



Pilot Project Program

Pilot Project Program – *subprogram within the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP)*

Eligibility & Purpose: Provides subsidized (low-interest rate) loans to municipalities seeking to fund: adaptive management projects; other non-traditional projects to comply with a municipality's permit limit; and mercury remediation at wastewater treatment facilities. DNR is working to further define and refine this program.

Deadline: Applications accepted year round.

Contact: Jeanne Cargill, 608-267-7587, Jeanne.Cargill@wisconsin.gov

For information on Adaptive Management or Water Quality Trading, please contact: Amanda Minks, 608-261-6450, Amanda.Minks@Wisconsin.gov.

The Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) has established a category of projects termed "Pilot Projects" for non-traditional wastewater treatment alternatives. Pilot projects are projects intended to help a municipal wastewater treatment facility meet their permit limits through non-traditional methods. Non-traditional practices would need to be eligible for Clean Water Fund Program funding (be eligible under the Federal Clean Water Act) and include those identified in an approved adaptive management plan.

Partnerships between the municipal WWTP and local nonpoint source land and water conservation experts (such as county land conservation staff) to fully implement an adaptive management or water quality trading project would be considered as part of a pilot project. Pilot projects implementing adaptive management and water quality trading plans will need to include the activities and costs for reducing nutrient outputs to the system.

Pilot Project Program FAQs:

Q. What is the interest rate and the term of the loan for pilot projects?

The pilot projects are anticipated to be awarded as **0%** interest rate loans. We are working to establish the pilot project program in parallel with the adaptive management permit program, which consists of three 5-year permit increments. Loan terms could be more flexible for pilot projects.

Q. What are some example activities that might qualify for a pilot project?

Pilot projects help fund non-traditional activities intended to meet a municipal wastewater treatment plant's permit limits. Activities included in an approved Adaptive Management Plan would likely be eligible for pilot project funding, however specific activities would have to be reviewed for federal requirements.

Q. How will the program work for facilities with an approved adaptive management or water quality trading plan?

Municipal wastewater treatment plants with an approved adaptive management or water quality trading plan will follow the same initial process as traditional CWFP projects. The municipality must submit online a notice of Intent to Apply (ITA) & a Priority Evaluation and Ranking Formula (PERF) to the Department by the October 31 deadline for the following State Fiscal Year (SFY) funding cycle.

The municipal wastewater treatment plant will need to follow the permit process for adaptive management or water quality trading, including obtaining approval of required plans. The DNR Environmental Loans program staff work closely with staff in the Permits program as municipalities with adaptive management and water quality trading plans seek funding options for plan implementation.

Q. What costs will be covered?

The DNR is still assessing what costs might be covered through a pilot project. It is anticipated that partnerships between the municipal WWTP and local nonpoint source land and water conservation experts (such as county land conservation staff) will be established to fully implement an adaptive management or water quality trading project. Monitoring and planning costs for adaptive management and trading are likely to be eligible, assuming that they are associated with construction activities. Adaptive management and water quality trading plans will need to include the activities and costs for reducing nutrient outputs to the system.



Environmental Loans Programs

To learn more about DNR Environmental Loans's different funding programs, visit dnr.wi.gov/Aid/EIF.html.

Pre-Application – Starting the Funding Process

Each municipality that plans to apply for financial assistance from a DNR Environmental Loans program is required to complete and submit online a notice of Intent to Apply (ITA) and a Priority Evaluation and Ranking Formula (PERF) for either the Clean Water Fund Program or Safe Drinking Water Loan Program.

Pre-Application Deadline: All ITAs/PERFs must be submitted online by October 31 for the following State Fiscal Year (SFY) funding cycle. Example: A municipality must submit an ITA/PERF by the October 31, 2017 deadline if it is seeking funding between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. This is the date range of the SFY 2019 funding cycle.

Calendar of Deadlines and Due Dates

View/download the visual calendar of deadlines & due dates at dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/EIF/guide/ELprogramsDeadlinesAndDueDates2.pdf.

Interest Rates

Current rates are available at dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/EIF/Guide/Interest.html.

PROJECT TYPE	PERCENT OF MARKET RATE	CURRENT INTEREST RATE
Clean Water Fund Program Wastewater projects to maintain compliance with existing effluent limits or to meet new or changed effluent limits, storm water projects, or projects to sewer previously unsewered areas.	70%	2.380%
Clean Water Fund Program CWFP pilot projects as well as the portion of projects for receiving & storing septage and capacity for treating septage.	0%	0%
Safe Drinking Water Loan Program Projects of municipalities with less than 10,000 population and MHIs less than 80 percent of the state MHI.	33%	1.122%
Safe Drinking Water Loan Program Projects of municipalities not meeting the above criteria.	55%	1.870%
MARKET RATE (effective 01/01/2017 - 03/31/2017)	100%	3.400%

Contact Us

For general questions about funding and DNR Environmental Loans (EL), call us at **608-266-7555**.

For information about a specific loan or project, contact your DNR project manager or DNR construction management engineer (CME). See staff directory, dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/EIF/Guide/managers.html.

You can go to dnr.wi.gov and search using the keyword "loans" to learn more about different funding programs offered through the Environmental Loans Section of the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources.