

## STATE FISCAL YEAR 2025 CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE PROGRAM SPENDING PLAN

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) translates its annual Clean Water Budget appropriations, presented in Table 1 below, into annual Spending Plans. Table 2 presents the State Fiscal Year 2025 (SFY25) CWIP Spending Plan. The CWIP Spending Plan is a communication and planning tool to provide information to clean water project proponents and prospective grant/contract recipients on the types of funding programs and initiatives available in the coming year. CWIP's Spending Plan also serves as an internal planning tool to track annual progress implementing funding programs and initiatives.

For more information on CWIP funding opportunities, visit: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants>.

### CWIP-Administered Clean Water Budget Line Items

Table 1 shows an excerpt from the SFY25 Clean Water Budget of CWIP-administered line items. Most CWIP-administered line items are funded wholly from the Clean Water Fund.

Table 1. CWIP-administered SFY25 Clean Water Budget line items

No.	Programmatic Financial Tracking Category	Clean Water Budget Line-Item Activity	Clean Water Board Budget As Passed by Legislature, 2024
1.1	Formula Grants	Water Quality Restoration Formula Grants to Clean Water Service Providers and Operation and Maintenance (O&M)	\$8,360,000
1.2	Multi-Sector	Basin Planning, Basin Water Quality Council Participation, Education, and Outreach	\$750,000
1.31	Enhancement Grants	Statewide Non-regulatory Clean Water Projects	\$5,000,000
1.52	Multi-Sector	Program and Partner Support	\$1,630,000
2.4	Multi-Sector	Innovative or Alternative Technologies or Practices to Improve Water Quality	\$750,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$16,490,000</b>

### Adjustments to the CWIP Spending Plan

CWIP Spending Plans are subject to change throughout the course of the year based on demand, administrative capacity, and as unforeseen needs arise. While the Spending Plan is subject to change, it will remain consistent with the Clean Water Budget line-item activities and total dollar amounts, shown in Table 1.

The CWIP makes every effort to minimize changes to the Spending Plan outside of the Spending Plan development process. One-off changes and/or new requests to the Spending Plan present challenges for our program and partners from a workload prioritization and transparency perspective. Additionally, as CWIP funding programs transition to employ more Funding Program Administrators, CWIP anticipates a

decreased ability to respond to one-off or special project requests. Accordingly, project-specific requests will be directed to apply to Funding Program Administrators where appropriate.

CWIP will evaluate any requested changes outside of the Spending Plan development process or special project requests using the following considerations:

- Does the request align with the intent of the Clean Water Fund and the program design/administrative approach presented as part of the Clean Water Budget process?
- Is the request eligible for funding under the CWIP Funding Policy?
- Is there an existing spending initiative that could otherwise support this request?
- Is there an available technical project manager, does CWIP and the Administration and Innovation Division (AID) have sufficient capacity to reprioritize to meet this request, and what consequently needs to be deprioritized?
- How does this request rank against the other priorities in the Spending Plan?
- Are there sufficient available funds to cover the new request's short-term and long-term funding needs?
- Does meeting this request promote or challenge funding access equity statewide?

CWIP may identify available funds by restructuring the current Spending Plan as appropriate, or by reprogramming funds from prior fiscal years, which materialize when projects close out under budget. CWIP reprograms prior year dollars where feasible to efficiently meet the substantial budget demands but is careful to confirm whether the newly requested activity meets the original intent of the identified available funds, as determined in the Clean Water Board recommended budget. Reprogrammed dollars from prior year appropriations are not reflected in Table 2 below but may be used, from time to time to boost the spending power of specific line-items.

Table 2. SFY25 CWIP Spending Plan. **Subject to change.** Dark green shaded rows indicate Clean Water Service Delivery Act (Act 76 of 2019) statutory priority of spending initiatives, gold indicates sub-categories associated with specific Clean Water Budget line items, and orange indicates sub-categories' subtotals where applicable.

Line Item No.	Spending Initiative	Spending Initiative Summary	Amount	Target Timing <sup>1</sup>	Programmatic Financial Tracking Category <sup>2</sup>
<b>1</b>	<b>Clean Water Budget Tier 1 Statutory Priority</b>				
<b>1.01</b>	<b>Water Quality Restoration Formula Grants</b>				
1.01.01	Water Quality Restoration Formula Grants to Clean Water Service Providers and Operation and Maintenance	To award grants to Clean Water Service Providers to meet the pollutant reduction requirements. The grant amount shall be based on the annual pollutant reduction goal established for the Clean Water Service Provider multiplied by the standard cost for pollutant reduction including the costs of administration and reporting. The standard cost shall include the costs of project identification, project design, and project construction. Additional funds support the reasonable costs associated with the verification and maintenance of clean water projects in a basin.	\$8,360,000	To be encumbered Summer 2024.	Formula Grants
	<b>Water Quality Restoration Formula Grants SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$8,360,000</b>		
<b>1.02</b>	<b>Water Quality Enhancement Grants</b>				
1.02.01	Dam Removal Design and Implementation Block Grant	Passthrough funds to entities to design and implement dam removal projects. Funds prioritized outside Formula Grant Basins.	\$1,000,000	Request for Proposals released by December 2024.	Enhancement Grants
1.02.02	Woody Riparian Buffer Block Grant	Passthrough funds to entities to implement high priority, cost-effective, native riparian woody buffer plantings. Funds prioritized outside Formula Grant Basins.	\$500,000	Request for Proposals released by December 2024.	Enhancement Grants

