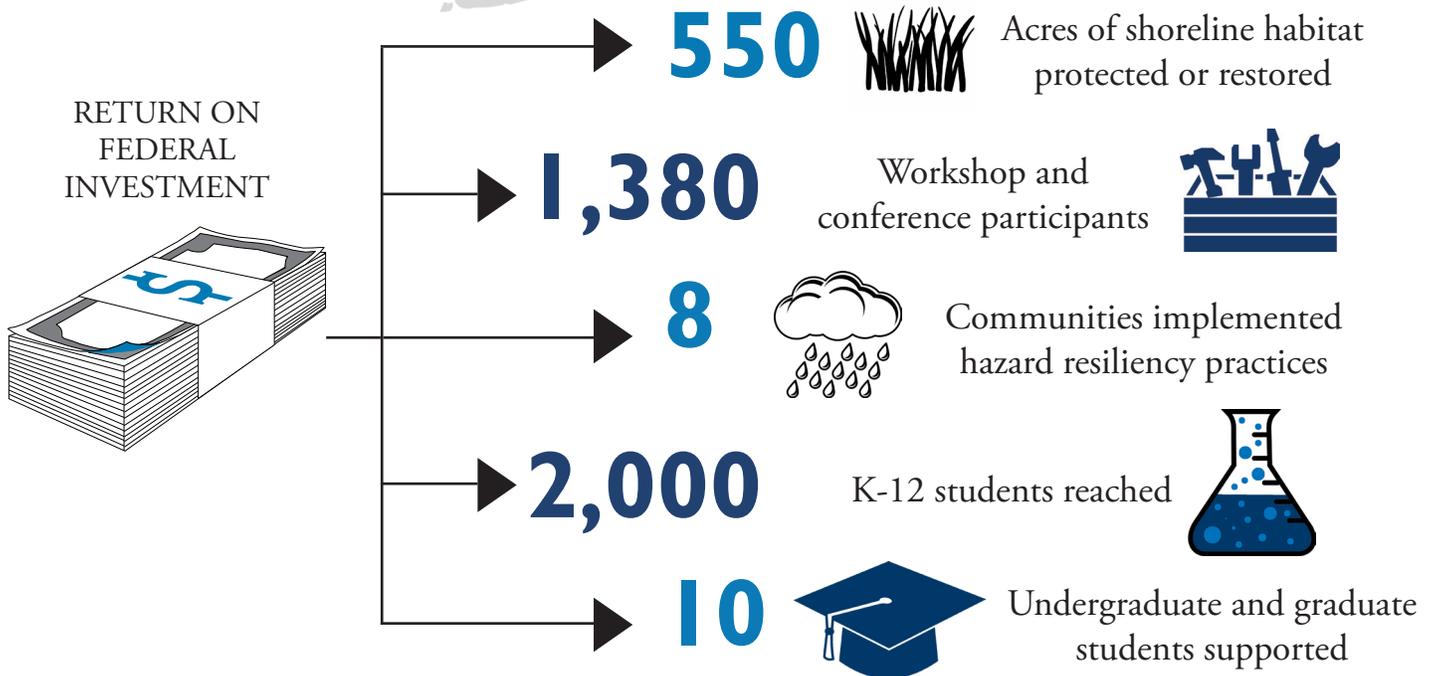


# LAKE CHAMPLAIN SEA GRANT



*Metrics reported to National Office in June 2016 for work completed Feb 2015 to Jan 2016.*

## Lake Champlain Sea Grant helps residents stay “Ahead of the Storm”

**“I’ve had trouble with stormwater runoff and erosion on my property for years. I’m so glad to have a solution that will set an example for others and contribute to a cleaner lake!”**

- Demonstration site property owner

Land erosion, nutrient loads and flow alteration have directly impacted water quality in local streams and in Lake Champlain. Lake Champlain Sea Grant assists “Ahead of the Storm,” a tri-town collaborative within three adjacent watershed regions, by helping design stormwater runoff mitigation plans, disseminating information about site assessment and design processes, and providing speakers for community education workshops. Members of “Ahead of the Storm” include stakeholders from municipalities, public and private property owners, local watershed groups, educational, civic and faith institutions, and State and County government.

[uvm.edu/seagrant/hazard-resiliency](http://uvm.edu/seagrant/hazard-resiliency)



Watershed Alliance educator engages a group of curious students. Credit: Lake Champlain Sea Grant

**“[Sea Grant Watershed Alliance Programs] are an excellent opportunity for student hands-on study of Lake Champlain: the water, the animals, the land and the human connection to the entire basin.”**

- Anne Friedrichs,  
Mt. Abraham Union High School

## **Innovative trainings improve watershed literacy in the classroom**

The University of Vermont Watershed Alliance is an extension program that partners with Lake Champlain Sea Grant to provide innovative, hands-on watershed education for K-12 students in Vermont. With funding from a NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training grant, the Watershed Alliance program supported the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum with developing river and lake-centered curriculum.

In 2015, The Watershed Alliance and the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum coordinated three teacher trainings for over 15 formal and non-formal educators from Vermont and New York. These trainings included presentations from professionals on topics ranging from aquatic invasive species, fish identification, wetland and wildlife management, pond, river and lake ecology and riparian corridor assessment. [uvm.edu/seagrant/aquatic-science-literacy](http://uvm.edu/seagrant/aquatic-science-literacy)

## **Green is the new gray when it comes to stormwater infrastructure**

In 2011, communities along the coast of Lake Champlain were devastated with flooding following repeated storm events, combined with spring snowmelt. Stormwater runoff from developed land can be a significant concern for local waterbodies. To deal with these concerns, Lake Champlain Sea Grant researchers began researching the use of “green” stormwater infrastructure.

Lake Champlain Sea Grant explored one method of green infrastructure called “bioretention,” which uses vegetation and soil to manage and treat stormwater runoff. Results have shown that bioretention removes excess nutrients responsible for increased algae growth (nitrogen and phosphorous), as well as reduces flash flooding, as bioretention infrastructure can slow the speed of stormwater into nearby streams. [uvm.edu/seagrant/GI-bike-map](http://uvm.edu/seagrant/GI-bike-map)



### Contact information

William “Breck” Bowden, Ph.D., Director, Lake Champlain Sea Grant,  
[Breck.Bowden@uvm.edu](mailto:Breck.Bowden@uvm.edu), Office: (802) 656-4057