

## **NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation – Green Innovation Grant Program**

### **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 New York State, any public benefit corporation or public authority established pursuant to the laws of New York or any agency of New York State which is empowered to construct and operate a project, or any two or more of the foregoing which are acting jointly in connection with a project. (21 NYCRR 2602.2(a)(49) New York State Clean Water Revolving Fund Regulations).

### **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](http://www.efc.ny.gov/gigp)) to get a better idea of the range of previous awards.

### **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 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 be used towards the local match. EFC requires that prior to entering into Grant Agreement, the recipient must demonstrate that they have sufficient financing in place to complete the project.

### **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.

### **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. 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: 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 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) 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: 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. However, a conceptual site plan is still required.

**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.
- The NYS DEC Stormwater Management Runoff Reduction Worksheets

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

**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 is considered 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. Innovative projects deploy new technologies or concepts within a local, regional or State context.

**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: What is SERP?**

A: SERP is the State Environmental Review Process which is an additional environmental review requirement for GIGP projects classified as treatment works under the Clean Water Act. This review is conducted to assess the potential environmental impacts of a proposed treatment works project in the State of New York, and is facilitated through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

**Q: Does the applicant need to complete the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) to apply?**

A: No. However, if your project is selected, and is classified as a treatment works project under the Clean Water Act, you must complete the SERP. SERP imposes additional environmental review requirements above and beyond SEQR. A required component of the SERP, among other things, is completion of New York's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) review.

**Q: Does the applicant need to complete the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) to apply?**

A: No. However, if your project is selected, and is classified as a certain type of non-treatment works project, you must complete the SEQR process. A lead agency, which is the governmental entity with the discretionary review or approval authority for the project, must lead the SEQR review. Furthermore, EFC also requires a coordinated environmental review for those projects that are Type I and/or Unlisted Actions. Completion of the SHPO review is also a requirement for all GIGP projects.

**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 an element 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: 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, e.g. Local Match Resolution or Authorized Representative Resolution.

**Q: Do you have to own the property on which the project is located to apply for GIGP funds?**

A: No. However you must demonstrate that you have the legal right to access, 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: 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 certain contracting and technical approvals, and work completed before this has occurred may not comply which would make those costs ineligible for grant funding.

**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. All applicants are encouraged to incorporate green infrastructure into their CWSRF projects. These green elements are eligible for financing and GIGP. EFC will work with you to ensure that you do not have funding conflicts.

**Q: Are pilot/demonstration projects eligible?**

A: Yes. 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: 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: No. 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: A project that simply proposes a culvert would not be eligible. However, if a culvert is a piece of a larger green infrastructure project it might be an eligible component.

**Q: Can GIGP funds be used for wetland mitigation projects?**

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

**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 construction project. Intermediate arrangements to distribute GIGP funds are not allowed under this program.

**Q: How often do I have to replace plantings in my bioretention or rain gardens?**

A: When properly maintained plants have good survivorship, however certain species may have to be replaced periodically. Should you be selected, we will work with you to develop a plant palette of native species that are tolerant of drought and wet conditions.

**Q: What is the cost of porous asphalt as compared to regular asphalt?**

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 actually outperform traditional pavement in the winter.

**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.