



A UNIQUE ASSET FOR THE NATION

The Environmental Finance Center Network (EFCN) is the only university-based organization creating innovative solutions to managing the costs of environmental protection and improvement. The EFCN works with the public and private sectors to promote a sustainable environment, bolstering efforts to address difficult how-to-pay issues. Clients are typically communities that lack the management capacity to address these issues on their own.

Core support for the EFCN is provided by the Environmental Finance Program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). All the EFCs attract additional funds through grants and contracts with public and private clients.

THE EFCN IS...

- Neutral** Housed in 10 universities across the nation and shares their ideals and mission of nonpartisan research, teaching, and outreach.

- Collaborative** Offering a wide range of professional skills and services to partners in government at all levels, working with the regulated community as well as the regulator, and with the private and nonprofit sectors.

- Innovative** Sharing information, tools, and techniques to develop innovative solutions to financing problems.

THE EFCN PROVIDES...

- Financial Expertise** Brings a unique financial perspective to solving environmental problems or addressing environmental issues.

- Experience** Employs staff from many disciplines to address a full range of environmental issues. For any given project, the EFCN has access to the expertise housed in the 10 universities.

- National Presence** Partners with other public and private entities to complete projects across the U.S. and beyond.

EFCN OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND TOOLS

The EFCN provides education, technical and research assistance to states, local governments, tribes and the private sector. The following are tools and outreach activities the EFCN has developed.

Program Evaluation assesses the outcomes of new environmental finance, economic development, and land use programs for state and local governments.

Process Facilitation takes a project from concept to reality. The facilitation may include meetings that promote inter-agency cooperation.

Economic and Fiscal Impact Analyses support and strengthen various projects, including brownfields redevelopment, rural land conversions, and other forms of development.

Financial Policy and Practice Guides assist in shaping local land use and environmental policies and help consumers choose and locate green businesses.

Finance Tools and Training are a series of web-based tools to assist local governments. Tools include the EFC Financial Dashboard, designed to give current and future financial status of water and wastewater systems. They also feature online training services for a variety of subjects.

Utility Finance Models and Financial Management Programs support water and wastewater infrastructure projects and long term planning efforts.



Conferences and Workshops enlighten and train people on a range of topics including water and wastewater treatment, brownfields redevelopment finance, environmental technology, watershed finance, and more.



DESCRIPTIONS OF SELECTED PROJECTS

Since 1992 the EFCN has promoted sustainable community development throughout the United States. The following are a selection of EFCN projects from seven priority areas.

TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

New Regional Framework for Land Conservation in the 21st Century. Chaired and facilitated the work of the Commission on Land Conservation (CLC) to promote five closely-related and region-wide national demonstration projects.

Energy Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities. Recognizing the rising costs and demands for energy by water and wastewater utilities and resulting climate change implications, an initiative was created to assist in providing training and resources for communities to develop long-term energy management plans.

WORKING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands Sustainable Materials Management.

Facilitated a partnership for the Puerto Rico Recycling Partnership and a similar group in the U.S. Virgin Islands to promote waste reduction, reuse, recycling and clean composting. The intent was to educate the public and ensure effective implementation.



IMPROVING AIR QUALITY

Port of Baltimore Clean Diesel Program. The Clean Diesel Program was created for the Port of Baltimore to reduce diesel emissions and improve air quality. The group provided grants for the retrofit, repower, or replacement of dray trucks, cargo handling equipment, locomotives, and harbor craft.

ADVANCING CHEMICAL SAFETY EFFORTS

Greening Personal Care and Cleaning Products. Addressing the danger of chemical exposure to consumers and workers, a multi-stakeholder meeting was held to discuss a shared vision of a safe and environmentally sustainable nail salon products industry.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER NETWORK

For assistance or more information, contact the Center in your region.

Region 1 University of Southern Maine
efc.muskie.usm.maine.edu

Region 2 Syracuse University
efc.syracusecoe.org/efc/

Region 3 University of Maryland
efc.umd.edu

Region 4 University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill
efc.unc.edu
University of Louisville
cepm.louisville.edu

Region 5 Cleveland State University
urban.csuohio.edu/glefc

Regions 6 & 8 New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology
nmeffc.nmt.edu

Region 7 Wichita State University
hws.wichita.edu/efc

Region 9 Dominican University of California
efc9.org

Region 10 Boise State University
efc.boisestate.edu/efc

PROMOTING GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Community Involvement in Environmental Decision-Making Technical Assistance.

Provided technical assistance on public involvement in environmental decision-making, utilizing their experience with land use planning, brownfields redevelopment, and climate action planning.



Local Government Asset Management.

Train and assist water and wastewater systems to move toward long-term sustainability by adopting an Asset Management approach. The goal is to operate in the most cost-effective way, while maintaining the desired level of service.

PROTECTING OUR WATERS

Southeast Regional Water Quality Assistance Network. Under the Targeted Watersheds Grants Program, a collaboration was formed with other organizations to work with community leaders, watersheds and other stakeholders to develop skills and implement practical tools to support watershed protection efforts.

NPDES Stormwater Regulations Training. Workshop and webcast training opportunities were created to help local governments, private contractors, and regional authorities comply with national stormwater regulations.

ACHIEVING TRIBAL SUSTAINABILITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Tribal Water and Wastewater Financing. Assistance was provided to tribal governments to identify alternative approaches to environmental financing for water and wastewater systems.

