

DWSRF Funding



Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program 2023 Construction Loan Guidelines

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Photo Credit: City of Pasco, West Pasco Water Treatment Plant, Benton County, Filtration FTP Improvements.

Office of Drinking Water Contacts

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program

Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water

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If you have questions on regulatory requirements, project reports, construction documents, or planning requirements, please contact the appropriate Office of Drinking Water (ODW) regional office.

[Eastern Regional Office](#)

509-329-2100

[Northwest Regional Office](#)

253-395-6750

[Southwest Regional Office](#)

360-236-3030

Technical Assistance Contacts for Small Water Systems

Evergreen Rural Water of Washington

360-462-9287

erwow.org

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)

509-867-6636 or 916-447-2854

rcac.org

Environmental Finance Center

efcnetwork.org/get-help/

Infrastructure Assistance Coordination Council (IACC)

To receive additional information about other grants and loans that may be available to you, visit the Infrastructure Assistance Coordination Council's webpage at infracfunding.wa.gov.

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Program Description and Goals

These guidelines define the application requirements and review process for the 2023 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Loan Program. Congress created the DWSRF Loan Program in 1996, when it reauthorized the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Each year through this program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awards a capitalization grant to Washington and other states for:

- ◆ Capital construction loan program.
- ◆ Non-construction “set aside” funds to run the program and ensure compliance with drinking water rules.

The Washington State Legislature passed laws to create a DWSRF loan program consistent with federal law. Loan repayments, loan interest, and state match funds supplement the federal capitalization grant.

The DWSRF Loan Program provides low-interest construction loans to publicly (municipal) and privately owned drinking water systems in Washington State. Municipal water systems are “a city, town, or other public body created by or pursuant to state law,” such as special purpose districts and public utility districts. The DWSRF Loan Program goals are to:

- ◆ Provide loans to water systems for capital improvements that increase public health protection and compliance with drinking water regulations.
- ◆ Protect the health of the people of Washington by ensuring safe and reliable drinking water.

Important Things to Note in the DWSRF 2023 Loan Cycle

Special Funding Pots

\$17 million for projects addressing **emerging contaminants** with 100 percent loan principal forgiveness.

\$28 million for **lead service line inventory and replacement** projects with 49 percent as loan principal forgiveness dedicated to communities identified as disadvantaged.

\$3 million reserved for **water main replacement** projects that **coincide with another infrastructure project**, such as transportation improvement project, sewer main replacement, or fish passage project.

- ◆ We accept all eligible construction projects identified in the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) during this loan cycle. We will develop intended use plans for the funding. We will include eligible projects in the most appropriate intended use plan, based on type of project and funding available.

- ◆ We added Disadvantaged Community Verification criteria as part of project assessment to help determine eligibility for potential principal forgiveness. See Appendix B.
- ◆ We provide principal forgiveness for emerging contaminant related projects to the highest ranked projects. At least 25 percent will be provided to disadvantaged water systems serving less than 25,000 people.
- ◆ Approximately \$120 million is available for award, with a maximum award of \$12 million per jurisdiction. If additional funds remain available after all eligible projects have been awarded funding, we may increase the maximum award per jurisdiction.
- ◆ Water systems are required to complete the service line assessments by October 16, 2024. There is principal forgiveness available for small or disadvantaged communities.
- ◆ We require all funded applicants to develop an asset management program and additional funding may be awarded to facilitate this effort.
- ◆ Consolidation projects must demonstrate that the system meets the Disadvantaged Community Verification criteria to receive a subsidy.
- ◆ Applicants must submit applications through our online system. The application worksheet and EZ-1 Form are available at doh.wa.gov/DWSRF. **Applications are due by November 30, 2023.**
- ◆ Applicants must have a Secure Access Washington account to be able to access Washington Loan Tracking (WALT) system, our online application system.
- ◆ Applicants must be registered with SAM.gov prior to signing a loan contract. You must renew your SAM.gov registration annually and provide the expiration date.
- ◆ Projects with complete replacement of lead service lines and lead components are eligible for funding (both public and private portions must be replaced).
- ◆ We will administer the DWSRF loan contracts.
- ◆ If you do not complete your construction competitive bid process within 18 months of contract execution, we may withdraw your funding.
- ◆ We modified the Application Scoring, Readiness to Proceed, and Bonus Points (see Appendix A).
- ◆ There are now Financial Assistance points in Appendix A that consider water rates compared to Median Household Income (MHI) to calculate an Affordability Index.
- ◆ Congress passed the Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act on November 15, 2021, which requires water systems to use U.S. iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials for projects funded in part or in full by a DWSRF loan using

WALT Preregistration

If you have not applied with WALT before, **please contact Sara Herrera** at 360-236-3089 or email DWSRF@doh.wa.gov, **before** accessing the online application.

federal dollars. The requirements apply to loan agreements signed on or after May 14, 2022. For more information, refer to Appendix E.

- ◆ Funding for standard refinancing of loans from other funders is also offered if funding is available (see below for details). New projects take priority over refinancing.
- ◆ Water systems with funding requests under \$100,000 should contact DWSRF program staff (listed at the beginning of this document) to discuss funding needs before applying.

Before You Apply

Planning Documents

All applicants must have a **current and approved** Water System Plan (WSP) or a Small Water System Management Program (SWSMP) **by November 30, 2023**.

The planning document **must** identify and discuss the proposed project, **unless** applying for a Lead Service Line Loan.

If you need a current and approved planning document and apply for Lead Service Line Inventory Loan, the planning document **must** be included in the scope of work.

Planning documents are one measure used to assess the financial, managerial, and technical capacity of a water system. Please contact your ODW regional office if you have questions concerning your planning documents.

Pre-Contract Requirements

Applicants must complete the following steps prior to receiving a DWSRF contract. **These are not required for a complete application submittal.**

◆ Step 1: Unique Entity ID.

On April 4, 2022, the unique entity identifier used across the federal government changed from the DUNS Number to the Unique Entity ID (UEI) (generated by [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov)).

- The UEI is a 12-character alphanumeric ID assigned to an entity by [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov).
- As part of this transition, the DUNS Number has been removed from [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov).
- Entity registration, searching, and data entry in [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) now require use of the new UEI.
- Existing registered entities can find their UEI by [following the steps here](#).
- New entities can get their UEI at [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) and, if required, complete an entity registration.
- Apply early for your UEI as it can take [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) a month to assign you one. An UEI is required at the time of signing a loan contract.

◆ Step 2: Valid Registration with System for Awards Management (SAM).

- Borrowers must have a valid entity registration with [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov), a federally owned

and operated free website that consolidates the federal procurement systems and the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) into one system. [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) now includes the functionality of the Central Contractor Registry (CCR).

- Entity registration must be updated or **renewed at least once a year**, or it will expire. Visit [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) to see if the borrowing entity is already registered. You
- do not need a user account to search, just type the entity name or UEI number into the search box.
- If the borrowing entity is not registered, create a user account, and register at [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov). The UEI is needed to complete registration. The Federal Service Desk at fsd.gov can help you navigate the system and support your registration.

◆ **Step 3: Statewide Vendor Number.**

- Borrowers must establish a Statewide Vendor (SWV) number through the Office of Financial Management (OFM) and submit it to DOH. The Statewide Payee Desk maintains a central file that all Washington State agencies use to process payments to individuals and businesses. Contact OFM at 360-407-8180, PayeeRegistration@ofm.wa.gov or obtain the required forms one the [OFM vendor-payee website](https://ofm.wa.gov/vendor-payee-website).

◆ **Step 4: Check for Federal Exclusion.**

- Before we award a contract to borrowers, we verify that borrowers are not in the Federal Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) for ineligible professionals and debarred contractors at [sam.gov/SAM](https://sam.gov). We document that the borrower does not appear in the EPLS by keeping a printout in the borrower's loan file. Borrowers must verify contractor or subcontractor eligibility through SAM and document it in the file.

Funding Schedule

- ◆ September 20 and October 11, 2023: Informational webinars that we will record and post to the [DWSRF webpage](https://dwsrf.wa.gov).
- ◆ October 2, 2023: 2023 DWSRF construction loan application cycle opens.
- ◆ November 8, 2023: Question and answer webinar. We will record the webinar and post to the [DWSRF webpage](https://dwsrf.wa.gov) by November 17, 2023.
- ◆ November 30, 2023: Application deadline.
- ◆ December 2023-February 2024: Applications are reviewed, scored, and ranked. Draft funding list published.
- ◆ Spring 2024: DWSRF scopes of work finalized.
- ◆ May 1, 2024: Contracts executed after final scope of work is accepted.
- ◆ Borrowers will have **60 days** to sign and return contracts. If the borrower does not sign and return the contract in **60 days**, we may withdraw the funding offer.
- ◆ Draws may begin at loan execution.

DWSRF Application Process

We accept applications through our online WALT system. For applicants who have not previously applied, please submit a pre-registration form before accessing the online application.

You can get an application worksheet, guidelines for WALT, and an [EZ-1 Project Review Form 331-651](#) at doh.wa.gov/DWSRF. WALT will accept applications until 11:59 p.m. on the deadline date of November 30, 2023. You must attach the [EZ-1 Project Review Form 331-651](#) to your application.

