

The Pinelands Development Credit Program — Market-Based Land Preservation in New Jersey's Pine Barrens

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Since 1981, New Jersey's Pinelands Development Credit programme lets landowners in the 1.1M-acre Pinelands Reserve sell development rights to builders elsewhere, permanently preserving 57,268 acres of rare pine-barrens forest and aquifer recharge land by 2022.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	2/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-17

[New Jersey Pinelands Commission \(Pinelands Development Credit Bank\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-17

[NJ Pinelands Commission — CMP Summary](#) — accessed 2026-09-17

[Case Studies in the Environment \(UC Press, 2022\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-17

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