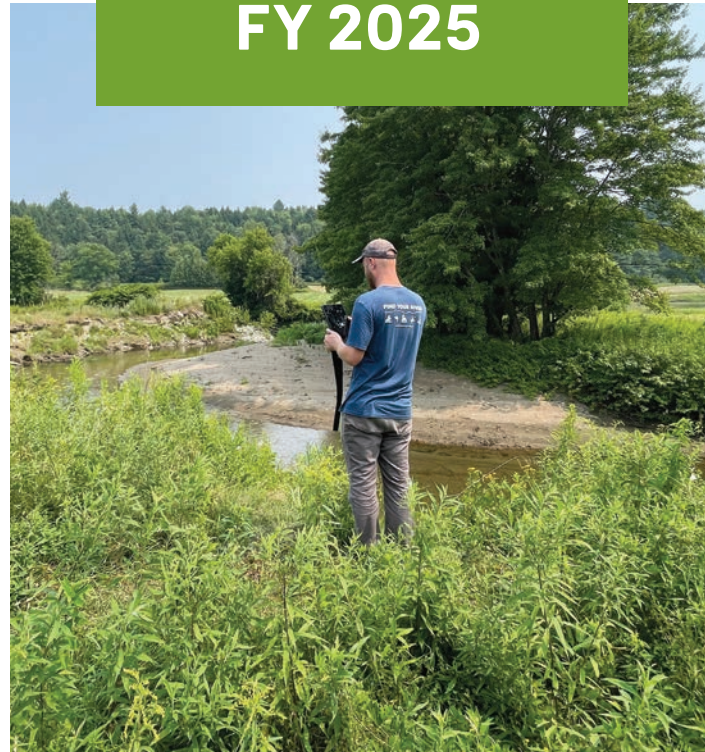




# ANNUAL REPORT

## FY 2025



**NEIWPCC [NŪ-Ē-PĪK]**  
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



## Leadership

October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025

### 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

**Amanda Lefton**, Department of  
Environmental Conservation  
interim Commissioner

Representing Ms. Lefton:  
**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

**Misty Sinsigalli**, Department of  
Environmental Conservation  
Commissioner

Representing Ms. Sinsigalli:  
**Peter LaFlamme**, Watershed  
Management Division

**Julie Arel**, Department of Health  
interim Commissioner

Representing Ms. Arel:  
**Lori Cragin**, Environmental Health  
Division

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

Commissioners as of  
September 30, 2025.

# From the Executive Director



This year, NEIWPCC unveiled a new five-year strategic plan to guide its mission to advance clean water in the Northeast. The plan puts into focus our priority impact areas that protect and improve water quality and the well-being of those who live in the region. Building off our previous plan, the 2026-2030 version adds detailed tactics to clarify the direction and strategies behind our work.

The pages that follow contain a sample of the impressive accomplishments from this year. From strengthening the clean water workforce through our conferences, wastewater training programs, and internships to advancing science through our many water quality monitoring programs, every aspect of NEIWPCC's work falls into our strategic plan.

One important achievement this year was the publication of the revised Technical Report 16: Guides for the Design of Wastewater Treatment Works manual, which provides guidance on the planning and designing of wastewater treatment facilities. We also continued to work with our partners on the Biosolids Technology Hub, an information clearinghouse for resources on PFAS in municipal biosolids.

As you read, you will be introduced to some of the faces behind our incredible team who make this work possible. Through highlighting our staff, projects, and quantitative data, we hope to share the scope of NEIWPCC's work with you. Though spread throughout the region (as shown in the map on page 2), each member of our team works collectively to meet our vision of clean and sustainable water throughout the Northeast.

Thanks for all the NEIWPCC team members and commissioners who helped us put this new plan into action. We remain committed to advancing clean water through collaboration with, and service to, our member states.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Susan J. Sullivan, Executive Director

# Where We Serve

NEIWPC 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 **Patrick Leahy 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, as well as managing invasive species to protect healthy ecosystems.

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

The **Long Island Watershed Action Agenda (LIWAA)** is a ten-year estuary management plan designed to protect water resources through a watershed approach.

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.

NEIWPC 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 (NYSDEC), Division of Water** provides various programs that track the quality of waterbodies, identify and investigate sources of pollution, prepare water discharge permits, and develop strategies to address water quality threats.

