



# WUV Enhancement Design and Implementation Block Grant Webinar

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# Watersheds United Vermont (WUV)

**Watersheds United Vermont (WUV)** is an association of community-based watershed groups across Vermont with a mission to empower watershed groups to protect and restore Vermont's waters.

WUV currently holds 5 Department of Environmental Conservation Block Grants to subgrant funds to eligible entities for clean water restoration efforts including:

- Enhancement Project Development Block Grant
- **Enhancement Design and Implementation Block Grant**
- Enhancement Dam Removal Design and Implementation Block Grant (Dam Removal DIBG)
- Enhancement Riparian Buffer Grant
- Clean Water Workforce Capacity Development (CWWCD) Block Grant



# Enhancement Design and Implementation Block Grant Overview

The Enhancement Design and Implementation Block Grant (EDIBG) will serve to support the design and implementation of priority water quality enhancement projects. Funding is provided by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's (VT DEC) Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP).

The EDIBG Grant funds preliminary design, final design, and implementation of enhancement projects.

**All grant information can be found on WUV's Grants Webpage:**

**<https://watershedsunitedvt.org/grants/enhancement-design-and-implementation-block-grant>**



## Ongoing WUV DEC EDDIBG

**Total Project Completion Award (since 2022): \$3,500,000**

**Obligated to Date: ~\$2,250,000**

**Parent Grant End Date: March 2029**

**Projects Awarded: 25 EDIBG Total (2 Preliminary Design, 5 Final Design, 18 Implementation); 13 Project Development awards**

EDIBG is part of the larger EDDIBG (Enhancement Development Design and Implementation Block Grant) that includes Project Development work - WUV has separated project development out to be its own grant round.



## Available Funds

### **Winter 2025 Grant Round:**

*Preliminary Design, Final Design, Implementation: ~\$1,000,000*

There is no required distribution of funds between preliminary, final, and implementation projects, but WUV will work to fund a variety of different project phases across different areas of the state! WUV is required to fund a variety of project types.

Future rounds possible dependant on amount obligated under this round



## Key Dates

**October 10, 2025:** WUV Enhancement Design and Implementation Block Grant Request for Proposals Released

**January 12, 2026:** Full Project Application, Project Readiness, and Eligibility Screening Due

**Mid-Late February:** Funding Decisions Announced

**This funding is for projects that will be designed and/or implemented in 2026 and 2027.**



## Eligible Project Types

For a project to be eligible for the EDIBG, it must fall into one of the following project types:

- Lake Shoreland
- Floodplain/Stream Restoration (including culvert projects)
- Forestry\*\*\*
- Wetlands
- Stormwater
- Roads Project\*\*\*
- Roads/Stormwater Gully\*\*\*
- Agricultural Pollution Prevention

\*\*\*new guidance on these project types coming in next CWIP funding policy release, if you plan to apply to this project type, reach out to WUV and we can try to ensure that project aligns with upcoming guidance



# Project Type Tables and Practice Types

[2025 WUV Enhancement Project Types Table](#)

[2025 WUV Enhancement Practice Types Table](#)

Use these 2 spreadsheets to view the milestones and deliverables for your project and to understand the reporting performance measures for your project!



# Project Eligibility

**1. Eligibility Screens #1-7:** The 2023 CWIP Funding Policy lists seven criteria (#1-7) that are applicable across all relevant CWIP Funding Programs. To ensure that the project meets these eligibility criteria, you must complete the [Enhancement Project Readiness and Eligibility Screening Form](#) which will guide you through the first 7 eligibility requirements.

Project purpose must address at least one of the four objectives of Vermont's Surface Water Management Strategy:

***(1) Minimize Anthropogenic Nutrient and Organic Pollution***

***(2) Protect and Restore Aquatic and Riparian Habitats***

***(3) Minimize Flood and Fluvial Erosion Hazards***

***(4) Minimize Toxic and Pathogenic Pollution and Chemicals of Emerging Concern***



## Project Eligibility

**2. Project must be non-regulatory:** To be eligible for EDIBG and Implementation Block Grant funds, projects cannot be driven by a regulatory requirement. Regulatory projects are those required/compelled by water quality-related regulatory programs.



