

CASE STUDY: NATURAL RESOURCES

South Kingstown Land Trust Pilot Project

Lead Agency: [South Kingstown Land Trust](#)

Partners: RI Sea Grant, URI Coastal Resource Center (CRC), The Nature Conservancy, & URI's Environmental Data Center

Funding: Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council

Website: [SKLT Climate Change Pilot Project](#)

Project Overview:

South Kingstown has a number of stewardship projects including: Wildlife Habitat Improvements, Productive Farmland, Health Forests, Historic and Cultural Resource Protection, and a Climate Change Pilot Project. The report, "[Building Capacity to Adapt to Climate Change through Local Conservation Efforts](#)," discusses the project in detail. The report also references the [Land Trust Alliance's Climate Change Toolkit](#). The five primary steps in adaptation for a local conservation organization are: Understand the Context and Priorities of the Organization, Identify and Map Assets, Determine the Vulnerability of Important Resources and Assets, Craft Adaptation Strategies, and Monitor, Review, Revise. As noted in the report, this local-scale guidance is less common than state or multi-state advice. The report also provides important advice about mapping climate impacts and non-climate stressors: "Mapping sensitivity of habitats, sea level rise inundation projections or migrating wetlands is often helpful, while non-climate stressor data might include impervious surface cover. Avoid the temptation of mapping all the data you can find. A lot of information or data layers can be displayed on a map, but for clarity data displayed must be done so strategically. This will also depend on the type of display. Much more data can be made available if the maps are viewed in an interactive electronic format where data layers can be turned off and on by users" (page 11).

How Project Contributes to Rural Resiliency:

Land trusts, especially in Connecticut serve critical functions for habitat protection, land conservation, and rural character preservation. Incorporating climate change into conservation planning increases landscape-scale resiliency. Since lack of GIS capacity or mapping data is common, the mapping advice in this project may also help guide local vulnerability assessments.

Suggestions for towns and/or COGs to assist in this type of project:

Partnerships with local/regional land trusts and conversation organizations is essential to effect planning for natural resources and the ecosystem services they provide. Sharing of technical skills and knowledge can benefit all partners.

Contact for Questions:

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SKLT Photo of Carpenter Farm in Perryville