

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund

Project Examples & Implementation Actions



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES

Long Island Community Impact Fund (LISCIF) - Program Goals

• Program Overview

- Two rounds of grant funding of roughly \$1.0M to \$1.5M / year to support roughly 15-30 orgs per year
- Annual learning exchange among regional institutions, including stipends to attend
- Investment in training programs and grants

• RAE's Role

- Manage two rounds of grants; oversee implementation, support awardees
- Prioritize and design training programs and training grants
- Design and manage annual learning exchange
- Prepare local organizations to apply for grant funding through this program and others
- Strengthen and diversify connections within Long Island Sound region
- Review successes and lessons learned



Funding Priorities

LISCIF's funding priorities are aligned with the [CCMP](#) themes and [Implementation Actions](#):

For 2025, LISCIF's main funding themes are:

- Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds
- Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife
- Sustainable and Resilient Communities
- Sound Science and Inclusive Management

Eligible projects and activities will be community driven and address challenges/risks faced by communities experiencing environmental justice issues.



Themes and Goals of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)

Source: <https://longislandsoundstudy.net/our-vision-and-plan/>



Source: CCMP, Great Gull Island supports the largest nesting populations of common terns in the world. (Photo by Venu Challa)



Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife

The goal of this theme is to restore and protect the Sound's ecological balance in a healthy, productive, and resilient state of benefit both people and the natural environment.

Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds

The goal of this theme is to improve water quality by reducing contaminant and nutrient loads from the land and waters impacting the Long Island Sound.

Source: CCMP, The Lower Connecticut River, a Long Island Sound Stewardship Area, Old Lyme, CT. (Photo by Jerry Monkman/Ecophotography)



Sustainable and Resilient Communities

The goal of this theme is to support vibrant, informed, and engaged communities that use, appreciate, and help protect Long Island Sound.

Source: CCMP, Youth from Rocking the Boat, a Bronx environmental organization, on board a student-built boat on the Bronx River. (Photo by Joaquin Cotten)

Source: CCMP, CTDEEP Scientists conduct trawl surveys of the Sound's marine life, including horseshoe crabs, on board the Research Vessel John Dempsey. (Photo by Richard Howard)



Sound Science and Inclusive Management

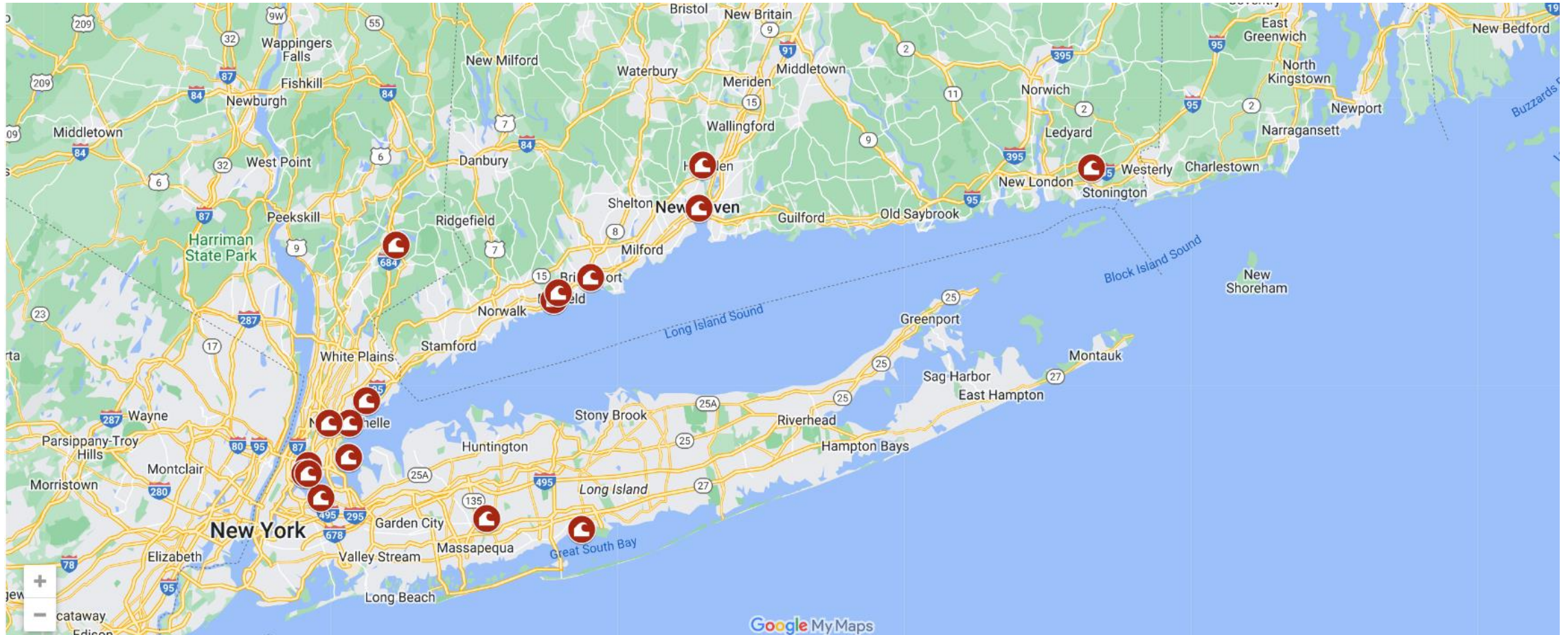
The goal of this theme is to manage Long Island Sound using sound science and cross jurisdictional governance that is inclusive, adaptive, innovative, and accountable.

