



Frequently Asked Questions

The **Land Trust Alliance** is pleased to announce a new collaboration between **the Network for Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund** and **the Land and Climate Grant Program**. This opportunity aims to support and build the capacity of Landscape Partnerships that include Alliance member land trusts, to integrate climate change into land protection and management decisions.

The program will provide Landscape Partnerships with additional support for the development of climate-informed land conservation, stewardship, policy, or communications plans that address one or more of the following issues: habitat resilience; carbon mitigation; renewable energy siting; and/or community adaptation to climate impacts such as stronger storms, flooding, drought, fire, or extreme heat.

Projects should achieve one or more of the following deliverables:

- Land Protection Plans: Incorporate climate science into new or existing strategic conservation plans that target land protection for climate adaptation or mitigation;
- Management Plans: Incorporate climate science into land stewardship or management plans to address adaptation and/or mitigation strategies;
- Communications Plans: Develop a comprehensive climate communication strategy that promotes the adaptation and mitigation goals of the organization and its conservation or stewardship plans; or
- Renewable Energy Siting Plans: Develop a plan, decision matrix and/or policies to guide organizational engagement with renewable energy siting on conservation lands and/or in service areas.

The program encourages proposals that address the inequitable burdens of climate change and environmental racism on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and low-income communities.

Eligible use of grant funds:

- The grants may be used to cover costs associated with the development of strategic conservation plans or land management plans as described above and/or to develop internal policies, procedures, and communications in support of this work. Eligible costs include, but are not limited to staff time, travel, graphic design, printing, mailing, indirect costs (up to 15%), and project consultants.

Ineligible use of grant funds:

- General operating support;
- Research that is not directly related to the conservation planning or management project described in the application;
- Land acquisition and restoration capital costs;
- Political lobbying; or
- Development of carbon offset projects.

Are there any recommended data sources, methods or approaches?

Applicants may employ a variety of climate science and mapping and planning tools in their projects, and OSI and the Alliance do not require the use of specific datasets or approaches. We welcome the use of diverse forms of knowledge in project proposals, including Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous science.

Recommended data sources and approaches include, but are not limited to:

- Climate Resilience and Forest Carbon data available in [The Nature Conservancy's Resilient Land Mapping Tool](#);
- Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science's [Adaptation Workbook](#);
- [Dibaginjigaadeg Anishinaabe Ezhitwaad – A Tribal Climate Adaptation Menu](#), produced by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission;
- Open Space Institute's guides to [land protection for carbon mitigation](#) and [evaluating carbon storage and sequestration](#);
- Headwaters Economics [Neighborhoods at Risk tool](#)
- Resources on Renewable Energy Siting Best Management Practices: [Great Plains Institute Best Practices: Photovoltaic Stormwater Management Research and Testing](#), [American Farmland Trust's Smart Solar Principles](#), The Nature Conservancy's mapping tool [Site Renewables Right](#) and Scenic Hudson's [Solar Siting Guide and replicable Solar Mapping Tool](#).

Who May Apply?

- Land Trust Alliance member land trusts are eligible to apply for planning grants.
- Applicants must have been a qualified organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code for at least two years or have an established fiduciary meeting this qualification.
- Applicants must be a current member in good standing of the Land Trust Alliance.
- Preference is given to accredited land trusts and organizations with a board-approved plan to pursue accreditation.
- Geographic eligibility: Nation-wide.

Is there a match requirement?

- There is no match requirement. Applicants will be asked to report the full project budget, and any sources of funding in addition to the grant request as part of the financial summary form. Documentation of in-kind or cash match is appreciated where possible.

How will applications be evaluated?

Projects will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- **Project Impact** - The project has the potential to inform conservation decisions (such as land protection; land stewardship; or related activities), in the near term. If the project does not cover a broad geographic region (e.g., county scale or larger), the applicant should demonstrate how the project serves as a model or demonstration or will influence the way the partnership or an individual organization operates.

- **Audience** - The plan seeks to inform the actions of an identified audience (such as a land trust or organization, Tribe, landowners, municipalities, public agency partners, etc.) that has the resources and commitment to achieve the goals of the project.
- **Methods and Use of Science** - The proposal identifies information sources that will be used or evaluated for use in the project and articulates clear steps or methods to achieve outcomes.
- **Feasibility** - The project team has the capacity, expertise, and commitment to complete the project. The project is likely to succeed within the proposed timeframe.
- **Community Benefit** - The applicant demonstrates how the project will strengthen climate resilience in communities facing climate threats and/or address the inequitable burdens of climate impacts.

Where can I find examples of conservation plans or other climate grant projects?

- [Land and Climate Project Showcase](#): webinar featuring short presentations from three land trusts that completed climate planning or communications projects with support from the Land and Climate Grant Program.
- [Projects from Grantees](#): examples of conservation plans, story maps and communications products completed by Land and Climate grant awardees.

Additional questions?

If you have any questions regarding this opportunity, please do not hesitate to reach out via phone or email.

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