<sup>1</sup> Encumbered funds are those committed in an executed agreement, amendment, or renewal. Target dates for encumbrance indicate target timelines for when agreements or amendments/renewals are executed. Renewals extend an existing agreement for an additional term with an identical scope of work.

<sup>2</sup> Refer to Table 1.

Line Item No.	Spending Initiative	Spending Initiative Summary	Amount	Target Timing <sup>1</sup>	Programmatic Financial Tracking Category <sup>2</sup>
1.02.03	River Corridor Easements	Passthrough funds to entities to develop and implement River Corridor Conservation Easement projects. Funds target protection and restoration of critical river corridor, wetland, and floodplain property. Funds prioritized outside Formula Grant Basins.	\$0 <sup>3</sup>	N/A.	Enhancement Grants
1.02.04	Multi-sector Assessments	Passthrough funds to entities to perform assessments in priority subwatersheds to identify and prioritize clean water projects through Stream Geomorphic Assessments and River Corridor Plans, Stormwater Master Planning, Lake Wise and Lake Watershed Action Planning. Funds prioritized outside Formula Grant Basins.	\$310,000	Various. To be encumbered Summer 2024 through Spring 2025.	Enhancement Grants
1.02.05	Enhancement Development, Design, and Implementation Block Grant	Passthrough funds to entities to support partners in the development, design, and implementation of priority water quality enhancement projects. Individual projects are identified in Tactical Basin Plans and listed in DEC Watershed Projects Database. Funds prioritized outside Formula Grant Basins.	\$3,190,000	Request for Proposals released by December 2024 or otherwise encumbered Winter 2024-2025.	Enhancement Grants
<b>Water Quality Enhancement Grants SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>\$5,000,000</b>		
<b>1.03</b>	<b>Tactical Basin Planning</b>				
1.03.01	Tactical Basin Planning Support Grants	Supports partners' participation and outreach throughout the Tactical Basin Planning process and Basin Water Quality Council participation, pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1253(d)(3).	\$750,000	To be encumbered July 2024.	Multi-Sector
<b>Tactical Basin Planning SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>\$750,000</b>		
<b>1.04</b>	<b>Program and Partner Support</b>				

<sup>3</sup> Initiative continues in SFY25 and is sufficiently funded with prior fiscal year funds.  
All values in Table 2 subject to change over the course of the State Fiscal Year.

Line Item No.	Spending Initiative	Spending Initiative Summary	Amount	Target Timing <sup>1</sup>	Programmatic Financial Tracking Category <sup>2</sup>
1.04.01	Clean Water Workforce Capacity Development	Support to ensure a strong partnership network that can deliver high quality and high priority clean water projects.	\$447,625	TBD based on outcomes of Pilot Block Grant.	Multi-Sector
1.04.02	Flood Recovery	One-time funds to mitigate impacts of Vermont's Summer 2023 flood events on clean water project performance to repair damage to projects that rise above an operation and maintenance-level fix.	\$179,015	TBD based on need indicated through Flood Response Project Surveys.	Multi-Sector
1.04.03	Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facility Technical Assistance, Education, and Outreach	Passthrough funds to entity to develop and implement a plan to provide education, outreach, and technical assistance to Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) operators subject to major nutrient Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) (e.g., Long Island Sound Nitrogen TMDL and Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDLs).	\$110,000	To be encumbered Summer 2024.	Multi-Sector
1.04.04	Watershed Management Training Materials	Supports one-time expenses associated with development and delivery of training materials that build clean water workforce network capacity in the identification, development, design, and implementation of clean water projects in the stream and floodplain sectors.	\$40,000	Request for Proposals released by December 2024.	Multi-Sector
1.04.05	Technical Development of Tracking, Accounting, Target-Setting	Supports DEC and partners in developing and addressing gaps in tracking, accounting, and target-setting methodologies, tools, trainings, and processes to meet requirements of Act 76 of 2019 and Act 64 of 2015.	\$0 <sup>4</sup>	Various. To be encumbered Summer 2024 through Spring 2025.	Multi-Sector
1.04.06	Analytical Services for Community Science Water Quality Monitoring	Supports water quality lab analytical expenses and related supplies for community science water quality monitoring efforts, including the LaRosa Partnership Program.	\$100,000	On-going.	Multi-Sector
1.04.07	Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)	Illicit discharges are discharges of wastewater or industrial process water into a stormwater-only drainage system. Initiative supports mapping and	\$30,000	On-going.	Multi-Sector

<sup>4</sup> Initiative continues sufficiently funded with prior fiscal year funds.

