NE IW PCC

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2024

CONNECTICUT • MAINE • MASSACHUSETTS • NEW HAMPSHIRE • NEW YORK • RHODE ISLAND • VERMONT

NEIWPCC [NŪ-Ē-PĬK] is a regional commission that helps the states of the Northeast preserve and advance water quality.

Our Vision

Clean and sustainable water throughout the Northeast.

Our Values

Leadership • Collaboration • Education • Service • Science

Our Water Program Priorities

- Contaminants of emerging concern.
- Watershed planning and waterbody protection.
- Infrastructure and State Revolving Fund.
- Clean Water Act modernization.
- Training and certification for environmental professionals.

LEADERSHIP

October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024

Executive Director

Susan J. Sullivan, Lowell, Massachusetts

Division Directors

Sarita Croce, Water Resource Protection • **Richard Friesner**, Water Quality • **Amy Magin**, Communications and Outreach
Christina Stringer, Wastewater and Onsite Programs • **Samantha Thompson**, Business Operations
Lucia Walker, Financial • **Michael Wilkinson**, Human Resources

Our Commissioners

Chair: **Jennifer Perry** • Vice Chair: **Rene Pelletier** • Treasurer: **Harry Stewart**

Connecticut

Katie Dykes, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner

Representing Ms. Dykes: **Jennifer Perry**, Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, and **Nisha Patel**, Water Permitting and Enforcement

Manisha Juthani, Department of Public Health Commissioner

Direct Appointment of the Governor: **Michael Bisi, Denis Cuevas, Jane Stahl**

Maine

Melanie Loyzim, Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner

Representing Ms. Loyzim: **Brian Kavanah**, Bureau of Water Quality

Sara Gagné-Holmes, Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner

Representing Ms. Gagné-Holmes: **Amy Lachance**, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Direct Appointment of the Governor: **Brian Tarbuck, Stacy Thompson, David Van Slyke**

Massachusetts

Bonnie Heiple, Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner

Representing Ms. Heiple: **Kathleen Baskin**, Bureau of Water Resources

Robert Goldstein, Department of Public Health Commissioner

Representing Mr. Goldstein: **Margaret Blanchet**, Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health

Direct Appointment of the Governor: **Steven McCurdy, John Sullivan, F. Adam Yanulis**

New Hampshire

Robert R. Scott, Department of Environmental Services Commissioner

Representing Mr. Scott: **Rene Pelletier**, Water Division

Direct Appointment of the Governor: **Thomas Ballestero, Frederick McNeill, Marco Philippon, Robert Varney**

New York

Sean Mahar, Department of Environmental Conservation interim Commissioner

Representing Mr. Mahar: **Carol Lamb-LaFay**, Division of Water

James McDonald, Department of Health Commissioner

Representing Mr. McDonald: **Daniel Lang**, Center for Environmental Health

Direct Appointment of the Governor: **Patricia Cerro-Reehil, Mark Klotz, Richard Lyons**

Rhode Island

Terrance Gray, Department of Environmental Management Director

Representing Mr. Gray: **Sue Kiernan**, Office of Water Resources

Jerome Larkin, Department of Health Director

Representing Mr. Larkin: **Amy Parmenter**, Office of Drinking Water Quality

Direct Appointment of the Governor: **Janine Burke-Wells, James Kelly, Angelo Liberti**

Vermont

Jason Batchelder, Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner

Representing Mr. Batchelder: **Peter LaFlamme**, Watershed Management Division

Mark Levine, Department of Health Commissioner

Representing Mr. Levine: **Lori Cragin**, Environmental Health Division

Direct Appointment of the Governor: **Dennis Lutz**

Commissioners as of September 30, 2024.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEIWPCC had yet another year of impressive accomplishments. Much of our work centers around place-based activities with our partners in Lake Champlain, Long Island Sound, the Hudson River and its estuary. We also collaborate with our state and federal partners throughout the Northeast to fulfill our mission of preserving and advancing water quality.

With the Lake Champlain Basin Program, we published an updated State of the Lake Report, continued a long-term water quality monitoring study, surveyed for aquatic invasive species and held educational events for the community.

