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NYSG Sustainable and Resilient Communities Extension Professionals have created a new foundation for focusing shared interest in building the resilience of Long Island Sound communities

1st Annual Long Island Sound Sustainable & Resilient Communities Workshop

The Long Island Sound Study (LISS), a United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-funded program created to protect and restore Long Island Sound, identifies Sustainable and Resilient Communities (SRC) as one of four themes in its Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. A regional Long Island Sound (LIS) needs assessment conducted by the New York Sea Grant (NYSG) SRC Extension Professionals found that communities need help identifying relevant sustainability and resiliency tools as well as funding opportunities.

In 2022, the NYSG SRC Extension Professionals organized the first Long Island Sound Sustainable and Resilient Communities Workshop to help LIS communities learn more about opportunities to increase resilience to climate change and other environmental threats. The workshop was held virtually on December 1, 2022. The agenda included interactive sessions to learn about the findings and recommendations of the LIS regional needs assessment, the newly released Long Island Sound Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program, and tips for success with LIS-focused funding opportunities. Concurrent breakout sessions highlighted partner efforts related to shoreline planning and implementation, using green infrastructure for stormwater management, sustainable climate planning for relocation, and new sustainability and resilience tools available in both New York and Connecticut.



*The first Long Island Sound Sustainable and Resilient Communities Workshop was held in 2022.
Photo: Sara Powell/NYSG*

This workshop provided 260 attendees with valuable opportunities to network, share, and learn from individual on-the-ground experiences. The workshop was recorded and is available to the public online, with additional resources and links from each session. Future training programs and annual workshops will be developed based on workshop evaluations, the findings of the regional needs assessment, and feedback from Long Island Sound communities.

This inaugural event has created a new foundation for empowering sustainable, resilient Long Island Sound communities.

Partners:

*Long Island Sound Sustainable and Resilient Communities Workshop presentation videos:
<https://longislandsoundstudy.net/our-vision-and-plan/sustainable-and-resilient-communities/>*

- Connecticut Sea Grant
- Borough of Fenwick CT • Bruce Museum • Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE Suffolk, Nassau and Westchester Counties)
- City of New Haven CT • CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection • Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee
- Jeniam Foundation • Long Island Sound Funders Collaborative • National Fish & Wildlife Foundation • NEIWPC • New York State Department of Environmental Conservation • Save the Sound • The Nature Conservancy NY • Town of Brookhaven NY
- Town of Old Saybrook CT • Town of Westbrook CT • University of Connecticut: Center for Land Use Education & Research and the Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptations • Stony Brook University
- **Funding:** Long Island Sound Study • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Resilient New York Communities and Economies.

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.
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