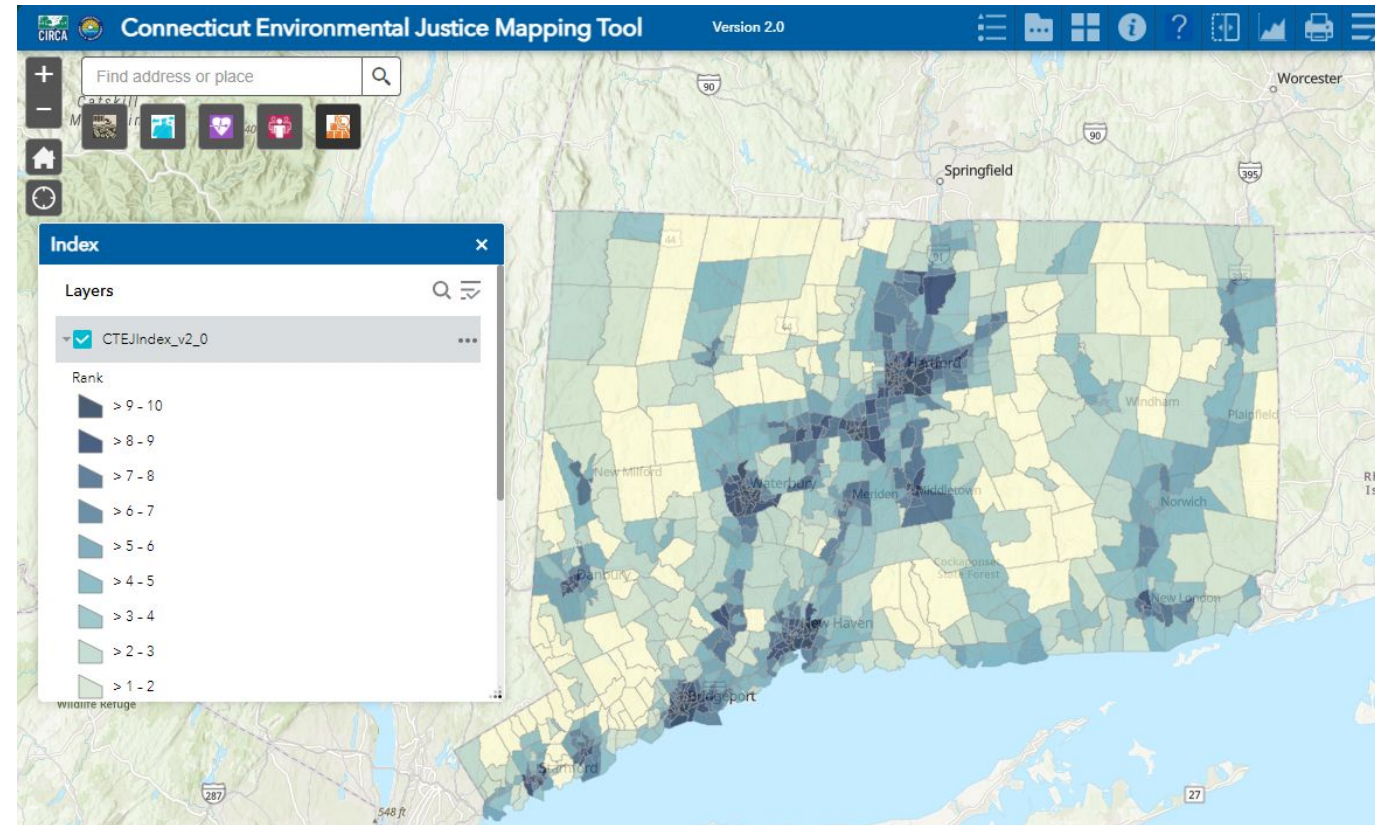
Defining Environmental Justice Concerns



EPA's EJSCREEN 2.0 Coastal Flood Hazard

Connecticut Environmental Justice Screening Tool

- GIS tool that incorporates environmental burdens and demographic indicators.
- Allows users to explore the environmental health and conditions (socioeconomic, etc.) within a specific region, town, city, and/or the entire state.
- Creation recommended by GC3 Equity and Environmental Justice Working Group
 - Potential to be codified and utilized in existing state programs, including the distribution of grant and bond funding
 - Developed by Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA)



