

Funding for Wastewater Disinfection



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Clean Water Fund Program

When is Wastewater Disinfection Required?

Wisconsin's water quality standards include a recreational designated use (s. NR 102.04(5)(a), Wis. Adm. Code) for all surface waters within the state. The DNR must consider factors listed in s. NR 210.06 (3), Wis. Adm. Code, when determining the need for wastewater disinfection to protect this recreational use.

The DNR recently updated its program guidance, "Disinfection Requirements for Discharges to Recreational Use Waters," which clarifies how factors in ch. NR 210, Wis. Adm. Code, may be applied to publicly and privately owned domestic sewage treatment works that discharge to Wisconsin surface waters.

As a result, approximately an additional 100 municipal wastewater treatment facilities will be required to install, upgrade, or operate disinfection equipment over the next 10 years.

Site-specific disinfection decisions will be made during a permittee's next permit reissuance. Permittees may receive a compliance schedule for complying with disinfection requirements and to allow time for new equipment to be installed.

Available Funding

The Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) provides low-cost financing to Wisconsin municipalities in the form of subsidized loans (**reduced-interest rate loans**) for *publicly owned* wastewater and storm water projects that protect and improve public health and water quality. The CWFP also includes projects for compliance with a municipality's Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit.

- Learn more at dnr.wi.gov/Aid/EIF.html

Eligible Projects and Costs

The program funds are for reasonable and necessary costs directly related to the **planning, design, and construction** of eligible projects, including wastewater disinfection upgrades or installation. Funds may be used to construct, improve, modify, purchase, replace, restore, and upgrade wastewater systems and infrastructure, such as collection, transmission, storage, treatment, and disposal.

Project Examples

- Ultraviolet (UV) disinfection treatment
- Chlorine disinfection treatment

Ineligible Projects and Costs

Costs for items and activities not directly associated with or not necessary for the construction or startup of a scored project are not eligible for funding, such as operation and maintenance costs.



Photo credits: Amy Garbe, DNR

Funding for Wastewater Disinfection

Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP)

How to Apply

Application guidance and considerations are available on the How to Apply tab at dnr.wi.gov/Aid/EIF.html

Deadlines

Oct. 31 – Submit a notice of Intent to Apply (ITA) with Priority Evaluation and Ranking Formula (PERF) information and required documentation via the [online ITA system](#) by Oct. 31, 2025, to be eligible for funding in SFY 2027.

Sept. 30 – Submit a Financial Assistance Application with all required documents via the [online application system](#) by Sept. 30, 2026, if requesting Principal Forgiveness for the SFY 2027 funding cycle. Note: Applications are accepted anytime during the state fiscal year if not seeking PF.



Types of Funding

Under the CWFP, municipalities may receive financial assistance in the form of subsidized loans. Some municipalities may also be eligible for additional subsidy in the form of principal forgiveness. The program can finance construction as it takes place as well as refinance interim debt and reimburse internal funds a municipality temporarily used to pay for project costs before receiving its CWFP loan.

- **Subsidized loans** - Program subsidy buys down the market rate on loans. The standard interest rate is 55% of the market rate, see all rates at dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/EIF/Guide/Interest.html
- **Principal forgiveness** - PF is comparable to a grant because it reduces the size of the CWFP loan, thus reducing annual principal and interest payments, dnr.wi.gov/aid/documents/eif/guide/pf.html

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding

In State Fiscal Years 2023-2027, the Wisconsin CWFP and Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) will benefit from significant additional funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The BIL funding increases the amount of PF available in both programs; creates additional funding for lead service line replacements, both public and private; and provides funding specifically for projects to address emerging contaminants such as PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances). Learn more at dnr.wi.gov/Aid/BILfunding

DNR Contact Information

Direct *technical* questions about wastewater disinfection upgrade or installation projects to:

- Amy Garbe, DNR Statewide Wastewater Compliance Coordinator at 262-574-2135 or Amy.Garbe@wisconsin.gov.

Direct *funding* questions about wastewater disinfection upgrade or installation projects to:

- Lisa Bushby, DNR Statewide CWFP Coordinator, at 608-358-3330 or Lisa.Bushby@wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 101 S. Webster Street, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921

Handout 10/09/2025

Visit us at dnr.wi.gov

For general information call 1-888-936-7463

[DNR Staff Directory](#)

Legal notice: This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in state statutes or administrative rules are referenced. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing state statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication is offered in other formats upon request, call 608-267-9481.