The DWSRF Funding Process

- ◆ We only consider completed loan applications.
- ◆ Upon receipt, we will verify completeness. If we need additional information, we will email you. You have 14 calendar days from the date of the email to provide any missing application materials. If you do not respond within the 14-day timeframe, we will consider your application incomplete.
- ◆ To qualify for a loan, the water system must be financially viable and able to repay the loan. This assessment is based on financial information you provide as part of the application.
- ◆ We will execute all contracts and provide an overview of the [DWSRF contract requirements](#).
- ◆ A nonrefundable 1.0 percent loan service fee is assessed at contract execution. If you receive subsidy, there is no loan service fee.
- ◆ Eligible preconstruction project costs may be eligible for reimbursement after a DWSRF contract is executed. You must incur the cost within 12 months prior to contract execution. Any work completed prior to contract execution is done at the water system's risk.
- ◆ Construction work cannot start until the water system successfully completes both the environmental and cultural reviews.
- ◆ The borrower must receive DOH approval of the project report and related construction documents. Our approval is required for all DWSRF projects, including water mains. The project cannot start construction until the borrower receives **DOH approval based on its review of the 100 percent design plans and specifications to be used for bidding purposes.**
- ◆ We retain 10 percent of your contract amount until you officially close the project. After your project closes, we release the retained 10 percent.

Project Report and Construction Document Approval

ALL funded projects must receive our approval, which typically comes from your regional office.

The distribution project review exception **DOES NOT** apply to water main or lead service line replacements.

Contact your regional office about submittal requirements.

- ◆ Projects must complete the construction competitive bid process within 18 months of contract execution.
- ◆ DWSRF basic interest rate is 2.25 percent.
- ◆ Borrowers must complete projects within four years of signing a DWSRF contract.
- ◆ The standard loan repayment period is 20 years. Projects with service areas that qualify as disadvantaged communities may have up to 30 years to repay the loan. The useful life of the project must be equal to or greater than the loan repayment period. The minimum useful life of a project we fund is ten years.
- ◆ We close out construction projects or lead service line replacements when we:
 - Determine cultural and environmental deliverables are met;
 - Receive an engineer-certified construction completion report;
 - Receive any required as built drawings;
 - Receive the financial audit report (if required), and
 - Receive final approval from your regional office.
- ◆ We close out a lead service line inventory projects when we:
 - Receive the lead service line inventory, and
 - Receive an approved planning document (if required). You must receive approval from the regional office.

Loan Repayments Made During Construction

Annual loan repayments (principal and interest) start in October of the first year of loan execution. **Loan principal forgiveness is awarded at time of construction close out.**

Asset Management

Asset management helps water systems maintain desired level of service at the lowest life cycle cost. Water systems that take care of their assets are more likely to ensure safe and reliable drinking water for their customers. Bonus points are available for attending asset management training and for creating an asset inventory. To receive bonus points for your asset inventory, it must include the list of water system assets, age of assets, expected life of the assets, criticality of assets, and replacement cost of assets. See Appendix G for more information on an asset inventory.

If you are awarded funding, but do not have an asset management program, part of your scope of work includes development of an asset management program and additional funding (up to \$40,000) may be provided for this effort.

Subsidy

EPA requires DOH to award subsidy (loan principal forgiveness) to eligible projects within water systems serving residential connections in areas considered to be disadvantaged communities. Principal forgiveness (awarded as subsidy) means that you will not have to pay back a portion of the loan principal. **If you receive principal forgiveness, you still have to pay interest on the loan portion of your award, but no loan fee.** DOH uses the criteria outlined in Appendix B

Disadvantaged Community Verification to determine if a project qualifies as disadvantaged. Such criteria include affordability index, average rank of Environmental Health Disparities, and average rank of Social Vulnerability Index. **Qualifying as a disadvantaged community does not guarantee your project will be funded and it does not guarantee you will receive subsidy.**

A for-profit community water system that meets the disadvantaged community criteria may qualify for subsidy. The project must address a new or emerging public health concern that is not associated with failure to maintain infrastructure. The for-profit water system cannot increase rates to payback, nor may they receive a return-on-investment for the forgivable portion of the loan. Any allowable surcharges would be governed by the reporting requirements of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) contained in [WAC 480-110-455](#).

Loan Terms

Loan Type	Interest Rate and Forgiveness	Loan Fee**	Loan and Fee Repayment Period
Standard Loan	2.25% interest on loan	1.0% at loan execution	20 years or life of the project, whichever is less ¹
Reduced Interest Rate	1.75% interest on loan	1.0% at loan execution	20 years or life of the project, whichever is less ¹
Partial Subsidy	1.75% interest on loan, partial principal forgiveness	No Fee	24 years or life of the project, whichever is less ¹
Full Subsidy	1.75% interest on loan, full principal forgiveness	No Fee	Principal and interest repayments during construction ²

Maximum Award

The maximum award to each water system/entity is approximately \$12,000,000.*

Loan Fees

*The loan fee is not subject to the loan limit. For example, if a project is budgeted at \$12,000,000, the applicant can apply for a \$12,120,000 loan—\$12,000,000 for the project plus the \$120,000 loan fee.

**Water systems receiving subsidy are not subject to loan fees.

1. Loan term may be extended to 30 years if needed for cash flow if the term matches the economic life of the project.
2. If applicable, borrowers will receive principal forgiveness on project completion.

If subsidy funds are still available after awarding subsidy as described above, we may increase the subsidy award for eligible subsidy recipients based on the afore-mentioned criteria.

Not all systems that qualify for subsidy (loan principal forgiveness) and are on the eligible funding list will receive it. There is a set amount of subsidy available, and we award it based on project ranking.

Water Main Replacement Projects that Coincide with Another Infrastructure Project (Smart Projects)

We identified a category of “Smart Projects” to assist jurisdictions with replacement of water mains that coincide with another infrastructure improvement project, such as sewer line replacement, transportation improvement project, or a fish passage barrier removal project. We allocated \$3 million for these types of projects this year, with a maximum award per project of \$1.5 million. To be eligible for this funding, the water system must meet all DWSRF eligibility criteria plus the following:

- ◆ Be a Group A community not-for-profit water system, municipal, public utility district, water district, or port district.
- ◆ Provide a letter from the jurisdiction (such as Department of Transportation or County Public Works Department) that has notified the water system regarding the impending project. For instance, a letter from the Department of Transportation that states road resurfacing is scheduled for July 2024.

DWSRF staff will score and rank eligible Smart Projects using the criteria in Appendix A and award \$3 million to the top-ranking projects. If projects receive identical scores, DWSRF uses the largest population served by the proposed project as a tiebreaker. After we award \$3 million to the highest-ranking Smart Projects, remaining Smart Projects will be scored and ranked with all other DWSRF applications.

Supplemental Financial Information

We require supplemental financial information for all water systems that request drinking water state revolving funds. You must provide all financial information requested in the application to be considered for funding.

Investment Grade Efficiency Audit

DWSRF projects must complete an Investment Grade Efficiency Audit (IGEA) if the IGEA is reasonably obtainable. This is an effort to apply energy efficiency to water systems, similar to the DOH Green Projects that started in 2009. The following should complete an IGEA as part of their loan agreement:

- ◆ Projects that serve more than 10,000 people on a regular basis.
- ◆ Projects that result in increased pumping requirements and/or are treatment plant projects.

You may finance your audit as part of your loan. Your power provider or an energy services company (ESCO) may prepare your audit. More information is available in Appendix F.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible Applicants

Publicly or privately owned Group A community water systems. Homeowners' associations must submit copies of their articles of incorporation.

Transient or non-transient noncommunity public water systems owned by a nonprofit organization. Nonprofit noncommunity water systems must submit tax-exempt documentation.

Tribally owned water systems must meet all DWSRF eligibility requirements including having a current and approved planning document. Contact the regional planner assigned to your county. The water system must meet all capacity requirements and the proposed project may not receive Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) national set-aside funds.

Group B or individual water supply systems being restructured into a Group A that meets all the following eligibility requirements.

- ◆ When the project is complete, the system(s) will be one Group A community water system due to consolidation with another system.
- ◆ The applicant has a history of sound system operations and management and is financially healthy.
- ◆ The applicant has the technical, operational, managerial, and financial capacity necessary to manage the project and the water system.
- ◆ The project must fix existing public health problems that pose serious risks.
- ◆ The project must be a cost-effective solution to the public health problem.
- ◆ Applicants must sufficiently notify potentially affected parties about the proposed project.
- ◆ The applicant must show they considered alternative solutions to address the problem.
- ◆ The project is intended to protect public health and not primarily focused on future population growth.

Ineligible Applicants

- ◆ Noncommunity public water systems owned by a for-profit organization.
- ◆ State or federally owned water systems. However, state and federally owned water systems may be part of a consolidation project.
- ◆ Systems lacking the technical, financial, and managerial capability to ensure compliance, financial health, and loan repayment.

Project Eligibility Requirements

- ◆ System owner must have an approved and current WSP that includes the proposed project or an approved SWSMP that includes the proposed project. The WSP cannot expire on or before November 30, 2023, except for applicants of Lead Service Line loans. See special requirements below for details.
- ◆ System owner must have water rights secured if the proposed project requires a water right, such as a new source or a consolidation.

- ◆ System owner must have control of the project site (signed easement, lease agreement, or proof of ownership) or an agreement that can be executed on receipt of funding.
- ◆ Project must focus primarily on construction.
- ◆ Project must focus primarily on one identified problem or need, such as treatment, a new reservoir, or infrastructure repair and replacement. If your project has more than one focus, we may require you to resubmit each as a separate application. Contact DWSRF staff for guidance if you are unsure about the focus of your project.
- ◆ Project must address the water system's existing public health and/or compliance issues (such as state or federal enforcement action; significant noncompliance with federal or state drinking water regulations; or red, yellow, or blue operating permit related to infrastructure) unless the borrower is using other funding to address the issue.
- ◆ If distribution system leakage is over 30 percent, you may be asked to reevaluate your project if it does not address system leakage.
- ◆ Applicants with an outstanding technical, managerial, or financial **audit finding** will not be eligible for a loan. Applicants are encouraged to review their audits prior to applying.