NEIWPC also coordinates with **Rhode Island's Department of**

**Environmental Management (RIDEM) and Department of Health (RIDOH)** to monitor waterbodies, assist underground storage tank programs, and protect drinking water.

NEIWPC's **Title 5 Hub Trainers Program** supports municipal health officials across Massachusetts by providing targeted training, regulatory guidance, and technical assistance. In coordination with the Massachusetts Departments of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and Public Health, our trainers support local public health needs and priorities while strengthening the consistency of statewide regulations.



# NEIWPCC Announces New Five-Year Strategic Plan

In 2025, NEIWPCC commissioners and staff developed a new strategic plan to guide the organization's efforts over the next five years. Building off the previous plan, it outlines the top priorities for advancing clean water in the Northeast for 2026-2030. This updated roadmap centers on four strategic priorities designed to help protect and enhance ecological and public health amid rapid environmental and economic change. Each priority is supported by a set of goals and action-oriented tactics. The plan was voted upon and unanimously approved by NEIWPCC's Executive Committee and Commission.

## 2026-2030 Strategic Priorities

### Inspire and Inform Collective Action for Clean, Sustainable Water

Ensuring clean water requires that everyone — from policymakers to wastewater operators to consumers — understand the impact of their decisions and actions. NEIWPCC plays a meaningful role in these efforts through its ongoing community engagement and outreach strategies that educate stakeholders.

Central to this priority is NEIWPCC's core work with the states, local, regional, and national partners, and with the more than 20 workgroups NEIWPCC hosts for discussions on water-related topics. The associated goals and tactics outline how the organization will apply and disseminate scientific knowledge, address emerging environmental issues, and deliver on its commitment to education and collaboration.

Goals under this priority also encompasses regional efforts that protect public health, such as drinking water and wastewater treatment facility upgrades, and collaborating with partners to prepare for updates to the federal Clean Water Act.

### Advancing Scientific Monitoring and Data Collection to Drive Effective Strategies for Responding to Water Quality Conditions

This priority is at the heart of why NEIWPCC was established by an Act of Congress in 1947. By understanding the scope and scale of interstate environmental conditions, NEIWPCC is poised to implement restoration projects, address contaminants of emerging concern such as PFAS, and help our states and partners prepare for and manage the impacts of shifting weather patterns.

This work includes research and monitoring with an emphasis on action — from sharing data to foster collaboration on biosolids, to developing nutrient reduction strategies, and to empowering communities to protect their source water. Our efforts under this priority demonstrate NEIWPCC's leadership in the industry and dedication to science-driven solutions.



## Strengthen the Clean Water Workforce

Goals under this priority include attracting and retaining skilled professionals to both NEIWPCC and the field. Part of this effort includes supporting industry-wide initiatives and partnerships that promote technical proficiency, such as through internships, education and outreach, and training workshops. We also host a variety of national and regional conferences and events for environmental professionals.

NEIWPCC hosts essential wastewater operator training regionally and administers the operator and management training programs in Massachusetts and Maine. Over the course of the next five years, the organization will continue to revise and update these training programs while also expanding its offering of online and self-paced training.

## Ensure Sufficient, Sustained Financial Resources to Advance Our Collective Work

To achieve the goals and tactics outlined in the plan, NEIWPCC needs sufficient, sustained financial resources. This involves coordinating with state and federal partners to ensure resources are used wisely, leveraging new funding streams, and implementing funded activities.

NEIWPCC also seeks to strengthen partnerships to address funding requirements associated with creating new and/or maintaining aging infrastructure. This includes submitting comment letters to federal parties on behalf of our member states, monitoring the impact of congressionally directed spending, and helping states leverage their State Revolving Funds.

