NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND
2023 RANKING CRITERIA
FOR WASTEWATER PLANNING AND/OR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT
PRE-APPLICATIONS

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) provides financial assistance for planning, design, and construction of eligible water pollution control infrastructure projects. Annual capitalization grants through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), combined with state match and loan repayment funds, are used to provide funding for a variety of activities to eligible entities throughout the state.

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has developed a ranking system to prioritize projects in accordance with federal requirements and water quality goals. The criteria used to evaluate and rank eligible project pre-applications are summarized in the table below, and each of the ranking criteria categories is detailed in the narrative on the following pages.

RANKING CRITERIA - WASTEWATER PROJECTS (Maximum 120 points)

Category 1: PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY & PUBLIC HEALTH *(30 points maximum)*	
Project Addresses:	**Points**
a) Federal or state administrative order (AO) or consent decree (CD)	20
b) WWTF upgrade to remove nutrients or metals prior to issuance of AO, CD or new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) or Groundwater Discharge (GWD) Permit.	20
c) Mitigation of chronic NPDES or GWD compliance issues	10
Points = sum of 1 (a) to 1 (c); 30 max	
Category 2: GREEN PROJECT RESERVE (GPR) *(60 points maximum)*	
Project Addresses:	**Points**
a) Water Efficiency	
b) Energy Efficiency	
c) Renewable Energy	
d) Green Infrastructure	
e) Environmentally Innovative	
Points = % project cost for items 2 (a) to 2 (e) x 60; 60 max	
Category 3: AGING INFRASTRUCTURE *(30 points maximum)*	
Project Addresses:	**Points**
a) Replacement or upgrade of aging Infrastructure	10
b) Implementation of project identified through criticality analysis in asset management program	30
Points = sum of 4 (a) to 4 (b); 30 max	
Category 4 – SEWER EXTENSIONS (0 points, Wastewater Infrastructure project priority list; Sewer extensions ranked and listed separately.)	
Project Addresses:	
a) Addresses documented water quality problem	
b) Project is located in an EPA regulated MS4 area	
c) Project is located in Great Bay or Long Island Sound Watershed	
d) % Developed lots in project area (#Existing Developed Lots / #Existing Undeveloped Lots)	
e) % Current Users in project area (#Current users / #Future users - full build-out)	
f) % Existing septic systems failed and/or with documented problems	
g) Suitability of soils in project area for on-site disposal systems	
h) Project requires and implements Smart Growth principles	

CATEGORY 1 - PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY & PUBLIC HEALTH *(Maximum 30 points)*

1a - Federal or state administrative order or consent decree - The public owner is under a court order, a state or federal consent decree, a state or federal administrative order, an administrative order by consent, or compliance schedule included in a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit or Groundwater Discharge (GWD) permit, which requires the owner to address pollution control issues by complying with a schedule of events.

1b - Voluntary WWTF upgrade to improve surface water or ground water quality - The project will implement treatment process improvements that result in the voluntary reduction of pollutant(s) discharged from the facility before new or more stringent NPDES or GWD permit effluent limitations are formalized by a permit renewal.

1c - Mitigation of chronic NPDES or GWD compliance issues (without order) - The project will result in the elimination of frequent violations of a facility's NPDES or GWD permit effluent limitations, but the facility discharge does not cause a surface water or groundwater impairment and is not currently subject to a state or federal enforcement action.

CATEGORY 2 - GREEN PROJECT RESERVE *(Maximum 60 points)*

The goal of the Green Project Reserve (GPR) is to guide funding toward projects that utilize green or soft-path practices to:

- Complement and augment hard or gray infrastructure.
- Adopt practices that reduce the environmental footprint of wastewater treatment, collection, and distribution.
- Help utilities adapt to climate change, build resilience to extreme weather, and address system vulnerabilities.
- Enhance water and energy conservation.
- Achieve the goals/objectives of utility asset management programs (included separately under Category 3).
- Adopt more sustainable solutions to wet weather flows.
- Promote low impact development with respect to stormwater runoff.
- Restore natural hydrology.
- Promote innovative approaches to water management problems.

CWSRF funding requires states to allocate funding to projects and project components which qualify for the Green Project Reserve. There are four categories of work included by EPA in the guidance documents referenced below, which NHDES has separated into a fifth category (renewable energy) to better promote all GPR eligible project types: (a) water efficiency, (b) energy efficiency, (c) renewable energy, (d) green infrastructure and (e) environmentally innovative.

Each category of work is described in the five simplified tables below, for GPR-related projects typically or likely to be seen in NH. For additional detail or eligibilities/ineligibilities for projects not included in the following tables, please reference the following EPA guidance document for complete detail for both eligible and ineligible GPR projects 2012 CWSRF 10% Green Project Reserve: Guidance for Determining Project Eligibility. A 2017 EPA GPR update eliminated the need for business case development for GPR projects, which saves the states and applicants significant time in identifying and selecting eligible activities for funding. Additional EPA GPR Guidance is also available.

