WaterSMART Program
Water Resources and Planning Office
August 27, 2021
Getting Started

• To watch the recording, use the same link: Join Live Teams Event
• Attendees' cameras and microphones are muted
• A copy of the slides will be available on our website: https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/

• Questions and comments can be posted in the Q&A icon on the bottom of the menu bar
Agenda Overview

• WaterSMART Overview
• WaterSMART WEEG NOFO
• WaterSMART DRP NOFO
• WaterSMART EWRP NOFO
• Application Tips
• Preparing to apply – required systems
• Useful Program Links
• Questions
Today’s Presenters

Water Resources and Planning Office

• Josh German
• Sheri Looper
• Robin Graber
WaterSMART Program

Provides a framework for Interior to support water supply reliability for multiple water users.
WaterSMART Program Overview

- Increases water supply reliability through investments and attention to local water conflicts
- Supports water conservation and water management improvements to help meet competing demands for water
- Leverages Federal and non-Federal funding
- Relies on collaboration with stakeholders to develop local solutions to water supply issues
WaterSMART Grants
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Eligible Project Types

• Water Conservation Projects
  • Canal lining/piping
  • Municipal metering
  • Irrigation flow measurement
  • Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation (SCADA)
  • Landscape irrigation measures
  • High-Efficiency Indoor Appliances and Fixtures
  • Commercial Cooling Systems
• Renewable Energy Projects
  • Hydropower
  • Solar, wind energy

Funding

• Funding Group I: Up to $500k in 2 years
• Funding Group II: Up to $2 million in 3 years
• Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Eligible Applicants

Category A:
- States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts;
- State, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and
- Other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

Category B:
Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A. Category B applicants must include with their application a letter from the Category A partner, stating that they are acting in partnership with the applicant and agree to the submittal and content of the proposal.

To be eligible, applicants must also be located in one of the following States or Territories: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

**Revised Applicant Eligibility Requirement**
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
Evaluation Criteria

Criterion A - Quantifiable Water Savings (28 Points)
Criterion B - Renewable Energy (20 Points)
Criterion C - Sustainablilty Benefits (20 Points)
Criterion D - Complementing On-Farm Irrigation Improvements (10 Points)
Criterion E - Planning and Implementation (8 Points)
Criterion F - Collaboration (6 Points)
Criterion G - Additional Non-Federal Funding (4 Points)
Criterion H - Nexus to Reclamation (4 Points)
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
Program Requirements Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Applicants</th>
<th>States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; State, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; Other organizations with water or power delivery authority. OR a nonprofit conservation organization partnering with a previously described entity.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding Groups</td>
<td>Up to $2,000,000 in Federal funds for projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost Share</td>
<td>50% non-Federal cost share required</td>
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<td>Evaluation Criteria</td>
<td>Applications will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria which comprise a total of 100 points.</td>
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</table>
| Important Dates     | Pre-award costs date: July 1, 2021
Construction start date limitation (includes installation): July 2022 |

Deadline: Wednesday, November 3rd, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. MDT
Drought Response Program
Drought Resiliency Projects

Eligible Project Types
- Infrastructure Improvements
- New conveyance systems or components
- Additional water storage
- Recharge facilities
- Capture and treat alternative supplies
- Decision Support Tools & Modeling

Funding
- Funding Level I: $500k 2 years
- Funding Level II: $2 million 3 years
- Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater.
Drought Resiliency Projects

Eligible Applicants

Category A:

- States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts;
- State, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and
- Other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

Category B:

Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A. Category B applicants must include with their application a letter from the Category A partner, stating that they are acting in partnership with the applicant and agree to the submittal and content of the proposal.

To be eligible, applicants must also be located in one of the following States or Territories: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

**Revised Applicant Eligibility Requirement**
Drought Resiliency Projects
Evaluation Criteria

Criterion A - Project Benefits (30 Points)
Criterion B - Sustainability and Supplemental Benefits (20 Points)
Criterion C - Drought Planning and Preparedness (15 Points)
Criterion D - Drought Impacts to be Addressed by Project (15 Points)
Criterion E - Project Implementation (10 Points)
Criterion F - Nexus to Reclamation (10 Points)
Drought Resiliency Projects
Evaluation Criteria

**Criterion A – Project Benefits (30 points)**
- How does your project build long-term resilience to drought?
- Quantitative and Qualitative description
- Provide detailed support for benefits

**Criterion B – Sustainability and Supplemental Benefits (20 points)**
- Climate Change
- Disadvantaged/Underserved Communities
- Tribal Benefits
- Environmental Benefits
- Sustainability

**Criterion C – Drought Planning and Preparedness (15 points)**
- Projects specifically identified in a drought plan with a high importance/priority are prioritized

**Criterion D – Drought Impacts to be addressed by project (15 points)**
- Severity of Impacts
- Existing or Potential Drought Conditions

**Criterion E – Project Implementation (10 points)**
- Detailed schedule, milestones, tasks, permitting, and design

**Criterion F – Nexus to Reclamation (10 points)**
- Relation to Reclamation project or activity
Drought Resiliency Projects
Program Requirements Summary

Eligible Applicants
States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; State, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; Other organizations with water or power delivery authority. OR a nonprofit conservation organization partnering with a previously described entity.

Funding Groups
Up to $2,000,000 in Federal funds for projects

Cost Share
50% non-Federal cost share required

Evaluation Criteria
Applications will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria which comprise a total of 100 points.

Important Dates
Pre-award costs date: July 1, 2021
Construction start date limitation (includes installation): July 2022

Deadline: Tuesday, October 5th, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. MDT
New in 2022
Environmental Water Resources Projects

Eligible Project Types

1. Water Conservation and Efficiency Projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values
2. Water management or infrastructure improvements to mitigate drought-related impacts to ecological values
3. Watershed management or restoration projects benefitting ecological values that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management

Funding

- Non-Federal Cost Share: 25% or greater.
- Funding Level: Up to $2 million 3 years
Environmental Water Resources Projects

Eligible Applicants

Category A:
- States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts;
- State, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and
- Other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

Category B:
Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A. Category B applicants must include with their application a letter from the Category A partner, stating that they are acting in partnership with the applicant and agree to the submittal and content of the proposal.

Category C:
Nonprofit conservation organizations submitting an application for a project to improve the condition of a natural feature such as wetlands on Federal land without a Category A partner must demonstrate that entities described in Category A from the applicable service area have been notified and do not object to the project.

To be eligible, applicants must also be located in one of the following States or Territories: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.
Environmental Water Resources Projects

Criterion A - Project Benefits (35 Points)
Criterion B - Collaborative Project Planning (25 Points)
Criterion C - Stakeholder Support (15 Points)
Criterion D - Readiness to Proceed (10 Points)
Criterion E - Performance Measures (5 Points)
Criterion F - Presidential and DOI Priorities (10 Points)
Environmental Water Resources Projects

Evaluation Criteria

**Criterion A – Project Benefits (35 points)**

*Only answer those questions applicable to your project*

- Describe the benefits to Ecological Values – Tell a story
- Quantification of Project Benefits
  - Quantification of Specific Project Benefits by Project Type
  - Describe extent to which project will benefit multiple water uses

**Criterion B – Collaborative Project Planning (25 points)**

- Description of plan, the issues addressed, and the players involved in plan development
- Description of how the plan supports the project
Environmental Water Resources Projects

Evaluation Criteria

**Criterion C – Stakeholder Support (15 points)**

- Description of who supports the project and letters of support
- Does support come from a diverse group of stakeholders?
- Will the project complement other water management activities?
- Is it on Federal land? If so, does the agency support the project?
- Is there opposition to the project?

**Criterion D – Readiness to Proceed (10 points)**

- Major tasks, milestones, dates (or timeframes). It is helpful to link this schedule to costs/budget.
- Describe required permits and approvals and discuss timeline for receiving.
- Describe design and engineering work that has been done for project.
- Discussion of environmental and cultural resource compliance.
Environmental Water Resources Projects

Evaluation Criteria

**Criterion E – Performance Measures (5 Points)**

- Description of performance measures that will be used to assess project benefits (e.g., continued monitoring of water quality and aquatic organisms)
- Describe plan to monitor the benefits over a five-year period once the project has been completed

**Criterion F – Presidential and DOI Priorities (10 points)**

- Questions related to three priorities
  - Climate Change
  - Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities
  - Tribal Benefits
Environmental Water Resources Projects
Program Requirements Summary

Eligible Applicants
States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; State, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; Other organizations with water or power delivery authority. OR a nonprofit conservation organization partnering with a previously described entity. OR a nonprofit conservation organization completing a natural feature project with support from entities previously described.

Funding Groups
Up to $2,000,000 in Federal funds for projects

Cost Share
25% non-Federal cost share required

Evaluation Criteria
Applications will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria which comprise a total of 100 points.