## Project Eligibility

### **3. Projects must meet at least one of the statutorily-defined purposes for Enhancement Grants:**

There are 5 statutorily defined purposes for the Enhancement grant program:

- a. Protect high quality waters,
- b. Maintain or improve water quality,
- c. Restore degraded or stressed waters,
- d. Create resilient watersheds and communities, or
- e. Support the public's use and enjoyment of the State's waters

**For a project to be eligible, it must meet at least one of the above purposes. In the application, you will be asked to address in narrative each one of the project purposes that your project will meet.**

**[See definitions for each one of these categories on page 4 of the grant guidelines!](#)**

**Eligible Entities**

Vermont municipalities  
Regional planning commissions  
Natural resource conservation districts  
Non-profit organizations  
State agencies  
State colleges and universities  
Public hospitals and medical centers  
Public schools

**Ineligible Entities**

Private citizens, individuals  
Private for-profit businesses and industries  
Private for-profit colleges and universities  
Federal agencies



## Other Project Requirements

- Projects must adhere to all CWIP FY23 Funding Policy to be eligible for funding: [2023 CWIP Fiscal Policy](#)
- Projects and the applicable phase must be in the DEC Watershed Projects Database
- Projects must be approved by the DEC Watershed Planner before funds are awarded
- Projects must be identified/prioritized in existing assessments or plans or approved by DEC Watershed Planner
- For implementation projects, all permits must be in place before implementation occurs
- **Applicants must complete the Natural Resource Screening that is part of the Project Readiness and Eligibility Screening Form - may have a large lead time with holiday season - contact required DEC staff ASAP!!!**



## Other Project Requirements

- All projects must complete the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) Review Process
- All project funding recipients must provide proof of insurance and W-9 forms
- Implementation projects must obtain a signed DEC Operation and Maintenance Agreement.
- All design projects must be able to obtain landowner commitment to next steps
- All subcontractors must be approved using the WUV / DEC subcontractor approval process and all subcontracts must include the State of Vermont required subcontract language
- Projects must be planned to be designed or implemented in 2026/2027



# Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) Project Review

All projects must complete a VDHP Project Review if they are awarded funding.

Please review pages 30-33 of the CWIP guidelines ([2023 CWIP Fiscal Policy](#)) outline this process. There may be significant expenses incurred during this process. These expenses are eligible and should be included in your budget. Please review the process before applying to fully understand the potential cost of the VDHP review.

VDHP Project Review Form here: [VDHP Project Review Form](#)

**Please note that this review is a project step and does not have to be completed during the application process.**



# Prioritizing Projects

**Project Purpose:** How does the project meet the 5 listed statutorily-defined purposes for Enhancement Grant. Projects will be evaluated on both how well the project meets a purpose and also how many of the statutorily-defined purposes the project meets. For example, a project that highly meets one project purpose will be competitive with a project that moderately meets 2-3 project purposes.

**Project Scale:** Does the project seem reasonable to complete given the timeframe of the grant, the capacity of the organizations, the complexity of the partnerships and permits, and the budget?

**Project Likelihood:** Does the project design and/or implementation have a high chance for success? Are there barriers to this work being completed? What is the financial risk if that is the case? How likely will the project be completed on time? For design projects we are evaluating likelihood of design completion and of resulting likelihood of project being implemented.

**Project Need:** Is there a demonstrated need for the work? And do the DEC design and implementation funds fill a need where other funds are not available?

**Project Budget:** Is the project cost effective for the scope of work proposed? Does the project fit into WUV's available budget, are all costs eligible (see CWIP guidelines)?



## Prioritizing Projects

- a) WUV must fund 10% of our available funds on projects that have the potential to protect high quality waters, projects that meet this enhancement goal will be given additional scoring points
- b) WUV must prioritize projects outside of watersheds with access to Water Quality Restoration Formula grants. While these projects will be given extra scoring points, they will not automatically trump strong and eligible projects located within those watersheds, especially those that are ineligible for Formula Grant Funding.
- c) Environment Justice Focus Populations. Act 154 of 2022 (S.148) requires the Agency of Natural Resources to direct investments with environmental benefits proportionately to Environmental Justice Focus Populations.



## Formula Funds vs Enhancement Funds

If the proposed project located in a watershed with access to Water Quality Restoration Formula Grants (Champlain and Memphremagog Basins) you will need to determine which funding source is the best fit for your project. Projects can be co-funded between Formula and Enhancement funds.