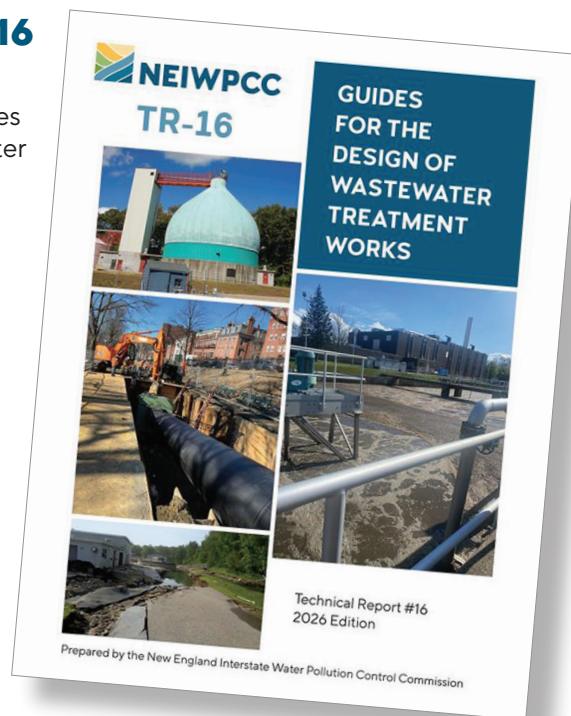


**Strategic Priority:**

# Inspire and Inform Collective Action for Clean, Sustainable Water

## Technical Report 16

NEIWPCC revised the “Technical Report 16: Guides for the Design of Wastewater Treatment Works” manual, which includes 13 chapters touching on all topics from the procurement of services, wastewater pumping stations, biological treatment processes, effluent resource recovery and land discharge, hauled waste, and reporting. The revisions included updates to align with current industry technology and practices and eliminated out-of-date material.



## Total Maximum Daily Load

The third season of the Clean Water Pod podcast highlighted stories from across the country that showcased innovative approaches with the Clean Water Act 303(d) program. NEIWPCC also coordinated a national webinar series on total maximum daily loads for professionals who regulate and monitor water quality.

## Mutual Aid Response Networks

NEIWPCC examined strategies to help wastewater and drinking water utilities respond to severe weather events. Working with partners in the Wastewater Agency Response Networks (WARN) and Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), NEIWPCC increased awareness of state and federal mutual aid programs to our partner states with the goal of assisting utilities in understanding how they can address gaps in their preparedness capabilities and join mutual aid response networks.

## Capital Replacement

In partnership with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, NEIWPCC supported the replacement of capital equipment at non-city-owned wastewater treatment plants in the upstate watershed and the ongoing maintenance of wastewater treatment equipment. The program finished construction on one existing regulatory upgrade project and made progress on another.

## Workgroups and Collaboratives

NEIWPCC hosted more than 20 different workgroups and collaboratives to improve regional collaboration and engagement between state and federal agencies on critical topics related to water. Meetings were held throughout the year, providing NEIWPCC staff and other water professionals with opportunities to discuss issues and trends in the field.

- Chlorides collaborative
- Emerging contaminants
- Harmful algal blooms
- Long Island Sound nitrogen coordination
- 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 loads
- Tracking and accounting collaborative
- Underground storage tanks
- Underground storage tanks - tribal
- Volunteer monitoring
- Wastewater residuals
- Wastewater training and certification
- Water quality standards
- Wetlands

**170**  
homeowners

- received grants of up to \$500 through the Long Island (New York) Garden Rewards Program to offset the expense of stormwater mitigation and native planting projects.

**1,000+**  
volunteers

- counted and released juvenile American eels on the Hudson River to study population size.

**5,000+**  
students and educators

- participated in “A Day in the Life of the Hudson and Harbor,” a field-based event to learn about the river and its estuary.



## Project Spotlight: Drinking Water Protection



### Goal: Strengthen Regional Efforts to Ensure that Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Protects Public Health

NYSDEC'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 received free technical assistance and worked with providers to develop and initiate the implementation of their own unique plans. DWSP2 provides communities with actionable steps to protect their drinking water, now and in the future. NEIWPCC staff supported DWSP2 through their roles at NYSDEC and NYSDOH.

NEIWPCC supported 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. This includes the Lead and Copper Rule, which requires public water systems to regularly monitor contaminant levels by reviewing sampling frequencies and corrosion control treatment plants, and ensuring proper public notification. We also ensured that systems required to test under the Maine PFAS Rule meet necessary testing and treatment requirements. Other support included processing water sampling results, overseeing the subsurface wastewater permitting process, and assisting in communication and outreach efforts.

NEIWPCC assisted RIDOH's voluntary, state-wide Lead Testing in Schools and Childcares Program that tests drinking water in facilities used by children. Lead exposure can cause lifelong health problems that are particularly serious for infants and young children. NEIWPCC finalized and published a remediation policy that allows grant funds to be used to replace qualifying fixtures at no cost to the facility. We developed and implemented policies, provided guidance on grant activities, created contracts, and assisted in communication efforts.

