

Conservation Finance Network: 2025 Boot Camp Agenda

Unless otherwise noted, all sessions will take place in Burke Auditorium, which is located on the third floor of Kroon Hall at the Yale School of the Environment, 195 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511

Sunday, June 1, 2025/ Day 0

If you are arriving on Sunday, please join friends and colleagues for a casual meetup (pay your own way) 6:30-8:00pm at The Cannon - 135 Dwight Street, New Haven, CT 06511.

Monday, June 2, 2025/ Day 1: Introduction to Conservation Finance

Day	Time	Title	Speakers
Monday	11:00a	Shuttle from hotel to Yale School of the Environment, 195 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511	
Monday	11:30 - 12:30p	Lunch, Welcome, & Review of Camp Schedule	Brad Gentry , Yale School of the Environment Peter Howell and Alyssa Doman , Conservation Finance Network
Monday	12:30 - 1:30p	Participant Introductions	
Monday	1:30 - 2p	Principles of Conservation	Peter Howell , Conservation Finance Network
Monday	2 – 2:30p	Break	
Monday	2:30 – 3:15p	Conservation Finance 101: Trends, Tools, & Experience in the Room	Brad Gentry , Yale School of the Environment; and Katie Michels , Conservation Finance Network
Monday	3:15 – 4:30p	Principles of Finance: The Investor's Perspective (<i>Remote session</i>)	David Hoffer , The Lyme Timber Company
Monday	4:30 – 4:45p	Break	

Conservation Finance Network 2025 Boot Camp: Agenda

Monday	4:45 – 5:30p	Local Project Spotlight: Great Meadows Salt Marsh	Kyla Hastie , US Fish and Wildlife Service (retired); and Jack Matthias , Audubon Connecticut
Monday	5:30 - 6:00p	Break, Walk to dinner	
Monday	6:00 - 8:00p	Dinner in Beinecke Room, Yale School of Management (165 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT)	Ashley Demosthenes , Chief Executive Officer of the Land Trust Alliance
Monday	8p	Shuttle to Hotel	

Tuesday, June 3, 2025/ Day 2: Introduction to Public and Philanthropic Funding Sources			
Day	Time	Title	Speakers
Tuesday	7:30 – 8a	Shuttle from hotel	
Tuesday	8 – 8:30a	Light breakfast	
Tuesday	8:30-9a	Recap of day before; introduction to today's learning objectives	Conservation Finance Network staff facilitate
Tuesday	9 – 10a	Introduction to Public Funding	Brent Keith , The Nature Conservancy
Tuesday	10- 10:40a	Discussion of Key Public Funding Programs	Respondents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Andrew Szwak, Land Trust Alliance - Sarah Jenkins, Booz Allen Hamilton/ REPI support
Tuesday	10:40- 11a	Break	
Tuesday	11-12p	Tax Policy	Philip Tabas , The Nature Conservancy
Tuesday	12-1p	Lunch	Lunchtime Remarks from Howard Fischer , Gratitude Railroad
Tuesday	1 – 2:30p	State and Local Ballot Measures	Will Abberger , Trust for Public Land Respondents from innovative state-level funding programs:

Conservation Finance Network 2025 Boot Camp: Agenda

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annie Decker, Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VT) - Alex Rivera, Garden State Preservation Trust (NJ)
Tuesday	2:30 – 3:30p	Reflections on the Role of Philanthropy	Danielle Levoit , Doris Duke Foundation
Tuesday	3:30 – 4p	Break	
Tuesday	4-4:45p	Introduction to Green Banks	Leigh Whelpton , Connecticut Green Bank
Tuesday	4:45-5:15p	Deal Doctor session with Tuesday speakers	Deal Doctors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Philanthropy, indigenous-led conservation: Danielle Levoit, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation - Tax policy: Philip Tabas, The Nature Conservancy - State and local ballot measures: Will Abberger, Trust for Public Land - SRFs and state-level tax credits: Andrew Szwak, Land Trust Alliance
Tuesday	5:15 – 6p	Break and Walk or Shuttle to Dinner	
Tuesday	6p – 8p	Dinner at Yale Farm (345 Edwards Street, New Haven, CT 06511) Farmside Chat: How Policy Can Animate Markets	Dinner with Bryan Garcia , President, and Bert Hunter , Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer, of the Connecticut Green Bank, and Connecticut Green Bank Board Members
Tuesday	8p	Shuttle back to hotel	

Wednesday, June 4, 2024/ Day 3: Private Funding and Financing			
Day	Time	Title	Speakers
Wednesday	7:30 – 8a	Shuttle from hotel	
Wednesday	8 – 8:30a	Light breakfast	

