

Funding for Lake Shoreland Projects through the DEC Clean Water Initiative Program



Existing Funding Sources – State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 (July 2021 – June 2022)

Grant Program	Eligible Project Steps ¹	Area of Focus	Block Grant Holder ² Recipient(s)	Budget ³	Close-out ⁴
Multi-sector Assessments	Assessment/Project Identification on defined lakes (Lake Watershed Action Plans and Lake Wise)	Perform assessments in priority lake watersheds to identify and prioritize lake stressor and related clean water projects to address them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Round 1: Essex NRCD (Fairlee & Maidstone) Round 2: Caledonia NRCD (Willoughby, Morey, Joe's Harvey's, & Shadow-Glover) Round 3 still TBD 	\$180,000	On a contract-by-contract basis
Project Development Block Grant	Project Development ⁵	Funds to develop clean water projects by performing community engagement / research to prepare projects for design and/or implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watersheds United VT Natural Resources Conservation Council Addison County Regional Planning Commission 	\$491,855	7/1/2024
Design / Implementation Block Grant ⁶	Preliminary design, final design, implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How DEC funds BMPs 	Pass-through funds to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports partners to manage stormwater & natural resource projects Projects are identified in Tactical Basin Plans and listed in DEC Watershed Projects Database or a Lake Watershed Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watersheds United VT Mount Ascutney Regional Commission Natural Resources Conservation Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1,175,000 for natural resource projects \$1,463,294 for storm water projects Shoreland projects qualify for either 	12/31/2024
Woody Buffer Block Grant ⁷	Design (planting plan) and implementation	Pass-through funds to entities to implement high priority, cost-effective, native riparian woody buffer plantings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watersheds United VT Natural Resources Conservation Council 	\$525,000	12/31/2023

¹ Appendix B of the [CWIP SFY2021 Funding Policy](#) provides more details on how lake shoreland projects are defined by project step.

² Block Grant Holders manage funds on behalf of DEC. They each may have their own grant solicitation rounds and guidance for groups interested in directly advancing clean water projects. Please reach out to Block Grant Holders to learn more about upcoming funding opportunities.

³ Funding amounts are subject to change. Budget reflects total value of most recently signed agreement or amendment with DEC and may not reflect funding available from the Block Grant Holders.

⁴ Close-out dates indicate when current Block Grant agreements will expire. Please note that the deadline to access these funds from the Block Grant Holders may be before this final close-out date.

⁵ Project Development Block Grants support clean water partners in performing the tasks needed to select identified projects for development as well as gather the information and commitments needed to ready priority water quality projects for design and implementation. Grants are designed for professionally staffed organizations that need to cover personnel time to get a project started

⁶ This grant is how priority lake shoreland projects that will improve water quality and that are identified through lake wise assessments, LWAPs, or a Tactical Basin Plan can get funding for design/implementation. It's a complex grant application process and DEC suggests volunteer-led groups who are unfamiliar with this program connect with a professionally staffed [watershed group](#), [Natural Resources Conservation District](#), or [Regional Planning Commission](#) to co-apply for funds.

⁷ This program has a 35-foot minimum buffer width and an emphasis on native species "rewilding" as opposed to well-landscaped buffers, which may not work on small lakefront lots. Landowners interested in smaller and more landscaped buffers might want to consider the [Lake Champlain Sea Grant LEAP](#).

New Funding Sources - State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 (July 2022 – June 2023)

Grant Program	Eligible Project Steps	Area of Focus	Block Grant Holder or Recipient(s)	Budget	Close-out
Act 76 Water Quality Restoration Formula Grants	Assessment, Project identification, Project development, Design, Implementation, Operation and Maintenance ⁸	Non-regulatory clean water projects with a cost-effective phosphorus reduction potential in Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog watersheds (Lake-related assessments and project design/implementation will remain an eligible category)	Clean Water Service Providers (CWSPs) in selected basins ⁹ will issue call for applications periodically, could be broken up by project steps (still TBD)	Funding is allocated by VT Legislature / Clean Water Board on an annual basis A total of \$7,210,000 is available for SFY2023, with variability in the distribution of funds by sub-watershed	No anticipated end date per Clean Water Service Delivery Act
Act 76 Water Quality Enhancement Grants	Assessment, Project identification, Project development, Design, Implementation	Non-regulatory clean water projects state-wide with a focus on restoration and maintenance of high-quality waters, restoration of degraded or stressed waters, creation of resilient watersheds, or supporting public use of waters (Lake-related assessments and project design / implementation will remain an eligible category)	To be determined but will likely be a mix of enhancement-focused block grants and some sector specific grants	Funding is allocated by VT Legislature / Clean Water Board on an annual basis A total of \$5,000,000 is available for SFY2023 with distribution of funds across project steps and types still to be determined	No anticipated end date per Clean Water Service Delivery Act

Notes:

- For more information, visit: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants>
- For questions, contact: Gianna Petito, Clean Water Initiative Program Grants Coordinator, gianna.petito@vermont.gov

Additional Potential Funding Sources outside of the Vermont DEC:

- Lake Champlain Sea Grant – [Lake Education & Outreach Program](#)
- [Lake Champlain Basin Program Grant Opportunities](#), including Technical Projects and Education & Outreach Grants

⁸ Each Clean Water Service Provider is responsible for the long-term operation and maintenance of all non-regulatory clean water projects in its region

⁹ See DEC’s [Clean Water Service Delivery Act](#) page for a list of CWSPs by basin and to learn more about Water Quality Restoration Formula Grants.