LISCIF Funding is available for:

- Projects that result in quantifiable pollutant prevention or reduction.
- Restoring habitat within the [Important Coastal Habitat Types](#) targeted by LISS.
- Projects that foster a diverse balance and abundant populations of fish, birds, and wildlife.
- Public engagement, knowledge, and stewardship.
- Projects that enhance community resilience and sustainability.
- Planning and design that set-the-stage for implementation of water quality projects, eligible habitat restoration projects and resilience projects.
- Community-based science projects.
- Data management and integration projects.
- Other similar activities that the applicant proposes, and EPA approves, that are consistent with section 119 of the Clean Water Act.



Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF) 2024 Grant Recipients



Find the full LISCIF 2024 Grant Sheet here:

<https://estuaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/LISCIF-Subawardee-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

Case Studies from the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) Grants

The LISFF grant supports larger scale implementation and planning projects to restore and protect the Long Island Sound estuary. The following case studies are from the latest round of projects funded in 2022 and are aligned with the Long Island Sound Study CCMP; hitting at least one of the priority themes:

- Clean Water and Healthy Watersheds
- Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife
- Sustainable and Resilient Communities
- Sound Science and Inclusive Management



Source: Futures Fund Living Shoreline Project, Photo by Scott Kruitbosch
<https://longislandsoundstudy.net/about/grants/lis-futures-fund/>

Theme: Clean Water and Healthy Watersheds

Example from Futures Fund 2022

Project: Improving Water Quality by Retrofitting Parking Lots and Driveways with Permeable Alternatives

Grantee: Science Museum of Long Island

Project Area: Leeds Pond Preserve, Science Museum of Long Island, Manhasset

Description: Project plans to replace or retrofit impermeable parking lot and driveway surfaces with permeable alternatives at the Science Museum of Long Island. Project will set-the-stage to capture and infiltrate polluted stormwater runoff before it flows into Manhasset Bay and Long Island Sound.

Project Activities:

1. Assess different types of previous, permeable, and porous pavers in terms of water infiltration rate, their capacity to support vehicular and human traffic, aesthetics, and maintenance requirements;
2. Evaluate subsurface conditions, carry out percolation tests, take measurements, develop concept and final designs, and estimate costs;
3. Produce construction-ready designs to be submitted for permit review.



Theme: Clean Water and Healthy Watersheds

Example from Futures Fund 2022

Project: Manure Management to Reduce Nitrogen Pollution into Long Island Sound

Grantee: Eastern Connecticut Conservation District

Project Area: Pease Brook, Lebanon

Description: Construct a manure management facility at a dairy farm in Lebanon, Connecticut. Project will prevent 29,798 lbs. of nitrogen from flowing into local waterways and then downstream to Long Island Sound.

