Model Forest
POLICY PROGRAM
Climate Solutions University

Conservation Finance Resources

Resources from the Conservation Finance Network

What Is Conservation Finance?

Conservation can be broadly defined as the stewardship, protection and restoration of nature and the environmental services on which people depend. It encompasses a diverse set of subjects including forestry, agriculture, fresh water, open space, oceans and cities. The practice of conservation finance is far from new. In the United States, it dates back to the 1634 creation of the Boston Common, the first example in the English-speaking world in which a self-governing people taxed themselves to purchase open space for the provision of public and private benefits.

Conservation Finance Network Webinars

Conservation Finance Network Videos

Webinar recording: Introduction to Green Bonds

Environmental Finance Center at UNC

Green bonds have been touted as a key financial instrument able to fund the vast clean energy and sustainable infrastructure needs of corporations, cities, municipalities, and states. The green bond market has grown rapidly since its inception in 2008, and is expected to exceed $40 billion in 2015. Governments and public agencies in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Washington D.C., and Los Angeles, among others, have recently issued green bonds to fund a range of verified green projects.

What are green bonds? How do they differ from other environmental bonds and what is their potential to have a positive financial and environmental impact? Who can issue these bonds and what is the general process? This one hour webinar covered the basics of green bonds and how they may be able to fit into your environmental management strategy.

Payments for Ecosystem Services- Cases from the experience of U.S. communities

Key-Log Economics, LLC

Payments for Ecosystem Service, or PES programs are defined as “formal and informal contracts in which landowners are remunerated for managing their land to produce one or more ecosystem service, [and that involve] actual payments between at least one willing buyer and one willing seller to produce

or enhance a well-defined ecosystem service or bundle of services (Mercer, Cooley, & Hamilton, 2011, p. 1)." But what do PES programs look like in practice? How formal or informal does the payment mechanism need to be? And what ecosystem services (or ecosystem processes and benefits) are most amenable to these market based or market-like approaches to environmental problems?

Getting to Green: Paying for Green Infrastructure

A useful summary of the different types of funding sources, their advantages and disadvantages, and examples of several municipal programs that have employed them.

Environmental Finance Centers

To help communities consider funding and financing options, EPA has established a network of Environmental Finance Centers that provide communities with innovative solutions to help manage the costs of environmental protection programs and activities. Use the link below to find a center near you.

EPA Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center

The Water Finance Center is an information and assistance center, helping communities make informed decisions for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure to protect human health and the environment.

Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land helps state and local governments design, pass, and implement legislation and ballot measures that create new public funds for parks and land conservation.

Natural Resources Investment Center

The Natural Resources Investment Center will use market-based tools and innovative public-private collaborations to conserve natural resources, cultivate efficient water allocation, and promote increased investments in critical infrastructure in conjunction with Department of the Interior's conservation and stewardship mission. Its purpose is to increase investment in water conservation and build up water supply resilience, foster private investment to advance efficient permitting and facilitate meaningful conservation, and increase investment in critical water infrastructure.