Important Dates
Pre-award costs date: July 1, 2021
Construction start date limitation (includes installation): September 2022

Deadline: Thursday, December 9th, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. MST
2022 WaterSMART Funding Opportunities Released

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Opportunity</th>
<th>Maximum Federal Funding Levels per Project</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Project Types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drought Resiliency Projects</td>
<td>FGI: $500k</td>
<td>October 5, 2021</td>
<td>Projects that focus on building long-term resilience to drought</td>
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<tr>
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<td>FGII: $2M</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Water and Energy Efficiency Grants</td>
<td>FGI: $500k</td>
<td>November 3, 2021</td>
<td>Water conservation and renewable energy projects</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Water Resources Projects</td>
<td>Up to $2M</td>
<td>December 9, 2021</td>
<td>Broad project eligibility, but focus is on water management projects with environmental and ecological benefits and multi-benefit projects</td>
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</table>
WaterSMART Selection Process
Sample schedule

- **NOFO Posting Phase** (8 weeks)
  - NOFO Posted (January 2021)
  - NOFO Open for approximately 60 Days (March 2021)

- **ARC Review Phase** (12 – 16 Weeks)
  - NOFO Closes (March 2021)
  - ARC Reviews and Ranks Proposals (April-July 2021)

- **Selection Phase** (6-8 Weeks)
  - Selections Announced in Press Release – All Applicants are Notified (Anticipated September 2021)

- **Pre-Award Phase** (3-6 months)
  - Recipient provides detailed budget info, business practices, final scope of work (October – March 2022)
  - Reclamation Awards Funding (Anticipated March 2022)

- **Project Implementation Phase** (2 Years)
  - Recipient Submits Annual Performance and Financial Reports
  - Entity Submits Final Report to Reclamation

Environmental Compliance (3-6 months)

**From NOFO Posting to Award of Funding = 12 - 14 Months**
Application Tips

How do I get a grant?

Start at www.grants.gov
Application Tips
Which WaterSMART NOFO is right for me?

• The most successful projects are those that fit well with the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

• Review the objective of the NOFO, the eligible project types and the evaluation criteria carefully to choose the right NOFO.

• Make sure you present your project in a way that aligns with the NOFO. You may want to make minor revisions. E.g., if you will conserve more water by piping over lining, maybe your project could be revised.

• Application Tip:
  • Contact the Program Coordinator to discuss which NOFO your project fits best under.
  • Look at past successful applications at www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART
Application Tips

General Tips

• **Important**: Read everything in the NOFO!
  - Ask questions if something does not make sense.
• Give yourself plenty of time to write and submit the proposal.
• Copy and paste evaluation criteria into your application.
• Answer all parts of multipart questions.
• Do not assume the Application Review Committee knows you.
• Committee is comprised of Reclamation staff from throughout the Western states.
Application Tips

Additional General Tips

• For large projects, consider doing it in phases and applying for funding in sequential years.
• Previously successful applications are on our website.
• If your application is not awarded, ask for a debriefing to help prepare better proposal next year.
Application Tips

What do I have to include in my application?

• Every WaterSMART NOFO includes a section describing the application content
• Page iii of every NOFO includes Application Checklist
• All of the bulleted items must be included with your application by the application deadline, except those identified with a * may be submitted by the alternate deadline indicated in the NOFO
• Application Tip: Structure your proposal in the order identified in the NOFO

**D.2.2. Application Content:** The application must include the following elements to be considered complete:

- Mandatory Federal Forms
  - SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance
  - SF-424 Budget Information (A or C Form, as applicable to the project)
  - SF-424 Assurances (B or D Form, as applicable to the project)
  - SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)

  These forms may be obtained at [www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html)
- Title page
- Table of contents
- Technical proposal and evaluation criteria (limited to X pages)
  - Executive summary
  - Project location
  - Project description
  - Evaluation criteria
- Project budget
  - Funding plan and letters of commitment
  - Budget proposal
  - Budget narrative
- Environmental and cultural resources compliance
- Required permits or approvals
- Letters of funding commitment
- Letters of project support
- Official resolution*

It is highly recommended that application packages be structured in the order identified above.
Application Tips

Evaluation Criteria

• Make sure you respond to every criterion and every sub-criterion

• Your responses should:
  • Directly respond to the criterion – copy and paste the criteria directly into your proposal and place your response immediately below each criterion/sub-criterion
  • Provide support in the form of quantification or links to reference documents
  • Make the case for how your project meets the criterion – general statements without explanation or support will not score well
  • Don’t assume that the reviewers know about the issues in your area, or the benefits of your project

• Application Tip: Well-supported responses to the evaluation criteria are the key to writing a competitive proposal

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  o Background data
  o Project location
  o Technical project description

• Evaluation Criteria

• Project budget
  o Funding plan Budget proposal
  o Budget narrative
• Environmental and cultural resources compliance
• Required permits or approvals
• Letters of funding commitment
• Letters of project support
• Official resolution*
• Unique Early Identifier and System for Award Management*

It is highly recommended that application packages be structured in the order identified above.
Application Tips
Preparing your budget

- The Application Review Committee uses the budget to confirm their understanding of the project’s scope and intended benefits.

