Sustainable and Resilient Communities Work Group

Five-Year Work Plan (2026-2031)

LONG ISLAND SOUND PARTNERSHIP

Sea Grant NEW YORK

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Contents

I. Introduction 3

II. Goals and Outcomes 4

III. Work Plan Tasks 6

1. Needs Assessments: Evaluate and adapt programming to community needs 7

2. Partnership Development: Foster and expand partnerships to address resilience needs 8

3. Workshops and Training Programs: Facilitate regional knowledge exchange by developing and delivering trainings and workshops 9

4. Resources and Case Studies: Develop, curate, and share practical guidance, tools, and real-world stories to support resilience planning and action 10

5. Resilience Planning Coordination: Support the development and coordination of local and regional resilience planning 12

6. Community Engagement: Facilitate meaningful community participation throughout resilience planning and decision-making processes 13

7. Break Down Barriers: Continue and expand Break Down Barriers Program, facilitate project pipeline, and access to support funding opportunities 14

8. Adaptation Strategies: Support advancement of resilience strategies related to land use, stormwater management, and coastal development 15

IV. Work Group Structure & Roles 16

V. Timeline 17

VI. Assessment and Reporting 18

I. Introduction

The Sustainable and Resilient Communities (SRC) Work Group was established in October 2019 to help advance progress on the Long Island Sound (LIS) Partnership Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Sustainable and Resilient Communities Goal. The Work Group finalized its first Five-Year Work Plan in 2021, and through New York Sea Grant (NYSG) and Connecticut Sea Grant (CTSG), brought on a team of five Extension Professionals strategically located in Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties in New York, and in eastern and western Connecticut to implement the activities in the Work Plan. In 2025, a sixth team member was added in New York to cover the Bronx and Queens in New York City.

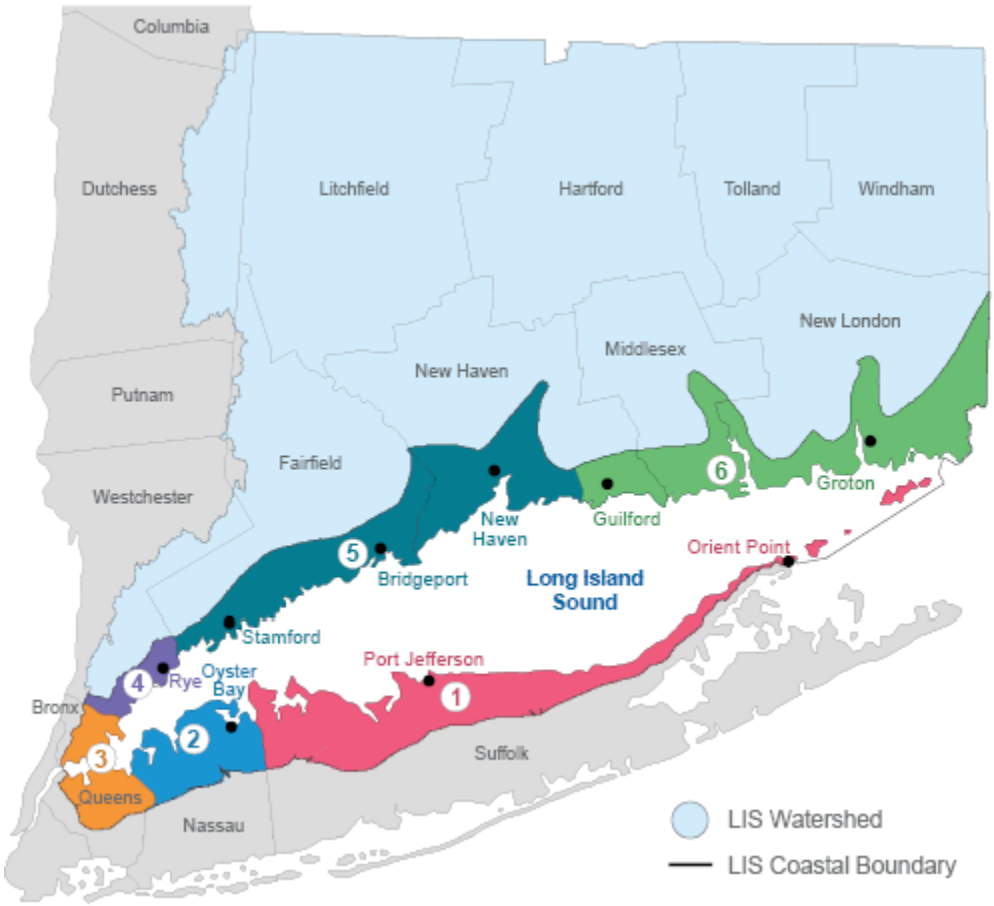

Figure 1. Geographic scope of the SRC Extension Professionals. *This figure shows the geographic areas served by the six SRC Extension Professionals located in 1) Suffolk County, NY, 2) Nassau County, NY, 3) Bronx and Queens, NY, 4) Westchester County, NY, 5) Western Connecticut, and 6) Eastern Connecticut.*

Guided by the SRC Work Group, the Extension Professionals focus on helping communities anticipate and adapt to flooding, extreme weather events, sea level rise, and other impacts of environmental changes. By providing training and tools that foster a coordinated regional response to these challenges, they are helping empower Long Island Sound decision-makers with enhanced knowledge and skills, ultimately boosting the implementation of sustainable and resilience-focused projects throughout the region. In the first five years of their work, the team conducted a regional Needs Assessment; developed an online Resilience Resource Hub; reached over 1800 stakeholders through their Annual SRC Workshops, training programs, and other offerings; assisted over 70 communities with resilience planning and implementation; and awarded $2M to communities through the SRC Break Down Barriers Program.

In 2024, the LIS Partnership engaged in a collaborative and robust planning process to update the CCMP to reflect progress, new challenges, and evolving science. The CCMP update was finalized in 2025, and this new Work Plan is being updated to align with the new CCMP SRC Goal and Objectives, and to build on the achievements of the last five years. A key addition to this Work Plan is the formal expansion of the geographic scope to include the Bronx and Queens. The scope of the SRC work now encompasses the entire Long Island Sound Coastal Boundary.

The Work Plan is intended to be a living document that will be refined and updated as needed. A pillar of the SRC work is ensuring it is responsive to the needs of Long Island Sound communities. As such, there will be regular evaluations of the SRC tasks and activities outlined below and they will be adapted as appropriate to meet new or changing needs (see Task 1).

II. Goals and Outcomes

This Work Plan aims to address continued gaps and barriers to advance the SRC Goal in the 2025 LIS Partnership CCMP to empower Long Island Sound communities to plan for and respond to environmental challenges in ways that prioritize well-being for all (Table 1).

Through the tasks and potential activities outlined in section III, the SRC Work Group seeks to increase the capacity of decision-makers to advance initiatives, support resilience planning that reflects community needs, and encourage the implementation of projects that will help communities address flooding and other environmental challenges. We see these Objectives as sequential, with each one building off the former.

Table 1. SRC Goal, Objectives, and Actions from the LIS Partnership 2025 CCMP. *See the CCMP for a description of each objective and action.*

Goal: Empower Long Island Sound communities to plan for and respond to environmental challenges in ways that prioritize well-being for all.

Objective 1: Informed Decision-Makers
Increase the number of government officials, practitioners, and community leaders receiving training and support to increase their capacity to adapt to environmental challenges.

SRC 1-1: Develop, deliver, and facilitate training programs relevant and responsive to community needs that assist with sustainability and resilience.

SRC 1-2: Support community-centered research, monitoring, and development of tools to assess the risks from extreme weather events and a changing climate and advance resilience.

Objective 2: Community-Driven Resilience Planning
Increase the number of municipalities that identify key resilience priorities through local or regional community-driven planning processes.

SRC 2-1: Develop climate resilience plans and strategies into existing municipal, regional, and watershed plans.

SRC 2-2: Coordinate across municipal boundaries to advance collective resilience priorities.

SRC 2-3: Empower and increase engagement of community members and groups in local and regional resilience planning and decision-making.

Objective 3: Resilience Initiative Implementation
Implement initiatives to improve community resilience to flooding and other environmental challenges.

SRC 3-1: Increase community capacity to implement and manage sustainable and resilient initiatives.

SRC 3-2: Support the development and adoption of regulations, codes, and ordinances that increase community resilience.

SRC 3-3: Implement nature-based solutions to address flooding and other climate impacts while providing multiple benefits.

SRC 3-4: Implement priority infrastructure projects that increase community sustainability and resilience to flooding and other climate impacts.

SRC 3-5: Monitor, maintain, and adaptively manage resilience projects to ensure their longterm success.

III. Work Plan Tasks

The SRC Work Group has identified eight tasks to advance the LIS Partnership Sustainable and Resilient Communities Goal, Objectives, and Actions (Table 2 and Figure 2). Each task has an accompanying list of potential activities that can be pursued in support of achieving the task.

