Introduction to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Long Island Sound Futures Fund

Overview

The Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) supports projects to fully restore the health and living resources of Long Island Sound ("the Sound"). The program is managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in collaboration with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Long Island Sound Study (LISS). Throwe Environmental (Throwe) has been contracted as Field Liaisons to provide outreach and support to LISFF applicants in the Sound's Upper Basin (VT, NH, MA, and non-coastal CT).

Program Priorities

LISFF supports efforts to test innovative approaches to conservation, deliver transformative projects, and support people and communities who value the Sound. Upper Basin funding priorities include:

- **Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds:** Improving water quality by reducing pollution from the waters that flow into and the land that surrounds the Sound.
- **Sustainable and Resilient Communities:** Supporting vibrant, informed, and engaged communities that use, appreciate, and help protect and sustain the Sound; and enhancing natural and community resilience.

Project Types

Eligible project types are included below:

- Implementation of "shovel-ready" projects that result in quantifiable pollutant prevention/reduction are eligible for $50,000 to $1.5 million awards per project. Projects in this category must implement actions described in the "Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds" or "Sustainable and Resilient Communities" theme and have particularly high environmental and community benefits relative to cost.
- Planning activities that set the stage for future implementation of water quality projects. Planning activities are eligible for $50,000 to $500,000 awards per project. Eligible activities include: Community Engagement, Planning and Prioritization; Feasibility, Suitability or Alternatives Analyses; Site Assessment and Conceptual Design; and Final Design and Permits.

Who are the LISFF Field Liaisons?

Throwe has served as the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) Upper Basin Field Liaisons since October 2021, operating throughout the Upper Basin areas MA, VT, and NH, as well as non-coastal CT. As Field Liaisons, Throwe conducts outreach to encourage projects that support the health and living resources of the Long Island Sound Watershed by reducing nitrogen, combined sewer overflows, impervious surface, stormwater runoff, and point source pollution across the watershed. More specifically, Field Liaisons provide application assistance, program guidance, and troubleshoot problems for applicants.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include state, territorial, Tribal, local/municipal governments and their agencies or organizations; non-profit 501(c) organizations; and educational institutions.

NFWF

Throwe Environmental

Project Examples

Examples of point source projects (i.e., wastewater):

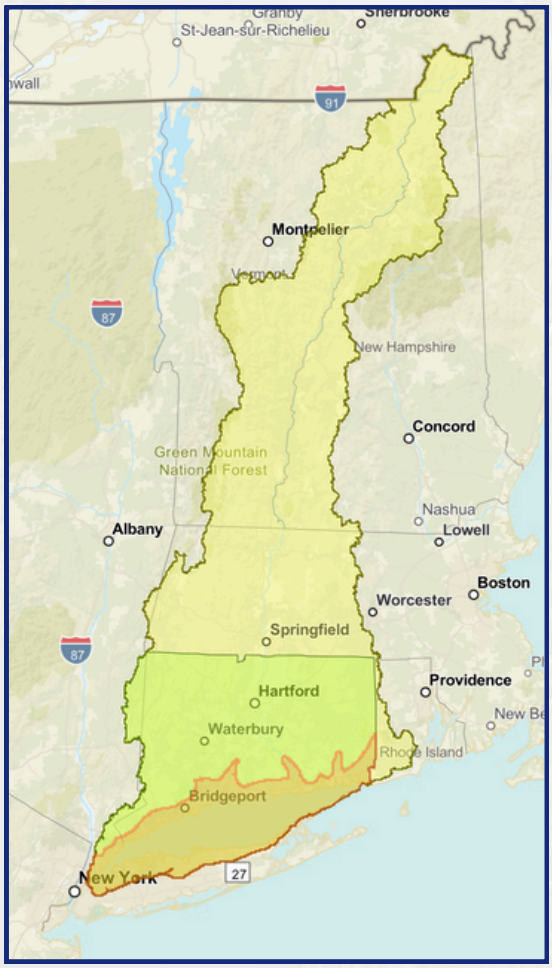
- Alternatives to decentralized on-site wastewater treatment systems.
- Innovative wastewater treatment tools or strategies.
- Low-cost retrofits at wastewater treatment facilities.

Examples of nonpoint source projects (i.e., stormwater):

- Projects that reduce pollution from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) systems.
- Green infrastructure/Low Impact Development (LID), including technical assistance to help build capacity.
- Watershed planning that addresses eutrophication and identifies potential projects.
- Precision nutrient management, alternatives to chemical and nitrogen-intensive turf, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- Riparian/forested buffer and bank vegetation to slow and intercept runoff.
- Stream channel reconnection to historic floodplains and adjacent wetlands
- In-stream restorations to promote nutrient removal and reduce erosion.
- Replacing or right-sizing culverts or otherwise improving road
- and stream crossings to reduce downstream erosion of nutrients.

Examples of agricultural projects:

- Technical assistance to engage landowners and farmers in design and delivery of nitrogen prevention projects.
- Farm-scale conservation systems that address agricultural runoff.
- Regenerative agriculture practices on working lands.
- Soil health best practices and management systems that increase fertility and improve crop and soil capacity to reduce runoff and uptake nutrients.



Geographic Boundary

- For nitrogen prevention or reduction planning/design and implementation projects, anywhere in the Sound Watershed. **(Yellow area on map)**

- For resilience, water quality, education, and fish passage projects, anywhere in the Connecticut and New York portions of the watershed. **(Green area on map)**

- For habitat restoration and stewardship projects, anywhere in the Coastal Watershed boundary in Connecticut and New York. **(Orange area on map)**

Interested applicants are encouraged to share proposal ideas with the Field Liaison team before submission of pre-proposals. This feedback is optional and has no impact on pre- or final proposal evaluation or awarding of funds. It is intended solely to assist the applicant in developing a more competitive proposal. To discuss potential projects or ask questions about the RFP, contact lisff@throwe-environmental.com.

NFWF

Throwe Environmental