Special Eligibility Requirements for Restructuring, Consolidation, and Receivership Projects

Only **Group A community water systems and municipal entities** are eligible to apply for DWSRF funding for restructuring and consolidation projects. Projects must result in a water system change of ownership or being inactivated due to consolidation with another water system. Costs associated with a consolidation or restructuring project are eligible for principal forgiveness based on the Disadvantaged Community Verification process for up to five years after change of ownership occurs. **A signed agreement or letter of commitment for transfer of ownership between all involved water systems will be required to be eligible for funding.**

Restructuring and consolidation projects acquire other Group A or Group B public water systems, or more than two properties served by private wells that may have water quality problems, deteriorated infrastructure, or capacity issues. For consolidation projects that involve one or more Group B water systems or properties served by private wells, the applicant must be a Group A system or a municipal entity (see additional conditions below).

State or federally owned water systems can be part of a consolidation project. **Subsidy will not be awarded for a consolidation or restructuring project if the project beneficiaries are noncommunity for-profit systems.** We will score restructuring and consolidation projects based on unresolved compliance history of the system being acquired over the past five years.

Additionally, **applicants** for a restructuring and consolidation project **must demonstrate** a record of **sound drinking water utility management**. They must:

- ◆ Own at least one Group A public water system.

- ◆ Have at least five years of experience as a Group A water system or have someone on staff with five years of experience with a Group A water system.
- ◆ Have an approved WSP for the applicant system, that demonstrates the applicant's intent to provide/consider consolidation or be an approved satellite management agency.
- ◆ Have no state or federal civil penalties in the past five years.
- ◆ Have received no unilateral enforcement orders from EPA or DOH in the past five years.
- ◆ Not have had a system's operator license suspended or revoked in the past five years.
- ◆ Be current with DOH fee payment schedule.

We may consider other eligibility criteria on a case-by-case basis including operating permit history, prior contract performance, and history of audit findings.

For receivership projects, the proposed project must satisfy the terms of the court order and the borrower must submit a copy of the court order with the application.

Special Eligibility Requirements for Lead Service Line Inventory Projects

- ◆ Water systems are required to complete the service line assessments by October 16, 2024, per the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions.
- ◆ The system owner must have an approved and current WSP or an approved SWSMP. If the WSP or SWSMP needs to be updated or developed, the planning document must be included in the scope of work.
- ◆ System owner must have control of the project site (signed construction easement or signed agreement) or an agreement that can be executed on receipt of funding for any planned potholing.
- ◆ Project must focus primarily on lead service line identification and inventory development.
- ◆ Must be able to start project within 12 months of contract execution and complete project within 24 months of contract execution.
- ◆ Applicants with an outstanding technical, managerial, or financial audit finding will not be eligible for a loan.

Select **Lead Service Line Loan** in WALT for either the Lead Service Line **Inventory** Loan or the Lead Service Line **Replacement** Loan.

Special Eligibility Requirements for Lead Service Line Replacement Projects

- ◆ The system owner must have an approved and current WSP that includes water main or lead service line replacement projects or an approved SWSMP that includes water main replacement projects. The WSP cannot expire on or before November 30, 2023.
- ◆ System owner must have control of the project site at each property (signed construction easements or signed agreements) or agreements that can be executed on receipt of funding.

- ◆ Project must focus primarily on construction.
- ◆ Complete service line replacement is required. No partial replacements unless a portion of the service line has been replaced in the past five years. Complete service line replacement is from the water main connection to the premise piping connection (inside or outside the building).
- ◆ Must be able to start construction within 12 months of contract execution and complete project within 24 months of contract execution.
- ◆ Applicants with an outstanding technical, managerial, or financial audit finding will not be eligible for a loan.

Water System Capacity Eligibility Requirements

The DWSRF Loan Program requires a current, DOH-approved WSP or SWSMP that includes your project and demonstrates your financial, technical, and managerial capacity to:

- ◆ Successfully run the water system.
- ◆ Complete the proposed project.
- ◆ Repay the loan.

Attach a copy of the WSP or SWSMP approval letter with pertinent pages of the proposed project as part of the application.

Additional capacity requirements for the DWSRF Loan Program include:

- ◆ Demonstrating financial health and ability to repay the loan.
- ◆ Demonstrating the proposed project is ready to proceed.
- ◆ Providing all information as requested in the application.
- ◆ Applicants must not have any outstanding audit findings related to technical, managerial, or financial capacity.
- ◆ Performance on currently held and open DWSRF funded projects.

Source and Service Meter Eligibility Requirements

Source and service meter installation is not an eligible stand-alone project. However, for a proposed project to be eligible for funding, water systems must have source meters on all existing and proposed new sources of water supply or must include source metering as part of the proposed project. In most cases, systems also must have service meters on all existing connections or must include service meter installation as part of the proposed project. If requested, we may provide service meter exemptions to those that qualify (WAC 246-290-496).

Preconstruction Eligibility Requirements

If you receive a DWSRF loan, you may request reimbursement of preconstruction costs already incurred, within 12 months of contract execution, if both of the following apply:

- ◆ The costs relate directly to the project.
- ◆ You have adequate documentation showing you previously paid for those costs.

Eligible preconstruction activities include:

- ◆ Design and engineering.
- ◆ Project report and construction documents.
- ◆ Environmental and cultural reviews.

Eligible Lead Service Line Inventory activities include:

- ◆ Planning document development or update.
- ◆ Records research.
- ◆ Customer surveys.

Construction Eligibility Requirements

Construction may not start until all of the following occur:

- ◆ Sign your DWSRF contract and return it to us.
- ◆ Submit any required project report and construction documents to DOH and the regional engineer approves those documents.
- ◆ Follow the bid requirements detailed in publication [DWSRF Customer Handbook 331-586](#).
- ◆ Consult with DWSRF staff about your required environmental and cultural review, and you receive approval from the Cultural and Environmental Program Specialist to begin construction.

It is critical that you talk with DWSRF staff about your project's status and these conditions. Ask for help if you need it.

Phased or Staged Projects

You will need to separate a complex project into stages or phases to accomplish your goals. We will require you to amend your application to address phasing or staging needs. We encourage you to discuss phasing or staging with your regional engineer and planner.

Eligible Activities and Project Costs

The following activities are eligible for reimbursement if they relate directly to an eligible, funded DWSRF project.

- ◆ Preconstruction activities (engineering, asset management, design, legal, financial, environmental, and cultural reviews, permitting, and surveying) directly related to an eligible capital construction project.
- ◆ Value Planning for treatment to evaluate alternative analysis with cost comparison over life of loan.
- ◆ Purchase costs for a publicly owned water system to acquire or restructure water systems.
- ◆ An asset management program is required to justify the cost for transfer of assets.
- ◆ Construction of infrastructure improvements:
 - New source.
 - Source reconstruction or upgrades.
 - Disinfection improvements or treatment.
 - Filtration and other treatment.

- New finished reservoir or reservoir improvements.
- Rehabilitation of finished water reservoir tank interior.
- Clearwells.
- Treatment plant discharge improvements.
- Water main or distribution improvements, such as water main replacement or booster pump stations.
- Replacing aging infrastructure or making distribution improvements to maintain compliance or further protect public health. Such projects may include pressure reduction devices, backflow prevention assemblies, security measures, telemetry, and additional source for emergencies or additional capacity.
- Restructuring, consolidation, and receivership projects to take over noncompliant, failing, or struggling water systems.
- Security measures, such as lighting, cameras, and fences, as a stand-alone project or as part of a larger project.
- Resiliency projects, such as seismic upgrades, improvements to surface water intakes for drought or flood conditions, inerties, or generators for main water supply.
- Backflow prevention device as a stand-alone project. The backflow device must be on property the applicant owns. In addition, the applicant must own and operate the device.
- Purchase and installation of source meters as part of an eligible project.
- Purchase and installation of service meters as part of an eligible project.
- Complete removal and replacement of lead service lines (public and privately owned portions) or service lines made of galvanized iron or galvanized steel (that are currently or previously were downstream of lead components), goosenecks, pigtails, and connectors; planning and design.
 - Including temporary access and construction easements are required to allow the cultural review, environmental review, and construction activities to occur for replacement of lead service lines on private property. Permanent easements are not required for the new service lines. However, if the water system requires a permanent easement for the project, the costs associated with establishing the permanent easement are eligible for reimbursement.
 - Reasonable costs associated with returning private property to previous condition once service line replacement occurs (repair fences, replant shrubs, reseed grass, etc.).
- ◆ Buy real property from a willing seller if it is an integral part of a capital construction project. If you use DWSRF funds to purchase real property, and you sell or rent any portion of that property, we will deduct any resulting profits from your reimbursement. Reimbursements include:
 - Purchase of land and easements.
 - Purchase of roads, buildings, fences, or other structures.
 - Salaries, expenses, or fees for appraisers, negotiators, or attorneys.
 - Removal or demolition of roads, buildings, fences, or other structures.
 - Other direct costs associated with real property acquisition.

