

Ohio BUILDS Water Infrastructure Grant Program

This fall, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted announced \$250 million to help fund critical water projects in all of Ohio's 88 counties as part of the new Ohio BUILDS (Broadband, Utilities, and Infrastructure for Local Development Success) water infrastructure grant program. The \$250 million will support 183 drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects impacting communities across the state.

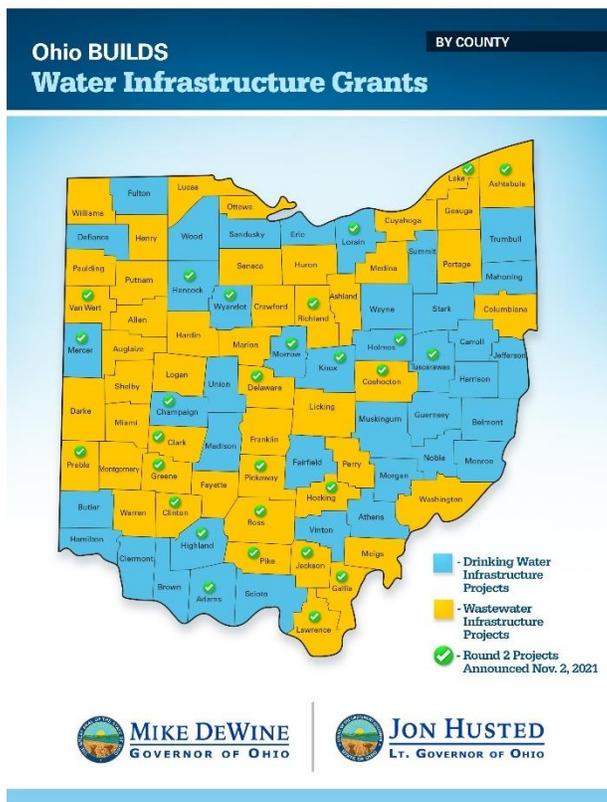
“Clean drinking water is part of the foundation for a good quality of life, yet too many communities in Ohio can't reliably provide residents with this basic necessity due to crumbling infrastructure that has been too expensive to fix,” said Governor DeWine. “My administration is committed to helping our communities address these important water issues.”

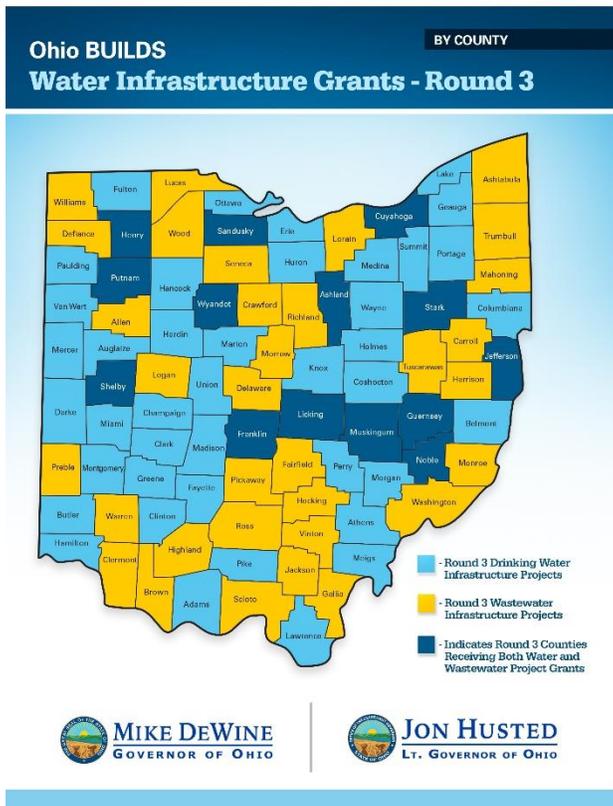
The Ohio BUILDS water infrastructure grant program, announced by Governor DeWine in October, was funded by the Ohio General Assembly as part of House Bill 168, sponsored by State Representatives Mark Fraizer (R-Newark) and Mike Loychik (R-Bazetta), with funding that was appropriated through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

“Governor DeWine and I have made water quality and protecting our natural resources in Ohio a priority, and it is great to see the legislature prioritizing it as well,” said Lt. Governor Husted. “Water quality isn’t just about protecting our health, it’s also about our quality of life and our economic future.”

