

Frequent Asked Questions

Q. What type of information is contained within a WaterSMART grant FOA?

A. The FOA provides specific scoping requirements, detailed proposal instructions, ranking criteria, and point allocations.

Q. When are FOA's posted on www.grants.gov?

A. FOA's for each grant are posted once per year and can be posted at any time throughout the year (depending on the budget cycle).

Q. Can I be notified when a FOA is posted online?

A. Yes. To receive notification of new WaterSMART FOAs, simply send a blank email to join-waterSMARTgrants@listserver.usbr.gov.

Q: Does Reclamation own and operate the project after I receive a WaterSMART grant?

A: No. The project sponsor retains all ownership and O&M responsibilities for the project.

Q: What is the role of Reclamation once the field work starts?

A: Reclamation verifies that the project is being implemented consistent with what was proposed. Minor changes in scope and schedule are acceptable.

Q. How soon must my project be completed once I receive a grant?

A. Projects generally must be completed within two years.

Q: How much money is in the FY 13 budget for WaterSMART grants?

A: Reclamation requested \$21.5 million in the President's FY 13 budget for WaterSMART grants.



Using wetlands to treat wastewater effluent, Harlingen Water Works, TX.



Water reuse and manhole lining project, Laguna Madre Water District, TX.



Replacement of manual gates with Rubicon standard programmable flume gate, Cameron County Irrigation District No. 2, TX.



Canal lining project, Hidalgo County ID No. 6, TX.

If you have questions or wish to learn more about specific WaterSMART opportunities, please contact your local Reclamation office at:

Oklahoma-Texas Area Office

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RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West

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WaterSMART Program Grants

Oklahoma-Texas Area Office (OTAO)

June, 2012

OTAO Summary

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is a Department of the Interior agency whose mission is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner within 17 western states. The Oklahoma-Texas Area Office (OTAO) has jurisdiction over 11 reservoir projects across Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas, which together deliver more than 680,000 acre-feet of municipal, industrial, and irrigation water annually to about 3 million customers, and which also provide fish and wildlife, recreation, and flood control benefits.

Program Overview

The nation faces many water related challenges including drought, aging infrastructure, impaired water quality, climate change, energy demands expanding populations and increased environmental needs. Water shortages and water-use conflicts have become more commonplace in many areas of the United States, even in normal water years. As competition for water resources grows – for irrigation of crops, growing cities and communities, energy production, and the environment – the need for information and tools to aid water resource managers also grows.

In response to these challenges, the Department of the Interior's WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program, which is being administered by the Bureau of Reclamation, aims to leverage federal and non-federal funds on projects that improve water management, increase energy efficiency in water delivery, facilitate water marketing projects, protect threatened and endangered species, and carry out activities to address potential climate-related impacts on water resources.

Grant funding opportunities are generally made available within four project categories for entities with water or power delivery authority in the 17 Western U.S.:

- **Water and Energy Efficiency:** construction projects that improve conservation and more efficient use of water and energy.
- **System Optimization Reviews:** a broad look at system-wide efficiency focused on improving efficiency and operations of a water delivery system, water district, or water basin. The Review results in a plan of action that focuses on improving efficiency and operations on a regional or basin perspective.
- **Advanced Water Treatment Pilot and Demonstration Projects:** construction of pilot and demonstration projects that address the technical, economic, and environmental viability of treating and using brackish groundwater, seawater, impaired waters, or otherwise creating new water supplies within a specific locale.
- **Research on Development of Climate Analysis Tools:** research activities to develop tools to assess the impacts of climate change on water resources. Eligible applicants also include Universities and non-profits.



Reclamation's Oklahoma-Texas Area Office has offices in both Austin, TX and Oklahoma City, OK.

"With dwindling water supplies, lengthening droughts, and rising demand for water in many areas of the country, a sustainable water strategy for America's water resources is one of my highest priorities. We must ensure stable, secure water supplies for future generations."

Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
Feb 1, 2010



Replacement of manual gates with Rubicon standard programmable flume gate, Cameron County Irrigation District No. 2, TX.

A summary of eligibility and cost-share requirements within each of the four funding categories is provide in Table 1.

Table 1. FY 2009 to 2012 WaterSMART Grant Categories

Grant Type	Federal Cost-Share	Federal Funding Amount (Per Project)	Proposals Submitted	Projects Selected	Awarded since 2009
Water and Energy Efficiency	Up to 50%	Group I: up to \$300K; Group II: up to \$1.5 million	626	147	\$55 million
Advanced Water Treatment Pilot/Demo	Up to 50%	Up to \$600,000	77	18	\$4.0 million
System Optimization Review	Up to 50%	Up to \$300,000	33	8	\$2.6 million
Climate Analysis	Up to 50%	Up to \$200,000	29	12	\$2.0 million

Funding Process Overview

The WaterSMART funding award process is illustrated in the Figure 1 below.

