



Sustainable Communities Grant Program Funded by Delmarva Power

2026 Request for Proposals

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Sustainable Communities Grant Program

Funded by Delmarva Power

Announcement Date: Thursday, April 30, 2026
Application Due Date: Tuesday, June 30th, 2026
Questions: Email grants@delnature.org

Overview

Delmarva Power values the environment and is always working toward delivering a cleaner, brighter future for the communities it serves. That is why it is contributing another \$55,000 to support community environmental stewardship and resiliency projects in its service territory. With this contribution, Delmarva Power will have provided more than \$375,000 in funding for the Sustainable Communities Grant Program.

The Sustainable Communities Grant Program supports open space preservation and climate resiliency initiatives across Delaware and Maryland, an important component of Delmarva Power's long-term commitment to helping the states achieve their clean energy and climate goals. In addition to empowering customers and communities to lower their carbon footprint, Delmarva Power is reducing its own operations-driven emissions in alignment with Exelon's Path to Clean goal, which targets a 50% reduction in operational emissions by 2030 and net-zero operations by 2050.

The **Environmental Stewardship Grants** are intended to help municipalities and nonprofits plan for, protect, and improve public spaces such as local parks, natural areas, and recreation resources. In addition, grants can be used in combination with other funding sources to cover a portion of the expenses associated with developing and/or supporting their open space programs not otherwise covered by state or county programs.

The **Community Resiliency Grants** will be awarded for projects that enhance the capacity of municipalities and nonprofits to prevent and respond to catastrophic events and emergencies.

Applications are due by **Tuesday, June 30, 2026**. All applications must be submitted to the following email: grants@delnature.org

The grants will have a 12-month performance period. Notification of grant awards will be made by September. A grant announcement event will be held in September. A final grant report will be due on **September 31, 2027**.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be considered for an award.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Projects already underway or completed are not eligible for funding. Funding cannot be used to reimburse municipalities and nonprofits who have already spent funds on the proposed project. It can be used for project expansions that have not yet been funded or “phase 2” of a previous project.

Standard Eligibility Rules

To be eligible to apply for a grant in this cycle, the following requirements must be met:

- Projects must be located within the Delmarva Power service territory (page 11)
- For non-profits:
 - Must show proof of 501(c)3 status
 - Can be located outside the Delmarva Power service area so long as the project presented serves communities located in the territory

Limitations on the Number of Application Submissions

In a given year, an applicant is eligible to apply for **one** Environmental Stewardship Grant and one Community Resiliency Grant. **However, only one grant will be awarded.** Organizations may **not** receive grant awards for more than two consecutive years.

Use of Grant Funding

Matching or in-kind contributions (including volunteer time) are encouraged, but not required. Funding can be passed through to a nonprofit, partner organization, or contractor, but the awarded applicant will be responsible for the reporting requirements. Checks will be made payable to the primary applicant and sent to its fiscal agent.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Awards will not be made for general operating funds of an organization, however, up to 15% of a project budget may be used for indirect costs associated with managing the project (e.g., maintenance of space used for project, administrative personnel, IT services, security costs, insurance, legal fees, utilities, etc.).

Environmental Stewardship Grants

Awards up to \$10,000

Open space is a vital factor in quality of life in Delaware and Maryland. With both states facing an increased number and worsening of climate stressors, continued protection and enhancement of natural areas is a critical priority in building resilient communities.

These projects will enhance resiliency in the region by stewarding open space and protected lands that improve water quality, reduce urban heat island effects, and provide critical social benefits such as public health, a sense of place, and community connections.

Projects should align with existing climate resiliency strategies, land management plans, or emergency planning efforts such as the Delaware Climate Action Plan, Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, the Eastern Shore Climate Adaptation Partnership (ESCAP), and the Delaware Resilient and Sustainable Communities League (RASCL).

Eligible activities can include: conservation; pollution prevention; community engagement; developing or updating open space plans; improving applicant-owned open spaces such as meadows, woodlands, and riparian buffers or capital improvements for passive recreation such as installing recreation trails, boardwalks, informational kiosks, and observation platforms; acquisition of parcels of land to be used for open space; and acquisition of conservation easements.

Community Resiliency Grants

Awards up to \$25,000

While our region is celebrated for their rich diversity, many communities within these states continue to experience socioeconomic disparities that limit access to environmental and social benefits, such as cleaner air and cooler neighborhoods. These projects aim to produce innovative solutions that provide safe and reliable resources to communities, minimizing environmental impacts during emergencies. Projects should align with local or regional resiliency or emergency planning efforts.

