



**NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
 CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND
 2021 RANKING CRITERIA
 FOR WASTEWATER PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT
 PRE-APPLICATIONS**



RANKING CRITERIA - WASTEWATER PROJECTS (Maximum 120 points)

Category 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) Voluntary WWTF upgrade to improve surface water quality	30.00
c) Mitigation of chronic NPDES compliance issues	10.00
Points = sum of 1 (a) to 1 (c) ; 40.00 max	
Category 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	
Category 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	
Category 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
c) Improved reliability	15.00
Points = sum of 4 (a) to 4 (c); 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.

CATEGORY 1 - PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY & PUBLIC HEALTH *(Maximum 40 points)*

1a - Federal or state administrative order or consent decree - 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 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (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.

1b - Voluntary WWTF upgrade to improve surface water quality - 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.

1c - Mitigation of chronic NPDES compliance issues (w/out order) - 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.

CATEGORY 2 - 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 general types of projects that are considered categorically green for purposes of the Green Project Reserve:

- 2a - Water efficient infrastructure**
- 2b - Energy efficient infrastructure**
- 2c - Green infrastructure**
- 2d - 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 ($0.5 \times 30 = 15$).

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”.

Note project elements that address climate change vulnerability and adaptation will be scored separately under Category 3.

Reference the USEPA GPR Project Eligibility Guidance:

[2012 CWSRF 10% Green Project Reserve: Guidance for Determining Project Eligibility](#)
[Additional EPA GPR Guidance](#)

Measures related to energy efficiency improvements must be approved by NHDES.

CATEGORY 3 - CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND ADAPTATION MEASURES (Maximum 30 points)

3a - 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:

- Designing the project with extreme precipitation projections.
- Designing the project that accounts for inland flood projections and or mapping.
- Mapping projected future inland flooding.
- Riverbank erosion assessment.
- Critical infrastructure vulnerability assessment.
- Development and implementation of increased inland flooding adaptation measures.

3b - 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:

- Vulnerability assessment of projected sea-level rise, storm surge, groundwater rise, and extreme precipitation impacts to wastewater systems in accordance with the [2020 New Hampshire Coastal Flood Risk Summary, Part II: Guidance for Using Scientific Projections](#).
 - Coastal projects are required to incorporate the latest scientific data as found in the [New Hampshire Coastal Flood Risk Summary Part 1: Science](#).
- Development and implementation of increased coastal flooding adaptation measures. Some examples include:
 - Water tight manhole covers.

- Manholes raised above projected flood levels.
- Elevation of equipment above projected flood levels.
- Development of emergency response plans.
- Retrofits of WWTF and pumping facilities to meet resiliency standards in the [NEIWPC TR-16 Guides for the Design of Wastewater Treatment Works \(2016\)](#).

3c - Other - the project implements a climate change adaptation or mitigation strategy as outlined by the following documents:

- [USEPA's Flood Resilience Guide for Water and Wastewater Utilities.](#)
- [USEPA's Adaptive Response Framework for Drinking Water and Wastewater Utilities.](#)
- [USEPA's Resilient Strategies Guide for Water Utilities.](#)

CATEGORY 4 - AGING INFRASTRUCTURE (*Maximum 20 points*)

4a - Aging infrastructure - Cost-effective replacement or upgrade of wastewater infrastructure to maintain existing functionality.

4b - Infiltration and Inflow - Cost-effective project that addresses excessive infiltration/inflow (I/I).

4c - Improved reliability - Upgrade of wastewater conveyance or treatment system to provide more reliable operations (example – redundant equipment or conveyance piping). Note that this category does not relate to replacement of existing infrastructure, which is addressed in 4a above.

SEWER EXTENSIONS

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.