

2024 LOCAL CONSERVATION FUNDING POOL FOR FRANKLIN, GRAND ISLE, AND LAMOILLE COUNTIES



WHAT IS LOCALLY-LED CONSERVATION?

Locally led conservation is a collaborative approach where communities, organizations, and individuals at the local level take an active role in planning, implementing, and managing conservation efforts. It empowers local stakeholders to be the decision-makers and drivers of conservation initiatives.

Over the past year and a half, your Northwest Conservation Districts and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) held three community meetings, surveyed their communities, and developed a conservation action plan to identify solution-based approaches to resource concerns.

THE OUTCOME A LOCAL FUNDING POOL

Although each county has its unique needs, a common theme emerged – supporting enhanced habitats through native plantings that encourage greater biodiversity, specifically for Vermont’s pollinators, and field- and forest-based practices to support plant and water quality.

These efforts will benefit our local wildlife while also ensuring essential resource protections for our working lands such as erosion control, water quality improvement, wetland restoration, and more. Funding for supporting practices is now available for eligible Franklin, Grand Isle, and Lamoille County landowners.



FUNDING

Funding will be available for the 2024 fiscal year to eligible Franklin, Grand Isle, and Lamoille County landowners through their local EQIP fund pool. NRCS will provide a total of \$50,000 in financial assistance for approved conservation practices that address the resource concerns. Land and producer eligibility must be met to participate.



RESOURCE CONCERNS

Resource concerns addressed:

- Aquatic habitat
- Terrestrial habitat
- Wind and water erosion
- Concentrated erosion
- Field, sediment, nutrient, and pathogen loss



ELIGIBILITY

Producers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own, lease, or have an interest in operating agricultural land are eligible. Contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to register.

APPROVED PRACTICES FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The following NRCS practices are approved for the local funding pool. These practices must address one of the resource concerns listed on the first page.

- Waste facility closure
- Windbreak / shelterbelt establishment and renovation
- Silvopasture
- Riparian herbaceous cover
- Riparian forest buffer
- Wildlife habitat planting
- Tree or shrub site preparation
- Nutrient management
- Vegetative buffer
- Stream habitat improvement and management
- Herbaceous wind barriers
- Tree or shrub establishment
- Wetland wildlife habitat management
- Upland wildlife habitat management
- Early successional habitat development-management
- Forest trails and landings
- Wetland restoration
- Wetland establishment
- Amending soil properties with lime
- Soil carbon amendment

Detailed information about each practice can be found here: nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/conservation-practice-standards



HOW TO APPLY

Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation District or your local NRCS office.

For additional NRCS program information, application instructions, loan information, and more, visit: farmers.gov



Sign up for Fiscal Year 2024 funding by **October 20, 2023**.



Help us identify resource priorities for 2025 funding by taking a quick survey at: franklincountynrcd.org/local

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