



The Municipal Primer

Your Guide to
Creating a
"Green and Growing"
Community

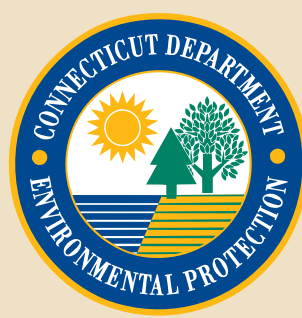


Gina McCarthy
Commissioner





Financial Assistance



Pictured — Connecticut Clean Water Fund Project, Plainville, Connecticut

The CT DEP administers grants and financial assistance programs that can fund municipal activities related to environmental protection and enhancement. Major programs include the Clean Water Fund, which assists with the design and construction of wastewater treatment plants, and the Open Space and Watershed Lands Acquisition Program, which helps municipalities permanently protect valuable open space. There are numerous other financial assistance programs available to municipalities. A partial list includes those that help with underground storage tank removal and clean-up, urban forestry efforts, watershed-based planning, the development of public access to Long Island Sound, and the development of boating infrastructure. Eligibility criteria vary from program to program.

The CT DEP also offers municipalities guidance on ways to save money by reusing materials, and protect the environment by choosing environmentally-preferred products.

To aid in coordination between municipal agencies and the CT DEP, this section of *The Municipal Primer* provides fact sheets on the following topics:

- *Grants and Financial Assistance*
- *Reducing Costs Through Source Reduction and Materials Reuse*
- *Purchasing Practices (Recycled Products and Environmentally Preferred Purchasing)*

A related fact sheet in *The Municipal Primer* is:

Fleet Selection and Operations (Public Works).



Description

Grants and financial assistance are programs through which the CT DEP makes funding available for use by municipalities for specific projects.

Municipal Connection

Municipalities are eligible for funding through a number of grant and financial assistance programs administered by the CT DEP.

Municipal Responsibility

Municipalities are not required to seek funding from the CT DEP for eligible projects; however, they are encouraged to do so. When funding is sought and granted, municipalities must fulfill the obligations of the awarded assistance.

Statutory Citations

Various, contact the individual funding program if a citation is needed.

Discussion

The CT DEP administers a number of grant programs and other funding opportunities for which municipalities are eligible. The list below includes the primary grant programs for which the CT DEP routinely or frequently has funding available. Other programs are periodically announced and identified on the CT DEP Web site when funds are available.

Clean Water Fund

Connecticut's Clean Water Fund (CWF) provides a combination of grants and loans to municipalities to undertake water pollution control projects and water supply projects eligible for the drinking water fund. Projects funded fall under these categories:

- water pollution control;
- sewage treatment plant construction and upgrades;

- nutrient removal projects protecting Long Island Sound;
- nonpoint source pollution control projects affecting Long Island Sound;
- river restoration;
- drinking water treatment plant upgrades; and
- waterline installation.

Proposals are accepted on a continual basis. Funding amounts vary depending upon the specifics of the project. For more information on this program, please call 860-424-3325.

Open Space

The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program provides financial assistance to municipalities and nonprofit land-conservation organizations to acquire land for open space, and to water companies to acquire land as Class I or Class II water supply property. Grants may be awarded for the purchase of land that is: 1) valuable for recreation, forestry, fishing, or conservation of wildlife or natural resources; 2) a prime natural feature of the state's landscape; 3) a habitat for native plant or animal species listed as threatened, endangered or of special concern; 4) a relatively undisturbed, outstanding example of an uncommon native ecological community; 5) important for enhancing and conserving water quality; 6) valuable for preserving local agricultural heritage; or 7) eligible to be classified as Class I or Class II watershed land. Consistency of the prospective purchase with the goals of the CT DEP's *The Green Plan* will improve the potential for funding under this program.

Depending on project type and applicant category, awards are not to exceed 50-75% of fair market value of the property. The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant program solicits projects annually, as funding allows. For more information on this program, please call 860-424-3016.

