2027 NH Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant Application

If you are filling out the application by hand, please make sure it is legible! All deliverables, materials, and content submitted hereunder must be original works created entirely through human effort. The utilization of generative artificial intelligence (AI), automated text-generation, or machine-learning tools to create any submitted work is strictly forbidden and will disqualify your application, AI may only be utilized for proof-reading and grammar purposes.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Title: _____ Amount Requested: _____

Total Budget: _____ Project Location: _____

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name (First and Last): _____

Applicant Farm: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Farm website or social media: _____

Have you ever applied to the NH Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, was your application successful? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you a limited resource farmer, beginning farmer, socially disadvantaged farm, and/or veteran farmer as defined by the USDA (view definitions here). If yes, please indicate below which USDA categories are applicable to you?

☐ Socially disadvantaged

☐ Low income

☐ Beginning farmer (started in last 10 years)

☐ Veteran farmer

Farm Location (Street Address, Town, State, and County):

_____

_____

Year Your Business Started: _____

Briefly Describe Your Product(s) or Service(s): _____

_____

_____

How did you hear about this opportunity? _____

_____

_____

Is there a conservation easement on this property? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, is the proposed work going to be completed within the conservation easement?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, has the easement holder been notified? ☐ Yes ☐ No

** Please attach a letter from the easement holder stating that the proposed work is not inconsistent with the deed language of the conservation easement.**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Please select a project focus area. If your project has more than one focus area, select all that apply:

☐ Soil Health

☐ Energy

☐ Water Management

☐ Crop and Livestock Protection – Integrated pest management and/or solutions for livestock heat stress

Please identify which metric(s) you will track during the grant period and report on in your final report. A minimum of one metric must be selected for a project to be eligible for funding. Please use one of the metrics below or provide your own metric if needed. Select all the metrics applicable to your project. If you are uncertain of the best metric for your project, please consult your technical service provider for their recommendation well in advance of the application deadline. If your project has multiple focus areas, please select trackable metrics for each focus area.

METRIC LIST

SOIL HEALTH PROJECTS

☐ Soil organic matter is anticipated to increase. Organic matter will be tested at the start of the project and at the conclusion of the project. Test results will be submitted in the final report.

☐ Anticipated reduction in tillage. Tillage will be tracked and reported based on a comparison of the prior year's tillage regime.

☐ Anticipated increase/reduction of inputs (compost, fertilizer, herbicides, etc.) Inputs will be tracked and reported based on a comparison of the prior year's inputs.

☐ Other, please specify:

_____

_____

_____

ENERGY PROJECTS

☐ Electricity usage is expected to decrease. Electricity usage (kilowatt-hour (kWh)) will be tracked and reported on through monthly electric bills in the final report.

☐ Renewable energy production will increase. Monthly generation (kilowatt-hour (kWh)) will be tracked and reported on in the final report.

☐ Other, please specify:

_____

_____

_____

WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

☐ Water usage is expected to decrease or be managed more efficiently. Water usage numbers before and after the project implementation will be tracked and shared in the final report.

☐ Other, please specify:

_____

_____

_____

CROP PROTECTION AND LIVESTOCK WELLBEING PROJECTS

☐ Pest damage is expected to decrease. Crop scouting and crop production numbers before and after the project implementation will be tracked and shared in the final report.

☐ Livestock wellbeing is expected to improve. For projects focused on heat stress, temperature readings (in barns and shade areas) will be tracked and shared in the final report.

☐ Other, please specify:

_____

_____

_____

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

Farms are encouraged to work with an Agricultural Service Provider (e.g. UNH Cooperative Extension Educator, Crop Advisor, USDA NRCS Conservation Planner, NHACD Planner, etc.,) as a Technical Advisor on project planning and implementation. If you are working with an Agricultural Service Provider for technical assistance on your project, please have them complete a Partnership Form and submit it with your application.

If you are not working with an Agricultural Service Provider, please share your plan on how you will effectively complete your proposed project in the questions below. Please outline the expertise and experience needed and who you will be working with to provide it.

If you are not working with a service provider and would like to, please contact your County Conservation District for a referral, and they will connect you with one.

It is recommended that you reach out to any TSP at least three weeks before submitting this application so they have adequate time to review the project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Please answer the following questions (1-13) in 1,000-2,500 words total in this question format. Please do not use a separate narrative and include as much detail as possible when answering each question.

