

# **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) – Water Quality Improvement Project Program**

**Funding Available: Up to \$35 million**

*(Up to \$33.1 million statewide)*

*(Up to \$1.9 million available in the Peconic Estuary Comprehensive Management Plan/South Shore Estuary Reserve areas)*

## **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.

## **Eligible Types of Applicants**

Generally, applicants meeting the following criteria are eligible for WQIP funds. There is some variability among eligible applicants for specific project types.

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

Applicants that have been awarded DEC grants in the past should have demonstrated responsible contracting with the DEC to be eligible for an award from this procurement.

## **Eligible Activities/Program Benefit Requirements**

Funding through the Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) program is available for the following types of projects:

### **Non-agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control:**

*(Up to \$13.3 million available statewide)*

*(Up to \$1.9 million available in the Peconic Estuary Comprehensive Management Plan/South Shore Estuary Reserve areas)*

### **Eligible Applicants**

- Municipalities (see definition listed in Environmental Conservation Law §54-0101)
- Soil and water conservation districts

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>).

### **Eligible Projects**

Nonpoint Source Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Details on specific practices can be found in in the following guidance documents.

- NYSDEC NPS Best Management Practices Catalogs, (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/96777.html>)
- NYSDEC SW Design Manual, (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/29072.html>)
- NYSDEC Forestry BMPs for WQ – BMP Field Guide 2011 edition, (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/37845.html>)
- 2014 Intermediate Design Manual, (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/79072.html>)

#### Priority Best Management Practices

- *Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Facilities for Failing On-site Treatment Systems:*  
The construction of decentralized wastewater treatment facilities including the necessary collection and conveyance system. The decentralized wastewater treatment facility must consist of a subsurface treatment and disposal system designed in accordance with DEC standards. Collection may take the form of either a septic tank effluent pump (STEP) or septic tank effluent gravity (STEG), grinder pump or gravity sewer system. Applicants must demonstrate that necessary approvals and agreements can be in place within 12 months of grant award to complete the process of sewer district formation. Maximum grant available per facility is \$1,275,000.
- *In-Lake Controls for Nutrients*  
Fine bubbler aeration (Equipment only) – Proposals for in-lake aeration must:
  - Show that a plan has been completed for controlling external sources and that the plan is being implemented;
  - Provide a study completed by a qualified professional (e.g., certified lake manager, professional engineer) that identifies significant internal lake loading and justification for fine bubbler aeration;
  - Provide a plan for long term operation and maintenance of the aeration system.
- *Peconic Estuary* – Installation of Nonpoint Source BMPs to reduce nitrogen.
- *Green Infrastructure Practices, including:*
  - Green Infrastructure Practices to address Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) that are either under an approved Long Term Control Plan or are for projects that the DEC has determined are consistent and compatible with the requirements for an approved Long Term Control Plan are eligible. Projects should include policies and procedures to maintain green infrastructure.
- *Stormwater Retrofits*
- *Stream Stabilization/Restoration*

Projects must be consistent with practices identified in approved DEC guidance documents noted above.

#### Priorities

Highest priority will be given to projects specifically identified in a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan, 9-element Watershed Plan or explicitly identified in the Waterbody Inventory/Priorities Waterbodies List (PWL) sheet as "precluded" or "impaired." Secondary priority will be given to projects addressing an identified priority of a TMDL Implementation Plan or a 9-element Watershed Plan or addressing waterbodies identified on the (WI/PWL) as being "stressed" or "threatened".

### Grant and Match Funds

Grant Funds are available for up to 75 percent of the total project costs. Applicants must provide match funds of at least 25 percent of the total project costs.

### Eligible Costs

Eligible costs are those costs incurred to implement the project. Planning and design costs for nonpoint source abatement and control projects may be considered for reimbursement if they are associated with implementing the project. Planning and design costs alone are not eligible to be funded under this grant. This funding cannot be used to purchase land.

