

Key Changes in the CWIP SFY 2023 Funding Policy

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Agenda

- . Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP)
- . Clean Water Projects and CWIP Grants
- . CWIP Funding Policy – Why and Where
- . Summary of Key Changes
- . Next Steps
- . Q&A

We aim to efficiently, effectively, and equitably:

- 1. Align and coordinate clean water efforts statewide,
- 2. Develop financial and technical resources to implement projects, and
- 3. Capture and assess data to communicate progress and impact of clean water efforts.

Who is CWIP?



10 V.S.A. Chapter 47 Water Pollution Control
 § 1387: Findings and Purpose; Clean Water Initiative
 (a)(1)...to provide ...financing necessary to achieve and maintain compliance with the Vermont Water Quality Standards



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Clean Water Projects Types

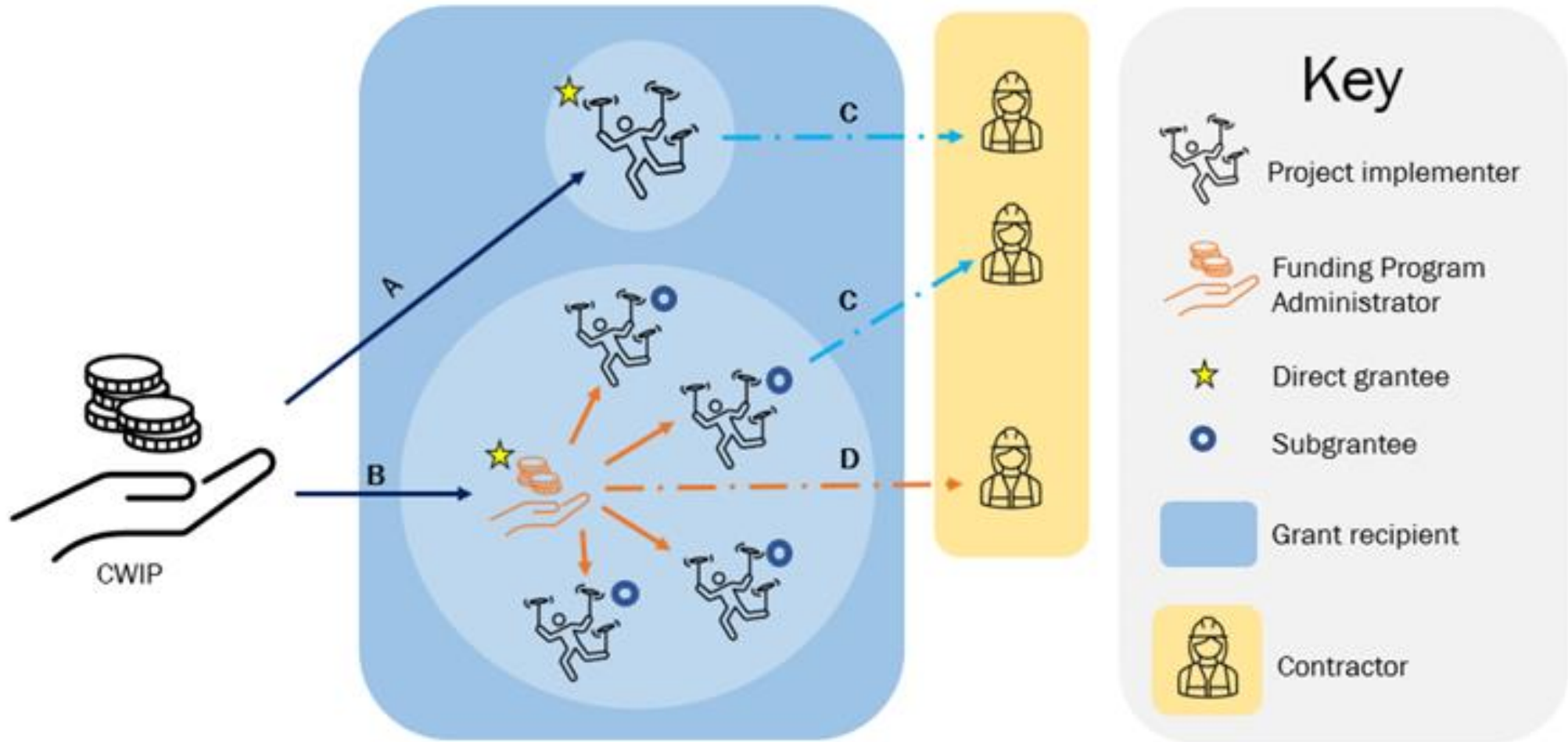
- Roads
- Stormwater
- Wetlands
- Streams and Floodplains
- Lakes
- Forests
- Agriculture



Funding Program	Funding Program Purpose	Geographic Availability	Funding Program Administrator
Dam Removal Design/Implementation Block Grant	Support design and implementation of selected priority water quality Dam Removal projects from the DEC Watershed Projects Database to achieve measurable improvements to Vermont's water quality.	Statewide	Watersheds United Vermont
Design/Implementation Block Grant	Support design and implementation of clean water projects that reduce sediment and nutrient pollution, including phosphorus from runoff and soil erosion that discharge into Vermont's rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands. <i>This block grant is projected to sunset by 2024.</i>	Statewide	Mount Ascutney Regional Commission Natural Resource Conservation Council Watersheds United Vermont
Project Development Block Grant	Help project implementers line up high priority clean water projects that Clean Water Service Providers and their associated Basin Water Quality Councils (BWOCs) can consider advancing through Water Quality Restoration Formula grant funding, or that can be pursued through the Water Quality Enhancement Grant Program or other water quality grants. Learn more about Project Development . <i>This block grant is projected to sunset by 2024.</i>	Statewide	Addison County Regional Planning Commission Natural Resource Conservation Council Watersheds United Vermont
Water Quality Enhancement Development, Design, and Implementation Block Grant	To support the development, design, and implementation of priority water quality enhancement projects. View the Water Quality Enhancement Grants Summary document to learn more.	Statewide (Prioritized outside Lake Champlain and Lake Memphrington basins)	Coming Soon
Woody Riparian Buffer Planting Block Grant	To support projects that establish, and steward forested riparian buffers.	Statewide	Natural Resource Conservation Council Watersheds United Vermont