Eligible activities include implementation of strategies to minimize the impact of severe weather events, natural disasters or other emergencies impacting the environment; emergency operations planning, training, and community outreach; and purchase of supplies and equipment needed to respond to emergencies including energy storage and stationary or mobile solar.

Grant Application

If you plan on submitting an application for both a Community Resiliency and an Environmental Stewardship grant, you will need to submit two separate grant applications.

Applications must be submitted via email by **11:59 PM on Tuesday, June 30, 2026** to **grants@delnature.org**. All proposals should be submitted digitally- no printed proposals will be accepted. Preferred submission formats are PDF or Word documents. In the **subject line of the email, please include your organization name and Sustainable Communities Grant Program 2026**.

If you do not receive an email from DelNature confirming receipt of your application within one week of submission, please contact candy@delnature.org.

In both categories, projects that leverage additional funds will be considered favorably. Projects may begin September 1, 2026 and are expected to be completed September 30, 2027.

Please note that for municipalities, the primary contact must be a municipal staff member or an elected/appointed official. For nonprofits, it must be a staff member. If a consultant is responsible for completing the grant application, they should submit the application under the name of the primary organization contact and include their own name and business.

Delmarva Power Grant Proposal

Please include the following information in your requested grant - type (Community Resiliency or Environmental Stewardship), funding amount (up to \$10,000 or \$25,000, depending on the grant type), and information on the proposed grant project.

I. Grant Type and Requested Funding Amount

State the grant type and funding amount for which you are applying.

Which type of grant are you applying for? (Choose One)

- Environmental Stewardship Grant - up to \$10,000
- Community Resiliency Grant – up to \$25,000

II. Applicant Information

Include the applicant type to provide information on the municipality or nonprofit organization applying for the grant.

Which type of applicant are you? (Choose One)

- Municipal
 - Municipality name
 - County
 - Employer Identification Number (EIN) without dashes.

- Nonprofit Organization
 - Organization name and address
 - Employer Identification Number (EIN)
 - Please include the following documents:
 - List of board of directors
 - Proof of 501(c)3 status
 - Most recently available audited financial statements (or equivalent)

III. Application Contacts

All application contacts will be notified once a final decision on the grant application is made. Provide the name, title, phone number, phone extension number (if applicable), and email address for the main contact, consultant (if applicable), plus each of the following:

- Mayor or Executive Director
- Fiscal - The fiscal contact must be a person authorized to manage official funds. Please also provide the mailing address of your business office, if applicable
- Media (Optional)-The person responsible for the promotion of your project to the community and news outlets.

IV. Grant Proposal

The applicant must provide the following information about the project:

- **Project Title**
- **Brief Description (300-word limit):** The description should be concise and focus on the specific effort that the grant will be used to support. This description will be used in program reports and communications materials.
- **Project Goals and Measurable Outcomes**
- **Key Audiences and/or Partners:** Identify key audience and partners.
- **Project Team:** List of the key people who will be involved in completing the proposed project, including each person's name, organization, position (title), and other experience relevant to completing the project.
- **Alignment with Local or Regional Plans**

- **Action Plan and Timeline:**

Describe the specific steps your team will take to complete the proposed project and identify the estimated target completion date for each step to ensure the project can be accomplished by the end of the grant performance period (12 months). Please include:

- Project planning
- Implementation
- Community engagement
- Promotional activities
- Ribbon cutting ceremonies or milestone events
- Evaluation

- **Community Engagement:**

Describe how the proposed project will leverage collaborations between community members including staff, residents, and representatives from community-based organizations (i.e., green teams, municipal and county agencies, civic or community-based organizations, nonprofits, professional organizations and local businesses). Also include plans for sharing information on the project with the greater community. This can include plans to hold a “ribbon-cutting” ceremony, create project signage, give presentations to the governing body, distribute printed communications, create website content, and create social media postings. Promotion of the grant should include both the DelmarvaPower and Delaware Nature Society logos and both should be tagged in social media posts.

- **Evaluation:**

This grant does not require a rigorous or formal evaluation process however, grant recipients are expected to report on specific and/or measurable results or outcomes and other non-quantifiable impacts on the community. Estimate who (staff, residents, etc.) and how many will benefit from the proposed project.

V. Budget Narrative and Detailed Project Budget

- **Budget Narrative:** Provide a brief budget narrative explaining what the grant funds will be used for and detailed justifications explaining how each cost supports the project’s objectives.

- **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Only eligible expenses can be paid for using grant funding. Awards will not be made for general operating funds, but up to 15% of a project budget may be used for indirect costs associated with managing the project (e.g., maintenance of space used for project, administrative personnel, IT services, security costs, insurance, legal fees, utilities, etc.).