### Match Funds

Match funds consist of cash contributions and in-kind services put forth by the applicant to complete the awarded project. Match funds include: municipal personal services, fringe benefits, supplies, materials, and land acquisition. Match funds must consist of activities considered eligible for WQIP funding. State or federal grant dollars cannot be used for the match funds. When applying for this grant, the applicant must show how they will meet the match funds requirements.

### Contact

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Water, Don Tuxill, (518) 402-8168

### **Wastewater Treatment Improvement:**

*(Up to \$13.0 million available statewide)*

*(Up to \$1.9 million available in the Peconic Estuary Comprehensive Management Plan/South Shore Estuary Reserve areas)*

### Eligible Applicants

- Municipalities. (see definition listed in Environmental Conservation Law §56-0101)

All municipalities must register in the NYS Grants Management System to be eligible for this grant (<http://grantsreform.ny.gov> ).

### Eligible Projects

- Wastewater Effluent Disinfection – Wastewater treatment projects (as defined in Environmental Conservation Law §56-0101) to upgrade municipal systems to meet new wastewater treatment effluent disinfection requirements and increase wastewater treatment plant resiliency with the installation of backup power. Prior to submitting an application, eligible projects must have been notified that their treatment system requires an upgrade to add effluent disinfection. Maximum grant available per facility is \$2.5 million.
- General wastewater infrastructure improvements - Wastewater treatment improvement projects (as defined in Environmental Conservation Law §56-0101) to upgrade municipal systems to meet wastewater treatment discharge requirements. Maximum grant available per facility is \$2.5 million.

### Priorities

DEC's highest priority is to fund projects addressing effluent disinfection. Secondary priority will be given to projects addressing wastewater infrastructure improvements.

### Grant and Match Funds

Grant funds are available for up to 85 percent of the total project costs. Applicants must provide match funds of at least 15 percent of the total project costs.

### Eligible Costs

Eligible costs are limited to construction costs that are part of construction contracts, i.e., general, electrical, plumbing, HVAC and mechanical. The following costs are NOT eligible for reimbursement: engineering, design, legal, construction oversight and non-construction costs incurred during the construction phase of the project.

### Match Funds

Match funds consist of cash contributions and in-kind services put forth by the applicant to complete the awarded project. Match funds include: municipal personal services, fringe benefits, supplies, materials, and land acquisition. Match funds must consist of activities considered eligible for WQIP funding. State or federal grant dollars cannot be used for the match funds. When applying for this grant, the applicant must show how they will meet the match funds requirements.

### Contact

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Water, Koon Tang, (518) 402-8238

### **Aquatic Habitat Restoration:**

*(Up to \$2.5 million available Statewide)*

*(Up to \$1.9 million available in the Peconic Estuary Comprehensive Management Plan/South Shore Estuary Reserve areas)*

### Eligible Applicants

- Municipalities (as defined in Environmental Conservation Law §54-0101)
- Soil and water conservation districts
- Not-for-profit corporations (as defined in Environmental Conservation Law §54-0101).

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>).

### Eligible Project Types

Aquatic Habitat Restoration (as defined in Environmental Conservation Law §56-0101) projects must meet the following criteria to be eligible for WQIP funding. Additional activities will be eligible for projects located within Nassau and Suffolk Counties:

1. Projects located in New York State (including Peconic and South Shore Estuaries): Eligible applications must focus on work that improves aquatic connectivity, and refers to the natural pathways which allow for the movement of biota and physical material. Projects should seek to increase aquatic organism passage, as well as any other related ecological connectivity conditions. Projects should correct limitations to aquatic connectivity and must focus on culverts, bridges or dams that are causing these barriers.

