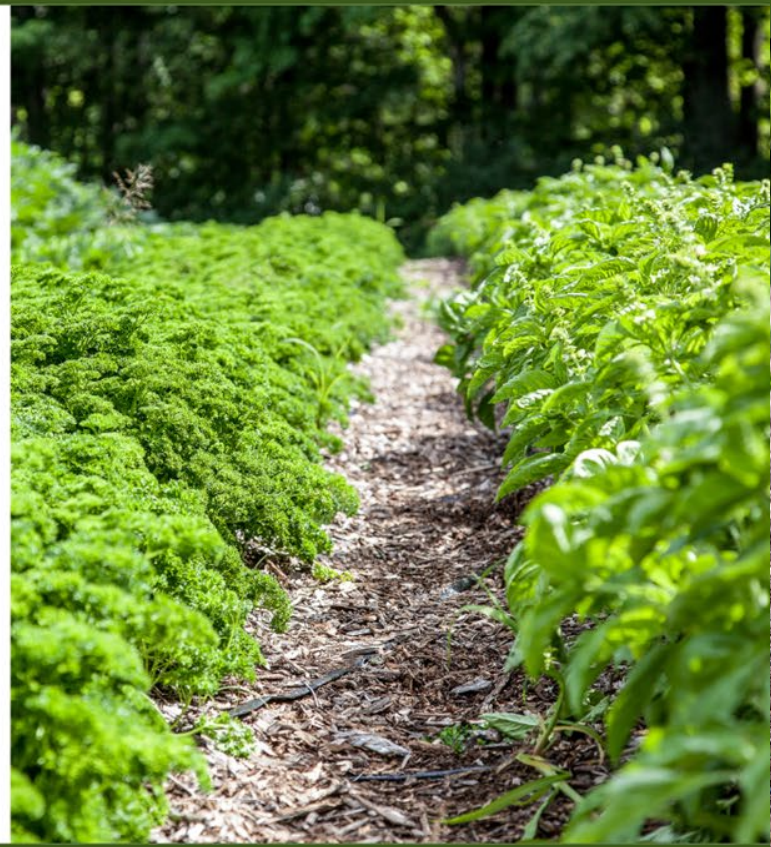
New Hampshire Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant

Improve your farm's resilience through a climate adaptation or mitigation project!

Informational Session

Welcome!



Introductions

- Name, farm name, town/county, why are you interested in this opportunity? How did you hear about the grant?



Introduction

- The mission of the NH Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant is to support and empower local farmers to build climate resilience throughout the granite state. This will be done through reducing the impact of agriculture on climate change (mitigation) through greenhouse gas emissions reduction and carbon sequestration, and to increasing the resiliency of New Hampshire Farms in a changing climate (adaptation), while meeting farm's conservation goals and needs.



Introduction

- This grant program was designed with a high level of farmer input to ensure the most pressing needs of farms will be met. The NH Conservation Districts have also worked in close partnership conservation partners to ensure that this statewide program fills the gaps that are not being adequately met by federal funds.



Eligibility

- Farms in New Hampshire
- Eligible farms must be selling direct to consumer, or through wholesale markets for at least two years.
- Eligible farms must have secure access (own, lease) to land on which the operator is farming. If leasing, the lease must be in writing, and have a term long enough for the farmer to complete the proposed improvement project and see a return on the investment.
- To receive funding a farm must operate in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.



Eligible Projects

- The NH County Conservation Districts request proposals from farms who seek funding to make investments in the following areas, but welcome proposals for projects that are not represented on the list below if they are aligned with the mission and goals of the program:



Eligible Projects

Practices which promote minimizing soil erosion and maximizing carbon capture:

- Cover Cropping
- Transitioning to reduced/no-tillage
- Mulching
- Wind breaks/buffers
- Equipment and materials to promote healthy soil practices (ex. Silage tarps, roller/crimper, low or no-till implements).
- Transitioning to rotational grazing and grass based systems (fencing)
- Crop rotation
- Fixing gullies on fields, stopping further soil loss
- Soil nutrient management
- Soil carbon monitoring and testing
- Soil sensors



Eligible Projects

Practices which promote sustainable water management:

- Waste/Manure storage and management
- Run-off capture and re-use
- Riparian pollinator buffers and plantings
- Efficient irrigation systems
- Efficient Well systems
- Water sensors



Eligible Projects

Practices which promote energy efficiency and renewable energy:

- Solar pumps, panels, etc.
- LED Lighting
- Energy efficient technology
- Efficient cooling systems (ex. coolbot)
- Climate Batteries
- Insulation



Eligible Projects

- Integrated Pest Management Practices (IPM) and Livestock Management
  - Fruit and Vegetable Netting
  - Weather stations and sensors
  - Management and infrastructure for livestock heat stress (ex. Shade structures, barn fans)



Priority will be given to Projects that:

- Focus on climate change mitigation or adaptation
- Follow application guidelines
- Have a detailed plan for project implementation, education, long-term maintenance, and sustainability
- Have a strong track record of success and are scientifically supported by partner agencies
- Provide opportunities to partner with their local conservation district to offer community education, and share their project story or testimonial through conservation district publications and/or social media
- Provide opportunities to partner with their local conservation district, and partner organizations to monitor their projects, and assess project implementation and results for future programming and research.



Funding

The following will be funded:

- Practice implementation cost
- Materials costs
- Architectural, land planning, and/or engineering services
- Other direct expenses
- Equipment (All equipment purchased through grant funds must be new and under product warranty or, in the case where this is not possible, the equipment must have a lifespan that justifies the investment)
- Technical assistance
- Consultant and legal services



Funding

The following will not be funded:

- Advertising
- Research and feasibility studies
- Efforts that will not lead to increased climate resiliency through adaptation
- and/or mitigation
- Experimental projects
- Projects that have already been installed



Funding

The grant will provide a cost share program for farms – grant covers up to 75% of project costs not to exceed $10,000/farm. Farmers are responsible for covering 25% of project costs.

Please note that the grant is comprised of two different funding pools: one for regenerative and ecological practices (e.g. soil health, water efficiency, integrated pest management) and one for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. Each pool has limited funds and will be competitive.

- The grant will provide a cost share program for farms – grant covers up to 75% of project costs not to exceed $10,000/farm.



Match

- Applicant is responsible for 25% of project cost
  - Grant funds cannot pay for the entirety of the project
  - Farmer time (valued at $40/hour) can be counted towards match, as well as material costs not covered by the grant
    - Time includes project implementation, planning, site prep, tracking impact, etc.
  - For example, if awarded $10,000, in final report the applicant must demonstrate a match of $2,500
  - Successful applicants will be required to submit all projects receipts with their final report.
    - A time tracking document will be supplied to successful awardees



Timeline

- **February 1, 2027:** Proposals Due
- **February-March 30, 2027:** Proposal review, applicants may be contacted for additional information to clarify the project
- **March 31, 2027:** All applicants are notified of funding decision
- **December 31, 2028:** Projects must be completed and report and photos are due



Office Hours

- **Determine your project priority, brainstorm, application review:**
  - **Nov 18, Dec 9, Jan 20, 12:00-1:00PM via zoom**



Awardee Documentation

Successful Awardees must provide:

- Signed contract
- w-9
- Proof of liability insurance
- If your farm has employees that will be involved in the project, statutory workers' compensation and employees' liability insurance are required

Upon completion of the project:

- Final report (template provided), metrics you have tracked
- Receipts & Expense/In-kind contribution tracking form (template provided)



How to Create a Strong Proposal

- Research your budget and plan, note your research in your application
- Include as much detail as space allows!
- Include relevant supplemental materials such as a map, quotes for materials, etc.
- Answer all application questions
- Contact your district with clarifying questions



Technical Assistance Advisors

The NH Conservation Districts have created this program with a high level of input from community partners and technical assistance providers. The NH Conservation Districts encourage interested applicants and awardees to work with technical assistance providers in determining best projects to meet farm needs and climate adaptation and/or mitigation goals. The NH Conservation Districts also encourage awardees to consult with technical assistance providers to ensure sustainable implementation of awarded projects. Please note in your application if you have consulted a technical assistance provider, in what capacity, and which technical assistance provider you are working with.



Technical Assistance Advisors

Technical Assistance Providers include:

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/new-hampshire
- UNH Cooperative Extension: https://extension.unh.edu/
- NH Association of Conservation Districts (NHACD) Conservation Planners, contact:
  - https://www.nhacd.net/
- Private Sector Crop Advisors
- National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT): https://www.ncat.org/agriculture/
- Lakes Region Community College NH Rural Renewables Technical Assistance Program: https://www.lrcc.edu/programs-training/nh-rural-renewables/, Contact Andy Duncan: aduncan@ccsnh.edu



Questions?