Project Activities:

- The project will enhance manure management of 200 cows at the farm by installing a covered waste storage facility that eliminates outdoor manure exposure to rainwater and discharges from the farm to low-lying land and water.
- The project will prevent 29,798 lbs. of nitrogen and 36,665 lbs. of phosphorus annually from the farm to Pease Brook and the Sound.



Source: Eastern Connecticut Conservation District
<https://conservect.org/eastern/current-projects/>

An underwater photograph showing a dense field of eelgrass in a shallow, clear water body. The grasses are green and yellowish, with long, thin blades and some flowering stalks. The water is clear, and sunlight filters through, creating a bright, shimmering effect. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a large expanse of eelgrass.

Theme: Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife

Example from Futures Fund 2022

Project: Community Engagement and Education for Eelgrass Protection on Fishers Island

Grantee: Henry L. Ferguson Museum

Project Area: Fisher's Island, New York and Southeastern Coastal Communities

Description: Build community awareness and support for voluntary long-term actions to protect eelgrass on Fishers Island, New York and in southeastern Connecticut communities. Project seeks to secure community action to sustain this important coastal habitat of Long Island Sound.

Project Activities:

1. Develop a plan and materials for the community awareness campaign;
2. Prioritize a list of well supported voluntary actions the community could take to protect eelgrass;
3. Implement the awareness campaign to 500 people and build support for specific actions.

Source: The Henry L. Ferguson Museum
Barley Field Cove, Fishers Island, NY. *Photo courtesy of seagrassli.org*

<https://fergusonmuseum.org/2022/08/fishers-island-seagrass-management-coalition-plan-august-2022/#>

