



GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY

State Revolving Fund “Green Project” Solicitation

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) recently approved by Congress and signed by the President increased funding to the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan programs, both administered by the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA). The ARRA directs the states to reserve 20% of the ARRA funding for “...projects to address green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements or other environmentally innovative activities.” The ARRA includes a provision allowing the states to reserve less than 20% if there are not sufficient eligible project applications.

This is a solicitation for eligible green projects only. Please do not send in any projects submitted previously in response to the general SRF project solicitation that went out earlier this month.

If you have potential eligible projects to be funded over the next 12 months, ***please fill out the attached form and return it as an email attachment to GEFA-SRF-Team@gefa.ga.gov***. Please return a completed form as an e-mail attachment by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2009. If you have questions, please contact Kevin Kelly at (404) 584-1053.

Eligible applicants are county and city governments and water/sewer authorities in the state of Georgia. For guidance on eligible projects and examples of possible projects, please see the information provided below.

While GEFA does not yet know what the financing terms will be, GEFA anticipates that any financing under the SRF, including all ARRA-related financing, will include a substantial loan component. We ask that everyone take this into consideration in preparing their lists of potential SRF “green” projects.

In a draft document, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Water provides the following definitions and examples of green projects related to the Clean Water SRF.

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CWSRF Project Definitions and Examples for Green Infrastructure Reserve

I. Water Efficiency

- a. Water efficiency is the use of improved technologies and practices to deliver equal or better services with less water.
- b. Water efficiency projects consistent with Sec. 212, that implement Sec. 319 plans or that implement Sec. 320 plans are eligible.
 - i. Planning and design activities for water efficiency that are reasonably expected to result in a capital project are eligible.
 - ii. Building activities that implement capital water efficiency projects are eligible.
- c. Examples of projects include:
 - i. Installation of water meters

- ii. Retrofit or replacement of water using fixtures, fittings, equipment or appliances
- iii. Efficient landscape or agricultural irrigation equipment
- iv. Systems to recycle gray water
- v. Reclamation, recycling, and reuse of existing rainwater, condensate, degraded water, stormwater, and/or wastewater streams.
- vi. Collection system leak detection equipment
- vii. Development and initial distribution of public education materials

II. Energy Efficiency

- a. Energy efficiency includes capital projects that reduce the energy consumption of eligible water quality projects or produce clean energy used by a treatment works defined in Sec. 212.
 - i. Web link to EPA's clean energy site <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/>
 - ii. Clean energy includes wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, and biogas combined heat and power systems.
- b. Energy efficiency projects consistent with Sec. 212, that implement Sec. 319 plans, or that implement Sec. 320 plans are eligible.
 - i. Planning and design activities for energy efficiency that are reasonably expected to result in a capital project are eligible.
 - ii. Building activities that implement capital energy efficiency projects are eligible.
- c. Examples of projects include:
 - i. Energy efficient retrofits and upgrades to pumps and treatment processes
 - ii. Leak detection equipment for treatment works
 - iii. Producing clean power for 212 treatment works on site (wind, solar, hydroelectric, geothermal, biogas powered combined heat and power)
 - iv. Pro-rata share of capital costs for offsite publicly owned clean energy facilities that provide power to a treatment works.

