



NYSG has added new extension specialists to the collaborative regional framework that is strengthening the environmental, social, and economic well-being of Long Island Sound communities.

Building a Sustainable & Resilient Long Island Sound Watershed

The Long Island Sound Study (LISS), a United States Environmental Protection Agency-funded program created to protect and restore Long Island Sound, identified Sustainable and Resilient Communities (SRC) as one of four themes in its Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. The goal is to support vibrant, informed, and engaged communities that use, appreciate, and help protect the Sound by fostering the ability of social and ecological systems within the Sound community to adapt and recover from the effects of climate change.

Guided by a LISS SRC workgroup and a five-year work plan, in the Fall of 2021 New York Sea Grant (NYSG) hired three SRC extension professionals: Sara Powell, based with Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Westchester County; Sarah Schaefer-Brown based with CCE of Nassau County; and Elizabeth Hornstein, based at SUNY Stony Brook. These new staff are working with two Connecticut Sea Grant extension professionals to provide support, training, and tools for the entire Sound coastal community.

The work of the SRC team will result in a more-coordinated regional response to climate change impacts, better-trained and more-informed community decisionmakers, and an engaged community acting as stewards of the watershed resources. The new NYSG SRC team is developing the foundation for the coordinated effort that will advance the sustainability and resiliency of communities along the Long Island Sound coast. Learn more at: <https://longislandsoundstudy.net>.



Above, oyster castles that are part of a LISS Futures Fund NYC Parks tidal wetlands restoration project at Alley Pond Park, Douglaston/Queens, NY, are an example of the SRC work that involves educating and encouraging nature-based solutions to address climate change impacts. Photo: Sarah Schaefer-Brown/NYSG

“EPA is committed to help Long Island Sound communities anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The new Long Island Sound Study partnership with New York Sea Grant will help communities protect the environment, property, and people.”

*— Mark Tedesco, Director,
Environmental Protection Agency Long Island Sound Office*

Project Partners:

- Funding: Long Island Sound Study, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Connecticut Sea Grant

NYSG 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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