

Safe Drinking Water Loan Program

Learn about the Environmental Loans programs and find guidance at dnr.wi.gov/aid/eif.html

Affordable Financing for Drinking Water Projects

Since 1998, the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) provides affordable financial assistance to municipalities for publicly-owned drinking water infrastructure projects that are needed to protect public health and achieve or maintain compliance with federal and state regulations relating to water supply, such as the SDWA.

- Implementation details: ss. 281.59 & 281.61, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 166, Wis. Adm. Code.

Benefits & program features

- Fixed interest rates on long-term loans.
- Online system for notice of Intent to Apply (ITA) and Application submittals.
- Dedicated DNR project manager and construction management engineer.
- Coordination of funds with other funding agencies.



What kinds of funding are available?

The Wisconsin Environmental Improvement Fund (EIF) is a state revolving loan fund that combines federal capitalization grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) with state funds to provide funding to municipalities in the form of subsidized loans (**reduced-interest rate loans**). Some municipalities may be eligible for further subsidy (**principal forgiveness**) to reduce its loan size.

- **View current rates at** dnr.wi.gov/aid/documents/eif/guide/interest.html.

How may the funds be used?

The program funds are for reasonable and necessary costs directly related to the **planning, design, & construction** of eligible projects. Funds may be used to construct, improve, modify, purchase, replace, restore, and upgrade drinking water systems and infrastructure, such as sourcing, treatment, storage, and distribution.

Common projects: new wells, wellhouse rehabilitation, storage facilities, and watermain replacements.

- Examples of *general* project scope descriptions:
 - Build taller storage tank to eliminate low-pressure areas.
 - Replace undersized watermains along main street.

Who may apply?

Eligible applicants and funding recipients, also referred to as **municipalities** or **local governments**, include, but aren't limited to: Wisconsin cities, towns, villages, counties, and sanitary districts.

How do we apply? When do we apply?

Application guidance and considerations are available on the How to Apply tab at dnr.wi.gov/aid/eif.html#tabx3.

- **October 31st** - SDWLP Intent to Apply (ITA) deadline for the *following* state fiscal year funding cycle.
- **June 30th** - SDWLP Application deadline for the *upcoming* state fiscal year funding cycle.

Submit ITA by 10/31/2022 deadline if seeking funding in State Fiscal Year 2024 (07/01/2023 through 06/30/2024).

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PUB-CF-038 03/2022 Wisconsin DNR Environmental Loans Section CWF 608-358-3330 SDWLP 608-692-4227

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Program implementation details are outlined in chs. [NR 162](#) and [NR 166](#), Wis. Adm. Code. [Legal notice](#): This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in federal regulations or state statutes or administrative rules are referenced. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing federal regulations and state statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication is offered in other formats upon request, call 608-267-9481.

