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## Spotlight on Wastewater Funding

# VLCT's Municipal Operations Support Team

**Running a Vermont Municipality is Complicated. We Can Help You Uncomplicate It.**

## **Contact our team, when...**

- you are new to your role and trying to find your way.
- you are tackling new work in unfamiliar terrain.
- you just need guidance or advice on a topic.

## **We'll provide:**

- Answers for your non-legal questions
- Best Practice Advice for your day-to-day operations
- Experienced guidance from Vermont local government experts

Find us: <https://www.vlct.org/municipal-operations-support>

Contact us: [info@vlct.org](mailto:info@vlct.org) or [Ask A Question\\*](#)



**\*Members only.** Must have an official role with a VLCT member organization (selectboard, city council, trustee, Town Manager or Administrator, town clerk, treasurer, planning commissioner, conservation commissioner, energy committee, etc.).



## Today's Topics

- The Wastewater Journey
- Common Wastewater Funding Opportunities
- Funding Readiness
- Q&A



# Online Poll

**Where are you at in the wastewater process?**

- ☐ Have a project idea
- ☐ Started community discussion about idea
- ☐ Working on preliminary engineering and planning
- ☐ In final design
- ☐ Ready for construction





*Wastewater is about community change, and  
the vision your community has for its future.*

- Neil Kammen, Director, Water Investment Division  
VT Department of Environmental Conservation

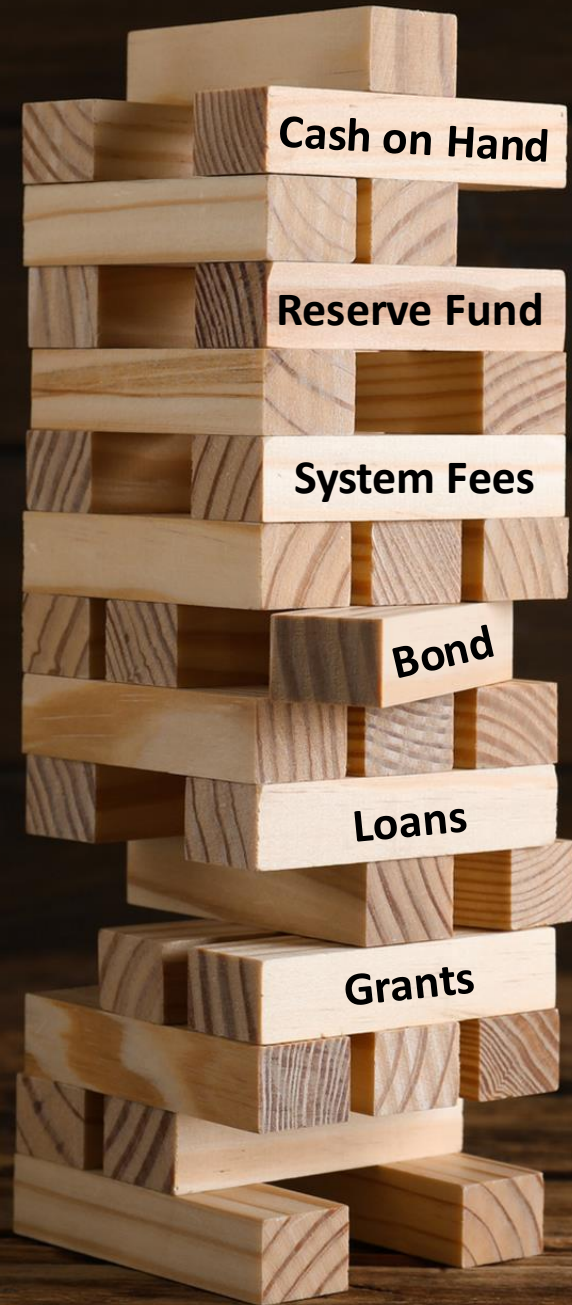






The Wastewater Journey is a long and winding road with different pathways for all.





# Building a Funding Stack

- Most wastewater projects are not feasible using just cash on hand.
- The larger the project, the more types of funding you will need to complete it.
- The more funding types involved, the more complicated managing the project becomes



# Building Funding Stacks – The Base

## **MOST wastewater projects will include funding from:**

- DEC Engineering Planning Advance
- VT DEC Clean Water State Revolving Fund Grant and/or Loan
- USDA Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Program Grant and/or Loan
- Municipal Bond through Vermont Bond Bank
- Wastewater system user fees

Note: Other funding sources may apply to specific projects. Contact [bwaninger@vlct.org](mailto:bwaninger@vlct.org) to discuss.





# Building Funding Stacks – Add On Sources

## **Some wastewater projects also will include funding from:**

- VT DEC Clean Water State Revolving Fund subsidy (income-based grant)
- VT DEC Pollution Control Fund (problem-based)
- USDA Rural Development Predevelopment Planning Grant (income- and population-based)
- USDA Rural Development SEARCH (income- and population-based grant)
- NRBC Catalyst grant (economic outcomes)
- Community Project Funding grant (a.k.a. earmarks/Congressionally Directed Spending)
- ACCD Community Development Block Grant (income-based)
- US EDA Public Works grant (economic outcomes)

Note: Other funding sources may apply to specific projects. Contact [bwanger@vlct.org](mailto:bwanger@vlct.org) to discuss.