The Long Island Sound Study drafted a revised Comprehensive Conservation and Mangement Plan for restoring and protecting the estuary and continued research on nitrogen bioextraction using aquaculture.

In the Hudson River, NEIWPCC funded design projects to reduce the impacts of flooding, assisted in a real-time environmental monitoring network and organized community science initiatives.

We supported our state partners with their drinking water and underground storage tank programs, wastewater operator trainings and water quality monitoring efforts. Additionally, we offered more than 20 issue-oriented workgroups and hosted several conferences to engage and convene water quality professionals.

Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) continue to be one of the most prominent water quality threats facing the region. NEIWPCC established a Biosolids Technology Hub, an information clearinghouse that provides PFAS-related resources for regulators and clean water practitioners. We also continued to work towards solutions for PFAS contamination in municipal biosolids or sludge.

These are just a sample of the fantastic work that our staff have done this year. NEIWPCC remains committed to working towards our vision of clean and sustainable water throughout the Northeast.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Sullivan, Executive Director

WHERE WE SERVE

NEIWPCC works throughout New England and New York to fund, staff and support clean water projects in collaboration with state health and environmental agencies, our program partners and numerous federal agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The **Hudson River Estuary Program (HREP)** and the **Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve (HRNERR)** collaborate to protect the estuary and its watershed.

The **Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP)** assists government agencies from New York, Vermont and Québec, and nonprofits, local communities and individuals, in coordinating and funding efforts that benefit the basin's water quality, fisheries, wetlands, wildlife, recreation and cultural resources.

The **Long Island Sound Study (LISS)** and its local and state partners protect and improve the health of the Sound.

The **Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP)** is a multiyear initiative with the goal of reducing nitrogen in the Sound's surface, coastal and groundwaters.

The **Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Drinking Water Program** protects public health in the state by administering and enforcing drinking water and subsurface wastewater regulations, providing education and technical and financial assistance.

The **Maine Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC)** provides training for wastewater and drinking water operators within the state.

The **New York City Combined Sewer Overflow Monitoring Program** oversees and reviews efforts to comply with requirements of the city's Amended Combined Sewer Overflow Consent Order.

NEIWPCC supports the **New York City Department of Environmental Protection** by administering its Capital Replacement and Regulatory Upgrades Program, which protects the city's water supply and its sources from contamination, degradation and pollution.

The **New York Source Water Assessment and Protection Program** is a joint initiative between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the Department of Health (NYSDOH) to protect public water sources and surrounding environments throughout the state.

The **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water** provides various programs that track the quality of waterbodies, identify and investigate sources of pollution, and develop strategies to address water quality threats.

NEIWPCC also coordinates with Rhode Island's **Department of Environment Management** and **Department of Health** to monitor waterbodies, assist underground storage tank programs and protect drinking water.

CONDUCTING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

In fiscal year 2024, NEIWPCC executed 32 new agreements to fund research, monitoring, assessment, outreach and other environmental initiatives totaling more than $2.3 million.

State of the Lake Report

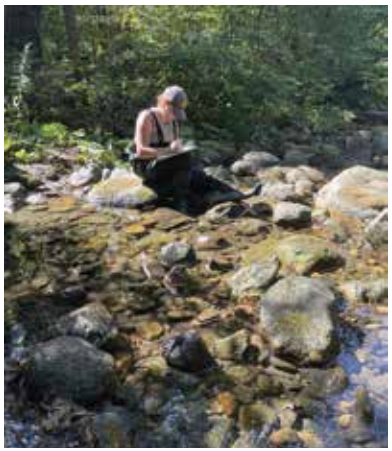
The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) published an updated State of the Lake Report, outlining ongoing challenges and recent successes in the management of its water quality and ecosystem. Staff used current scientific data and resource management approaches to document the impacts of several variables, including intense rainfall events and nutrient pollution. The report also includes positive findings such as the downward trend of mercury levels in all monitored sport fish. The LCBP presented these results in numerous public events, where the staff discussed major findings and distributed copies to stakeholders across the basin.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Lake Champlain currently has 51 known aquatic invasive species (AIS), with the constant threat of more entering through nearby waterways. Some pose serious threats by outcompeting native species for resources and overcrowding certain areas. The Lake Champlain AIS Rapid Response Task Force identified the round goby as a species of high priority, as the fish was detected in the nearby Hudson and Mohawk rivers.