III. Green Infrastructure

- a. Definition: Green Infrastructure includes a wide array of practices at multiple scales that manage wet weather to maintain and restore natural hydrology by infiltrating, evapotranspiring and capturing and using stormwater. On a regional scale, green infrastructure is the preservation and restoration of natural landscape features, such as forests, floodplains and wetlands, coupled with policies such as infill and redevelopment that reduce overall imperviousness in a watershed. On the local scale green infrastructure consists of site- and neighborhood-specific practices, such as bioretention, trees, green roofs, porous pavements and cisterns. In addition to managing rainfall, these green infrastructure technologies can simultaneously provide other benefits such as helping filter air pollutants, reducing energy demands, mitigating urban heat islands, and sequestering carbon while also providing communities with aesthetic, recreational and natural resource benefits.
- b. Projects to address stormwater through green infrastructure practices consistent with Sec. 212, that implement Sec. 319 plans, or that implement Sec. 320 plans are eligible. If a project is specifically required by a draft or final NPDES permit, then it can only be funded through Sec. 212 or Sec. 320 authority.
 - i. Planning and design activities for green infrastructure projects that are reasonably expected to result in a capital project are eligible.
 - ii. Building activities that implement green infrastructure projects are eligible.
- c. Examples of projects include
 - i. Implementation of comprehensive street tree or urban forestry programs, including expansion of tree box sizes to manage additional stormwater and enhance tree health.

- ii. Implementation of green streets (combinations of green infrastructure practices in transportation rights-of-ways), for either new development, redevelopment or retrofits
- iii. Implementation of water harvesting and reuse programs or projects, where consistent with state and local laws and policies.
- iv. Implementation of wet weather management systems for parking areas which include: the incremental cost of porous pavement, bioretention, trees, green roofs, and other practices that mimic natural hydrology and reduce effective imperviousness at one or more scales.
- v. Establishment and restoration of riparian buffers, floodplains, wetlands and other natural features.
- vi. Downspout disconnection to remove stormwater from combined sewers and storm sewers.
- vii. Comprehensive retrofit programs designed to keep wet weather out of all types of sewer systems using green infrastructure technologies and approaches.

IV. Environmentally Innovative Projects

- a. Projects that demonstrate new and/or innovative approaches to managing water resources in a more sustainable way, including projects that achieve pollution prevention or pollutant removal at the least life-cycle costs, subject to environmental review results. Includes approaches to incorporate green infrastructure into drinking water, stormwater and wastewater utility infrastructure and management.
- b. Environmentally innovative projects that are consistent with Sec. 212, that implement Sec. 319 plans, or that implement Sec. 320 plans are eligible.
 - i. Planning and design activities that are reasonably expected to result in a capital project are eligible.
 - ii. Building activities that implement capital projects are eligible.
- c. Examples of projects include:
 - i. Green Infrastructure/Low Impact development stormwater projects
 - ii. Decentralized wastewater treatment and/or reuse projects that reduce energy consumption, recharge aquifers and reduce water withdrawals and treatment costs
 - iii. Projects that employ development and redevelopment practices that preserve or restore site hydrologic processes through sustainable landscaping and site design.
 - iv. Projects that use water balance approaches (water budgets) at the project, local or state level that preserve site, local or regional hydrology. Such an effort could pilot and show-case efforts to plan and manage in a concerted manner, surface and groundwater withdrawals, stream base flow (aquatic species protection), wetland and floodplain storage, groundwater recharge and regional or local reuse and harvesting strategies using a quantified methodology.
 - v. Projects that demonstrate the energy savings and climate change implications of sustainable site design practices and the use of green infrastructure such as green roofs, increased tree canopy, reduced water consumption and potable water use due to sustainable site designs, rainwater harvesting and reuse and reductions in infrastructure needed to manage stormwater and CSOs.
 - vi. Projects that demonstrate the differential uses of water based on the level of treatment and potential uses as a means to reducing the costs of treating all water to potable water standards.
 - vii. Projects that identify and quantify the benefits of using integrated water resources management approaches.

For examples of green projects, see:

- Projects listed in State Wildlife Action Plans that: restore wetlands, restore hydrology, stabilize stream banks or shorelines, plant wetland flora or buffer strips, address water quality, address storm water attenuation, constructed wetlands to address nonpoint source pollution e.g., for nutrient assimilation, constructing dams or other measures to address sedimentation. Plans for every state can be found at: <http://www.wildlifeactionplans.org/>
- American Rivers developed a list of ready to go green projects available at <http://www.americanrivers.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=12188>
- National Estuary programs have developed list of projects available at <http://www.nationalestuaries.org/>