



OREGON Clean Water State Revolving Fund



Summer 2022 | Volume 8 Issue 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 More funding, more projects
- 2 Environmental determinations now online
- 3 Is your community climate ready?
- 3 What is CREAT?
- 4 Tracking Oregon's water quality needs
- 4 Oregon Infrastructure and Brownfields Summit
- 4 Questions welcome!
- 4 Meet the new staff!
- 5 Upcoming events



State of Oregon
**Department of
Environmental
Quality**

More funding, more projects

[The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), or BIL, is a federal infrastructure funding package that was signed into law on Nov. 15, 2021. The law provides the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) with additional funds that can be awarded to states for water quality infrastructure projects for five years, from May 2022 - 2026, through State Revolving Fund programs. Starting in early 2023, Oregon's Clean Water State Revolving Fund will receive more than \$20 million to finance projects, provide principal forgiveness and offer even more free technical assistance to communities across Oregon. To ensure that all communities benefit equitably from this historic investment in water infrastructure, a significant portion of funds will be provided as principal forgiveness, with environmental justice and economic factors as considerations.

Thanks to BIL, the fund will be able to support more water quality and infrastructure improvement projects throughout Oregon. For eligible borrowers, this means millions of dollars more that will be available as below-market interest rate loans for:

- construction of wastewater and stormwater treatment facilities and collection systems

- nonpoint source pollution management
- construction, repair, or replacement of septic systems
- construction of nature-based infrastructure solutions
- and [other uses](#) associated with the management of wastewater and stormwater

CWSRF loans are flexible enough to meet the changing needs of communities, whether for large or small projects.

Eligible public agencies include tribal nations, cities, counties, sanitary districts, soil and water conservation districts, irrigation districts, various special districts, and certain intergovernmental entities. The program also lends to certified nonprofit Community Development Financial Institutions to make sub-loans for the repair or replacement of a failing septic system, or connection to a public sewer system.



Sign up to receive email notifications about the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

[Sign-Up](#)

The CWSRF finances traditional and nontraditional water quality systems like Prineville's Crooked River Wetlands Complex, which won an EPA PISCES award in 2018 for its innovative design.

With BIL, the revolving fund will be able to help more communities by providing more of the incentives that the program already offers. These include below-market interest rates, forgivable loan principal that does not need to be repaid, and free technical assistance for planning, developing, and managing projects and meeting loan requirements. Principal forgiveness is awarded to eligible borrowers who have a green or sustainable project that meets EPA criteria or are economically disadvantaged communities.

DEQ will conduct a rulemaking to allow the program to offer more principal forgiveness as part of BIL. A rule advisory committee will begin meeting in summer of 2022.

How to apply

- Project and borrower eligibilities will be the same for BIL-funded projects as the base CWSRF program.
- To learn if your community and project are eligible for future BIL funding, submit a [Loan Information Request Form](#) anytime.
- Applications are accepted year-round, but projects will be reviewed, scored, and ranked after submission deadlines:
 - Aug. 12, 2022
 - Dec. 9, 2022
 - April 14, 2023
- For more information, please contact the [project officer](#) for your area.

DEQ will post [more information](#) on our website in the coming weeks and months as EPA provides updates.

Environmental determinations now online

DEQ's Clean Water State Revolving Fund provides a 30-day period for public comments when an environmental determination is made on the potential impacts of a CWSRF-financed water quality project.

Requests for funding for the construction of a treatment works project as defined in the Clean Water Act, nonpoint source pollution control or estuary management project, must demonstrate that the proposed project complies with applicable federal laws and regulations. Staff, in consultation with other agencies, determine whether a project meets the criteria for a Categorical Exclusion, Environmental Assessment, or Environmental Impact Statement. The Categorical Exclusion track is for projects that are expected to have no significant environmental impacts. The Environmental Assessment track is for projects that are expected to have modest environmental impacts. The Environmental Impact Statement track is for projects that are expected to have high environmental impacts.

In March, DEQ CWSRF began publishing public comment notices to [DEQ's public notice webpage](#) instead of in a local newspaper and in the Daily Journal of Commerce, as had been the practice. This change brings the CWSRF in line with other DEQ programs and allows the notices to be widely available.

Is your community climate ready?

Before spring 2022 had even started, a state of emergency was declared in parts of Oregon where drought conditions were already getting critical. For communities, water conservation might seem like a natural response to drought but that creates unintended consequences for wastewater systems. “Reductions in indoor water use can damage infrastructure and reduce the effectiveness of existing treatment processes,” according to [a report by the Public Policy Research Institute of California](#). “Such challenges may grow as severe droughts become more frequent with climate change and as water efficiency increases.” And drought is only one challenge associated with climate change. Flooding and wildfires pose different hazards to

vital infrastructure like wastewater and stormwater systems. To help communities assess risks and identify the right adaptation strategies, EPA offers a free online tool called Climate Resilience, Evaluation and Awareness Tool, or CREAT.

