

The Southeast New England
Program (SNEP) Presents:

Pilot Watershed Initiative
Informational Webinar



05/06/2021 12:30-2:00PM



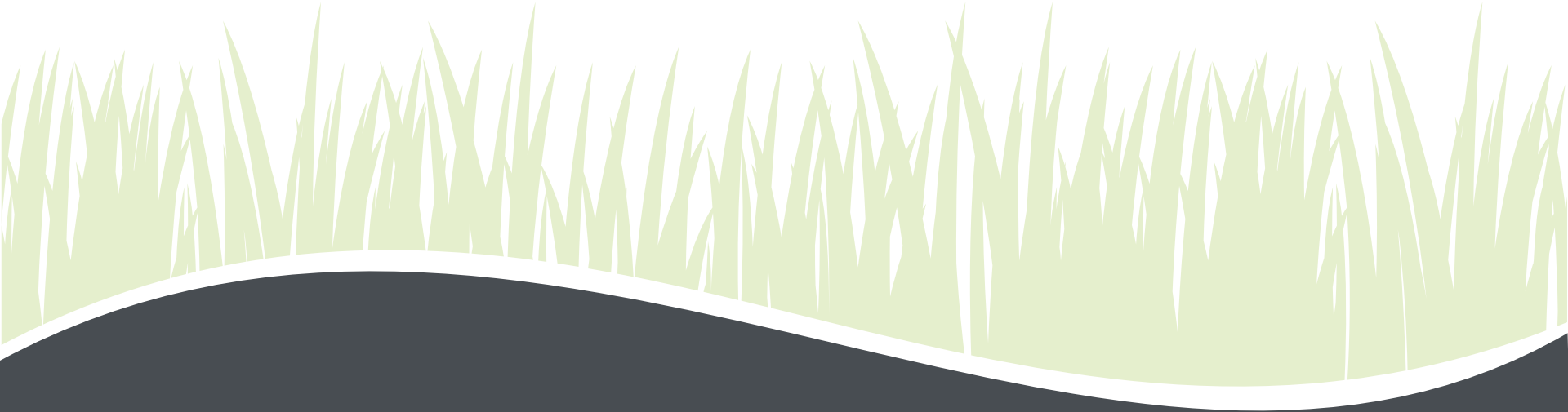
#SNEPitUp





Introduction

Ian Dombroski, SNEP Coordinator, EPA Region 1





MUTE



Your hand is raised.

Lower your hand



RAISE HAND





Logistics

- Please Mute During the Presentation
- This Meeting is Being Recorded
- Slides and Recording Will be Posted to SNEP Website
- Questions Will be Addressed at the End of the Presentation
- Questions and Answers Will Be Posted to SNEP Website
- <https://www.epa.gov/snep/snep-pilot-watershed-initiative-2021>