Other eligible grant expenses vary depending on project type and can include:

- Professional service fees
- Costs associated with implementing public outreach and education efforts such as meeting space rental, advertising, printing
- Materials, equipment, and supplies
- Expenses that support the acquisition (by purchase or donation) of open space or conservation easements such as land cost, development rights, legal or consultant fees, surveying, environmental assessments, appraisals, etc.

- **Project Budget Spreadsheet:** A project budget is required. The budget should clearly outline all anticipated expenses necessary to complete the proposed work, organized into logical categories such as personnel (salaries, wages, and benefits), equipment, supplies, travel, and contractual services. Any matching funds or in-kind contributions should be identified, and the budget should align closely with the project timeline and activities to demonstrate feasibility and responsible financial planning.

- **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

In-kind contributions or matching funds are not required but do help demonstrate an applicant's commitment to a project. Sources of matching funds can include municipal funding, other grant funds, or in-kind contributions such as non-cash donations, staff time, and volunteer time. If using another grant to fund part of your project, the status of the grant award should be clear in the application. Projects where its completion is contingent upon receiving uncommitted funding will not be viewed favorably by the selection committee.

VI. Optional Information

Applicants are encouraged to include letters of commitment and/or letters of support from project partners that will participate in the proposed project and/or organizations or community members that will benefit from it. Additional files can be included to provide more detailed project information, such as surveys or other data supporting the need for the project.

If you plan on submitting an application for both a Community Resiliency and an Environmental Stewardship grant, you will need to submit two separate grant applications.

Applications must be submitted via email to grants@delnature.org by 11:59 PM on **Tuesday, June 30th, 2026.**

Selection Process

Applicants may submit one proposal for the Environmental Stewardship Grant **AND** one Community Resiliency Grant. However, only one grant will be awarded. The selection committee will evaluate applications that meet the grant eligibility requirements based on criteria listed on page 13. Delaware Nature Society reserves the right to reallocate the funding based on the quality and quantity of grant applications received. The selection committee will also consider the needs of the community and the distribution of grants throughout the Delmarva Power service territory.

Grant Awards and Additional Terms

Grant Awards

Applicants selected to receive a grant will be notified through their designated contacts. Grant awards will be announced by **September** and a grant announcement event will be held in the fall.

Additional Terms

Project Promotion and Recognition:

All grant recipients are expected to publicly acknowledge both **Delmarva Power** and **Delaware Nature Society** program in any materials produced with grant funds. This includes reports, printed communications, website content, and social media posts. Logos for both funders should be included where appropriate, and social media promotion should use the hashtag #sustainablecommunities. Copies of any materials that include this recognition must be submitted with the final grant report.

Throughout the grant period, recipients may be asked to participate in press events or be quoted in program-related communications produced by Delmarva Power. **Grantees must also notify Delaware Nature Society of any ribbon-cutting ceremonies or key project milestones, so media outreach can be coordinated.** These events are intended to celebrate the success of the project and highlight the impact of the funding partnership.

If a ribbon-cutting ceremony is not appropriate for your project, other forms of public recognition—such as presenting at community meetings or sharing updates online—are encouraged. Working with your organization’s media or communications contact can help ensure broad visibility and community engagement.

Project Photos: All grant recipients are required to submit at least **THREE** photographs of the funded project or related activities as part of the final report. Whenever possible, these should feature community members. Delmarva Power and Delaware Nature Society may use submitted images in future communications, reports, or presentations.

Grant Recipient Reporting Requirements

Grantees will be required to complete a final report. Reminders will be emailed to the primary project contact at least 30 days in advance of the reporting submission deadline.

