Leveraging WaterSMART Grants for Innovative Water Infrastructure Investments

August 18th, 2021
12pm PT/1 pm MT
Today’s Speakers

SHERI LOOPER
Drought Coordinator, Bureau of Reclamation

JOSH GERMAN
Program Analyst, Bureau of Reclamation

ROBIN GRABER
Program Analyst, Bureau of Reclamation

MARIBETH MENENDEZ
Program Analyst, Bureau of Reclamation

KATHY FLANAGAN
Senior Management Analyst, Southern Nevada Water Authority

GEORGIA BEESEMYER
Project Manager, WaterNow Alliance

VICTORIA ARLING
Colorado Basin Program Manager, WaterNow Alliance
Agenda

- About WaterNow Alliance
- Overview of WaterSMART grants
- WaterSMART grantee case study: Southern Nevada Water Authority
- Exploring the Tap into Resilience Toolkit
- Audience Q&A
You ask:
How do I use these awesome tools?

Joshua Jones answered:
You are already using one of the most awesome tools. We'll discuss the rest right away.
PLEASE COMPLETE OUR WEBINAR EVALUATION!

waternow alliance
water leaders. resilient solutions.
WaterNow Alliance

WHO ARE WE?
WaterNow Alliance is a forum and network of local water leaders advancing sustainable, affordable, equitable and climate resilient water strategies.
WHAT DO WE MEAN BY SUSTAINABLE?

Providing safe, healthy, and affordable water services for people while preserving the integrity of water resources and the environment for future generations.
WHAT DO WE MEAN BY EQUITABLE?

Water equity means universal access to secure, affordable, safe, and healthy drinking water, and wastewater and stormwater management services. Equitable water infrastructure investment should support the long-term sustainability of our waterways, water systems, and utilities.
WaterSMART Program
Water Resources and Planning Office
August 18, 2021
WaterSMART Program

Provides a framework for Interior to support water supply reliability for multiple water users.
WaterSMART Program Overview

• Increases water supply reliability through investments and attention to local water conflicts
• Supports water conservation and water management improvements to help meet competing demands for water
• Leverages Federal and non-Federal funding
• Relies on collaboration with stakeholders to develop local solutions to water supply issues
These 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.
WaterSMART Grants

Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Eligible Project Types

- 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

Funding

- Funding Group I: Up to $500k in 2 years
- Funding Group II: Up to $2 million in 3 years
WaterSMART Grants

Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Criteria

- Quantifiable Water Savings (28 points)
- Renewable Energy (20 points)
- Sustainability Benefits (20 points)
- Complementing On-Farm Irrigation Improvements (10 points)
- Planning and Implementation (8 points)
- Collaboration (6 points)
- Additional Non-Federal Funding (4 points)
- Nexus to Reclamation (4 points)
Drought Response Program

**Drought Resiliency Projects**

**Eligible Project Types**
- Infrastructure Improvements
- New conveyance system components
- Additional water storage
- Recharge facilities
- Capture and treat alternative supplies
- Decision Support Tools & Modeling

**Funding**
- Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater.
- Funding Level I: $500k 2 years
- Funding Level II: $2 million 3 years

**Criteria**
- Project Benefits (30 points)
- Sustainability and Supplemental Benefits (20 points)
- Drought Planning and Preparedness (15 points)
- Drought Impacts to be Addressed by Project (15 points)
- Project Implementation (10 points)
- Nexus to Reclamation (10 points)
New in 2022

Environmental Water Resources Projects

Eligible Project Types

• Broad project eligibility, but focus is on environmental/ecological benefits and multi-benefit projects
  • Projects benefitting habitat, ecosystems, and species
  • Multi-benefit projects
  • Watershed restoration

Funding

• Non-Federal Cost Share: 25% or greater.
• Funding Level: Up to $2 million 3 years

