

## Case study: Begin planning early for next steps

Collaborative science projects are designed to inform and catalyze action, but often those impacts do not develop until after a grant ends. Two project teams working with New England reserves found different ways to support the work of their partners after their grants ended.

### New England Climate Adaptation Project

The New England Climate Adaptation Project worked with four New England communities to encourage local climate adaptation efforts through role-play simulations. During the final stages of the project, the team conducted debriefings with end users and other select public officials to gauge local interest in undertaking coordinated climate adaptation efforts sparked by participation in the games. The debriefings provided an opportunity for reserve staff and local decision makers to frame ideas to advance adaptation efforts. All four of the communities initiated climate adaptation efforts that furthered the work of the project.

### Bringing Wetlands to Market

At the Waquoit Bay reserve, the Bringing Wetlands to Market project contributed to the development of new collaborations and a number of research proposals that expanded the project's scope and impact. Productive partnerships that the project established among the team, researchers, and key end user groups such as the National Park Service led to the development of new funding proposals to further investigate different aspects of the project's research focus. Strong partnerships among the project team, key coastal management organizations, and researchers enabled the continuation and expansion of project efforts.

### Key advice

Keep your partners engaged as the project draws to a close by building in an opportunity to share ideas and build enthusiasm for the next project. In the project planning stage, assign a team member the responsibility of keeping a running list of ideas and questions that come up at meetings throughout the project — especially those that are related to, but outside the scope of, the original project objectives. At the end of the project, share the list and discuss ways to turn those ideas and questions into new opportunities to work together.

To learn more about these projects, visit their Project Pages:  
[New England Climate Adaptation Project](#) | [Bringing Wetlands to Market](#)

To access other case studies and resources for conducting collaborative science projects, visit:  
[A Guide to Collaborative Science](#).

*These case studies were developed in 2015 by the NERRS Science Collaborative team when the program was hosted by the University of New Hampshire. These case studies were originally featured as part of the Collaborative Project Toolkit.*

