
Water Quality Restoration Formula Grant Cost Rate Methodology Released for Public Comment

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Contact: Chris Rottler, Clean Water Service Provider Technical Project Manager

Email: chris.rottler@vermont.gov

Tel. (802) 461-6051

Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is releasing an updated Cost Rate Methodology (CRM) for public comment. The CRM is used to set phosphorus reduction targets and funding levels for Clean Water Service Providers (CWSPs). CWSPs were established by Act 76 of 2019 and receive a Formula Grant to address non-regulatory phosphorus reduction targets in Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog. The first CRM was released in 2022 and since this time, CWSPs, in coordination with their Basin Water Quality Councils (BWQCs) and project partners, have made progress in identifying, developing, implementing and maintaining clean water projects.

DEC received feedback from partners that the CRM needed to be updated to better reflect costs for implementing projects and identified several areas where the CRM could be updated to more accurately reflect costs. This draft CRM adds project cost data from projects completed between 2021 and 2024. This revised CRM also normalizes cost data to January 2025 dollars to better reflect the current cost of implementing projects (i.e. accounting for recent inflation). Further, the draft CRM revises the sector average cost rate approach to more accurately reflect the project types available for each land use sector and uses a weighted average in cases where sector cost rate contains more than one project category cost rate. Because of these revisions, the draft CRM is being used to refine targets for 2023 through 2025.

The CRM will be out for comment through 4pm on October 17, 2025. A public presentation will be held on Wednesday, October 8th, at 2pm, in person at the National Life Building, Catamount Room, Davis 2, in Montpelier, Vermont.

The meeting can also be attended remotely by Teams using this link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NDImZjQzYzQtODg3Ny00ZDc5LWEyZDIOTkwNzllOWRmN2Y2%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2220b4933b-baad-433c-9c02-70edcc7559c6%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%227c0e88b4-465d-4be5-8e58-026d878ba07f%22%7d

Comments can be submitted through the ENB or by email to Chris Rottler, at chris.rottler@vermont.gov.