Criteria

• Project Benefits (35 points)
• Collaborative Project Planning (25 points)
• Stakeholder Support (15 points)
• Readiness to Proceed (10 points)
• Performance Measures (5 points)
• Presidential and DOI Priorities (10 points)
### 2022 WaterSMART Funding Opportunities Released

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Opportunity</th>
<th>Maximum Federal Funding Levels per Project</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Project Types</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Drought Resiliency Projects</strong></td>
<td>FGI: $500k</td>
<td>October 5, 2021</td>
<td>Projects that focus on building long-term resilience to drought</td>
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<td>FGII: $2M</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Water and Energy Efficiency Grants</strong></td>
<td>FGI: $500k</td>
<td>November 3, 2021</td>
<td>Water conservation and renewable energy projects</td>
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<td>FGII: $2M</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Environmental Water Resources Projects</strong></td>
<td>Up to $2M</td>
<td>December 9, 2021</td>
<td>Broad project eligibility, but focus is on environmental and ecological benefits and multi-benefit projects</td>
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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/
WaterSMART Program Resources

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

• For information about upcoming WaterSMART Funding Opportunities, send an email to watersmart@usbr.gov with your name and email address

• Funding Opportunities can be found at: www.grants.gov

• Helpful information for submitting proposals on Grants.gov can be found on the WaterSMART program website
Questions?

**WEEG**
Josh German
303-445-2839
jgerman@usbr.gov
Maribeth Menendez
303-445-2094
mmenendez@usbr.gov

**EWRP**
Josh German
303-445-2839
jgerman@usbr.gov
Robin Graber
303-445-2764
rgraber@usbr.gov

**Drought**
Sheri Looper
916-978-5556
slooper@usbr.gov
Seven out of every 10 Nevadans rely on the SNWA to supply water to homes and businesses.
Southern Nevada is nearly fully reliant on the Colorado River to meet the community’s water demands.
Southern Nevada recycles 99% of water used indoors, thereby extending the availability of its resources.
The SNWA has spent **decades** ensuring the reliability of water supplies for Southern Nevada.

- **INFRASTRUCTURE**: Constructing major facilities and asset management
- **RESOURCE PLANNING**: Working with partners & developing comprehensive plans to manage supplies
- **WATER BANKING**: Storing water supplies for the future
- **CONSERVATION**: Incentives, programs, regulation & pricing
Since 2000, the Colorado River has been experiencing severe drought conditions, affecting Lake Mead’s water levels.
Development codes, regulations and conservation programs have allowed Southern Nevada to grow efficiently and sustainably.
KEY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

- Watering Schedule (Time-of-Day and Day-of-Week)
- Development Codes
- Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate Program
- Water Waste Reporting App
- Leak Detection
- Water Smart Landscape Rebate Program
An average 15,000 square-foot conversion saves 825,000 gallons each year (or $300 a month)
Comparison of Annual Water Application
Lawn vs. Water Smart Landscape

- Lawns: 73 gallons per square foot annually
- Water Smart Landscape: 17 gallons per square foot annually
NON-FUNCTIONAL TURF

Unused turf is wasted water.

- Medians
- Roundabouts
- Neighborhood entries
- Pocket parks
- Front yards
- Unused back yards

Non-functional turf is aesthetic only; only walked on by landscapers.
A new law passed during Nevada’s 81st Legislative Session prohibits our community’s water supplies from watering existing unused grass by 2027. *Single family residential homes excluded.*

**ESTIMATED NON-FUNCTIONAL TURF:**
5,000 acres (218 million sq. ft)

**POTENTIAL WATER SAVINGS:**
12.2 billion gallons (37,400 acre-feet)
BOR WATERSMART GRANTS: WEEG

• The SNWA last applied during the Fiscal Year 2019 Grant Cycle

• Awarded $1,500,000 over three years (2020-2023)

• Estimated results:
  • Conversion of 9,532,374 square feet of lawn to water-efficient landscaping
  • Anticipated water savings of 1,632 acre-feet per year
  • Projected energy savings of 3,456,576 kWh per year
QUESTIONS:

kathy.flanagan@snwa.com

(702) 258-3173
TIME FOR A POLL
TAP INTO RESILIENCE

✓ Creates pathways and opportunities to invest capital at large scale in decentralized infrastructure

✓ Expanding the definition of water infrastructure to include distributed solutions

✓ Putting distributed installations on non-utility owned properties in multi-year capital plans along with conventional counterparts
WHAT IS ONSITE, LOCALIZED, DISTRIBUTED WATER INFRASTRUCTURE?