***"Working under the Drinking Water Source Protection Program allows me to collaborate with other source water protection professionals across the Northeast to share resources, challenges, and ideas about state-wide programming."***

— Alyssa Bement, NEIWPCC Environmental Analyst with the NYSDOH Drinking Water Source Protection Program



## New York

**102**  
municipalities

participating in the state's drinking water protection program.

**2.5 million**  
consumers

(approximately) served by DWSP2.

**134**  
water sources

protected by DWSP2.

## Rhode Island

**126**  
water samples

taken from childcare facilities and schools.

**1,032**  
water samples

collected from across the state.

## Maine

**91,000**  
water samples

processed through the state's drinking water program.

*"In assisting small business owners, school administrators, water operators – new or experienced – I meet them where they are and work with the resources that they have. I listen to what their needs are and provide education and guidance in a manner which I tailor to their resources and skill levels."*

– Ellen Daly, NEIWPC Environmental Analyst with the Maine Drinking Water Program

## Project Spotlight: Lake Champlain Educational Programs

### Goal: Develop, Implement, and Support Community Engagement and Outreach Strategies That Educate Stakeholders

The Resource Room at the ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain in Burlington, Vermont offers programs, exhibits, hands-on activities, and a library of materials for visitors. One exhibit, "Into the Lake," provided information about the lake's food web and important aquatic species. The room was renamed the Colleen Hickey Lake Champlain Resource Room, in recognition of her 32 years of service to NEIWPCC.

Eleven K-12 educators earned professional development credits by participating in the Champlain Basin Education Initiative's Watershed for Every Classroom. LCBP also held several events for the public, including celebrating 20 years of the "Love the Lake" speaker series.

The Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership hosted its 16th Annual International Summit in Plattsburgh, New York. 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.





*“The Colleen Hickey Lake Champlain Resource Room occupies a small footprint at the ECHO Center in Burlington, but it has tremendous public engagement. With nearly 34,000 visitors in fiscal year 25, our staff there do an outsized job of informing, involving, and inspiring visitors from “pre-K to gray” about water quality and ecosystem health.”*



— Ryan Mitchell  
NEIWPCC Program Manager with LCBP



**33,852**

visitors



to the Resource Room.

**87**

Love the Lake presentations



hosted to the public since 2006.

## Strategic Priority:

# Advancing Scientific Monitoring and Data Collection to Drive Effective Strategies for Responding to Water Quality Conditions

## PFAS and Residuals

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of persistent synthetic chemicals found in thousands of products and applications. NEIWPCC and partners established a Biosolids Technology Hub (BioHub), an information clearinghouse providing published literature, technology vendors, and project summaries for regulators and clean water practitioners to find solutions for PFAS in municipal biosolids. The BioHub has the capability to connect water resource recovery facilities with technology vendors. NEIWPCC participated in several working groups focused on these issues.

## Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) pose serious threats to native ones by outcompeting them for resources and overcrowding certain areas. In the Lake Champlain Basin, an AIS Rapid Response Task Force identified and targeted high-priority species for research and management efforts, including the golden clam which was recently discovered through the Champlain Aquatic Invasive Monitoring Program. And, through NEIWPCC, LCBP employed 24 seasonal stewards to monitor and inform boaters about the spread of AIS at 15 launch sites around the lake.

A grant awarded to NEIWPCC by the Southeast New England Program funded the planning and organizing of 16 events from May through August, in

which volunteers hand-pulled invasive water chestnut from waterways in the Blackstone River watershed of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. To support local government and nonprofit organizations in better educating the public about the invasive plant, NEIWPCC developed water chestnut management materials.

**56,000+**

Lake Champlain  
boaters



received AIS spread prevention  
messages by seasonal stewards.

**22,000+**

watercraft  
inspections



completed at Lake Champlain  
boat launches.

**256**

community  
members



removed an estimated 23 cubic yards, which  
is approximately 6,500 pounds of plant  
material, in the Blackstone River watershed.

## Water Quality Monitoring

NEIWPCCC supported water quality monitoring programs in New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont to protect and assess the health of lakes, rivers, streams, and the ocean. Data collection assisted states in measuring progress on water quality improvement goals and prioritizing future efforts. We assisted in coordinating activities including water quality sampling and macroinvertebrate and habitat assessments.

## Habitat Restoration in the Hudson Valley

NEIWPCCC funded the replacement of two culverts in Stephentown and Copake, New York, which restored habitat connectivity and improved passage for aquatic organisms. The previous undersized culverts posed a threat to the community's infrastructure and caused chronic flooding. The upgraded designs allow for water to flow naturally and ensures that fish species, like river herring and American eels, can reach spawning habitat.

