NOTICE OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY
WASTEWATER ENERGY RECOVERY PILOT GRANT 2026-2028

Under leadership of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP or the Department), the Clean Energy Results Program (CERP) is an integrated energy and environmental partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center that reduces regulatory or other barriers to clean and energy-efficient development across the state. Through this Pilot Grant Opportunity, MassDEP is seeking proposals from Eligible Entities (as defined below) to implement installation of wastewater heat recovery technology throughout Massachusetts. MassDEP will offer up to $5 Million in Wastewater Recovery Pilot Grants from its Climate Protection and Mitigation Expendable Trust. This Grant Opportunity will provide critical phased funding for the assessment, design, and construction of wastewater energy recovery pilot projects in Massachusetts. Wastewater is a valuable and abundant source of un-tapped energy that is recoverable. Wastewater Energy Recovery (WWER) is a proven decarbonization technology, with many of the WWER installations in Europe and Canada that have been providing cost-effective renewable heating and cooling of commercial buildings for over 15 years[1]. WWER technology has come to the United States with two operating installations in the District of Columbia[2] and others in design in other states. A key priority of this WWER Pilot is to jump-start, apply, and evaluate this decarbonization technology at several different pilot project locations across Massachusetts.

Grant Opportunity Application and Requirements: This Pilot Grant Opportunity is being issued on May 26, 2026, and is posted on MassDEP's Wastewater Energy Recovery Program webpage at the following link: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/wastewater-energy-recovery

Eligible Entities: Eligible Applicants include the following types of facilities:

[1] Reference: Uhrig Therm Liner Energy Systems 3-31-2023; Sharc Energy Systems; Noventa - Huber: Toronto Western Hospital project

[2] DC Water Headquarters, completed in 2018, and American Geophysical Union building completed in 2018.

- Publicly owned wastewater facilities (municipal, district or authority),
- Privately owned wastewater facilities,
- Municipal or state-owned facilities,
- Public or privately owned schools, colleges and universities,
- Nonprofit or privately owned facilities (e.g., housing, hospitals, commercial, industrial)

Eligible Projects: An eligible project is one that plans to use or will use wastewater as its source of recoverable thermal energy that can provide supplemental space heating, hot water, or cooling for building spaces. Eligible wastewater energy recovery technologies include but are not limited to the following system components and examples:

- Closed loop piping system that includes supply and return lines
- Heat exchanger / thermal liners
- Wet wells
- Wastewater holding tanks
- Solids handling equipment (screening, pumps, etc.)
- Water source heat pump
- Water chilled beam HVAC units
- Water to air HVAC units
- Ground source heat pumps
- Building management / mechanical room controls
- Monitoring system

Facility Ownership and Authorization to install Energy/Sewer Heat Recovery Technology: Projects must be completed at a Facility that is owned by an Eligible Entity. The Eligible Entity will be the applicant and contract signatory and will be responsible for the grant award contract execution, contract performance, submission of receipts for reimbursement, and for receiving payment(s). Grantees shall retain ownership of equipment or other resources paid for with grant funds.

Application Deadline: Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis starting **May 26, 2026, through May 31, 2028**, for each phase of the pilot process and grants will be distributed on a first-come basis until funds are fully expended for that phase or in total.

Funding Availability: As noted above, the total available funding for the WWER Pilot Grant Program is $5 million. The total maximum funding currently available for each phase of the pilot project awarded through this Grant Program is as set out below. Depending on the number and quality of applications received, total allocated funding for each project phase below may be adjusted to meet program objectives.

Energy Assessment (Phase 1):

Summary: Conduct a focused Technical Assistance Study performed by a (energy utility, consultant, a wastewater energy recovery technology provider, or applicant's engineering team) that provides building owners with a draft plan for wastewater energy recovery, including initial project costs, estimates for energy-savings, greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reductions, and a basic site diagram showing how wastewater energy sources will be assessed for space heating, cooling, hot water etc. in the building or buildings. Determine the existing heating and cooling loads of the building(s) under consideration and evaluate the potential options for wastewater energy recovery via an onsite sanitary line, municipal sewer line, pump station, effluent channel etc. Please (see sample).