Sample projects, include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Upgrade and replacement of road stream crossing structures (culverts and bridges) to a larger size and appropriate design to increase ecological connectivity and hydrologic capacity. Guidance for such projects is found at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/49066.html>
- Removal or breach of stream barriers such as dams or weirs that limit aquatic connectivity. Removals must meet natural resource management goals of an area
- Removal or alteration of impoundments for aquatic passage in locations that have been regionally ranked or have been identified as being of biologic importance such as those in the Hudson River Estuary
- Stream daylighting, the opening of streams which have been previously enclosed in permanent tunnels

2. Projects within the Peconic and South Shore Estuaries

Additionally, eligible applications must improve the ecological condition of the waters of the state including ponds, bogs, wetlands, bays, sounds, streams, rivers, or lakes and shorelines with the intent to support a spawning, nursery, wintering, migratory, nesting, breeding, or foraging environment for fish and wildlife and other biota.

Sample projects, include, but are not limited to, the following:

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

### Priorities

Highest priority will be given to projects addressing waterbodies identified on the Waterbody Inventory/Priority Waterbodies List (WI/PWL) as being “precluded” or “impaired”. Secondary priority will be given to projects addressing waterbodies listed on the WI/PWL as “stressed” or “threatened”.

### Grant and Match Funds

Grant funds are available for up to 75 percent of the total project costs. Applicants must provide the remaining match funds of at least 25 percent of the total project costs.

Although there is no maximum grant amount that can be requested, individual grants are typically from \$25,000 to \$500,000.

### Eligible Costs

Eligible costs are those costs incurred to implement the project (see above for examples of eligible projects). Planning, design, construction management, maintenance, reconstruction, revitalization, or rejuvenation activities are eligible for this project type only. Planning and design costs alone are not eligible to be funded under this grant.

### Match Funds

Match funds consist of cash contributions and in-kind services put forth by the applicant to complete the awarded project. Match funds include: personal services, fringe benefits, supplies, equipment, materials, and land acquisition. Match funds must consist of activities considered eligible for WQIP funding. State or federal grant dollars cannot be used for the match funds. When applying for this grant, the applicant must show how they will meet the match funds requirements.

### Project-Specific Funding Information

Funding is available for qualifying projects located statewide and specifically confined within the Peconic and South Shore Estuaries. An amount of no more than \$1,900,000 will be available for eligible projects (e.g., wastewater treatment, nonpoint source abatement and control, aquatic habitat restoration) in the Peconic and South Shore Estuaries.

### Contact

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources, Josh Thiel, (518) 402-8978

### **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s):**

*(Up to \$3 million available statewide)*

### Eligible Applicants

- Regulated Traditional MS4s (as defined by 40 CFR 122.26(b)(16))
- Soil and water conservation districts

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>). Only the lead applicant needs to register in the NYS Grants Management System.

Funding will be considered for proposals submitted on behalf of multiple regulated MS4s.

To be eligible to receive funding, applicants must be participating in an area-wide municipal cooperative stormwater group. If one does not currently exist, the applicant needs to document the steps that are being taken to develop such a group. In these cases, the group has to be in place prior to receiving a grant award. In the rare case where a coalition does not exist nor will be established in the project area, the applicant must justify the reasons in the application.

Applicants requesting funds must provide a list of cooperating MS4s and signed letters of intent from each of them. If funded, applicants must get a signed commitment from each participating MS4 that it will deliver its share of the outputs in the contract workplan.

### Eligible Projects

Eligible activities include (*proposed projects must meet the minimum MS4 permit requirements*):

1. Completion of gap analysis to identify barriers to green infrastructure in local laws that prevent the following:
  - Reduction of impervious areas;
  - Preservation of natural areas and conservation design;

- Incorporation of green design elements for stormwater management (i.e., wing gutters, curbs, direct connections); and
  - Promotion of efficient, compact development patterns and infill
2. Revision of local laws to remove barriers to green infrastructure.  
*(Applicant must demonstrate that gap analysis is complete to be eligible for local law revisions).*
  3. Comprehensive system mapping/program mapping
    - Mapping requirements:

<b>REQUIRED</b> Items for Comprehensive System Mapping/Program Mapping	<b>Basic Comprehensive Map</b> (only newly designated MS4s)	<b>Required Elements Map</b> (Maps must include these elements to be considered for funding)	<b>Additional Elements Map</b> (Elements beyond the minimum required elements)
<b>Waterbody Mapping</b>			
All Waterbodies within the MS4 jurisdiction	X		
Impaired Segments		X	
<b>Outfall Mapping</b>			
Electronic GIS Map	X		
Receiving Waterbody Name	X		
Type of Conveyance		X	
Outfall material		X	
Outfall shape		X	
Type of outfall		X	
Submerged in water?		X	
Submerged in sediment?		X	
<b>Sewershed Boundary</b>			
Preliminary	X		
Impaired waters			X
Per MS4 outfall			X
Land Use within Impaired Watersheds (Commercial, HD Residential, LD Residential, Industrial, Open Space)			X
Land Use within Other sewersheds (Commercial, HD Residential, LD Residential, Industrial, Open Space)			X
<b>Priority Areas</b>			
Areas with Onsite wastewater systems subject to Part IX requirements	X		
Description of Concern (Sewershed to impaired waters, septic systems, high water table, industrial area, etc.)		X	
Pollutant(s) of Concern (Litter, Sediment, Nutrients, etc.)		X	
Areas of Shallow Groundwater			X
Areas of Low Infiltrative Soils			X
Areas of historic on-site sanitary system failures			X
Other areas of Concern (wetlands, riparian buffers, flood plains, steep slopes, etc.)			X

Areas with Onsite wastewater systems (Typical age?)			X
<b>Stormwater Management Practice (SMP) Mapping (minimum data must include)</b>			
Location		X	
Type of SMP (Pond, Bioretention, Swale, Rain Garden, etc.)		X	
Reason for SMP (Retrofit, New Development, Flood Control, etc.)			X
Ownership of SMP			X
Location where SMP discharges (Does SMP drain to MS4?)			X
Contributing Drainage area to SMP (if known)			X
Construction date (if known)			X
Last Inspection date (if known)			X
<b>Municipality owned/operated facilities</b>			
Location		X	
Type (Municipal Buildings, DPW Garage, vehicle and fleet maintenance areas (fire station, police station, bus stations), landfills, salt storage areas, parks & open space, solid waste disposal areas, transfer stations, marinas, etc.)		X	
Contact			X
Last Assessment Date			X
<b>Storm Sewer System Mapping (for areas not subject to Part IX)</b>			
Type of Conveyance System (closed pipe or open drainage)			X
*Closed Pipe (Pipe material; Shape; Size)			X
*Open Drainage (Channel/Ditch lining material; Shape; Dimensions; Locations and dimensions of any culvert crossings)			X
Drop Inlet, catch basin and manhole locations			X
Number and size of connections to catch basins and manholes			X
Direction of Flow			X

Purchase of equipment already owned and available through the cooperative stormwater group and development of materials already available through the group are not eligible for funding.

### Grant and Match Funds

Grant and match funds are available for up to 75 percent of the total project costs. Applicants must provide the remaining match funds of at least 25 percent of the total project costs.

### Eligible Costs

Eligible costs are those costs incurred by MS4s to develop and implement a stormwater management program (SWMP) that complies with GP-0-15-003.

### Match Funds

Match funds consist of cash contributions and in-kind services put forth by the applicant to complete the awarded project. Match funds include: municipal personal services, fringe benefits, supplies, materials, and land acquisition. Match funds must consist of activities considered eligible for WQIP funding. State or federal grant dollars cannot be used for the match funds. When applying for this grant, the applicant must show how they will meet the match funds requirements.

### Contact

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Water, Carol Lamb-Lafay, (518) 402-8123

### **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:**

#### **State of New York Master Grant Contract**

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: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/44916.html>.

