



Healthy Harbor Fund



Photo courtesy of Brooke Blosser, Coastal Conservation League.

environmental issues in the Lowcountry.

With a mission of supporting projects in the Tri-County (Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties) that improves water quality in Charleston Harbor and its surroundings, the Healthy Harbor Fund has awarded more than \$400K to 13 organizations since 2021.

The settlement's allocation to create the Healthy Harbor Fund is a significant investment, already producing results through strategic grantmaking.

In the summer of 2019, plastic pellets washed ashore on Sullivan's Island, alarming residents and environmentalists. In response, Charleston Waterkeeper, Coastal Conservation League, and the SC Environmental Law Project engaged in litigation resulting in a \$1 million settlement to establish the Healthy Harbor Fund at the Coastal Community Foundation (CCF). This competitive grantmaking fund supports crucial data collection, education, and advocacy on

By the Numbers

\$1,000,010
TOTAL DONATIONS

\$446,298
TOTAL GRANTMAKING

13
**ORGANIZATIONS
SUPPORTED**

"Water quality ignorance can harm us. This clean water investment will help identify and prevent pollution sources threatening our health and waterways."
– Andrew Wunderley, Executive Director Charleston Waterkeeper

Healthy Harbor Fund

Healing the Harbor

Edisto Island Open Land Trust (EIOLT) works to preserve the rural quality of life on Edisto by protecting lands, waterways, scenic vistas, and heritage through conservation and education. For nearly 30 years, the organization has been working tirelessly to safeguard all aspects that make Edisto special, including land, creeks and estuaries, natural resources, and culture. In 2022, thanks to funding from the Healthy Harbor Fund, EIOLT was able to launch a pilot program for septic system improvements on Edisto Island. A grant in 2023 provided the leverage needed to secure additional local and federal funding to launch the three-year Edisto Island Septic System Improvement and Assistance Program.

Even though more than half of Edisto Island's rural land is protected, about 71% of the tidal creeks are impaired by fecal bacteria pollution. Elevated fecal bacteria levels in the waterways can result in negative health impacts to both people and wildlife, may reduce recreational opportunities for residents, and can cause hardships and elevated health risks for members of the community who rely on subsistence fishing to supplement their diets. EIOLT's Septic Improvement Program provides septic systems inspections and repairs at no cost to qualified homeowners who apply. Since 2022, EIOLT has received 101 applications. Of those 101, they have inspected 48 systems thus far and have at least 29 more pending inspections. Of those 48 that were inspected, they have repaired 26 systems and replaced 14 full systems. The EIOLT's Septic System Improvement and Assistance Program is just one example of the great work being done to improve water quality in the region, thanks to funding from the Healthy Harbor Fund.



BE THE REASON WHY... OUR COAST RECOVERS

Organizations Supported

Charleston Area Justice Ministry

Charleston Climate Coalition

Charleston Community Research to Action Board

Charleston Waterkeeper

Coastal Expeditions Foundation

College of Charleston Foundation

Edisto Island Open Land Trust

Friends of Keep Charleston Beautiful

Harry R. E. Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund, Inc.

South Carolina Aquarium

Ten Mile Neighborhood Association

The Green Heart Project

The Sustainability Institute