- Distributed over many properties, public and private
- Not owned and operated by city/utility/water agency
- Operate in concert with built infrastructure
- Paid for by the utility
CATEGORIES OF DISTRIBUTED INFRASTRUCTURE

- Stormwater and Flood Management
- Private Service Line Replacement
- Water Use Efficiency and Conservation
BIG PICTURE BENEFITS OF LOCALIZED STRATEGIES

✓ Environmentally sustainable
✓ Build climate resilience
✓ Often more affordable
✓ Advance social equity
✓ Protect public health
✓ Create local, green jobs

https://tapin.waternow.org/explore-strategies
Do you have a sustainability vision for your city? Our toolkit is here to help.

Visit tapin.waternow.org/toolkit to view full toolkit
WaterSMART Grants

Established in 2010, the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resoures for Tomorrow) program provides federal leadership and financial assistance for the efficient use of water in the Western United States. Each year the Bureau of Reclamation allocates millions of dollars in grant funding through the WaterSMART program to support Western states, tribes and local water providers they plan and implement actions to advance their water efficiency and supply reliability priorities.

Click through the sub-sections below to learn about what WaterSMART is, the types of projects eligible WaterSMART funding, Water & Energy Efficiency Grants, Small Scale Water Efficiency Projects, Drought Resiliency Projects, Water Conservation Field Services Program Grants, and WaterNow's WaterSMART Grant Application Support.

What is WaterSMART?

Eligibility & Application Process

Water & Energy Efficiency Grants

Small Scale Water Efficiency Projects Grants

Drought Resiliency Projects

Water Conservation Field Services Program Grants

WaterSMART Grant Application Support

COMING SOON - Environmental Water Resources Projects Grants

Drought Resiliency Projects

The Drought Resiliency Projects (DRP) grant is intended for projects that improve the ability of a water manager to continue to deliver water and power during a drought and should decrease vulnerabilities and costs of drought. Eligible projects fall into three different categories: increasing the reliability of water supplies, improving water management, and providing benefits for fish, wildlife, and the environment.

While many DRP projects focus on large-scale infrastructure improvements, funding is also available for distributed infrastructure strategies including:

- Constructing stormwater capture and reuse systems, including green stormwater infrastructure solutions such as rain gardens, cisterns, and bioswales
- Installing residential graywater and rain catchment systems

As of FY22, applicants can request federal funding of up to $500,000 for projects that could be completed in two years (Funding Group 1) or up to $2 million for projects that could be completed in three years (Funding Group 2) with a 50% non-Federal cost-share match. Click here to get no-cost, hands-on assistance to apply for a DRP grant. The FY22 application window will be closing on October 5, 2021.

DRP evaluation criteria for FY22 are included below. More details on each of the evaluation criteria can be found in the FY22 DRP Funding Opportunity Announcement linked below.

In FY21, Reclamation awarded $15.4 million in DRP funding to 18 communities.
WaterNow Alliance offers Western water providers pro-bono, hands-on assistance to apply for the Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSMART funding opportunities.

Support includes:

- 1-on-1 calls to explain programs and address specific project questions
- Connections and guidance on calls with relevant WaterSMART staff
- Research on specific application questions
- Application and budget templates
- And more!

bit.ly/WaterSMARTsupport
JOIN THE ALLIANCE

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP

www.waternow.org/join-the-leaders
AUDIENCE Q&A
THANK YOU

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL
GB@WATERNOW.ORG
VA@WATERNOW.ORG