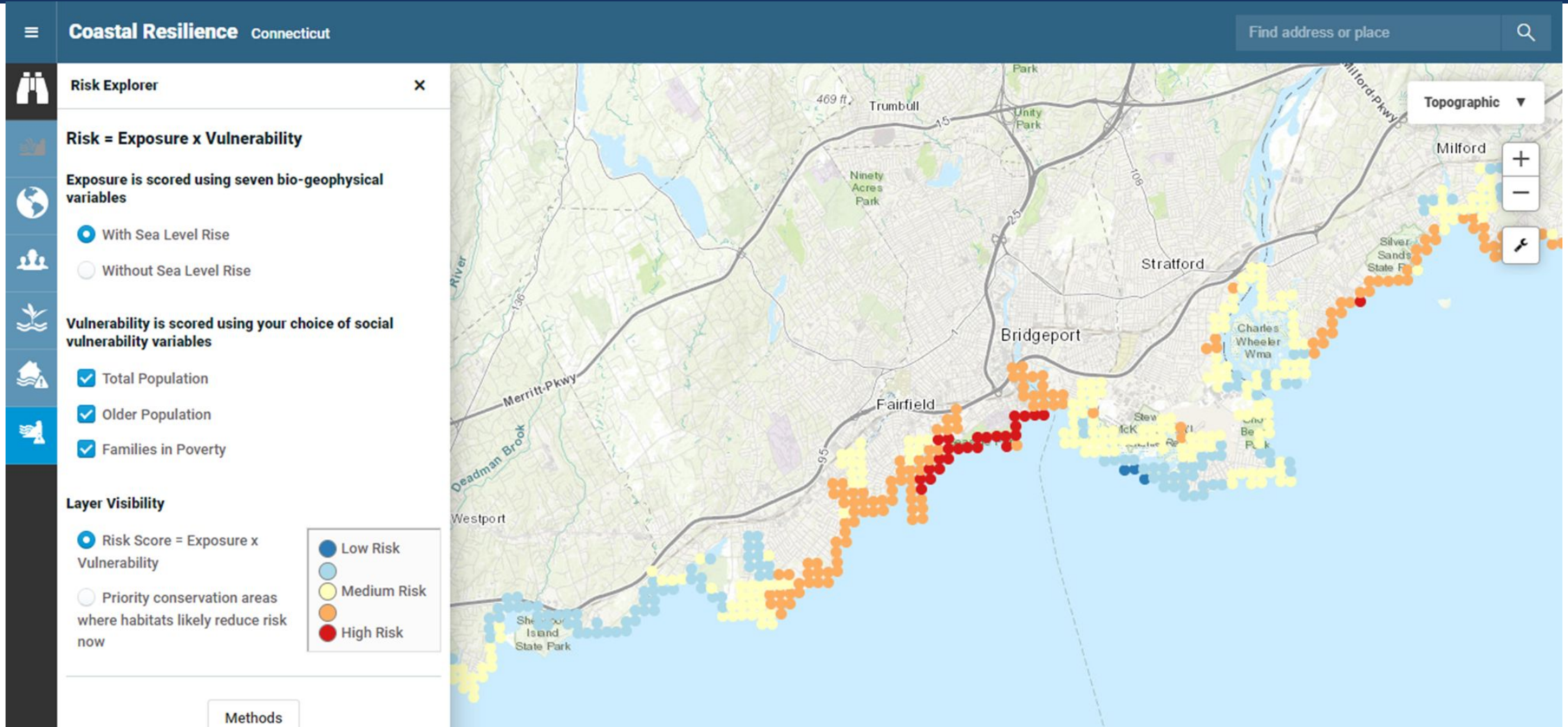
TNC Coastal Resilience Tool

- The Coastal Resilience decision support system includes a visualization platform where ecological, social, and economic information can be viewed alongside sea level rise and storm surge scenarios in specific geographies.

Uses of Coastal Resilience

- Understand “risk” based on Social Vulnerability combined with bio-geophysical exposure
- Helps prioritize areas for conservation that would reduce current risk
- Overlay habitat information with municipal information
 - e.g., See marsh migration projections along with open space
 - Includes geospatial layers for all 24 CT coastal municipalities

Defining Environmental Justice Concerns



TNC Coastal Resilience: Risk Explorer
Risk = Exposure * Vulnerability



Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



Recent Awardee Panel





Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



Lunch!

Fenwick Living Shoreline
Credit: Sarah Schechter





Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



Roundtable Discussions

Coastal Erosion Forum
Credit: Elizabeth Hornstein



Red

Starter & Smaller Projects
LISSF - Tripp Killin

Dark Green

Larger Planning & Implementation Projects III
NFWF LISFF - Amanda Bassow

Orange

Environmental Justice Topics
LISCIF - Shahela Begum

Light Blue

Forestry & Trails Topics
DEEP UCF - Danica Doroski
DEEP RT - Kim Bradley

Yellow

Larger Planning & Implementation Projects I
DECD CRF - Melinda Wilson

Dark Blue

Land & Green Space Topics
DEEP OSWA - Lindsay Suhr

Light Green

Larger Planning & Implementation Projects II
DEEP CRF - Sarah Watson

Purple

Brownfield Topics
Helen Rosenberg



Wrap-Up

- **Share-backs / Insights**
 - Starter & Smaller Projects
 - Larger Planning & Implementation Projects
 - Urban & Land Topics
 - Water & Brownfield Topics



Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound



Coming up...

- March 21st - Western CT Regional Funding Workshop
- March 28th - Long Island Regional Funding Workshop
- May - CCMP Revision Public Engagement Sessions

Keep in Touch!

- Visit LISResilience.org →
- Sign up for our newsletter on the 'Connect' page!



Visit LISstudy.net/plan to share thoughts and get updates on the CCMP revision!



Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds

Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife

Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Informed and Engaged Public



Map of Long Island Sound with some of its coastal communities and state parks. Map by Lucy Reading-Ikkanda

Please take a minute
to fill out this form to
help us improve our
future events.

Thank you!