Since applications for the program opened in late July, the Ohio Department of Development received more than 1,200 grant applications requesting nearly \$1.4 billion in funding.

Governor DeWine created the Ohio BUILDS water infrastructure grant program to reduce or eliminate the local financial burden associated with critical infrastructure needs, such as the construction of new water systems, the replacement of aging water lines, and the installation of new water mains. Grants are also funding projects to prevent sewer system backups and replace failing household sewage treatment systems with new sewers.





The Ohio BUILDS water infrastructure grants are a continuation of Governor DeWine's H2Ohio initiative, which launched in 2019 to focus on ensuring plentiful, clean, and safe water for communities across the state. H2Ohio focuses on strategies to reduce algal blooms on Lake Erie and other bodies of water but has also awarded \$15 million in grants for water infrastructure projects. This includes \$3.7 million in H2Ohio grants for eight communities to help improve drinking water quality and to repair or replace aging water and wastewater infrastructure that Governor DeWine and Ohio EPA Director Laurie A. Stevenson announced in October.

In addition to water infrastructure, Ohio BUILDS also focuses on supporting other targeted solutions that impact quality of life, such as broadband expansion, brownfield redevelopment, the demolition of blighted buildings, and more.

Ohio Environmental Education Fund Reaches \$1 Million Mark in Environmental Scholarships Awarded

In 2021, Ohio EPA awarded more than \$1 million cumulatively in environmental science and engineering scholarships to 389 recipients at 51 Ohio colleges and universities over the past 17 years. Ohio EPA makes \$50,000 available in scholarships each year to students in four-year Ohio colleges or universities or two-year Ohio institutions.

“These students represent the next generation of scientists and engineers and the important work the future will need. We are pleased to help them further their education,” said Ohio EPA Director Laurie A. Stevenson.

Over the past 17 years, 239 science majors and 80 engineering majors have received scholarships. Funding comes from civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA for violations of air and water pollution control laws. The scholarship program is administered by the Ohio Academy of Science.

Ohio
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

College Scholarship Opportunities

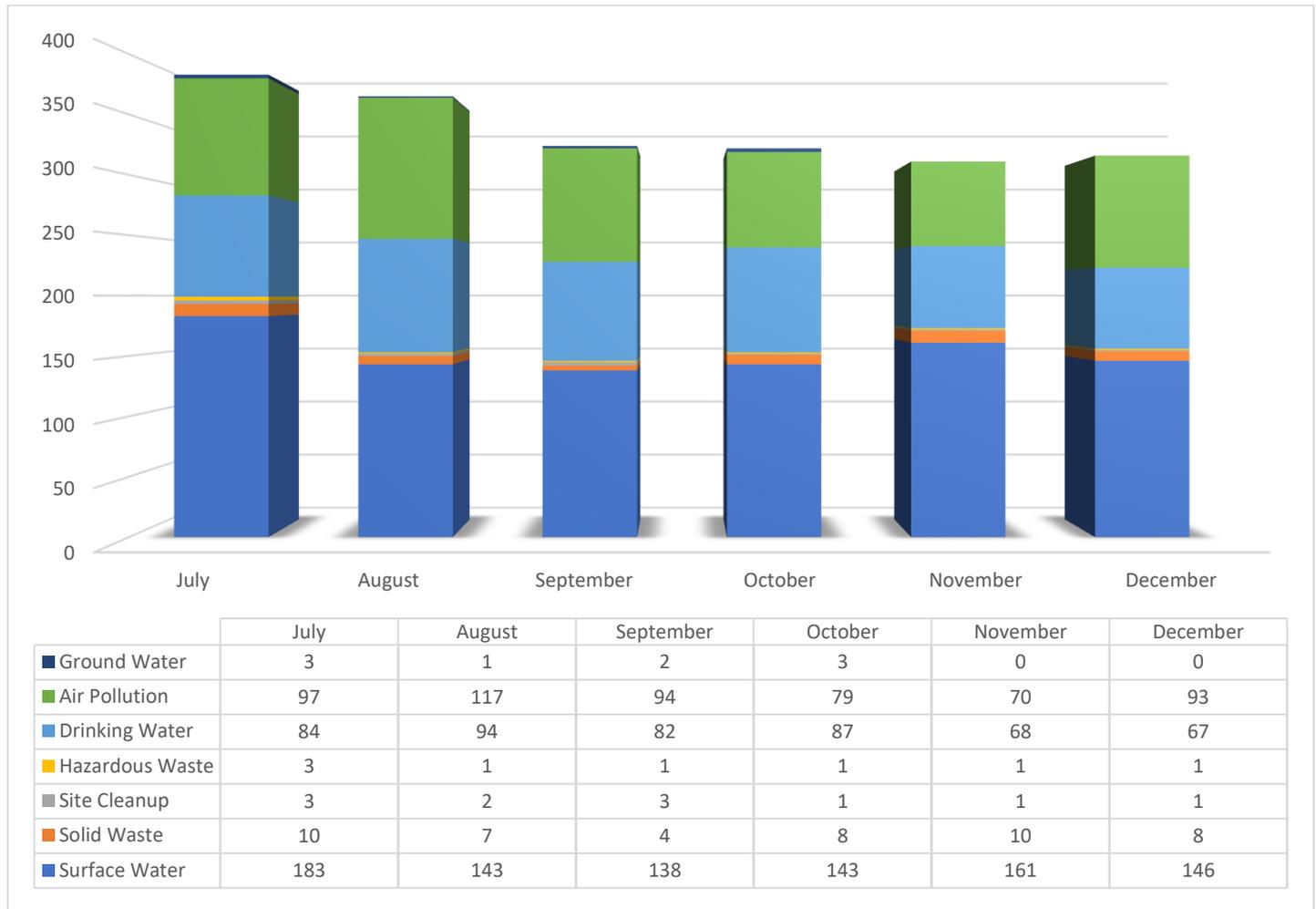
in environmental science and environmental engineering

