

Adopted by the CWCB May 25, 2005
Revised by the Board January 24, 2006
Revised by the Board November 14, 2006
Revised by the Board November 20, 2008

WATER EFFICIENCY GRANT PROGRAM FUND

GUIDELINES FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COVERED ENTITIES AND STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES TO DEVELOP WATER CONSERVATION PLANS

1. Introduction & Purpose

The Water Efficiency Grant Program Fund provides financial assistance for the following purposes:

- Developing Water Conservation plans
- Implementing CWCB-approved Water Conservation plans
- Promoting the benefits of water resource conservation through public education and outreach projects.
- Developing Drought Mitigation plans

These guidelines address the application requirements and process for water conservation planning projects.

These grants may be distributed to the following:

- Covered entities and state and local governmental entities

GRANT AWARDS ARE CONTINGENT ON PROGRAM FUND AVAILABILITY

2. Intent of the Board

It is the explicit intent of the Board to work with water users and local entities to increase meaningful water conservation in the state by:

- Increasing the number of local entities with CWCB approved water conservation plans;
- Improving the nature and breadth of water conservation practices at the local level; and
- Increasing the amount of technical assistance that the CWCB provides to local entities.

With these objectives in mind, the Board intends to administer the Water Efficiency Grant program for purposes of providing assistance to the following:

- Covered entities that require Water Conservation Plans to qualify for water project funding under Board and CWRPA programs;
- Covered entities that need to update and/or amend existing Water Conservation Plans currently on file with the Office to maintain funding from the Board or the CWRPA in adherence with § 37-60-126;
- Covered entities that desire to improve, update, and/or create Water Conservation Plans

3. Definitions

Acre Foot: The amount of water it would take to cover an acre of land to a depth of 1 foot, approximately 325,851 gallons.

Agency: Means a public or private entity whose primary purpose includes the promotion of water resource conservation.

Board: Means the Colorado Water Conservation Board as defined in §§37-60-101, 103 and 104, C.R.S.

Board Office: The Colorado Water Conservation Board's office is located at 1313 Sherman Street, 7th Floor, Denver, CO 80203. The phone number is (303) 866-3441. The facsimile number is (303) 866-4474. The Board's website is <http://www.cwcb.state.co.us>.

Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB): A division of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, created in 1937. The Board's authority and role is defined in §37-60-101, et seq., CRS. The Mission Statement of the CWCB is to conserve, develop, protect, and manage Colorado's water for present and future generations.

Covered entity: means each municipality, agency, utility, including any privately owned utility, or other publicly owned entity with a legal obligation to supply, distribute, or otherwise provide water at retail to domestic, commercial, industrial, or public facility customers, and that has a total demand for such customers of two thousand acre-feet or more.

Drought Mitigation: Those actions and programs that are used prior to and during periods of unusual water scarcity to reduce the occurrence and severity of water supply shortages, and manage water supply and water demand appropriately.

Drought Mitigation Plan: A document that indicates how an entity or set of entities will manage impacts of water shortages over the short or long term. It may contain information on coordinated drought monitoring, impact assessment, response to emergency drought problems, and mitigation of drought impacts.

Drought Response: Those actions taken during a drought to manage water supplies and water demand appropriately.

Grant Program: Means the Water Efficiency Grant Program established through HB 05-1254 and revised through SB07-008.

Individual with the Authority to Commit Resources: Any individual within the submitting entity that has the authority to commit the organization's resources for the development and implementation of a water conservation plan. Examples include the City or County Manager, Mayor, Executive Director of a Special District, City, Councilperson, etc.

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Local Governmental Entity: means a county, municipality, city and county, water district, water and sanitation district, metropolitan district that provides water services, water conservation district, water conservancy district, or water authority.

Office: means the Office of Water Conservation and Drought Planning created in section §37-60-124.

Plan Elements: means those components of Drought Mitigation Plans that address actions and programs that may be undertaken by a submitting entity to develop, implement, monitor, review and revise its Drought Mitigation Plan.

Project: Means the proposed scope of work, activities and tasks that the applicant will perform using the monies awarded by the Board under the Water Efficiency Grant Program.

Public facility: means any facility operated by an instrument of government for the benefit of the public, including, but not limited to, a government building, park or other recreational facility, school, college, university, or other educational institution, highway, hospital, or stadium.

Retail Water Delivery: means all water sales, except wholesale water sales, made by the covered or planning entity except wholesale water sales through installments, credit sales, or the exchange of property, as well as, thereof for money; every such transactions for a consideration, condition or otherwise, constituting a sale; and/or the sale or furnishing of water.

Submitting Entity: means any covered entity or state or local governmental entity that submits a Drought Mitigation Plan for CWCB review and approval.

Water Conservation: means water use efficiency, wise water use, water transmission, distribution system and storage system efficiency, and supply substitution. The objective of water conservation is a long-term increase in the productive use of water supply in order to satisfy water supply needs without compromising desired water services.

“Water Conservation Plan,” or “Plan”: Means a Plan adopted in accordance with §37-60-126 CRS.

Water Reuse: Use of reclaimed water for a beneficial use constitutes water reuse. Direct water reuse includes treating wastewater and piping it directly into a water system without intervening dilution in natural water bodies. Indirect reuse includes an intermediate step between the generation of reclaimed water and reuse, which may be through discharge, retention, and mixing with another water supply.

Water saving Measures and Programs: includes any fixture, practice, hardware, or equipment that reduces water demands and a program that uses a combination of measures and incentives that provides for an increase in the productive use of a local water supply.

4. Fund Application Process

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a) Eligibility Requirements

- i) Financial assistance may be provided to a covered entity and state and local governmental entities.