Today's Agenda



12:30

Introduction/ SNEP Overview

12:35

Pilot Watersheds Initiative Request for Applications (RFA) Overview

12:45

Scoring Criteria Overview

1:00

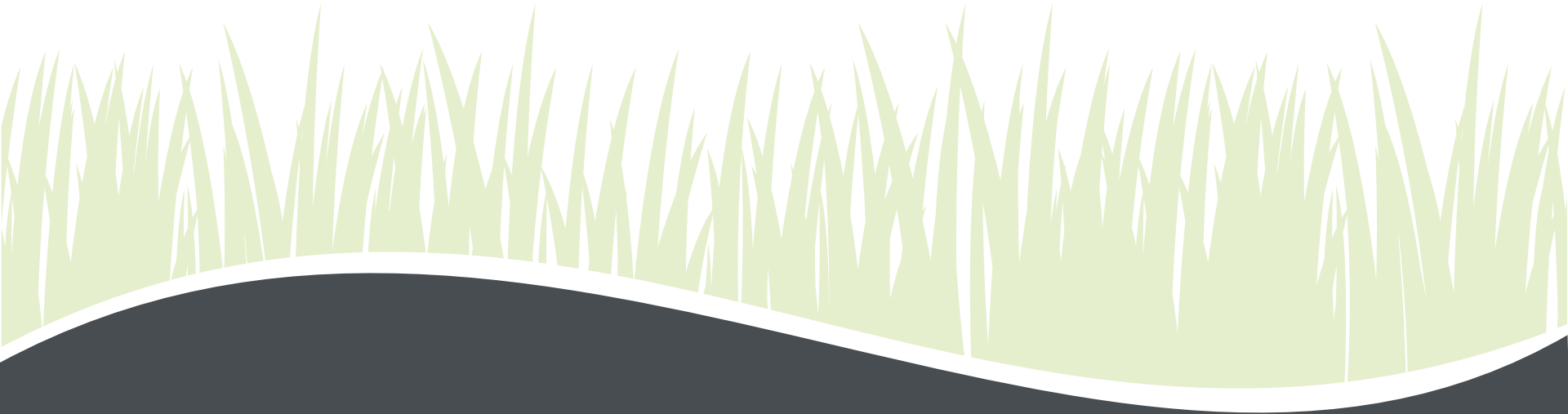
Audience Questions

2:00

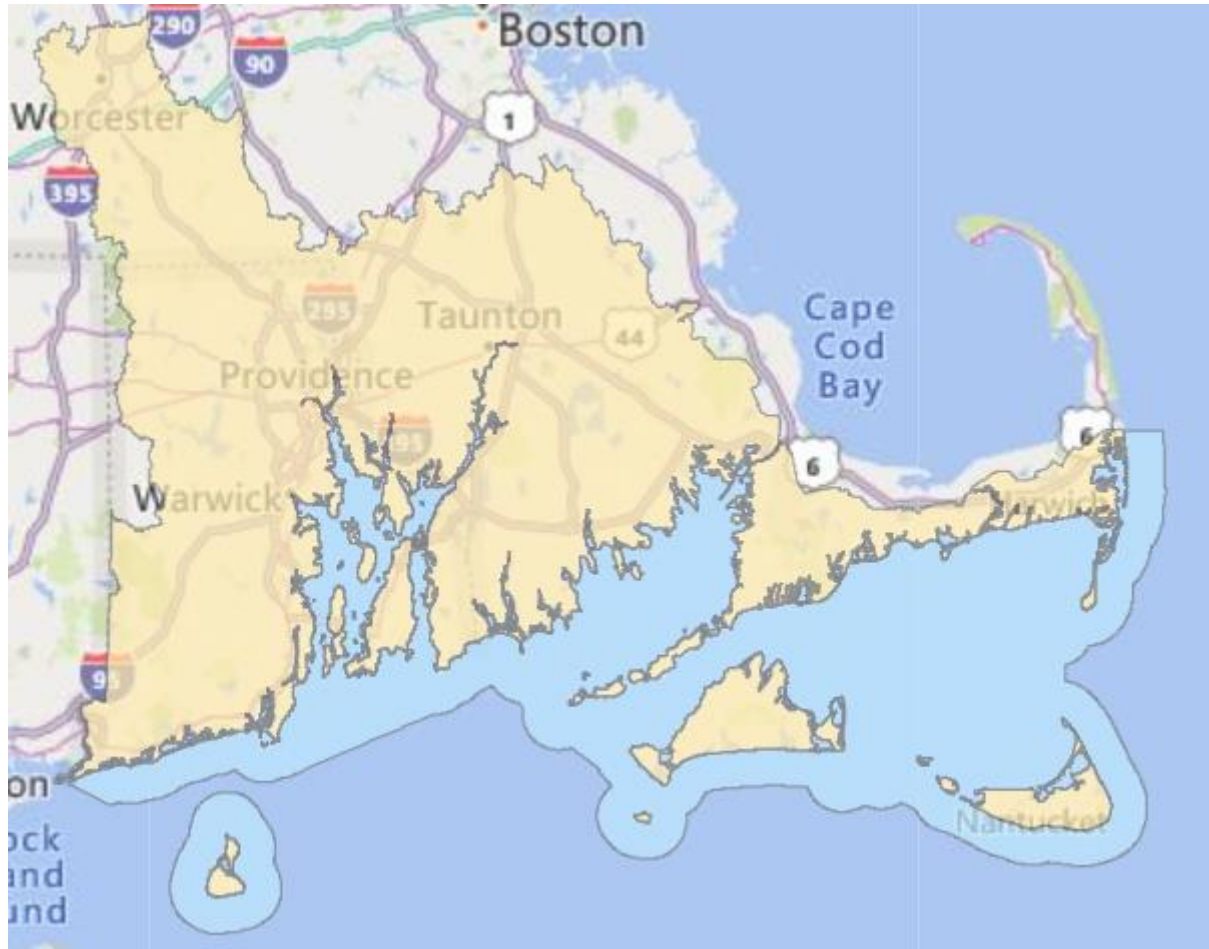
Adjourn



SNEP Overview



SNEP Region



Southeast New England Program (SNEP)