Grants and Financial Assistance

Other Funding Programs

Site Remediation

Site clean-up or remediation can be an expensive component of a redevelopment project. The funding for such efforts can be complex and may require coordination with several different government agencies at both the federal and state levels. Much of the core funding for site clean-up comes from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through a variety of different grant programs (www.epa.gov/ebtpages/cleanup.html). The Connecticut Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development is generally responsible for administering these funds. Information on these programs can be found on their Web site at www.ct.gov/ctbrownfields. Although these are not CT DEP-administered grant programs, the environmental benefit of site clean-up is substantial and these sources of funding assistance merit mention here.

Underground Storage Tank Petroleum Clean-Up Account Program

The CT DEP administers the Underground Storage Tank Petroleum Clean-Up Account Program. This program provides financial assistance for the investigation and clean-up of sites impacted by leaking underground storage tanks and enables petroleum tank owners to meet the financial responsibility requirements of federal regulations.

The Account provides coverage of up to one million dollars per release for taking corrective actions and for third party liability costs. Although this coverage is available for the clean-up of substantial releases, the party responsible for a release must bear all corrective action and third-party liability costs less than ten thousand dollars. For more information on the Underground Storage Tank Petroleum Clean-up Account Program, call 860-424-3370.

Boating Infrastructure Grants

Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG) provide funding to:

- provide dockage, moorings and shoreside amenities (restrooms, dockside utilities, recycling and trash receptacles, electric service, water supplies, pay telephones) for recreational boats 26 feet or more in length;
- provide safe harbors for transients;
- enhance access to recreational, historic, cultural, natural and scenic resources, including navigational aids, dinghy docks, etc.);
- strengthen community ties to the water's edge and its economic benefits;
- promote public/private partnerships and entrepreneurial opportunities;
- provide continuity of public access to the shore; and
- promote awareness of transient boating opportunities.

This grant is offered to marinas, municipalities, and boating clubs that will provide public boating access. Applications are due August 1st annually. The CT DEP is able to grant two levels of funding. Tier I is a minimum of \$30,000 up to a total of \$90,000 and Tier II is for projects over \$100,000 annually. Tier II projects are scored nationally. For more information on the Boating Infrastructure Program, please call 860-434-8638.

Clean Vessel Act Grants

The Clean Vessel Act Grants Program provides funding for new marine sewage disposal facilities and for the operation and maintenance of existing marine sewage disposal facilities. Marine sewage disposal facilities include marine sanitation device holding tank pumpout facilities, marine portable toilet holding tank dump stations, and pumpout boats.

This grant is offered to marinas, municipalities, and marine organizations with operational responsibilities involving the boating public. The range of awards is unrestricted and based on estimated project costs. A minimum of a 25% match in funding is required. For more information on this program, please call 860-424-3034.

Forestry

The CT DEP Forestry Division offers two types of urban forestry grant opportunities: America the Beautiful (ATB) grants and Urban Forestry Education (UFE) grants. These grants are intended to initiate and augment important urban forestry efforts at the local level. The ATB grants are offered to municipalities and 501(c)3 non-profit organizations. The UFE grants are offered to schools, 501(c)3 non-profit organizations and municipalities that wish to complete an urban forestry project involving education, outreach and/or the production or updating of materials that support education and outreach regarding urban forestry. Funds from these programs have supported such diverse projects as tree planting, street tree inventories, tree maintenance programs and the design of tree guidebooks.

Grant awards are dependent upon available funding and generally are less than \$8,000; however, there may be opportunities for substantially larger grant awards. With either grant, the maximum amount offered for any one project requires at least a 50% match. Grants are available as funding allows. For more information on these programs, please call 860-424-3178.

Greenways and Trails

Greenways Small Grants Program (Greenways License Plate Program)

The Greenways Small Grants Program is offered to municipalities, regional planning organizations, and non-governmental organizations for the planning, design, and implementation of, and education about, greenway projects around the state. Property

acquisition and construction are not eligible for funding under this program. Funds for grants are generated by sales of Greenways License Plates. The request for proposals is issued annually in the fall. Grants up to \$5,000 are available. For more information on this program, please call 860-424-3578.