Theme: Thriving Habitats and Abundant Wildlife

Example from Futures Fund 2022

Project: Restoring Great Pond Freshwater Wetland Habitat

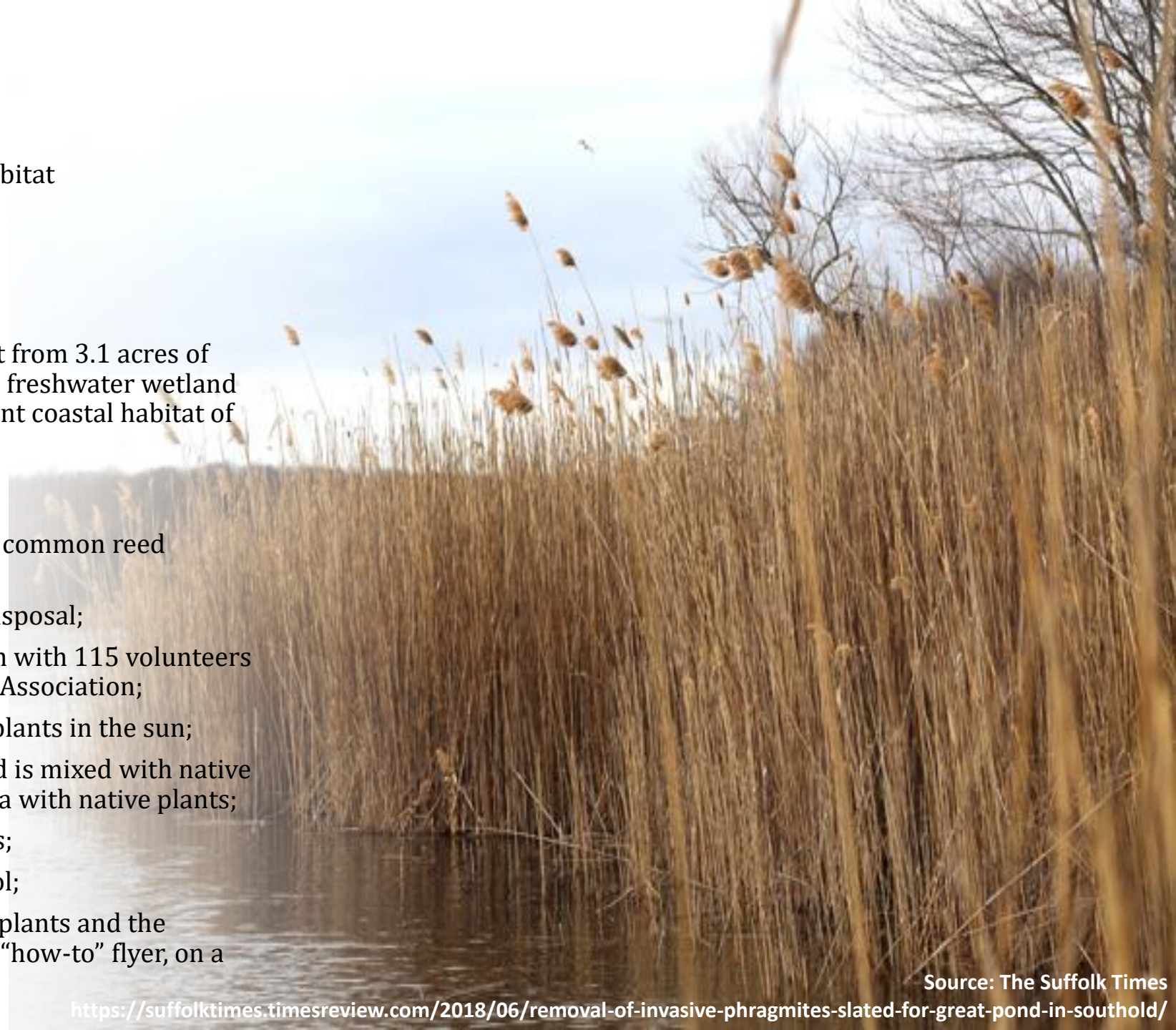
Grantee: Town of Southold, NY

Project Area: Great Pond, Town of Southold

Description: Remove the invasive common reed plant from 3.1 acres of public and private land around the 32-acre Great Pond freshwater wetland in Southold, New York. Project will restore an important coastal habitat of Long Island Sound.

Project Activities:

1. Conduct field-assessments and produce maps of common reed stands;
2. Hydro-rake all water-based stands and dry for disposal;
3. Cut and dig land-based stands and clean-up trash with 115 volunteers recruited by the Kenney's/McCabe's Beach Civic Association;
4. Solarize land-based stands bagging and placing plants in the sun;
5. Hand-dig land-based stands where common reed is mixed with native plants removing common reed and restoring area with native plants;
6. Dispose of common reed in a designated landfills;
7. Re-assess and if needed return for further control;
8. Deliver education about the problem of invasive plants and the ecological value of Great Pond in a forum, with a "how-to" flyer, on a sign and through social media.



Source: The Suffolk Times

<https://suffolktimes.timesreview.com/2018/06/removal-of-invasive-phragmites-slated-for-great-pond-in-southold/>

Theme: Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Example from Futures Fund 2022

Project: Mentoring Youth to Protect Long Island Sound

Grantee: Citizens Campaign Fund the Environment

Project Area: Smithtown West, Northport, Brentwood, Rocky Point, Riverhead, Oyster Bay, Commack and Our Lady of Mercy in Oyster Bay, Nassau and Suffolk Counties

Description: Deliver an educational program about challenges to restoration and protection of the health and living resources Long Island Sound at high schools on Long Island, New York. Project will deliver a shared Student Action plan for the Sound.

Project Activities:

1. Develop and deliver presentations and materials about new and existing challenges to the health of the Sound such as plastic pollution, nitrogen pollution, and climate change;
2. Mentor 200 students to develop and conduct their own project involving the Sound as an interactive activity, a research paper, poster, or video project;
3. Bring students together in the Sound Solutions Summit for High School Students to share their projects and develop two Long Island Sound Student Action Plans to be disseminated in schools, communities and to Long Island Sound Study partners;
4. Create a video about student projects. This project will increase awareness of environmental challenges facing the Sound and engage students in future efforts to protect and restore it.



Theme: Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Example from Futures Fund 2022

Project: Silver by the River: Planning for Greening and Public Access on the Bridgeport Waterfront – II

Grantee: Trust for Public Land, Groundwork Bridgeport

Project Area: Pequonnock River, City of Bridgeport Waterfront

Description: Produce design and construction documents for green infrastructure and coastal resilience improvements at a new park in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Project will set the stage for park “greening” to improve water quality, enhance community resilience to storms and floods, and provide public access in an urban coastal community of Long Island Sound.

Project Activities:

1. Conduct workshops and community outreach to 2,000 residents ensuring an inclusive planning process;
2. Prepare plan sections, elevations, plantings, layouts, grading, a permits checklist, schedule and project budget.

