



Water Recycling and Desalination Programs

Water recycling and desalination are essential tools for stretching limited water supplies in the Western United States. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) provides cost-shared funding on a competitive basis for planning, design, and construction of water recycling and desalination projects. Funding is made available for projects through the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program, the Desalination Construction Program, and the Large-Scale Water Recycling Program.

Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program

Reclamation's WaterSMART Title XVI Program provides up to 25% cost-shared funding for the planning, design, and construction of water reuse projects, with a per-project maximum of \$30 million, unless otherwise specified by Congress. Funding is provided annually through funding opportunities. Applicants must be located in the western United States or United States Territories as identified in the Reclamation Act of 1902 as amended, or Hawaii. Fiscal year 2023 appropriations included \$60 million dollars for the Title XVI Program. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding available for the Title XVI Program includes \$550 million over five years.



Water Replenishment District of Southern California, Groundwater Reliability Improvement Program Recycled Water Project

The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN), P.L. 114-322, was enacted in December 2016, to address water resources infrastructure that is critical to the nation's economic growth, health and competitiveness. The amendments in Section 4009 of Subtitle J of WIIN allow new desalination and water recycling projects to be eligible for federal funding through amendments to Reclamation's Title XVI Program and to the Desalination Act.

Desalination Construction Program

Reclamation provides up to 25% cost-shared funding under the WIIN amendments to the Water Desalination Act of 1996 for planning, design, and construction of ocean or brackish water desalination projects. Funding is allocated through an annual competitive process. Projects must be located in the 17 Western United States. Fiscal year 2023 appropriations included \$12 million for desalination construction projects. BIL funding available for WIIN Act Desalination Construction projects includes \$250 million over five years.

Large Scale Water Recycling Program

Reclamation provides cost-shared funding under Section 40905 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), P.L. 117-58 for planning, design, and construction of large-scale water recycling projects. Funding is allocated through a competitive process for projects with an approved feasibility and a total project cost greater than or equal to \$500 million. Projects must be located in the 17 Western United States. BIL funding available for Large-Scale Water Recycling projects includes \$450 million over five years.

Water Recycling and Desalination Planning

Reclamation provides cost-shared funding for the planning of water recycling and desalination projects to facilitate project development including the preparation of new feasibility studies that meet water recycling and desalination construction program requirements. Funding is allocated through a competitive process. Applicants must be located in the western United States or United States Territories as identified in the Reclamation Act of 1902 as amended, or Hawaii.

For more information: Please visit <https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/> or contact Maribeth Menendez, at 303-445-2094 or mmenendez@usbr.gov.