



New York Sea Grant (NYSG) is a collaborative program of the State University of New York, Cornell University, and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

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



NYSG provides research, education, and extension services enhancing coastal community economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and citizen awareness of NY's marine and Great Lakes resources.

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NYSG Focus Area for this project:

Resilient New York Communities and Economies
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Land Use Leadership Training Rekindles Intermunicipal Cooperation in Westchester County

New York Sea Grant provides critical support to help foster collaboration among watershed communities facing regional flooding challenges.

Long Island Sound communities in Westchester County, New York are facing persistent flooding issues and other environmental impacts due to extreme storms and changing environmental conditions. There is a need for regional collaboration and support to help guide decision-makers as they work to adapt to these challenges.



Participants from seven Long Island Sound communities in Westchester County at a Spring 2025 Land Use Leadership Alliance Training program.

Photo: New York Sea Grant

In April 2025, with funding from the Long Island Sound Partnership, New York Sea Grant organized a Land Use Leadership Alliance Training with Pace University's Land Use Law Center. Local leaders from seven Long Island Sound communities in Westchester County received training on developing effective policy strategies for dealing with flood resilience, land use, and natural resource protection issues.

Through the three-day program, twenty-two municipal staff and community leaders from the City of Rye, Towns of Mamaroneck, Villages of Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Pelham Manor, and Scarsdale, and Westchester County built new regional connections and graduated empowered to plan for a more resilient future for their communities. As a direct result of the training, with additional organizational and facilitation support from New York Sea Grant and Pace University, steps were taken to reactivate the Long Island Sound Watershed Intermunicipal Council — a formal agreement among the thirteen Sound communities in Westchester County to collaborate on resilience issues and projects in order to strengthen regional planning and decision-making.

Meetings were held in September, October, and November 2025 to discuss the revised goals and structure of the Council. Formal signing and adoption of a revised Intermunicipal Agreement and bylaws by all participating municipalities is expected in early 2026. New York Sea Grant will continue to provide support to this collaborative effort as the Long Island Sound Watershed Intermunicipal Council works to implement regional resilience initiatives.

Project Partners:

- Long Island Sound Partnership
- Pace University Land Use Law Center