



# SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

## ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK 2009/2010

The Southern New Hampshire Resource Conservation & Development Area Council (SNHRCD), is an independent, non-governmental, not for profit 501 (c) (3) corporation, whose purpose is to encourage and improve the capability of organizations, communities and civic leaders in Southern New Hampshire to plan and carry out activities that increase conservation of natural resources, support economic development, and enhance the environment and standard of living in local communities.

SNHRC&D, through its partnerships with federal, state and local organizations, helps communities, groups and individuals develop strategic approaches to natural resource conservation, sustainable community and economic growth, and human resource capital investment issues. SNHRC&D can provide access to a wide range of technical resources, as well as assist local groups in the development of funding strategies and location of funding sources.

RC&D councils proactively assess natural and human resource issues facing NH communities and create collaborative task teams to solve problems and create new opportunities. Communities, groups and individuals are urged to bring issues to the attention of the RC&D Councils.



*Citizen-led nonprofit councils working with USDA and others to improve  
natural and community resources*

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**GOAL: Encourage and support the sustainable use of the water resources of Southern New Hampshire.**

**NRCS Element(s):** Water Management

**Objectives:**

1. Assist with the protection/improvement of the quality and quantity of surface and ground water supplies.
2. Determine water quality and quantity needs.
3. Identify potential projects and partners.



**Strategy:** Facilitate the collaboration of southern NH County Conservation Districts with state and federal agencies and local communities to address water conservation needs.

**Actions taken to date:**

- Coordinator has been meeting with all conservation districts.
- Council member actively serving on committees of the NH Lakes Association.
- Council member actively serving on the City of Keene Invasive Species Control committee

**Project Partners:** NH Lakes Association, City of Keene, Keene State College

**Target Date:** Ongoing

**RC&D Coordinator:** Hollie Umphrey

**Coordinator Hours:** 40

**RC&D Staff:** Ann Bowes

**Staff Hours:** n/a

**Board Representative(s):** Jim Moore, Webb Palmer, Win Robinson, Bud Winsor

**Volunteer Hours:** 100

**Budget:** n/a

**GOAL: Support the sustainable use of the land resources of New Hampshire.**



**NRCS Element(s):**

**Primary:** Community and Economic Development

**Tertiary:** Water Management; Land Management; Land Conservation

**Scope:** Statewide

**Objectives:**

1. Improve access to and delivery of water supply for rural firefighting.
2. Fire safety education and outreach to NH municipal officials.

**Strategies:**

- a) Provide technical and/or administrative support to the NH Rural Fire Protection Initiative (NHRFPI) in the planning and completion of Rural Fire Water Resource Plans (RFWRP).
- b) Develop and disseminate a Rural Fire Quick Guide, a reference for communities and fire departments.
- c) Evaluate extent of woodland damage from the recent storms of the past several years to mitigate the threat of potential wildfires.

**Actions taken to date:**

- During 2009, the NHRFPI assisted 18 towns in total. Eleven completed town-wide RFWRP, which identify and prioritize improvements to the capacity of local fire departments to deliver water where and when it is needed most, and NHRFPI designed sixteen water drafting facilities, providing additional public safety to the towns. The NHRFPI is a joint project of the North Country and Southern NH RC&D Councils, with funding provided by NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management as well as cash and in-kind services from local communities across New Hampshire.
- Rural Fire Quick Guide development initiated and is in print production. Project is on target for completion by July 1, 2010.

**Project Partners:** North Country RC&D Area Council, NH Bureau of Emergency Management, NH Regional Planning Commissions, NH Division of Forests and Lands, FEMA, and participating towns. The RC&D's provide technical and administrative support to the NHRFPI.

Rural Fire Quick Guide contributors include NH Dept of Safety/Division of Fire Safety and Division of Fire Standards & Training, NH Dept of Resources & Economic Development/Division of Forests & Lands/Forest Protection Bureau, NH Department of Environmental Services/Wetlands Bureau, NH Forest Advisory Board and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Funding for reprint of the Rural Fire Resource Quick Guide was provided by the Robert P. Burroughs and Anna B. Stearns Funds of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, with additional financial support provided by the NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management office, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Layout and publishing provided by Nashua High School North Technology Center.