Who is eligible?

Up to \$5,000 is available for students entering their final year in four-year and five-year programs. Up to \$2,500 is available to second year students in two-year degree programs at public or private technical and community colleges in Ohio.

Agency Permits and Authorizing Actions

This dashboard displays permits and other authorizing actions, which include plan approvals and permits-to-install, issued from July 1 – Dec. 31, 2021, for key program areas, including surface water, air pollution, and drinking water.



Compliance Inspections and Verification Reviews

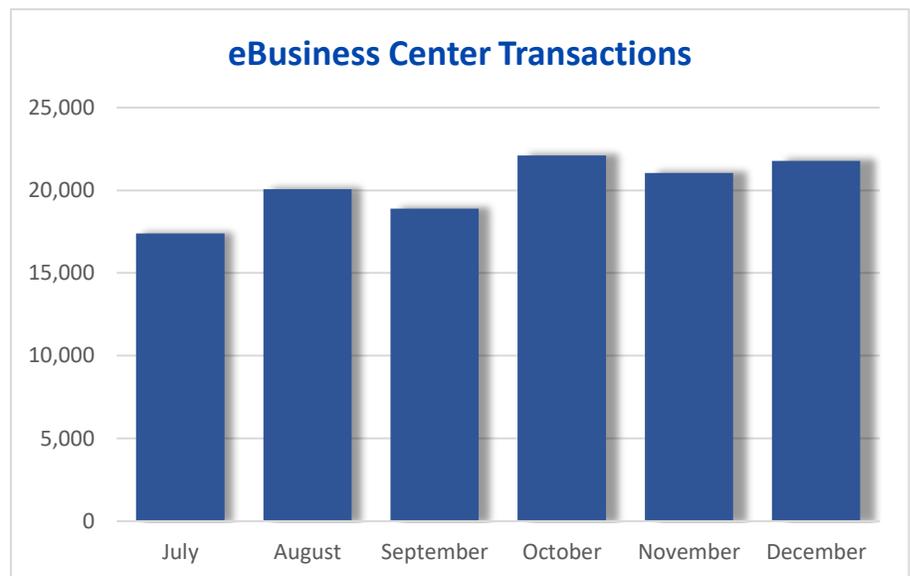
This dashboard reflects the Agency's efforts to verify or inspect for compliance with permits, environmental rules, and other requirements. These are broken down by month and Agency program. An inspection involves conducting an evaluation of compliance related processes at a site or facility. Verification review includes review of submittals that are required by the regulations, such as compliance reports, monitoring data, etc. The large numbers in the drinking water program reflect the Agency's work in reviewing monitoring and analytical reports that are submitted by thousands of public water systems each month.