DEC staff are available to assist successful applicants through the contracting process. Failure to submit the documents required by the MGC could cause an applicant to lose their award, and DEC reserves the right to withdraw a grant award if a grant recipient fails to enter into a contract in a timely manner.

### **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.

### **Minority and Woman-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Goals**

The DEC has established Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) goals for use when procuring goods or services. These goals reflect DEC's objective to obtain a "fair share" of its needs from small, minority and women-owned businesses and to comply with Executive Law Article 15-A, Economic Development Law Article 4-A and 5NYCRR Parts 140-144, Rules and Regulations of the Minority and Women's Business Development Program.

WQIP grant recipients must consider the M/WBE-EEO goals in the development of their WQIP state assistance contracts and will be required to submit an M/WBE Utilization Plan before a contract can be fully approved. More detail on the M/WBE-EEO goals can be found in the Master Contract for grants, Attachment A-1 (A) Agency Specific Terms and Conditions.

**Satisfactory Progress**

Grant recipients are expected to show satisfactory progress with the development of a project workplan and implementation of the project. Satisfactory progress includes, but is not limited to, timely submission of all necessary documents for contract execution, such as, quarterly payment requests, quarterly narrative reports, quarterly expenditure reports final project summary report. Successful applicants are expected to manage their WQIP projects in accordance with the terms and condition of the State of New York Master Grant Contract. Failure to make satisfactory progress or to complete the project to the satisfaction of the State may be deemed an abandonment of the project and may cause the termination of any financial obligation of the State.

**Operation and Maintenance of Completed WQIP Projects**

Grant recipients are fully responsible for ensuring the proper and efficient monitoring operation and maintenance of the project satisfactory to DEC, including, but not limited to, retaining a sufficient number of qualified staff and ensuring performance or required tests and requirements. After completion of the project, the grantee shall, for a period of thirty years (the useful life of the project as provided in State Finance Law § 61[18]), operate the project or otherwise cause the project to be operated properly and in a sound and economical manner and shall maintain, preserve and keep the project, or cause the project to be maintained, preserved and kept, in good repair, working order and condition and shall make, or cause to be made, all necessary and proper repairs, replacements and renewals from time to time, so that at all times the project may be operated properly in a manner consistent with the performance standards for the project, with the contract and with the requirements of any related permit or other governmental approval of the project.

**Funding Priorities:**

See individual project descriptions for funding priorities.

**Ineligible Activities:**

- Proposals that do not address a water quality impairment.

**Selection Criteria:**

Projects will be scored and selected based on the following criteria.

**Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control AND Wastewater Treatment Improvement Projects**

	<b>Maximum Points</b>			<b>Minimum Points</b>
<b>Performance Measures</b>	<p>Project specifically identified in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TMDL Implementation Plan,</li> <li>• Watershed Action Agenda,</li> <li>• SPDES Permit</li> <li>• SPDES Permit Modification</li> <li>• 9-element Watershed Plan or</li> <li>• Long Term Control Plan</li> </ul> <p>Waterbody listed on PWL as “precluded” or “impaired”.</p> <p><b>Points: 40</b></p>	<p>Project addresses priorities in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TMDL Implementation Plan,</li> <li>• Watershed Action Agenda,</li> <li>• SPDES Permit</li> <li>• SPDES Permit Modification</li> <li>• 9-element Watershed Plan or</li> <li>• Long Term Control Plan</li> </ul> <p>Waterbody listed on PWL as “stressed” or “threatened”.</p> <p><b>Points: 20</b></p>	<p>Addresses a documented water quality impairment not listed on the PWL.</p> <p><b>Points: 10</b></p>	<p>Project necessary to preserve or protect a surface waterbody not listed on the PWL.</p> <p><b>Points: 5</b></p>
<b>Reasonableness of Cost</b>	<p>Exceptional value for the cost, as it applies to impact on project objectives, including feasibility of timely implementation.</p> <p><b>Points: 20</b></p>	<p>Cost is reasonable, and project provides a good value and timely implementation as it applies to program priorities.</p> <p><b>Points: 10</b></p>	<p>Cost is reasonable, benefits are at a scale and cost equivalent to fair market value of the item or project being delivered but provides only modest benefit as it applies to program priorities.</p> <p><b>Points: 5</b></p>	<p>Cost not reasonable for this type of project.</p> <p><b>Points: 0</b></p>
<b>Vision</b>	<p>Proposed project will improve a waterbodies impairment level as it</p>	<p>Proposed project will improve a waterbodies impairment level as it</p>	<p>Proposed project will have no reduction to the impairment level as it pertains to impairments listed on the</p>	