- Facilitate partnerships among government and non-government organizations
- Serve as collaborative framework for:
 - Advancing ecosystem resiliency
 - Protecting and restoring water quality, habitat, and ecosystem function
 - Developing and applying innovative policy, science, and technology to environmental management
- Encourage an ecosystem-based approach to increase effectiveness of long-term regional restoration efforts

Five Year Strategic Plan Goals



Program Vision 2050

A resilient ecosystem of safe and healthy waters, thriving watersheds and natural lands, and sustainable communities in the Southeast New England Program coastal watershed region.

SNEP Goal: Resilient Ecosystem of Safe and Healthy Waters

- Waters support native seagrasses and aquatic life, plentiful native fish and shellfish, and a variety of water-based recreation opportunities

SNEP Goal: Thriving Watersheds and Natural Lands

- Watersheds provide essential ecological functions, species diversity, and protection from both human-based and naturally occurring environmental stressors, and healthy, connected natural lands support a variety and range of native plant and wildlife communities.

SNEP Goal: Sustainable Communities

- Communities share robust water-based economies, protect and provide access to natural lands, open spaces and parks, encourage local food sources, and are adapting for resilience to expected impacts of climate change.

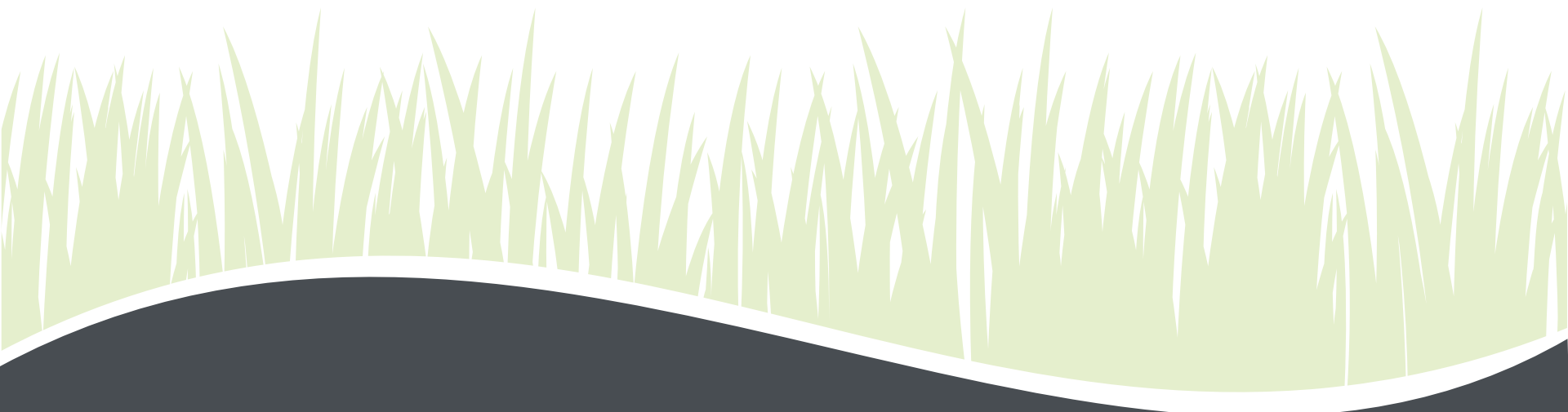
Five Year Strategic Plan Priority Actions



- Increase local capacity to complete projects and adopt new policies
- Increase available solutions
- Ensure diverse representation
- Demonstrate ways to address common challenges
- Increase community leaders' understanding of the benefits of restoration project



Pilot Watershed Initiative RFA Overview



Timeline



- Application Deadline: 5/28/2021 by 11:59PM EST
- Ineligible Applicants Notified: Mid-June 2021
- Successful Applicants Notified: Mid-Late July 2021
- Unsuccessful Applicants Notified: Late-July 2021
- Awards Made: Early September 2021
- Funds Available/Project Start: October 1, 2021