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Air Permit	23	16	21	30	29	17	131
Open Burning Regulation	10	15	12	24	9	7	72
Drinking Water	323	311	213	319	1,227	279	2,528
NPDES	71	69	104	104	74	60	446
Hazardous Waste	20	26	26	25	15	23	124
Solid Waste and C&DD Facilities	221	147	160	115	124	55	822
Other	19	28	24	13	21	25	124

Customer Interactions

Ohio EPA's eBusiness Center is a secure portal for regulated entities to electronically complete and file Ohio EPA-related reports and permit applications.

In addition to these business transactions, Ohio EPA also interacts with the regulated community, public, and other stakeholders daily through phone calls, online meetings, site visits, email, newsletters, listserv announcements, and webinars.



Outreach Type	Number Reached
Meetings/Conferences/Training	8,048
e-Blast/Digital Outreach	483,573

Funding to Improve Water Quality and Enhance Environmental Protection

H2Ohio Initiative

The H2Ohio Initiative was proposed by Governor DeWine in March 2019 to invest in targeted solutions to help ensure safe and clean water for Ohioans across the state.

Under H2Ohio, Ohio EPA is funding projects in disadvantaged communities to help ensure they have drinking water and sewer infrastructure.

H2Ohio is also helping to replace hundreds of failing home sewage treatment systems in low-income households to prevent the release of raw sewage onto property or into waterways. Additionally, through a combination of state and federal funds, H2Ohio funding is being used to replace drinking water pipes and fixtures that contain lead in daycares and schools.

Grant Funding

Ohio EPA provides grant funding for various programs to clean and protect our land, air, and water resources and promote environmentally sustainable practices.

State Revolving Loan Fund Awards

Ohio EPA's Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) and the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA), provide below market rate loan financing for public wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects.

Since these programs began over 32 years ago, more than \$13 billion in financing has been provided to Ohio communities for a wide variety of wastewater and water infrastructure projects across the state. This financing has helped improve water quality in Ohio while providing substantial savings to Ohio communities when compared to market rate loan financing.

H2Ohio Initiative Funding July - December 2021

Category	Funding
Wastewater Infrastructure	\$2,850,000
Drinking Water Infrastructure	\$885,000
Grand Total	\$3,735,000

Grant Funding July - December 2021

Program	Funding
Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Principal Forgiveness	\$17,386,104
Water Supply Revolving Loan Account Principal Forgiveness	\$16,870,909
Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program	\$295,642
Diesel Emissions Reduction Grants	\$9,112,523
Ohio Diesel Mitigation Trust Fund Grants	\$8,525,774
U.S. EPA Diesel Emission Reduction Act Grants	\$542,334
Ohio Environmental Education Fund	\$537,130
Section 319 Grants	\$1,223,084
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	\$638,702
Water Quality Management Planning (614(B))	\$173,377
Surface Water Improvement Fund	\$52,754
Grand Total	\$55,358,333

Infrastructure Loan Funding July - December 2021

Month	Water Pollution Control Loan Fund	Water Supply Revolving Loan Account
July	\$3,913,950	\$10,897,837
August	\$21,282,545	\$53,084,584
September	\$28,090,566	\$38,615,898
October	\$40,340,636	\$13,591,663
November	\$36,295,207	\$8,009,917
December	\$55,709,795	\$5,137,453
Grand Total	\$185,632,699	\$129,337,352

Emergency Response

Ohio EPA's Office of Emergency Response (ER) includes staff stationed throughout Ohio who coordinate with local, state, and federal first responders and support entities on environmental emergencies. Typical environmental response incidents include train wrecks, facility equipment malfunctions, highway crashes, fish kills, chemical releases, and natural disasters. Our team works in partnership with others to minimize and abate the impact these releases cause to the public and the environment.

Our ER teams respond 24-hours a day, seven days a week to incidents across the state. Statewide, Ohio EPA records more than 5,000 incident reports annually through calls to our emergency response spill hotline from citizens, companies, law enforcement, emergency responders, and other agencies.

Recovered Material	Amount (gallons)
Transformer Oil	2,092
Brine	2,100
Crude Oil	3,485
Liquid Food Wastes	9,550
Refined Petroleum and Vehicle Fluids	28,243
HAZMAT Non-fuel	35,885
Manure	88,330