Henry Hudson Riverfront Park in Hudson, New York, underwent a redesign to adapt to future sea level rise. The plans for the park, which is already subject to seasonal tidal flooding, included preserving the most heavily used parts of the shoreline through selective elevation. Living shorelines were implemented as a nature-based method to stabilize the riverbanks and protect them from erosion.

A final engineering design was completed for a shoreline stabilization project at Henry Hudson Park in the town of Bethlehem, New York, restoring approximately a half mile of shoreline that had been eroded by boat wakes. The work included bulkhead replacement, soil backfilling, and the establishment of vegetative cover. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan was also developed for the park.

## 40 Years of Success on the Long Island Sound

The Long Island Sound Partnership (formerly the Long Island Sound Study) marked its 40-year anniversary with a new name and a new Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. The plan set a 10-year roadmap to revitalize the Sound as an ecological, economic, and recreational resource. The updated metrics will improve water quality, restore and protect habitats and wildlife, and support community resilience and sustainability. Senior officials from state, interstate, and federal agencies gathered in Rye, New York to celebrate decades of progress through the Partnership.

NEIWPCCC continued to lead several efforts to reduce nitrogen pollution in the Sound. Hypoxia, or oxygen-depleted "dead zones," are caused by excess nitrogen from wastewater treatment facilities, septic systems, fertilizers,

*"Four decades of research and community dedication to restoring Long Island Sound have led to real water quality improvements, including measurable reductions in hypoxia. The release of the new management plan, program name, and logo reflect the Partnership's commitment to another decade of improving the health of the Sound."*

— Alex DuMont, NEIWPCCC Environmental Analyst



and stormwater runoff. We facilitated the Nitrogen Coordination Workgroup to monitor regulations and water quality improvement projects across the watershed.

As part of the Long Island Sound Eelgrass Management Restoration Strategy, NEIWPCCC initiated a project to update and improve a GIS-based site-suitability model for eelgrass habitat. The resource will identify ideal sites, which provides beneficial services such as stabilizing the seafloor, providing habitat for marine life, and improving water quality.

### Long Island Sound: Progress Since 1985

**50%**  
reduction

in areas with unhealthy levels of dissolved oxygen.

**2,400**  
acres

of coastal habitat restored.

**8,000**  
acres

of coastal habitat protected.

**448**  
miles

of rivers and streams reconnected.

## Project Spotlight: Collecting Water Data

**Goal: Help states and other partners, including non-governmental organizations, prepare for and manage impacts of shifting weather patterns and extreme events.**

In collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NEIWPC assisted in establishing the Hudson River Estuary Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (HREPORTS), which delivers oceanographic data to promote safe and efficient navigation. HREPORTS joined the New York/New Jersey Harbor PORTS as the second system in New York to provide real-time water level data, filling in critical gaps in the state's maritime data collection. The tool is designed to aid commercial mariners, recreational boaters, resource managers, and coastal planners from Sleepy Hollow to Troy.

The system, comprised of two solar-powered water level stations, collects data every six minutes, transmitted in real-time via satellite. This equipment functions in all-weather conditions, allowing for consistent data collection during extreme weather events. HREPORTS is one of 42 real-time PORTS networks across the U.S. that supports safe and cost-effective navigation.

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. Every 15 minutes, 17 stations measure water

*“Accurate water level monitoring provides essential data needed to predict floods and protect vulnerable ecosystems from storm events, which are becoming more frequent with climate change. At the same time, it ensures maritime safety by providing the river pilots and captains with water level information in order to prevent bridge strikes, groundings, and accidents in vital shipping corridors.”*

— Chris Mitchell, NEIWPC Environmental Analyst with the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve



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.

**2,000+**  
data points



collected daily by  
HREPORTS.

## Project Spotlight: Removing Fish Barriers



Photo credit: Steve Stanne

With more than \$200,000 of funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, LCBP reconnected 4.16 miles of habitat for the passage of aquatic organisms through two projects. Due to the construction of physical barriers such as dams and culverts, fish, turtles, amphibians, and invertebrates cannot move freely upstream and downstream in areas where these barriers exist. This impacts their ability to travel to spawning grounds, find shelter, avoid predators, and access food.