Because a majority of the waterfront is publicly owned or managed, there is ample opportunity for this plan to increase public access, enhance water quality, improve coastal resilience, and address environmental justice.



Theme: Sound Science and Inclusive Management

Example from Futures Fund 2022

Project: Improving Water Quality Management of Long Island Sound by Municipal Government

Grantee: Earthplace – The Nature Discovery Center

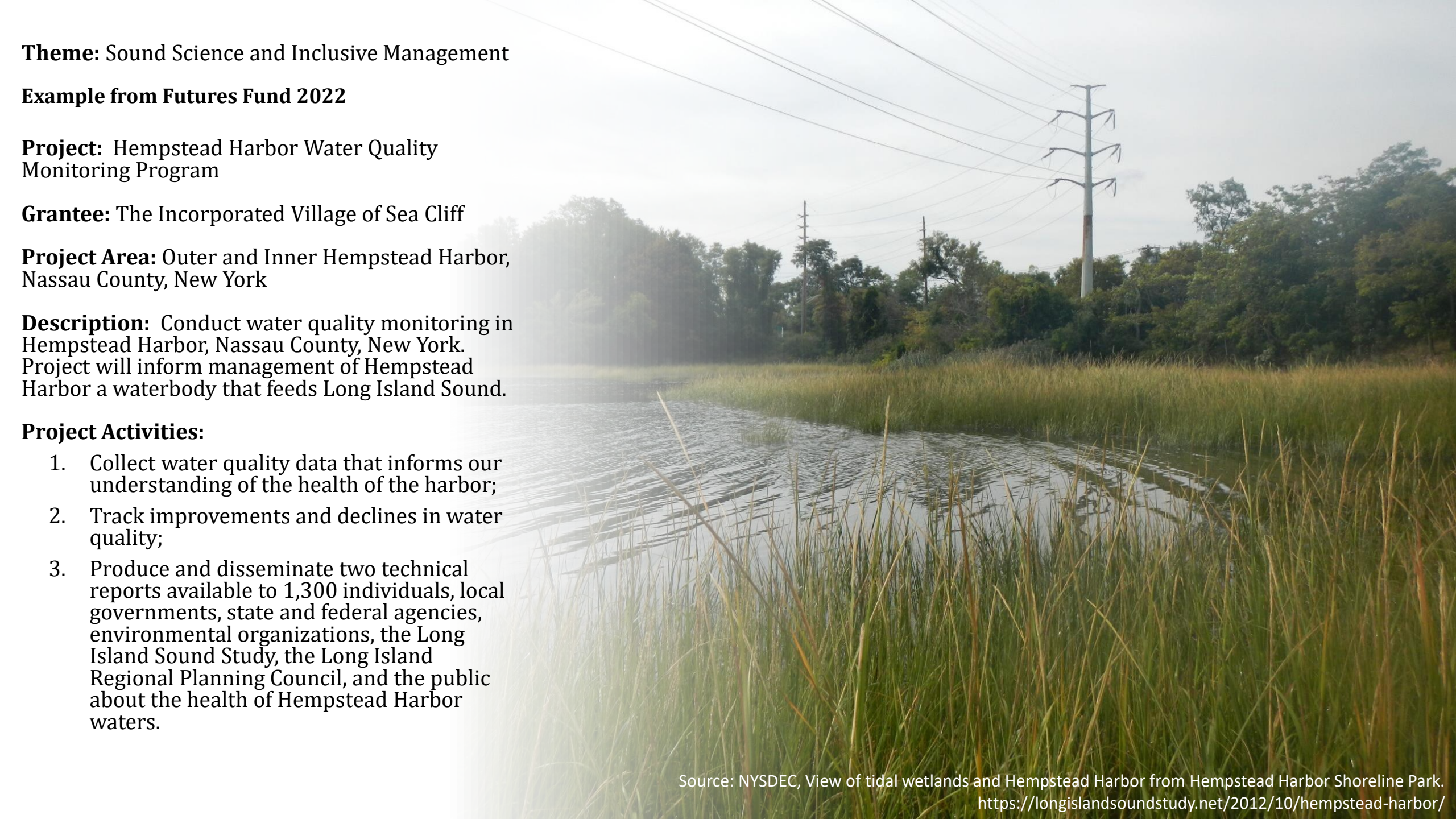
Project Area: Fairfield, County: Stratford, Bridgeport, Fairfield, Westport, Norwalk, Darien, Stamford, and Greenwich, Connecticut

Description: Conduct a water quality data synthesis and sharing project about local water quality trends in eight towns of Fairfield County, Connecticut. Project will provide water resource managers with information to prioritize projects and take action to reduce sewage pollution and improve water quality in local waters and Long Island Sound.