- Should represent all project costs, including those to be paid with Federal funds and non-Federal cost share.

- Must not include costs for work that is being funded under another Federal financial assistance agreement or contract.

- Application Tip: Email SHA-DRO-FAFOA@usbr.gov if you have questions about your budget as you are preparing your proposal.

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- Official resolution*
- Unique Early Identifier and System for Award Management*

It is highly recommended that application packages be structured in the order identified above.
Pre-award Documentation
What to expect after being selected for funding

You may be asked to provide:

- Invoices, quotes, bid tabs or other documentation to support unit prices
- Pre-award system survey
- Single audit
- Letters of commitment
- Pre-award costs

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- Unique Early Identifier and System for Award Management*

It is highly recommended that application packages be structured in the order identified above.
Application Tips

Environmental and Cultural Resource Compliance

• All projects funded through this opportunity must comply with Federal environmental and cultural resource laws. Reclamation regional and area office staff will ensure this compliance. This compliance must occur prior to any ground disturbing activities can take place, including installation of meters and similar devices and monitoring activities.
System Requirements for Applicants

- DUNS number - [https://www.dnb.com/](https://www.dnb.com/)
  - Must have a DUNS number for the applicant organization
Sam.gov registration
(System for Award Management)

• Begin registration process *prior to or no later than* when you are starting to prepare your application
• Sam.gov required at the time of submission of application
• See NOFO
  • Meeting the requirements set forth above is mandatory. If the applicant is unable to complete registration by the application deadline, the unique entity identifier must be obtained, and SAM registration must be initiated within 30 days after the application deadline in order to be considered for selection and award. You can find additional information on how to complete a SAM registration here: https://sam.gov/content/home.
Sam.gov registration, cont.

- If you have a sam.gov registration
- Verify that it is active (not expired)
- Verify that POCs are current and update if needed
- If sam.gov is not active at time of selection the award process will be delayed
- Link: www.sam.gov
Sam.gov User Guide

How to Register Your Entity:
https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp?id=gsa_index
If selected applicants must register in ASAP (Automated Standard Application for Payments)

- If selected for an award, Recipient is required to registering with ASAP
  - If selected, ASAP registration must be completed and active before proceeding with the grant award process
- System used by Recipient to drawdown funds, track grant award account balances
- To begin process of registering with Reclamation, send email to: sha-dro-ASAP_ENR@usbr.gov
  - If already registered – you still must register specifically with Reclamation to be awarded funds
  - Failure to register in a timely manner will delay the awarding of your grant
- This is a multi-step process with specific deadlines to complete each step
  - Failure to complete a step by the stated due date will stop the process and it has to be started again from the beginning
ASAP – Already registered?

- If you have an active/existing ASAP registration
  - Verify the POCS are current/updated
  - Verify that someone from your organization is able to login and access your ASAP account
- Questions about the registration process can be submitted via email to: sha-dro-ASAP_ENR@usbr.gov
Grants Solutions

- System used by Reclamation to accept applications submitted through grants.gov, to award and administer grants
- Applicants continue to submit applications through grants.gov
- If selected, applicants must register in system required to receive and view awards, submit reports, request amendments
How to use Grants.gov

• Register for grants.gov early
• A correct DUNS number is needed to register
• Reclamation partnered with grants.gov to provide a webinar about how to submit a grant application.
  • The webinar and PowerPoint can be found on the WaterSMART program website, or
  • https://youtu.be/uhETFM21HM4
WaterSMART Data Visualization Tool

- Data Visualization Tool is an interactive website with program information including:
  - Interactive maps
  - Featured project tours
  - Program growth over time

https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/
WaterSMART Program Resources

• WaterSMART Program Website: https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/index.html
  • Note: Successful proposals are available on the website for each program

• For information about upcoming WaterSMART Funding Opportunities, send an email to watersmart@usbr.gov with your name and email address

• Funding Opportunities can be found at: www.grants.gov
Questions?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>WEEG</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Josh German</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Maribeth Menendez</strong></th>
<th><strong>Robin Graber</strong></th>
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