Conservation Finance Network 2025 Boot Camp: Agenda

Wednesday	8:30-8:45a	Recap of day before; introduction to today's learning objectives	Conservation Finance Network staff facilitate
Wednesday	8:45-9a	Introduce framework for understanding sources of private capital	Peter Howell , Conservation Finance Network
Wednesday	9-10a	Private Investment in Agricultural Lands	Moderator: Peter Stein Speakers: - Dominick Grant , Dirt Capital - Paul McMahon , SLM Partners
Wednesday	10-10:15a	Introduction to Ecosystem Service Markets	Peter Howell , CFN
Wednesday	10:15-10:30a	Break	
Wednesday	10:30-11:15a	Introduction to Wetland and Stream Mitigation Banking (<i>Remote session</i>)	David Hoffer , The Lyme Timber Company
Wednesday	11:15a-12p	Introduction to Carbon Markets	Julius Pasay , The Climate Trust
Wednesday	12-12:30p	Environmental Impact Bonds and Outcomes-Based Finance	Tee Thomas , Quantified Ventures
Wednesday	12:30-1:30p	Lunch	Over lunch: table talks with morning speakers: - Peter Stein , mitigation markets - Julius Pasay , carbon markets - Tee Thomas , outcomes-based finance - Paul McMahon , working with private investors - Dominick Grant , working with private investors
Wednesday	1:30-3p	Interim Finance (Debt)	Moderator: Katie Michels , Conservation Finance Network Speakers:

Conservation Finance Network 2025 Boot Camp: Agenda

		Part A: Scenario, Borrower Considerations Part B: Lender Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peter Howell, Conservation Finance Network - Reggie Hall, LegacyWorks Group - Michelle Heaton, LegacyWorks Group
Wednesday	3-3:15p	Break	
Wednesday	3:15 – 4p	Strategies to Facilitate the Transition to Regenerative Agriculture <i>(Remote Session)</i>	Maggie Monast , Environmental Defense Fund; and Ryan Smith , Danone
Wednesday	4-4:15p	Break	
Wednesday	4:15-5:15p	Matching Private Capital with Projects: Are You Ready?	Leigh Whelpton , Connecticut Green Bank; Tee Thomas , Quantified Ventures; Austin Dziki , Connecticut Green Bank
Wednesday	5:15p	Shuttle back to hotel	
Wednesday	5:15 – 6p	Break and Travel time	
Wednesday	6 – 8p	Dinner at BAR (254 Crown Street New Haven, CT)	

Thursday, June 5, 2025/Day 4: Putting it All Together			
Day	Time	Title	Speakers
Thursday	7:30 – 8a	Shuttle from hotel	
Thursday	8 – 8:30a	Light breakfast	
Thursday	8:30-9a	Recap of day before; introduction to today's learning objectives	Conservation Finance Network staff facilitate
Thursday	9 – 9:45a	Blended Finance: Chocolate Bay	Peter Stein , Lyme Timber; and Matt Singer , Galveston Bay Foundation
Thursday	9:45-10:30a	Blended Finance: Ilwaco and Wáhsehtək ^w	Rodger Krussman , Trust for Public Land
Thursday	10:30-10:45a	Break	
Thursday	10:45 – 11:30a	Water Funds <i>(Hybrid session)</i>	Moderator: Peter Howell , CFN Speakers:

Conservation Finance Network 2025 Boot Camp: Agenda

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nancy Lilly, Nature for Water (joining virtually) - Paul Hunt, Portland Water Authority
Thursday	11:30a – 12:30p	Blended Finance: The Role of Intermediaries in Stimulating Private Investment	<p>Moderator: Carli Roth, Rockefeller Foundation</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zach Knight, Blue Forest - Harry Guinness, New Leaf Climate Partners
Thursday	12:30p – 12:45p	Group photo	
Thursday	12:45p-1:30p	Lunch	
Thursday	1:30-2:30p	Funding Stewardship	<p>Moderator: Peter Howell, CFN</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bethany Olmstead, The Conservation Fund - Liz Petruska, U.S. Forest Service - Joe Rizzo, Sonoma Land Trust
Thursday	2:30-4p	Deal Doctor Session	<p>“Doctors”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Philanthropy, Doing Deals, Stewardship Endowments: Peter Howell, CFN - Doing Deals: Peter Stein, Lyme Timber - Rodger Krussman, Trust for Public Land - Bethany Olmstead, The Conservation Fund
Thursday	4p – 6p	<p>Break, optional tour of Marsh gardens led by Toby Bokum-Fauth</p> <p>Shuttle to hotel</p>	
Thursday	6p – 8p	Dinner at Sherkaan (65 Broadway, New Haven, CT)	

Conservation Finance Network 2025 Boot Camp: Agenda

Friday, June 6, 2025/ Day 5: Dolphin Tanks and Conclusion			
Day	Time	Title	Speakers
Friday	7:30 – 8a	Shuttle from hotel	
Friday	8 – 8:30a	Light breakfast	
Friday	8:30-9:15a	Recap of day before; introduction to today's learning objectives	Conservation Finance Network staff facilitate
Friday	9:15-10a	A New Era for Conservation?	Christy Plumer , Eventide Strategies
Friday	10-11a	Dolphin tank presentations (10-minute break after 2 nd dolphin tank presentation)	Dolphin Tank Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kelly Larsen, The Conservation Fund - Brittany Wienke, The Nature Conservancy-New York Dolphins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peter Stein, The Lyme Timber Company - Leigh Whelpton, Connecticut Green Bank - Spencer Meyer, BeZero Carbon
Friday	11-11:30a	Evaluations and Break	
Friday	11:30a-12p	How Can CFN Help You?	Peter Howell and Katie Michels , Conservation Finance Network
Friday	12 – 12:30p	Conclusion, wrap up	Peter Howell , Conservation Finance Network
Friday	12:30-1:30p	Lunch and adjourn	