Table 2. Sustainable and Resilient Communities (SRC) Work Plan Tasks and CCMP Actions Matrix*. Tasks of the SRC 5-Year Work Plan and the corresponding supported LIS Partnership CCMP Actions. Tasks 1 & 2 are overarching and crucial for advancing all other Work Plan tasks. Tasks 3 & 4 primarily support SRC Objective 1 (Informed Decision-Makers), Tasks 5 & 6 primarily support SRC Objective 2 (Community-Driven Resilience Planning), and Tasks 7 & 8 primarily support SRC Objective 3 (Resilience Initiative Implementation).*

Work Plan Task	SRC CCMP Actions Supported									
	1-1	1-2	2-1	2-2	2-3	3-1	3-2	3-3	3-4	3-5
1. Needs Assessments	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Partnership Development	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3. Workshops & Training Programs	X			X		X	X			
4. Resources & Case Studies		X	X							
5. Resilience Planning Coordination			X	X						
6. Community Engagement		X			X					
7. Break Down Barriers			X			X	X	X	X	X
8. Adaptation Strategies							X	X	X	X

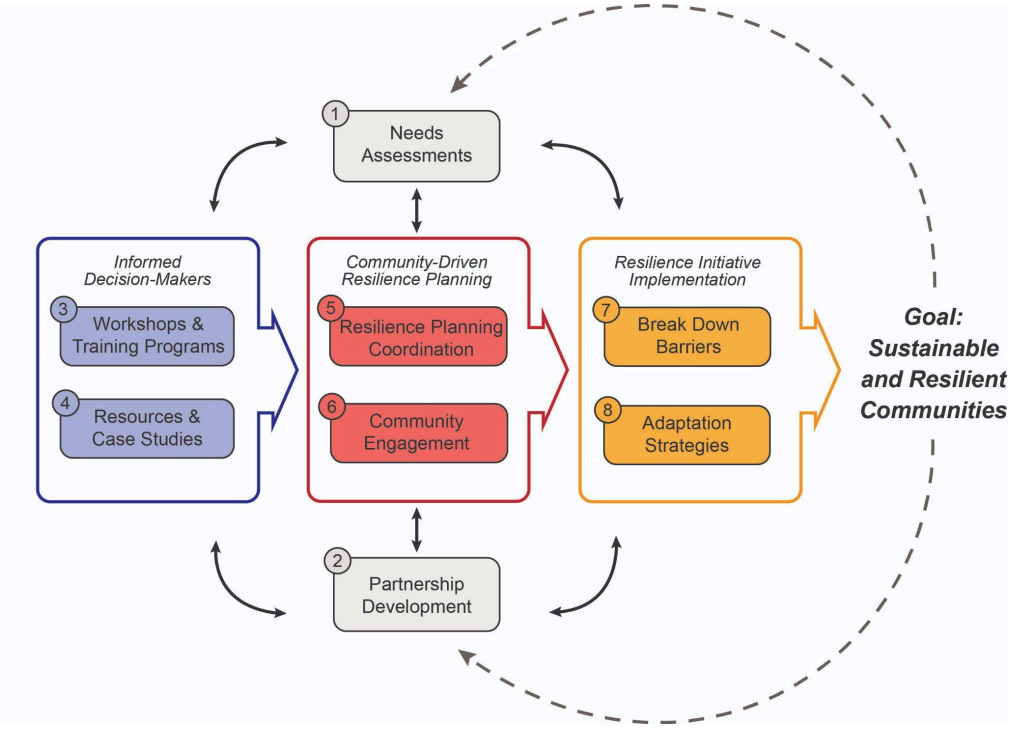

Figure 2. Sustainable and Resilient Communities (SRC) Work Plan process diagram. *Cross-cutting tasks (Tasks 1 & 2) support Tasks 3 through 8 and are informed through various engagement channels as indicated by the two-way arrows. Each SRC Task is nested within its corresponding CCMP Objective, and these Objectives in turn build upon one another to advance SRC outcomes, as shown by the larger arrows pointing right. Larger dotted lines connect the Sustainable and Resilient Communities Goal back to Tasks 1 & 2 in a feedback loop, as the SRC Work Group strives to continually reassess community needs and forge new community partnerships. The SRC Work Plan and associated tasks will continue to be refined as new needs and partnership opportunities are identified.*

As discussed above, regular evaluation of all SRC tasks and activities will be adapted as appropriate to meet new or changing stakeholder needs, or to accommodate for capacity within the SRC Team and Work Group. All tasks and potential activities are assumed to be occurring on an ongoing basis, unless otherwise noted as a near-term or long-term priority. Near-term priorities are activities that we envision focusing particularly on in Years 1-2, and Long-term priorities are anticipated to receive more focus in Years 3-5 of this Work Plan.

