WaterSMART Program
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
June 15, 2022
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
Today’s Presenters

Water Resources and Planning Office
• Josh German

Financial Assistance Operations
• Christina Munoz
Agenda Overview

• WaterSMART Basics
• FY23 WEEG
  • Eligible Applicants
  • Eligible Projects
  • Program Funding
  • Evaluation Criteria
• Application Tips
• System Requirements
• Program Resources
• Questions
WaterSMART Program Basics

Most WaterSMART activities are grant programs.

Generally, a 50% non-Federal cost share is required for grants under WaterSMART. However, under the EWRP, non-federal cost-share may be 25% dependent on environmental value.

States, tribes, cities, irrigation, water and flood control districts, and conservation nonprofits including watershed groups, located in the 17 Western United States and territories, AK, HI, and Puerto Rico.

Funding is allocated through annual competitive processes.
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
Applicant Eligibility

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.

All Category A applicants must also be located in the Western United States or Territories as identified in the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, as amended and supplemented; specifically: 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.

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.

All Category B applicants must be located in the United States or the specific Territories identified above.
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
Project Eligibility

Eligible Projects (Section C.4.)

• 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

Ineligible Projects (Section C.5.)
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
Program Funding

Funding Groups
• Funding Group I: Up to $500k in 2 years
• Funding Group II: Up to $2 million in 3 years
• Funding Group III: Up to $5 million in 3 years

WaterSMART Grants Funding in FY 2023
• FY 2023 Appropriations: TBD
• BIL Funding
  • FY22 Spend Plan: $120M
  • FY23 Spend Plan: $112.5M

All proposals require a non-Federal cost share of 50% or greater. Note: this cost-sharing requirement is not applicable to American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands.

In general ARPA funding may be counted toward non-Federal cost-share requirements for WaterSMART Grants.
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
Evaluation Criteria

- Criterion A - Quantifiable Water Savings (28 Points)
- Criterion B - Renewable Energy (20 Points)
- Criterion C - Sustainability 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
Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

• All selected projects must comply with Federal environmental and cultural resource laws

• Reclamation regional and area offices complete compliance

• Compliance must occur prior to any ground disturbing activities including installation of any equipment or monitoring devices
NOFO Closes ARC Review Phase (12-16 Weeks) ARC Reviews and Ranks Proposals Selection Phase (6-8 Weeks) Selections Announced in Press Release – All Applicants are Notified Pre-Award Phase (8-12 Weeks) Recipient provides detailed budget info, business practices, final scope of work Reclamation Awards Funding Project Implementation (2-3 Years) Recipient Submits Annual Performance and Financial Reports Entity Submits Final Report to Reclamation Environmental Compliance (3-12 months)

From NOFO Posting to Award of Funding = 12-14 Months
### Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

**Program Requirements Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Eligible Applicants</strong></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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding Groups</strong></td>
<td>Up to $5,00,000 in Federal funds for projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost Share</strong></td>
<td>50% non-Federal cost share required</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Evaluation Criteria</strong></td>
<td>Applications will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria which comprise a total of 100 points.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Important Dates**      | **Pre-award costs date:** April 1, 2022  
**Construction start date limitation (includes installation):** May 2023                                                                                                                    |

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**Deadline:** Thursday, July 28th, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. MDT
Application Tips
Where to Start

Start at www.grants.gov

Search for opportunity R23AS00008
Application Tips
Where to Start

Go to the “Related Documents” tab and download the full NOFO PDF.
Application Tips
Proposal Preparation

• Give yourself plenty of time to write and submit the proposal

• Submit a few days before deadline

• Application Checklist

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**Application Checklist**

This table summarizes the information you are required to submit with your application.

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<tr>
<th>What to submit</th>
<th>Required content</th>
<th>Form or format</th>
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<td>Application for Federal Financial Assistance</td>
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<td>Disclosure of Lobbying Activities</td>
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<td>SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, SF-424D, Project Abstract</td>
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<td>Summary, and SF-LLL forms may be obtained at</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/SF-424-familly.html">www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/SF-424-familly.html</a></td>
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<td>Executive summary</td>
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<td>Project location</td>
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<td>Technical project description</td>
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<td>Performance measures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation criteria</td>
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<td>Project Budget:</td>
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<td>Funding plan</td>
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<td>Project narrative</td>
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<td>Environmental and cultural resources compliance</td>
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<td>Certification Regarding Lobbying</td>
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<td>Management</td>
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Application Tips
What do I include in my application?