Pilot Watershed RFA Overview



- Grant Program Details are in **Sec. I.B** of RFA
- Identify a watershed/sub-watershed that faces one of four key environmental challenges
 - Nutrient Pollution
 - Harmful Algal Blooms
 - Urban Watershed Restoration
 - Restoration/Protection of Natural System Function
- Describe an initial plan to address this challenge over a 7-year project period
- Describe how this plan will be executed

Pilot Watershed RFA Overview



- Leverage funding and expertise
- Build partnerships
- Incorporate practices that promote multiple benefits (environmental, economic, social)
- Serve as a demonstration watershed for other areas in the SNEP region

Award Information



- Up to four (4) grantees selected
- EPA envisions selecting a Pilot Watershed in each of the 4 sub-areas of the SNEP region:
 - Buzzards Bay Watershed (jurisdiction of the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program), Narragansett Bay Watershed (jurisdiction of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program), the southern draining portions of Cape Cod, and the off-shore islands of Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Elizabeth Islands, and Block Island.
- Selected applicants will work to address the watersheds' environmental challenges through concentrated environmental projects & leveraged funding and expertise

Award Information



Funding

- Up to \$150,000 per award per year for up to 5 years
- Not to exceed \$750,000

Match

- Minimum of 20% of federal request (Sec. III.B)

Project Period

- Up to 7 years
- Starts October 1, 2021

Eligibility (Section III)



- All proposals must comply with Section IV
- Submission must be by *May 28, 2021 11:59 EDT* via [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
- Eligible applicants (Sec. III.A)
- 20% Match requirement (Sec. III.B)
- Must support EPA's Strategic Plan Goals (Sec I.C)

Threshold Eligibility (Section III)



- Applications must address at least 1 of the 4 key environmental challenges
- Applicants must support project that address SNEP priorities and within SNEP boundaries
- Applicants must address a single watershed/subwatershed
- Applicants must indicate they have the authority/ability to work in the watershed
- Applicants must demonstrate they have the support of local municipality(ies)

Eligible Applicants



Eligible

- State, local, Tribal governments
- Institutions of higher education
- Nonprofit institutions and organizations
- Interstate Agencies

Ineligible

- Private businesses, federal agencies, and individuals
- *(these entities can partner with an eligible applicant)*

Submission Materials (Section IV)



Mandatory Documents (Sec. IV.B)

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
- EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
- EPA Form 4700-4 Preaward Compliance Review Report
- Narrative Proposal (Project Narrative Attachment Form)- prepared as described in Appendix B of the announcement (refer to Section I.B for required content)
- Budget Detail (Budget Narrative Attachment Form) - See Appendix C for information

Submission Materials (Section IV)



Supporting Materials (Sec. IV.B)

- Resumes of curriculum vitae of staff that will be working on the Pilot Watershed Program
- Letters of commitment from any partners identified in the proposal in order to confirm their partnership.
- Letters of support and commitment for all cities and town government in which the Pilot Watershed is located.
- Confirmation (or process to confirm) access to private property by their owner(s) required to carry out monitoring of water, priority habitat and practices installed as part of the agreement.
- List documenting past or ongoing federal and/or non-federally funded assistance agreements administered by the applicant, including documentation supporting grant performance and meeting of reporting requirements.
- Documents of non-profit status if appropriate.
- Verification of proposed sources of non-federal match to the application. See Appendix B for additional details.



Scoring Criteria Overview



Scoring Criteria Overview



Proposal Evaluation Criteria (Sec. V.B)

- Watershed Description/Relation to EPA Identified Priority Environmental Challenge(s): **20 Points**
- Proposed Pilot Watershed Plan & Activities: **30 Points**
- Partnerships & Leveraging: **20 Points**
- Programmatic Capabilities: **20 Points**
- Cost Effectiveness & Match: **10 Points**
- Tracking and Measuring of Environmental and Programmatic Results: **20 Points**
- Transferability of Results: **10 Points**
- Timely Expenditure of Funds: **5 Points**

Scoring Criteria Overview



Watershed Description/Relation to EPA Identified Priority Environmental Challenge(s): 20 Points

- Describes the location, unique resources, geographic extent (size) and justification of the geographic extent of the proposed Pilot Watershed (see **Section I.B**). The applicant should include a map of the proposed Pilot Watershed and indicate which of the four major SNEP sub-regions the watershed is in. (8 pts.)
- Describes the current environmental conditions in the proposed watershed, including describing how those conditions reflect one or more of the four priority environmental challenges (**Section I.B**) they propose to address (10 pts.)
- Links the proposed activities to EPA's Strategic Plan (**Section I.C**) and the SNEP Strategic Plan. (2 pts.)