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Line Item No.	Spending Initiative	Spending Initiative Summary	Amount	Target Timing <sup>1</sup>	Programmatic Financial Tracking Category <sup>2</sup>
		testing of all urbanized stormwater outfall pipes to locate illicit or illegal discharges of wastewater.			
1.04.08	Lake Champlain Subwatershed Conservation Effects Assessment Program (CEAP)	DEC-CWIP's contribution to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) CEAP, evaluating agricultural best management practices' effectiveness. DEC-CWIP's contribution to CEAP funds a U.S. Geological Survey stream gage necessary for the water quality monitoring work. CWIP's match commitment for this initiative has been fulfilled with this final year of support.	\$65,375	To be encumbered October 2024.	Multi-Sector
1.04.09	UVM Sea Grant - Lake Watershed Management Position Support	Passthrough funds to University of Vermont-Lake Champlain Sea Grant to provide technical assistance on behalf of the Lakes and Ponds Program. Co-funded by Lake Champlain Sea Grant.	\$65,000	To be encumbered May 2025.	Multi-Sector
1.04.10	UVM Sea Grant - Green Infrastructure Collaborative	Passthrough funds to University of Vermont-Lake Champlain Sea Grant to manage the Green Infrastructure Collaborative (GIC), a partnership to promote Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) and natural asset management in Vermont, as well as support the Green Schools initiative and CWIP's Verification and Maintenance program. Co-funded by Lake Champlain Sea Grant.	\$152,000	To be encumbered January 2025.	Multi-Sector
1.04.11	Clean Water Partners' Eco AmeriCorps	Supports DEC match requirement to federal AmeriCorps grant by directly funding the time of Eco AmeriCorps members serving at Vermont organizations implementing clean water projects. Host organizations must still meet their local-level match obligations.	\$100,000	On-going.	Multi-Sector
1.04.12	Grants and Financial Management Personnel	Supports 2.8 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) across DEC's Administration and Innovation Division (AID) and DEC's Clean Water Initiative Program to support administration of CWIP grants and contracts.	\$340,985	N/A.	Multi-Sector

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Line Item No.	Spending Initiative	Spending Initiative Summary	Amount	Target Timing <sup>1</sup>	Programmatic Financial Tracking Category <sup>2</sup>
<b>Program and Partner Support SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,630,000</b>		
<b>2</b>	<b>Clean Water Budget Tier 2 Statutory Priority</b>				
<b>2.01</b>	<b>Municipal Stormwater Implementation Grants</b>				
2.01.01	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Community Formula Grants	This Formula Grant program will assist MS4 communities with developing and implementing clean water projects to comply with MS4 permit obligations to implement Flow Restoration Plans and Phosphorus Control Plans. Co-funded in prior fiscal years with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal funds administered by DEC-CWIP.	\$0 <sup>5</sup>	N/A.	Municipal Stormwater
2.01.02	Green Schools Initiative	Passthrough funds to entities to assist public schools in Lake Champlain and Memphremagog basins in obtaining and complying with the Three-Acre General Permit (design, permitting, construction). Co-funded in prior fiscal years with Lake Champlain Basin Program and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal funds administered by DEC-CWIP.	\$0 <sup>5</sup>	N/A.	Municipal Stormwater
<b>Municipal Stormwater Implementation Grants SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>\$0<sup>5</sup></b>		
<b>2.02</b>	<b>Innovative or Alternative Technologies or Practices to Improve Water Quality<sup>6</sup></b>				
2.02.01	Lake Carmi Alum Treatment	In SFY 2025, one-time funds are anticipated to support an in-lake phosphorus inactivation project, pending the results of the Alum Treatment Feasibility Study for Lake Carmi and permitting. If the study recommends an alum treatment, ANR-DEC expects that the Clean Water Budget would partially cover costs of the alum treatment and other local funding/financing sources (e.g., CWSRF	\$750,000	TBD.	Multi-Sector

<sup>5</sup> Initiatives continue sufficiently funded with prior fiscal year funds.

<sup>6</sup> This line item is populated with funds on an as-needed basis, at the Clean Water Budget-level and CWIP Spending Plan-level.

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Line Item No.	Spending Initiative	Spending Initiative Summary	Amount	Target Timing <sup>1</sup>	Programmatic Financial Tracking Category <sup>2</sup>
		loan) may be leveraged to cover the full costs of the treatment. Budget may include associated expenses with existing aeration system removal.			
	<b>Innovative or Alternative Technologies or Practices SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$750,000</b>		
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$16,490,000</b>		

All values in Table 2 subject to change over the course of the State Fiscal Year.



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER APPROVAL

This State Fiscal Year 2025 Clean Water Initiative Program Spending Plan is approved by the Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner.



8/2/2024

Jason Batchelder, DEC Commissioner

Date

Spending Plan is available electronically at: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants>.

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