

Northeast Agenda

A JOINT VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE NORTHEAST

THE INTERSECTION OF THE PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES, ECONOMIES, AND ECOSYSTEMS THAT MAKE UP OUR UNIQUE REGION.

What is the Northeast Agenda?

The Northeast Agenda identifies challenges and opportunities for the northeast region's Land-grant programs as they work together to ensure a regenerative, livable, and vibrant Northeastern United States. It describes the unique characteristics of the Northeastern United States and shares the vision, mission, and purpose of Northeast regional Land-grant programs, our Extension services, and state agricultural experiment stations. The Northeast Agenda serves to inform policy responses and actions and demonstrates how Agricultural Experiment Stations and Cooperative Extension support all Northeastern Region communities.

The Northeast Agenda is the product of directors from two organizations: the Association of Northeast Extension Directors (NEED) and the Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA).

Our Mission. Our Vision. Our Purpose.

MISSION

To inspire research, education, and Extension collaborations that create vibrant communities and resilient food systems and working lands in the Northeast.

VISION

A regenerative, livable, and vibrant Northeastern United States.

PURPOSE

For research and Extension to collaboratively advance the Land-grant mission to improve lives and the environment in the northeastern United States.

Unique attributes & critical concerns of the Northeast

In the context of NEED and NERA, the Northeastern United States includes Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia.

The Northeast:

- Population (2020 Census): 67 million, 20% of the U.S. population
- Land area: 188,631 sq miles, 6% of the total U.S. land area
- GDP contribution: 24% of total U.S. GDP
- Large cities: New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC
- Rural communities: Northern Maine to the Appalachian region of West Virginia

Northeasterners:

- Diverse peoples
- Rich history of independence, self-reliance, and the ability to innovate

Critical concerns to ensure thriving ecosystems, economies, and communities:

- Water (quality and quantity)
- Climate change
- Population growth
- Science literacy

SPONSORED BY:

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

University of Connecticut

Cornell University

University of Delaware

University of the District of Columbia

University of Maine

University of Maryland

University of Massachusetts

University of New Hampshire

Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey

Pennsylvania State University

University of Rhode Island

University of Vermont

West Virginia University

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Delaware State University

University of Maryland Eastern Shore

West Virginia State University



Northeast Agenda: Executive Summary

Synergy Between Extension & Research

The purpose of the Northeast Agenda is to promote opportunities for research and Extension to collaboratively advance the Land-grant mission to improve lives and the environment in the Northeastern United States.

Today, the Land-grant legacy is alive and thriving in the Northeast through the efforts of the member institutions of NEED and NERA.

The beauty and the strength of the region is encapsulated in the diversity of Land-grant institutions in the Northeast from small to large, north to south, and east to west. Our diverse institutional knowledge and expertise provide bedrock for the Northeast Agenda, an agenda that is intended to inspire research, education, and Extension collaborations that create vibrant communities and resilient food systems and working lands in the Northeast.

Guiding Initiatives & Key Priorities

The Northeast Agenda honors and builds upon the Land-grant legacy of finding local solutions for local issues. Many issues outlined in this Agenda are not unique to a single state and climate, problematic pests, and systemic issues do not care about political boundaries. With this agenda, we identify key common issues and needs we must and can address together.

Common areas of opportunity and need are organized here under high-level thematic key priorities, which NEED and NERA have identified as:

PRIORITY 1

Develop resilient, sustainable, and equitable food systems.

PRIORITY 2

Lead effective adaptation and mitigation for our changing climate.

PRIORITY 3

Promote environmental, human, animal, and community health and well-being.

These priorities can only be addressed through clear collective actions. NEED and NERA commit ourselves to the following as our promise to the Northeast.

- **Enhance collaboration across research, education, and Extension enterprises.**
- **Advance innovation and technology-focused research and Extension programs.**
- **Communicate our impact both internally and externally.**
- **Engage in intentional diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility opportunities.**
- **Secure sustainable funding for scientific research, education, and Extension priorities.**

The Northeast Agenda is a living, evolving document that identifies numerous challenges affecting our region and our work.

It is also a call to action. Under the umbrella of the three key priorities we've identified in this report are suggested actions we hope will galvanize our regional institutions, colleagues, and community to create a prospectus of collaboration and investment opportunities.

We invite you to engage with us. The Northeast agenda seeks participation, collaboration, and investment. To learn more about the Northeast Agenda and how to become a part of this enterprise, please contact Ali Mitchell, Executive Director-NEED (Amitchell@northeastextension.org) or Rick Rhodes, Executive Director-NERA (rcrhodes@uri.edu).

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