



NACD's Northeast Region Investments

Every year NACD makes considerable investments in its membership across the country to further the work of locally led conservation. Below is a compilation of some of the most recent areas of investment NACD has made specifically in the Northeast Region states.

Conservation Planning Boot Camp

NRCS Conservation Planning Boot Camp is a three-week, intensive training course for technical employees that covers current conservation planning policy, procedures and guidelines as outlined in the National Planning Procedures Handbook. Each year from March - September, 75 conservation district employees will have the opportunity to participate in this program which is held in Lincoln, Nebraska. District participants are trained in and out of the classroom – right alongside NRCS field staff – in the skills necessary for developing and implementing comprehensive conservation plans. District participation in the course ensures conservation technical assistance is provided to local landowners and operators in a consistent manner nationwide. Expenses associated with this training are reimbursable travel, lodging, meals, laundry, etc.).

Number of participants in 2017 through 2019

Connecticut = 2
Delaware = 3
Maine = 2
Maryland = 4
Massachusetts = 4

New Jersey = 5
New York = 1
Rhode Island = 4
West Virginia = 2

In 2017, NACD sent 45 people for training.
In 2018, NACD sent 53 people for training.
In 2019, NACD sent 62 people for training.

Urban Agriculture Conservation Grants

The NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation program is designed to enhance districts' urban agriculture conservation technical assistance activities in developed and developing areas of both urban and rural communities. NACD is in the midst of its third round of Urban Agriculture Conservation Grants. Reports for the 2016 and 2017 grant cycles can be found on our website here: <https://www.nacdnet.org/urban-agriculture-conservation-grant-recipients/>

Connecticut

- Connecticut River Coastal CD 2016
- Eastern Connecticut CD 2016

Delaware

- New Castle CD 2017

Maryland

- Prince George's SCD 2017

Maine

- Cumberland County SWCD 2016

Massachusetts

- Worcester County CD 2019

New Hampshire

- Chester County CD 2019
- Hillsborough County CD 2016
- Merrimack County CD 2019

New Jersey

- Hudson-Essex-Passaic SCD 2016
- Ocean County SCD 2017

New York

- Cortland County SWCD 2019
- New York City SWCD 2016

Pennsylvania

- Allegheny County CD 2016
- Blair County CD 2016
- Lehigh County CD 2019
- Lycoming County CD 2016
- Montgomery County CD 2016

Rhode Island

- Northern Rhode Island CD 2019
- Southern Rhode Island CD 2019

Technical Assistance Grants

Through a cooperative agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in 2018 NACD awarded \$9 million in funding to further enhance conservation district technical assistance across the nation. A significant portion of the granted funds were awarded directly to conservation districts to hire staff where additional capacity is needed to improve customer service and reduce workload pressure. In 2019, NACD and NRCS partnered again, awarding more than \$10 million in funding to increase technical capacity. The awards have been based on many variables including, but not limited to: the applications submitted, the priority areas within that state according to NRCS, the ability to find 20% match, the projected impact, etc.

Connecticut – \$123,076 across two grants

Delaware - \$195,250 across two grants

Massachusetts - \$135,000 across two grants

Maryland - \$277,487 across six grants

Maine - \$154,067 across two grants

New Hampshire - \$106,547 across one grant

New Jersey - \$279,276 across four grants

New York - \$39,800 across one grant

Pennsylvania - \$454,622 across eleven grants

Rhode Island - \$356,025 across two grants

Vermont - \$272,500 across four grants

Out of the approximately \$19 million awarded in 2018 and 2019, the Northeast Region states received nearly \$2.4 million. This is about 12.6% of the total funding awarded.

NACD Soil Health Champions Network

NACD created the Soil Health Champions Network in 2015 to promote soil health education and outreach among American farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners and to get more acres managed with soil health practices. Today, the Network is comprised of more than 200 landowners and operators who are implementing conservation practices on their land and championing the benefits of soil health within their communities. Soil Health Champions have working relationships with their local

conservation districts and USDA service centers and are often community leaders and early adopters of conservation practices.

Connecticut – 1 champ
Massachusetts – 3 champs
New Hampshire – 3 champs
New York – 1 champ
Rhode Island – 1 champ

Delaware – 6 champs
Maryland – 5 champs
New Jersey – 1 champ
Pennsylvania – 1 champ

Other Investments

Not all of NACD's investments are quantifiable. Below is a list of many other areas of investment.

- Advocacy for Natural Resources Conservation – providing information, representation and tools to assist members.
- Educational Opportunities – multiple webinars throughout the month focused on soil health, urban agriculture and urban conservation; Stewardship and Educational materials and resources available online; a “Members Only” website with supplemental materials and resources for conservation districts and state associations.
- Multi-media resources – The Resource, the eResource, Conservation Clip List, Facebook, Twitter, NACD app for phones or other electronic devices, etc. All require subscription.