

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

PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY & PUBLIC HEALTH (40 pts)

<u>Project Addresses:</u>	<u>% Maximum</u>	<u>Points</u>
Federal or state administrative order or consent decree	100%	40.0
Surface water quality impairment	75%	30.0
Chronic NPDES compliance issues (w/out order)	50%	20.0
Surface water quality in unimpaired waters	25%	10.0
Little water quality benefit	0%	0.0

GREEN PROJECT RESERVE (20 pts)

<u>Project Addresses:</u>	<u>% Maximum</u>	<u>Points</u>
>75% project cost considered green	100%	20.0
50%-75% project cost considered green	75%	15.0
31-49% project costs considered green	50%	10.0
20-30% project costs considered green	25%	5.0
<20% project costs considered green	0%	0.0

SUSTAINABILITY (15 pts)

<u>Project Addresses:</u>	<u>% Maximum</u>	<u>Points</u>
Facility Flow or Loading as % of Capacity		
Above 100%	100%	15.0
81-100 %	67%	10.0
70-80%	33%	5.0
< 70%	0%	0.0

AFFORDABILITY (25 pts)

<u>Project Addresses:</u>	<u>% Maximum</u>	<u>Points</u>
Affordability factor greater than 2.0	100%	25.0
Affordability factor between 1.75 and 2.0	75%	18.75
Affordability factor between 1.50 and 1.74	50%	12.5
Affordability factor between 1.00 and 1.49	25%	6.25
Affordability factor less than 1.0	0%	0.0

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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 wastewater projects; nonpoint source and stormwater projects will be ranked using separate criteria.

PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY (*Maximum 40 points*)

State or federal order means the public owner is under a court order or a state or federal consent decree, or a state or federal administrative order, or administrative order by consent requiring the owner to address pollution control issues by complying with a schedule of events.

Surface water quality impairment issue(s) means the project will result in the removal of pollutants that cause surface water impairment(s).

Chronic NPDES Compliance Issues (w/out order) means the project will result in the elimination of frequent violations of a facility's NPDES permit discharge limitations, but the facility discharge does not cause a surface water impairment and is not currently subject to a state or federal enforcement action.

Surface water quality non-impairment issues means that the project will result in an improvement of surface water quality in a segment that is not impaired.

GREEN PROJECT RESERVE (*Maximum 20 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.

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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. Other projects may be eligible for the Green Project Reserve, but must provide clear documentation demonstrating that the project achieves identifiable and substantial “green” benefits.

Percentage of project cost considered green means that portion of project cost related to green infrastructure, as defined in USEPA Guidance, including water conservation, energy efficiency or environmentally innovative components.

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/documents/gpr-guidance.pdf> for reference.

SUSTAINABILITY (*Maximum 15 pts*)

Facility flow or loading as a percent of capacity means the current wastewater treatment plant, pump station or sewer (collectively a facility) hydraulic or organic loading divided by its design hydraulic or organic loading times 100%.

AFFORDABILITY (*Maximum 25 pts*)

Affordability means the ability of a community to afford a project expressed as a ratio calculated by the community sewer use fee divided by the community median household income (MHI) times 100%. The sewer use fee is the total annual sewer user fee for a typical family home (i.e., using approximately 90,000 gallons, or 12,000 cubic feet of water per year or about 240 gallons per day), provided by the applicant, which will result from construction and operation of the project. The median household income is the median household income of the town, city, or census district as available from the 2010 census and reported on the US Census or New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning websites. Example: An affordability ratio of > 2.0 means that the sewer use fee for the community is greater than 2% of the community MHI.