



Zero Percent Interest Loans for Water Projects

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If you are looking for funds to help install infrastructure to protect water resources or purchase equipment to help prevent pollution from entering waterbodies, you need to check out the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Clean Water Partnership (CWP) Program. The Clean Water Partnership Program offers zero percent interest loans to local units of government for implementing nonpoint-source Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other activities that help protect water resources such as a lakes, streams, and groundwater. A municipality can use these funds to directly implement BMPs, or they can re-loan the funds to other entities to implement activities/projects/educational efforts to improve water resources.

So what constitutes a local units of government? Local governmental units are the typical ones you usually hear such as counties, cities, townships, tribes, watershed districts, and watershed management organizations, however joint powers organizations and rural water systems are also eligible. Visit the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website for more detailed information (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/cwp-loans>).

Who is eligible for a loan? Local units of government that have the ability to pledge their full faith and credit to ensure repayment and the authority to generate cash revenues. If you are a local unit of government that can't generate your own revenue, you can always work with a nearby unit of government to apply on your behalf.

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What types of projects are eligible for funding?

- ◇ Green infrastructure projects such as: rain gardens, porous pavement, street parking lot redesign or similar green infrastructure approaches.
- ◇ Purchase of native seeds and plantings.
- ◇ Subsurface sewage treatment system upgrades/replacements.
- ◇ Outreach, technical assistance, and implementation of control measures to address stormwater runoff.
- ◇ Development and implementation of ordinances which help provide greater protection for water resources.
- ◇ Acquisition of lands which provide protection for water resources (surface and/or groundwater). These lands might also be great locations for future public supply wells.
- ◇ Purchase equipment to help prevent contaminants from entering water bodies such as street sweepers, vacuum trucks, etc....

There is approximately \$15 million available for the Clean Water Partnership Loan Program for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. Applications are accepted on an on-going basis. Please visit the MPCA website for detailed information or contact their staff. For questions regarding the Clean Water Partnership Loan Program please contact:

Cindy Penny, MPCA State Program Administrator at cynthia.penny@state.mn.us or 651-757-2099
Kurt Soular, MPCA Loan Officer at kurt.soular@state.mn.us or 651-757-2748.