

Clean Water Fund Program

Application Process & Contents for Storm Water Projects

Notice of Intent to Apply

The first step in the application process for obtaining CWF financial assistance is to submit a notice of [Intent to Apply \(ITA\)](#), due October 31 in the year prior to the State Fiscal Year (SFY). DNR staff will review the ITA, and if it is an eligible project, it will be posted on the corresponding SFY [CWF Project Priority List \(PPL\)](#). To be eligible to submit an application, the project must appear on the corresponding SFY PPL. Projects that applied for Urban Nonpoint source and Storm Water Management or Targeted Run-off Management grants can waive the ITA deadline **if** the proper box on the grant application form is checked.

Application Deadline

Submit the CWF Financial Assistance Application *with all required documentation* through the [online system](#):

- If competing for [principal forgiveness \(PF\)](#), applicants must submit the complete CWF application by **September 30**.
- If not competing for PF during SFY 2025, it is recommended that applicants submit an application by the September 30 deadline due to potential limitations on loan capacity. Visit our webpage on [Loan Capacity](#) for more information.

IMPORTANT: Incomplete applications will be ineligible for loan funding, unless supplemental funds are available, and the application is made complete. Applications made complete after the September 30 submittal deadline will be ineligible for PF funding. **There is no grace period.**

Facility Plan and Plans & Specifications

Storm Water Facilities Plans

An *approved* facilities plan is a requirement of the application. Any project seeking CWF funds must be submitted to DNR for plan review and approval. The facility plan report covers certain federal requirements such as the cost-effectiveness analysis.

- Submit required copies of the facilities plan to the DNR regional storm water engineer or to the DNR central office storm water engineer (Amy Minser) for approval. **Provide enough lead time** (preferably six months) *before* the September 30th application deadline for the DNR to complete the facilities plan review.
- Include a [parallel cost estimate](#).

Plans and Specifications Submittal: Follow requirements as explained in DNR's [Storm Water Technical Standards, Models, and Best Management Practices](#).

- Submit final plans and specifications to the DNR by the application submittal deadline. Applicants should email plans & specs to the DNR regional storm water engineer or to the DNR central office storm water engineer (Amy Minser) *and* upload electronic copies of plans & specs with the application.

Application Contents

- Project budget
- Certification that the [User Charge System & Storm Water Ordinance](#) meet the requirements of [s. NR 162.26, Wis. Adm. Code](#), including [Equipment Replacement Fund Schedule](#), if required.
- A four-year projection of utility revenues and expenses

Required Documents

- Facility Plan Approval Letter**
- Final plans and specifications**
- Municipal Storm Water Management Plan:** For runoff treatment works or BMP projects, municipalities are required to adopt local regulations for construction sites, and adopt a municipal storm water management plan and ordinance for new development and redevelopment, consistent with performance standards and model ordinances under [s. 281.33, Wis. Stats.](#), in accordance with [ss. NR 162.24\(3\)\(h\)3](#) and [162.25\(7\), Wis. Adm. Code](#). Ordinances must be in place before funding is awarded.

- **Financial information:** (credit review) Municipal financial information required by the Department of Administration (DOA) as indicated below. This information is necessary in determining the affordability of the project and the financial capability of the municipality to repay the loan.
 - Municipality’s current storm water utility budget
 - Municipality’s most recent 3 years of financial statements, or internal financial statements, if no audit was done.
 - Principal and interest payment schedule for each outstanding bond issue
 - Latest official statements, authorizing resolutions, or loan agreements for all outstanding debt obligations.
 - IRS tax related documentation
 - [Interim Debt](#) – Submit the debt instrument to be refinanced with CWFPP funds, if applicable
- **Design Life Calculation Worksheet:** Both Excel and PDF versions of the worksheet are required. Note: Projects that consist *solely* of installation or replacement of pipeline and associated appurtenances such as pressure relief valves, cleanouts, and manholes, are exempt for the Design Life Calculation Worksheet requirement.
- **Reimbursement Resolution:** A reimbursement resolution declaring intent to reimburse municipal accounts with financial assistance proceeds. It is recommended that applicants pass a reimbursement resolution *prior to* incurring any project costs to protect the municipality’s ability to be reimbursed with CWFPP financial assistance. It is **required** that a reimbursement resolution be submitted with the CWFPP application.
- **User Charge System and Storm Water Management Ordinance:** Proposed or existing. Any required rate increases must be adopted prior to the CWFPP loan closing. A user charge system is required for storm water projects that will be collateralized by a utility revenue pledge or that require an intermunicipal agreement. For runoff treatment works or structural BMP, adoption of a storm water management ordinance is also required prior to closing.
- **Contracts with system users:** Any existing or proposed contracts with system users.
- **Intermunicipal Agreement:** A proposed or executed intermunicipal agreement if the project serves more than one municipality. An intermunicipal agreement is *not* required for metropolitan sewerage districts in which all municipalities being served have been annexed into the sewerage district.
- **Cost and Effectiveness Certification:** All applicants must certify that they have studied and evaluated the cost and effectiveness of the processes, materials, techniques and technologies for carrying out the proposed project. Applicants must certify that they have selected, to the maximum extent practicable, a project that maximizes the potential for efficient water use, reuse, recapture, conservation and energy conservation. The cost of construction, operations and maintenance and replacement must be taken into account.
- **Green Project Reserve (GPR):** Indicate if the project includes any “green” elements as described on [Form 8700-357](#).
- **Engineering contracts:** Executed engineering contracts for preliminary design/engineering. If available at the time of application submittal, an executed construction management contract must also be uploaded.

Application Completeness Review

An assigned DNR project manager will review your submitted application for completeness. If the application is complete, the DNR project manager will email the municipality (and consulting engineer if applicable) indicating that the application is complete; and the project will be included on the corresponding SFY [CWFPP Funding List](#), typically posted by the end of November. The DNR project manager will then work with the municipality and consulting engineer on closing the loan.

If you have any questions about the application process, contact:

- Lisa Bushby, Clean Water Fund Program Coordinator, at 608-358-3330 or Lisa.Bushby@Wisconsin.gov, or
- Sarah Bolitho, CWFPP Storm Water Specialist at 630-960-2927 or Sarah.Bolitho@Wisconsin.gov.