**Target Date:** NHRFPI: September 30, 2010 (current grant cycle) RFQG: July 1, 2010

**RC&D Coordinator:** Hollie Umphrey

**Coordinator Hours:** 40

**RC&D Staff:** Ann Bowes

**Staff Hours:** 384

**Board Representative(s):** Jim Moore

**Volunteer Hours:** 60

**Budget:** North Country RC&D Area is lead on this project and holds the project budget

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**GOAL: Increase availability of fresh locally grown food to Southern New Hampshire.**

**NRCS Element(s):**

**Primary:** Community and Economic Development

**Tertiary:** Land Management; Land Conservation

**Objectives:**

1. Under the leadership/guidance of the SNHRC&D council, establish The New Hampshire Community Gardening and Coalition Network (The Network) comprised of government officials, non-profit groups, faith based organizations, corporate sponsors, educational institutions, and individual citizens, with an emphasis on low income and underserved populations.
2. Improve food security through development of community and individual gardens which are accessible by alternate modes of transportation, e.g., walking or biking or public transportation.
3. Facilitate ongoing national efforts to ensure Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) coupons are accepted and used at farmers markets.



**Strategies:**

- a) Create an electronic listserv of members to facilitate communication.
- b) Organize and conduct meetings as required.
- c) Seek out additional garden space on public and private lands through the cooperation of city/town governments and local citizens/non-profits/faith based organizations.
- d) Conduct outreach and education to gardeners about soil testing for nutrient quality and management of detected environmental hazards, e.g., lead in urban soils.
- e) Develop processes to ensure gardens are self-sustaining and "best practices" are shared and hopefully institutionalized.
- f) Increase understanding and encourage use of season extension techniques, e.g., greenhouses, hoop houses and low tunnels, to improve food security beyond the short NH growing season.
- g) Encourage all community gardens to dedicate crop rows for local food pantries.
- h) Investigate feasibility of mobile food processing or shared kitchen facilities to use for training and preparation for long term food storage and value added opportunities.

**Actions Taken to Date:**

- The Network was initiated in 2009 and is ongoing, with one grant proposal submitted in 2010 using the RC&D Council as fiscal agent.
- A member of the Network submitted a large USDA grant proposal using the RC&D Council as a subcontractor.
- Multiple network meetings have been held in the past 12 months and more meetings are currently being planned.
- The electronic listserv has been activated and continues to grow.
- A collaborative low income production garden was initiated through an RC&D effort and is successfully operating.
- RC&D council members now partnering with local government officials to secure additional community gardens space and alternative transportation routes.
- Demonstrations and trainings of season extension techniques have been conducted through Network partnerships.
- The Bedford Greenhouse Project was kicked off and is a collaborative effort among many Network members for production of vegetable transplants for target low income gardens.
- USDA Outreach & Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers & Ranchers proposal submitted with Institute for Social & Economic Development for \$54000 over 3 years in collaboration with North Country and Patriot RC&Ds.

**Project Partners:** The International Institute, NH Catholic Charities, NH Food Bank, UNH Cooperative Extension, The Bedford Greenhouse Project, NH Audubon, City of Keene

**Target Date:** Ongoing **RC&D Coordinator:** Hollie Umphrey **Coordinator Hours:** 200 **RC&D Staff:** Ann Bowes **Staff Hours:** 192

**Board Representative(s):** Webb Palmer, Bob Spoerl, Bud Winsor **Volunteer Hours:** 120 **Budget:** \$2,000 (Allocation from NRCS)

**GOAL:** Assist new and existing small farms to achieve self-sustainability and preserve the rural character of Southern New Hampshire.



**NRCS Element(s):**

**Primary:** Community and Economic Development

**Tertiary:** Land Management; Land Conservation

**OBJECTIVE:** Create partnership opportunities to assist small farmers to develop business plans, value added products and marketing opportunities.

**STRATEGIES:**

1. Facilitate collaboration with agricultural organizations in New Hampshire.
2. Identify and reach out to farmers via SNH RC&D current program activity, e.g., the NH Farm Energy Initiative, and by maintaining a presence at farmers markets, CSA's, county agricultural fairs and trade shows, e.g., the Farm & Forest Expo, etc.

**Actions Taken to Date:**

- Facilitated the development of the NH Small and Beginner Farmers Association.
- Submitted multiple grant proposals.
- Developed an outreach campaign.
- NH RC&D Council members conducted seminars and staffed an information booth at the annual NH Farm and Forest Exposition.
- Participate in NH Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture

**Project Partners:** The NH Institute of Agriculture and Forestry, International Institute of NH, Small and Beginning Farmers of NH, Farm Fresh Collaborative, County Conservation Districts, UNH Cooperative Extension, USDA/FSA, NH Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture, Secondary School Agricultural Programs

**Target Date:** Ongoing

**RC&D Coordinator:** Hollie Umphrey

**Coordinator Hours:** 50

**RC&D Staff:** Ann Bowes

**Staff Hours:** 32

**Board Representative(s):** Teena Hayden, Gail Prince, Per Garp

**Volunteer Hours:** 50

**Budget:** n/a

**GOAL:** Facilitate reduction of plastic waste products from farms and marinas.

**NRCS Element(s):**

**Primary:** Water Management, Land Management

**Tertiary:** Land Conservation, Community and Economic Development

**Scope:** Statewide

**Objectives:**

1. Promote reuse and recycling of agricultural and marine plastics.
2. Explore potential economic opportunities from recycled plastics.

