

Scaling Up Investment in Restoration and Other Nature-based Solutions Using Green Banks

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Nature-based solutions (NBS) are actions to protect, manage, or restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges, simultaneously benefiting people and nature. Many important NBS involve ecosystem restoration. Recent government investment in NBS through programs funded by the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is unprecedented, but there is still a need for scaled-up financing of NBS projects in the US. EPA's \$14 billion National Clean Investment Fund allows investment in NBS that contribute to climate change mitigation, remediation of legacy pollution, and development of clean water infrastructure. These funds are meant to catalyze additional investments through financing mechanisms established by Green Banks and Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs).

Green banks and CDFIs are mission-driven financial institutions with mandates often related to decarbonization, climate, health, and equitable communities. Restoration-focused NBS have the capacity to deliver on some, if not all of those goals. While green banks and CDFIs have not traditionally focused on NBS, there is an opportunity to work with these financial institutions to more explicitly include restoration and NBS into their missions and charters to help enable scaled-up financing of these types of projects. A workshop held in summer 2023 gathered a group of academics, practitioners, financiers, and NBS investors to create resources that could help green banks and other similar financial institutions gain access to the information and resources they need to begin to scale-up these types of investments. This poster will provide an overview of these resources and an update on the status of green bank investment in restoration and NBS.

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