



Opportunity Finance Network: Member Profile



Natural Capital Investment Fund Shepherdstown, WV

The Natural Capital Investment Fund (NCIF) provides debt and equity financing to small businesses in central Appalachia and the Southeast. Launched in 2000 by The Conservation Fund, one of the nation's foremost environmental nonprofits, NCIF is dedicated to investing in companies and projects that promote sustainable development and have a positive impact on human health and the natural environment. Its clients range from small craft enterprises and specialty food manufacturers to multi-million dollar forest product enterprises.

Success Story: Laurel Creek Hardwood Corporation, Richwood, WV

When the sawmill where they had worked for more than ten years shut down, Bill and Sharon Glasscock raised enough money to buy the mill but still needed capital for Laurel Creek Hardwood's day-to-day operations. NCIF raised grant funds to help the company develop an internal accounting system and provided \$50,000 in working capital that enabled Laurel Creek to get underway.

"It was a great experience. It would have been much more difficult without the Natural Capital Investment Fund."

*Bill Glasscock
Owner, Laurel Creek Hardwood Corporation*



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Mission

To provide debt and equity financing to small and emerging natural resource-based businesses that will advance sustainable economic development throughout North Carolina, northeast Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

Products and services

- Flexible financing and investment capital for new and expanding, locally owned businesses
- Business and technical assistance for current and prospective clients

Financial and social impact

- Loans made = 22
- Total financed = \$2.4 million in loans, equity investments, and pending commitments that have leveraged over \$11.6 million in additional financing
- Clients served = More than 150
- Businesses started or expanded = 18
- Jobs created or retained = 211
- Loan loss rate = 0%