- ◆ Competitive bidding costs.
- ◆ Contracted construction costs.
- ◆ Labor costs including salaries and wages at actual or average rates. Administrative and project management labor costs are not eligible unless they apply to the following activities and are no more than three percent of the funding amount.
 - Predesign engineering.
 - Design engineering.
 - Construction engineering.
 - Acquiring land or rights of way.
 - Purchasing meters.
 - Line locating.
 - Labor.
 - Excavation.
 - Disinfection and flushing of connections.
 - Replacing or repairing mains damaged during meter installation.
- ◆ With DOH approval, you may size projects to accommodate reasonable population growth and water system expansion (this is generally the 20-year projection in a WSP or SWSMP). A hydraulic analysis may be required for increasing distribution pipes. **Please note that if growth or fire flow is the primary purpose of your project, your project is ineligible for funding.**
- ◆ Costs of complying with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970.
- ◆ DWSRF Loan Fees.
- ◆ Purchasing water production capacity from another water system, if that is the best solution for the project. This is limited to municipal water systems not using the additional water production capacity for future growth but needing the capacity to address a public health threat.
- ◆ Cleaning, sterilizing, or testing water system components to remove contamination before public use. Other direct costs associated with an eligible construction project, including costs for:
 - Materials and supplies.
 - Telephone.
 - Copying, printing, and advertising.
 - Using photography for surveying or mapmaking.
 - Video and photography for project documentation.
 - Computer usage.
 - Vehicle and equipment rental costs.
 - Competitive bidding.
 - Audit costs.
 - Construction insurance costs (not liability insurance).
- ◆ Projects must include at least 10 percent contingency of the construction hard costs. Contingency costs cannot exceed 20 percent of the construction hard costs.

Ineligible Projects

- ◆ Projects in which future population growth and water system expansion are the primary focus.
- ◆ Projects solely for preconstruction activities unless it is a lead service line inventory project.
- ◆ Projects solely for studies or assessments.
- ◆ Point-of-use treatment devices for community systems and most noncommunity systems.
- ◆ Acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of dams or raw water reservoirs.
- ◆ Projects in which fire protection is the primary focus.

Ineligible Activities and Project Costs

- ◆ Water rights, except if the water rights are owned by a water system being purchased through consolidation, restructuring, or receivership.
- ◆ Laboratory fees for monitoring.
- ◆ Operation and maintenance expenses.
- ◆ Portable generators, tools, vehicles, and other "rolling stock."
- ◆ Indirect salaries, wages, and benefits for water system employees whose work falls outside of the scope of project construction.
- ◆ Force account labor.

Application Evaluation Process

After we receive applications by November 30, 2023, we conduct an initial eligibility review that includes:

- ◆ Checking completeness of application, including requested documentation.
- ◆ Determining eligibility of applicant.
- ◆ Determining eligibility of proposed project.

If we determine applicants or projects are ineligible, we remove the applications from funding consideration and send a letter explaining the reason for the ineligibility determination. You may appeal an ineligibility decision using the appeal process described below.

Appeal Process

When your proposed project does not meet all eligibility criteria and system capacity requirements, we disqualify the project from DWSRF funding program consideration. You have ten working days from the date on the disqualification notification letter to send an appeal letter to the Director of the Office of Drinking Water.

The appeal letter should:

- ◆ Explain how the applicant's proposed project meets the DWSRF eligibility criteria and requirements.
- ◆ Include any supporting documentation.
- ◆ Request reconsideration of the application.

The Office of Drinking Water director will review the appeal letter and documentation and re-evaluate the project considering any new information. We will notify the applicant in writing of the director's decision, which is final.

Planning Requirement and Capacity Review

We require your proposed project to be included in a current DOH- approved WSP or SWSMP. **The WSP cannot expire on or before November 30, 2023.** For more information about the water system planning requirement, [contact your ODW regional office](#). We will also review the information provided in the application to determine whether the water system has adequate technical, managerial, and financial capacity.

Technical Evaluation—Scoring and Ranking

Our scoring process gives funding priority to projects that address severe public health threats and compliance issues. A critical element of the application is the risk or problem the proposed project eliminates. It is your responsibility to clearly document in the application any public health risks and compliance problems the project will address. We may not consider unclearly presented information during scoring and ranking.

Lead Service Line Inventory applications will be ranked on a first come, first served basis. If you applied in April 2023, we will carry over your application to the October/November 2023 Lead Service Line Loan cycle.

We will rank Lead Service Line Replacement applications by lead or copper water quality levels.

Each project's score depends on a variety of factors. The most important factor is the Risk Category, which is the public health risk the project addresses. An application can receive points in only one Risk Category and only one Project Type. Here are the Risk Categories in priority order.

Risk Category 1: The proposed project eliminates documented microbial contamination.

Risk Category 2: The proposed project eliminates primary inorganic chemical contamination, eliminates PFAS contamination, addresses corrosion control, or addresses water shortages associated with a declining aquifer (eligible communities identified in Appendix A).

Risk Category 3: The proposed project eliminates other primary chemical risk, eliminated organic chemical risk, addresses a sanitary survey significant deficiency, disinfection installation, receiverships, or EPA chemical Health Advisory (HA).

Risk Category 4: The proposed project addresses a secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), resiliency, seawater intrusion risk, sanitary survey significant finding, 80 percent of nitrate or arsenic MCL, transmission line replacement or a restructuring or consolidation project.

Risk Category 5: The proposed project must include components for infrastructure sustainability.

Readiness to Proceed and Bonus Points

We award additional points for the following (see Appendix A for a complete list):

- ◆ **Compliance.** The project meets documented compliance requirements.
- ◆ **Readiness to Proceed.** We award points to projects ready to proceed to construction in a timely manner.
- ◆ **Restructuring or Consolidation Benefit.** The project restructures (eliminates) one or more Group A or B system(s).
- ◆ **Asset Management.** The system staff have attended asset management training or have an asset inventory.

Once applications are scored, we rank them from highest to lowest based on water quality need. If applications receive identical scores, we use the smallest full time residential population served by the proposed projects as a tiebreaker in order to assist small water systems with high rate burden.

Next, we prepare a draft ranked funding list. We distribute available funding to projects receiving the highest scores and move down the list until we exhaust the funding. If funded projects are withdrawn or eliminated, lower scoring projects may move up into funding range.

We do not guarantee you will receive funding. We encourage applicants who do not receive funding to reapply in the future or talk with us about other funding sources.

Standard Refinance

Standard refinance is for successfully completed projects using non-DWSRF funding sources where the recipient wants to refinance at a lower interest rate. Applicants must meet all applicable requirements for the project and must meet all DWSRF prerequisites at the time the project was undertaken. Subsidy is not available for standard refinance projects.

Standard refinance projects are a low priority, and we do not rate and rank them as competitive projects. We make funding offers for standard refinance projects only if DWSRF money is left after the funding of competitively ranked projects. We rank multiple standard refinance projects competing for funding according to financial burden on the ratepayers.

Applicants must explain the original source of project funding (e.g., USDA-RD, or other federally funded entities). Applicants must also explain the current repayment terms. The debt for the project must still be outstanding. The loan term cannot exceed the useful life of the project. We will not advance refund a prior debt.

Financial and Capacity Review

DWSRF staff financially reviews each applicant/project within the funding range. If we ask you to provide additional information, you must respond within 14 calendar days. Otherwise, we may withdraw your project from funding consideration.

DWSRF staff will require nonmunicipal applicants to provide:

- ◆ Copies of the borrower's financial statements or tax returns for the past three years.
- ◆ Balance sheet statement for the past three years.
- ◆ Three professional or business references.

All applicants must provide the following information to be considered for funding:

- ◆ All technical, managerial, and financial information requested in the application.
- ◆ Copy of the meeting minutes where the board or council approved the water system to apply for a DWSRF loan.
- ◆ Documentation, such as meeting minutes, for existing water rates and information on proposed water rates with the DWSRF loan.

Bypass Process

If we request additional information to process your application or contract, you must respond within 14 calendar days, or we will bypass your project.

If our review demonstrates an applicant cannot repay a loan, is unable to meet performance timelines in an open DWSRF funding agreement, or the project is not ready to proceed, we may bypass or remove the applicant or project from funding consideration. We will notify you if we bypass your project. If you do not agree with the bypass determination, you may request a DOH review by the Office of Drinking Water director.

If we bypass you, we will offer you technical assistance so you can reapply for funding in the future, offer a preconstruction loan to allow you to start with preconstruction activities, or identify other funding opportunities.

Intended Use Plan

Each year, the DWSRF Loan Program prepares the federally required Intended Use Plan to demonstrate how we will use available DWSRF funds. This is last years [Intended Use Plan 331-534](#). We post the Intended Use Plan on the [DWSRF webpage](#) for public review. We send emails to stakeholders to announce the availability of the Intended Use Plan for the 30-day public comment period. After the 30-day public review and comment period, we finalize and submit the Intended Use Plan to EPA as part of the DWSRF state capitalization grant application package.

The final Intended Use Plan contains a Final Prioritized Project List, which is published on our website in June each year. If an applicant does not agree with the final funding list, they can

request a review. We must receive written requests for review within 14 calendar days of notification.

Our decision after this review is final.

Project Implementation

After we approve the final recommended funding list and EPA awards the capitalization grants, our staff will work with you to execute a contract.

To finalize your contract, we will email the contract to you. You must sign the contract and return it to us within sixty days of the postmark date. You will receive training from DWSRF staff on how to comply with the contract requirements.

You must have the following before beginning construction:

- ◆ Completion of the required environmental and cultural review (see below).
- ◆ Written approval from your ODW regional engineer for required project report and 100 percent design plans and specifications to be used for bidding purposes.
- ◆ Bid specifications reviewed by DWSRF staff.