1. Please describe your project.

2. What are the project's goals? *(Clearly state your desired outcomes)*

3. How did you determine that this project was a priority for this application? In other words, why did this project make it to the top of your list? (Applicants are encouraged to utilize the Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Planning Tool to best identify projects that meet their farm's most pressing climate resilience needs).

4. What are the tasks and timeline of the project? *(Clearly define what will be done, how it will be done, who will do it and when it will be done)*

5. How will this project improve your farm's ability to mitigate or adapt to climate change?

6. How will this project benefit your farm? *(Include specific and measurable benefits)*

7. Please describe the capacity of your farm to complete the project. Who will be responsible? Please use names and relevant experience where applicable.

8. What technical assistance do you anticipate needing to ensure that this project is successful?

9. Will you be willing to work with your Conservation District to make the public aware of the project (e.g. press, social media, community events, hosting a farm tour, etc.)? Please explain your level of interest and how you may like to partner.

10. How will you educate other farmers on the benefit of the project?

11. What is your plan for covering ongoing costs after the grant is completed? What is your plan to ensure the sustainability of your project?

12. How/when will you know you're successful? What metrics and targets will you use? *(If you have existing baseline data i.e. water usage, electrical bills, soil testing results, please attach it to this application)*

13. Have you applied for funding from USDA NRCS for this project? Please explain why or why not?

14. If you applied to NRCS, was this project selected for funding? If yes, please explain why you need additional funding to move the project forward. If not, please indicate here.

PROJECT BUDGET

1. Amount Requested ($100 - $10,000):

2. How much money is needed in total to complete the proposed project?

3. If your farm receives funding, how do you plan to pay for remaining expenses? Please explain the source and status of the other funds (e.g. are they secured?)

REMINDER - Farms are responsible for a minimum of 25% of project costs. This can include in-kind time and equipment use of the farm and should be tracked. Please use the rates listed in the In-Kind Contribution Tracking Form. This form should be used to track time if awarded a grant.

Please summarize your project costs on the table below. Include any costs covered by the farm applicant, costs requested from the grant fund, and funds contributed from other sources. Indicate in the designated column which expenses the applicant will cover, which expenses will be covered by other sources (if any), and which expenses you request from the grant fund.

Please include vendor quotes when applicable to help demonstrate the accuracy of your budget.

Allowable expenses: Practice implementation costs, materials costs, architectural, land planning, and/or engineering services, other direct expenses, equipment (all equipment purchased through grant funds must be new and under product warranty), technical assistance, consultant and legal services

Expenses not allowed: Advertising, research and feasibility studies, efforts that will not lead to increased climate resiliency, and experimental projects. Farm staff time and/or equipment use can be used as a match but is not an allowed expense for the grant funds.

BUDGET TABLE

In the table below, please provide an itemized budget and references. In the budget justification section, please provide a detailed overview of your budget (for example, rather than writing "supplies," provide a detailed justification of anticipated supplies and estimated cost).

Budget Item	***Total Amount***	*Grant Request*	*Applicant Costs*	*Other (ex. NRCS funding)*
Supplies				
Contractors				
Other				
TOTAL EXPENSES				

Please provide a budget justification narrative:

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

All applicants must include the following attachments as applicable:

- A map (topographic or aerial) with the project location identified (maps can be retrieved through Google Maps)
- A preliminary design or plan (as applicable)
- A quote or estimate from a contractor or vendor (as applicable)
- Clear photos of the project site
- If your farm has employees that will be involved in the project, statutory workers' compensation and employees' liability insurance are required
- If you are working with a technical service provider and would like to note this in your application, please submit a filled out technical service provider form
- If there is a conservation easement on your property, please attach a letter from the easement holder stating that the proposed work is not inconsistent with the deed language of the conservation easement.

Further questions and/or references may be requested upon committee review.

Thank you!

By submitting this application, if approved, you give permission to the NH Conservation Districts to announce the grant award through area media sources and publicize your organization as a recipient of the New Hampshire Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant in promotional material.

Grants are expected to be used for their stated purpose by the end of the grant period; if necessary, grantees may request an extension of the grant period or return unused funds.

Please submit your application and application related inquiries directly to your respective county by 2/1/2027.

The proposal can be submitted digitally (preferred) or by hard copy in the mail to County Conservation District staff. Applications must be postmarked by the due date. Handwritten applications should be in clear and legible writing.

Please email or mail your completed proposals to Laura Sokoloski, Grafton County Conservation District.

A. Proposals Mailed to:
Grafton County Conservation District
P.O. Box 64
North Haverhill, NH 03766

B. Contact Info:
lsokoloski@graftoncountynh.gov
603-787-6973