DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND
DRAFT 2020 RANKING CRITERIA
FOR WASTEWATER PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT
PRE-APPLICATIONS

RANKING CRITERIA - WASTEWATER PROJECTS (Maximum 120 points)

1) PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY & PUBLIC HEALTH ***(40 points maximum)***	
Project Addresses:	**Points**
a) Federal or state administrative order or consent decree	30.00
b) Abatement for Future NPDES Permit	30.00
c) Surface water quality impairment	20.00
d) Chronic NPDES compliance issues	10.00
e) Surface water quality benefit in unimpaired waters	10.00
f) Addresses MS4 compliance	10.00
Points = sum of 1 (a) to 1 (f) ; 40.00 max	
2) GREEN PROJECT RESERVE (GPR) ***(30 points maximum)***	
Project Addresses:	**Points**
a) Water efficient infrastructure	
b) Energy efficient infrastructure	
c) Green infrastructure	
d) Environmentally innovative infrastructure	
Points = % project cost for items 2 (a) to 2 (d) x 30.00	
3) CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND ADAPTATION MEASURES ***(30 points maximum)***	
Project Addresses:	**Points**
a) Increased inland flooding	
1. Vulnerability assessment	10.00
2. Adaptation measures	20.00
b) Increased coastal flooding	
1. Vulnerability assessment	10.00
2. Adaptation measures	20.00
c) Other	10.00
Points = sum of 3 (a) to 3 (c) ; 30.00 max	
4) AGING INFRASTRUCTURE ***(20 points maximum)***	
Project Addresses:	**Points**
a) Replacement or upgrade of aging Infrastructure	10.00
b) Infiltration and inflow reduction	10.00
Points = sum of 4 (a) to 4 (b); 20.00 max	

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program provides financial assistance for planning, design and construction of eligible water pollution control infrastructure projects. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) capitalizes the CWSRF with annual grants, 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 exceeds the financing available. Therefore, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has developed a ranking system to prioritize projects. The criteria 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.

PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY & PUBLIC HEALTH *(Maximum 40 points)*

Federal or state administrative order or consent decree means the public owner is under a court order or a state or federal consent decree, a state or federal administrative order, an administrative order by consent, or compliance schedule included in a NPDES permit, which requires the owner to address pollution control issues by complying with a schedule of events. EPA is now including compliance schedules in NPDES permits.

Abatement for Future National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit means the project will result in the voluntary reduction of pollutant(s) discharged from the facility before new or more stringent NPDES permit discharge limitations are formalized by a permit renewal.

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

Chronic National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (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 in unimpaired waters means that the project will result in an improvement of surface water quality in a segment that is not impaired.

NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (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.

GREEN PROJECT RESERVE *(Maximum 30 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. 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 Project reserve eligible activities, including water conservation, energy efficiency, green infrastructure or environmentally

innovative components. To score green components, the dollar value of green elements will be determined as a percent of the total project cost. This percent will be multiplied by a constant value of 30 to obtain the number of points (30 points maximum). For example, if 50% of the cost of the entire project is attributed to green components, the project would receive 15 points (0.5 x 30 = 15).

Applicants must reference in the CWSRF pre-application the applicable section number(s) in the USEPA GPR Project Eligibility Guidance: *2012 CWSRF 10% Green Project Reserve: Guidance for Determining Project Eligibility*, for all related green elements of the project. For example, if the project will incorporate an onsite alternative energy source (e.g., wind, solar, hydro, etc.) then the applicant must reference "3.2-1a".

Reference the USEPA GPR Project Eligibility Guidance: *2012 CWSRF 10% Green Project Reserve: Guidance for Determining Project Eligibility*. EPA also offers additional Green Project Reserve Guidance for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). Measures related to energy efficiency improvements must be approved by NHDES.

CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND ADAPTATION MEASURES *(Maximum 30 points)*

Increased Inland Flooding - The project involves one or more of the following efforts to identify and address increased inland flooding impacts. Impacts, assessment and adaptation approaches vary, but some examples include:

- extreme precipitation forecasting.
- inland flood forecasting and or mapping.
- riverbank erosion assessment.
- critical infrastructure vulnerability assessment.
- development and implementation of increased inland flooding adaptation measures.

Increased Coastal Flooding - The project involves one or more of the following efforts to identify and address increased coastal flooding impacts. Impacts, assessment and adaptation approaches vary, but some examples include:

- extreme precipitation forecasting.
- sea-level rise mapping and vulnerability assessment.
- sea-level rise adjusted coastal storm surge forecasting, mapping and vulnerability assessment.
- sea-level rise induced groundwater rise mapping and vulnerability assessment.
- critical infrastructure vulnerability assessment.
- development and implementation of increased coastal flooding adaptation measures New Hampshire Coastal Flood Risk Guidance (2020).

Other - the project implements a climate change adaptation or mitigation strategy as outlined by the following documents:

- USEPA's *Adaptive Response Framework for Drinking Water and Wastewater Utilities*.
- *USEPA's Resilient Strategies Guide for Water Utilities*.
- Measures related to energy efficiency improvements must be approved by NHDES.

AGING INFRASTRUCTURE (*Maximum 20 points)*

Aging infrastructure means cost-effective replacement or upgrade of wastewater infrastructure to maintain existing functionality.

Infiltration and Inflow means a cost-effective project that addresses excessive infiltration/inflow (I/I).

Sewer extensions, including those which would replace existing privately-owned septic systems, do not receive prioritization points. In addition, sewer extensions are not generally eligible for CWSRF funding unless otherwise qualified, pursuant to Env-Wq 504. Funding may be available for eligible sewer extension projects. Prior to the allocation of CWSRF funding towards a sewer extension project, the applicant must provide documentation to support an eligibility determination by NHDES.

If the applicant believes the proposed sewer extension project should be considered eligible, indicate on the pre-application:

(1) the basis for eligibility and identify what documentation is provided with the pre-application to support the eligibility determination, and

(2) if such documentation is not provided with the pre-application, please explain on the pre-application why and when the appropriate documentation will be made available to NHDES.