WUV's application will ask to identify why your project will fit best in the WUV EDIBG as opposed to the Water Quality Restoration Formula Grant program. Below are multiple possible reasons as to why a project might best fit WUV's enhancement funding:

- 1) Not a phosphorus based project
- 2) CWSP confirmed project does not fit into their current funding model
- 3) Above funding threshold for CWSP funding
- 4) Project driven reason (landowner preference, grant round timing, etc)



# Co-funding Opportunities

DEC has awarded the Enhancement Grant funds to 3 entities:

1. WUV
2. Natural Resources Conservation Council (NRCC)
3. Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC).

The funding requirements are the same for all entities, though the application and grant administration process may vary somewhat. While we encourage for administration purposes that if the timing works out NRCDs apply to NRCC, watershed groups apply to WUV and municipalities apply through MARC. **It is possible to co-fund projects between these 3 entities!**

**It is also possible to co-fund projects between WUV and CWSPs:**

Updated Formula funding cost effective calculations, crediting procedures, and co-funding guidance are currently in the works at DEC which may change a projects fundable through formula funds. In some cases (especially high cost projects), co-funding with formula funds may make sense. Please reach out to WUV if you think submitting an application to both WUV and your CWSP is a possibility.



# Budget and Leverage/Match

## **Budget Categories:**

Staff (Salary plus Fringe):

All project management and deliverables documentation and reporting tasks should be included.

Mileage

Contractual (can include up to 15% contingency)

Other eligible costs (see 2023 CWIP Funding Policy)

Indirect:

- Up to 15% on salary and other eligible total direct costs; up to 15% on the first \$50,000 of contractual costs.
- Or, organizations with approved NICRA can use the rate as specified in the NICRA. Please provide NICRA documentation with application if applicable.

Voluntary leverage/match is appreciated, particularly for larger implementation projects.



## Other Funding Considerations

Funds are state dollars from the Vermont Clean Water Fund and **can** be used as match/leverage for other funding sources.

Grant is Performance Based with Cost Reimbursable Terms.

Reimbursement should take less time than in the past.

10% of the project cost will be held until the final deliverables are complete.

All Deliverables and Invoicing must be completed by the end of the subgrant award or no more than 3 months after the end of the project (whichever comes sooner).



# General Application Submission Guidance

- An applicant can submit multiple applications per round, if doing so please provide WUV with a ranked order of priority on your applications
- If you are applying for multiple distinct projects (projects are not connected/on the same parcel) please submit separate applications for each project instead of combining application for all the projects your organization is applying for
- Applications can be submitted at any time on or before January 12th (but please don't stay up too late working in applications on the 12th!)
- WPD-IDs and responses from DEC regulators can be submitted after application deadline if necessary as long as these tasks are in progress by the time of the application deadline



## Completing the Application

To complete submission of the application for this grant round you must submit the following documents:

1. **[WUV Enhancement Design and Implementation Block Grant Full Application](#)**
2. **[EDIBG Project Readiness and Eligibility Screening Form](#)**

Applicants must also submit the following documents at time of application submission:

1. Site Plan(s) **(required for implementation projects)**
2. Site Photos **(required for implementation projects)**
3. Written landowner commitment to implement project **(required for implementation projects)**
4. Written landowner commitment to project phase being applied for. **(required for design projects)**
5. Additional Bid(s), Quote(s), or Proposal(s)

\*Please note we do not need letters of support



## Completing the Application

Please complete and submit the application as a single Word or PDF file and submit a second document that combines the Project Readiness and Eligibility Screening Form and all other supplemental documents.

Email the application and combined Project Readiness and Eligibility Screening Form and all other supplemental documents to:

WUV Director Lyn Munno at [lyn@watershedsunitedvt.org](mailto:lyn@watershedsunitedvt.org)

WUV Grant Manager Christian Pelletier at [Christian@watershedsunitedvt.org](mailto:Christian@watershedsunitedvt.org)

Please use the email heading “EDIBG Grant Application: Applicant Acronym, Project Name/Abbreviation”



# Deliverable/Reporting Requirements

[See project type table for exact deliverables for each project type](#)

## **Example - Implementation Deliverables:**

- Photo(s) of site(s) pre-implementation
- Permit documentation (if applicable)
- Signed 10-year (minimum) DEC Operation and Maintenance Plan
- As-built drawings or red-lined 100% designs with a list of change orders describing adjustments made during construction.
- Photo(s) of site(s) post-implementation, including photo of Clean Water Project Sign (if applicable)
- Media announcement
- Final Performance Report or ANR Online Clean Water Project - Project Closeout Form (once available)

[See WUV website for example templates for deliverables \(Final Performance Report, DEC O&M\)](#)



## Questions!

**Please don't hesitate to reach out to ask questions. We are happy to help navigate any issues throughout the application process! Please reach out to WUV if you would like to set up a meeting to discuss a potential project!**