To extend surveillance efforts for the round goby, LCBP partnered with the United States Geological Survey to conduct an early detection monitoring effort along the Champlain Canal. Researchers used environmental DNA, benthic trawling and electrofishing to gather data on the distribution of round goby, as well as the abundance of other benthic fish. At each sampling location, captured fish were identified, counted and recorded.

Additionally, LCBP monitored and researched other AIS, including variable-leaved and Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, water chestnut and Japanese knotweed.



Monitoring Water Quality Across the Northeast

NEIWPCC performs water quality research and monitoring across the region to expand knowledge about the condition of the Northeast's water resources and inform management practices.

In Rhode Island, NEIWPCC coordinates field sampling for the ambient river monitoring program that assesses the health of the state's lakes, rivers and streams. These include water quality sampling and macroinvertebrate and habitat assessments. The data assists the state's Department of Environmental Management in measuring progress on their water quality improvement goals and in prioritizing future efforts.

The Hudson River Environmental Conditions Observing System is a monitoring network that collects high-frequency water quality and weather data in and along the river, through the Hudson River Estuary Program. Every 15 minutes, 17 stations measure water quality parameters, such as dissolved oxygen and salinity. The information is transmitted in real-time to the website, allowing scientists, teachers and community members to study the health and flow of the river, create educational resources and navigate waters safely.

NEIWPCC supports the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan, a transformative multi-year effort to make meaningful reductions in nitrogen levels, by developing implementation plans for surface and ground waters around Nassau and Suffolk counties. Additionally, we facilitate the Nitrogen Coordination Workgroup to monitor regulations and water quality improvement projects across the watershed.

The Lake Champlain Basin Program maintains a long-term collection of water quality and biological data, dating back to 1992. Each year, from April to October, staff regularly visit the lake's 15 monitoring stations to collect vital data, including water temperature, oxygen levels, conductivity, turbidity and pH. Other tests are performed to gain biological information from the lake, including the presence of zebra mussels and cyanobacteria blooms. The data is used for decision-making purposes, such as total maximum daily load thresholds for phosphorus.

NEIWPCC assists the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in the water quality monitoring of lakes, rivers and streams across the state. These efforts include performing sampling activities, recording and analyzing data, coordinating citizen science programs, monitoring harmful algal blooms and identifying priority source waters.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Native Riparian Species Survey

LCBP provided funding for more than 60 wildlife surveys in the Vermont portion of the basin to assess the status and distribution of native wildlife and the conditions of their habitats. The project identified species of greatest conservation need for the area and ideal sites for habitat restoration.

Quality Assurance

NEIWPCC's Quality Management Program safeguards the scientific integrity of all the environmental data projects we support. Each project that involves collecting or analyzing data for decision making must have an approved quality assurance project plan (QAPP), regardless of the funding source. QAPPs are completed according to the requirements set by the EPA.

In fiscal 2024, the quality assurance team approved 23 QAPPs, including:

- A long-term quantification of nitrogen bioextraction by seaweed and bivalve aquaculture in Long Island Sound.
- A study on the impacts of de-icing salts on Lake Champlain.
- An invasive species management and ecosystem restoration plan in Vermont's Mad River Valley.
- A culvert and asset management assessment in Warren County, New York.
- A phosphorus loading assessment of Sucker Brook in Vermont.

Additionally, the team carried out eight quality assurance field assessments during the fiscal year to ensure that all procedures outlined in a project's QAPP are followed. This year's assessments included:

- A surveillance effort to monitor the Eastern Erie Canal in New York for the presence of round goby.
- A geomorphic assessment of Vermont's Flower Brook to determine floodplain function and identify restoration opportunities to prevent downstream flooding.
- A collection of diatom, macroinvertebrate and macrophyte data from inland lakes in New York and Vermont to assess health and inform management practices.
- A monitoring program that visually inspects water samples for cyanobacteria in Lake Champlain.
- A study of native riparian species within the Vermont section of the Lake Champlain Basin to identify threats and prioritize restoration projects.

