



# LAKE CHAMPLAIN SEA GRANT



May 2018

Lake Champlain Sea Grant is one of 33 Sea Grant college programs and is a cooperative program of the University of Vermont and State University of New York Plattsburgh.



Lake Champlain Sea Grant demonstrates excellence in research, extension and education. Credit: Lake Champlain Sea Grant

## Lake Champlain Sea Grant achieves Sea Grant Institute status

In May 2018, Lake Champlain Sea Grant was elevated to the level of Sea Grant Institutional Program by demonstrating excellence in research, education and public service dedicated to the environmentally responsible management and development of the Nation's marine, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The designation as an Institute makes Lake Champlain Sea Grant eligible for increases in federal research funds up to \$1 million to support its strategic goals. The program first began as a Sea Grant outreach project in 1998 and was elevated to a Sea Grant Coherent Area Program after positive performance review in 2012.

[uvm.edu/seagrant](http://uvm.edu/seagrant)

1,400

Workshop and conference participants



1,700

K-12 students reached

40

Undergraduate and graduate students supported



Metrics reported to National Sea Grant Office in June 2017 for work completed February 2016 to January 2017



RESEARCH

EXTENSION

EDUCATION

## Lake Champlain Sea Grant helps keep communities “Ahead of the Storm”



Ahead of the Storm is developing demonstration sites within the Charlotte/Shelburne/Hinesburg watershed to design and implement optimal conservation practices to manage storm water runoff. Credit: Lake Champlain Sea Grant

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.

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**“Lake Champlain Sea Grant has become the “go-to” organization for technical expertise on green infrastructure and low-impact development in the Champlain watershed.”**

- Eric Howe, Executive Director, Lake Champlain Basin Program

### Changing Road Salt Practices to Protect Aquatic Ecosystems



Winter road salt run-off can be toxic to aquatic life. Over the past two years, Lake Champlain Sea Grant has sponsored conferences and trainings that have reached 200 private and municipal contractors as well as nonprofit and university representatives. These events featured demonstrations of technologies to minimize salt use and discussions of solutions to implement lower salt use practices.

### Using Green Infrastructure in the Champlain Basin



To address basin-wide concerns regarding flooding and water quality, Lake Champlain Sea Grant researchers are exploring green infrastructure techniques for treating stormwater, including “bioretention” - using vegetation and soil to manage stormwater runoff. Results show bioretention removes excess nutrients responsible for algae growth as well as reduces flash flooding.

### Developing Clean Boating Programming



Clean lakes? There’s an app for that. Lake Champlain Sea Grant is working with partners to incorporate data from Lake Champlain into a new smartphone app, Pumpout Nav, that helps boaters locate nearby pump-out stations. Lake Champlain Sea Grant is the first group outside California to be included in the app and plans to advertise it during the upcoming boating season.