

**DRAFT CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND
2012 RANKING CRITERIA
FOR STORMWATER AND NONPOINT SOURCE PROJECT
PRE-APPLICATIONS
(Maximum 100 points)**

PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY, PUBLIC HEALTH & THE ENVIRONMENT
(40 points)

<u>Project Addresses:</u>	<u>% Maximum</u>	<u>Points</u>
Impaired Water	100%	40.0
NPDES MS4 Compliance Issue	75%	30.0
Recommendation in the state Nonpoint Source Plan or in a watershed-based plan that meets Clean Water Act Section 319 guidelines (http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/watershed_based_plans.htm) or the 2010 Piscataqua Region Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (http://prep.unh.edu/resources/pdf/piscataqua_region_2010-prep-10.pdf)	50%	20.0
Chronic flooding that causes a water quality problem	50%	20.0
Surface water quality in unimpaired waters	25%	10.0
Little water quality benefit	0%	0.0

GREEN PROJECT RESERVE (35 points)

<u>Project Addresses:</u>	<u>% Maximum</u>	<u>Points</u>
Disconnection of impervious cover from the stormwater drainage system	100%	35.0
Protection or restoration of natural hydrology, floodplains, and wetlands	75%	26.25
Improved stream connectivity with respect to aquatic life	50%	17.5
Smart growth as defined in RSA 9-B:3	25%	8.75
None of the above	0%	0.0

AFFORDABILITY (25 points)

<u>Project Addresses:</u>	<u>% Maximum</u>	<u>Points</u>
Community is < 60% of the 2010 NH median household income	100%	25.0
Community is 61-75% of the 2010 NH median household income	75%	18.75
Community is 76-90% of the 2010 NH median household income	50%	12.5
Community is 91-100% of the 2010 NH median household income	25%	6.25
Community is >100% of the 2010 NH median household income	0%	0.0

http://www.nh.gov/oep/programs/DataCenter/ACS/individual_reports.htm

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The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) is an important low interest loan program to assist communities with the planning, design and construction of eligible water pollution control infrastructure projects. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) capitalizes the New Hampshire CWSRF with yearly grants which in turn are used to provide loans to eligible entities within the state. Sub-recipients or borrowers are typically municipal or other local government entities.

The need for CWSRF project funding in New Hampshire far exceeds the financing available. Therefore, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) has developed a ranking system to prioritize projects for the most efficient use of available funds. The criteria that are used to evaluate and rank eligible project pre-applications are listed below. If two or more projects receive an equal score, the tie-breaker and the higher ranking will go to the project serving the greatest existing population. The criteria below apply to stormwater and nonpoint source projects; wastewater projects will be ranked using separate criteria.

PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY *(Maximum 40 points)*

EPA and DES recognize that the first priority of the CWSRF is protection of water quality based on the Clean Water Act. Projects directly addressing a water quality impairment identified in the state's 305(b)/303(d) report (see water quality report cards at http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/swqa/report_cards.htm) will receive the most points in this category.

NPDES MS4 compliance issue means the project implements a requirement in the municipality's NPDES MS4 permit or the stormwater management plan incorporated in the permit.

Recommendation in the state Nonpoint Source Plan means a project that implements a recommendation in the Plan, which can be found at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/nhdes-wd-99-7.pdf>.

Recommendation in watershed-based plan that meets Clean Water Act Section 319 guidelines means a project that implements a recommendation included in any of the plans listed at http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/watershed_based_plans.htm.

Recommendation in the 2010 Piscataqua Region Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan means that the proposed project addresses an action item identified in the Plan, which can be found at http://prep.unh.edu/resources/pdf/piscataqua_region_2010-prep-10.pdf.

Chronic flooding that causes a water quality problem means the project addresses a chronic flooding problem that has any of the following effects:

- Excess bacteria, sediment, or other pollutants released to a water body;

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- A stream that is out of equilibrium as evidenced by excessive bank erosion, channel incision, or head cutting; and/or
- Barrier to aquatic life passage.

Projects that improve water quality in unimpaired watersheds will receive points with adequate documentation, such as modeled pollutant load reductions.

GREEN PROJECT RESERVE (*Maximum 35 points*)

The goal of the Green Project Reserve (GPR) is to guide funding toward projects that utilize green or soft-path practices to: complement and augment hard or gray infrastructure; adopt practices that reduce the environmental footprint of water and wastewater treatment, collection and distribution; help utilities adapt to climate change; enhance water and energy conservation; adopt more sustainable solutions to wet weather flows; promote low impact development with respect to stormwater runoff; restore natural hydrology; and promote innovative approaches to water management problems. Over time, some GPR projects can enable utilities to take savings derived from reducing water losses and energy consumption, and use them for public health and environmental enhancement projects. GPR projects can also prevent more costly stormwater infrastructure repairs in the future.

There are four types of projects that are considered categorically green for purposes of the Green Project Reserve: green infrastructure, water efficiency, energy efficiency, and environmentally innovative. Most stormwater and nonpoint source projects will fall within the green infrastructure and environmentally innovative categories. Other projects may be eligible, but must provide clear documentation demonstrating that the project achieves identifiable and substantial benefits.

- Green Infrastructure includes a wide array of practices at multiple scales that manage wet weather and restore natural hydrology by infiltrating, evapotranspiring, harvesting, and using stormwater. On a regional scale, green infrastructure is the preservation and restoration of natural landscape features, such as forests, floodplains and wetlands, coupled with policies such as infill and redevelopment that reduce overall imperviousness in a watershed. On a local scale green infrastructure consists of site- and community-specific practices, such as bioretention, trees, green roofs, permeable pavements, and cisterns.
- Water Efficiency is the use of improved technologies and practices to deliver equal or better services with less water. Water efficiency encompasses conservation and reuse efforts, such as water loss reduction and prevention, to protect water resources for the future.
- Energy Efficiency is the use of improved technologies and practices to reduce the energy consumption of water quality projects by 20 percent, use energy in a more efficient way, and/or produce/utilize renewable energy.

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- Environmentally Innovative projects include those that demonstrate new or innovative approaches to delivering services or managing water resources in a more sustainable way.

Smart growth as defined in RSA 9-B:3 means the control of haphazard and unplanned development and the use of land which results over time, in the inflation of the amount of land used per unit of human development, and of the degree of dispersal between such land areas. "Smart growth" also means the development and use of land in such a manner that its physical, visual, or audible consequences are appropriate to the traditional and historic New Hampshire landscape. Smart growth may include denser development of existing communities, encouragement of mixed uses in such communities, the protection of villages, and planning so as to create ease of movement within and among communities. Smart growth preserves the integrity of open space in agricultural, forested, and undeveloped areas.

A copy of the EPA guidance for 2012 capitalization grant green projects can be found on the DES website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wweb/grants.htm> for reference.

AFFORDABILITY (*Maximum 25 points*)

Affordability means the ability of a community to afford a project expressed as the ratio calculated as the community's median household income (MHI) divided by the state's MHI times 100%. The MHI is the MHI of the town, city, census district, or state as available from the 2010 census and reported on the US Census or New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning websites. Example: An affordability percentage of 50% means that the MHI of the town, city, or census district is half of the MHI for all of New Hampshire. MHI data can be found at the following website: http://www.nh.gov/oep/programs/DataCenter/ACS/individual_reports.htm.

Affordability may also be used to determine whether a community is eligible for subsidy in the form of principal forgiveness, if available, and at what rate. This determination is made when all pre-applications have been received and analyzed.