Project Activities:

1. Convene stakeholders from each municipality as collaborators in development of the information;
2. Produce water quality data resources relevant to each city and town to enhance the utility and application of data;
3. Share the findings with the public through presentations, social media, and print and digital outreach materials.





Theme: Sound Science and Inclusive Management

Example from Futures Fund 2022

Project: Hempstead Harbor Water Quality Monitoring Program

Grantee: The Incorporated Village of Sea Cliff

Project Area: Outer and Inner Hempstead Harbor, Nassau County, New York

Description: Conduct water quality monitoring in Hempstead Harbor, Nassau County, New York. Project will inform management of Hempstead Harbor a waterbody that feeds Long Island Sound.

Project Activities:

1. Collect water quality data that informs our understanding of the health of the harbor;
2. Track improvements and declines in water quality;
3. Produce and disseminate two technical reports available to 1,300 individuals, local governments, state and federal agencies, environmental organizations, the Long Island Sound Study, the Long Island Regional Planning Council, and the public about the health of Hempstead Harbor waters.



Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF25) Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Implementation Actions (IAs)

Full Proposal Application Project Impact Model Template & Examples

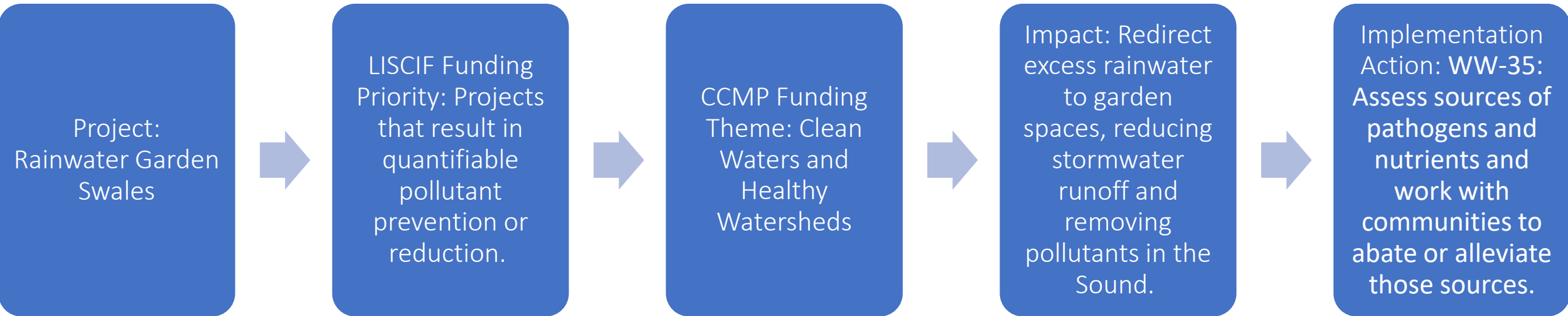
Instructions: The Full Proposal application requires applicants to complete a brief project impact model, and to identify expected project results based on established LISCIF performance metrics as indicated in the [Implementation Actions](#). The purpose of this document is to assist RAE, EPA, and the LISCIF Application Review Committee in understanding how your project aligns with the CCMP.

Refer to the examples below to create a simple impact model highlighting: the project name, LISCIF funding priority, the specific funding theme as indicated in the [CCMP](#), the impact, and the correlated, relevant [Implementation Actions](#).

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF25) Project Impact Model Examples



Example 1: Rainwater Garden Swales



Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF25) Project Impact Model Examples



Example 2: Shellfish Aquaculture and Restoration

Project: Shellfish
Aquaculture and
Restoration



LISCIF Funding
Priority: Projects
that foster a
diverse
balance and
abundant
populations of fish,
birds, and wildlife.



