

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (WQIP) PROGRAM



**Division
of Water**

Round 12

Program Description

The Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) program is a competitive, statewide reimbursement grant program open to local governments and not-for-profit corporations for projects that directly address documented water quality impairments. Grants awarded through the WQIP program can fund up to 85% of the total project cost for wastewater treatment improvement projects. Grant recipients may receive up to 75% of the total project cost for non-agricultural nonpoint source abatement and control, aquatic habitat restoration, municipal separate storm sewer system projects. Up to \$35 million is available for this program.

Eligible Applicants

- Municipalities
- Municipal corporations
- Soil and water conservation districts
- Not-for-profit corporations (Only aquatic habitat restoration projects)

Eligible Activities

- Non-agricultural nonpoint source abatement and control
- Wastewater treatment improvement
- Municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4)
- Aquatic habitat restoration

Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source (75/25% Cost Share)

Priority projects

- Decentralized wastewater treatment facilities for failing on-site treatment systems
- In-Lake controls for Nutrients
- Peconic estuary nitrogen reduction projects
- Green infrastructure practices
- Stormwater retrofits
- Stream stabilization/restoration

Wastewater Treatment Improvement (85/15% Cost Share)

Eligible Projects

- Wastewater effluent disinfection
- General wastewater infrastructure improvements

Priority Projects

- Highest Priority – Wastewater effluent disinfection
- Secondary Priority – Wastewater infrastructure improvements

Aquatic Habitat Restoration (75/25% Cost Share)

Sample Projects (Statewide)

- Upgrade and replacement of road stream crossings
- Removal or breach of stream barriers (dams or wiers)
- Removal or alteration of impoundments
- Stream daylighting

Sample Projects (Peconic/South Shore Estuaries)

- Restoration or management of tidal or freshwater wetlands
- Creation or restoration of submerged aquatic vegetation
- Restoration or enhancement of shellfish and shellfish beds

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) (75/25% Cost Share)

Eligible Projects

- Completion of gap analysis to identify barriers to green infrastructure in local laws
- Revision of Local Laws to remove barriers to green infrastructure
- Comprehensive system mapping/program mapping

Ineligible Activities

- Proposals that do not address a water quality impairment.

Pre-Application Requirements

- All municipalities and soil and water conservation districts must register in the NYS Grants Management System to be eligible for this grant (<http://grantsreform.ny.gov>).
- All not-for-profits must register and prequalify in the NYS Grants Management System to be eligible for this grant (<http://grantsreform.ny.gov>).

Successful Applicant Requirements

Successful applicants will be required to sign a State of New York Master Contract (MGC) and will be required to comply with statewide, agency and program terms and conditions, and payment and reporting requirements as identified in the MGC. The MGC for Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP) can be viewed at: www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/44916.html.

Contract Period

DEC prefers contract terms of 2-3 years in length. In rare cases, contracts can have a maximum term of 5 years. Project-related costs incurred on or after May 1, 2015 will be eligible for reimbursement.

CONTACT INFORMATION

On the web: www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html

Program Contacts:

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