1. Needs Assessments: *Evaluate and adapt programming to community needs*

SRC tasks and projects have been informed by a Needs Assessment conducted in 2022 with the goal of learning more about how to best support communities located within the LIS Coastal Boundary. The SRC Team is continuing to reach new stakeholders and foster relationships to understand the following: 1) what are the environmental threats/hazards

communities are most concerned about, 2) what is already being done to address these threats (i.e., goals and priority projects), 3) what barriers/challenges are coming up that are preventing actions, and 4) what support is needed to overcome those barriers. These ongoing efforts will incorporate findings from a needs assessment of the New York City region (the Bronx and Queens), an area added to the scope in 2025 to expand SRC support to the full LIS coastal region. The SRC Team will continually evaluate and adapt our suite of programming to address new and emerging community needs. As such, this task helps advance all other tasks in this workplan.

Potential activities under this task:

- Continue to identify community needs.
    - Regularly meet with communities and check in regarding their priorities.
    - Update our understanding by referencing existing, new, or updated assessments, studies, and plans related to community sustainability and resilience.
    - Document and track needs (from other sources or our own experiences).
    - Expand our reach to those we have not developed relationships with yet.
- Assess gaps and priorities.
    - Identify where the gaps are and assess what the priority needs would be.
    - Conduct more detailed assessments of barriers as needed.
    - Maintain an inventory of existing plans and high-priority efforts.
- Integrate needs across the region.
    - Reevaluate SRC programming on an annual basis to ensure we are effectively responding to needs through our programs, and explore new programming as needed.
    - Share findings with LIS Partnership to foster collaboration.

Funding Needs: Ongoing support for SRC personnel and programming

2. Partnership Development: *Foster and expand partnerships to address resilience needs*

Many different entities work on resilience issues in the Long Island Sound region. Resilience issues cross municipal boundaries and can fall under the purview of many different types of groups. Collaboration is needed to holistically deal with these regional issues, making it imperative to engage and develop relationships with entities that work in this space including, but not limited to, academic institutions, community groups, nonprofit organizations, coalitions, local, state, and federal governments, and professional networks.

By leveraging the strengths and contributions of our partners, we will be able to more effectively and efficiently work together to address identified resilience needs and help Long Island Sound communities achieve their sustainability and resilience goals. Fostering and expanding strategic partnerships will be key to advancing all other tasks in this work plan.

Potential activities under this task:

- Continue to foster partnerships with local governments, regional entities (e.g., Counties and Councils of Government [COGs]), state and federal agencies, local nonprofits, community groups, and LIS Partnership Work Groups, and work collaboratively to address identified resilience needs.
- Explore connections with professional networks and regional coalitions. *(Near-term priority)*
    - Explore connections with professional networks, including but not limited to: American Planning Association (APA), Waterfront Alliance Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines (WEDG) Professionals, National Adaptation Forum, NYS Adaptation Practitioners Network, NYS Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (NYSFSMA).
    - Explore connections with coalitions, including but not limited to: LIS Coastal Restoration Coalition, River Restoration Network, Coastal Watershed Network.
- Expand partnerships with universities. *(Long-term priority)*
    - Develop strategic partnerships with academic professionals, researchers, and institutes.
    - Connect with student programs that could help fill capacity gaps to pursue grant opportunities or develop resilience projects (e.g., Cornell Climate Adaptive Design Studio, UConn Landscape Architecture Design Studio, UConn Climate Corps).
    - Identify potential for student research/projects in support of resilience needs, including opportunities with smaller universities and community colleges.
- Expand Work Group participation as appropriate, and encourage and provide opportunities for collaboration among Work Group members.

Funding Needs: Ongoing support for SRC personnel and programming; New partnerships and programming could require additional funding TBD

3. Workshops and Training Programs: *Facilitate regional knowledge exchange by developing and delivering trainings and workshops*

Through the first five years of the SRC Team's work to hold an Annual Workshop and other relevant training programs, it has been clear that Long Island Sound communities value and seek out opportunities to hear about new resilience strategies, share lessons learned, and have facilitated discussions with other communities and topical experts. Feedback received through evaluations of the Team's Annual Workshops, alongside regional funding workshops, field trips to resilience projects, and other topical training programs, have provided insight about topics and training formats that are of interest to stakeholders around Long Island Sound.

Based on this stakeholder input, the SRC Team maintains and regularly updates a running list of potential training topics, including: resilience planning basics, communicating effectively, navigating grants and funding mechanisms, updating municipal codes, and innovative applications of nature-based solutions. These training needs have informed the list of potential activities detailed below.

A combination of in-person and virtual workshops and training programs will continue to be strategically developed and modified to meet community needs.

Potential activities under this task:

- Continue to host an annual SRC Workshop to exchange information, encourage regional collaboration, and receive feedback from stakeholders to help inform future programs.
- Develop topical workshops and training programs in response to community needs (e.g., funding workshops, coastal resilience forums, resilience planning tools).
    - Coordinate field trips to resilience projects both within and outside the LIS watershed that demonstrate replicable approaches or align with the SRC's PERSISTS framework.
    - Explore development of focused training programs for specific audiences (e.g., new local government officials, business owners, real estate professionals). *(Long-term priority)*
- Develop a Planning Support Program (PSP) knowledge exchange that highlights the accomplishments of recent projects and offers communities opportunities for discussion and networking. *(Near-term priority)*
- Partner with existing knowledge exchange and training opportunities (e.g., NOAA Digital Coast, Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF), Restore America's Estuaries (RAE), CT National Estuarine Research Reserve, NY and CT state agencies, The New York Climate Exchange).

Funding Needs: Ongoing support for SRC personnel and programming

4. Resources and Case Studies: *Develop, curate, and share practical guidance, tools, and real-world stories to support resilience planning and action*

A growing number of tools, research findings, and resilience projects are emerging to help communities understand and respond to the environmental impacts of sea level rise, flooding, and extreme weather. While this information is valuable, it can also be overwhelming, especially for communities with limited capacity or technical expertise. This task aims to improve the accessibility, relevance, and practical application of resilience resources and technical information by curating tools, sharing case studies, promoting community-partnered research, and celebrating impactful local initiatives. By synthesizing

and elevating useful guidance and real-world examples, this work supports community leaders, planners, and practitioners in using scientific information, incorporating best management practices, and prioritizing resilience in their decision-making.

Potential activities under this task:

- Maintain and improve the LIS Resilience Resource Hub.
    - Regularly update tools, relevant resources, guidance, and funding opportunities.
    - Highlight funding and resources specifically useful to addressing capacity barriers of local governments and nonprofits.
    - Evaluate Hub usage and solicit feedback to improve its content and usability. *(Near-term priority)*
- Elevate useful guidance and share impactful case stories.
    - Develop case studies that showcase successful planning processes, implementation efforts, regulations and best management practices, including projects supported by our Break Down Barriers program. *(Near-term priority)*
    - Explore creation of a "resilience story bank" to elevate local voices, humanize resilience efforts, and build on storytelling-focused communications initiatives in partnership with students, communications teams, or other groups. *(Long-term priority)*
    - Explore development of an awards program to celebrate impactful local resilience initiatives. *(Long-term priority)*
- Facilitate community-centered research and tool development.
    - Partner with academic institutions, federal and state agencies, and research networks to help align research and tool development with local resilience needs (e.g., USGS Compound Flood Hazard Modeling).
    - Encourage the use of community-participatory resilience tools (e.g., MyCoast). *(Near-term priority)*
    - Build connections and collaboration opportunities with larger research groups and consortiums (e.g., Sea Grant networks, New York City Panel on Climate Change, NYC Town+Gown). *(Long-term priority)*
- Develop and disseminate communications that support community resilience including newsletters, guidance documents, and other outreach materials.
    - Expand the audience that is reached through SRC communications and guidance, including but not limited to consultants, engineering groups, and practitioners.

Funding Needs: Ongoing support for SRC personnel and programming; Continued maintenance of Resource Hub website ($10,000/year), a student worker to assist with website-related work (approximately $9,000/year), and ad-hoc website feature development ($5,000/year)

5. Resilience Planning Coordination: *Support the development and coordination of local and regional resilience planning*

It is critical for communities to undertake resilience planning to identify potential threats and hazards and strategize about the most effective ways to mitigate risks and adapt to a changing environment. Resilience planning entails identifying potential threats to key structures and functions within communities, identifying and prioritizing relevant key resilience strategies and solutions, and understanding the interconnection between a community's economy, society, and ecology. Relevant community members and stakeholders should be convened and included in each step. Communities striving for sustainability and resilience should work from agreed-upon local or regional plans to strategically advance actions and priorities. The SRC Work Group will support the development of local and regional resilience plans and strategies and coordinate across municipal boundaries to advance collective resilience priorities.

