Accredited land trusts qualify for a growing list of valuable discounts and benefits

A sampling of federal, state, and county benefits to accredited land trusts from across the nation:

- Funding from project proponents seeking LEED certification using the credit for “protecting or restoring habitat” certification element
- Automatic eligibility to hold easements with California’s Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program (supported by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund)
- Expedited certification in Louisiana where land trusts must be certified to hold and conserve certain mineral interests
- Expedited certification in Colorado when working with landowners desiring a state tax credit for a conservation easement donation
- Exclusive access to funding when leveraging the Buffer Lands Program in Texas for projects near or adjacent to Texas state parks
- Automatic eligibility to apply for funding in Chester County, PA, for its Brandywine Headwaters Preservation Program
- The Georgia Conservation Tax Credit is a financial incentive for landowners to help protect Georgia’s natural resources. Landowners who donate fee-title lands or permanent conservation easements to an accredited land trust may apply for a credit against their state income taxes.

GuideStar Recognition:
Accredited land trusts receive an external review with a five-star rating from the Commission. You can also list your accreditation in GuideStar and specify that you received your accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

“For land trusts that have gone through the rigorous accreditation process, we have no doubt that the transaction will be professionally managed, the public funding will be properly spent, and the property will be appropriately stewarded long-term... This level of confidence allows us to provide larger grants to these land trusts.”

Martha Sullivan Sapp, director of the New Jersey Green Acres Program

“Our acres conserved headed sky high after we were accredited. This speaks to the virtues of accreditation.”

Bob Stokes, president, Galveston Bay Foundation, Texas
Alliance-member accredited land trusts qualify for valuable discounts:

Conservation Defense Insurance: Accredited land trusts are automatically eligible for an annual premium discount of $11 per insured unit when they enroll in the conservation defense insurance program offered by Terrafirma Risk Retention Group LLC. The average accredited land trust has 93 units; if it insures all with Terrafirma over the accredited term it will receive a Terrafirma discount of $5,115 ($1,023 annually).

Directors & Officers Insurance: Accredited land trusts that are Alliance members will receive an additional 7% renewal premium credit (subject to the applicable rates filed in each jurisdiction) in addition to the preferred rates already enjoyed by those with standard membership status when they secure Directors & Officers liability insurance from the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies.

See the full list of known public and private benefits and funding incentives for accredited land trusts: http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/about/benefits-of-accreditation

Contact us for more information on partnering with the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, the impact of accreditation and the process.

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Thank you to the Land Trust Alliance for its investments in the accreditation program and in building the capacity of its land trust members, including accredited land trusts.

“Blue Hill Heritage Trust has expanded rapidly, both in acres conserved and organizational capacity, over the last few years. The accreditation process gave us the foundation—the institutional structures—we needed to be successful during this growth.”

Hans M. Carlson, executive director, Maine

“Knowing the accreditation process is comprehensive and reliable gives us confidence that a land trust accreditation applicant is a good long-term investment.”

Mary Anthony, executive director of the 1772 Foundation