

Natural Resources Conservation Service New Jersey



State Technical Committee

The NRCS State Technical Committee (STC) is an advisory committee for the NRCS State Conservationist. Many important decisions about conservation programs are made at the state level, and NRCS professionals give strong consideration to the Committee's recommendations. The Committee's role is advisory in nature, and the Committee has no implementation or enforcement authority. NRCS reserves the authority to accept or reject the Committee's recommendations. Members may be polled, but voting on issues is not suitable.

How do State Technical Committees operate?

The NRCS State Conservationist or designee is the chair of the Committee and ensures that:

- The Committee meets at least twice a year at a time and place designated by the State Conservationist. Other meetings may be held at the discretion of the State Conservationist. Any USDA agency or STC member, however, can make a request of the State Conservationist for a meeting.
- Meetings are conducted as open discussions focused on USDA programs and activities.

Who is eligible to participate?

The Committee should include members from a wide variety of natural resource and agricultural interests, such as agricultural producers, owners and operators of nonindustrial private forest land, corporations, agricultural and environmental organizations, and other professionals who represent a variety of interests and disciplines in the soil, water, wetlands, plant, and wildlife sciences.

How do you become a member?

Individuals or groups who want to become members may submit requests to the State Conservationist explaining their interest and relevant credentials. In New Jersey, Committee meetings are open to all and official membership is not required.



What kinds of issues does the Committee address?

The Committee provides input on the following federal conservation programs:

- The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), including special projects, like Working Lands for Wildlife
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Easements (ACEP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- Technical Service Providers (TSPs)

Possible Committee duties

- Provide information, analysis, and recommendations to USDA on conservation priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities and programs, including application and funding criteria, recommended practices, and program payment percentages.
- Identify emerging natural resource concerns and program needs.
- Provide feedback on conservation practice standards and specifications.
- Recommend state program policy based on resource data.
- Make recommendations to the State Conservationist on requests from local working groups.
- Assist NRCS with public outreach and information efforts and identify producers' educational or training needs.

New Jersey

**Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**

nj.nrcs.usda.gov