One project involved replacing a failing road stream crossing with a right-sized culvert in Lewis, New York. In addition to opening stream habitat for native trout, the new structure also improved public safety and lowered costs incurred by the town due to repeated flooding.

LCBP also collaborated on a project to reconnect the Saranac River headwaters in the town of Franklin, New York. The newly installed crossing structure allows for the passage of brook trout and other aquatic organisms, while providing adequate capacity for high flow events such as the December 2023 floods in the Adirondacks, during which the previous, undersized 3-pipe structure failed.



*Franklin, New York's Roscoe Road culvert before (left) and after.*



## Project Spotlight: Bioextraction Projects

**Goal: Support integrated planning, adaptive management, and monitoring to protect and restore watersheds and waterbodies.**

In partnership with NYSDEC, the Nutrient Bioextraction Initiative was created to determine if the growing and harvesting of shellfish and seaweed can be used to make meaningful reductions in nitrogen levels in the Long Island Sound. Research examined the effectiveness of using locally harvested sugar kelp as a fertilizer amendment; quantified long-term nitrogen and carbon extraction by seaweed and shellfish farming; and determined preliminary feasibility and barriers to a potential commercial bioextraction industry.

A pilot study demonstrated the potential of ribbed mussels to remove excess nutrients from coastal waters. Conducted in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, researchers estimated that a one-acre ribbed mussel farm could remove 121 pounds of nitrogen and 702 pounds of carbon from a Long Island Sound embayment at harvest after cultivation for 3-4 years. Native and resilient, ribbed mussels are being considered as an in-water nitrogen “bioextractor” and offer a potential nature-based approach to improving water quality.



*“We have lots of exciting research underway in support of the Nutrient Bioextraction Initiative, including one project conducted by SUNY Stony Brook that is growing and harvesting seaweeds and oysters year-round across Long Island Sound. This study is monitoring long-term water quality changes and assessing nutrient extraction rates to help us better understand bioextraction’s efficacy as a nutrient reduction strategy to restore the Sound.”*

— Kimarie Yap, NEIWPCC Environmental Analyst with the LIS Partnership Nutrient Bioextraction Initiative



## Quality Assurance

NEIWPCCC's Quality Management Program safeguarded the scientific integrity of all the environmental data projects we supported. Each project that involved collecting or analyzing data for decision making required an approved quality assurance project plan (QAPP), regardless of the funding source. QAPPs were completed according to the requirements set by the EPA.

In fiscal 2025, the quality assurance team approved 39 QAPPs, including:

- An assessment of wild seaweed harvest as a tool to extract nutrients from coastal waters in the Long Island Sound.
- A dam removal feasibility study for Penfield Pond in New York.
- A shoreline stabilization project on the Hudson River.
- A feasibility assessment of using American eel predation as a natural control for invasive sea lamprey populations in Lake Champlain.
- A project to reconnect parts of the Saranac River in New York.

Additionally, the team carried out six 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:

- An analysis of the effectiveness of filters at removing phosphorus from tile drains discharging into Lake Carmi tributaries in Vermont.
- A monitoring program that visually inspects water samples for cyanobacteria in Lake Champlain.
- An analysis of opportunities for site-specific conservation and restoration projects across the Lamoille River Basin in Vermont.
- A map of the presence of oysters in the Hudson River from Piermont to Yonkers, New York.
- An effort to restore native plant diversity and habitat in Burlington, Vermont's floodplain.
- A long-term monitoring project that collects data on water quality and biological measurements in Lake Champlain.



## Strategic Priority:

# Strengthen the Clean Water Workforce

## Conferences and Events

NEIWPCPC hosted several regional and national conferences and events that brought together state, federal, tribal, and industry professionals to collaborate on key clean water challenges.

In September, the 28th National Tanks Conference in Spokane, Washington, hosted nearly 600 professionals from the underground storage tank industry. The bustling three-day event included workshops, panels, breakout sessions, and networking activities. Topics included emergency response planning, cybersecurity concerns, artificial intelligence usage, aging tanks, and remediation techniques.

In October, NEIWPCPC hosted the 12th U.S. Symposium on Harmful Algae in Portland, Maine for more than 500 participants. The Annual Northeast Aquatic Biologists conference took place in February in New Hampshire. NEIWPCPC also held the 35th Annual Nonpoint Source Conference in Freeport, Maine.

