

**NH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
 CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND
 2016 RANKING CRITERIA
 FOR STORMWATER AND NONPOINT SOURCE PROJECT
 PRE-APPLICATIONS**

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. Loan recipients are typically municipal or other local government entities.

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) 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 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.

EPA and NHDES recognize that the first priority of the CWSRF is protection of water quality based on the Clean Water Act.

(Maximum 100 points)

PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY, PUBLIC HEALTH & THE ENVIRONMENT

A. Impairment/Compliance *(40 points maximum)*

<u>Project Addresses:</u>	<u>% Maximum</u>	<u>Points</u>
Impaired Water	100%	40
Replace inadequate septic system(s)	75%	30
NPDES MS4 Compliance Issue	50%	20
Surface water quality in unimpaired waters	25%	10
Little water quality benefit	0%	0

B. Implementation of Water Quality Plan *(25 points maximum)*

<u>Project Addresses:</u>	<u>% Maximum</u>	<u>Points</u>
Recommendation in the state Nonpoint Source Plan http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/nps-plan.htm 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	100%	25

C. GREEN PROJECT RESERVE *(35 points maximum)*

<u>Project Addresses:</u>	<u>% Maximum</u>	<u>Points</u>
Disconnection of impervious cover from the stormwater drainage system	100%	35
Protection or restoration of natural hydrology, floodplains, and wetlands	71%	25
Improved stream connectivity with respect to aquatic life	71%	25
Smart growth as defined in RSA 9-B:3	29%	10
None of the above	0%	0

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PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY, PUBLIC HEALTH & THE ENVIRONMENT

A. Impairment/Compliance*(Maximum 40 points):*

Projects directly addressing **water quality impairment** identified in the state's 305(b)/303(d) report will receive the most points in this category (see water quality report cards at http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/swqa/report_cards.htm). Projects must result in pollutant load reduction or other measured water quality improvement to an impaired water.

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.

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;
- 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.

B. Implementation of Water Quality Plan *(Maximum 25 points):*

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/divisions/water/wmb/was/nps-plan.htm>.

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.

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C. 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.

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 within development, redevelopment, or retrofits, such as bioretention, trees, green roofs, permeable pavements, cisterns, and vector trucks and other capital equipment necessary to maintain green infrastructure projects.

Stormwater and nonpoint source projects qualify for Green Project Reserve points if they implement Green Infrastructure. A copy of the USEPA guidance document: *2012 CWSRF 10% Green Project Reserve: Guidance for Determining Project Eligibility* can be found on the NHDES website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wweb/documents/gpr-guidance.pdf> for reference.

Green Infrastructure projects include:

Disconnection of impervious cover from the stormwater drainage system (35 points):

- Implementation of green streets (combinations of green infrastructure practices in transportation rights-of-ways), for either new development, redevelopment or retrofits including: permeable pavement, bioretention, trees, green roofs, and other practices such as constructed wetlands that can be designed to mimic natural hydrology and reduce effective imperviousness at one or more scales. Vector trucks and other capital equipment necessary to maintain green infrastructure projects.
- Wet weather management systems for parking areas including: permeable pavement, bioretention, trees, green roofs, and other practices such as constructed wetlands that can be designed to mimic natural hydrology and reduce effective imperviousness at one or more scales.
- Implementation of comprehensive street tree or urban forestry programs, including expansion of tree boxes to manage additional stormwater and enhance tree health.
- Stormwater harvesting and reuse projects, such as cisterns and the systems that allow for utilization of harvested stormwater, including pipes to distribute stormwater for reuse.
- Downspout disconnection to remove stormwater from sanitary, combined sewers and separate storm sewers and manage runoff onsite.

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GREEN PROJECT RESERVE (*Cont.*)

- Comprehensive retrofit programs designed to keep wet weather discharges out of all types of sewer systems using green infrastructure technologies and approaches such as green roofs, green walls, trees and urban reforestation, permeable pavements and bioretention cells, and turf removal and replacement with native vegetation or trees that improve permeability.
- The water quality portion of projects that employ development and redevelopment practices that preserve or restore site hydrologic processes through sustainable landscaping and site design.

Protection or restoration of natural hydrology, floodplains, and wetlands (25 points):

- Establishment or restoration of permanent riparian buffers, floodplains, wetlands and other natural features, including vegetated buffers or soft bioengineered stream banks. This includes stream day lighting that removes natural streams from artificial pipes and restores a natural stream morphology that is capable of accommodating a range of hydrologic conditions while also providing biological integrity.
- Projects that involve the management of wetlands to improve water quality and/or support green infrastructure efforts (e.g., flood attenuation).
- May include natural or restored wetlands if the wetland and its multiple functions are not degraded and all permit requirements are met.
- Fee simple purchase of land or easements on land that has a direct benefit to water quality, such as riparian and wetland protection or restoration.

Improved stream connectivity with respect to aquatic life (25 points):

- Restoration and protection of stream connectivity with respect to aquatic life passage through perched, shallow, or under sized culvert replacement, dam removal and stream crossing designs that provide for passage of fish and aquatic animals, maintain natural stream conditions, and improve protection of roads and property from potential effects of floods.
- Effective stream crossings may include bridges, open bottom arches, and culverts that span and remain buried in the stream bed.

Smart growth as defined in RSA 9-B:3 (10 points): 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.