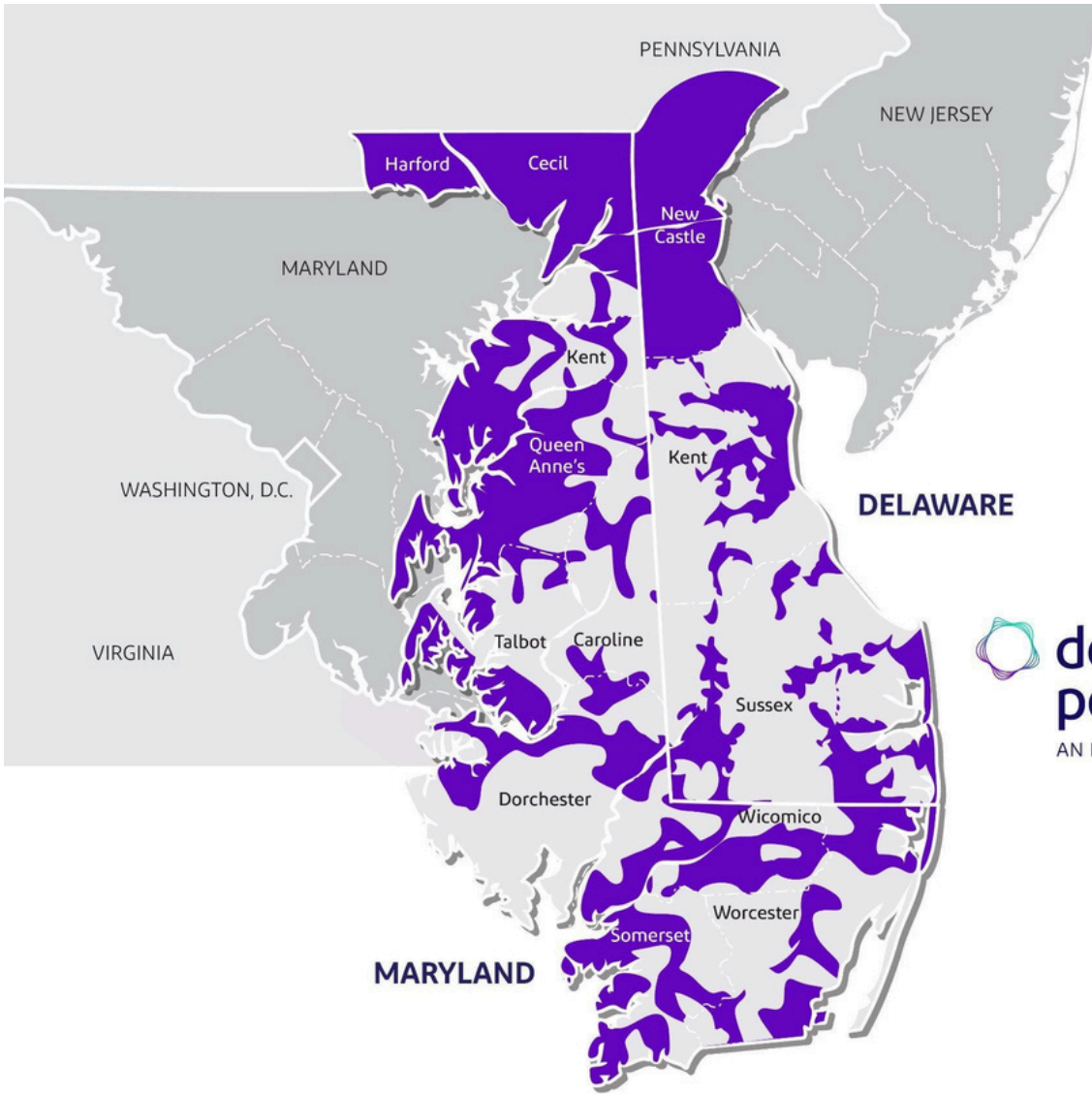
Final Report (Due September 1, 2027): Document completion of the project described in the original application. For a project to be considered complete all funds must be spent and all activities listed in the application must be completed.

Recipients will be asked to provide:

- A project summary and lessons learned
- Describe the impact of the grant on the community
- A summary of community outreach efforts
- At least **THREE** photographs
- Documentation that Delmarva Power and Delaware Nature Society were acknowledged in promotional materials and signage
- Project Budget and supporting documentation

Failure to submit the required documentation will result in the grantee being ineligible to apply for future Delaware Nature Society grants.

Delmarva Power Service Territory



The following zip codes are eligible to apply for a Delmarva Power Sustainable Communities Grant:

01845	17538	19708	19934	20120	21015	21234	21658	21824	21917	34134
03580	17601	19709	19935	20121	21034	21286	21659	21825	21918	38124
05731	17602	19710	19936	20191	21035	21361	21660	21826	21919	40217
06484	17837	19711	19937	20603	21037	21482	21661	21829	21920	43218
06770	17850	19712	19938	20607	21040	21601	21663	21830	21921	44133
07032	18049	19713	19939	20634	21042	21607	21664	21836	21922	44634
07036	18701	19714	19940	20639	21043	21609	21665	21837	21927	45458
07728	18702	19715	19941	20646	21045	21610	21666	21838	21929	46545
07828	18706	19716	19942	20705	21047	21612	21667	21840	21930	54449
08034	19001	19717	19943	20707	21053	21613	21668	21841	22003	55616
08037	19003	19718	19944	20708	21054	21617	21670	21842	22015	58506
08096	19008	19720	19945	20720	21060	21619	21671	21843	22031	60201
08234	19061	19721	19946	20723	21061	21620	21673	21849	22043	75007
08701	19073	19726	19947	20740	21078	21622	21676	21850	22066	75265
10017	19079	19730	19950	20744	21084	21623	21677	21851	22101	77210
10025	19082	19731	19951	20770	21085	21624	21678	21852	22183	77493
10583	19101	19732	19952	20781	21090	21625	21679	21853	22185	78257
10702	19103	19733	19953	20784	21093	21626	21685	21856	22205	80503
10709	19119	19734	19954	20814	21104	21628	21701	21857	22207	84121
10962	19135	19735	19955	20815	21111	21629	21713	21861	22314	85732
11418	19152	19736	19956	20816	21114	21631	21723	21862	23314	89129
11755	19312	19745	19958	20817	21117	21632	21738	21863	23831	90064
11940	19317	19801	19960	20832	21122	21633	21742	21864	27527	92071
12414	19320	19802	19962	20833	21123	21635	21757	21865	27588	92110
12518	19335	19803	19963	20850	21128	21636	21776	21867	27615	97208
12628	19339	19804	19964	20852	21132	21638	21782	21869	28142	99210
14850	19342	19805	19965	20853	21140	21639	21784	21870	28236	
15236	19348	19806	19966	20854	21144	21640	21801	21871	28237	
15317	19350	19807	19967	20866	21146	21641	21802	21872	28806	
17003	19352	19808	19968	20871	21154	21643	21803	21874	29210	
17018	19362	19809	19970	20878	21160	21644	21804	21875	30107	
17111	19363	19810	19971	20882	21161	21645	21808	21890	31601	
17241	19365	19850	19973	20895	21163	21647	21810	21901	32937	
17257	19382	19884	19974	20901	21201	21648	21811	21902	33024	
17309	19422	19897	19975	20903	21202	21649	21813	21903	33308	
17331	19428	19899	19977	20904	21219	21650	21814	21904	33418	
17356	19558	19901	19979	20906	21220	21651	21816	21911	33487	
17370	19701	19902	19980	20912	21221	21652	21817	21912	33706	
17402	19702	19904	20001	21001	21222	21654	21818	21913	33917	
17405	19703	19930	20007	21009	21224	21655	21820	21914	33953	
17517	19706	19931	20009	21013	21227	21656	21821	21915	34105	
17522	19707	19933	20016	21014	21229	21657	21822	21916	34106	

Grant Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Applications meeting eligibility requirements will be evaluated using the criteria below:

<p>Project Description (10 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The description concisely summarizes the specific project to be funded by the grant award
<p>Project Goals and Measurable Outcomes (15 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals have been well defined • Deliverables are clear • Measurable outcomes have been well articulated
<p>Alignment with Local and/or Regional Plans (5 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal describes how project will align with local and regional plan and/or existing efforts
<p>Project Team Members (10 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The designated project team appears qualified to undertake the proposed project • The project team includes representation from municipal and community stakeholder groups that will be involved in or impacted by the implementation of the proposed project
<p>Action Plan & Timeline (15 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed project action plan addresses the steps needed to successfully complete the project • Target completion dates are realistic and will enable the project to be completed within the 12-month performance period • Events where the grant will be promoted, such as a ribbon cutting ceremony, and materials will be distributed are identified
<p>Community Engagement and Key Audiences (10 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed project will capitalize on collaborations between community stakeholders including representatives from the schools, municipal and county agencies, civic or community based organizations, nonprofits, professional organizations and local businesses. • Details on how the project will be shared with the community are included • Engages organizations led by and primarily serving communities of color and other underrepresented communities.
<p>Project Impact and Evaluation (20 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed project will address the community need identified in the proposal • The project will preserve, protect, and improve public spaces designated as open space or used for passive recreation or contribute to a more resilient community • Some consideration has been given to how this project will be evaluated over time
<p>Budget (15 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Budget Narrative clearly summarizes project expenses and identifies all the sources of funding needed to complete the proposed project, including in-kind contributions such as volunteer hours • The project leverages no or low-cost resources to cost-effectively complete the proposed project • It is clear that all additional funding besides the grant is in-hand or committed • The detailed project budget is consistent with the Budget Narrative and clearly identifies the eligible project expenses that will be billed to the grant • The budget is realistic, costs are justified and resource contributions, including in-kind, have a reasonable value