If you plan to use an alternative public works contract procedure, such as General Contractor/Construction Manager, you must contact the DWSRF program staff for approval.

Environmental and Cultural Reviews

DOH is the primacy agency for the DWSRF Program. As such, we ensure projects comply with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requirements. Although environmental and cultural reviews are two distinct processes, we coordinate both reviews as much as possible.

Please note: Projects cannot move forward with any construction activities until both processes (environmental and cultural reviews) are complete and we issue a final completion letter. This includes any ground-disturbing activities including geotechnical work and test wells. Our Cultural and Environmental Program Specialist must approve any exceptions.

Environmental Review

The SERP is the EPA-approved environmental review process implemented in lieu of the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The SERP review includes completing the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process. Following is the environmental review process for DWSRF projects.

- ◆ The lead agency must make a SEPA determination and post it for public review and comment for no less than 14 days. The determination must be posted to the SEPA register and the local newspaper serving the project area for public comment.
- ◆ The SEPA determination, supporting documentation, and proof of publication must be sent to the DOH Cultural and Environmental Program Specialist.

- ◆ Environmental impact statements prepared by the lead agency must be posted pursuant to WAC 197-11.
- ◆ If the lead agency has determined the project is SEPA-exempt, the agency must provide written notice to the DOH Cultural and Environmental Program Specialist. The exempt determination must complete a 30-day public comment period. The publication can run concurrent with the cultural review public comment period.
- ◆ Any comments received during a public comment period and subsequent responses the lead agency provides are to be provided to the DWSRF Program.

SERP identifies and analyzes potential impacts a project might have on the environment when the project will affect or is located near:

- ◆ Known habitat of endangered species.
- ◆ Contaminated soils.
- ◆ A body of water.
- ◆ Environmentally sensitive area (e.g., wetlands, shorelines).
- ◆ Historically or culturally significant properties.

We encourage you to start on the project permit process, including the SEPA checklist, as soon as possible. NEPA may be substituted for SEPA. Contact the our Cultural and Environmental Program Specialist for information on requirements and/or substitutions.

Non-municipalities should contact their county planning agency to review and approve SEPA documentation.

Municipalities receiving DWSRF funding that are considered a **SEPA lead agency** are required to submit all documentation (EIS, DNS, SEPA Exemption Notice, etc.) to us for approval. Water systems must complete a public comment period for all projects to be Categorically Exempted (state statute WAC 197-11-305(2) Categorical Exemptions do not pertain to federally funded projects).

Environmental Review Timetable

Activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Submit copies of determination, documentation, proof of publication	Borrower	As soon as possible
Review determination, documentation, proof of publication	DOH	Generally, 15 days after receipt
Issue completion notification concurrent with completion of cultural review	DOH	15 days

Cultural Review

All projects must complete the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requirements.

The cultural review must consider the effects of the project's undertaking and potential impact on cultural resources. All projects must also have a DOH-approved inadvertent discovery plan in effect for all construction activities. Effects may occur when:

- ◆ Ground disturbing activities occur in or near sensitive areas.
- ◆ The undertaking will affect, or is located near:
 - Native American lands.
 - Historic structures.
 - Cultural resources.

A government-to-government relationship is an important part of the Section 106 cultural review process (36 CFR 800). Therefore, we:

- ◆ Are the cultural review lead to meet Section 106 of the NHPA and determine which consultation requirements apply to your project's undertaking.
- ◆ Initiate the cultural review after the DWSRF final loan list is approved.
- ◆ Contact the tribes, Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), and other interested parties to begin consultation.

As part of the process, we may request supplementary information, such as construction drawings, plans, publications, or other previously approved compliance documentation. Active participation is essential for the processes to continue efficiently. Requested information not forwarded in a timely manner will delay the process.

If a Cultural Resources Survey is necessary, we will notify you as soon as possible. You are responsible for hiring a professional that meets the Secretary of Interior professional standards (36 CFR Part 61) to conduct the survey. Please, submit a draft survey to us for final approval. Surveys must meet the DAHP cultural resources reporting standards. After the survey is approved, we will provide instructions regarding final distribution to consulting parties. The archeological information is confidential and not for general distribution. Archeological records are exempt from public disclosure requests (RCW 42.56.300).

For projects receiving other state or federal funding, a more stringent cultural review process may be followed. You must notify us of any additional funding the project received, along with the necessary compliance documentation. We will coordinate with other identified funding agencies. Documentation more than five years old may not be valid.

Cultural Review Timetable

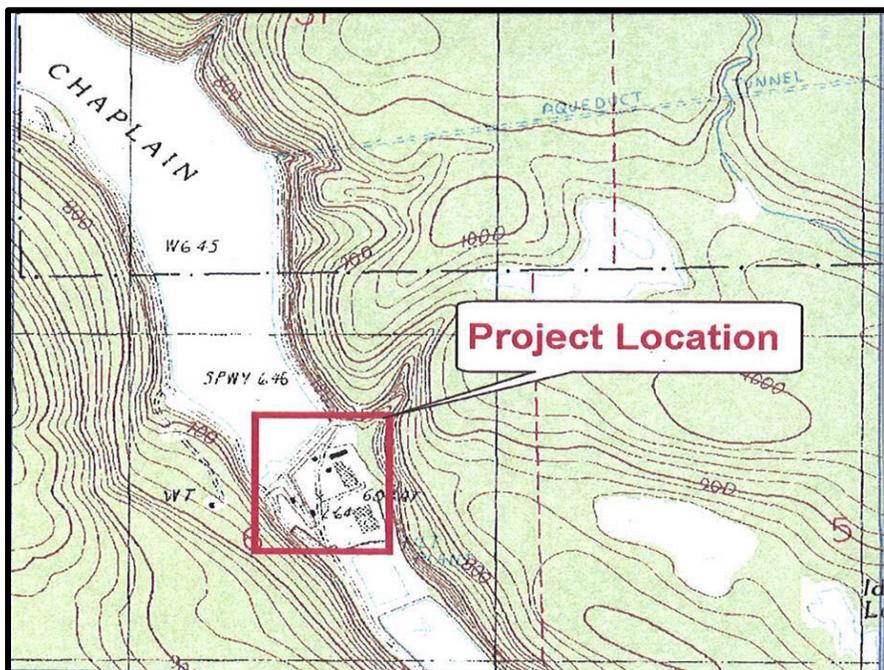
Activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Receive Notice of Final Approved DWSRF Loan List	DOH	Starting Point
Evaluate Project		
Research project area	DOH	Ongoing
Identify Area of Potential Effect (APE)		
Make Determination		
No Historic Properties Affected” -OR- “Area of Potential Effect”	DOH	Ongoing (1)
1. Complete survey and/or monitoring plan	Borrower	3-6 months
2. Additional consultation with DAHP and tribes	DOH	6-18 months (2)
Consultation and Agreement	DOH	30+days
Public Comment Period		
Publish final NHPA determination and Notice of Intent to Release Funds	Borrower	30 days
Issue Completion Notification Concurrent with Completion of Environmental Review	DOH	15 days

Note: A revised project scope or other relative information may result in another review. The timeframe depends on the significance of cultural or historic resources in vicinity of the project area, potential effects to the resources, and time to reach agreement with consulting parties.

To Ensure Your Cultural Review Is Not Delayed:

- ◆ The EZ-1 Project Review Form is available on our DWSRF website.
- ◆ The EZ-1 Project Review Form must include a United States Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle map (7.5-minute series) with your project clearly identified on the map (see below).
- ◆ Make sure your project location is clearly identified.
- ◆ Make sure your project description is detailed enough so that someone unfamiliar with the project will understand the extent and impact of the project.
- ◆ Make sure the Township, Range, and Section information is correct.

Submitting the EZ-1 Project Review Form only initiates the cultural review. There are additional steps required. (See Appendix C.) The quad map required on the EZ-1 Project Review Form must clearly identify the project area. You must outline and label the entire project area. The following is an example.



You are required to confirm or update the EZ1 Project Review Form after the project is approved for funding. Additional drawings and maps may be required to accurately reflect the project pictorially. We will identify the Area of Potential Effect based on the project's undertaking.

We require additional information if you will demolish any structures or modify any historic structures as a result of the project's undertaking. We will evaluate these structures for eligibility for inclusion in the National Register based on the NHPA criteria identified in the Secretary of Interior's standards for historic properties. We will inventory and evaluate all properties using the DAHP Historic Property Inventory procedures.

Changes in Scope of Work: Potential Second Reviews

If a scope of work change includes any of the following, an additional environmental review and/or cultural review may be required.

- ◆ Increasing or changing the Area of Potential Effect.
- ◆ Excavating at a deeper depth.
- ◆ Adding new elements to the project activities.
- ◆ Increasing the pipe size.

The borrower must contact and forward a revised EZ-1 Project Review Form to the DOH Cultural and Environmental Program Specialist to initiate a re-evaluation of the environmental and cultural requirements. Construction activities for the revised scope of work are not allowed until we determine whether all elements of the environmental and cultural requirements for the proposed change are completed, and a contract amendment has been fully executed.

DWSRF Contract Requirements

Our staff monitors each DWSRF contract for compliance. Borrowers must complete all funded projects within four years.

