

Clean Water Partnership loans

The Clean Water Partnership (CWP) Program is currently offering zero percent interest loans to eligible applicants. These loans are available for implementing nonpoint source best management practices (BMPs) and other activities that target the restoration and protection of a water resource (i.e., lake, stream, or groundwater aquifer). The loans are available to local units of government sponsoring CWP projects. A local government can use the funds itself (first-tier BMP) to implement BMPs, or it can re-loan the funds to private parties (second-tier BMPs) for further activities to implement the practices.

Who is eligible for a loan?

Local units of government that meet the following requirements:

- The ability to pledge its full faith and credit to ensure repayment of a project loan
- The authority to generate cash revenues for the repayment of a loan
- The authority to enter into a loan agreement with the agency

Local governmental units that meet these requirements include counties, cities, townships, tribes, watershed districts, and watershed management organizations. Joint powers organizations composed of previously mentioned entities are also eligible but must submit a resolution from at least one local governmental unit that meets the criteria stating that they will participate in the project as a loan sponsor.

What types of projects are eligible for loan funding?

Eligible CWP project activities include:

- Green infrastructure projects such as; rain water harvesting and reuse, rain gardens, green roofs, tree boxes, porous pavement, street parking lot redesign or similar green infrastructure approaches.
- The purchase of vegetation or seed of ecotypes native to Minnesota.
- Subsurface sewage treatment system upgrades or replacements.
- Outreach, technical assistance, implementation of source control and runoff control BMPs, and education activities related to stormwater control.
- Water quality monitoring, water resource and project area data and information collection, data and information analysis and assessment.
- Selection, design, layout, and installation of BMPs consistent with Federal Section 319 or 320 of the federal Clean Water Act, as amended.
- Development, review, and inspection of procedures for the installation, operation, and maintenance of BMPs.
- BMP implementation for animal feedlot operations if the installation is not related to a criminal enforcement action or a civil enforcement action involving financial penalties.
- Outreach, technical assistance, and education activities concerning animal waste management, and the costs of BMPs for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System feedlot facilities if the implementation activities are part of an eligible watershed or groundwater project.
- Fiscal and management activities and report preparation.
- Creation and dissemination of public education materials and activities.
- Development and implementation of ordinances.

- Acquisition of easements and property.
- Use of ferric chloride, aluminum sulfate, or other chemicals to precipitate phosphorus.
- Dredging of harbors, lakes, ditches, constructed wetlands, and existing sedimentation basins.

How do I apply for CWP loan funding?

For more information on how to apply for CWP loan funding, visit the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s contract, grant and loan opportunities webpage at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clean-water-partnership-loans>

What are the interest rates?

The current interest rate for loans to local governments is 0%. Interest rates available to private parties from local governments for second-tier loans must be at or below 1.5%.

As of March 2020, 332 projects have constructed \$59.3M of BMPs:

\$46.9M	Individual septic treatment systems
\$4.0M	Feedlots
\$1.9M	Permanent structures
\$1.7M	In-lake chemical treatments
\$.9M	Equipment
\$3.5M	Land use practices/erosion control activities
\$.4M	Administration/education and training