PROTECTING DRINKING WATER

NEIWPCC supports the Maine Department of Health and Human Service's Drinking Water Program by implementing the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and other source water protection regulations in the state. This includes updating and assessing water sampling results and permit records to ensure compliance throughout the state with drinking water regulations. Additionally, NEIWPCC supports the subsurface wastewater permitting process; aids with compliance efforts; offers technical assistance to public water systems; oversees the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund; and contributes to public outreach efforts.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2) is a locally led, state-supported voluntary program that empowers municipalities to take action to improve and proactively protect their public water sources and surrounding environments. Communities receive free technical assistance and work with providers to develop and initiate the implementation of their own unique programs. DWSP2 provides communities with actionable steps to protect their drinking water, now and in the future. To date, 102 municipalities participate in the program, which impacts 136 sources of drinking water, and serves approximately 2.5 million consumers.

NEIWPCC assists the Rhode Island Department of Health's Lead Testing in Schools and Childcares Program by developing and implementing policies, providing guidance on grant activities, creating contracts, managing deliverables and drafting communications plans.

CONNECTING WATER QUALITY PROFESSIONALS

Water Professionals Gather at NEIWPCC Events

In November, NEIWPCC hosted the four-day National Nonpoint Source Training Workshop in Minneapolis. The event brought together more than 300 federal, state, tribal and territorial employees from across the country. Throughout the workshop, attendees discussed innovative pollution reduction measures, success stories and coastal management strategies. Additionally, a poster session featured current research findings.

NEIWPCC held the Northeast Aquatic Biologists Conference in Fairlee, Vermont, in February, focusing on topics such as PFAS, macroinvertebrate indices and monitoring efforts. The event also offered two pre-conference meetings on coding with R programs and streamgage data.

The 34th Annual Nonpoint Source Conference took place in April in Old Saybrook, Connecticut with for presentations covering dam removal, classroom engagement and cranberry bog restoration. Participants also had the opportunity to visit the Hole-in-the-Wall stormwater classroom in East Lyme, where town engineers provided a hands-on look at stormwater management practices like permeable parking lots and hydrodynamic separators.

Program Partner Highlights

The Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP) hosted its 15th Annual International Summit in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Québec. The event featured presentations on the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network, which aims to build a thriving, equitable and resilient society, and of the upcoming 250-year anniversary of the American Revolution. Attendees were also given the opportunity to network, attend field trips and provide insights for future CVNHP programming.

The Long Island Sound Study hosted a two-day Management Committee Meeting for stakeholders to update the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for restoring and protecting the estuary. Attendees began planning for the upcoming year, including the 40-year anniversary event.

Workgroups and Collaboratives

NEIWPCC hosts more than 20 different workgroups and collaboratives to improve regional collaboration and state-federal engagement on critical topics related to water. These meetings are held virtually and in-person throughout the year to allow state-agency members to talk with their peers, federal officials, NEIWPCC staff and other practitioners to grapple with the ongoing and latest issues and trends in the field.

- Chlorides collaborative
- Emerging contaminants
- Extreme weather events
- Harmful algal blooms
- Long Island Sound nitrogen coordination
- Management school
- Massachusetts wastewater training advisory committee
- National pollutant discharge elimination system
- New England biological assessment of wetlands
- Nonpoint source pollution
- Northeast aquatic biologists
- Onsite wastewater
- Source water protection
- Stormwater
- Total maximum daily load
- Tracking and accounting collaborative
- Training advisory committee
- Underground storage tanks
- Underground storage tanks tribal workgroup
- Volunteer monitoring
- Wastewater residuals
- Wastewater training and certification
- Water quality standards
- Wetlands

WORKGROUP SPOTLIGHTS

Northeast Aquatic Biologists

The Northeast Aquatic Biologists Workgroup shares region-wide dialogue about topics such as cyanobacteria, macroinvertebrate assessments and coastal monitoring. The group hosted an R Exchange coding workshop to share unique processes and problems.