To help ensure reasonable and timely project completion, accountability, and the proper use of funds, applicants must:

- ◆ Promptly submit requested materials and documentation, according to any stated deadlines and schedules, during all phases of the application and contract process.
- ◆ Issue a Notice to Proceed for construction within 18 months of contract execution, provided the environmental and cultural reviews are completed.
- ◆ Submit required project reports and construction documents to the ODW regional office.
- ◆ Secure a DOH project report and construction document approval before you begin construction. **Do not issue a Notice to Proceed** to your contractor until we issue the approval to proceed with construction.
- ◆ Use a competitive bid process (described in [DWSRF Customer Handbook 331-586](#)).
- ◆ Comply with the federal Davis-Bacon Act (pay prevailing wages). If you receive funding, we will provide information compliance.
- ◆ Comply with American Iron and Steel requirements. Refer to Appendix D for more information.
- ◆ Comply with Build America, Buy America (BABA) requirements. Refer to Appendix E for more information.
- ◆ Provide required quarterly project progress reports.

If required in your contract, have an independent audit conducted and send the audit report to us within 60 days of project completion.

Within 60 days of completing your project, have your project engineer fill out [Construction Completion Report Form 331-121-F](#) and send it to us.

If an unforeseeable event during your contract causes delay in the construction of your project, we may offer to move your contract from the construction program into our preconstruction program, as funds allow. Please contact us as soon as possible if you think there may be a construction delay.

If scope changes cause a significant delay, we will reassess and possibly bypass the project.

If you plan to use an alternative public works contract procedure, such as a General Contractor/Construction Manager, you must contact the DWSRF Program for approval.

We will send out invoices each year, payments must be made once per year, starting the first October after loan execution.

Please refer to [DWSRF Customer Handbook 331-586](#) for more details.

APPENDIX A: Project Scoring Procedures

We score all eligible applications on Risk Category, readiness to proceed, as well as bonus points and financial assistance points.

Risk Categories

DOH ranks the list from highest to lowest score, with microbial risk (Risk Category 1) rated highest and infrastructure replacement (Risk Category 5) rated lowest. We base the Risk Category on the primary risk the proposed project will address. We will develop a ranked priority project list for both the Lead Service Line replacement and unregulated contaminant funding pots from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, and we will fund projects until those funds are exhausted. Any remaining unfunded project will be placed on the priority project list for the standard DWSRF funding and funded in rank order until that funding is exhausted. An application receives points in only **one** Risk Category and in only **one** Project Type.

Risk Category 1	
The proposed project will eliminate a documented microbial contamination	
Type of project	Points
New Source	120
Source Reconstruction	115
Disinfection improvements	110
Filtration	110
New reservoir or reservoir improvements	100
Treatment replacement	70

To receive a score in Risk Category 1, your project must address an existing unaddressed documented microbial contamination event (that occurred within the last five years) or compliance problem associated with:

- ◆ Revised Total Coliform Rule.
- ◆ Surface Water Treatment Rules.
- ◆ Groundwater Rule.
- ◆ Uncovered finished water reservoirs.
- ◆ Exceeding EPA Health Advisory (HA) level for microbials and cyanotoxins. Per the current EPA HA, the identified cyanotoxins are microcystins (current level established at 0.3 micrograms per liter) and cylindrospermopsin (current level established at 0.7 micrograms per liter).

In addition, your project must be one of the following types.

- ◆ Disinfection or filtration projects to address the documented problem.
- ◆ Source reconstruction or replacement to address the documented problem.
- ◆ Reservoir replacement or new cover if finished water reservoir is currently uncovered.

- ◆ Reservoir, clearwell, or pipeline construction to satisfy a chlorine contact-time requirement.

Risk Category 2	
The proposed project will eliminate primary inorganic chemical contamination	
Type of project	Points
New Source, source reconstruction or treatment for nitrate	110
New Source, source reconstruction or treatment for contaminants other than Nitrate; project addresses water shortage due to a declining aquifer	100
Lead service line or gooseneck removal or replacement	95
Treatment replacement	60

To receive a score in Risk Category 2, your project must address compliance problems (MCL, TT, or Action Level) exceedances or violations associated with the following (unless it is a lead service line replacement project).

Antimony (Sb)	Chromium (Cr)	Nickel (Ni)
Arsenic (As)	Copper (Cu)	Nitrate (as N)
Asbestos	Cyanide (HCN)	Nitrite (as N)
Barium (Ba)	Fluoride (F) (over 4.0 mg)	Selenium (Se)
Beryllium (Be)	Lead (Pb)	Thallium (Tl)
Cadmium (Cd)	Mercury (Hg)	

Risk Category 2 also includes the following.

- ◆ Corrosion control projects for lead and copper exceedances.
- ◆ Complete lead service line replacement.
- ◆ Projects to address a combined concentration of PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS, PFNA, and PFHpA that exceeds the state action level. After we score applications, we rank them from highest to lowest. If projects receive identical scores, we use highest detection, then the largest population served by the proposed projects as a tiebreaker. We will reserve 25 percent of the unregulated contaminant funding to fund projects serving disadvantaged systems or systems serving under 25,000 people.
- ◆ Projects that address water shortages associated with a declining aquifer for the following communities: Connell, Ephrata, Kahlotus, Lind, Mesa, Moses Lake, Othello, Quincy, Ritzville, Washtucna. A water shortage response plan will be a required project submittal as part of the scope of work.

Risk Category 3

The proposed project will eliminate other primary chemical risks, addresses a sanitary survey significant deficiency, disinfection installation, lead removal/replacement, receivership, or EPA chemical HAs

Type of project	Points
New Source	95
Treatment	90
Receivership	70
Other	65
Treatment Replacement	50

To receive a score in Risk Category 3, your project must address compliance problems (MCL, TT, or Action Level), exceedances, or violations associated with the following.

- ◆ Disinfection by-products.
- ◆ Organic chemical.
- ◆ Radionuclides.

Other eligible projects in Risk Category 3 include the following.

- ◆ Infrastructure project that addresses a significant deficiency identified during the most recent sanitary survey.
- ◆ Installation of disinfection as required in WAC 246-290-451, if not captured in Risk Category 1.
- ◆ Addressing an exceedance of an EPA HA level established for chemical contaminants, such as manganese concentrations that exceed 0.3 milligrams per liter.
- ◆ Receiverships.

Risk Category 4

The proposed project addresses secondary MCL, resiliency, seawater intrusion risk, sanitary survey significant finding, 75% of nitrate or arsenic MCL, or a restructuring or consolidation project

Type of project	Points
New Source or restructuring/consolidation	60
Treatment	55
Adds resiliency to system	50
Treatment replacement	45

Chloride (Cl)	Manganese (Mn)	Sulfate (SO4)
Fluoride (F) (over 2.0 mg)	Silver (Ag)	Zinc (Zn)
Iron (Fe)	Sodium (Na)	Conductivity

To receive a score in Risk Category 4, your project must address compliance problems (MCL, TT, or Action Level), exceedances, or violations associated with the following.

Projects that provide resiliency to the water system also qualify for Risk Category 4. Resilience refers to the ability of water infrastructure systems to withstand and recover from natural and man-made disturbances to their functioning. Resilience criteria for factors relating to project planning and design may address:

- ◆ Vulnerability of a water system to disruption of safe water delivery, whether natural or of human origin.
- ◆ Capability to recover from disruption of safe water delivery.
- ◆ A range of natural events capable of disruption, including flooding, long-term drought, and earthquakes.
- ◆ Projects that qualify as providing system resiliency include (but are not limited to) adding a redundant source, modifying a surface water intake to operate under drought or flood conditions, seismic upgrades to finished water reservoirs or transmission mains, interties, or providing a generator at the main source. **The proposed project needs to benefit the majority—51 percent or more—of the population the water system serves. A water shortage response plan will be a required project submittal as part of the scope of work.**

Other projects that qualify for Risk Category 4 include the following.

- ◆ Addressing seawater intrusion.
- ◆ Addressing a significant finding identified in the most recent sanitary survey. The system must have received a compliance order for the significant finding.
- ◆ Addressing a nitrate or arsenic issue. To qualify, the system must have entry point monitoring that documents the system exceeds 80 percent of the nitrate or arsenic MCL.
- ◆ Restructuring or consolidation project not captured in Risk Category 1, 2, or 3.

Risk Category 5	
The proposed project must include components for infrastructure sustainability	
Type of project	Points
Treatment enhancements, new Source, or Source Rehabilitation	40
Distribution Reservoir (additional reservoirs or replacement distribution)	40
Main/distribution improvements/booster pump	40
Cross-connection control – installation of backflow prevention assemblies (stand-alone project)	30
Installation of pressure reduction device (stand-alone project)	25
Security measures (stand-alone project)	20
Treatment plant discharge Improvements	10
Other (such as telemetry)	10

Examples of Risk Category 5

- ◆ Treatment enhancement. For example, treatment installed to address taste and odor.
- ◆ Install an additional distribution reservoir.
- ◆ Install treatment plant discharge improvements.
- ◆ Install pressure reduction device(s).
- ◆ Install backflow prevention device(s). Device must be installed on property the water system owns and the water system must own and maintain the device.
- ◆ Security measures (cameras, fencing, lighting, lab equipment, chemical storage) not included as part of a Risk Category 1–4 project.
- ◆ Replace infrastructure.
- ◆ Replace roof for reservoir and other structures.
- ◆ Other distribution improvements.

Readiness to Proceed

Readiness to proceed is a critical part of the construction process. You are truly shovel ready when everything required is in hand. This helps keep our revolving fund program a success. You will provide this information in the application.

Note: Applicants who indicate the items below are completed must provide documentation as part of the application process to receive points.