Scoring Criteria Overview



Proposed Pilot Watershed Plan & Activities: 30 Points

- Describes how the plan demonstrates the effectiveness of concentrated, collaborative efforts and holistic (watershed scale) planning to address common environmental challenges. (12 pts.)
- Describes previous work done in the watershed, recommendations for next steps or implementation priorities, and any established partnerships. (6 pts.)
- Describes the predicted outputs and outcomes (Section I.D) of their proposed project and the specific plan for how EPA SNEP funding will be used, the necessity for this funding, and how this funding will result in short- and long-term progress in watershed. (7 pts.)
- Describes how they plan to continue addressing the priority environmental challenge beyond the life of the award (including continued partnerships and building new partnerships). (5 pts.)

Scoring Criteria Overview



Partnerships & Leveraging: 20 Points

- The quality and extent to which the applicant provides a clear and concise description of how the proposed project promotes collaborations with partners from multiple stakeholder groups, such as industry, NGOs, academia, municipal, state, federal, or tribal government, etc., to develop and implement solutions that will address issues at the watershed scale. The description should include the following: - planned roles of each partner listed on the Project Summary - how each partner will contribute to the project, - what resources each partner brings to the project - how the partner has a vested interest in working with this partnership (other than just getting income from a sub-award or contract) how the applicant organization plans to sustain these relationships on into the future (10 pts.)
- Letters of Commitment. Applicants will be evaluated based on the quality of the letters of commitment submitted with the application. The letters should explain the partners' role in the project, what resources (funding, in-kind, technical assistance, etc.) they are bringing to the effort, and their interest in the project and community. If no letters are submitted, then the applicant will be evaluated based on how well they demonstrate that they can effectively perform the project without partners. (4 pts.)

Scoring Criteria Overview



Partnerships & Leveraging (continued): 20 Points

- Demonstration of:
 - (i) how the applicant will coordinate the use of EPA funding with other Federal and/or non-Federal sources of funds/resources/expertise/partnerships to leverage additional resources beyond the grant funds awarded and any required cost share for applicants specified in Section III of the announcement to carry out the proposed project(s) (3 pts.)and/or
 - (ii) that EPA funding will complement activities relevant to the proposed project(s) carried out by the applicant with other sources of funds or resources. Applicants will also be evaluated based on the type and amount of leveraging proposed, how the applicant will obtain the leveraged resources, the likelihood the leveraging will materialize during grant performance, the strength of the leveraging commitment, and the role the leveraged resources will play to support the proposed project activities. (3 pts.)

Scoring Criteria Overview



Programmatic Capabilities: 20 Points

- Past performance in successfully completing federal- and non-federally-funded assistance agreements (including federal grants and cooperative agreements, but not federal contracts) similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project within the last five years (applicants should include no more than five, preferably EPA agreements). Successful completion of federally funded assistance agreements also includes the applicant organization's history of meeting reporting requirements and submission of acceptable final technical reports under those agreements. (6 pts.)
- Extent and quality to which they adequately documented and/or reported on their progress in achieving the expected results (e.g. outcomes and outputs) under federal agency assistance agreements performed within the last five years, and if such progress was not being made, whether the applicant adequately documented and/or reported why not, and internally developed proper corrective actions. (3 pts.)

Scoring Criteria Overview



Programmatic Capabilities (continued): 20 Points

Organizational experience and staff expertise, including:

- i. Relevant staff technical expertise/qualifications, knowledge, and resources, or the ability to obtain experience and qualified staff, to successfully achieve the environmental goals for their proposed application; and (5 pts.)
- ii. Relevant organizational and administrative capacity, experiences, travel capabilities (e.g. ability to conduct site visits, meet with partners, and perform oversight to successfully administer the execution and management of this award), and technical and outreach expertise to accomplish the proposed plan of work successfully. (6 pts.)