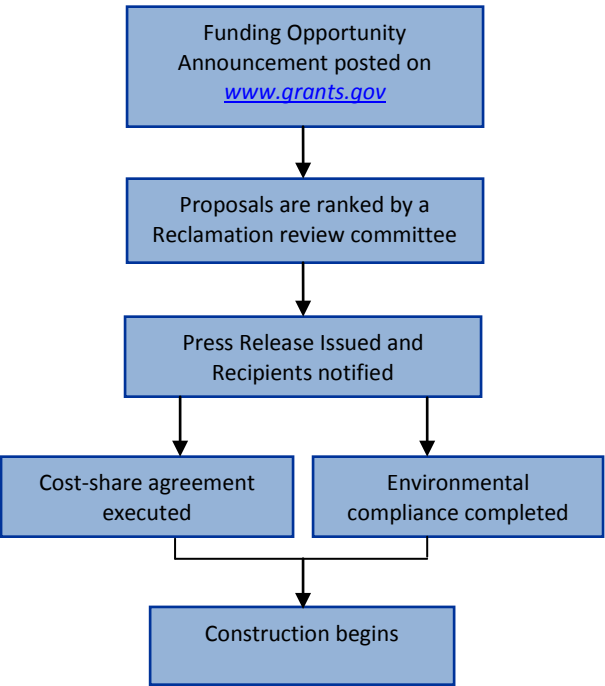


Figure 1. WaterSMART grants funding award process



Installation of a solar powered flow meter and SCADA system, Brownsville Irrigation District, TX.



Replacement of open canal with PVC pipe, Brownsville Irrigation District, TX.

Program Status

Since 2004, Reclamation has leveraged **\$128 million in Federal funds** with **\$320 million in non-Federal funds** to implement **323 projects** West-wide. This includes **\$40 million** which was made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Overall, these projects are estimated to save about **857,000 acre-feet per year** of water and **19 million kwh per year** of energy. Within **OTAO**, a total of **27 projects** have received funding since 2004, with water and energy savings estimated to be **47,020 acre-feet and 1.5 million kwh per year**, respectively. Table 2 below highlights the projects funded over the last two years. Recent activity has focused on areas along the U.S./Mexico border in South Texas.

Table 2. Summary of OTAO projects that were selected for WaterSMART grant funding in FY 10 through FY 12.

No.	Recipient	Scope	Award Date (FY)	Federal Share (\$)	Total Cost (\$)	Water Saved (ac-ft/yr)	Energy Saved (kwh/yr)
1	Cedar Hill, TX	Install smart meters and implement leak detection program	2012	300,000	750,000	336	233,600
2	Adams Garden ID, TX	Natural gas and wind powered pumps	2011	300,000	600,000	590	7,433
3	Edwards Aquifer Authority, TX	Replacement of plumbing fixtures, graywater and rainwater collection systems	2011	300,000	757,000	692	790,000
4	Hidalgo County ID #2, TX	Installation of flume gates and solar powered SCADA	2011	300,000	544,973	320	25,000
5	Hidalgo County ID #2, TX	Automated gates/ solar powered SCADA	2011	300,000	1,319,594	895	128,000
6	Delta Lake ID, TX	Conversion of open canal to pipeline	2011	296,446	599,532	343	13,000
7	Hidalgo County ID #3, TX	Conversion of mortar joint to PVC pipe	2011	286,794	573,589	244	7,800
8	Cameron County ID #2, TX	Conversion of open canal to pipeline	2011	286,265	577,030	171	6,655
9	Hidalgo County ID #6, TX	Canal lining and rehabilitation	2010	300,000	653,525	905	164,428
10	Laguna Madre Water District, TX	Direct, nonpotable water reuse	2010	300,000	2,014,265	336	19,827
11	Lower Colorado River Authority, TX	Gulf Coast Irrigation Division gate rehabilitation	2010	256,296	557,166	2,560	132,368
12	Brownsville ID, TX	Conveyance system improvements	2010	300,000	678,026	160	5,248
13	Harlingen Water Works, TX	Direct, nonpotable water reuse	2010	142,425	284,251	1,120	0
14	Harlingen Irrigation District, TX	System Optimization Review - measuring past water conservation improvements to prioritize future projects	2010	73,022	150,887	n/a	n/a
15	University of Texas at Austin	Climate analysis on drought in the High Plains Ogallala Aquifer	2010	199,999	399,999	n/a	n/a
16	Oklahoma Water Resources Board, OK	Climate analysis on water resources planning	2010	84,647	174,293	n/a	n/a
Total				4,025,894	10,634,130	8,672	1,533,359