Emerging Contaminants

The Emerging Contaminants Workgroup reviews new developments and research related to PFAS and other contaminants. Over the last year, the group discussed fish consumption advisories relating to PFAS, the widespread usage of PFAS in consumer products and an update on 6PPD-q, which is an emerging contaminant related to tire degradation.

Collaborating on PFAS Challenges

Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) present critical environmental hazards. NEIWPCC hosted meetings with partners that led to the establishment of the Biosolids Technology Hub, an information clearinghouse that provides published literature, technology vendors and project summaries to help regulators and clean water practitioners find solutions for PFAS in municipal biosolids or sludge.

Wastewater staff also planned, attended and moderated sessions at the Northeast Conference on the Science of PFAS, which facilitated networking and information-sharing among key stakeholders. Much of the effort this year focused on connecting and engaging workgroups around notable developments and data, as states work to respond to the fast-paced changes in regulations and public perspective.

IMPLEMENTING ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

Long Island Garden Rewards

Following a successful first year, the Long Island Garden Rewards Program once again offered homeowners up to $500 to offset the expense of installing green infrastructure, such as rain barrels, native plant gardens and rain gardens. More than 160 homeowners received grants to cover the maintenance of stormwater mitigation projects. These installations decrease the amount of nitrogen entering Long Island Sound through stormwater runoff. Excess nitrogen leads to harmful algal blooms and low levels of dissolved oxygen, affecting humans, pets and ecosystems.