Potential activities under this task:

- Assess the status of resilience planning at multiple scales and identify gaps and vulnerabilities.
    - Catalogue existing local, municipal, and regional resilience plans and identify geographic gaps and barriers in community resilience planning.
    - Utilize local and regional vulnerability assessments (e.g., LIS Partnership Climate Vulnerability Assessment) to identify focus and high-risk areas.
- Foster regional coordination by identifying, supporting, and helping to build regional planning partnerships and coalitions to facilitate targeted conversations across municipal lines.
    - Encourage cross-jurisdictional and regional coordination through the development of regional and watershed-scale resilience plans or alignment of local resilience priorities.
    - Increase local government participation in SRC Work Group or other entities, such as a local government advisory committee. *(Near-term priority)*
- Provide technical and financial assistance to support the development of local and regional resilience plans and strategies.
    - Partner with New York Climate Smart Communities, Sustainable CT, Connecticut Councils of Government (COGs), and other programs, as appropriate, to provide technical assistance for resilience planning.
    - Increase awareness about existing technical and financial resources available to Long Island Sound communities for resilience planning, and help align local and regional resilience plans with viable funding opportunities.
    - Continue to support community-driven planning through the Break Down Barriers Program and other similar programs.
    - Share and develop resilience planning tools and templates. *(Near-term priority)*

Funding Needs: Ongoing support for SRC personnel and programming; Support for Break Down Barriers Program (see Task 7)

6. Community Engagement: *Facilitate meaningful community participation throughout resilience planning and decision-making processes*

In a 2022 Needs Assessment, some community members expressed feeling excluded from decision-making processes, and disconnected from institutions leading resilience efforts. This disconnect can result in missed opportunities to address local priorities and foster trust. Expanding the meaningful participation of community members in planning and decision-making processes will strengthen outcomes and community support for resilience initiatives. This task focuses on building lasting relationships, encouraging effective engagement practices, and ensuring that local voices help identify and inform local and regional resilience planning, decision-making, and project development. For the purposes of this task, a "community" may be understood to mean the residents, workers, and/or users within a discrete geographic area, and the groups and organizations that represent their collective voice.

Potential activities under this Task:

- Build relationships with community representatives to deepen understanding of resilience concerns and priorities.
    - Support the planning and organization of public meetings and other forums that provide opportunities for community members to engage with decision-makers.
- Engage local residents and groups in project scoping, design, and implementation.
    - Advance community engagement in Planning Support Program projects and other partner initiatives.
    - Help connect project and consultant teams to local community members and groups.
    - Disseminate timely information to local community members and stakeholders regarding high-impact projects (e.g., NY/NJ HATS) and opportunities for involvement.
    - Share relevant information on projects and funding opportunities across the LIS Partnership with communities and community groups within the SRC network.
- Collaborate with the new LIS Partnership Informed and Engaged Public (IEP) Community Decision-Making Subgroup to advance best practices for community co-creation. *(Near-term priority)*
    - Curate guidance around best practices in community engagement and adopt community engagement standards for all SRC projects.
    - Develop and share resources, toolkits, and frameworks that illustrate best practices in community co-creation. These can be housed on the Resilience Resource Hub and promoted via SRC and IEP communication channels.

- Provide training and educational opportunities for community members to engage in resilience planning processes. Relevant programs or models include Cornell Climate Stewards, MyCoast, and Jamaica Bay Community Flood Fellowship. *(Long-term priority)*

Funding Needs: Ongoing support for SRC personnel and programming; Additional funding needs TBD

7. Break Down Barriers: *Continue and expand Break Down Barriers Program, facilitate project pipeline, and access to support funding opportunities*

The 2022 Needs Assessment identified limited capacity and lack of funding as two of the primary barriers to implementation of resilience initiatives, which informed the development of the Break Down Barriers (BDB) Program. Two Programs have been established under the BDB Program – the Long Island Sound Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program (GWA) in 2022 and the Long Island Sound Resilience Planning Support Program (PSP) in 2023 to assist communities within the Long Island Sound (LIS) Coastal Boundary across New York (NY) and Connecticut (CT). The BDB Program is designed to be responsive to needs and gaps in capacity, to address the most important barriers to sustainability and resilience focused project implementation in the region, and adapt from the lessons learned from the previous programs.

A BDB Implementation Team (BDB I-Team), composed of a group of experienced individuals from a range of backgrounds and affiliations, was established to guide and facilitate the implementation and adaptation of the BDB program. The BDB I-Team is a subset of the SRC Work Group, and is supplemented with relevant expertise from outside the Work Group as needed. With guidance from the SRC EPs and BDB I-Team, the BDB Program will continue to be evaluated annually to consider any changes.

