



BEAT has had tremendous influence on major initiatives in the Northeast.



Protecting and Restoring Wildlife Habitat Linkages In the beginning of the Wildlands & Woodlands visioning, when nascent Massachusetts-based initiative was reaching out to conservation organizations across the region, the conversation focused on how to conserve more land and make larger and larger reserves. At BEAT's request one meeting was devoted to connectivity. We invited the director of Two Countries One Forest to talk about connectivity from the Maritimes and Quebec down into New England and New York. At the time, BEAT was calling our connectivity initiative Connecting for Wildlife. Now we are part of the much, much larger Staying Connected Initiative led by The Nature Conservancy. BEAT has been focused on helping wildlife safely pass under (or over) roads since 2004 when we began surveying road/streamcrossings. Now there is a 13 state database with this information, including ours.

Flood Prevention BEAT was instrumental in identifying that the Massachusetts flood/flow calculations were horribly out of date and inaccurate - and how to solve the problem. We alerted Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Senator Benjamin Downing, and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation - who had the power to actually hire USGS to do the necessary work. Thanks to Senator Downing, the state finally appropriated the money to do this important work. Of course, they started at the eastern end of the state so the most rural parts of the state including all of Berkshire County, were last to see the benefits of this work. Mind you, these are the same towns who were hit so very hard by tropical storm Irene - and these updated maps are the sort of data we need to help prevent another such disaster!



CATALYZING NEW INITIATIVES

Keeping Emerging Pollutants Out of our Waterways BEAT is suggesting ways to keep emerging pollutants out of our wetlands and waterways. PFAS are just one of a huge number of "new" pollutants that we need to take action on. It is foolish, however, to deal with these toxic substances one by one when there are solutions that would make a tremendous difference in keeping known and unknown toxins out of our waterways. We need to require, as part of our point source reduction permitting, that all point source emitters put in constructed wetlands as the final treatment before discharge to a waterbody. For example, the Pittsfield Waste Water Treatment Plant would, after its current treatment chain, discharge to a series of constructed wetlands. Here, the chlorine would off-gas to the atmosphere, and toxins such as Prescriptions and Personal Care Products (PPCPs) would have to opportunity to be taken up by microbes, soil, plants, and fungi.

Disconnecting Directly Connected Impervious Areas BEAT is a strong advocate for disconnecting DCIAs, such as roads and parking lots, from waterways, and we will work with many partners to develop regulations that require this action during redevelopment to protect our wetlands and waterways.

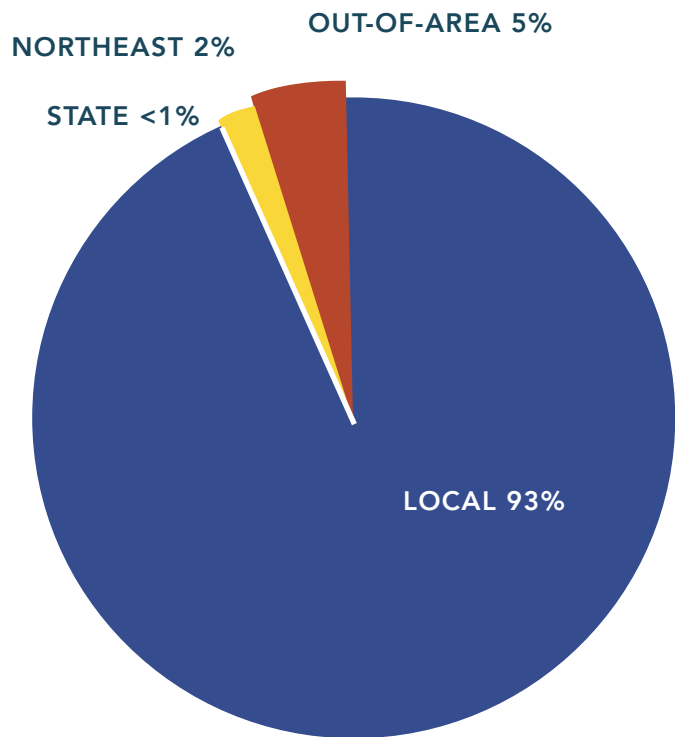


Local 93% (Berkshire County and a little beyond, e.g. Cummington)
mainly payroll, local contractors, local printers, mileage for staff, rent, oil, local rentals, bus rental, dues

State <1%
taxes, dues, organizational dues

Northeast 2%
Keeping Track and Northeast Wildlife Trackers Conference

Out-of-area 5%
US post office (stamps purchased locally), PayPal fees, insurance (through local broker to national company), web hosting and software, office supplies, some program supplies, electricity (from renewable New England sources but paid to Eversource)



WE AMPLIFY COMMUNITY | groups we have helped start

- 2019 – Berkshire Zero Waste Initiative** – fiscal sponsor and provided some salary, office, and storage space
- 2014 - No Fracked Gas in Mass** – website space, fiscal sponsor, advisor – in 2015 became a BEAT program
- 2014 - MassPLAN – Massachusetts PipeLine Awareness Network** – provided website space, fiscal sponsor, and one of our staff is on the Executive Committee of PLAN for the Northeast that emerged from MassPLAN
- 2014 - 350MA – Berkshire Node** – on the organizing committee and continue to be active
- 2013 - East Slope neighbors** fighting to protect our community – BEAT helped neighbors with the appeal process for an over-sized development encroaching on a conservation restriction in their community
- 2011 - No Asphalt Defense Fund – NADF** stopped a hot asphalt plant, and continues to hold the local cement plant to abide by state law and stop polluting the air and water
- 2008 - Northeast Wildlife Trackers Conference** – BEAT helped start this conference and continues to be fiscal sponsor as the group aims at becoming their own nonprofit.
- 2006 - Berkshire Wildlife Trackers** – over 60 people trained through Keeping Track® in Vermont, with additional training through CyberTrackers – BEAT offers many volunteer opportunities for these trained trackers to put their skills to good use.
- 2004 - RATSSS** – Residents Against the Transfer Station on South Street – 2003-2005+ together we successfully stopped the location of a construction and demolition waste transfer station on the banks of the only non-PCB-polluted branch of the Housatonic River (also in the middle of several neighborhoods in a location used for walking dogs and cross-country skiing by the neighbors).