

# Committee Report

Environment Committee



Committee Meeting Date: April 26, 2022

For the Metropolitan Council: May 4, 2022

## Business Item: 2022-108

Water Efficiency Grant Program Awards

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute the Water Efficiency Grant Program grants recommended in Attachment A in the total amount of \$997,920.

### Summary of Environment Committee Discussion/Questions

Committee Member Zeran inquired if any of communities experience any issues administering the program. Staff stated the main issue is staffing and the verification of installation.

Committee Member Zeran, as a follow up, asked if Council staff could help. Staff stated some communities have requested assistance and have built familiarity as they have been involved in the program. We are looking into the possibility of on-line verification to help with support.

Committee Member Sterner asked if there have been communities that have requested additional funding. Staff stated some communities have dropped out of the program due to retirements and transfer of knowledge was not available. We are evaluating the program and hope to provide additional support to continue educating about program availability.

Committee Member Sterner, as a follow up, asked if most of the 7-county metropolitan area are familiar with the program. Staff stated we have been working with other areas of the Council to assist with marketing of the program.

Motion by Zeran, seconded by Wulff. Motion carried.



# Business Item

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Water Efficiency Grant Program Awards

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minnesota Session Law 2021, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 8(b)
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Brian Davis, Principal Engineer, 651-602-1519
<b>Division/Department:</b>	MCES c/o Leisa Thompson, 651-602-8101

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute the Water Efficiency Grant Program grants recommended in Attachment A in the total amount of \$997,920.

### Background

The Metropolitan Council (Council) will implement a Water Efficiency Grant Program effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024. The goal of the Water Efficiency Grant Program is to support technical and behavioral changes that improve municipal water use efficiency in the seven-county metropolitan area.

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to municipalities that manage municipal water systems. The Council will provide 80% of the program cost; the municipality must provide the remaining 20%. Municipalities will use the combined Council and municipality funds to operate their own grant or rebate programs. Grants will be made available in amounts with a minimum of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$50,000. Grantees will be required to provide estimated water savings achieved through this program for Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment reporting purposes. Grant monies not used by municipalities can be transferred to other municipalities.

### Rationale

Water demand in the Twin Cities metropolitan area is increasing in concert with population increase. This increase in water demand is placing greater stress on the aquifers that provide potable water to 75% of the residents in the metropolitan area and contributing to the need for additional water supply wells. The Water Efficiency Grant Program will provide financial aid to communities to replace old and inefficient toilets, clothes washers, irrigation controllers, irrigation spray heads, and dishwashers with more efficient WaterSense and Energy Star-labeled replacements. This will help reduce stress on our aquifers and potentially reduce the number of new water supply wells needed in the future.

### **Thrive Lens Analysis**

This action supports the Thrive MSP 2040 stewardship and sustainability outcomes and the water sustainability goal of the Water Resources Policy Plan. Increased water efficiency will help protect our aquifers and save money for both residents and utilities.

### **Funding**

The Water Efficiency Grant Program is funded by the Minnesota Legislature, 2021 First Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 8(b).

### **Small Business Inclusion**

None at this time.



Attachment A. Water Efficiency Grant Awards

<b>Community</b>	<b>Award</b>
Apple Valley	\$35,000
Bayport	\$8,000
Bloomington	\$25,000
Chanhassen	\$34,440
Circle Pines	\$9,600
Coon Rapids	\$26,000
Cottage Grove	\$43,000
Eagan	\$42,000
Eden Prairie	\$44,000
Farmington	\$11,000
Forest Lake	\$26,000
Fridley	\$10,000
Hugo	\$36,000
Lake Elmo	\$43,000
Lakeville	\$43,000
Lino Lakes	\$24,000
Maple Grove	\$45,000
Minnetonka	\$22,000
New Brighton	\$28,000

<b>Community</b>	<b>Award</b>
North St. Paul	\$22,000
Plymouth	\$35,000
Prior Lake	\$9,600
Ramsey	\$19,800
Robbinsdale	\$6,080
Rosemount	\$34,000
Roseville	\$12,000
Savage	\$30,000
Shakopee PUC	\$49,000
Shoreview	\$16,000
Shorewood	\$8,400
St. Louis Park	\$25,000
Stillwater	\$25,000
Victoria	\$39,000
White Bear Lake	\$23,000
White Bear Township	\$38,000
Woodbury	\$40,000

