



What We Do

The [Syracuse University Center for Sustainable Community Solutions/Environmental Finance Center \(SU-CSCS/EFC\)](#) enhances the managerial and financial capacity of regional and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and local residents to improve environmental infrastructure, services, and quality of life.

Who We Are

The [SU-CSCS/EFC](#) operates at the intersection of science, policy, and communications, guided by a strong commitment to equity and environmental justice. We build capacity by providing technical assistance and tools to help local leaders make informed decisions that support community resiliency.

Founded in 1993, the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center (SU-EFC) developed programs focused on leadership, conflict resolution, governance, and policy. The SU-EFC is also part of the national Environmental Finance Center Network, a collaboration of multiple regional EFCs. Established in 2010, the Syracuse University Center for Sustainable Community Solutions was created to provide a broader capacity for programs and funding.

Contact Us

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Syracuse University

Center for Sustainable Community Solutions & Environmental Finance Center

Serving EPA Region 2

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SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS



Focus Areas of Expertise



Environmental Infrastructure Training and Education

- Direct technical assistance
- Technical workshops and webinars
- Public outreach and engagement
- Workforce development
- Stakeholder engagement and process facilitation
- Tool and resource development



Resiliency Planning

- Rural community and utility climate change vulnerability assessments
- Flood risk assessment and preparedness
- Climate change impact adaptation



Sustainable Materials Management

- Source reduction education and outreach
- Materials reuse and recycling solutions
- Composting and organics management
- Single-use plastics source reduction and pollution prevention
- Wasted food reduction and recovery solutions
- Composting and organics management



Watershed and Utility Management

- Urban green infrastructure
- Rural stormwater and ditch management
- Wetlands and ecosystem services
- Water and wastewater infrastructure management



Program Highlights

Planning Process Services

- Provide comprehensive asset management, workforce, and resiliency planning assistance for municipalities
- Assist communities with planning for local sustainable food management programs and initiatives
- Develop sustainable materials management planning tools for New York, Puerto Rico, and other Caribbean communities
- Create a watershed finance plan for New York’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Technical Assistance and Training

- Facilitate inclusive dialogs by convening state and national summits on funding and finance, sustainable materials management, organics, and recycling
- Facilitate municipal leadership conferences and training workshops
- Provide continuing education opportunities for professionals in sustainable materials management and water and wastewater infrastructure
- Identify needs, trends, and common issues for communities through public outreach and needs assessment
- Provide 1:1 technical assistance to communities, offering tailored support and guidance in addressing their challenges and needs

Outreach and Education

- Promote public awareness of environmental issues and solutions through strategic messaging campaigns
- Develop and implement sustainable materials management stewardship programs for K-12 schools and colleges/universities
- Produce educational videos: For example, videos on food loss prevention and rescue (Loving Local, Wasting Less), single-use plastic pollution reduction (NYS Pollution Prevention Institute), recycling stream contamination reduction (Recycle Right NY), and wastewater infrastructure (New York Water Environment Association)

Partnership Development and Stakeholder Engagement

- Facilitate stakeholder engagement initiatives including the New York State Organics Council, Recycle Right NY Stakeholders Group, and Puerto Rico Recycling Partnership
- Collaborate with Syracuse University faculty and engage students to apply research in green infrastructure, sustainable materials management, collaborative governance, and resiliency