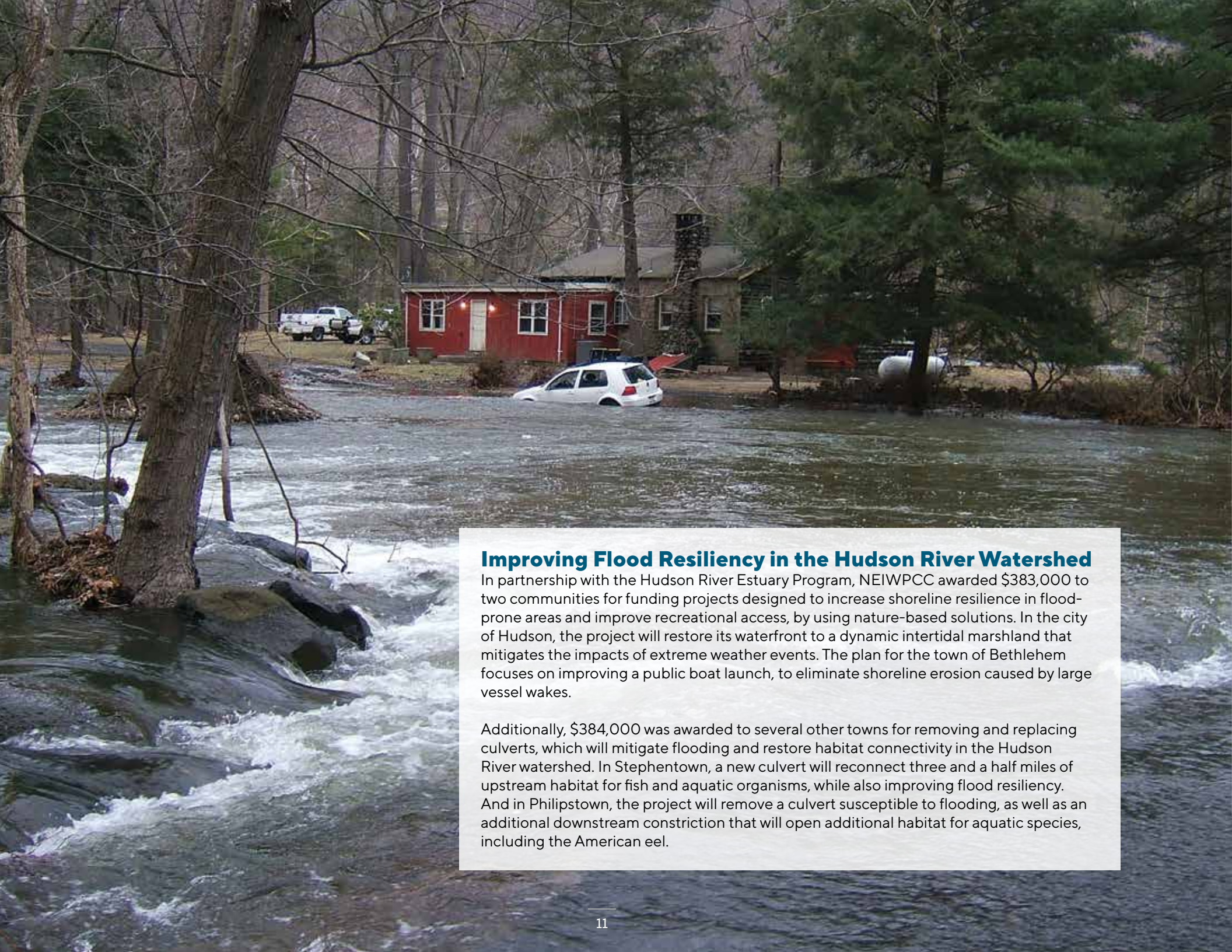
Underground Storage Tanks

Underground storage tanks (USTs) leaking fuel pose risks to the environment and public health by contaminating soil, groundwater and drinking water wells. NEIWPCC led two workgroups specifically focused on USTs and supported the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's UST Program by updating the Financial Responsibility Act. Additionally, NEIWPCC produced two issues of LUSTLine, the international UST industry publication.

Aquatic Invasive Species Removal

A grant awarded to NEIWPCC by the Southeast New England Program funded the planning and management of 18 invasive water chestnut removal events. Volunteers hand-pulled more than 33 cubic yards of the plants from the Ten Mile and Blackstone River watersheds of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. NEIWPCC also developed supplemental materials to support local government and nonprofit organizations in better educating the public about aquatic invasive species (AIS).

In Vermont, 21 Lake Champlain Basin Program boat launch stewards greeted and delivered AIS spread prevention messages to more than 40,000 people launching and retrieving boats from Lake Champlain. Stewards conducted approximately 20,000 watercraft inspections at 14 sites around Lake Champlain in Vermont, Québec and New York, intercepting AIS more than 900 times.



Improving Flood Resiliency in the Hudson River Watershed

In partnership with the Hudson River Estuary Program, NEIWPCC awarded $383,000 to two communities for funding projects designed to increase shoreline resilience in flood-prone areas and improve recreational access, by using nature-based solutions. In the city of Hudson, the project will restore its waterfront to a dynamic intertidal marshland that mitigates the impacts of extreme weather events. The plan for the town of Bethlehem focuses on improving a public boat launch, to eliminate shoreline erosion caused by large vessel wakes.

Additionally, $384,000 was awarded to several other towns for removing and replacing culverts, which will mitigate flooding and restore habitat connectivity in the Hudson River watershed. In Stephentown, a new culvert will reconnect three and a half miles of upstream habitat for fish and aquatic organisms, while also improving flood resiliency. And in Philipstown, the project will remove a culvert susceptible to flooding, as well as an additional downstream constriction that will open additional habitat for aquatic species, including the American eel.

COORDINATING TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Wastewater Training

NEIWPCC supports the wastewater industry by hosting operator trainings, from basic to advanced levels. The classes cover all aspects of the job, including laboratory analysis, treatment technologies and management skills. Participants earn continuing education credits, training contact hours (TCHs), or can prepare for certification exams. The Lowell training team administers the regional and Massachusetts training programs, while the South Portland team runs the Maine Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC), which also trains drinking water professionals. This year, NEIWPCC offered 133 courses and 788 TCHs to 2,810 operators.

Operator Certification

NEIWPCC administers the wastewater operator certification programs for Maine and Massachusetts, in connection with the states' environmental protection departments. In 2024, NEIWPCC renewed certification for 4,019 operators, issued 474 new licenses and granted 14 state reciprocities in Massachusetts. In Maine, NEIWPCC renewed certification for 265 operators, issued 44 new licenses and granted three state reciprocities.