	pertains to impairments as listed on the Waterbodies Inventory/Priority Waterbodies List (WI/PWL) by two levels or will eliminate the impairment. <b>Points: 10</b>	pertains to impairments as listed on the Waterbodies Inventory/Priority Waterbodies List (WI/PWL) by one level. <b>Points: 5</b>	Waterbodies Inventory/Priority Waterbodies List (WI/PWL).  <b>Points: 0</b>
<b>Project Readiness</b>	Project has all necessary permits (or does not need permits) and approvals. The project is ready to move forward with construction. <b>Points: 5</b>	Project is not ready to proceed with construction but has some of the necessary approvals and is expected to lead to construction without delay. <b>Points: 3</b>	Project has not secured any of the necessary approvals and is not ready to proceed to construction. <b>Applications that fall into this category will not be funded.</b>  <b>Points: 0</b>
<b>Experience and Ability</b>	Applicant has shown the ability to complete all WQIP projects.  <b>Points: 5</b>	Applicant has shown the ability to complete most WQIP contracts.  <b>OR</b> Applicant has not previously been awarded a WQIP grant but appears to have the experience and ability to carry out the project. <b>Points: 3</b>	Applicant has demonstrated poor management of WQIP contract(s).  <b>OR</b> Applicant has not previously been awarded a WQIP grant and does not appear to have the experience and ability to carry out the project. <b>Applications that fall into this category will not be funded.</b>  <b>Points: 0</b>
<b>Regional Economic Development Priority</b>	<b>Points for this criterion are provided by the Regional Economic Development Councils.</b>		
<b>Total Maximum Points</b>	<b>100 points</b>		

**Aquatic Habitat Restoration (AHR) Projects**

	<b>Maximum Points</b>				<b>Minimum Points</b>
<b>Performance Measures (Statewide Projects)</b>	<i>Species Miles</i> <sup>1</sup> : 10 or more  <i>Barrierity</i> <sup>2</sup> : Significant or greater <b>Points: 40</b>	<i>Species Miles</i> : 3 or more  <i>Barrierity</i> : Moderate or greater <b>Points: 30</b>	<i>Species Miles</i> : 1 or more  <i>Barrierity</i> : Minor or greater <b>Points: 20</b>	<i>Species Miles</i> : 0.1 or more  <i>Barrierity</i> : Minor or greater <b>Points: 10</b>	<i>Species Miles</i> : 0  <i>Barrierity</i> : Moderate or greater <b>Points: 5</b>
<b>Performance Measures (Peconic/SSER Projects)</b>	<i>Excellent</i> : Addresses a habitat restoration priority (or critical habitat) identified in a Federal or state management plan, the Peconic Estuary Management Plan ( <a href="http://www.peconicestuary.org/ccmp/index.php">http://www.peconicestuary.org/ccmp/index.php</a> ) or SSER Management Plan ( <a href="http://www.lisser.us/background-pages/cmp.htm">http://www.lisser.us/background-pages/cmp.htm</a> ) and provides benefit to 3 or more SGCN or Federal trust species. <b>Points: 40</b>	<i>Good</i> : Addresses 2 or more habitat restoration priorities (or critical habitats) identified in a Federal or State management plan, the Peconic Estuary Management Plan or SSER Management Plan and provides benefit to 2 or more State SGCN or Federal trust species. <b>Points: 30</b>	<i>Fair</i> : Addresses one or more habitat restoration priorities (or critical habitats) identified in a Federal or State management plan, the Peconic Estuary Management Plan or SSER Management Plan and provides benefit to one or more State SGCNs or Federal trust species. <b>Points: 20</b>	<i>Poor</i> : Addresses any goal identified in a Federal or state management plan, the Peconic Estuary Management Plan or SSER Management Plan and provides direct benefit to any species of management concern to the Department. <b>Points: 10</b>	<i>Lowest</i> : Addresses any goal identified in a Federal or State management plan, the Peconic Estuary Management Plan or SSER Management Plan. <b>Points: 5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Species Miles: See explanation at the end of this matrix.