GPR Eligibility – Water Efficiency (NH)

Eligible Projects	GPR Category
Installing or retrofitting water efficient devices, such as plumbing fixtures and appliances.	2.2-1
Recycling and water reuse projects that replace potable sources with non-potable sources such as gray water, condensate and wastewater effluent reuse systems where local codes allow the practice.	2.2-6
Water efficiency projects should deliver equal or better services with less net water use as compared to traditional or standard technologies and practices.	2.4-2
Educational activities and demonstration projects for water efficiency.	4.5-6

GPR Eligibility – Energy Efficiency (NH)

Eligible Projects	GPR Category
POTW projects or unit process projects that achieve a 20% energy efficiency improvement. • Retrofit projects should compare energy used by the existing system or unit process to the proposed project. • New POTW projects or capacity expansion projects should be designed to maximize energy efficiency and should select high efficiency premium motors and equipment, where cost-effective. • Projects achieving <20% reduction in energy consumption need to show cost-effectiveness and payback must not exceed useful life of the asset.	3.2-2
Energy audits, energy management systems, optimization studies, sub-metering individual processes.	3.2-4
Projects implementing recommendations from an energy audit.	3.5-2
Projects that cost effectively eliminate pumps or pumping stations.	3.5-3
Collection system Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) detection equipment.	3.2-3
Cost-effective infiltration/inflow correction projects that save energy from pumping and reduced treatment costs.	3.5-4
I/I correction projects where excessive groundwater infiltration is requiring unnecessary treatment processes.	3.5-5
Replacing pre-Energy Policy Act of 1992 motors with NEMA premium efficiency motors.	3.5-6
Upgrade of POTW lighting to energy efficient sources such as LEDs.	3.5-7
SCADA systems.	3.5-8
Variable Frequency Drives.	3.5-9
Educational activities and demonstration projects for energy efficiency.	4.5-6

GPR Eligibility – Renewable Energy (NH)

Eligible Projects	GPR Category
Renewable energy source for a POTW such as wind, solar, geothermal, micro-hydroelectric or biogas combined heat and power (CHP)	3.2-1

GPR Eligibility – Green Infrastructure (NH)

Eligible Projects	GPR Category
Downspout disconnection to remove stormwater from sanitary or combined sewers.	1.2-5
Comprehensive retrofit programs designed to keep wet weather discharges out of all types of sewer systems using green infrastructure technologies.	1.2-6

GPR Eligibility – Environmentally Innovative (NH)

Eligible Projects	GPR Category
Total/integrated water resources management planning likely to result in a capital project.	4.2-1
Projects or components of projects that result from total/integrated water resource management planning.	4.5-2
Utility Sustainability Plan consistent with EPA SRF's sustainability policy.	4.2-2
Greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory and mitigation plan for POTW.	4.2-3
Planning activities (to include climate vulnerability assessments) by a POTW to prepare for adaptation to the long-term effects of climate change and/or extreme weather.	4.2-4
Projects that facilitate adaptation of POTWs to climate change identified by a carbon footprint assessment, climate adaptation study or climate vulnerability assessment.	4.5-3

Construction of US Green Building Council LEED certified buildings or renovation of an existing LEED certified building on POTW facilities. This encompasses SW, water and energy efficiency and renewable energy costs.	4.2-5
Decentralized wastewater treatment solutions to existing deficient or failing onsite wastewater systems.	4.2-6
Technology or approach whose performance is expected to address water quality but the actual performance has not been demonstrated in NH.	4.4-1a
Technology or approach that is not widely used in NH but performs as well or better than conventional technology/approaches at lower cost.	4.4-1b
Conventional technology or approaches that are used in a new application in NH.	4.4-1c
POTW upgrades or retrofits that remove phosphorous for beneficial reuse.	4.5-4
Projects that significantly reduce or eliminate the use of chemicals in wastewater treatment.	4.5-5a
Application of technologies that significantly reduce the volume of residuals, minimize the generation of residuals, or lower the amount of chemicals in the residuals.	4.5-5b
Sub-surface land application of effluent and other means for groundwater recharge, such as spray irrigation and overland flow, where there is no other cost- effective alternative.	4.5-8

Wastewater planning and infrastructure projects that incorporate green elements into planning and design will rank more competitively than similar projects without green elements. To score GPR projects, the dollar value of green elements will be determined as a percentage of the total project cost. This percentage will be multiplied by a constant value of 60 to obtain the number of points (60 points maximum). For example, if 50% of the cost of the entire project is attributed to green components, the project would receive 30 GPR points (0.5 x 60 = 30).

Detailed descriptions of GPR projects with justification for the percent GPR of the total estimated project costs are needed for NHDES to award ranking points under the GPR ranking category. For example, an estimation of energy savings is necessary for a project to be counted towards the GPR utilization requirement. Therefore, NH CWSRF funding applicants must provide an estimation of energy savings to receive ranking points under the energy efficiency GPR ranking category.

GPR points will not be awarded if adequate information, including reasonable estimated costs for GPR-related items, is not included in the pre-application. It is expected that any GPR-related items claimed in this pre-application will be incorporated into the design of the project.

CATEGORY 3 - AGING INFRASTRUCTURE *(Maximum 30 points)*

3a – Aging infrastructure - Cost-effective replacement or upgrade of wastewater infrastructure to maintain existing functionality.

3b – Implementation of project identified through criticality analysis in an asset management program - System has developed an asset management program and points will be given if the system has identified this project through a criticality analysis in their program. To obtain points under this category, evidence of the program must be attached to the pre-application. Implementation of an asset management program means that the applicant has taken specific actions to put into practice the elements that comprise the program. The pre-application must include a narrative describing the asset management program even if the program was previously funded by NHDES. The asset management program must include all similar wastewater infrastructure assets owned by the applicant, not just the assets involved in the proposed project.

CATEGORY 4 - SEWER EXTENSIONS

(0 points, Wastewater Infrastructure project priority list; Sewer extensions ranked and listed separately.)

Sewer extensions, including those which would replace existing privately-owned septic systems, do not receive prioritization points. Sewer extensions may be eligible for CWSRF funding pursuant to Env-Wq 504. As funding is available for eligible sewer extension projects, these projects will be evaluated and ranked against each other using the following criteria. The points available for each category are denoted below.

4a – Resolution of water quality issues (10 points) – Project addresses a documented water quality problem or public health concerns. Provide a brief description and applicable documentation.

4b – Project is located in an MS4 area (5 points) – Project is located in an EPA regulated MS4 area, and addresses requirements of the MS4 permit. Provide a brief description and applicable documentation.

4c – Project is located in the Great Bay or Long Island Sound Watershed (5 points) – Project is located in either the Great Bay or Long Island Sound Watershed, and project addresses nitrogen discharges to groundwater and/or surface waters. Provide a brief description and applicable documentation.

4d – % Developed Lots in Project Area (10 points) – Determine the number of existing developed and undeveloped lots in the project area and calculate percentage. Provide applicable documentation. Points will be awarded on a tiered scale based on the percentage of existing developed lots in the project area.

4e – % Current Users in Project Area (10 points) – Determine the number of current and future (build-out) users in the project area and calculate percentage. Provide applicable documentation. Points will be awarded on a tiered scale based on the percentage of current users in the project area.

4f – % Existing Septic Systems Failed and/or with Documented Problems (10 points) – Inventory and provide documentation on the number and percentage of existing septic systems that have failed in the past five years or have been documented to be failing (such as frequent pumping required, standing water on leach field, etc.) by the local public health officer or written evaluation from a licensed professional. Provide applicable documentation. Points will be awarded on a tiered scale based on the percentage of existing septic systems that have failed or have documented public health problems.

4g – Suitability of Soils in Project Area for On-site Disposal Systems (10 points) – Determine the number of lots in the project area, developed and undeveloped, that have unsuitable soils. Provide a map of the project area of sufficient detail delineating all areas unsuitable for conventional on-site subsurface disposal systems based on USDA-NRCS soil maps, supplemented with additional information such as test pit data, as appropriate. Points will be awarded on a tiered scale based on the percentage of lots with unsuitable soils.

4h – Project Requires and Implements Smart Growth Principles (20 points) – Provide details on how this project incorporates Smart Growth concepts and principles. "Smart Growth" covers a range of development and conservation strategies that help protect our health and natural environment and make our communities more attractive, economically stronger, and more socially diverse. Provide the estimated percent of total project costs attributed to Smart Growth. Points will be awarded on a tiered scale depending on actual Smart Growth principles to be incorporated into the project as well as the percentage of total project cost attributed to Smart Growth.

EMERGING CONTAMINANTS:

NHDES intends to focus on planning and/or construction projects for treatment of landfill leachate from municipally owned landfills that discharge PFAS to a municipal wastewater treatment plant. Eligible activities may include feasibility studies of PFAS treatment options, pilot testing, alternatives analysis, and/or construction.

Emerging Contaminants project pre-applications will be subject to the Wastewater Infrastructure project Ranking Criteria, Categories 1-4 (above).

Complete pre-applications will include available information about the following: Landfill name, location, active/closed status, average volume of landfill leachate generated (gal/day), details about any existing pretreatment, sewering, and disposal with a brief description of the project and goals.

Work scopes for PFAS reduction projects must be pre-approved by NHDES prior to review of the full application.