Readiness to Proceed	Points
Construction and/or Bid Documents Complete Submit regional office construction document approval letter.	2
Status of SEPA/NEPA Completion of SEPA/NEPA includes issuing a final determination and publishing the determination for the proposed project. <i>Provide certified notice and copy of final determination with application.</i>	2
Status of Cultural Review Completion of the Cultural Review includes a final determination made and published based on the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requirements with consultation documentation and <i>final determination submitted with application</i> . Full completion receives full allowable points with no partial points awarded for partial completion. Determinations made under Washington State Executive Order 05-05 or 21-02 are not able to be accepted in lieu of NHPA Section 106 reviews.	3
Completes Previous DWSRF Construction or DWSRF Emergency Loan Project This project completes or allows continuation of a previously partially funded DWSRF construction or DWSRF emergency loan project.	4
Completes Previous Preconstruction Loan This project completes a previous preconstruction loan project.	2
Completes Previous Consolidation Grant This project completes a previous consolidation grant project.	2

Bonus Points

Bonus points acknowledge how projects help communities provide clean and reliable drinking water by addressing compliance issues, consolidations, being aware of assets, water main replacement projects that coincide with other projects, or address high distribution system leakage.

Note: Applicants who claim the items below must provide documentation as part of the application process to receive points.

Bonus	Points
<p>Compliance Status</p> <p>DOH awards bonus points to projects that eliminate an unresolved compliance problem. We will review our records to determine whether a system is under an active enforcement action. We award the highest point value to projects that address an active enforcement action (including DOH’s departmental order, penalty, or bilateral compliance agreement, or federal administrative order, or stipulated penalty). We award the lowest point value to projects that eliminate an existing or potential problem that would place the system out of compliance, or eliminate a red, yellow, or blue operating permit related to infrastructure (when the water system is not subject to an active enforcement action).</p>	<p>Highest: 5</p> <p>Lowest: 2</p>
<p>Consolidation and Restructuring</p> <p>We award bonus points to projects that result in restructuring or consolidating (eliminating) Group A or B water systems. We will give 3 bonus points for each system the project restructures or eliminates, with no limit to the amount of bonus points allowed.</p>	<p>Unlimited</p>
<p>Attend Asset Management Training</p> <p>If a representative from the water system participated in an asset management or GIS for asset management training provided by DOH, RCAC or other technical provider between September 1, 2018, and November 30, 2023, you are eligible for a bonus point. To receive the point in this category, you must provide the training date, location, title, and sponsor information along with the name(s) of staff who attended the training (one point per system).</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Asset Inventory</p> <p>To receive maximum points in this category, you must provide an asset inventory that includes at least 5 of the following: the list of water system assets, age of assets, expected life of the assets, replacement cost of assets, level of service, and criticality. See Appendix H for an example. Partial points will be given for inventories that do not include each element listed above.</p>	<p>1-5</p>
<p>Water Main Replacement Projects that Coincide with Other Infrastructure Projects (Smart Projects)</p> <p>Water main replacement projects that coincide with a transportation improvement project, fish passage barrier removal project, sewer main replacement, or other infrastructure projects will receive bonus points. Provide documentation of the other infrastructure project and construction schedule.</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Green Projects</p> <p>Project addresses distribution system leakage (DSL) above 10 %, reduces pumping or treatment costs, or results in reduced energy consumption. Provide quantitative evaluation describing how the project contributes to overall reduction in water loss, is ranked on asset management plan and reduce treatment and/or energy costs.</p>	<p>5</p>

Financial Assistance Points

Affordability points are intended to prioritize projects that assist water systems most in need, on a per household basis, according to State affordability criteria. The **Affordability Index** is determined by evaluating the average annual water rate against the **Median Household Income (MHI)**. Average annual water rates are supplied in the loan application, including current system population figures, current rate structure, and rates including the loan. MHI is determined using common census data from the most recent survey. **Water systems may provide third-party income surveys completed in the past twelve months** to be used in Affordability Index determination. Submit your documentation through WALT.

Affordability Index	Points
High >3.01%	10
Medium 2.01-3.0%	6
Low 1.0 - 2.0%	3

APPENDIX B: Disadvantaged Communities Verification

Disadvantaged Communities are a qualifying service area of a project serving residential connections within a public water system that is disproportionately impacted by economic, health, and environmental burdens. Potential qualifying areas will be assessed by the below indicators including population served, social vulnerability, environmental health disparities, and affordability of average annual water charges. Projects verified as disadvantaged communities may be eligible for loan subsidy, though qualifying as disadvantaged does not guarantee subsidy or principal forgiveness. This information is provided to familiarize yourself with the indicators the DWSRF underwriters use to verify if the service area of a proposed project qualifies as a disadvantaged community.

Affordability Index Greater Than 2 Percent

The Affordability Index is determined by evaluating the average monthly drinking water rate including the loan against the Median Household Income (MHI). The average annual water rates supplied in the loan application, including current system population figures, and current rate structure. MHI is determined using census data from the most recent survey. Applicants may provide third party income surveys to be used in the Affordability Index determination. If the Affordability Index is greater than 2 percent, the service area of the project qualifies as a disadvantaged community.

$$\text{Affordability Index} = (\text{Average Annual Water Rates} \div \text{Median Household Income}) \times 100$$

Average rank of Environmental Health Disparity (EHD) of 7 or more

The EHD average rank is calculated using the Washington Tracking Network map. In the area where 50 percent or more of the project is located, the average rank of Environmental Exposures, Environmental Effects, and Sensitive Populations is determined. If the average EHD rank is 7 or more, the service area of the project qualifies as a disadvantaged community.

$$\text{EHD Average Rank} = (\text{Environmental Exposures} + \text{Environmental Effects} + \text{Sensitive Populations}) \div 3$$

Average rank of Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) of 7 or more

The SVI average rank is calculated using the Washington Tracking Network Map. In the area where 50 percent or more of the project is located, the average rank of Household Composition & Disability, Housing Type and Transportation, and Socioeconomic Determinants is determined. If the average SVI rank is 7 or more, the service area of the project qualifies as a disadvantaged community.

$$\text{SVI Average Rank} = (\text{Household Composition \& Disability} + \text{Housing Type and Transportation} + \text{Socioeconomic Determinates}) \div 3$$

Appendix C: Federal Crosscutters, State Laws, and Related Publications

Related Publications

Small Water System Management Program Guide 331-134.

Water System Planning Handbook 331-068

Environmental Authorities

Archaeological & Historic Preservation Act of 1974, Pub. L. 86-523, as amended

Clean Air Act, Pub. L. 84-159, as amended

Coastal Barrier Resources Act, Pub. L. 92-583, as amended

Endangered Species Act, Pub. L. 93-205, as amended

Environmental Justice, Executive Order 12898

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Pub. L. 101-601, as amended

Floodplain Management Executive Order 11934, as amended by Executive Order 12148

Protection of Wetland, Executive Order 11990

Farmland Protection Policy Act, Pub. L. 97-98

Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act, Pub. L. 85-624, as amended

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Pub. L. 89-665, as amended

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Pub. L. 91-190, as amended

Safe Drinking Water Act, Pub. L. 93-523, as amended

Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, Pub. L. 90-542, as amended

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, of 2021 Pub. L. 117-58

Social Policy Authorities

Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Pub. L. 94-135

Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964, Pub. L. 88-135

Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, Pub. L. 92-500 (Clean Water Act)

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Pub. L. 93-112 (including Executive Orders 11914 and 11250)

Equal Employment Opportunity, Executive Order 11246

Women's and Minority Business Enterprise, Executive Orders 11625, 12138, and 12432

Section 129 of the Small Business Administration Reauthorization and Amendment Act of 1988, Pub. L. 100-590

Anti-Lobbying Provision (40 CFR Part 30) applies only to capitalization grant recipients

Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, Executive order 14008

Economic and Miscellaneous Authorities

Davis-Bacon Act (federal prevailing wage requirements) U.S. Code title 40, subtitle II, part A, chapter 31, subchapter IV; and 29 CFR 5.5 (U.S. Dept. of Labor regulations)

Demonstration Cities & Metropolitan Development Act of 1966, Pub. L. 89-754, as amended, Executive Order 12372

Procurement Prohibitions under Section 306 of the Clean Air Act and Section 508 of the Clean Water Act, including Executive Order 11738, Administration of the Clean Air Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with Respect to Federal Contracts, Grants, or Loans

Uniform Relocation & Real Property Acquisition Policies Act, Pub. L. 91-646, as amended
Debarment & Suspension, Executive Order 12549

State Laws

Governor's Executive Order 05-05 and 21-02, Archaeological and Cultural Resources Chapter 25.48 WAC, Archaeological Excavation and Removal Permit

Chapter 27.44 RCW, Indian Graves and Records

Chapter 27.53 RCW, Archaeological Sites and Resources Chapter 36.70A RCW, Growth Management Act (GMA)

Chapter 39.80 RCW, Contracts for Architectural & Engineering Services Chapter 42.56.300 RCW, Public Records Act, Archaeological Sites Chapter 43.20 RCW, State Board of Health

Chapter 43.70 RCW, Department of Health

Chapter 70.116 RCW, Public Water Systems Coordination Act of 1977

Chapter 70.119 RCW, Public Water Supply Systems Certification & Regulation of Operations

Chapter 70-119A RCW, Public Water Systems, Penalties & Compliance

Chapter 173-160 WAC, Minimum Standards for Construction & Maintenance of Wells

Chapter 197-11 WAC and Chapter 43.21C RCW, State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

Chapter 246-290 WAC, Group A Public Water Systems

Federal CFR Title 40 Part 131, [Federal National Primary Drinking Water Regulations]-Section Adopted by Reference