CCMP Funding
Theme:
Thriving and
Abundant Wildlife



Impact: Increase
populations of
oysters, clams, and
scallops with the
implementation of
a shellfish
management
plan which also
supports coastal
restoration efforts.



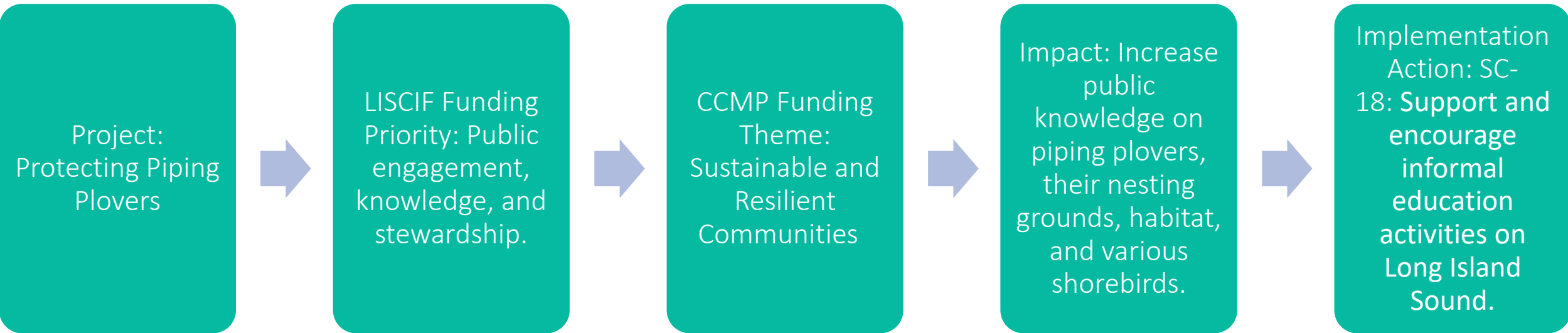
Implementation
Action: HW-1:
Complete projects
that result in
restoration of
coastal habitat.

Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF25)

Project Impact Model Examples



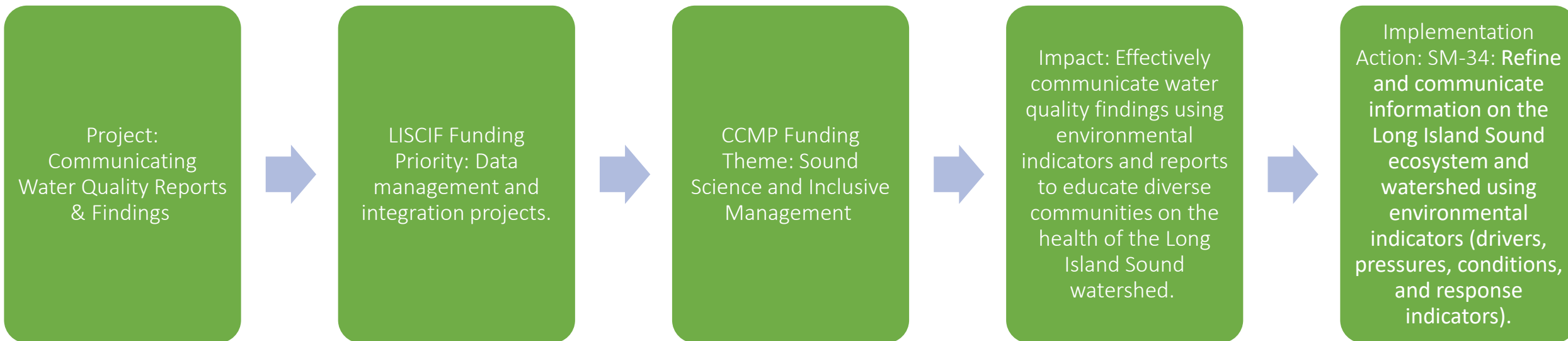
Example 3: Protecting Piping Plovers



Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund (LISCIF25) Project Impact Model Examples



Example 4: Communicating Water Quality Reports & Findings





**If you have any questions or need
assistance with the LISCIF25
application, please contact:
Shahela Begum at
sbegum@estuaries.org**