Oregon researchers have identified likely climate change impacts for each county in Oregon. Learn more at blogs.oregonstate.edu/occri/projects/dlcd

What is CREAT?

[CREAT](#) is a tool that assists water sector utilities in assessing climate-related risks to utility assets and operations. Throughout CREAT’s five modules, users consider climate impacts and identify adaptation options to increase resilience. The modules are:

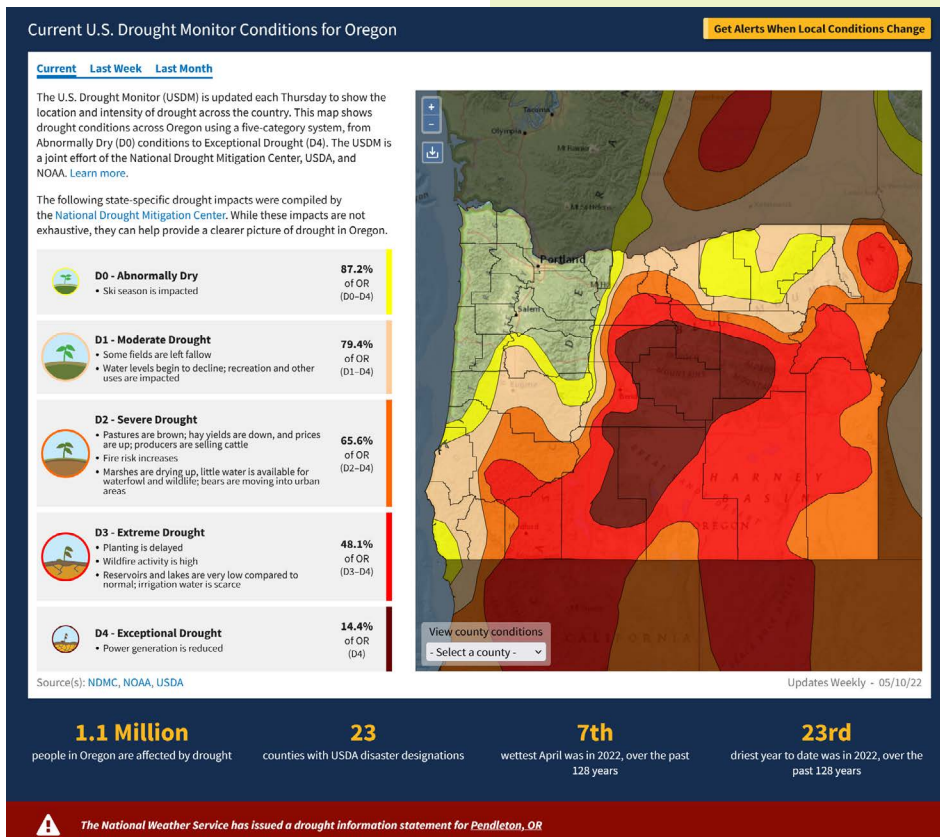
1. **Climate Awareness:** Provide basic utility information; increase awareness of climate impacts
2. **Scenario Development:** Understand utility risk; design scenarios of threats based on climate data
3. **Consequences and Assets:** Outline potential consequences; catalog critical assets
4. **Adaptation Planning:** Inventory current actions that provide resilience; design adaptation plans
5. **Risk Assessment:** Assess risk from a changing climate; compare risk reduction of adaptation plans

Incorporating CREAT results into best management practices and capital investment decisions builds customer and stakeholder confidence that a utility is being proactive in identifying significant climate-related risks. EPA provides [climate adaptation ideas](#) for project planning, and the CWSRF finances projects that prepare, mitigate and adapt water systems for climate change resilience. Principal forgiveness may be available for qualifying “green” projects or for communities that are economically disadvantaged.

Free CREAT training

You can register for the *free* Northwest CREAT training sessions [here](#).

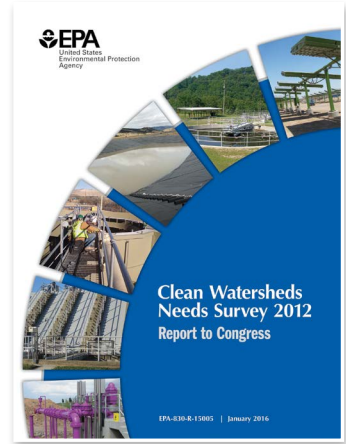
All sessions will be available for later viewing over the summer.