**Strategies:**

- a) Investigate potential collaboration with UNH Cooperative Extension, Keene State College, Cornell University, Massachusetts Technology Collaborative and other entities already working on this issue and seeking to expand into New Hampshire.
- b) Provide education and outreach for proper disposal/reuse.
- c) Research and disseminate BMP information.
- d) Explore feasibility of mobile recycling units and/or other methods for recycling Ag and Marine plastics.

**Actions Taken to Date:**

- SNH RC&D members attended an informational workshop: The Challenge of Recycling Ag Plastics in New Hampshire.
- Distribution of educational materials relative to recycling dairy and horticultural plastics.

**Target Date:** Ongoing

**RC&D Coordinator:** Hollie Umphrey

**Coordinator Hours:** 20

**RC&D Staff:** Ann Bowes

**Staff Hours:** 20

**Volunteer Hours:** 20

**Board Representative(s):** Bob Spoerl, Kerrie Diers, Jim Moore, Bud Winsor

**Budget:** n/a



**GOAL: Provide opportunities to increase energy efficiency in NH.**

**NRCS Element(s):**

**Primary:** Land Management

**Tertiary:** Community Development

**Scope:** Statewide

**OBJECTIVE:**

1. Reduce energy usage and find cost saving measures.
2. Explore viable renewable energy sources.
3. Increase the number of Technical Service Providers (TSP's) in New Hampshire.



**STRATEGIES:**

- a) Conduct 25 Farm energy audits.
- b) Provide education and outreach to NH farmers.
- c) Explore alternative and renewable energy resources for homes, businesses, and municipalities, including bio-fuels, wind, solar, wood, carbon trading, farming methods, e.g., no-till and soil preservation.
- d) Train farm energy data collectors to assist with farm energy audits.
- e) Direct interested parties to the USDA/NRCS TSP Program.

**Actions Taken to Date:**

- Secured a Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative grant and established the NH Farm Energy Initiative.
- Hired a Program Coordinator and Administrative Assistant to administer the program.
- Recruited farms for farm energy audits with 25 to be selected for audits.
- Planned statewide conferences and workshops to be held statewide.
- Conducted two conferences and multiple workshops across the state.
- Developed a substantial listserv to conduct outreach and provide information.
- Networked and partnered with area experts in renewable/alternative energy and best farming practices.

**Project Partners:** North Country Resource Conservation & Development, NH Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture, EnSave, Inc., NH Public Utilities Commission, UNH Cooperative Extension, Merrimack County Conservation District, Cheshire County Conservation District, the Northeast Organic Farming Association-NH.

**Target Date:** March 2011

**RC&D Coordinator:** Hollie Umphrey

**Coordinator Hours:** 100

**RC&D Staff:** Ann Bowes

**Staff Hours:** 291

**Board Representative(s):** Jim Moore, Win Robinson, Bob Spoerl, Webb Palmer

**Volunteer Hours:** 340

**Budget:** \$87,000 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative grant

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**GOAL: Increase the capacity of Southern NH RC&D Council to address area needs.**



**NRCS Element(s):**

**Primary:** Community and Economic Development

**Objective:** Strengthen the organizational capacity of the Council.

**Strategies:**

- a) Conduct a membership drive.
- b) Increase and diversify board members.
- c) Seek additional funding sources and fundraising opportunities.
- d) Hold capacity building workshops.
- e) Build the RC&D website.
- f) Expand community outreach and marketing.
- g) Leverage resources especially our best resource: our partners.
- h) Continually educate members and utilize BMP's.

**Actions Taken to Date:**

- Hired an Administrative Assistant (services are shared with North Country RC&D Area Council).
- Increased and diversified the Council by adding three new board members, two of whom are women.
- Established a membership committee.
- Improved website design, added social networking, e.g., Twitter.
- Expanded outreach utilizing local media, and built the Council listserv.
- Conducted seminars and staffed information booth/table at regional and statewide meetings and conferences.
- Sought out and established new relationships and partnerships with area organizations.
- Developed informational packets and brochures to better market SNH RC&D programs and services to constituents, potential members and funding sources.
- Council members attended Regional and National RC&D Conferences and National Leadership Conference.
- Council members met with and delivered legislative packets to the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation.

**Project Partners:** USDA/NRCS, North Country RC&D, NE Association of RC&D Councils, National Association of RC&D Councils, NH Foundation for Non-Profits, NH Charitable Foundation, NH County Conservation Districts, UNH Cooperative Extension and many others. Please see the SNHRCD Annual Report for complete list of partners.