<sup>2</sup> Barrierity: See explanation at the end of this matrix.

<p><b>Reasonableness of Cost</b></p>	<p>Exceptional value for the cost, as it applies to impact on project objectives, including feasibility of timely implementation.</p> <p><b>Points: 20</b></p>	<p>Cost is reasonable, and project provides good habitat value and timely implementation as it applies to program priorities.</p> <p><b>Points: 10</b></p>	<p>Cost is reasonable, benefits are at a scale and cost equivalent to fair market value of the item or project being delivered but provides only modest benefit as it applies to program priorities.</p> <p><b>Points: 5</b></p>	<p>Cost not reasonable for this type of project.</p> <p><b>Points: 0</b></p>
<p><b>Vision</b></p>	<p>Proposed project will improve a waterbodies impairment level as it pertains to the goals of the Aquatic Habitat Restoration category or such impairments as listed on the Waterbodies Inventory/Priority Waterbodies List (WI/PWL) by two levels or will eliminate the impairment.</p> <p><b>Points: 10</b></p>	<p>Proposed project will improve a waterbodies impairment level as it pertains to the goals of the Aquatic Habitat Restoration category or such impairments as listed on the Waterbodies Inventory/Priority Waterbodies List (WI/PWL) by one level.</p> <p><b>Points: 5</b></p>	<p>Proposed project will have no reduction to the impairment level as it pertains to the goals of the Aquatic Habitat Restoration category or such impairments as listed on the Waterbodies Inventory/Priority Waterbodies List (WI/PWL).</p> <p><b>Points: 0</b></p>	
<p><b>Project Readiness</b></p>	<p>Project has all necessary permits (or does not need permits) and approvals. The project is ready to move forward with construction.</p>	<p>Project is not ready to proceed with construction but has some of the necessary approvals and is expected to lead to</p>	<p>Project has not secured any of the necessary approvals and is not ready to proceed to construction.</p> <p><b>Applications that fall into this category will not be funded.</b></p>	

	<b>Points: 5</b>	construction without delay. <b>Points: 3</b>	<b>Points: 0</b>
<b>Experience and Ability</b>	Applicant has shown the ability to complete all WQIP projects.  <b>Points: 5</b>	Applicant has shown the ability to complete most WQIP contracts. <b>OR</b> Applicant has not previously been awarded a WQIP grant but appears to have the experience and ability to carry out the project. <b>Points: 3</b>	Applicant has demonstrated poor management of WQIP contract(s). <b>OR</b> Applicant has not previously been awarded a WQIP grant and does not appear to have the experience and ability to carry out the project. <b>Applications that fall into this category will not be funded.</b>  <b>Points: 0</b>
<b>Regional Economic Development Priority</b>	<b>Points for this criterion are provided by the Regional Economic Development Councils.</b>		
<b>Total Maximum Points</b>	<b>100 points</b>		

Species Miles

Describes the functional gain achieved by removing a barrier to aquatic organism passage. The total number of SGCN (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9406.html>) or other aquatic species of management concern to the Department is multiplied by the total number of stream miles which will be made accessible to these species. Stream miles is calculated by totaling the linear distance of each stream segment, including tributaries, from the existing barrier traveling upstream until the next impassable barrier. (Species x Stream Miles = Species Miles)

Barrierity

Describes the severity to which a structure creates a barrier to aquatic organism passage. It is derived from a protocol for calculating this value as part of the Stream Continuity Project (SCP) (<http://www.streamcontinuity.org/>). When this methodology is not possible, professional judgement will be used to assess a structure that most closely replicates the categories used by SCP.

