

# Committee Report

Environment Committee



**Committee Meeting Date:** May 14, 2024

**For the Metropolitan Council:** May 22, 2024

## Business Item: 2024-121

2024-2026 Water Efficiency Grant Program

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approves Business Item 2024-121 and authorizes its Regional Administrator to award and execute the Water Efficiency Grant Program grants in the total amount of \$1,097,880.

### Summary of Environment Committee Discussion/Questions

- CM Cederburg asked: Why would you rank the when the application is received when there is a deadline in place?
- Staff Responded: This was how we have done it in the past, going forward we would eliminate that criteria.
- CM Wulff asked: Since we have more requests for the grant program this year, how are you determining how much would go toward the equity program and how can cities be a part of the equity program?
- Staff responded: The plan for the equity pilot program is to connect with cities and find out how we can best connect with them. We have survey out right now to collect interest from cities. We have not set limits on who can participate at this point. We're planning on creating a committee to get feedback from the cities.
- CM Wulff asked: Any city that is eligible for the water efficiency grant program is eligible for the equity program?
- Staff responded: If they meet the criteria that will be established by the group that creates the criteria.
- CM Carter asked: What are typical uses for the grant money and do cities need to indicate what the grant money will be used for when they apply?
- Staff responded: When cities apply, they submit in their application what sorts of water using devices they are interested in having in their program.

Motion by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Morales. Motion carried.

# Business Item

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2024-2026 Water Efficiency Grant Program

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minnesota Session Law 2023, Chapter 40, Article 2, Section 8(b)
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Henry McCarthy, Environmental Scientist, Water Resources (651-602-1946) Jen Kostrzewski, Assistant Manager, Water Resources (651-602-1078)
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Environmental Services / Water Resources

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approves Business Item 2024-121 and authorizes its Regional Administrator to award and execute the Water Efficiency Grant Program grants in the total amount of \$1,097,880.

### Background

The Metropolitan Council (Met Council) will implement a Water Efficiency Grant Program effective July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026. 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 Met Council will provide 80% of the program cost; the municipality must provide the remaining 20%. Municipalities will use the combined Met 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, showerheads, irrigation controllers, irrigation spray sprinkler bodies, and dishwashers with more efficient WaterSense and Energy Star-labeled replacements. The Water Efficiency Grant Program will also provide financial aid to communities to fund irrigation system audits by an Irrigation Professional certified by a US EPA WaterSense program. 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 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. \$1,100,000 has been allocated for the classic Water Efficiency Grant Program, the awards amounts for this allocation are included in this document. The remaining \$400,000 of this funding has been allocated to an equity-focused municipal water efficiency pilot program, which will be co-created with communities later in 2024.

### **Small Business Inclusion**

NA





<b>Community</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Apple Valley	\$50,000	\$43,000
Arden Hills	\$8,000	\$8,000
Bayport	\$6,000	\$6,000
Bloomington	\$28,000	\$20,000
Brooklyn Park	\$16,000	\$13,000
Centerville	\$5,000	\$5,000
Chanhassen	\$20,000	\$19,000
Coon Rapids	\$50,000	\$36,000
Cottage Grove	\$50,000	\$47,000
Eagan	\$50,000	\$43,000
Eden Prairie	\$50,000	\$43,000
Farmington	\$14,400	\$12,400
Forest Lake	\$40,000	\$27,000
Fridley	\$21,200	\$15,200
Hopkins	\$40,000	\$31,000
Lake Elmo	\$50,000	\$50,000
Lakeville	\$50,000	\$46,000
Lino Lakes	\$24,000	\$22,000
Little Canada	\$20,000	\$15,000
Maple Grove	\$28,000	\$24,000
Minnetonka	\$32,000	\$25,000
Mounds View	\$40,000	\$29,000
New Brighton	\$50,000	\$36,000
North St. Paul	\$50,000	\$33,000
Plymouth	\$50,000	\$43,000
Prior Lake	\$20,000	\$18,000
Ramsey	\$15,000	\$14,000
Robbinsdale	\$12,000	\$10,000
Rosemount	\$28,000	\$27,000
Roseville	\$32,000	\$22,000
Shakopee	\$50,000	\$40,000
Shoreview	\$18,000	\$15,000
Shorewood	\$12,480	\$12,480
Saint Paul	\$50,000	\$37,000

St. Louis Park	\$50,000	\$34,000
Stillwater	\$30,000	\$23,000
Vadnais Heights	\$24,800	\$20,800
Victoria	\$40,000	\$35,000
White Bear Lake	\$16,000	\$12,000
White Bear Township	\$50,000	\$42,000
Woodbury	\$50,000	\$44,000

