

Suffolk County



Water Quality Protection & Restoration Program

WQPRP 2024 Funding

APRIL 16, 2024

Suffolk County Department of Economic Development & Planning, Water Quality Improvement Division

Responsibilities:

- Administer the 1/4% sales tax funded Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program and Land Stewardship Initiatives (WQPRP) under Article XII Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program of the Suffolk County Charter
- Provide administrative and technical support to **WQPRP Review Committee**
- Oversee all projects approved for WQPRP grant funding

WQPRP Overview

- ▶ WQPRP utilizes 11.75% of the total revenues generated each calendar year under the ¼% Drinking Water Protection Program to provide grant funding to municipalities and non-profit organizations for projects to protect and restore the County's groundwater and surface water resources.

2024 WQPRP Funding Applications

- Application Deadline: **Friday, June 7, 2024 at 3:00PM**
 - Application materials can be found at:
<https://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Economic-Development-and-Planning/Planning-and-Environment/Water-Quality-Improvement/Water-Quality-Protection-and-Restoration-Program>
 - **Award amounts:** Minimum \$50,000 – Maximum \$250,000
May include planning/engineering and construction expenses
- Non-County projects require a **match of at least 50%** of the total project cost. Matching funds must be demonstrated at the time of the application's submittal.

2024 WQPRP Funding Applications

Priority Project Types for Current Call for Applications:

- Wastewater treatment improvements, including wastewater reuse
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure implementation
- Nature and Nature-Based Infrastructure for coastal resilience
- Habitat restoration, reclamation, and connectivity
- Fertilizer use mitigation

WQPRP Application Project Categories:

- Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement and Control & Pollution Prevention Initiatives
- Habitat Restoration, Reclamation, and Connectivity
- Land Stewardship Initiatives
- No-Discharge Zone Implementation
- Education and Outreach

Eligible Applicants:

- County Departments
- Municipalities within Suffolk County
- Non-profit organizations within Suffolk County

Further:

- Applications submitted by private companies without non-profit status will not be considered
- Applications will not be considered from any applicant or entity with a project that is “not in good standing” (see WQPRP Policy document)
- Applicants with a project(s) “not in good standing”, have the option to withdraw such projects(s), prior to submitting a new application

All Applications Must Include:

- Detailed work plan by task including deliverables and timeline suitable for insertion into a contract
- Detailed categorized budget including both County (50%) and match (50%) breakdowns of total project suitable for insertion into a contract
- Curriculum vitae of project personnel
- Letter from project sponsor. Non-County applications (municipalities or non-profit organizations) must have a County Department/Agency or Office supporting the project as sponsor.
- Supporting documents – design/engineering work (if applicable), etc.
- All applications must be signed
- Any application deemed incomplete will not be considered for funding

SUFFOLK COUNTY WQPRP POLICY



- WQPRP shall fund non-County projects on a 50/50 cost share basis; applicants are responsible for no less than 50% of the total cost.
- The Department is authorized to establish priority project types based on the needs of the County at the time of the call for applications.
- All applicants are encouraged to attend an optional Proposers Conference for which they will receive points in favor of the scoring of their application.

SUFFOLK COUNTY WQPRP POLICY



- All applicants that have had their project recommended for funding by the WQPRP Review Committee are required to submit a formal written response accepting the grant funds.
- Municipalities awarded grant funding must adopt a resolution clearly authorizing the municipality to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) with Suffolk County.

SUFFOLK COUNTY WQPRP POLICY



The municipal resolution must also:

- Acknowledge that the County's grant is **reimbursement** based and specify the amount of such reimbursement;
- Specify the non-County entity's matching share which may be in the form of cash, in-kind contributions, or other grant funding;
- Expressly commit the municipality to pay for any and all additional costs of project completion if necessary; and
- Include a State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) determination adopted by the organization's managing entity (e.g. Town or Village Board) which, as lead agency, is responsible for the SEQRA review.

SUFFOLK COUNTY WQPRP POLICY



- The County's funding resolution will require that the grantee accomplish a completed project with the combined WQPRP grant and matching funds.
- For projects conducted by a non-County entity, a contract between the County and the applicant must be executed within one year of the effective date of the County funding resolution.
- Contract terms shall be limited to three years.
- Projects will be closed-out three years after the start date of the agreement between the applicant and the County, unless otherwise expressly stated in the contract.

SUFFOLK COUNTY WQPRP POLICY

- Any expenditure on a project prior to entering into contract with the County is done so at the entity's own discretion.
- Substantial changes to a project/application must be brought to the WQPRP Review Committee for recommendation (and the approval of the Suffolk County Legislature if applicable) within one year of the initial award.
- Previously approved funding may not be transferred to another project. A new competitive WQPRP application must be submitted for any requests for funding for a different project.

Funding Terms

- Only direct project costs related to the specific WQPRP funded project (such as employee salaries and benefits, materials and supplies costs, equipment/machinery costs, and project related travel expenses) are considered an eligible expense.
- Indirect costs (such as overhead or operating expenses) will not be eligible for County funding but may be used as matching funds.
- For construction projects, cost contingency is an eligible expense as long as it is expressly stated in the WQPRP application.

Funding Terms

- There is no maximum cap on the % of the grant that can be used to purchase materials and supplies. Materials include items such as parts, components, fuel, and any type of raw material that becomes a component of the product being manufactured. Supplies include basic office items and expenses.
- No more than 20% of the funds requested may be used for the purchase of equipment/machinery with the exception of implementation of No-Discharge Zones. Equipment/machinery is a tangible and durable asset that is used in the production of other goods and services. Any equipment/machinery utilized in an entity's basic, routine operation and maintenance functions is not eligible for WQPRP funding.

Funding Terms

- If awarded WQPRP funds, the applicant may not use such funds as a match for this project or any other Federal, State, or other grant program unless specifically authorized by written consent from the County.
- Funds expended prior to the WQPRP application may be used as match:
 - Directly related to the project currently being applied for;
 - Spent within two years of the date of the current call for applications; and
 - No more than 50% of the match may come from previously expended funds.

Projects In Good Standing

- Projects that adhere to all of the “General Requirements” and “Funding Terms” contained in the WQPRP Policy shall be considered **“in good standing”**.
- Any project that does not adhere to all of the “General Requirements” and “Funding Terms” shall be deemed by the Department to be **“not in good standing”**.
- Any entity deemed to have a project “not in good standing” shall be ineligible to apply for future WQPRP funding until it no longer has any projects which are “not in good standing”.
- Any entity deemed to have a project “not in good standing” may choose to rescind the project which is “not in good standing” in order to apply for future funds.

Complete applications are due Friday, June 7, 2024 @ 3:00PM

Application materials can be found at:

- <https://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Economic-Development-and-Planning/Planning-and-Environment/Water-Quality-Improvement/Water-Quality-Protection-and-Restoration-Program>

Please send completed applications by mail to:

Lisa Broughton, Director of Water Quality
100 Veterans Memorial Hwy, H. Lee Dennison, 2nd Floor
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program WQPRP



Questions?

Additional questions email:

WQPRP@suffolkcountynv.gov