## Internship Opportunities

In partnership with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and the Nashua Division of Public Works, the Nashua-based Emerging Water Professionals Internship Program provided two participants with on-the-job training in various aspects of the wastewater treatment process. The paid 13-week program culminated in the participation in NEIWPCPC's self-paced courses and earn a wastewater license. Additionally, four high school students completed paid internships at wastewater treatment plants in Lowell through the six-week Youth and the Environment Program which provides young adults with a hands-on experience in the environmental field.

**34**  
total interns

at programs throughout the states, including 24 seasonal boat launch stewards.

**1,390+**  
attendees

at conferences.



## Project Spotlight: Summer Intensive Program



**Goal: Support industry-wide initiatives and partnerships that promote technical proficiency.**

The Institute Discovering Environmental Scientists (TIDES) is an intensive two-week program that offers paid field research and laboratory science experiences to high school and college students. Throughout the summer, participants conduct water and land-based research along the banks of the Hudson River and local streams. TIDES is offered through NYSDEC's Hudson River estuary programs, with support from NEIWPC through staffing and funding.

Students are split into three groups based on their research interests: fish biological diversity, plant life, and water quality. From there, each group works together to develop a research question related to their topic and collect data, with the assistance of local public-school teachers and scientists. At the end of the program, teams synthesize their results and prepare a formal presentation to share with the local community.

TIDES also offered early-career individuals the opportunity to learn research skills, sampling methods, and river ecology concepts, while building long-term relationships and professional networks in the field.

**14**  
students



participating in the program this year.

**7**  
years



of the TIDES program.

**133**  
total



young scientists since the beginning of the program.



**Goal: Create training programs to support consistency, professionalism, and excellence across the water workforce.**

## Wastewater Training and Certification

NEIWPCC supported the wastewater industry by hosting operator trainings, from basic to advanced levels. The classes covered all aspects of the job, including laboratory analysis, treatment technologies, and management skills. Participants earned continuing education credits, training contact hours (TCHs), or prepared for certification exams. The Lowell training team administered regional and Massachusetts training programs, while the South Portland team ran JETCC, which also trains drinking water professionals. NEIWPCC also administers the wastewater certification programs for Maine and Massachusetts, in connection with the states' environmental protection departments.



On behalf of the Massachusetts's Department of Environmental Protection, NEIWPCC certified and renewed licenses for the state's wastewater workforce. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection also contracts with NEIWPCC to administer the Wastewater Operator Certification Program through the South Portland office.

*"Through our wastewater training program, we reach thousands of operators each year, helping them prepare for and maintain certification and grow in their careers. Our work helps to strengthen the clean water workforce and uses a collaborative approach with our state and utility partners in the region."*

— Peter Zaykoski  
NEIWPCC South Portland Program Manager



## Wastewater Training and Certification

**74**  
courses



offered by NEIWPCC.

**321**  
training  
contact hours



offered to wastewater and drinking water operators.

**1,595**  
operators



participated in NEIWPCC trainings.

## Wastewater Management Training

JETCC operated 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, students received certificates of completion and a full renewal period of TCHs.

NEIWPC also supported the Connecticut Water Environment Association's 10-month wastewater management leadership program by providing financial management assistance.

## Septic System Certification

NEIWPC coordinated the Massachusetts Title 5 septic system certification training for soil evaluators and system inspectors. This year, 76 participants enrolled in a training course focused on using soil properties to determine suitability for septic systems. An additional 66 individuals participated in the system inspectors program, which trained individuals to conduct thorough inspections on septic systems.



## North Country Convention

In April, NEIWPC hosted the North Country Convention in Presque Isle, providing wastewater and drinking water operators from sparsely populated areas of northern Maine with access to in-person training. The event featured a variety of technical sessions, exhibitor interaction, speakers, and networking opportunities.

## Training and Technical Support

NEIWPC offered training and technical assistance for rural, small, and tribal wastewater treatment plants to achieve and maintain regulatory compliance. Our staff provided tailored assistance for communities to identify and prioritize solutions in meeting challenges within their collection systems. NEIWPC also began developing six comprehensive self-paced online training courses that will provide nationwide access to much-needed education and training resources.



## Strategic Priority:

# Ensure Sufficient, Sustained Financial Resources

In fiscal year 2025, NEIWPCC executed 166 new agreements to fund research, monitoring, assessment, outreach, and other environmental initiatives, totaling \$20.7 million.