Septic System Certification

NEIWPCC coordinates the Massachusetts Title 5 septic system certification training for soil evaluators and system inspections. The soil evaluator training course, which includes three classroom days, three field visits and both a written and field exam, focuses on using soil properties to determine suitability for septic systems. The program enrolled 92 professionals over the course of two sessions.

The system inspectors program, which is offered as two half-day live webinars and an exam, trains individuals to conduct thorough inspections on septic systems. The course was offered three times to a total of 89 professionals. Additionally, NEIWPCC renewed or newly certified more than 165 soil evaluators and 248 system inspectors.

Training Leaders in the Wastewater Industry

A new management training series offered clean water professionals the opportunity to build skills needed to grow in their positions, while earning TCHs. Four courses covered topics including managing and leading a team; understanding group dynamics; developing communication skills; and building emergency response plans. The series was designed for both operators with a long history of management experience and those who are new to or aspiring to leadership roles.

These courses are designed to complement the more comprehensive management programs offered to operators in many states. JETCC operates Maine's Management Candidate School, an 11-month training program aimed at mid-level operators with management potential. Throughout the year, participants attended monthly classes where they gained advanced skills through professional development activities, coursework and training exercises. At the end of the program, 18 students received certificates of completion and a full renewal period of TCHs.

NEIWPCC also supported the Connecticut Water Environment Association's 10-month wastewater management leadership program by providing financial management assistance. The program enrolled 16 participants.

NEW COURSE SPOTLIGHT

Wastewater Ethics

A new self-paced course teaches awareness about common ethical dilemmas faced by wastewater professionals and offers advice on how to make these difficult decisions. The online training course awards operators with four TCHs.

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION BY THE NUMBERS

133 courses offered

518 new licenses issued

2,810 operators trained

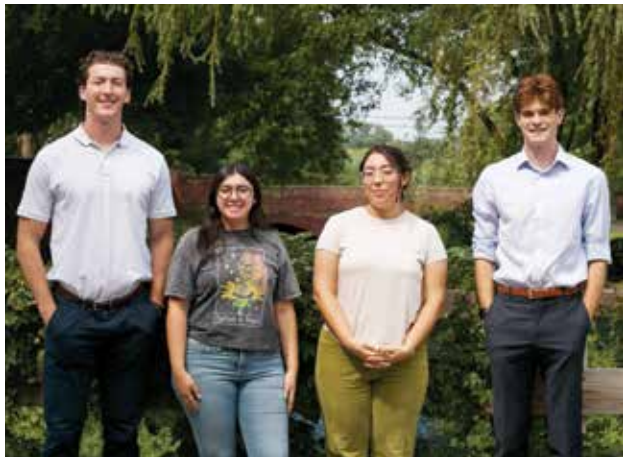
4,284 certifications renewed

ENGAGING AND EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

Youth and the Environment Program

Seven high school students completed paid internships at wastewater treatment plants in the cities of Lowell and Lawrence through the Youth and the Environment Program (YEP). Funded through the EPA, YEP provides hands-on experience in the environmental field through a six-week schedule that includes working alongside professionals, participating in educational lessons and attending field trips.

Training Young Professionals



In the summer, NEIWPCC hired 30 interns and seasonal staff across four states. The majority served as aquatic invasives species boat launch stewards with the Lake Champlain Basin Program. Others worked on education and outreach, the Long Island Garden Rewards Program, water chestnut removal, communications, data collection and contract processing. These paid positions provided relevant training and career experience for college students.

Sharing Success Stories

The Clean Water Success Stories Project shared the accomplishments of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), or pollution budgets, from across the country. Staff researched and wrote stories focused on three TMDL case studies, and produced multimedia communications materials, including infographics and a StoryMap. In addition, the second season of the Clean Water Pod podcast explored TMDL nutrient successes across seven episodes.

Education in the Hudson River Estuary

In partnership with the Hudson River Estuary Program and Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve, NEIWPCC plans and implements community programs and events across the Hudson River watershed. These programs educate students, teachers and members of the public about water quality and advocate for water stewardship.

