5th Annual LIS Partnership Sustainable & Resilient Communities Workshop

LONG ISLAND SOUND PARTNERSHIP | Sea Grant CONNECTICUT | Sea Grant NEW YORK

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Beacon Hall Event Center, Housatonic Community College
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Agenda (1/3)

9:15 AM	**Check-in**	*Coffee & light breakfast available*
10:00 AM	**Welcome & Introductions** • Announcement - Round 3 Awardees of the LIS Resilience Planning Support Program	Sylvain DeGuise, Director, Connecticut Sea Grant Nikki Tachiki, Director, Long Island Sound Partnership
10:30 AM	**Keynote: Resilience Planning on a Regional Scale**	Robert Pirani, Director, NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program
11:00 AM	**Panel discussion: Advancing Watershed & Regional Planning** *Regional practitioners engaged in resilience planning at various scales will explore their coordination successes and challenges, and discuss what a vision for Long Island Sound regional resilience cooperation would look like.*	**Moderator:** Becky Shuford, Director, New York Sea Grant **Panelists:** • George Hoffman, Setauket Harbor Task Force • Daniel Ranells, Bronx River Alliance • Sharon Torres, Village of Mamaroneck & Long Island Sound Watershed Intermunicipal Council • Kathie Hebert, West River Watershed Association • Denise Savageau, Connecticut Association of Conservation Districts
12:00 PM	**Lunch (provided) & Networking**	

Agenda (2/3)

1:00 PM	*Concurrent Sessions*
Municipal and Community Resilience Plans (Beacon Hall Room #265) *Participants will learn about different types of resilience plans that are being developed and used by Long Island Sound communities to increase community resilience.*	**Presenters:** • Bob Steele & Keith Masseria, LKMA • Vanessa Liles, PT Partners • Brian Shea, City of Rye, NY • Peter Gillespie, Town of Westbrook, CT
Nature-Based Restoration Case Studies (Beacon Hall Room #273) *Participants will hear from communities and practitioners on their work with nature-based solutions (NBS), including challenges and lessons learned regarding implementation of NBS and/or hybrid restoration projects.*	**Presenters:** • Chris Haight, NYC Parks • Christine Siller & Steven Forte, Friends of Rye Nature Center • Mary Ellen Lemay, Aspetuck Land Trust • Chadwick Schroeder, City of Bridgeport, CT
Supporting Meaningful Community Participation *Participants will be introduced to a variety of best practices to help decision-makers and communities understand how to develop strong connections and solicit community feedback.*	**Presenters:** • Vicky O'Neill, Audubon CT/NY • Lisa Noriega, Town of Groton, CT **Facilitators:** • Deb Abibou, CT Sea Grant • Abbie Winter, CT DEEP • Shahela Begum, Restore America's Estuaries/Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund • Jimena Perez-Viscasillas, NY Sea Grant

Agenda (3/3)		
2:30 PM	*Break*	
2:45 PM	**Panel discussion: Resilience Financing & Funding** *Participants will hear from communities and entities pursuing unique models and approaches to financing and funding resilience projects and programs.*	**Presenters:** • Mbacke Faye, Resilient Cities Catalyst • Ashley Stewart Brown, CT Green Bank • Sally Connolly & Barbara Zahm, City Island Oyster Reef • James Finch, Branford Climate Resilience Fund • Joe Lanzafamme, City of New London, CT
3:45 PM	**Closing Remarks**	
4:00 PM	**Celebrating Resilience Networking Reception** *Visit the posters and tables to learn about projects supported through the LIS Resilience Assistance Programs and the work of SRC Work Group members and partners. Enjoy!*	*Light refreshments*
5:30 PM	*Workshop Concludes*	

About the Long Island Sound Partnership

LONG ISLAND SOUND PARTNERSHIP

Working together to protect and improve the health of Long Island Sound

Since 1985, the Long Island Sound Partnership, led by the US EPA and states of New York and Connecticut, has been dedicated to restoring and protecting the Sound.

Learn more at **lispartnership.org**.

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