



State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund Application Process

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The Clean Water State Revolving Fund provides below market rate loans for the planning, design and construction of water pollution control facilities. Public agencies in Oregon are eligible to apply. The program is administered by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and is committed to working with Oregon communities to protect beneficial uses, such as farming, recreation and drinking water.

Loan terms

Revolving Fund interest rates are well below market rate loans and below bonds. Rates range from less than one percent to little more than two percent, depending on the type of loan. The interest rates change quarterly based on the national average municipal bond rate. The loan repayment period lasts up to 30 years. Loan include an annual fee of 0.5 percent of the outstanding balance.

Eligible Projects

- Wastewater system facility plans and studies
- Secondary treatment facilities
- Advanced wastewater treatment facilities
- Sludge disposal and management
- Interceptors, force mains and pumping stations
- Infiltration and inflow correction
- Major sewer replacement and rehabilitation
- Combined sewer overflow correction
- Collector sewers
- Storm water control
- Estuary management
- Nonpoint source control

How to apply for a loan

Step 1: Determine your eligibility for a CWSRF loan.

Only public agencies are eligible for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. “Public agency” is defined by [ORS 468.423](#) and includes:

- Tribal government
- City
- County
- Sanitary district/Sanitary authority
- State agency
- Irrigation district
- School district
- County service district
- Metropolitan service district
- Other special district
- Intergovernmental agency

Step 2: Contact your regional project officer. Contact information is available [online](#) or by calling 503-229-LOAN.

Your regional project officer will discuss this process and guide you through the application requirements. This includes helping you determine if your project is eligible for funding and what type of loan application you need to complete. See estuary boundaries map at the end of the document.

- **Point Source** - Funding for design and construction of publicly owned wastewater facilities; building or rehabilitation of sewer collection systems; urban wet weather flow control activities, including stormwater; or sanitary and combined sewer control measures. This application also includes the opportunity to use the **Sponsorship Option**, which allows a public agency to fund both a traditional wastewater project with a nonpoint source or estuary management activity as a combined project. The combined project qualifies for a lower interest rate.
- **Nonpoint Source** - Funding for projects that include animal waste management; agricultural conservation; protection or restoration of riparian (streamside) habitat; establishing conservation easements; acquiring riparian lands or wetlands, estuary management projects and other nonpoint source activities.
- **Planning** - Funding of data collection and measurement, evaluation, analysis, security evaluations, report preparation, environmental review and any other activity leading to a written document.
- **Local Community** - Financing to help public agencies, often rural counties, soil and water conservation districts or irrigation districts, establish their own loan program that addresses a local water quality issue.

Step 3: Determine if your project includes sustainable or green components. DEQ provides a certain amount of program funds for financing green infrastructure, water efficiency improvements, energy efficiency improvements or environmentally innovative activities.

Step 4: Consider supplemental funding options for your project. DEQ coordinates with other state and federal agencies that may also provide funding. A “one-stop” meeting brings together financing agencies who can help you determine which loan package will best meet your needs.

Step 5: Submit your application and other required documents.

Applications must be signed by an authorized official at the applicant’s agency and postmarked by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time the day of the application submission deadline. Applicants must submit an original, hard-copy application to their appropriate DEQ regional project officer. Emailed or faxed applications will not be accepted. Applications must substantially conform to the guidelines and address all criteria. To learn more about the application process contact a [project officer](#) in your region or call 503-229-LOAN.

Step 6: Environmental Review Process. DEQ determines the level of environmental review your project will undergo based on compliance with applicable state and federal laws. Full details on the process are in the Applicant Guide to the State Environmental Review Process.

What does DEQ do with an application?

Staff review applications to determine if a proposed project meets general eligibility requirements listed in OAR 340-054-0015. Program staff evaluate eligible applications based on project ranking criteria outlined in OAR 340-054-0026 or 0027 and assign a numeric score to each application. After scoring and ranking, DEQ lists projects in an Intended Use Plan according to rank, and provides an opportunity for public comment.

All remaining requirements must be completed for an application to be listed in the Intended Use Plan as ready to proceed.

Project Priority List

Points are assigned based on several criteria:

- The receiving waterbody sensitivity
- Enforcement activities and water quality violations
- Affordability
- The population served by the project

The Project Priority List is included in the proposed Intended Use Plan along with other details about goals and program plans for the fiscal year.

Opportunity for public review

DEQ mails a notice of the proposed Project Priority List to all loan applicants and provides a copy to any individual or group upon request. The public has thirty days to comment before the list becomes final. This public comment period provides an opportunity to request a re-evaluation of a project's ranking on the proposed Project Priority List. Annually, the new Intended Use Plan is a part of the public review process.

Final application

All applicants on the Project Priority List are invited to submit a final application, which provides additional details and supporting documents about the project and the applicant. Based on this, DEQ assesses the ability of the applicant to repay the loan and the readiness of the project to proceed.

Project funding

Upon approval of the final application, the project is funded. If applications exceed available monies, projects are funded in Project Priority List order, with a maximum of 15 percent of the monies going to any one applicant.

Loans are allocated to as many unfunded or partially funded projects with approved final applications as possible in the following sequence:

1. Communities with a population of 5,000 or less that have severe water quality problems are funded in point order for the first 15 percent of available monies.
2. Facilities planning projects are funded in point order for the next 10 percent of available monies.

3. Remaining monies are allocated to remaining projects in point order, including additional small community and facilities planning projects.

When loan monies are awarded, DEQ and the public agency negotiate the terms and sign a loan agreement. A borrower has two years to begin using funding, after which the borrower can request an extension.

Additional information

Applications and staff contacts are available online at www.deq.state.or.us/wq/cwsrf

Alternative formats

Documents can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request a document in another format or language, call DEQ in Portland at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.

Lower Columbia River and Estuary

LOWER COLUMBIA ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP STUDY AREA

