



Business Item 2024-30:

2024-2026 Water Efficiency Grant Program
Application Process



Environment Committee: January 23, 2024

Henry McCarthy, Environmental Scientist
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

Overview

- Minnesota Session Law 2023, Chapter 40, Article 2, Section 8(b)
 - \$750,000 the first year and \$750,000 the second year are for the water demand reduction grants to assist municipalities in the metropolitan area with implementing water demand reduction measures to ensure the reliability and protection of drinking water supplies.
- Goal: support technical and behavioral changes that improve municipal water use efficiency in the seven-county metropolitan area

Total appropriation of \$1.5 million

Program plan for 2024-2026

- \$1,100,000 for existing grant program structure
 - *Planning to solicit applications for the standard grant program in mid-February (2/15)*
- \$400,000 to expand equity pilot projects
 - *Convening conversations with communities to co-create program in 2024*



Award and selection details

Awards

\$1,100,000 available July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026

- Must be served by a municipal public water supply system
- Grant award range: \$5,000 – \$50,000
- Requires matching amount: 20% municipality, 80% Council

Selection criteria note

Criteria used to inform the amount granted:

- Identified water supply issues in Master Water Supply Plan Community Profiles or Local Water Supply Plans
- Ratio of peak monthly water use to winter monthly water use
- Average residential per capita water use
- Order of applications

Eligible Expenses for 2024 - 2026



- Toilet replacement
- Irrigation controller replacement
- Irrigation spray sprinkler body replacement
- Irrigation system audit
- Clothes washing machine replacement
- Residential dishwasher replacement
- Showerhead replacement (*community-sourced addition*)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approves Business Item 2024-30 on the process for the 2024-2026 Water Efficiency Grant Program described in Attachment A and authorizes staff to advertise the availability of grant funding and solicit applications.

Anticipated timeline and next steps



- Environment Committee: January 23
- Council Approval: February 14
- Announce Program: February 15
- Application Deadline: March 29
- Grant Decisions Complete: April 26
- Environment Committee: May 14
- Council Approval: May 22
- Grants Awarded: May 24
- Program Begins: July 1

Thank you

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<https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Supply-Planning/Grants/Water-Efficiency-Grant-Program.aspx>