Severe	Less than 0.3
Significant	0.3001 – 0.5
Moderate	0.5001 – 0.7
Minor	0.7001 – 0.9
Insignificant	0.9001 – 0.9999

**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Projects**

	<b>Maximum Points</b>			<b>Minimum Points</b>
<b>Performance Measures</b>	Project addresses mapping and municipal code activities (gap analysis/code revision). <b>Points: 40</b>	Project addresses municipal code/local law revision (gap analysis complete). <b>Points: 20</b>	Project addresses municipal mapping. <b>Points: 10</b>	Project addresses gap analysis. <b>Points: 5</b>
<b>Reasonableness of Cost</b>	Exceptional value for the cost, as it applies to impact on project objectives, including feasibility of timely implementation.  <b>Points: 20</b>	Cost is reasonable, and project provides good habitat value and timely implementation as it applies to program priorities.  <b>Points: 10</b>	Cost is reasonable, benefits are at a scale and cost equivalent to fair market value of the item or project being delivered but provides only modest benefit as it applies to program priorities.  <b>Points: 5</b>	Cost not reasonable for this type of project.  <b>Points: 0</b>
<b>Vision</b>	Project greatly exceeds permit requirements (revision of municipal codes that mandate the use of GI or mapping including many above and beyond elements).	Project exceeds permit requirements (revision of municipal codes that encourage or incentivize GI or mapping including some above and beyond elements).	Project meets permit requirements (revision of municipal codes that do not create obstacles to GI	Project only partially meets or does not meet permit requirements.

	<b>Points: 10</b>	<b>Points: 7</b>	or performing gap analysis). <b>Points: 4</b>	<b>Points: 1</b>
<b>Project Readiness</b>	Project has all necessary pieces in place to complete gap analysis, code revision and/or mapping. <b>Points: 5</b>	Project has some of the necessary pieces in place to complete gap analysis, code revision and/or mapping. <b>Points: 3</b>	Project has not secured any of the necessary approvals and is not ready to proceed with project implementation. <b>Applications that fall into this category will not be funded.</b> <b>Points: 0</b>	
<b>Experience and Ability</b>	Applicant has shown the ability to complete all WQIP projects. <b>Points: 5</b>	Applicant has shown the ability to complete most WQIP contracts. <b>OR</b> Applicant has not previously been awarded a WQIP grant but appears to have the experience and ability to carry out the project. <b>Points: 3</b>	Applicant has demonstrated poor management of WQIP contract(s). <b>OR</b> Applicant has not previously been awarded a WQIP grant and does not appear to have the experience and ability to carry out the project. <b>Applications that fall into this category will not be funded.</b> <b>Points: 0</b>	
<b>Regional Economic Development Priority</b>	<b>Points for this criterion are provided by the Regional Economic Development Councils.</b>			
<b>Total Maximum Points</b>	<b>100 points</b>			

**Award Criteria Details:**

Funding will be distributed to the highest scoring projects in each category until the available funding is exhausted or amount listed in the RFA has been met.

**Additional Resources:**

The Request for Applications is available on the Department of Environmental Conservation’s website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html>. Updates and/or modifications to the RFA, along with answers to questions received, will be posted on the DEC’s website. Questions should be submitted to [user.water@dec.ny.gov](mailto:user.water@dec.ny.gov).

Pre-application workshops will be held around the State. The workshop schedule along with additional information is available at <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/>. All those who would like to have the application process explained or have process-related questions are encouraged to attend.