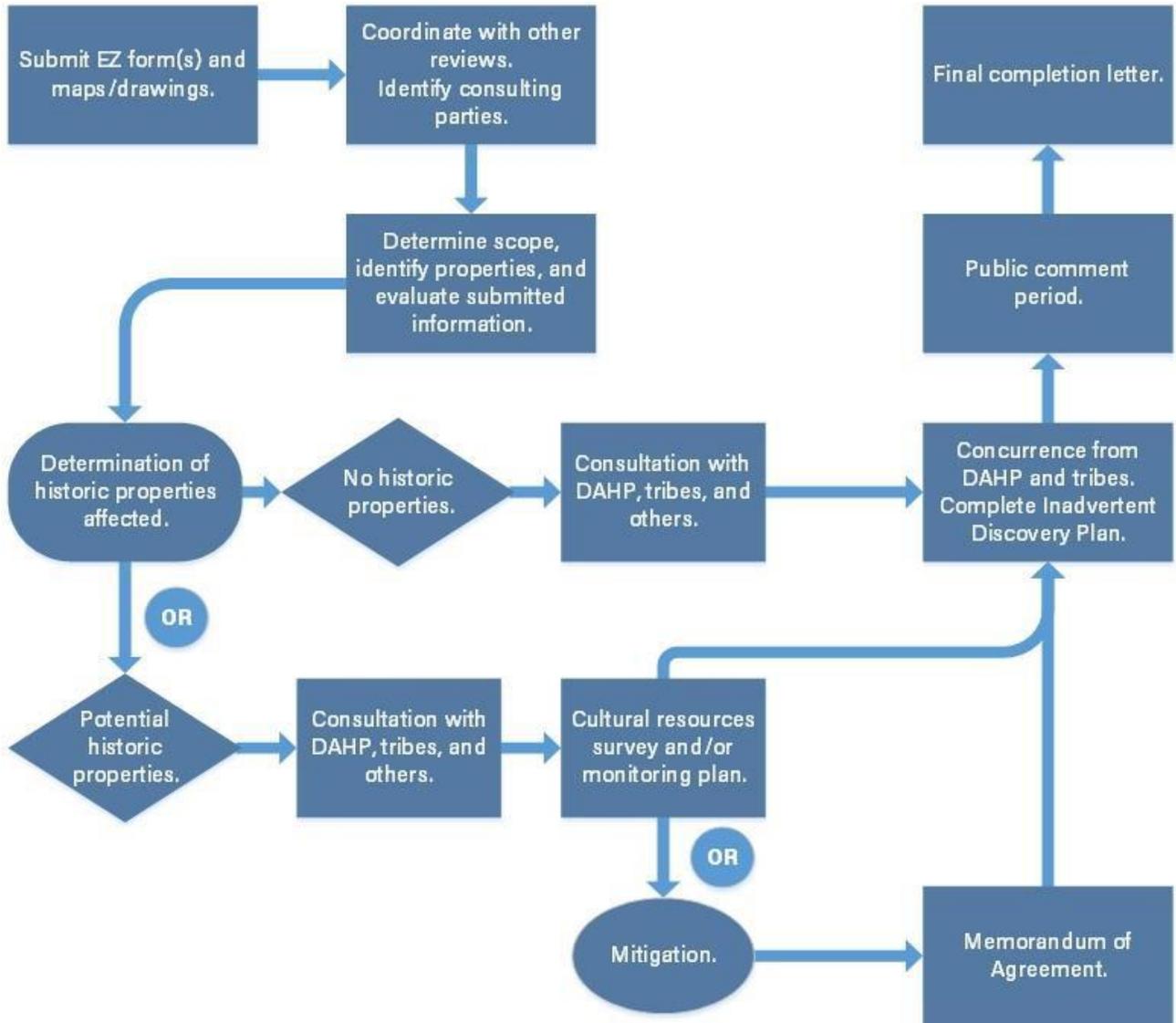
Chapter 246-291 WAC, Group B Public Water Systems

Chapter 246-292 WAC, Waterworks Operator Certification Regulations Chapter 246-293 WAC, Water System Coordination Act

Chapter 246-294 WAC, Drinking Water Operating Permits Chapter 246-295 WAC, Satellite

System Management Agencies Chapter 246-296 WAC, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Title 173, Department of Ecology Rules

Appendix D: Cultural Review Flow Chart



Appendix E: Build America, Buy America Requirements

DWSRF construction projects must comply with the Build America, Buy America (BABA) provisions. Projects started prior to May 14, 2022, may be exempt. Visit the [EPA website for more information on the BABA requirements](#) and the waiver process.

As of the publish date of these guidelines, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has not issued implementation guidance on BABA requirements. Please refer to the website above for the most up to date information.

If you have additional questions on these requirements, please contact Mike Copeland at Michael.Copeland@doh.wa.gov or 360-236-3083.

Appendix F: Seven Steps for Your Investment Grade Energy Audit

- ◆ Investigate all areas of energy and water use in your water system that coincide with your DWSRF scope of work.
- ◆ Identify systems (processes and buildings) with sufficient consumption to make significant savings possible. You must be able to pay back the cost of the savings within six years—otherwise it is not considered cost effective for our DWSRF process.
- ◆ Use all available information to determine the theoretical energy requirement and actual energy consumption of those systems. Available information includes half-hourly data, gas and fossil fuel use profile, degree-day heating and cooling data, water consumption, building structure, occupancy, location, ventilation and internal dissipation, natural light, and production data.
- ◆ Determine the energy efficiency of each system component. Divide the theoretical energy requirement by the actual energy consumption.
- ◆ Identify all significant viable energy and carbon reduction opportunities within the inefficient systems, which may require the use of energy analyzers, data-loggers, and other measuring equipment. This may involve:
 - Checking the combustion efficiency of all significant combustion plants.
 - Assessing standing and other losses.
 - Investigating the operation and capabilities of any Building Energy Management Systems.
 - Considering the scope for building fabric improvements and the resulting opportunities for the specification of smaller and thus more cost-effective plants.
 - Identifying where additional management effort should be directed, the measures necessary for improving staff performance, and additional sub-metering, and other related matters.
- ◆ Analyze the potential of renewable energy opportunities and technologies.
- ◆ Report on all of the above. Provide an accurate assessment of the potential energy and carbon reductions along with details of the specific measures required for implementation, illustrative costs, and payback periods. Keep your report in your files for future audits. You do not need to submit a copy, but keep a copy available for requests.

For guidance on how to proceed with a preliminary audit, or to learn more about this requirement, contact Department of Enterprise Services Energy Program Manager Roger Wigfield at 360-407-9371 or roger.wigfield@des.wa.gov.

APPENDIX G: Example Asset Inventory

To receive bonus points for having an asset inventory, the following information is required:

- ◆ List of water system assets.
- ◆ Age of assets.
- ◆ Expected life of the assets.
- ◆ Criticality.
- ◆ Level of service.
- ◆ Replacement costs.

Below is an example worksheet developed by Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) you can use to submit this information. You can get a copy at doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/4200/AssetInventoryWorksheet. For support with the worksheet please contact RCAC directly at 509-867-6636 or 916-447-2854.

Column 1: Asset and Description

List your water system assets here. Assets to list include pumps, wells, storage tanks, pipes, treatment facilities, and vehicles.

Column 2: Installed Date

Enter the date you believe the asset was first put into service.

Column 3: Estimated Effective Life

Enter the expected life of the asset in years in this column. For this spreadsheet, the condition rating is applied (entered into Column 4 of this spreadsheet) to determine the calculated remaining life of the asset.

The table below may help you estimate the expected life of an asset. You can also get information on the life of an asset from equipment operating manuals, water systems operators, or vendors.

Asset Type	Average Effective Life (Years)	Asset Type	Average Effective Life (Years)
Intake Structures	40	Lab Monitoring Equipment	5–10
Wells/Springs	40	Tools & Shop Equipment	10
Chlorination Equipment	7–10	Office Furniture	10
Small motors	10–15	Computers	5
Storage Tanks	60	Vehicles	10
Pumps	10–15	Civil Structures	75
Pipe	60–90	Electrical Motors (large)	30
Valves	20–30	Electrical panels	20–25
Backflow Devices	15–20	Controls	15–25
Meters	10–15	Building assets	60
Hydrants	30–45		

Column 5: Criticality

Each asset must include a criticality number to receive bonus points for having an asset inventory. Criticality depends on the impact to the water system if the asset is not available. The RCAC spreadsheet uses the following critical numbers.

Critical Number	Description
1	The water system will essentially shut down if this component fails. This asset has no backup and is so important that an emergency plan must be in place as well as funding to replace it. Example: Single well pump failure; single reservoir failure; anything that could cause a violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
2	This asset would have a serious impact on the water system if it failed; however, procedures could fix the problem within a reasonable time. Example: Two wells and primary well pump fails; electrical components in panels fail; backflow assembly did not pass testing; key pipe failure that could be repaired; single chlorinator failure; pressure reducing valve failure.
3	The condition of this asset causes continued unnecessary operational costs to your utility. Examples: Deteriorating buildings, equipment and rolling stock; leaks in piping; old and worn-out electrical equipment.
4	This asset's condition or failure may cause inconvenience to customers via reduced service, outages, or minor taste or odor complaints. Examples: Excessive leaks, valves frozen partway closed, hydrants not working so flushing cannot be done; poor billing program.
5	These assets have been in service for a long time and their condition may not be well known. Evaluation recommended to determine what may be needed.

Column 9: Replacement Cost

Each asset must have a replacement cost provided.

If you have questions on this spreadsheet or how to develop an asset inventory, please contact your regional planner. You are not required to use the RCAC spreadsheet to receive bonus points and we will accept the information in any format.