



## Apply for Green Infrastructure and Water Efficiency Funding in 2011



### Key Points

- 20% of the \$2.49 billion available for the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRFs in 2011 must be used for green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency, and environmentally innovative projects.
- 30% of total SRF funding must be in the form of additional subsidization (grants) and can be used for the green reserve.
- Guidance for this funding was updated in [2010](#).

### What you can do

- Submit your proposal(s) to your state's drinking water and clean water revolving loan fund officers: [CWSRF](#) or [DWSRF](#).
- Ask to see your state's green project reserve list and identify how project ranking criteria can be improved.

### Green Reserve Funding in 2011

The Environmental Protection Agency's [Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds](#) (SRFs) provide low-interest loans to fund water infrastructure projects. With federal grants and state contributions, SRF funds are loaned to communities with repayments cycled back into the program to fund additional projects. The Clean Water SRF, for example, has provided over \$74 billion for clean water projects since its inception.

Recognizing the value of innovative and cost effective approaches to clean and safe water, Congress designated 20 percent of funding from both the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRFs to be used solely for green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency, and environmentally innovative projects (called the "Green Reserve"). This funding provides a critical source for innovative and cost-effective green infrastructure and smart solutions to reduce polluted stormwater, save highly treated drinking water and protect clean water supplies. In 2011, an estimated \$305 million will be available from the Clean Water SRF and \$193 million from the Drinking Water SRF in the form of low-interest loans and grants for these environmentally beneficial projects.

These funds represent an opportunity to integrate effective, cost-efficient green infrastructure solutions in our communities that not only put more Americans to work, but also redefine our country's approach to water management.

### Who Can Apply?

Eligible recipients for funding under the Clean Water SRF include Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs), communities, citizen groups, and non-profits. Under the Drinking Water SRF, eligible recipients include publicly and privately owned community water systems and non-profit non-community water systems.



*Photo: Western Michigan Environmental Council*

### What Projects Are Eligible for Funding?

EPA has identified a list of specific types of green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency, and environmentally innovative projects that are categorically eligible for green reserve funding and also released [new](#)

**For more information on green reserve funding, please contact: Katherine Baer at (202) 243-7053 or [kbaer@americanrivers.org](mailto:kbaer@americanrivers.org) or Jenny Hoffner at (404) 373-3602 or [jhoffner@americanrivers.org](mailto:jhoffner@americanrivers.org)**

[guidance](#) in 2010 to further define types of eligible projects. The following are examples of eligible projects:

<b>Green Infrastructure</b>	<b>Water Efficiency</b>	<b>Environmentally Innovative</b>
Green roofs, swales, and other bioinfiltration projects	Retrofit or replacement of water using fixtures, fittings, equipment, appliances	Projects that identify and quantify the benefits of using integrated water resources management approaches
Wet-weather management systems for parking areas	Installation of water meters	Projects that facilitate adaptation of clean water programs to climate change
Green streets projects	Reclamation, recycling, and reuse of existing rainwater, stormwater, etc.	Projects that incorporate differential uses of water based on level of treatment (purple pipes)

### Highlighted Projects

#### **Water Efficiency in Douglasville, GA**

Through green reserve funding, the city of Douglasville in Georgia began a \$300,000 rebate program to replace older toilets with more efficient models that will benefit an estimated 1500 homeowners.

#### **Green Infrastructure in Hermosa Beach, CA**

The city of Hermosa Beach will use \$1.3 million in green reserve funding to transform Pier Avenue into a green street through installing an innovative infiltration system to retain stormwater runoff and irrigate landscaping.

#### **Green Streets in Edmonston, MD**

The town of Edmonston in Maryland received \$1.1 million in green reserve funding to plant native trees, install rain gardens and porous pavement, and build bike lanes to reduce pollution and flooding.

### **Why It's Important to Apply**

These projects provide multiple benefits, from creating jobs across such diverse sectors as landscaping and engineering to reducing water entering treatment plants to keep energy costs low. Demonstrating a large demand for funding of green projects will help ensure future funding opportunities for such projects, and help move toward integrated green water infrastructure to achieve clean and safe water that will last for generations.

For more information:

[www.americanrivers.org/greenfunding](http://www.americanrivers.org/greenfunding)  
<http://www.epa.gov/owm/cwfinance/cwsrf/>  
<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf/index.html>



*Photo: U.S. EPA Region III, Green streets project in Edmonston, MD*

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