



Storm Water Funding Through the Water Pollution Control Fund

Many types of activities are eligible for funding through Ohio’s Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) under two main categories — the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or NPDES-permitted community and non-permitted community projects.

Storm water work required by a NPDES permit

To comply with federal water pollution control rules, municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) are required to implement programs and practices to control polluted storm water runoff. Eligible projects incorporating these activities often include grey storm water infrastructure improvements such as traditional pipe, storage, and treatment systems, but they can also include green infrastructure components. Examples of the latter include green roofs, infiltration basins, curb cuts and landscaped swales, and wetland protection and restoration. More information on green infrastructure funding can be found at epa.gov/owm/cwfinance/cwsrf/green_if.pdf. When rights-of-way are used to address storm water, such as through green technology, and the land is integral to the storm water best management practice, the land is eligible for WPCLF funding.

Storm water work not specifically required by a NPDES permit

Publicly or privately owned storm water projects that go beyond minimum, federal regulatory requirements may be funded as nonpoint source projects if they are consistent with Ohio’s Nonpoint Source Management Plan. For example, this category includes projects generally associated with new or existing development, such as erosion, sedimentation, and discharge of pollutants into water resources from construction sites, roads, bridges, parking lots, and buildings. Additionally, it may also include green infrastructure projects – those that simulate the natural hydrology of an area by capturing storm water where it falls, treating, and infiltrating it. Land may also be eligible for assistance in unregulated storm water projects, similar to that noted above for regulated projects.

The following table describes the full range of storm water project eligibility.

Publicly Owned Project						Privately Owned Project					
Specifically Required by an NPDES Permit		Not Specifically Required by an NPDES Permit		Unregulated Project		Specifically Required by an NPDES Permit		Not Specifically Required by an NPDES Permit		Unregulated Project	
Phase I/Phase II Municipal Storm water Area	Construction Permit > 1 acre *	Phase I/Phase II Municipal Storm water Area	Construction Permit > 1 acre *	Unregulated Community	Construction < 1 acre **	Phase I/Phase II Municipal Storm water Area	Construction Permit > 1 acre *	Phase I/Phase II Municipal Storm water Area	Construction Permit > 1 acre *	Unregulated Community	Construction < 1 acre
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
* or construction sites in a common plan of development											
** and the construction site is not in a common plan of development											

Storm Water Funding Through the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund

Eligible costs do not include normal operation and maintenance

WPCLF funding is available for the capital costs of activities listed above as long as those grey or green “infrastructure” projects protect or improve water quality. However, WPCLF funding cannot be used for ongoing personnel, operation, and maintenance costs associated with storm water control and treatment. For example, treating storm water runoff, planting trees and shrubs, purchasing equipment, completing environmental cleanups, and developing and initially delivering environmental education programs are considered capital projects eligible for funding, but the salary of the person operating the purchased equipment is not eligible.

More Information

For more details about the WPCLF, current interest rates, loan terms and activities eligible for funding, contact the Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance at (614) 644-2798 or visit epa.ohio.gov/defa.