

WaterSMART Program Funding Opportunities Fiscal Year 2016

The American West is now the fastest growing region in the United States and faces serious water challenges. Adequate and safe water supplies are fundamental to the health, economy, security, and ecology of the country. To achieve sustainable water management and maintain economic productivity in the western United States, aggressive action is required to address current and future water shortages; degraded water quality; increased demands for water from growing populations and energy needs; amplified recognition of environmental water requirements; and the potential for decreased water supply availability due to drought and climate change.

Federal leadership is critical to widespread acceptance and implementation of sustainable water development and management. Secretarial Order 3297, issued in February 2010, established the Department's WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program to stretch and secure water supplies for future generations, coordinate across agencies, integrate energy and water policies, and ensure the availability of sound science and information to support decisions on sustainable water supplies. Reclamation provides cost-shared financial assistance to non-Federal entities, using a competitive process, through the following WaterSMART programs:

WaterSMART Grants (Water and Energy Efficiency Grants)

Through WaterSMART Grants Reclamation provides grants to irrigation and water districts, Tribes, States and other entities with water or power delivery authority. Projects should seek to conserve and use water more efficiently, increase the use of renewable energy, protect endangered species, or facilitate water markets. Projects are selected through a competitive process and the focus is on projects that can be completed within 24-36 months that will help sustainable water supplies in the western United States.

Drought Response Program

Reclamation's Drought Response Program supports a proactive approach for addressing drought by providing assistance to water users to conduct drought contingency planning and to take actions that build long-term resiliency to drought. The program consists of two funding areas. Drought Contingency Planning funding will be made available to non-Federal entities to develop a new drought contingency plan or update an existing plan. Drought Resiliency Project funding will be made available to implement small-scale projects to increase the reliability of water supplies; improve water management; implement systems to facilitate the voluntary sale, transfer or exchange of water; and benefit fish and wildlife and the environment.

Title XVI Program

Title XVI is Reclamation's water recycling and reuse program. Reclamation works with non-Federal partners to identify and investigate opportunities to reclaim and reuse wastewaters and naturally impaired ground and surface water in the 17 Western states and Hawaii. Entities with Congressionally authorized projects may also seek competitive, cost-shared funding to plan, design and construct projects.

Basin Studies

Basin Studies are basin-wide efforts to evaluate and address the impacts of climate change. Funding is available for comprehensive water studies that define options for meeting future water demands in Western river basins where imbalances in water supply and demands exist or are projected.

Cooperative Watershed Management Program

This program supports improved water quality, ecological resilience and reduced conflicts over water through collaborative efforts by local watershed groups. Financial assistance is provided to form new watershed groups, expand existing watershed groups and/or conduct one or more projects in accordance with the goals of watershed groups.

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (Desert and Southern Rockies LCCs)

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives are partnerships of governmental and non-governmental entities who work collaboratively to identify best practices, connect efforts, identify science gaps and avoid duplication through conservation planning and design. Reclamation is involved in the management of the Desert and Southern Rockies LCCs. Funding is provided for non-federal entities to develop applied science tools for use by the LCCs or partner with other federal agencies in addressing science needs within a LCC.

Calendar

October 2015

Title XVI Authorized Projects
Funding Opportunity Open (Oct. 16)

November

Water and Energy Efficiency Grant
Funding Opportunity Open (Nov. 3)

December

Title XVI Authorized Projects
Application Deadline (Dec. 10)

January 2016

Water and Energy Efficiency Grant
Applications due (Jan. 20)

February

Basin Study Letters of Interest Due

Title XVI Water Reuse Research
Funding Opportunity Posted

Drought Resiliency Projects and
Drought Contingency Planning Funding
Opportunity Open

March

Title XVI Water Reuse Research
Applications Due

Drought Resiliency Projects and
Drought Contingency Planning
Applications Due

CWMP Funding Opportunity Posted

May

Title XVI Authorized Projects Funding
Selections Announced

CWMP Funding Applications Due

June

Water and Energy Efficiency Grant
Selections Announced

Title XVI Water Reuse Research Studies
Selections Announced

July

Drought Resiliency Projects and
Drought Contingency Planning
Selections Announced

September

All funding awarded

For More Information

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