Scoring Criteria Overview



Cost Effectiveness & Match: 10 Points

- is cost-effective, considering the following factors: organizational overhead; indirect cost; prudent cost allocation over the life of the award; organizational and partner resources brought to the effort; consistency with proposed budget detail; and ability to perform the duties within the operational range of budgets provided by SNEP. (5 pts.)
- demonstrates the strength of support and level of specificity in their plan to procure match. Applications that provide specific and detailed information demonstrating that the applicant will be able to meet the required match for the five years will score higher than applicants that are unable to provide such information. For example, applications that include letters of commitment demonstrating an organization's commitment to provide match will be evaluated favorably under this criterion. (5 pts.)

Scoring Criteria Overview



Tracking and Measuring of Environmental and Programmatic Results: 20 Points

- Identify specific environmental results that will be targeted by the activities proposed under this award, including co-benefits if appropriate. (4 pts.)
- Track and measure their progress in achieving environmental results, including milestones for the tasks being proposed and for achieving anticipated the outputs and outcomes described in **Section I.D**, including cobenefits if appropriate (5 pts.)
- Track and measure SNEP proposed SNEP project metrics in **Appendix D** (also refer to **Section I.B**). (5 pts.)
- Plans to ensure access to land and water by EPA and partners to enable pre and post monitoring of environmental results. (2 pts.)
- Assess effectiveness of its approach for the proposed tasks, including the incorporation of standardized monitoring, measuring, and reporting. (4 pts.)

Scoring Criteria Overview



Transferability of Results: 10 Points

- Gather and develop information to support and communicate lessons learned from the proposed activities, including being available to present results as a demonstration project both during and after the life of the award. (6 pts.)
- Document and distribute result in a timely manner, including information materials and recommendations to key partners in the SNEP region and other appropriate audiences upon completion of the award. (4 pts.)

Scoring Criteria Overview

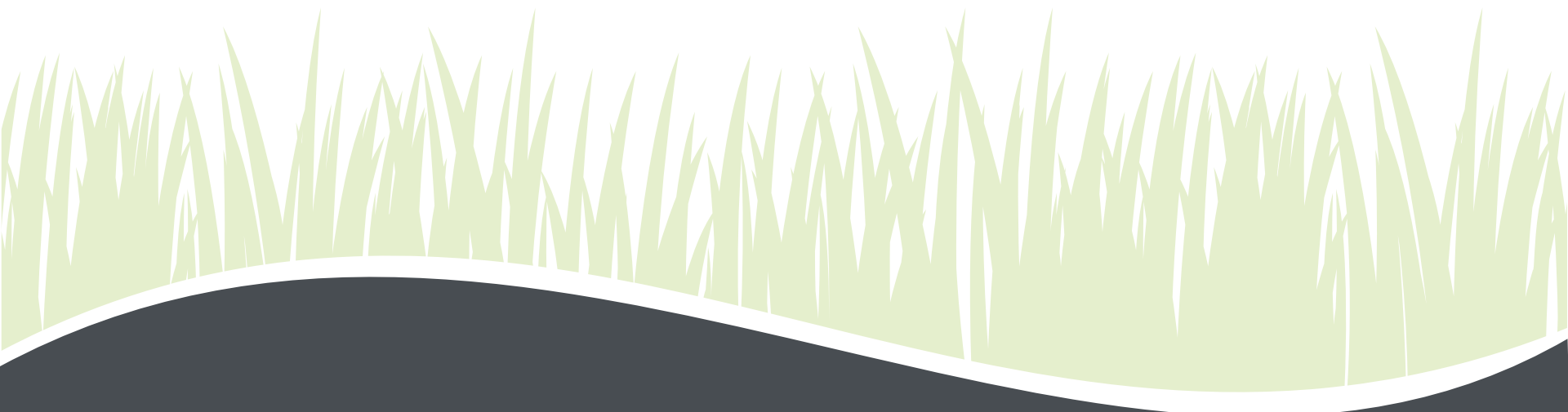


Timely Expenditure of Funds: 5 Points

- The approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that award grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner, and before the end of the project period. (5 pts.)



Audience Questions



Audience Questions



Audience Questions

- Please Raise Your “Hand” or Type Questions in the Chat Box
- SNEP Will Attempt to Answer as Many Questions as Possible Before 2PM
- If SNEP Does Not Have/Know the Answer to Your Question Now, We Will Post the Answer to our FAQs Page as Soon as Possible
- If We Run Out of Time, Please Type Your Question in the Chat. We Will Post These to our FAQs Page as Soon as Possible



Adjourn

Thank You for Your Time and Attention!