Potential activities under this task:

- Continue and expand the BDB Program.
    - Promote and manage the PSP to provide planning support to advance resilience-focused projects by matching communities with qualified contractors to assist with assessing local risks, conceptualizing project ideas, and conducting preliminary planning efforts.
    - Promote and manage the GWA Program to assist communities in engaging with a grant writing consultant to develop successful sustainability and resilience-focused project grant proposals and increase capacity within municipalities and community organizations to navigate the funding landscape.

    - Identify ongoing barriers to project planning and implementation and explore the development of a new program (or programs) as needed based on stakeholder feedback. *(Long-term priority)*
- Establish a framework for advancing resilience projects from planning to implementation through the BDB program or partner programs (i.e., a project pipeline).
    - Provide project-specific support to advance projects, leverage connections with relevant partners, and help communities navigate the funding landscape.
    - Assist communities to advance projects completed through the PSP Program.
    - Establish a mechanism for assisting projects that are not supported through the PSP Program, including, but not limited to, help finding other sources of grant funding or through graduate student studios. *(Near-term priority)*
- Coordinate the BDB I-Team to evaluate the BDB Program and assess the need for any changes.
    - Review successes, challenges, needs, and barriers highlighted through the BDB Program and SRC Team work on a bi-annual basis to help communities move projects from idea to implementation and to strategize on solutions to further advance resilience initiatives and projects.
    - Identify metrics to evaluate success of BDB Programs.

Funding Needs: Ongoing support for SRC personnel and programming; At least $1.5 Million ($250k/region/year) in support of the BDB Program

8. Adaptation Strategies: *Support advancement of resilience strategies related to land use, stormwater management, and coastal development*

Other tasks in this workplan focus on educating and engaging stakeholders on broad resilience issues and planning. This task focuses on advancing adaptation strategies related to land use, stormwater management, and coastal development by engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, including but not limited to: residents, homeowners associations, contractors, developers, critical infrastructure managers, emergency managers, municipalities, and decision-makers.

A range of adaptation strategies exist for communities to consider when dealing with resilience issues - more knowledge-sharing and facilitated conversations around the applicability of different strategies, including natural and nature-based solutions, is needed to increase implementation throughout the region.

Potential activities under this task:

- Engage with stakeholders on best practices for coastal land use, stormwater management, and development, including use of the PERSISTS framework, to help

them understand the full range of adaptation strategies and select the best option(s) for their needs.
    - Support avenues to advance community knowledge of adaptation strategies and resilience projects through extension programs like the Cornell Climate Stewards Program. *(Near-term priority)*
    - Support the development of resources and tools for homeowners and buyers. *(Long-term priority)*
- Identify and encourage opportunities to implement nature-based solutions (NBS), where feasible.
    - Connect communities with experts who can provide relevant technical assistance.
    - Coordinate NBS project opportunities with other Long Island Sound Partnership Work Groups.
    - Help communities understand the social, economic, and ecological benefits of NBS and what NBS solutions are feasible for their area/project. *(Near-term priority)*
- Support municipalities with identifying opportunities to implement model codes/ordinances. *(Near-term priority)*
- Explore development of extension programming around relevant topics, including considerations for managed retreat and other innovative adaptation strategies (see Virginia Sea Grant) and working with real estate professionals (see South Carolina Sea Grant, Lake Champlain Sea Grant). *(Long-term priority)*

Funding Needs: Ongoing support for SRC personnel and programming; New programs could require additional funding TBD

IV. Work Group Structure & Roles

The role of the Sustainable and Resilient Communities Work Group is to oversee implementation of this Work Plan and provide guidance and support to the SRC Extension Professionals.

WORK GROUP CO-CHAIRS
Rebecca (Becky) Shuford, PhD, New York Sea Grant
Sylvain De Guise, PhD, Connecticut Sea Grant

SRC EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS
Deb Visco Abibou, Connecticut Sea Grant (Western CT)
Sarah Schaefer-Brown, New York Sea Grant (Nassau County, NY)
Ben Goldberg, New York Sea Grant (Bronx and Queens Counties, NY)
Elizabeth Hornstein, New York Sea Grant (Suffolk County, NY)
Sara Powell, New York Sea Grant (Westchester County, NY)
Sarah Schechter, Connecticut Sea Grant (Eastern CT)

Members of the Work Group include federal, state, and local government representatives, as well as regional nonprofit partners.

Subcommittees of the Work Group will be formed as needed to advance certain programs and tasks. For instance, a Break Down Barriers (BDB) Implementation Team was established to help the SRC Team evaluate and assess the BDB Program and provide guidance on any changes that may be needed (see Task 7 in this Work Plan).