## Comment Letters

NEIWPCC represents a regional perspective on proposed water policies to federal parties such as the EPA and Congress. We sent comment letters on funding constraints and opportunities on behalf of our member states about water-related state revolving fund programs, federal discretionary budget requests, and using Clean Water Act funds to protect and restore priority waters.



## Executive Committee and Commission

NEIWPCC is governed by its Executive Committee and Commission (EC&C), consisting of five water quality professionals from each of its seven member states, who guide our agenda, including the updated strategic plan. These 35 commissioners are leaders in the states' environmental and health agencies, complemented by experts from the private sector.

Throughout the year, the EC&C met to formulate regional responses to environmental policy initiatives by identifying and sharing grant opportunities and implementing funded projects. They discussed clean water challenges including: PFAS and biosolids, cyanobacteria, permit programs, extreme weather, and invasive species.



## Project Spotlight: Underground Storage Tanks

**Goal: Collaborate with state, federal, nonprofit, and community partners to make efficient and effective use of available resources.**



*“Through this work, we not only protect water quality but also strengthen collaboration and public trust — key components of NEIWPC’s strategic vision for sustainably managed water resources in our region.”*

— Katerina Peña, Environmental Analyst with the RIDEM UST Program



The Rhode Island Underground Storage Tank Financial Responsibility Fund (RI UST Fund) provides a stream of funding to cover remediation costs for state and federally regulated tanks that have experienced a petroleum release. Leaks from underground storage tanks can have harmful impacts on groundwater supplies. This is especially concerning in Rhode Island, as many communities rely on private wells systems that are at high risk of contamination.

The fund, which is supported through a motor fuel tax, ensures that tank owners demonstrate financial responsibility in the event of a leak, per federal regulations. NEIWPC assists the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

in improving the efficiency and accessibility of the program to ensure that environmental cleanup begins in a timely manner.

**40**  
sites

requesting  
reimbursement  
for cleanups.

**\$990,553**  
reimbursed

to claimants.

Recent modernization of the RI UST Fund has included updating an ineligible expense list to align with current practices and improving website usability to streamline the application process. Additionally, NEIWPC calculated average labor rates using data from previous claims to finalize a revised allowable rate for the fund. This, in addition to lowering the required deductible, reduced financial barriers for independently owned gas stations.

## Project Spotlight: Oyster Research

**Goal: Coordinate with member states to implement funded initiatives.**



NEIWPCC and NYSDEC implemented the Oyster Density and Sediment Characterization Project to collect data in the Hudson River between Piermont and Yonkers, New York. The information gathered will be used by the Hudson River Estuary Program to inform future oyster restoration efforts, complementing prior studies to the north and south of this 10-mile area.



The project collected river bottom samples to categorize sediment into mud, sand, and gravel categories to assess habitat conditions. The researchers then isolated the collected live oysters and shells to count and measure them before returning them to the river. They also collected side-scan sonar imagery and water quality data.

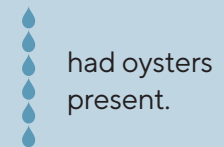
The Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda was developed by NYSDEC as a conservation and restoration blueprint. This collaborative project contributes to the goal of improving oyster habitat through developing a baseline understanding of their presence in the river.

**200**  
total samples



collected.

**39 of the 200**  
sample stations



had oysters present.

# Financial Summary

The assets of NEIWPCCC exceeded its liabilities at the close of the fiscal year by \$3,298,070. During fiscal year 2025, revenue exceeded operating expenses. As a result, total net position increased by \$197,195.

Lucia Walker, CPA  
NEIWPCCC Comptroller

## Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2025

### Operating Revenues

Federal Grants.....	\$15,141,338
State Contract.....	\$6,686,156
Other Contracts.....	\$8,318,057
Donated Services.....	\$1,540,041
Training.....	\$791,578
Member State Support.....	\$151,561
MA/ME License Renewal Fees.....	\$263,435
MA/ME Certification Exam Fees.....	\$47,212
Other Income.....	\$10,267
Interest Income.....	\$228,1701

**Total Operating Revenue..... \$33,177,815**

**Operating Expenditures..... \$33,022,015**

**Operating Gain.....\$155,800**

### Non-Operating Revenue

Investment Income.....	\$39,295
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets.....	\$2,100

**Change in Net Assets..... \$197,195**

Net Position, Beginning of Year..... \$3,100,875

**Net Position, End of Year.....\$3,298,070**





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