Long Island Sound Study
A Partnership to Restore and Protect the Sound
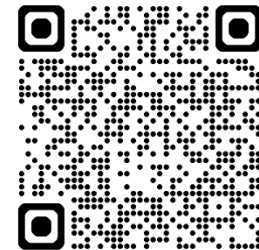
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Workbook: A Guide to Resilience Planning for Long Island Sound Communities

Move Projects from Idea to Implementation

From Idea to Implementation

Use the PERSISTS Criteria in this workbook to help your community identify, prioritize, and implement high-impact projects that advance the goals of the Long Island Sound Study Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

For an online version of this guide, please scan the QR code to visit www.lisresilience.org/a-guide-to-resilience-planning/

Project Steps

Convene stakeholders at the beginning and engage them in every step.

1. Learn

Assess the environmental threats and climate risks facing your community.

2. Plan

Use the following PERSISTS criteria to help identify, prioritize, and implement sustainable and resilient projects to help your community adapt to a changing climate.

3. Implement

Find funding and guidance to help put your plans into action.

4. Sustain

Monitor, maintain, and adaptively manage your projects to sustain success.

PERSISTS Decision Support Criteria

The guiding questions on the following pages are intended to help you think through each of the eight criteria. The questions and criteria are not listed in order of importance or priority. Each guiding question will not be applicable to every project type, so it is recommended that you consider all of the criteria equally and as appropriate for your project.

P   **Permittable** – Can get all necessary permits and/or permissions

E   **Equitable** – Considers input from and impacts to vulnerable populations

R   **Realistic** – Has community support and can be realistically achieved

S   **Safe** – Enhances or maintains the wellbeing of communities

I   **Innovative** – Process has considered innovative options including nature-based solutions

S   **Scientific** – Incorporates the best available science

T   **Transferable** – Can serve as model for other communities

S   **Sustainable** – Socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable

*The PERSISTS Framework has been adapted and adopted from Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation. (2020). Resilient Connecticut Planning Framework.

Permittable

☐ Have you assessed whether permits are needed for your project?	

☐ If a permit(s) is needed, have you engaged with the appropriate federal, state, and/or local permitting agencies to understand:
 	
   ☐ The permitting required for each phase of your project (e.g, scoping, design, implementation)?
 	
   ☐ The estimated permitting timeline and cost?
 	
   ☐ What activities would be allowed and any special considerations?
 	
   ☐ What level of planning/design is needed to obtain permits?
 	
   ☐ If an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required?	

☐ Have you assessed whether there are any additional permissions and/or insurance requirements needed? ☐ Do you have permissions from property owners/neighbors?	

Equitable

☐ Have you considered best practices for making your decision-making and engagement processes transparent and inclusive?	
☐ Have you incorporated the viewpoints of diverse local community organizations, leaders, and members throughout all phases of project development?	
☐ Does the project consider and avoid unintended/unanticipated impacts to neighboring communities?	
☐ Does the project reduce risk and/or provide benefits to vulnerable populations?	

Realistic

☐ Is the project appropriate in strategy and scale given the identified problem?	
☐ Have you considered the impact of the project in relation to the amount of effort and funding needed to complete the project?	
☐ Are there funding sources and/or grants available?	
☐ Is there support from political leaders and the community?	
☐ Have you considered what impact the timeline may have on project feasibility?	

Safe

☐ Does the project reduce risks to people, infrastructure, and/or the environment?	
☐ Does the project enhance community resilience to future climate impacts/ disturbances?	

Innovative

☐ Is there an opportunity to pilot a new approach or use innovative strategies (e.g., for planning, design, engagement, or financing) that have been successful in other places?	
☐ Have you evaluated the use of natural/nature-based solutions and/or sustainable practices?	

Scientific

☐ Has the best available science, data, technology, and local knowledge for your area been considered (including climate projections)?	
☐ Have relevant experts been involved in developing the strategy or project?	
☐ Have you engaged with the appropriate entities to understand appropriate data collection protocols (e.g., QAPPs) and design standards?	

Transferable

☐ How could the project approach serve as a model for other communities?	
☐ Have you considered what would be needed to scale up or replicate this project in your own community?	
☐ Is there an opportunity to educate the public and/or other communities, including sharing lessons learned?	
☐ Do the benefits of implementing the project extend beyond the local community?	

Sustainable

☐ How does the project enhance Long Island Sound communities and ecosystems?	
☐ Will the project withstand future climate impacts/disturbances?	
☐ Have you considered how the project fits into local and/or regional sustainability and resilience plans/goals?	
☐ Are there resources and commitments in place to maintain the project, conduct any necessary post-project monitoring, and adapt as needed?	
☐ Have you quantified the long-term social, ecological, and economic benefits of the project relative to the cost?	