

## Notice of Intent to Announce Drought Resiliency and Water Efficiency Grant Program

This is an announcement only. The MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs intends to post a funding opportunity for a new **Drought Resiliency and Water Efficiency Grant Program** in the coming weeks.

**Purpose:** With drought frequency in Massachusetts increasing as a result of climate change, water users across the Commonwealth need to find ways to reduce water use to ensure we are prepared and have enough water for all essential uses. The **Drought Resiliency and Water Efficiency Grant Program** aims to fund projects to promote climate resiliency, specifically by helping communities and public water suppliers reduce indoor and outdoor water use and improve water loss control programs.

Examples of project types that are eligible include (but are not limited to):

- Water Loss Control Program Development and Implementation
  - o Comprehensive water loss control program development
  - o Implementation of water loss control audit recommendations including distribution system leak detection activities and equipment meter calibration services/upgrades
  - o Piloting new and innovative approaches (e.g. regional collaboration, new technology)
- Water Conservation/Efficiency Program Development and Implementation
  - o Comprehensive water conservation program/plan development and review of existing programs
  - o Residential water use (rgpcd) and unaccounted-for water (UAW) compliance plan assistance
  - o Data management and analysis assistance to inform water efficiency programs
  - o Residential leak detection activities (e.g. device incentive/rebate programs)
- Outdoor Water Use Efficiency Improvements
  - o Drought resilient landscape transformation plans
  - o Conversions of irrigated turf to non-irrigated native plant landscapes
  - o Irrigation system audits (for functional turf areas)
  - o Irrigation system upgrades to increase efficiency (for functional turf areas)
- Drought Management Planning
  - o Bathymetric surveys, stage storage curve development, reservoir water level measurement implementation
  - o Local drought plan development
  - o Development of water use restriction programs

**Eligible Applicants Include:** Municipalities, Public Water Suppliers, Non-profit Organizations, Public Schools/Colleges/Universities, Regional Planning Agencies

**\*\*NOTE:** Collaborations between multiple organizations and projects with regional scopes are encouraged.\*\*

**Expected Award Amount:** Target award of up to \$50,000 per project, with potential for larger awards depending on number of applications received

**Program Announcement Date:** December 2024

**Detailed information**, including application instructions, deadlines, and evaluation criteria, will be provided in the full announcement once the funding opportunity is officially posted on COMMBUYS. We encourage potential applicants to begin planning for this opportunity and stay tuned for further updates. **Please note that the anticipated award announcement timeframe will likely only allow a 3-month window for funded portions of projects to be completed by the deadline of June 30, 2025.** For any questions or additional information about this upcoming opportunity, please contact Purvi Patel at [purvi.patel@mass.gov](mailto:purvi.patel@mass.gov).

We look forward to your participation in this exciting program.