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New York State has 3,400 miles of diverse coastline and is the only state in the U.S. bordering both the Great Lakes and Atlantic Ocean. More than 85% of NY's population lives in a coastal region.



New York Sea Grant regional offices provide innovative research, technical assistance, and outreach on such issues as water quality, coastal resilience, marine & freshwater fisheries, invasive species, algal blooms, aquaculture & seafood, coastal literacy, and shoreline community development.

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NYSG Focus Area
for this project summary:
Resilient NY Communities
and Economies
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Resilience Training Series Empowers Coastal Long Island Sound Communities

Long Island Sound Study Sustainable and Resilient Communities Extension Professionals developed a multi-part series of virtual and in-person events to empower participants to increase the resilience of their communities to climate change and other environmental threats

The Long Island Sound Study (LISS), a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-funded program created to protect and restore Long Island Sound (LIS), identifies Sustainable and Resilient Communities (SRC) as key to fulfilling the vision of the program. In 2023, NY Sea Grant SRC Extension Professionals serving Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties developed a resilience training series designed to empower LIS communities and decision-makers to dedicate attention and funding toward becoming more sustainable and resilient to climate change.



Field trip participants learn about planned stream restoration work on the Blind Brook in Rye, NY. Photo: NYSG/S. Powell

The three-part series consisted of 1) two virtual *Steps to Resilience* webinars in September that introduced 140 participants to local climate change impacts and projections, resilience planning steps and strategies, and interactive sessions with regional coordinators of NY State's Climate Smart Communities certification program; 2) three in-person field trips in November to Sunken Meadow State Park, Manorhaven Beach Park, and multiple sites along Blind Brook in Rye, NY, that gave 100 participants an opportunity to network, ask questions, and be inspired by different types of resilience projects and plans; and 3) the 2nd Annual LIS SRC Bi-State Workshop held virtually in December.

This multi-part resilience training series empowered more than 430 people to take steps to increase the resilience of their communities to climate change and other environmental threats. Feedback from participants noted that they valued networking and learning from each other's on-the-ground experiences. Future training programs and workshops will continue to be developed based on feedback from Long Island Sound communities.

Project Partners:

- Long Island Sound Study • CT Sea Grant • Hudson Valley Regional Council
- Cameron Engineering/an IMEG Company • Sustainable CT • Sustainability Institute at Molloy University • Town of North Hempstead • Town of North Hempstead Councilmember Mariann Dalimonte • Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County • Seatuck Environmental Association • Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor and Manhasset Bay Protection Committee • New York State Parks • New York State Department of Environmental Conservation • Audubon NY • Save the Sound
- Rye Nature Center • Rye Arts Center • Rye Sustainability Committee
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