To apply, an applicant must demonstrate that:

- It is in fact a covered entity (as defined above); through its annual retail water demand for the past five years; or that
- It is in fact a state or local governmental entity through the disclosure of its organizational structure, its charter (or equivalent).

b) Application Submittal Requirements

To apply for financial assistance for development of a water conservation plan, any eligible entity may submit an application to the Office for consideration. Below are the requirements for the application submittal.

1. The name and contact information of the entity seeking the grant.
2. A list of the organizations and/or individuals including those hired or otherwise retained by the entity that will assist in preparation of the Plan, and a written statement of their role and contributions.
3. The identification of retail water delivery by the entity for each of the past five years (in acre-feet) and additional information characterizing past water use by sector (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial, irrigation) and source (e.g., surface water, groundwater, etc.).
4. A reasonable estimate must be submitted with detailed projections of future annual retail demand for the next five years based on predicted population (provide source of data), building permits, expected new taps, and/or some other credible information.
5. Background characterizing the water system, potential growth and any other pertinent issues provided in 4c. Information provided must include:
 - a. Current and past system wide and single family residential per capita water use for the last five years, and the basis for those calculations.
 - b. Population for the past five years, current year and 10 year population projection served by the entity and the source of this information
 - c. Estimated water savings goals to be achieved through implementation of the Plan in acre-feet and as a percentage.
 - d. Adequacy, stability, and reliability of the entity's water system and provide the entities location with respect to areas of current and future water needs as identified by the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI).
6. Description of the Water Conservation Plan scope of work. The scope of work shall state the purpose and primary features of the Water Conservation Plan development project, end products to be delivered, clear timelines and provide a detailed narrative of all tasks to be performed for completion of plan. Timelines must include 50 and 75% progress reports and final plan submission. Each task within the scope of work must:

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- be numbered
- contain a detailed description of work to be performed
- identify those responsible for performing the task
- Identify funding sources, such as; grant monies, entity funds, in-kind services, and cash contributions, necessary to complete the task.

Applicants should utilize the Water Conservation Plan Development Guidance Document prepared by the Office, which may be found on the Board website, as a guide in preparing the scope of work portion of the application. If awarded funding, in preparing the Water Conservation Plan, the applicant should utilize the guidance document.

7. A detailed budget, broken down by tasks, identifying all costs associated with the Water Conservation Plan development project, including but not limited to hours spent on plan development (in-kind and cash), hourly wages, materials, and resources needed.
8. The signature of an individual with the authority to commit the resources of the entity seeking the grant.

c) Project Deliverables

All funded projects will be required to provide progress reports to the Board, via the Board staff, at 50% and 75% completion of the Plan. A locally adopted CWCB approved plan constitutes a final project report. A progress report is a document that communicates the status of the project at a point in time. The following are items to consider when developing a progress report:

- the success of meeting previously identified goals and objectives
- obstacles encountered
- preliminary findings or accomplishments
- potential need for revisions to the scope of work and timelines

d) Matching Funds

Entities requesting funding under this program must demonstrate the ability to provide 25% of the total Water Conservation Plan development project budget with matching funds, either as cash or in-kind services or through payment of consulting fees or any combination thereof. Any project partner contributing to the matching fund requirement must provide documentation, such as a letter, detailing the amount and purpose of their commitment. The Board will consider applications with a reduced level of matching funds; however these applicants will need to demonstrate financial hardship to be eligible for a Board waiver of the matching fund requirement.

NOTE: The match is not on the grant amount requested but rather on the total Water Conservation Plan development project budget. (e.g. Total cost for Plan project = \$20,000. The minimum 25% match required for the Plan project = \$5,000. Therefore the maximum grant request for the Plan project = \$15,000.)

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e) CWCB Application Evaluation Process

The degree to which an application meets the above evaluation criteria will be determined by utilizing the rating system and the CWCB evaluation checklist.

Projects from qualified applicants will be ranked based on these criteria for the purpose of determining which projects receive grant funds. The CWCB Board and CWCB staff has sole discretion in the determination of grant funding awards.

f) Application Review and Ranking

CWCB staff will review applications to determine whether they meet eligibility requirements and have complied with all application submittal requirements specified in these guidelines. Based on this evaluation, the staff will recommend grants for applications for grant awards under \$50,000 will be approved administratively. A recommended grant award of \$50,000 or more will be reviewed and approved by the CWCB Board as appropriate.

g) Application and Award Timing

Funds for the Grant Program will become available on July 1 of each year. Applications can be submitted at anytime during the fiscal year to the Office for consideration noting that a given application must be received by the 1st of the month prior to the Board meeting to be considered for award at that Board meeting (e.g., applications must be received by February 1st to be considered for award at the March Board meeting). Awards will be made at each of the Board's bi-monthly meetings (i.e., January, March, May, July, September, and November) as warranted by demand and quality of applications. Award of the available monies can be made for one fiscal year, or for a group of fiscal years depending upon the availability of funding, the needs of the Board and the merits of any given application.

h) Grant Reimbursement

The CWCB will make payments during the term of the project from the Water Efficiency Grant Program Cash Fund to the covered entity, state and local governmental entity that has been awarded funds, as requested by each applicant in their scope of work. All awarded grants will be bound by a Colorado State contract or purchase order that is in accordance with State fiscal rules. An applicant shall not commence work on any portion of the project funded by CWCB grant monies prior to the CWCB generating a purchase order or contract for the project. All payments will be based on invoices for work already completed. Also, please note according to State fiscal rules the Office has 45 days to process an invoice and send payment to the entity once an invoice is received. The individual payments do not need to be equal. All payments will be based on invoices for work already completed. The final payment will be at least 10% of the total grant award, which will not be released until completion of the Project. Note that all monies awarded under this Grant Program must be expended before June 30, 2012.