



Kristel Sheesley

Program Manager, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center

AREAS OF PROFESSIONAL FOCUS

- Program and policy analysis and synthesis
 - Writing and technical communications
 - Community planning and public finance
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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Kristel conducts applied research, program and policy analysis, and financial assessments to advise clients on environmental finance challenges. Recent projects have focused on water infrastructure funding and finance, forestry and urban tree policy, and sustainable manufacturing practices at small businesses. Previously, Kristel was project director at the New England EFC in Maine, where she managed a technical assistance program focused on local and regional sustainability planning, especially related to water infrastructure investments. Kristel has also worked as a nonprofit development professional for water quality, agriculture and food systems, and economic development initiatives.

SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCE

Program Manager – Land Use | Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD | June 2016 to present

Conducts research, writing, policy and program analysis, and financial assessments to assist state and municipal clients on a variety of environmental finance issues. Recent work has focused on water infrastructure funding, financing, and management; land use and urban tree canopy planning and policy; water quality; sustainable manufacturing practices; and climate risk and resilience.

Grant Writing Consultant | 2013 to 2019

Advised and assisted in the preparation of grant applications to federal, private and corporate funders to support programming related to sustainable agriculture, food systems, fisheries and working waterfronts. Kristel's roles included conducting research and data analysis to support applications as well as preparing proposal narratives.

Project Director | New England Environmental Finance Center, University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME | January 2012 – May 2015

Prior position: Research Analyst / Program Manager

Coordinated the planning, delivery, and evaluation of technical assistance delivered by a team of Environmental Finance Centers through the federal Capacity Building for Sustainable Communities program. Assistance focused on water infrastructure issues, including green infrastructure, low impact development, stormwater finance, brownfields redevelopment, hazard mitigation, code audits, and integrated sustainability planning. Kristel planned and managed in-person technical assistance events, webinars, and trainings; developed reports and resources for clients; made and evaluated progress toward team workplan objectives; and supervised the work of graduate students.

Development Assistant | Friends of Casco Bay, South Portland, ME | October 2007 – June 2010

Researched and wrote grant proposals and reports for foundations, corporations, government agencies. Kristel also managed the organization's donor database; wrote and coordinated member communications; analyzed and reported fundraising data; wrote and designed e-newsletters; and helped manage fundraising events, including an environmental film festival.

Associate Director | Assateague Coastal Trust, Berlin, MD | May 2006 – September 2007

Prior position: Assistant Development Director

Oversaw the organization's development program; researched and wrote grant proposals and reports; coordinated fund drives; managed fundraising events; conducted outreach and marketing campaigns.

EDUCATION

MCPD, Community Planning and Development, University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME, Dec. 2011

- Nominated for Phi Kappa Phi and Golden Key honors societies
- Outstanding Capstone Award for *Re-Imagining the Strip: A Sourcebook of Strategies for Retrofitting Underperforming Commercial Strip Corridors*, 2011, prepared for GrowSmart Maine. Advisors: Jack Kartez, Bruce Hyman, Evan Richert

BAs, Political Studies and Environmental Studies, Gordon College, Wenham, MA, May 2005

- *Summa Cum Laude*; Presidential Honor Student; A.J. Gordon Scholar; Kenneth L. Pike Honor Scholar
 - Visiting student at Oxford University, England, for junior year study abroad program
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AFFILIATIONS AND ADDITIONAL ROLES

Phi Alpha Chi Honor Society; Past guest lecturer for graduate courses at Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine: Local Environmental Planning and Seminar on Sustainable Communities.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland. 2025. *Aligning Delaware's Tree and Climate Priorities: 2025 Delaware Tree and Climate Workshop Summary Report*.

Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland. 2023. *Delaware Tree Stewards Pilot Program Evaluation: Findings and Recommendations*.

Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland. 2023. *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Tree Canopy Policy and Funding Roundtable: Report and Recommendations*.

Sheesley, Kristel; Ellen Kohler, and Stephanie Dalke. Jan. 2020. "Leveraging Capital Improvement Programs to Build Resilience." *AWRA IMPACT: Stormwater Infrastructure Resilience*.

Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. 2019. *Financing Urban Tree Canopy Programs: Guidebook for Local Governments in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*.

Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland. 2019. "Funding Urban Forestry Programs" online course.

Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland. 2019. *Strategies for Financing Chesapeake Bay Restoration in New York*.

James Bass; Brandy Espinola and Kristel Sheesley; Jessica Grannis; and Michael Scott. 2018. *Mainstreaming Sea Level Rise Preparedness in Local Planning and Policy on Maryland's Eastern Shore*. A report prepared for the Eastern Shore Climate Adaptation Partnership by Eastern Shore Land Conservancy.

Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland. 2018. *Advancing Resilience-Supportive Economic Development on Virginia's Eastern Shore*.

Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland. 2018. *Financial Feasibility of Alternative Animal Waste Management Demonstration Projects in Maryland*.

Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland. 2017. *Considerations for Evaluating the Relative Cost Effectiveness of Subsurface Manure Injection and its Adoption in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*.

Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland. 2017. *Strategies for Financing Chesapeake Bay Restoration in Virginia*.