

Appendix G: Overview of watershed management plans from three U.S. regions

In spring 2025, graduate students from Bard College’s Center for Environmental Policy worked with the Hudson River Watershed Alliance to better understand watershed management planning best practices. As part of the "Politics of Solutions" course, nine graduate students (Srijan Banik, Kiara Carman, Jenna Holub, Emily Inoue, Pazao Lee, Annabel Posimato, Liz Riley, Brenden Schaaf, and Logan Tondini) interviewed 21 different stakeholders from three regions across the United States: the Northwest, Northeast, and Great Lakes. These regions were selected for their diverse governance models and experience addressing hydrological and environmental challenges similar to those in New York State.

The final report, [*Does Policy Sink or Swim? An overview of watershed management plans from three U.S. regions*](#), shares a regional overview and challenges facing each of the three regions, regulatory frameworks and governance, challenges and successes, and key takeaways (Banik et al. 2025). The report also summarizes best practices and recommendations from across the interviews, along with [*examples of particularly strong watershed management plans*](#).

The student authors also presented their findings at a Hudson River Watershed Alliance breakfast webinar on May 8, 2025, which is available on the [*Hudson River Watershed Alliance’s YouTube channel*](#). A PDF copy of the presentation slides are also [*available*](#).