

STATE FISCAL YEAR 2024 CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE PROGRAM SPENDING PLAN

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) translates its annual Clean Water Budget appropriations, presented in Table 1 below, into annual Spending Plans. Table 2 presents the State Fiscal Year 2024 (SFY24) CWIP Spending Plan. The CWIP Spending Plan is a communication and planning tool to provide information to clean water project proponents and prospective grant/contract recipients on the types of funding programs and initiatives available in the coming year. CWIP's Spending Plan also serves as an internal planning tool to track annual progress implementing funding programs and initiatives.

For more information on CWIP funding opportunities, visit: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants>.

CWIP-Administered Clean Water Budget Line Items

Table 1 shows an excerpt from the SFY24 Clean Water Budget of CWIP-administered line items. Most CWIP-administered line items are funded wholly from the Clean Water Fund. The Municipal Three-Acre General Permit and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) line item (2.24) includes additional contributions from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), as appropriated by the State Legislature and programmed by the Clean Water Board.

Table 1. CWIP-administered SFY24 Clean Water Budget line items

No.	Programmatic Financial Tracking Category	Clean Water Budget Line-Item Activity	Clean Water Board Budget As Passed by Legislature, 2023
1.1	Formula Grants	Water Quality Restoration Formula Grants to Clean Water Service Providers and Operation and Maintenance (O&M)	\$8,360,000
1.2	Multi-Sector	Basin Planning, Basin Water Quality Council Participation, Education, and Outreach	\$650,000
1.31	Enhancement Grants	Statewide Non-regulatory Clean Water Projects	\$5,000,000
1.52	Multi-Sector	Program and Partner Support	\$1,355,000
2.24	Municipal Stormwater	Municipal Three-Acre General Permit and MS4	\$8,000,000
2.4	Multi-Sector	Innovative or Alternative Technologies or Practices to Improve Water Quality	\$200,000
Total			\$23,565,000

Adjustments to the CWIP Spending Plan

CWIP Spending Plans are subject to change throughout the course of the year based on demand, administrative capacity, and as unforeseen needs arise. While the Spending Plan is subject to change, it will remain consistent with the Clean Water Budget line-item activities and total dollar amounts, shown in Table 1.

The CWIP makes every effort to minimize changes to the Spending Plan outside of the Spending Plan development process. One-off changes and/or new requests to the Spending Plan present challenges for our program and partners from a workload prioritization and transparency perspective. Additionally, as CWIP funding programs transition to employ more block grant and formula grant funding structures, CWIP anticipates a decreased ability to respond to one-off or special project requests. Accordingly, project-specific requests will be directed to apply to block and formula grants where appropriate.

CWIP will evaluate any requested changes outside of the Spending Plan development process or special project requests using the following considerations:

- Does the request align with the intent of the Clean Water Fund and the program design/administrative approach presented as part of the Clean Water Budget process?
- Is the request eligible for funding under the CWIP Funding Policy?
- Is there an existing spending initiative or grant program that could otherwise support this request?
- Is there an available technical project manager, does CWIP and the Administration and Innovation Division (AID) have sufficient capacity to reprioritize to meet this request, and what consequently needs to be deprioritized?
- How does this request rank against the other priorities in the Spending Plan?
- Are there sufficient available funds to cover the new request?
- Does meeting this request promote or challenge funding access equity statewide?

CWIP may identify available funds by restructuring the current Spending Plan as appropriate, or by reprogramming funds from prior fiscal years, which materialize when projects close out under budget. CWIP reprograms prior year dollars where feasible to efficiently meet the substantial budget demands but is careful to confirm whether the newly requested activity meets the original intent of the identified available funds, as determined in the Clean Water Board recommended budget.

Table 2. SFY24 CWIP Spending Plan. **Subject to change.** Dark green shaded rows indicate Clean Water Service Delivery Act (Act 76 of 2019) statutory priority of spending initiatives, gold indicates sub-categories, and orange indicates sub-categories' subtotals where applicable.

Line Item No.	Spending Initiative	Spending Initiative Summary	Amount	Target Timing ¹	Programmatic Financial Tracking Category ²
1	Clean Water Budget Tier 1 Statutory Priority				
1.01	Water Quality Restoration Formula Grants				
1.01.01	Water Quality Restoration Formula Grants to Clean Water Service Providers and Operation and Maintenance	To award grants to Clean Water Service Providers to meet the pollutant reduction requirements. The grant amount shall be based on the annual pollutant reduction goal established for the Clean Water Service Provider multiplied by the standard cost for pollutant reduction including the costs of administration and reporting. The standard cost shall include the costs of project identification, project design, and project construction. Additional funds support the reasonable costs associated with the verification and maintenance of clean water projects in a basin.	\$8,360,000	To be encumbered Summer 2023.	Formula Grants
Water Quality Restoration Formula Grants SUBTOTAL			\$8,360,000		
1.02	Water Quality Enhancement Grants				
1.02.01	Dam Removal Design and Implementation Block Grant	Passthrough funds to entities to design and implement dam removal projects. Funds prioritized outside Formula Grant Basins.	\$1,000,000	To be encumbered Fall 2023.	Enhancement Grants
1.02.02	Woody Riparian Buffer Block Grant	Passthrough funds to entities to implement high priority, cost-effective, native riparian woody buffer plantings. Funds prioritized outside Formula Grant Basins.	\$500,000	To be encumbered Summer 2023.	Enhancement Grants

¹ Encumbered funds are those committed in an executed contract or grant agreement, amendment, or renewal. Target dates for encumbrance indicate target timelines for when agreements or amendments/renewals are executed. Renewals extend an existing grant agreement or contract for an additional term with an identical scope of work.

