Attachment 8: CIRCA Financing Resiliency in Connecticut Fact

Financing Resilience in Connecticut

Current Programs, National Models, and New Opportunities

Becoming resilient to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather in Connecticut has a price. To date, in Connecticut most of the dollars invested in resilient infrastructure have come from federal grants provided in the form of assistance after a declared disaster, but grants alone will not cover the bill. This fact sheet reviews existing resilience financing programs in Connecticut as well as model programs that can be applied in the State. It accompanies a presentation at the Earth Day 2016 symposium *Resilience and the Big Picture*, and a forthcoming publication.[1]

Connecticut Resilience Financing Programs

Shore Up Connecticut. Shore Up Connecticut is a low interest loan program, run by the Housing Development Fund, for homeowners and small businesses in the coastal floodplain to elevate structures and utilities.

Microgrids Grants and Green Bank Financing Program. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection administers the microgrids grants program. These grants provide funding for energy sources that can operate without the grid. The grants can be paired with financing from the Connecticut Green Bank for additional infrastructure to install the microgrid.

Clean Water Revolving Loan Funds. Loans from the Clean Water Fund provide a low interest loan and grant combination to fund wastewater infrastructure projects. Connecticut's program has provided funding for planning and designing new facilities to operate safely and resiliently under conditions of more frequent and intense storms, flooding, and sea level rise.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts. TIF districts use increased market value of property and capital improvements that come from public-private partnership investments to a specific geographic area to fund that investment. A TIF district captures the future net economic value increase from the investment through district-level taxes or fees. TIF districts could, in principle, finance neighborhood-scale resilience projects.

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[1] Fact sheet based on article: Rebecca French, Wayne Cobleigh, Jessica LeClair, and Yi Shi. Financing Resilience in Connecticut: Current Programs, National Models, and New Opportunities. *Sea Grant Law & Policy Journal*, *in preparation.*

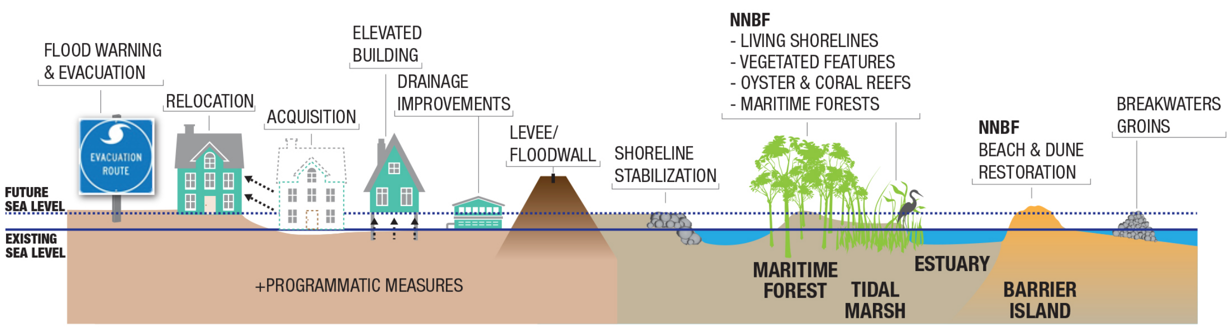
Model Programs for Resilience Financing

Connecticut Green Bank C-PACE and R-PACE Programs and PAR. The Connecticut Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program allows businesses to pay for energy efficiency projects through capital assessed on their tax bill and carried over as a lien on the property, regardless of a change in ownership. This same principle can be applied to residential properties or a Residential-PACE (R-PACE). Using the same principles as C-PACE and R-PACE, Property Assessed Resilience (PAR), captures the increased property value and insurance savings to finance resilience measures for a property.

New Jersey Energy Resilience Bank (ERB). The ERB intends to fund distributed energy resource technologies that can operate in island mode with power blackout start capabilities, both of which allow for operation of critical facilities during extended power outages to the grid. The program is a mix of grants and low interest loans and was capitalized with federal disaster recovery funds from Sandy, utilizing a unique waiver of small business only rules.

Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs). Owners of properties with large energy usage can hire an Energy Services Company (ESCO) and an Owner's Representative to assist the owner in procuring financing, installation, operation, and maintenance of building retrofits involving onsite energy generation, energy efficiency, and water conservation related capital improvements. The ESCO can access long-term financing methods such as Tax-Exempt Lease Purchase (TELP) commercial loan or bonds for these projects with limited or no up-front costs to the owner. Cash flow to the ESCO from the energy savings pays down the financing over the term of the TELP.

Resilience Bonds. Resilience bonds modify the existing catastrophe bond insurance market to capture the savings from a lowered risk of insurance payouts and then use that value as rebates to invest in resilient infrastructure projects.



Sea level rise and flooding adaptation measures needing federal, state or local funding or long-term financing to be implemented in coastal communities in Long Island Sound. NNBF stands for natural and nature-based features.[2]

[2] Source: ASCE North Atlantic Comprehensive Coastal Study

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