

Water Infrastructure Sponsorship Program

The Water Infrastructure Sponsorship Program (WISPr) provides a funding source for natural resource projects (NRPs) to encourage water quality restoration or protection projects that might otherwise not have been pursued.

Eligible Entities

Municipalities	Conservation Districts
Non-profit organizations	Watershed Groups
Regional Planning Commissions	

To be eligible, a municipal clean water project must sponsor a NRP and both projects will be funded with the same CWSRF loan. The value of the natural resources sponsored project must be at a 1:10 or greater ratio to the municipal sponsoring project.

How Does it Work?

NRPs and municipal clean water projects will seek each other through the program, WISPr. The sponsored project will need to work within the time line of the municipal project so both complete in a timely manner. The municipality loan providing for approved projects will have a reduced administrative fee rate with savings over the life of the loan equal to the total value of the sponsored natural resource project.

Program Eligibility Guidelines

- ◆ Sponsored projects must protect, conserve, or restore natural resources, including the acquisition of easements and land for the purpose of providing water quality benefits.
- ◆ Projects must apply to CWIP Watershed Projects Database to be considered. Applications are requested 3 times each year.

Sponsorship Program

AT-A-GLANCE

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Sponsoring Projects (Municipal)

Water pollution abatement and control facilities projects, such as:

- Wastewater treatment facility refurbishments or upgrades
- Filtration or disinfection
- Decentralized systems
- CSO downspout disconnection
- Traditional pipe, storage, and treatment systems for gray infrastructure
- Bioswales, rainwater harvesting, pervious pavement for green stormwater infrastructure

Sponsored Natural Resource Projects (Municipal or Non-Municipal)

Water quality restoration or protection projects, such as:

- Wetland restoration
- Floodplain/stream restoration
- River corridor easements
- Woody buffer plantings
- Lake shoreland retro fit, erosion repair using LakeWise principles
- Dam removal
- Land Conservation

For additional information on the Water Infrastructure Sponsorship Program (WISPr), please contact:

KATHERINE KING
(802) 261-5840
katherine.king@vermont.gov

 VERMONT
AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Department of Environmental Conservation

WATER INVESTMENT DIVISION

Water Infrastructure

FINANCING PROGRAMS

	WHAT CAN BE FUNDED?	WHO IS ELIGIBLE?	TERMS	CONTACT
Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)	Planning, design and construction of wastewater and stormwater facilities	Municipalities and privately-owned wastewater and stormwater systems	Up to 30 years/2%	Tom Brown 802 622 4205 thomas.brown@vermont.gov
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)	Planning, design and construction of public water system improvements to comply with drinking water standards and protect public health	Municipalities and certain privately-owned public water systems	20 years/3% Disadvantaged System: Up to 30 years/3% to 0% + principal forgiveness	Amy Galford 802 585 4891 amy.galford@vermont.gov
Water Planning Loan Program (WPL)	Feasibility studies, preliminary engineering and final design services related to drinking water systems	Municipalities, privately-owned, non-profit community water systems	5 years/0%	Amy Galford 802 585 4891 amy.galford@vermont.gov
Water Source Protection Loan Program (WSP)	Purchase of land or conservation easements to protect public water sources	Municipalities	20 years/3%	Amy Galford 802 585 4891 amy.galford@vermont.gov
Vermont Only Clean Water Loan	Planning or construction for wastewater treatment or stormwater treatment facilities and collection systems	Municipalities or municipally sponsored privately-owned systems, designated for projects not eligible under the CWSRF Program	20 years/2%	Tom Brown 802 622 4205 thomas.brown@vermont.gov
Vermont Only Drinking Water Loan	Design, land acquisition, construction of water supply when disconnected involuntarily from public water supply	Municipalities	20 years/3% Disadvantaged System: Up to 30 years/3% to 0% + principal forgiveness	Amy Galford 802 585 4891 amy.galford@vermont.gov
On-Site Loan Program	Repair or replacement of failed wastewater disposal systems and potable water supplies	Certain residences, income less than 200% of State median, denied bank financing	15 years/3%	Chris Rottler 802 461 6051 chris.rottler@vermont.gov
Vermont Pollution Control Grants	Based on a grant formula in EPR Chapter 2 using priority points from technical and affordability categories	Municipalities, funding is subject to legislative approval	Grant ranges from 25% to 50% of total project cost	Tom Brown 802 622 4205 thomas.brown@vermont.gov
Engineering Planning Advance	Funding for engineering feasibility studies for developing public wastewater infrastructure.	Municipalities without public water or sewer, funding availability is subject to legislative appropriations.	Repayment, if any, required only if project goes to construction	Lynnette Claudon 802 490 6226 lynnette.claudon@vermont.gov
Unsafe Dam Revolving Loan Fund	Reconstruction, repair, or removal of a dam to make it safe, the dam must be determined to be unsafe	Municipalities, private individuals, non-profit	Loan: 10 years/2%; Grant: 25% if dam is removed	Ben Green 802 490 6229 benjamin.green@vermont.gov
Water Infrastructure Sponsorship Program (WISPr)	Protect, conserve, or restore natural resources, including the acquisition of easements and land for the purpose of providing water quality benefit	Municipalities, non-profit organizations, RPCs, conservation districts, watershed groups	NR Project forgiven over life of municipal loan in reduced administrative fee	Katherine King 802 261 5840 katherine.king@vermont.gov