National Recreational Trails Program (also known as RTP or Symms Act)

The National Recreational Trails Program provides funding for construction of new trails, maintenance and restoration of existing trails, purchase or lease of equipment, acquisition of trail easements, and developing trail access for people with disabilities. The CT DEP may award grants under this program to private nonprofit organizations, municipalities and state agencies. The request for proposals for this reimbursement grant program usually goes out in June. The range of awards varies depending upon project specifics and available funding. The minimum required match is 20%, which can be in the form of in-kind services. For more information on this program, please call 860-424-3578.

Habitat Management/Restoration

Long Island Sound Habitat Restoration (Coves and Embayment Enhancement)

Funding can be used for the planning, design, and implementation of projects aimed at the restoration of degraded coastal coves and embayments, and tidal wetlands. This program is offered to coastal municipalities when funds are available. The range of awards varies depending on project specifics. Restoration value and the availability of matching funds improve the competitiveness of the project. For more information on this program, please call 860-424-3034.

Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)

The Landowner Incentive Program provides technical advice and cost assistance to landowners for habitat management that will result in the protection, restoration, reclamation, enhancement, and maintenance of habitats that support fish, wildlife and plant

Grants and Financial Assistance

species considered at risk. This program is offered to private landowners, sportsmen's clubs, conservation organizations, landowner associations, corporations, and land trusts. Although this grant program is not available for municipalities, it is included here so municipal officials can pass this information along to interested residents. Awards under this program are generally limited to \$25,000 and a minimum 25% match is required. For more information on this program, please call 860-295-9523.

The Lakes Grant Program

The Lakes Grant Program provides funding for lake restoration studies and projects at lakes that have public access. Funds for the Lakes Grant Program are used to abate lake eutrophication by conducting diagnostic studies and then developing and implementing restoration projects. Types of projects funded include dredging, algae control, stormwater infrastructure improvements and aquatic weed control.

This program is offered to municipalities, lake associations that are taxing districts, and lake authorities. Funding varies based on individual project costs and available funding. Matches, which may be in-kind, are 25% of the cost of a study and 50% of the cost of a project. For more information on this program, please call 860-424-3716.

Long Island Sound License Plate Grants

The Long Island Sound License Plate Grants Program provides funding for:

- the development of public outreach and education programs to increase the public's awareness of the need to preserve and protect Long Island Sound and its resources;
- increased or enhanced public access to Long Island Sound;
- protection and restoration of habitat essential to the Long Island Sound ecosystem; and
- scientific research of Long Island Sound that

responds to a clear need for additional information about the natural resources of the Sound.

This program is offered to municipalities, academic institutions, private individuals, corporations, state agencies, and 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations. Funding is available for projects that do not qualify for alternate sources of funding. Grants are generally limited to a maximum of \$25,000. Providing a match, either funding or in-service, improves the competitiveness of a project. For more information on this program, please call 860-424-3034.

Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grants

The Nonpoint Source (Section 319) Grant Program utilizes federal funding for the prevention, control and/or abatement of nonpoint source pollution. Eligible projects support the implementation of the Connecticut's Nonpoint Source Management Program. Funding priorities are for:

- implementation projects, particularly those that address a documented nonpoint source-related water quality impairment identified on Connecticut's *List of Impaired Waterbodies*;
- development of implementation plans;
- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) analyses; or
- Section 319-defined watershed-based plans.

This program is offered to any interested public or private organization in Connecticut. Applicants are encouraged to partner with other public agencies (e.g., a municipality can partner with a regional planning agency). Funding is from a pass-through grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Grant amounts depend upon the specifics of the project and the available funding. A non-federal match equal to at least 40% of the total dollar amount of the project is required. For more information on this program, please call 860-424-3730.

Potential CT DEP Permits, Registrations and/or Certifications

The need for a CT DEP permit varies depending upon the specifics of the funded project. For assistance, call the program contacts listed above or the Permit Assistance Office at 860-424-3003.

Model Regulations

No.

Web Page

www.ct.gov/dep/financialassistance

Contacts

Various. See Web page or call phone numbers listed above.



Reducing Costs Through Source Reduction and Materials Reuse

Description

Source reduction is a strategy to reduce waste materials through well-planned purchasing that focuses on multi-use products and reusing existing resources when acceptable. The goal is to have less material requiring disposal by extending the useful life of a given product.

Municipal Connection

Municipalities purchase many non-durable items. Purchasing “single use” or disposable items should not be the first consideration. Emphasis should be placed on reusing items, when practicable, and purchasing in bulk.

Municipal Responsibility

Municipalities can set an example for their residents on the practice of source reduction.

Statutory Citation

CGS Sections 22a-207 through 22a-256ee

Discussion

Source Reduction

Municipalities can save money and protect the environment by practicing source reduction. The CT DEP encourages municipalities to review their purchasing practices and institute appropriate changes to prioritize the reuse of existing resources and the purchase of alternatives to single use or disposable items. These practices typically save money and reduce the amount of materials needing disposal.

Reuse of Waste Materials

In keeping with the slogan “reduce, reuse, recycle,” there are ways that some waste materials can be reused. Beneficial use means using a solid waste either in a manufacturing process to make a product or as an effective substitute for materials used in a commercial product. While this may not often be appropriate for municipal activities, there may be some occasions when a city or town can

either utilize beneficial reuse or connect with a manufacturer in need of a specific waste the municipality has available. Municipalities are also encouraged to consider donating surplus materials (new or used) to charities, churches, schools, etc. before sending them for recycling or disposal.

Materials Exchange

In some instances, the material deemed ready for disposal might be something someone else can use in a materials exchange. Before disposing, explore material exchanges. They may provide important reuse opportunities for the community.

Potential CT DEP Permits, Registrations and/or Certifications

None specific to this program.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is not available at this time (6/2008).

Model Regulations

No.

Web Page

www.ct.gov/dep/solidwaste See “Beneficial Use of Solid Waste” and “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” links.

Contact

Bureau of Materials Management and
Compliance Assurance
Recycling Program
Phone: 860-424-3365

Purchasing Practices (Recycled Products and Environmentally Preferred Purchasing)

Description

Recycled products are products made partially or totally from recycled materials.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “environmentally preferred products” (EPP) are “products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose. The product or service comparison may consider raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance, or disposal.”

Municipal Connection

There are many products that municipalities use on a day-to-day basis that can be replaced by EPP. Making such substitutions can significantly lessen the municipalities’ adverse impacts on the environment. Municipalities can acquire EPP through existing state contracts.

Municipal Responsibility

The use of EPP is not required of municipalities, but it is available to them through open state contracts. Municipalities are encouraged to use EPP.

Discussion

There are several things municipalities can do to save money and protect the environment. Some of these relate to purchasing practices. Municipalities are encouraged to consider buying recycled products or environmentally preferred products.

Purchase of Recycled Products

Purchasing products made from recycled materials (e.g., 100% post-consumer copier paper, pencils made from old denim jeans, or carpeting made from soda bottles) has many benefits for the environment, including:

- creating markets for materials collected in residential and business recycling programs;

- reducing air and water pollution;
- saving natural resources;
- supporting the development of green technologies;
- creating jobs; and
- reducing emissions of the greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

Environmentally Preferred Products

EPP are products that function as well as non-EPP, but have a lesser effect on the environment in their creation, distribution, use and/or disposal. Rather than having to clean up after a pollutant release, one of the goals of the EPP program is to utilize products that make pollutant releases less likely in the first place. Examples of EPP that municipalities might use are: environmentally-friendly cleaning products; low VOC (volatile organic compound) adhesives, sealants and paints; and energy efficient vehicles, office machines and appliances.

Potential Permits, Registrations and/or Certifications

None specific to this program.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is not available at this time (6/2008).

Model Regulations for Municipal Consideration

No.

Web Page

www.ct.gov/dep/recycle Select “Information for Municipalities and State Agencies” on the left navigation bar.

Contact

Office of the Commissioner
Program Planning and Development
Pollution Prevention Program
Phone: 860-424-3297