² Refer to Table 1.

All values in Table 2 subject to change over the course of the State Fiscal Year.

Line Item No.	Spending Initiative	Spending Initiative Summary	Amount	Target Timing ¹	Programmatic Financial Tracking Category ²
1.02.03	River Corridor Easements	Passthrough funds to entities to develop and implement River Corridor Conservation Easement projects. Funds target protection and restoration of critical river corridor, wetland, and floodplain property. Funds directed outside Formula Grant Basins.	\$0 ³	N/A	Enhancement Grants
1.02.04	Multi-sector Assessments	Passthrough funds to entities to perform assessments in priority subwatersheds to identify and prioritize clean water projects through Stream Geomorphic Assessments and River Corridor Plans, Stormwater Master Planning, Lake Wise and Lake Watershed Action Planning. Funds prioritized outside Formula Grant Basins.	\$300,000	Various. To be encumbered Summer 2023 through Spring 2024.	Enhancement Grants
1.02.05	Enhancement Development, Design, and Implementation Block Grant	Passthrough funds to entities to support partners in the development, design, and implementation of priority water quality enhancement projects. Individual projects are identified in Tactical Basin Plans and listed in DEC Watershed Projects Database. Funds prioritized outside Formula Grant Basins.	\$3,100,000	To be encumbered Winter 2023-2024.	Enhancement Grants
1.02.06	Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Wetland Incentives	Provides incentive payments to landowners, in addition to Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) Wetlands Reserve Easements Program, to increase landowner participation in wetlands restoration projects. Serves as DEC's significant contribution to the State of Vermont RCPP. Funds available state-wide.	\$100,000	On-going.	Enhancement Grants
Water Quality Enhancement Grants SUBTOTAL			\$5,000,000		
1.03	Tactical Basin Planning				

³ Initiative continues in SFY24 and is sufficiently funded with prior fiscal year funds.

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Line Item No.	Spending Initiative	Spending Initiative Summary	Amount	Target Timing ¹	Programmatic Financial Tracking Category ²
1.03.01	Tactical Basin Planning Support Grants	Supports partners' participation and outreach throughout the Tactical Basin Planning process and Basin Water Quality Council participation, pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1253(d)(3).	\$650,000	To be encumbered July 2023.	Multi-Sector
Tactical Basin Planning SUBTOTAL			\$650,000		
1.04	Program and Partner Support				
1.04.01	Clean Water Workforce Capacity Development	Support to ensure a strong partnership network that can deliver high quality and high priority clean water projects.	\$525,664	TBD based on outcomes of Pilot Block Grant.	Multi-Sector
1.04.02	Technical Development of Tracking, Accounting, Target-Setting	Supports DEC and partners in developing and addressing gaps in tracking, accounting, and target-setting methodologies, tools, trainings, and processes to meet requirements of Act 76 of 2019 and Act 64 of 2015.	\$0 ⁴	Various. To be encumbered Summer 2023 through Spring 2024.	Multi-Sector
1.04.03	Analytical Services for Community Science Water Quality Monitoring	Supports water quality lab analytical expenses and related supplies for community science water quality monitoring efforts, including the LaRosa Partnership Program.	\$100,000	On-going.	Multi-Sector
1.04.04	Lake Champlain Subwatershed Conservation Effects Assessment Program (CEAP)	DEC-CWIP's contribution to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) CEAP, evaluating agricultural best management practices' effectiveness. DEC-CWIP's contribution to CEAP funds a U.S. Geological Survey stream gage necessary for the water quality monitoring work.	\$60,000	To be encumbered October 2023.	Multi-Sector
1.04.05	Clean Water Partners' Eco AmeriCorps	Supports DEC match requirement to federal AmeriCorps grant by directly funding the time of Eco AmeriCorps members serving at Vermont organizations implementing clean water projects. Host organizations must still meet their local-level match obligations.	\$100,000	On-going.	Multi-Sector

⁴ Initiative continues sufficiently funded with prior fiscal year funds.

All values in Table 2 subject to change over the course of the State Fiscal Year.