V. Timeline

We envision working on all eight tasks in this workplan continuously throughout the five years. However, the level of effort devoted to each task may vary over time. As noted in Section III, we have identified ongoing, near-term, and longer-term priorities for each task. See Table 3 below for a summary of these priorities.

Table 3. Ongoing, Short, and Long-term Priorities. *Summary of ongoing, near-term, and long-term priorities identified for each task, as detailed in Section III. Near-term priorities are activities that we envision focusing particularly on in Years 1-2, and Long-term priorities are anticipated to receive more focus in Years 3-5 of this Work Plan.*

Task	Ongoing Activities	Near-term priorities (Years 1-2)	Long-term priorities (Years 3-5)
Needs Assessments	• Identify and track community needs. • Integrate community needs into SRC programming.		
Partnership Development	• Expand SRC Work Group participation and opportunities for collaboration. • Foster partnerships with governmental agencies, local nonprofits, and community groups.	• Explore connections with professional networks & regional coalitions.	• Expand partnerships with universities.
Workshops & Training Programs	• Host annual SRC Workshop. • Continue developing workshops, training programs, and field trips.	• Develop Planning Support Program knowledge exchange.	• Explore development of focused training programs for specific sectors/audiences.
Resources & Case Studies	• Maintain and improve LIS Resilience Resource Hub. • Develop newsletters, guidance documents, and other materials.	• Develop case studies to showcase successful plans and projects. • Encourage the use of community-participatory tools.	• Explore creation of “resilience story bank” and awards program. • Collaborate with larger research groups/consortiums.

Resilience Planning Coordination	• Assess the status of resilience planning and identify gaps and vulnerabilities. • Provide technical and financial assistance for resilience planning.	• Increase local government participation in SRC Work Group or other entities. • Share and develop resilience planning tools and templates.	
Community Engagement	• Build relationships with local communities. • Engage local residents and groups in project scoping and implementation.	• Collaborate with Community Decision-Making Subgroup to advance best practices. • Adopt community engagement standards for all SRC projects.	• Provide training and educational opportunities for community members to engage in planning processes.
Break Down Barriers	• Continue and expand the BDB Program. • Provide project-specific support to advance resilience projects.	• Establish a mechanism for assisting projects that are not supported through PSP.	• Explore development of new BDB programs as needed.
Adaptation Strategies	• Engage with stakeholders on best practices and use of the PERSISTS framework • Identify and encourage opportunities to implement nature-based solutions where feasible.	• Advance community knowledge of adaptation strategies through extension programs. • Support municipalities with identifying opportunities to implement model codes/ordinances.	• Develop resources and tools for homeowners and buyers. • Explore development of new extension programming around relevant and innovative topics.

VI. Assessment and Reporting

Progress toward the CCMP SRC Objectives will be tracked through the primary measures of success identified in the CCMP for each Objective. Progress toward these measures of success will be reported on annually and will be available to the public through the Long Island Sound Partnership website. Progress toward individual CCMP Actions and associated performance measures will be tracked through required semi-annual progress reports submitted to EPA. See Table 4 for a list of the SRC measures of success and performance measures identified in the CCMP.

Further, as described in Task 1, the SRC Team will continually evaluate and adapt our suite of programming to address new and emerging community needs. The SRC Team will regularly report on and discuss progress under this Work Plan with the SRC Work Group. Additionally,

progress updates will be provided to the Long Island Sound Partnership Management Committee.

Table 4. SRC Measures of Success. *Primary measure of success for each SRC Objective and the performance measures for the SRC Actions that will be tracked through regular reporting. See the LIS Partnership 2025 CCMP for more information.*

SRC Objective	Primary Measures of Success for SRC Objectives	Performance Measures for Related SRC Actions
Objective 1: **Informed Decision-Makers**	1) New municipal, nonprofit, and community leaders engaged 2) Total number of municipal, nonprofit, and community leaders that receive training	• Number of unique trainings and events developed • Resources developed and modified/improved
Objective 2: **Community-Driven Resilience Planning**	1) Number of municipalities that have identified resilience/climate adaptation priorities	• Number of new or updated resilience plans • Number of established/active regional partnerships/ collaborations • Number of new partners/ community groups engaged in resilience planning/ decision-making
Objective 3: **Resilience Initiative Implementation**	1) Number of initiatives implemented 2) Number of initiatives in progress	• Number of capacity support programs established and maintained • Amount of capacity support funding allocated • Number of nature-based initiatives implemented and in progress • Number of infrastructure initiatives implemented and in progress • Number of adaptive management strategies developed