- Every WaterSMART NOFO includes a section describing the application content
- All bulleted items must be included with your application by the application deadline
  - Exception for Official Resolution—may be submitted up to 30 days after NOFO closes
- 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. Note, applications submitted by consultants must contain an SF-424 and SF-424D that is manually signed by an authorized representative of the entity applying.
  - SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance
  - SF-424 Budget Information- Construction Programs (this form is acceptable for both construction and non-construction projects)
  - SF-424D Assurances- Construction Programs
  - Project Abstract Summary (OMB Number 4040-0019)
  - 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 50 pages)
  - Executive summary
  - Project location
  - Technical 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 support for the project and letters of participation (will not count towards the total page limitation)
- Official resolution (will not count towards the total page limitation)
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Uniform Audit Reporting Statement
- Certification Regarding Lobbying

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. Do not take anything for granted.

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

• Mandatory Federal Forms
  o SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance
  o SF-424 Budget Information (A or C Form, as applicable to the project)
  o SF-424 Assurances (B or D Form, as applicable to the project)
  o SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)
    These forms may be obtained at www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html

• Title page
• Table of contents
• Technical proposal and evaluation criteria (limited to X pages)
  o Executive summary
  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 the budget

- The Application Review Committee uses the budget to confirm their understanding of the project’s scope and intended benefits.
- The Grants Management Specialist will use the budget to ensure all project costs are allowable, allocable to the project activities, and reasonable.
- 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.

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
- Title page
- Table of contents
- Technical proposal and evaluation criteria (limited to X pages)
  - Executive summary
  - Background data
  - Project location
  - Technical project description
- Project budget
  - Funding plan Budget proposal
  - 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.
System Requirements for Applicants
Sam.gov Registration

- 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

- A UEI will be assigned to entities upon registering with Sam.gov.
System Requirements for Applicants
Sam.gov Registration (cont.)

• For sam.gov registration, must:
  • Verify account is active (not expired)
  • Verify POCs are current

• Inactive sam.gov account will delay award process

• Link: www.sam.gov
Sam.gov User Guide

How to Register Your Entity:
https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp?id=gsa_index
System Requirements for Applicants

Grants.gov

• Register for grants.gov early

• UEI number needed to register

• Grants.gov “How To” webinar
  • Posted on the WaterSMART website, or https://youtu.be/uhETFM21HM4
System Requirements for Applicants
Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP)

• Recipient is required to register with ASAP
  • ASAP registration must be completed and active before proceeding with the grant award process
  • ASAP used by Recipient to drawdown funds and track grant award account balances

• To begin process of registering for ASAP 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
  • Not registering in a timely manner will delay the awarding of a grant

• This is a multi-step process with specific deadlines to complete each step
  • Not completing a step by due date will force a restart of the entire process
System Requirements for Applicants
Automated Standard Application for Registration (ASAP)

• For existing ASAP registrations
  • Verify account is active (not expired)
  • Verify the POCs are current
  • Verify that someone from your organization can login and access the ASAP account

• Questions about the registration process can be submitted via email to: sha-dro-ASAP_ENR@usbr.gov
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

ASAP help desk 855-868-0151
System Requirements for Applicants

GrantSolutions

- Applications submitted through grants.gov feeds to GrantSolutions
- If selected, applicants must register in GrantSolutions
Program Resources
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/
Program Resources

Other

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

• For information about upcoming WaterSMART Funding Opportunities, sign up at www.usbr.gov/watersmart

• Debriefings for unsuccessful applicants
# Program Resources

## WaterSMART Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Funding Opportunity</th>
<th>Post Date</th>
<th>Close Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drought Response Program</td>
<td>Drought Contingency Planning FY 2022</td>
<td>Posted on February 15, 2022</td>
<td>April 14, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drought Resiliency Projects FY 2023</td>
<td>Posted on March 24, 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 15, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Response Actions</td>
<td>Applications for emergency drought assistance are accepted on an ongoing basis</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects FY 2022</td>
<td>Posted on February 24, 2022</td>
<td>April 28, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Marketing Strategy Grants</td>
<td>Expected November 2022</td>
<td>Expected January 2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Water Resource Projects</td>
<td>Environmental Water Resources Projects FY 2023</td>
<td>Expected fall 2022</td>
<td>Expected fall 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions?

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