In the fall, the annual A Day in the Life of the Hudson and Harbor event brought more than 5,000 students and educators to the estuary to perform hands-on sampling. Participants used seine nets, minnow pots, water-testing equipment and fishing gear to perform an assessment of the river's health and learn about its valuable resources.

The Hudson River Eel Project is a community science initiative that examines how populations of American eels are changing in the river over time. Held during spring migration, the program educates the public about the species and encourages them to engage with their local waterbodies. In 2024, 1,221 volunteers contributed 3,263 volunteer hours to eel research.

The Institute Discovering Environmental Scientists enrolled 15 high schoolers and three college students, who performed paid summer research in the Mid-Hudson Valley. The students worked with educators and scientists to collect and analyze field data, before sharing their findings with the community.

Education in the Lake Champlain Basin

The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) offers a variety of learning opportunities for youth and adults alike. In 2024, staff hosted the Love the Lake Speaker Series, where guest speakers presented about aquatic invasive species, forestry, flooding and local history. During the four talks, the public had a chance to participate in discussions with experts.

The Champlain Basin Education Initiative runs the Watershed for Every Classroom, a three-credit professional development experience for K-12 educators in the basin. The program offers teachers a framework for implementing place-based curriculum to encourage students to take care of the lake.

NEIWPCC staff also operate the Resource Room at the ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain in Burlington, offering programs, exhibits, hands-on activities and a library of materials for visitors to learn about the lake and its surrounding area.

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

National TMDL Webinar series

NEIWPCC coordinated a national webinar series on TMDLs for state, federal and tribal program staff and other stakeholders who regulate and monitor water quality. Topics focused on the process of developing and implementing a TMDL, and incorporating extreme weather events into stream temperature TMDLs.

REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF MEMBER STATES

Executive Committee and Commission Hold Discussions on Key Water Topics

NEIWPCC is governed by its Executive Committee and Commission, consisting of five water quality professionals from each of its seven member states, who collaborate across state lines to guide our agenda and identify new priorities. These 35 commissioners are leaders in the states' environmental and health agencies, complemented by experts from the private sector. NEIWPCC held three multi-day meetings with the full Commission and an additional four with the Executive Committee alone. Representatives from the EPA's Regions I and II also attended.

The commissioners identify and discuss water quality-related concerns; offer guidance to NEIWPCC in implementing strategies, projects and programs; and formulate a regional response to environmental policy initiatives. The commissioners focused on numerous common challenges, including PFAS and biosolids, cyanobacteria, permit programs, flooding, and invasive species in water bodies. With this expertise, NEIWPCC is positioned to better serve the states in addressing these issues and administering solutions.

Speaking Up for the States

NEIWPCC represents a regional perspective on proposed water policies to federal parties such as the EPA and Congress. We provided comment letters on the following rulemakings and issues:

- Unintended consequences of directed spending on state revolving funds.
- Need for increased funding of state and tribal wetland protection programs.
- Proposed Lead and Copper Rule improvements.
- Budget for water related state revolving funds.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The assets of NEIWPCC exceeded its liabilities at the close of the fiscal year by $4,134,255. During fiscal year 2024, revenue exceeded operating expenses. As a result, total net position increased by $263,443.

Lucia Walker, CPA
NEIWPCC Comptroller

Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

Operating Revenues	
Federal grants	$12,404,316
State contracts	$5,326,790
Other contracts	$6,467,164
Donated services	$3,388,718
Training	$842,448
Member state support	$176,206
MA/ME license renewal fees	$390,297
MA/ME certification exam fees	$67,185
Other income	$9,970
Interest income	$351,021
Total Operating Revenue	**$29,424,115**
Operating Expenditures	**$29,269,358**
Operating Gain	**$154,757**
Non-operating Revenue	
Investment income	$109,227
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	($541)
Change in Net Assets	**$263,443**
Net position, beginning of year	$3,870,812
Net position, end of year	**$4,134,255**

NEIWPCC

Wannalancit Mills
Suite 410
650 Suffolk Street
Lowell, MA 01854

P: (978) 323-7929

neiwpcc.org

Non-profit Org
U. S. Postage
PAID
Manchester, NH
Permit No. 724