



# Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council

"HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND SINCE 1973"

## Background of the Resource Conservation & Development Program

The Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D) was developed based on the premise that local people, working together, can identify and solve problems and realize opportunities that will enhance the quality of life in their area. RC&D Area Plans are designed to direct Federal, State, and local resources toward accomplishing the purpose and intent of the RC&D Program consistent with opportunities and needs identified in the RC&D planning process.

RC&D operates at local, State, regional, and national levels to accomplish the program elements of land conservation, water management, community development, and land management. Responsible program implementation requires that all functional levels (Area, State and national) of the RC&D Program develop plans to direct resources so that program purposes will be accomplished in each of the designated RC&D Areas.

## The Rhode Island RC&D Area Council

The Rhode Island Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 corporation that initiates, assists, and carries out long-range programs of resource conservation and development.

Formed in 1973, the Council is a structured partnership between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and local sponsors that serves the entire state of Rhode Island. The twelve (12) members of the Council are representatives of its sponsors: the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), the Rhode Island Department of Administration Statewide Planning Office, the Eastern Rhode Island

Conservation District, the Northern Rhode Island Conservation District, the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District, the Coastal Resources Management Council, the Narragansett Indian Tribe and one (1) Member-at-Large.

This partnership utilizes a locally led process that identifies and addresses natural resource and human concerns. The Council focuses on programs and projects that benefit the economic situation of Rhode Islanders by implementing programs and projects that stimulate the economy and enhance the wise use of renewable natural resources. The Council partners with other USDA Agencies such as: The USDA Farm Service Agency, Forest Service, and Rural Development.

### Our Vision

Conservation partners working together to foster economic improvements that respect the natural and built environment within Rhode Island

### Our Mission

Building partnerships to balance economic development and natural resource conservation.

### Program Focus

- Land Conservation
- Land Management
- Water Resources
- Community Development



## Board of Directors

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## Guiding Principals

The Council's Area Plan lists the goals and objectives along with a number of projects that will be undertaken over the next five years. Public Law 107-171 defines the strategies of the RC&D Program and lists four principal elements that an area plan must address. These elements are **Land Conservation, Water Management, Community Development, and Land Management.**

108- **Land Conservation** is defined as the control of erosion and sedimentation.

109- **Land Management** is defined in statute as conservation that includes the production of energy crops; the protection of agricultural land as appropriate from the conversion to other uses; farmland protection; and the protection of fish and wildlife habitats.

110- **Water Management** is defined in statute as the conservation, use, and quality of water, including irrigation and rural water supplies; the mitigation of floods and high water tables; the repair and improvement of reservoirs; the improvement of agricultural water management; and the improvement of water quality.

111- **Community Development** is the development of resource-based industries; the protection of rural industries from natural resource hazards; the development of adequate rural water and waste disposal systems; the improvement of recreation facilities; improvement of rural housing; the provision of adequate health and education facilities; the satisfaction of essential transportation and communication needs; and the promotion of food security, economic development, and education.

*"Rhode Island has a rich tradition and commitment to the conservation of natural resources. We believe that the use of both traditional and non-traditional partnerships has resulted in effective conservation."*  
*Harriet Powell, President, RIRC&D*

### RI RC&D Conservation Partners



*RI RC&D is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer*