

Q: What is a Feasibility Study and what are the required components?

A: The [Feasibility Study](#) is a written document which is signed and stamped by a Qualified Professional. This document provides the basis/justification for design. Applicants are required to submit sufficient information to demonstrate the proposed Green Infrastructure (GI) practice is feasible. Please refer to the Table entitled “Technical Guidance for Green Infrastructure Projects,” which can be found [here](#). It should be noted that EFC and DEC must approve the Feasibility Study prior to the execution of a GIGP Grant Agreement with EFC.

Q: What is a Design Report and when is it required?

A: The Design Report is a written document which is signed and stamped by a Qualified Professional. This document provides information relative to the design of the project and how it meets the Regulatory Reference(s) stated in the design criteria. Please refer to the Table entitled “Technical Guidance for Green Infrastructure Projects” which can be found [here](#). It should be noted that an approved Design Report and Full Set of Plan and Specifications are required prior to the release of construction funds. A complete list of all required components of the Design Report can be found [here](#).

Q: Who is a Qualified Professional?

A: A Qualified Professional is a person that is knowledgeable in the principles and practices of stormwater management and treatment, such as a New York State licensed Professional Engineer, Registered Landscape Architect or other individual(s) endorsed by NYS DEC. Individuals preparing SWPPPs that require the post-construction stormwater management practice component must have an understanding of the principles of hydrology, water quality management practice design, water quantity control design, and, in many cases, the principles of hydraulics in order to prepare a SWPPP that conforms to the Department's technical standard. Please contact EFC for additional guidance with regard to GIGP projects that are related to combined sewer system projects or projects located at a Publicly Owned Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Q: Are educational public meetings required as part of the application process for a funded project?

A: No, but they are encouraged. Educational public meetings are not required as part of the application process for GIGP, or the project itself. However, grant recipients may choose to hold educational public meetings as a portion of the outreach component for their project or to generate interest in the project prior to application. Please note, depending on how the action is classified under SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act), public hearings may be required as part of your compliance with local and State laws.

Q. Can the local match be accomplished using in-kind services or come from a private company?

A: Yes, both of these options are acceptable. Appropriate contractual commitments would need to be demonstrated by successful grant applicants.

Q: What are the acceptable sources for a match for the required 10% match in the GIGP?

A: Any local, state, private, non-federal funding, in-kind goods, and in-kind services can also be used towards the local match. Before EFC will enter into Grant Agreement, the recipient must demonstrate that they have sufficient financing in place to complete the project.

Q: Is there any minimum or maximum grant award?

A: No. We encourage you to review the previous projects on EFC's website (www.efc.ny.gov/gigp) to get a better idea of the range that past funding awarded.

Q: Are design and planning costs eligible?

A: Yes, the design and planning costs directly related to the GIGP eligible construction costs are eligible.

Q: What is SERP?

A: SERP is the State Environmental Review Process. This review is conducted to assess the environmental impacts of the proposed project in the State of New York, and is facilitated through NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

Q: Does the applicant need to complete the SERP/SEQR process to apply?

A: No, however, if your project is selected for funding, you must complete the SERP. One required component of the SERP is to complete New York's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) review of a project. The SHPO review is required before EFC can enter into a grant agreement with you for your project. A lead agency, a governmental entity with discretionary review or approval authority for the project, needs to be part of the SERP/SEQR process.

Q: Do we have to comply with Minority & Women's Business Enterprise (MWBE) requirements?

A: All GIGP funding **must** comply with Article 15A of NYS Law. MWBE Program guidance can be found [here](#). Each recipient is required to complete and submit a MWBE work plan before EFC can prepare a Grant Agreement. The work plan and MWBE Program documents and forms are available in the MWBE-EEO section of the EFC Resource Library which is available [here](#).

Q: Do we have to comply with NYS Prevailing Wage requirements?

A: All GIGP funding **must** comply with prevailing wage requirements under Article 8 of the NYS Labor Law.

Q: Can you further explain "transfer of technologies?"

A: "Transfer of technologies" is the sharing of technologies, knowledge, techniques, and methods with other communities and stakeholders who can then further develop and deploy these ideas, methods, or technologies and help deliver them to a wider audience or potential implementers.

The degree to which a project, component, or concept is replicable at other sites, projects, and communities across the State is an important consideration. However, even if a project is being considered for a unique site situation, EFC will still consider whether the project brings forward innovative green concepts or components that are transferrable or can be built upon.

Q: Can you better define what would be an innovative project?

A: An innovative project would be one that is new and different and that provides for better water quality more efficiently. You may want to articulate how many projects similar to yours are in your county, in the State, and in the country. What's innovative in one community may not be innovative in another. For example, in one community green streets may be commonplace, but in another community it would be completely new and innovative. Innovative projects deploy new technologies or concepts within a local, regional or State context.

Q: Does the applicant need to provide resolutions along with the application?

A: No, however, if the project is selected for funding, EFC will then require copies of authorizing resolutions.

Q: Are these reimbursable grants? Does the grant awardee need to front the money?

A: No, the grant is a cost-incurred grant, meaning that as costs are incurred throughout the duration of the project, disbursements against the grant award can be made to the applicant to pay for these costs. Proof of payment would be required within 45 days of disbursement to verify an invoice has been paid. To reduce the administrative burden, some applicants may choose to cover all costs out of their own funds until the project is complete and then request the grant award.

Q: Who is an eligible applicant?

A: Eligible applicants may include: any county, city, town, village, district corporation, county or town improvement district, Indian reservation wholly within NYS, any public benefit corporation or public authority established pursuant to the laws of NYS or any agency of NYS which is empowered to construct and operate an eligible GIGP project, or any two of the foregoing which are acting jointly in connection with an eligible GIGP project. Eligible applicants may also include: any partnership, association, school district, not-for-profit corporation or any other corporation organized and existing under the laws of NYS or any other State which is empowered to develop a project or any two or more of the foregoing which are acting jointly in connection with a project. Where there are multiple partners, the entity that will own, operate and maintain the GIGP eligible project for the duration of its useful life should be the primary applicant for a GIGP project. The authorized representatives executing the Grant Agreement with EFC must be able to make all the representations and covenants in the Grant Agreement. A sample of the GIGP Grant Agreement can be found on EFC's website (www.efc.ny.gov/gigp).

Q: If you lease property, can you apply for GIGP funds?

A: Yes, however you must demonstrate that you have the legal right to operate and maintain the project for the useful life defined in the Grant Agreement. It can range from 10 to 30 years, depending on the green practices implemented.

Q: can I submit an engineering report in place of a conceptual site plan AND feasibility study?

A: If the engineering report covers all of the required elements of a feasibility study, it may be submitted in place of a feasibility study. Please note, a conceptual site plan is still required.

Q: If my municipality is currently listed on the Intended Use Plan (IUP) and we are selected for a GIGP grant, does our listing on the IUP become invalid?

A: No. EFC will work with you to ensure that you do not have funding conflicts.

Q: Are pilot/demonstration projects eligible?

A: Yes, if the project and applicant are eligible under the CWSRF and the US EPA Green Project Reserve. However, the project must be a real, feasible project that provides water quality benefits at its location and the project sponsor must commit to continued operation of the project for its useful life or incorporation into a larger future project.

Q: If the project has already been constructed can I still apply?

A: Yes, however EFC strongly encourages applicants to wait to begin construction until after grant awards have been made. Projects are required to comply with all contracting and technical approvals, and work completed before this has occurred may not comply with grant requirements and that could jeopardize funding eligibility.

Q: Can we use GIGP funds to run a rebate program for our community/municipality?

A: No, a GIGP grant award must be used for a pre-defined specific project. Intermediate arrangements to distribute GIGP funds are not allowed under this program.

Q: Is the installation of water meters eligible and/or competitive? What about installing solar panels and/or energy efficient pumps at a treatment facility?

A: Both of these projects are great for water conservation and energy efficiency, but these are **NOT** eligible for GIGP. GIGP will only provide funding for green stormwater infrastructure projects. Eligible activities for GIGP can be found on our Application Process page by clicking [here](#).

Q: Does GIGP fund culverts?

A: Culverts are not a green infrastructure practice per se. However, if a culvert was a piece of a larger green infrastructure project it might be an eligible component. A project that simply proposes a culvert would not be eligible.

Q: Is porous asphalt more expensive than regular asphalt or about the same?

A: The cost will vary by region and by job, based on the economies of scale.

Q: Does porous pavement hold up in the winter?

A: Yes, when designed, installed, and maintained properly, porous pavement can outperform traditional pavement in the winter.

Q: Can GIGP funds be used for mitigation projects?

A: No. The program provides funding for the construction and restoration of wetlands.

Q: How can I calculate the water quality benefits of my project?

A: There are several useful tools for estimating pollutant load reduction that you can use for calculating water quality metrics for non-point source practices.

- The Center for Watershed Protection's Watershed Treatment Model found [here](#).
- The US EPA Office of Water's Spreadsheet Tool for Estimating Pollutant Load (STEPL) found [here](#).

Both of these models are available free of charge through the above web sites. Please note that you may need to convert units from these models to enter the appropriate unit into the CFA.

Q: How do I stay informed of the latest news and updates regarding the Green Innovation Grant Program?

A: Sign up to our [Email List](#).