**Target Date:** June 30, 2010

**RC&D Coordinator:** Hollie Umphrey

**Coordinator Hours:** 40

**RC&D Staff:** Ann Bowes

**Staff Hours:** 40

**Board Representative(s):** All

**Volunteer Hours:**

**Budget:** \$2750 (allocation from NRCS Cooperative Agreement)

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**GOAL: Promote diversity through civil rights awareness.**

**NRCS Element(s): Other**

**OBJECTIVE:**

1. Provide training to council members on their roles and responsibilities for program delivery that is free of discrimination.
2. Encourage recruitment of new council members from underserved populations.
3. Review memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Southern NH RC&D and NRCS.
4. Ensure that all services are provided without discrimination.
5. All printed materials clearly show non-discrimination statement.

**STRATEGIES:**

- a) Take advantage of trainings and literature on this topic offered by NRCS.
- b) Identify underserved populations and seek out potential board members from such groups.
- c) Review and update and/or develop policies and procedures that align with non-discrimination policy.
- d) All printed materials will include non-discrimination statement.



**Partners:** USDA/NRCS

**Actions Taken to Date:**

- All current, pertinent civil rights information is posted in a public area in the Council office.
- Added two women board members to the Council in 2009.
- Updated public documents and website to reflect current USDA non-discrimination statement.

**Target Date:** Ongoing

**RC&D Coordinator:** Hollie Umphrey

**Coordinator Hours:** 40

**RC&D Staff:** Ann Bowes

**Staff Hours:** 20

**Board Representative(s):** All

**Volunteer Hours:** n/a

**Budget:** n/a

The Southern NH RC&D, as a program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## **Linkage to the Foundation Goals of the NRCS Strategic Plan:**

### **High Quality Productive Soils**

GOAL: Increase the capacity of Southern NH RC&D Council to address area needs.

GOAL: Support the sustainable use of the land resources of Southern New Hampshire.

### **Clean and Abundant Water**

GOAL: Increase the capacity of Southern NH RC&D Council to address area needs.

GOAL: Encourage and support the sustainable use of the water resources of Southern New Hampshire.

### **Healthy Plant and Animal Communities**

GOAL: Increase the capacity of Southern NH RC&D Council to address area needs.

GOAL: Support the sustainable use of the land resources of Southern New Hampshire.

GOAL: Increase availability of fresh locally grown food to Southern New Hampshire.

GOAL: Assist new and existing small farms to achieve self-sustainability and preserve the rural character of Southern New Hampshire

GOAL: Facilitate reduction of plastic waste products from farms and marinas.

## **Linkage to the Venture Goals of the NRCS Strategic Plan:**

### **Clean Air**

GOAL: Increase the capacity of Southern NH RC&D Council to address area needs.

GOAL: Provide opportunities to increase energy efficiency in southern NH.

### **An Adequate Energy Supply**

GOAL: Increase the capacity of Southern NH RC&D Council to address area needs.

GOAL: Provide opportunities to increase energy efficiency in southern NH.

### **Working Farm and Ranch Lands**

GOAL: Increase the capacity of Southern NH RC&D Council to address area needs.

GOAL: Increase availability of fresh locally grown food to Southern New Hampshire.

GOAL: Assist new and existing small farms to achieve self-sustainability and preserve the rural character of Southern New Hampshire

GOAL: Facilitate reduction of plastic waste products from farms and marinas.

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

“The Southern NH RC&D Council agrees that the RC&D Program will be conducted in compliance with the non-discrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259) and other non-discrimination statutes; namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7CFR-15, Subparts A and B), which provide that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap/disability be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial (or technical) assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.”

The Southern NH RC&D Council agrees that the signing of this document constitutes agreement to comply with Federal laws concerning restrictions on lobbying, a drug-free workplace, and responsibilities for non-procurement, debarment and State review. Lobbying restrictions state that no more than 25% of the non-federal funds available to the Council, be used for expenses related to lobbying efforts.

The Southern NH RC&D Council hereby adopts this RC&D Annual Plan and agrees to effectively use the assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to realize the goals and objectives outlines herein.

**Southern NH RC&D Council**, State of New Hampshire

By \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
Chairman, Southern NH RC&D

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary/Treasurer

This action authorized at an official meeting of the Southern NH Resource Conservation and Development Area Board of Directors on \_\_\_\_\_.

**U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service**

The State Conservationist hereby acknowledges the attached Annual Plan of the Southern NH RC&D Council as meeting the requirements under Public Law 97-98 to receive assistance from the USDA.

Acknowledged by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
State Conservationist Date