Applicants may apply for up to $15,000 in grant funding for proposals involving the completion of a focused Technical Assistance Study through the pilot grant.

Project Design (Phase 2):

Summary: Develop a final design and signed schematic drawings for technically and economically viable WWER projects. The design grant will fund: (1) the production of 100% design and bid ready drawings of the proposed project that consist of fully developed construction plans, profiles, sections and details depicting, at minimum, the following final design elements: Site - General, Architectural Structural, HVAC, Process, Electrical, Instrumentation; (2) the preparation of 100% and bid ready technical specifications; and (3) the preparation of an opinion of probable construction costs.

This will include: system size (tons, kW, etc.) for space heating and cooling loads, refined project analysis that includes estimated project costs, energy savings, avoided GHG's etc., schematics for the wastewater tie-in infrastructure; pumping and heat exchanger equipment sizes and control instrumentation, expected daily flow of wastewater diversion rate, operation; and maintenance plan (solids removal, odor control management plan, safety and isolation procedures if needed).

The Design Phase is a challenging and costly phase to fully finance. To achieve full design phase completion needed to see viable projects implemented, funding will be necessary from one or more potential sources. A pilot applicant may need to secure some of its own funds (matching funds are not required but encouraged to fill any potential project funding gap) to complete this design phase.

MassDEP may provide funding through pilot grants of up to $100,000 for eligible pilot projects.

Project Construction (Phase 3):

Summary: Grants at the construction phase will build on and integrate capital funding project plans that leverage state, federal, energy utility, and technology provider funding options, and other incentives, to construct technically and economically viable wastewater energy recovery projects.

Projects that have reached this phase are expected to have secured multiple capital funding sources and incentives to fund the construction. Through MassSave®, energy utility Program Administrators provide incentives for the installation of eligible water source heat pump equipment in a prescriptive or custom amount determined by the equipment being installed and / or the efficiency measure. For projects within a Municipal Light Plant Companies territory, please check what specific incentives may be available for eligible water source heat pump installations.

A pilot applicant may need to secure some of its own funds (matching not required but encouraged to fill the potential project funding gap) to complete this construction phase MassDEP, may award pilot grant funding for construction up to $750,000.

*MassDEP State Revolving Funding (SRF) may be available for municipal drinking water and wastewater facilities when a project is proposed in the Project Evaluation Form. For more information, please see: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/clean-water-state-revolving-fund-srf-program

In its discretion, MassDEP reserves the right to award funding of greater or lesser amounts than specified in this section depending upon the quantity and the quality of the applications received; however, the current total WWER Pilot Grant Program available funding is $5 million.

Applicant Cost Share and Other Funding Obligations: A specific applicant cost share is not required but encouraged to fill the potential funding gap in the design and construction phases of WWER project development.

Grant Application Process: The Wastewater Energy Recovery Pilot Grant application process will be accessible for submittal online. All applications to Wastewater Energy Recovery Pilot Program must now be submitted through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) new Grants Management System, a user-friendly platform designed to enhance the experience for municipalities, nonprofits, businesses, and others seeking grants. Please note that at least one representative from the municipality, nonprofit, tribe, or other eligible organization must have a valid account to apply for a grant. Detailed instructions are available in Appendix D. Additionally, EEA has created **video** and **in-depth user's guide**

Bidders Conference: Two Bidders Informational Conferences using Zoom will be held on the following dates:

*To attend either the **May 11th**, Bidders Informational Conferences at 1pm or the Bidder's Conference to be scheduled in early October, please register on the WWER webpage of the MassDEP website.*

Please note: Applicants may attend either of the Bidders Informational Conferences as the information presented essentially will be the same at both sessions. The early October Bidders' Informational Conference will include any changes made to the RFR since the initial posting.

Evaluation Criteria: The evaluation criteria components for MassDEP's review and scoring of proposals are as specified in the Wastewater Energy Recovery Request for Proposal located on MassDEP's Wastewater Energy Recovery Grant webpage.

For Additional Information: For additional information regarding the Wastewater Energy Recovery Pilot Grant, please refer to the MassDEP WWER website link: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/wastewater-energy-recovery.