

WORKING TOWARD A MORE RESILIENT MIDWEST FOR EVERYONE

Delta Institute improves the living conditions of more than **five million Midwesterners** by transitioning **one million acres** to more resilient, conservation-focused practices, and by improving water quality and reducing flooding by capturing **100 million stormwater gallons**. By 2025 we will achieve these goals through our agriculture, climate, water, and community development projects.

This is what a more **resilient, equitable, and innovative Midwest** looks like.

Delta Institute collaborates with communities to solve complex environmental challenges throughout the Midwest. **We create and implement solutions to Midwestern environmental, economic, and climate challenges today, so that our home and region are more resilient, equitable, and innovative tomorrow.**

Delta exists because environmental, economic, and climate issues hit communities—urban and rural—through disinvestment, systemic inequity, and policy decisions. We collaborate at the community level to solve our home region's new and legacy issues, by focusing on the self-defined goals and needs of our partners.

Our work takes us to population centers like Chicago, St. Louis, and Detroit; to mid-sized

cities such as Gary and South Bend, Indiana; to Great Lakes coastal towns like Michigan City, Indiana and Muskegon, Michigan; and to rural communities and watersheds with tens of thousands of acres of farmland and waterways across our region. It's quite likely that you—or someone you know—lives, works, or passes through a community that Delta has helped since our founding in 1998.

We focus on these three programmatic areas to make a more resilient Midwestern region:

- 1. Nature-Based Climate Solutions,**
- 2. Resilient Agriculture, and,**
- 3. Sustainability and Support Services.**

Nature-Based Climate Solutions

Delta Institute assists municipalities by integrating natural climate solutions and Green Infrastructure (GI) to reduce climate change impacts by capturing **100 million stormwater gallons** and leveraging **\$100 million in municipal GI investment**. We focus on communities that are disproportionately affected by flooding and climate change, to collaboratively improve their environment, mitigate local impacts of climate change, and strengthen their neighborhoods' resilience. Our goals include:

- Increasing adoption and integration of green and natural infrastructure, and,
- Creating comprehensive services, resources, and other supportive mechanisms to help municipalities scale up and implement green and natural infrastructure.

Resilient Agriculture

Our programming is designed to protect and rebuild one of the Midwest's greatest assets, our soil.

Delta Institute is investing in and collaborating with **1,000 farmers** as they transition to sustainable and regenerative practices, thus improving the environment, mitigating the impacts of climate change, and strengthening a farmer's bottom line. We forecast that by 2025, **one million Midwestern agricultural acres** will successfully transition to conservation-focused farming practices, so our region's primary economic driver can be more environmentally and financially sound. Our goals include:

- Increasing soil health throughout the region and integrating soil health practices into agricultural business planning, and,
- Creating a comprehensive suite of supportive services to increase implementation of sustainable agricultural practices on farms across the region.

Sustainability and Support Services

Delta Institute prides itself on being responsive to the needs of its partners and responding to what they define as being the most important goal, activity, project, or taking a new approach to improving their local environmental and economic outcomes.

Our Sustainability and Support Services are designed to help communities, agencies, and business meet their priorities, planning, and implementation, which include a wide array of sectors in which Delta has sizable experience, including sustainability planning, waste reduction, brownfield redevelopment, and others. We forecast that by 2025 Delta will work with more than **250 partner communities** while securing **\$40 million in external investment**, and creating **100 practical tools, resources, strategies, and municipal/county-level plans**.



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Delta Institute is a 501c3 nonprofit with a 2023 Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar and a Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator for our strong financial health and accountability.