Example CWIP Grants for Clean Water Projects

What is a Funding Program Administrator?



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Why have a Funding Policy?

1. To ensure that the Clean Water Funds allocated to CWIP are used as intended by statute and as intended by the Clean Water Board.
2. To ensure projects result in the necessary deliverables for tracking and reporting clean water investments and outcomes.
3. To standardize expectations in a manner that expedites granting and contracting efforts and enhances equity across grant recipients.
4. To minimize investments in infeasible and/or low priority projects.



Where do I find the Funding Policy?



- <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants>
 - SFY 2023 Funding Policy
 - Summary of Funding Policy Updates and Clarifications
 - Question and Answers
 - Recording of today's presentation
- <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants/resources>
 - SFY 2023 Funding Policy
 - CWIP Eligibility Screening Form
 - CWIP Project Types Table
 - SFY 2021 Funding Policy

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Summary of Key Changes

- Structural
- Narrowed applicability
- Broader project purpose
- Expanded eligibility of projects and expenses
- Alignment and simplification
- Supporting educational content
- Vermont Division for Historic Preservation Review
- Natural Resource Impacts → “Permitability”



Structural

- Appendix A: CWIP Project Eligibility Screening Form
- Appendix B: CWIP Project Types Table
- Appendix C: Project Types Table Explanation of Items
- Grant Recipient Responsibilities and Guidance; Budget Definitions and Guidance, Appendix D: Other information
- ~~CWIP Spending Plan~~



Narrowed Applicability

The Funding Policy directly applies to the following CWIP-administered clean water funding programs:⁶

1. Water Quality Restoration Formula and Operation and Maintenance Grants.
2. Water Quality Enhancement Grants (includes both state-administered contracts and grants as well as block grants issued under this funding program and excludes wetlands incentive payments).
3. Municipal Stormwater Implementation Grants (includes Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Community Formula Grants, and Municipal Roads Grants in Aid Equipment Grants and excludes the Green Schools Initiative).
4. New funding rounds under existing or open CWIP block grant agreements from State Fiscal Year 2022 or earlier (includes the Woody Buffer Block Grant, Design and Implementation Block Grant, Dam Removal Design and Implementation Block Grant, Watershed Work Crew Block Grants, and the Project Development Block Grant).



Broader Project Purpose



- Removes reference to "primary"
 - ~~reducing nutrient and sediment pollution~~
1. Minimize Anthropogenic Nutrient and Organic Pollution
 2. Protect and Restore Aquatic and Riparian Habitats
 3. Minimize Flood and Fluvial Erosion Hazards
 4. Minimize Toxic and Pathogenic Pollution and Chemicals of Emerging Concern

Expanded eligibility of projects and expenses

- Stormwater/roads gully
- Private roads/driveways
- Equipment and tools
- Co-benefits



Alignment and Simplification



- Batch Import File/New Project Form for every project step
- DEC Programmatic Staff Engagement
- Definitions within project sector across phases
- Milestones and Deliverables across sectors within same phases
- ~~Interim reporting~~
- Step 4 = Permitting needs assessment
- Media Announcement

Supporting educational content

- Managing Project Spending
- Leveraging and Match
- Appendix C: Final Design Report/Preliminary Design Report
- Appendix D:
 - Watershed Projects Database and WPD-IDs
 - Project Phase Terminology and Design Guidance



Vermont Division for Historic Preservation Review



- Clarifies and integrates review requirements into milestones and deliverables
- Provides pathways for exempt and conditionally exempt project types
- Funding eligibility

Natural Resource Impacts → “Permit-ability”

III. Rivers, River Corridors, and Flood Hazard Areas

1. Is there any portion of the project site that is mapped Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Hazard Areas, or stormwater pond's pipe draining into a stream, excavation/filling or construction activity that requires regulatory requirements through the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)?

If **yes**, you will need to speak with the Floodplain Manager for your project's region.

Regulatory Point of Contact Name:

Provide below or attach a narrative summary of Table 4 findings. Please include:

- Which permits or permit amendment are needed or might be needed?
- What type might be needed? (e.g. a general or individual permit)?
- What concerns were voiced by permitting staff?
- How will the proposed scope of work address these concerns?

2. Is any portion of the project site within a perennial river or stream channel?

13

Yes

No

If **yes**, you will need to speak with a [Stream Alteration Engineer](#). Use the [Water Quality Project Screening Tool](#) to find the Stream Alteration Engineer for your project's region.

Regulatory Point of Contact Name/Position:

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Next Steps



- Question and Answer Document
- Posting recording
- Trainings:
 - Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP)
 - Project Review
 - Reporting and nForms
- Future updates
 - VDHP
 - Act 154
- Grants Notification Listserv

Q&A

- Thank you!
- Questions?

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