# VT DEC Engineering Planning Advances

**Funds:** Planning

**Activities:** Development of engineering feasibility studies for drinking water systems or wastewater solutions

**Readiness to Apply:**

- Municipalities without municipally owned wastewater systems
- Selectboard/Trustee buy-in secured
- Community engagement
- Dedicated project manager (recommended)

**Contact:** Lynnette Claudon, [Lynnette.Claudon@Vermont.gov](mailto:Lynnette.Claudon@Vermont.gov)



# VT DEC Clean Water State Revolving Fund

**Funds:** Planning, final design, and construction

**Activities:** Planning, design and construction of wastewater and stormwater facilities

**Readiness to Apply:**

- Intended Use Plan Priority Project
- Community engagement
- Dedicated project manager (recommended)
- Asset management plan or capital plan, if have an existing system
- Bond vote for construction

**Other Information:**

- Must follow a qualifications-based selection process for consultant selection
- Must develop a fiscal sustainability plan
- Must follow cost and effectiveness guidelines

**Contact:** Tom Brown, [Thomas.Brown@vermont.gov](mailto:Thomas.Brown@vermont.gov)



# USDA Water and Waste Disposal Program

**Funds:** Acquisition and construction, and in some cases, related pre-development costs

**Activities:** Drinking water systems, sanitary sewage and solid waste disposal, and stormwater drainage

**Readiness to Apply:**

- Strategic Economic and Community Development Program pre-qualification (regional benefit projects)
- Community engagement
- Dedicated project manager (recommended)
- Existing or proposed rate structure
- 1-year Audited financial statements (outside audit)
- Bond vote for construction

**Other Information:**

- Rural communities with populations of 10,000 or less
- Know your [eligibility](#) – grant or loan

**Contact:** Based on the [county](#) in which the project will be located





# NBRC Catalyst Program

**Funds:** Implementation, construction, workforce training

**Activities:** Wide ranging...includes **basic public infrastructure**; business and workforce development

**Readiness to Apply:**

- Project aligns with State of Vermont economic development goals ([CEDS](#))
- [Regional Project Priority List](#)
- Community engagement
- Dedicated project manager (recommended)
- Permits
- Construction ready - last funding source

**Other Information:**

- Up to \$1 million for single community benefit; Up to \$3 million if regional benefit
- Unique grant requirements; review all materials and requirements before starting an application

**Contact:** Kristie Farnham, [Kristie.Farnham@vermont.gov](mailto:Kristie.Farnham@vermont.gov)



# Community Project Funding\*

**Funds:** Construction, implementation, workforce training. Rarely, planning

**Activities:** Discretionary activities based on Congressional interest and alignment with directives of Congress

**Readiness to Apply:**

- Pursued other funding sources
- Ready to construct
- Incorporated federal passthrough agency grant rules and regulations into project workplan and budget

**Other Information:**

- Brief Congressional staff prior to applying, preferably through multiple conversations about need over several years
- Funds may not be available for 1-4 years based on agency capacity.

**Contact:** Information is available on websites of [Senator Sanders](#), [Senator Welch](#), and [Representative Balint](#).

\* Also referred to as *Earmarks* and *Congressional Directed Spending (CDS)*



# US EDA Public Works Assistance

**Funds:** Land acquisition, design and engineering, construction

**Activities:** Construction, non-construction, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects for public works (infrastructure, facilities and buildings, brownfields)

**Readiness to Apply:**

- Supported by state or regional Comprehensive Economic Development Plan
- Private investment will occur because of federal investment – jobs created/maintained
- Have a deep well of patience and humor

**Other Information:**

- No minimum or maximum amount; average award is \$1.4 million
- Match is 50% of total project cost, but may be reduced based on need
- The time from application to award can be long, and frustrating.

**Contact:** Katherine Trapani, [ktrapani@eda.gov](mailto:ktrapani@eda.gov)



# Sources and Uses Plan

Source	Amount
EPA Demonstration Grant	\$1,500,000
EPA State & Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG)	\$1,301,000
Vermont State Pollution Abatement Grant / Match	\$930,000
Local Share - SRF Loan	\$791,000
Local Share - Town Meeting Allocations/Match	\$140,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,662,000</b>

Table 2: Warren Total Project Funding Summary

Project Element	Estimated Cost	EPA Demo Grant
Needs Assessment-Facilities Plan	\$462,000	\$300,300
Final Design	\$386,200	\$267,400
Construction	\$2,585,070	\$293,900
Construction Engineering Services	\$448,630	\$189,000
Existing System Capital Payback	\$305,300	\$198,400
Other Services	\$140,100	\$0
EPA Demo Only	\$334,700	\$251,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,662,000</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>

Table 1: Warren Total Project Costs







# Thank You!



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