Source: [Drought.gov](https://drought.gov)

Tracking Oregon’s water quality needs

EPA’s Clean Watersheds Needs Survey is well underway, with DEQ staff collecting information to determine Oregon’s water infrastructure needs. The Clean Water Act requires state surveys of unfunded water quality projects every four years. The last survey was in 2012 so it’s essential to ensure EPA has more current data on Oregon’s needs. CWSRF staff are reviewing community capital improvement plans and related documents, and in some cases, reaching out to public utilities to learn about their water quality challenges and unfunded projects. Technical assistance is available to help identify projects. EPA reports the results to congress, providing a comprehensive analysis of capital investments necessary to meet the nation’s wastewater and stormwater treatment and collection needs. Questions? Email CWN.survey@deq.oregon.gov



Oregon Infrastructure and Brownfields Summit

CWSRF staff will join federal, state and local agencies in presenting updates on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, along with strategic planning and funding sessions for public projects. The summit will be in Bend, Oct. 23-25. Details at theoregonsummit.com



Oregon Infrastructure Summit
Smart. Resilient. Sustainable.

Questions welcome!

If you know your community needs help with wastewater, stormwater, septic or other point source and nonpoint source water quality issues but don’t know where to start, the CWSRF can help! Staff offer FREE assistance with technical issues, financial planning, clarity on federal requirements and more. Submit a [Loan Information Request Form](#) or call 503-229-LOAN.

Sign up to receive email notifications about the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

Sign-Up

Meet the new staff!

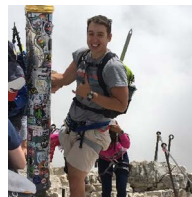
The CWSRF recently welcomed three new staff members to our statewide team.



Ryan Phillips, working in the Portland office, assists with environmental review determinations, policy development, and application eligibility and scoring, among other areas.



Cristina Jones is a new Eastern Region project officer, working out of the Bend office. Cristina helps applicants and borrowers navigate the program requirements.



Sam Brown is also a new Eastern Region project officer, working out of the Bend office. Sam helps applicants and borrowers navigate the program requirements.

“The CWSRF program supports communities and improves water quality statewide.”

- CWSRF Program Charter





Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Clean Water State Revolving Fund
700 NE Multnomah, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: (503) 229-LOAN (5626)
(800) 452-4011
CWSRFinfo@deq.state.or.us

MISSION STATEMENT

Oregon's Clean Water State Revolving Fund program supports communities by funding projects that improve water quality and environmental outcomes for the State of Oregon. The program is dedicated to working with small communities and on projects that increase financial and environmental sustainability, climate resiliency and water and energy efficiency.

- Program Charter

Clean Water State Revolving Fund Contacts

Northwest Region

Serving the counties of: Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington and Tillamook

PROJECT OFFICER

Rebecca Kramer,
503-229-6018

700 NE Multnomah, Ste 600
Portland, OR 97232-4100

Western Region

Serving the counties of: Benton, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, and Yamhill

PROJECT OFFICER

Alexis Cooley,
541-687-7341

165 E. Seventh Ave., Ste 100
Eugene, OR 97401

Eastern Region

Serving the counties of: Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Wasco, Sherman, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wheeler

PROJECT OFFICERS

Cristina Jones,
503-360-4312

Sam Brown, 503-807-0355

475 NE Bellevue, Suite 110
Bend, OR 97701

DEQ Headquarters

Lynn Barlow, Program Manager,
503-229-6896

Chris Marko, Program Coordinator

Oscar Orejel, Loan Specialist

Sam Ferguson, Loan Specialist

Ryan Phillips, Program Analyst

STATEWIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Ransom Horner-Richardson, 541-633-2080
Mailing address: 475 NE Bellevue, Suite 110, Bend, OR 97701

Julie Ulibarri, 503-467-9441
165 E. Seventh Avenue, Suite 100
Eugene, OR 97401

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

700 NE Multnomah, Ste 600
Portland, OR 97232-4100

Upcoming events

EPA's Watershed Academy (webinar)

MAY 24, 2022 [Integrating Water Quality Management and Natural Hazard Resilience through Nature Based Solutions](#)

American Water Works Association, Pacific Northwest Section

JUNE 29, 2022 [Treatment, Distribution, and Wastewater Optimization](#)

The Oregon Association of Water Utilities

JULY 6, 2022 [Developing Your Operations and Maintenance Manual](#)

EPA American Iron and Steel

ONGOING & RECORDED WEBINARS [AIS requirements for CWSRF borrowers](#)

The following organizations provide classroom and online training throughout the year.

- [Oregon Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network \(ORWARN\)](#)
- [WaterOperator.org](#)
- [Environmental Finance Center Network \(EFCN\)](#)
- [Oregon Association of Water Utilities \(OAWU\)](#)
- [Pacific Northwest Section - American Waterworks Association \(PNWS-AWWA\)](#)
- [Rural Community Assistance Corporation \(RCAC\)](#)
- [EPA Small and Rural Wastewater Systems](#)

Accessibility

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.