

# Green Resiliency Grant Program

## Funding Available: \$60 million

The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) will offer grants for certain projects that improve water quality and mitigate the effects of climate change through the Green Resiliency Grant (GRG) program. This grant funding is made available, in part, through the Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 (Bond Act). GRG grants are awarded on a competitive basis to projects that implement green infrastructure practices across New York State (NYS). Eligible projects include those that address combined and/or sanitary sewer overflow during extreme weather events or those that combine green infrastructure and nature-based features to ensure climate resilient infrastructure. Disadvantaged communities will receive no less than 35 percent of the benefit from this funding.

## Background

On March 21, 2024, EFC published for public comment proposed eligibility guidelines for the GRG program designed to implement the historic \$4.2 billion Bond Act. The public comment period closed April 19, 2024, and responses to the comments are posted on the [Bond Act website](#).

EFC administers the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and co-administers the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) with the NYS Department of Health. The SRF Programs provide subsidized financial assistance to qualified municipalities to undertake eligible water infrastructure projects. Municipalities do not need to obtain financial assistance from the CWSRF or DWSRF program to receive a GRG grant and do not need to be listed on the CWSRF or DWSRF Intended Use Plan to apply for a GRG grant.

## Funding Overview

GRG may fund up to 90 percent of eligible project costs with a maximum grant of \$10 million. GRG projects must have a minimum total project cost of \$1 million and be capable of capturing, treating, or reducing the time of concentration for a minimum of 100,000 cubic feet of stormwater runoff annually.

Funding will be provided to projects to the extent that funds are available based on the evaluation criteria, including the specific green practice, water quality impacts of the project, and financial need of the municipality. EFC, in its sole discretion, may fund all or a portion of an eligible project and will determine the percentage amount available for any project. A local match for the balance of the estimated project cost is required.

## Eligible Applicants

- Any municipality, as defined by NYS Environmental Conservation Law Article 58 to include “a local public authority or public benefit corporation, a county, city, town, village, school district, supervisory district, district corporation, improvement district within a county, city, town or village, or Indian nation or tribe recognized by the state or the United States with a reservation wholly or partly within the boundaries of New York state, or any combination thereof.”;
- Any public benefit corporation or public authority established pursuant to the laws of New York; or
- Any agency of the State that is empowered to construct and operate a water quality infrastructure project, including state entities.

Applicants must have an ownership interest in the project property and have the right to operate and maintain the project for its useful life.

## Eligible Activities

***Regional Green Stormwater Infrastructure*** projects utilize green stormwater infrastructure to restore natural landscape features, such as flood plains, riparian buffers, streams, and wetlands. These natural features provide water quality benefits and enhance watersheds, while preserving wildlife and their habitat.

***Local Green Stormwater Infrastructure*** projects are typically located in an urban environment and consist of site and neighborhood specific practices, such as bioretention, cisterns, downspout disconnections, green roofs, green walls, permeable pavements, stormwater street trees, and urban forestry programs. These projects provide multiple benefits, including reduced CSO and SSO events, flood protection, habitat restoration, improved air and water quality, reduction in urban heat island effect, and street and neighborhood beautification that can spur economic development and community revitalization.

Eligible Practices Include:

- Restoration of non-instream features recommended through the Resilient NY Program;
- The creation and enhancement of nature-based landscape features such as floodplains, riparian buffers, streams, and wetlands;
- Installation of:
  - Stormwater retention, retrofits, and slow-release designs;
  - Bioretention and bioswales;
  - Cisterns;

- Downspout disconnection;
- Green roofs and green walls;
- Permeable pavements or other permeable surfaces;
- Stormwater street trees; and
- Implementation of Urban forestry plans.

## **Ineligible Activities and Costs**

Ineligible activities and costs include, but are not limited to, the following:

- In-stream activities being undertaken to implement studies prepared through the Resilient NY Program
- Hardening, channelizing, or straightening streams and/or stream banks
- Standalone In-line and end-of-pipe treatment systems that only filter or detain stormwater
- Stormwater conveyance systems that are not soil/vegetation based (swales) such as pipes and concrete channels unless such pipes or channels direct stormwater to eligible green infrastructure practices
- Standalone projects including only underground stormwater control and treatment devices such as swirl concentrators, hydrodynamic separators, baffle systems for grit, trash removal/floatables, oil and grease, inflatable booms and dams for in-line underground storage and diversion of flows
- Practices implemented to comply with the requirements of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity Permit No. GP-0-20-001
- Wetland construction or restoration required as compensatory mitigation for adverse impacts to wetlands or other environmental damage caused through construction activities
- Purchase of capital equipment such as street sweepers, sewer cleaners, and vector trucks
- Project costs not directly related to water quality, including asbestos abatement and site amenities, e.g., bus shelters, benches, traffic devices
- Costs associated with the operation, maintenance, and ongoing monitoring of the project
- Projects that only include planning and / or design costs (e.g. watershed study, urban forestry plan)

## **Matching Share**

All grants require a minimum local matching share equal to a minimum of 10 percent of the total eligible project costs. The match may be provided as cash, administrative and / or technical force account, materials and equipment, or volunteer labor by qualified

individuals. Other State funds may not be used for local match. The applicant must identify the source of the match at the time that the application is submitted.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

A project will be evaluated and ranked based on the level to which it:

- Addresses combined and/or sanitary sewer overflow during extreme weather events
- Benefits Environmental Justice Areas or a Disadvantaged Community
- Establishes or restores natural features, ecology, and hydrology
- Implements measures that address climate change, including cooling the surrounding environment, mitigating urban heat islands, reducing air pollution, and reducing energy use
- Is likely to proceed to construction based on project development at time of application
- Is anticipated to make measurable improvements to or protect water quality, including the applicant's proposal to quantify water quality improvements
- Plans for the long-term operation and maintenance of the project
- Transformative projects that incorporate Green Practices to provide multiple environmental, economic, and social benefits and overall strategy to address storms and flooding issues. These projects may leverage additional funding sources and align with larger goals of the community or region

## **Awardee Requirements (after Grant Award)**

Awardees must fulfill certain requirements to enter into a Grant Agreement with EFC, including, but not limited to:

- EFC Certificate for Procuring Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Services. All A/E services must be procured in accordance with 40 U.S.C 1101 for applicants planning to utilize CWSRF financing to fund their local match.
- State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) compliance documentation. Please note that a Coordinated Environmental Review must be conducted for all Type I and Unlisted Actions.
- Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Detailed final budget and plan of finance to show that sufficient funding has been secured for the full project cost
- Proof of legal right to own, operate, and maintain project for the duration of its useful life
- Compliance with Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) requirements

- Compliance with Service-Disable Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises (SDVOB) requirements.
- Compliance with Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) requirements
- For any Publicly-Owned Treatment Works projects utilizing SRF financing to supplement the grant, compliance with Davis Bacon Wage and American Iron & Steel Requirements. Publicly-Owned Treatment Works means any devices and systems used in the storage, treatment, recycling and reclamation of municipal sewage or industrial wastes of a liquid nature. It also includes sewers, pipes and other conveyances, if used to convey wastewater to a publicly owned treatment plant, and combined storm water and sanitary sewer systems.

**Application Due Date:**

Applications may be submitted starting May 1, 2024 using the online Application Form located on EFC's website at <https://portal.efc.ny.gov/Identity/Account/Login> and must be submitted by **5:00 p.m., August 16, 2024**. Applicants will be required to submit additional documents within the application.

Further information on the GRG program can be found on EFC's website at: <https://efc.ny.gov/grg>