Line Item No.	Spending Initiative	Spending Initiative Summary	Amount	Target Timing¹	Programmatic Financial Tracking Category²
1.04.06	Grants and Financial Management Personnel	Supports 2 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Grants Management Specialists in DEC's Administration and Innovation Division (AID) to administer CWIP grants and contracts.	\$238,806	N/A.	Multi-Sector
1.04.07	Rivers Projects Technical and Legal Assistance	Supports updates to the Rivers Program GIS platform in tandem with updates to Stream Geomorphic Assessment Tool (SGAT) digitization efforts, an MOA with VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation to perform field survey work as part of the River Corridor Easement (RCE) Program, and external contracts for property legal and appraisal services as part of the River Corridor Easement (RCE) Program.	\$43,000	On-going.	Multi-Sector
1.04.08	Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facility Technical Assistance, Education, and Outreach	Passthrough funds to entity to develop and implement a plan to provide education, outreach, and technical assistance to Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) operators subject to major nutrient Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) (e.g., Long Island Sound Nitrogen TMDL and Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDLs).	\$119,166	To be encumbered Summer 2023.	Multi-Sector
1.04.09	UVM Sea Grant - Lake Watershed Management Position Support	Passthrough funds to University of Vermont-Lake Champlain Sea Grant to provide technical assistance on behalf of the Lakes and Ponds Program. Co-funded by Lake Champlain Sea Grant.	\$65,000	To be encumbered May 2024.	Multi-Sector
1.04.10	UVM Sea Grant - Green Infrastructure Collaborative	Passthrough funds to University of Vermont-Lake Champlain Sea Grant to manage the Green Infrastructure Collaborative (GIC), a partnership to promote Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) and natural asset management in Vermont, as well as support the Green Schools initiative and CWIP's Verification and Maintenance program. Co-funded by Lake Champlain Sea Grant.	\$83,364	To be encumbered May 2024.	Multi-Sector

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Line Item No.	Spending Initiative	Spending Initiative Summary	Amount	Target Timing ¹	Programmatic Financial Tracking Category ²
1.04.11	Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)	Illicit discharges are discharges of wastewater or industrial process water into a stormwater-only drainage system. Initiative supports mapping and testing of all urbanized stormwater outfall pipes to locate illicit or illegal discharges of wastewater.	\$20,000	To be encumbered Spring 2024.	Multi-Sector
Program and Partner Support SUBTOTAL			\$1,355,000		
2	Clean Water Budget Tier 2 Statutory Priority				
2.01	Municipal Stormwater Implementation Grants				
2.01.01	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Community Formula Grants	This Formula Grant program will assist MS4 communities with developing and implementing clean water projects to comply with MS4 permit obligations to implement Flow Restoration Plans and Phosphorus Control Plans.	\$4,500,000	To be encumbered Summer 2023.	Municipal Stormwater
2.01.02	Green Schools Initiative	Passthrough funds to entities to assist public schools in Lake Champlain and Memphremagog basins in obtaining and complying with the Three-Acre General Permit (design, permitting, construction). Co-funded with Lake Champlain Basin Program federal funds administered by DEC-CWIP.	\$3,500,000	To be encumbered Summer 2023.	Municipal Stormwater
Municipal Stormwater Implementation Grants SUBTOTAL			\$8,000,000⁵		
2.02	Innovative or Alternative Technologies or Practices to Improve Water Quality⁶				
2.02.01	Match Support	As the Vermont Phosphorus Innovative Challenge sunsets, this line item is proposed to be populated in SFY 2024 with “one-time” funds that will be replenished on an as-needed basis to serve as available match for applied innovative or	\$100,000	TBD.	Multi-Sector

⁵ Funds available for “Municipal Stormwater Implementation Grants” are a combination of \$1 million from the Clean Water Fund and \$7 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

⁶ This line item is populated with funds on an as-needed basis, at the Clean Water Budget-level and CWIP Spending Plan-level.

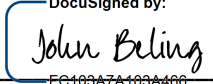
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Line Item No.	Spending Initiative	Spending Initiative Summary	Amount	Target Timing ¹	Programmatic Financial Tracking Category ²
2.02.02	Lake Carmi Alum Feasibility Study	<p>alternative research in clean water work. Program will leverage the expertise of existing clean water research groups and consortia across the State. Administrative structure of this program is still to be determined.</p> <p>In SFY 2024, this line item is anticipated to support a Vermont Lakes Alum Treatment Feasibility Study. Alum treatments are an option to mitigate internal and legacy phosphorus loading that is released within a lake or pond, which have the potential to mitigate cyanobacteria and algae blooms. Alum treatments should only be applied in cases where phosphorus sources from the surrounding landscape/watershed have been sufficiently mitigated, for an investment in alum to be cost effective and endure long term. This will largely focus on Lake Carmi but, pending projected expenses, may extend applicability to other Vermont lakes.</p>	\$100,000	To be encumbered Summer 2023.	Multi-Sector
Innovative or Alternative Technologies or Practices SUBTOTAL			\$200,000		
TOTAL			\$23,565,000		

All values in Table 2 subject to change over the course of the State Fiscal Year.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER APPROVAL

This State Fiscal Year 2024 Clean Water Initiative Program Spending Plan is approved by the Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner.

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John Beling, DEC Commissioner

6/22/2023

Date

Spending Plan is available electronically at: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants>.

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