



Department of Environmental Protection

CLEAN ENERGY RESULTS

Massachusetts' Wastewater Energy Recovery (WWER) Pilot Program¹

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR DESIGN PHASE

September 24, 2026

MassDEP is pleased to announce this Pilot Project grant program to support the installation of Wastewater Energy Recovery (WWER) technologies in Massachusetts. The pilot project grants (WWER Grants) are being offered by the Clean Energy Results Program (CERP), a collaborative program in partnership with MA DOER and the Mass Clean Energy Center. This initiative will provide critical phased state grant funding for the assessment, design, and construction of wastewater energy recovery pilot projects in Massachusetts. The objectives of this pilot program are to: (1) assess, design, install, or construct this energy recovery technology; (2) evaluate the resultant energy and cost savings and greenhouse gas emission reductions; and (3) develop a replicable WWER partnership model for cost-effective and scaled project development in Massachusetts.

MassDEP is making five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in grant funds available from the agency's Climate Protection and Mitigation Expendable Trust to support this program.

This core state funding will be combined and leveraged with other sources of existing technical or financial assistance from Massachusetts' energy utilities (Mass Save®, MLPs), WWER technology providers who can provide [preliminary assessments for interested customers](#), and other state and potential federal partners.

Pilot Project Goals

The WWER pilot program has three main goals:

1. Support construction and activation of pilot projects using WWER technologies. Encourage project locations across regions, of varying size and scale (i.e., serving an individual building, multiple buildings, district, or campus), and prioritizing benefits to underserved and disadvantaged populations.
2. Evaluate the cost, energy, and environmental effectiveness of the completed pilot installations.
3. Develop a replicable WWER partnership model for cost-effective and scaled project development in Massachusetts and elsewhere, through data collection and

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assessment, development of guidance, and integration into existing design standards for wastewater treatment facilities.

Eligible Entities

This pilot program is seeking proposals for WWER installations across all regions of the Commonwealth with a focus on maximizing benefits with most of the projects in underserved and disadvantaged areas. Eligible Applicants include the following high-energy users.

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

Project Design (Phase 2)

Project Design: Develop a final design and signed set of schematic drawings for a technically and economically viable WWER project. 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, and sections and details depicting, at minimum, the final design elements including 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 Phase 2 Design package 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). Refer to Appendix C for an example of outlined deliverables expected from completion of design work.

Application Submission Process – Project Design Phase Only

Overview – An applicant's submittal should include the following information to be submitted online.

- Appendix A
 - Narrative – This document should describe the project, any work completed to date (e.g. summary of energy assessment phase work, pre-work completed for building design), an overview of the project budget, organizations engaged that will assist with this project (e.g. technical provider, consultants, contractors, etc.), anticipated

funding sources (e.g. utility incentives, grants) that will enable the applicant to complete this phase of the project, and anticipated permitting needs identified. Please include a description that broadly captures anticipated benefits (e.g. return on investment; reasonable societal/public health, economic, and environmental benefits) that are generated by investment in this technology (max 2 pages). Please note two separate forms (Attachment 1 Scope of Work) and (Attachment 2) Proposed Budget (Excel File) must also be completed with more detailed information). Additional required attachments are described below.

- Organizational Chart – An organizational chart of their confirmed team members, including contractors/subcontractors and/or consultants who will participate in this phase of the project. It should identify specific personnel leads and their qualifications.
 - Communication Plan – For this Phase, which is expected to be completed in 6 months, the applicant should describe their plan for communication with MassDEP and the frequency of that communication (e.g. mid-point and final report).
 - Location – Your proposal should identify the location of your project and identify if the project is within a Burdened Area or serves a Burdened Area. If applicable, the proposal should provide a description of the project's burden(s) or benefit(s) to communities within a Burdened Area(s) (max 2 pages). (e.g. please describe, if appropriate, the broader benefits of the technology to specific or general members of the Burdened Area).
 - Stakeholder Engagement Plan – To the extent necessary and appropriate, include a description of the outreach plan: frequency, media (virtual/in-person meeting, website, social media post, etc.), and audience [e.g. municipal boards, municipal sewer department, publicly-owned treatment work (POTW), neighborhood associations, residents, area businesses, etc.]. If details on proposed or completed engagement activities are not available, this can be accomplished by stating the use of the organization's website or social media to be used for this purpose. For non-municipal projects, please describe engagement activities with the municipal sewer department and/or POTW and, separately, include letter(s) of support from the municipal sewer department and/or POTW.
- Appendix B1 – Application Authorization and Funding Sources
 - Appendix B2 – Tax and Non-Profit Certification (For Non-Public Entities Only)
 - Online questionnaire (Appendix E): additional instructions included as part of this document and the amended RFR.
 - Attachments
 - Attachment 1 – Proposed Scope of Work

- Attachment 2 – Proposed Budget Table (Excel File), including any funds identified for communication and outreach activities.
- Attachment 3 – Energy Assessment/feasibility report (Required submission for Phase 2 application) or Design documents (Required submission for Phase 3 application)
- Attachment 4 - non-municipal applicants must submit a letter of support from the municipality and POTW that would be affected by the WWER project. (Required for Phases 2 and 3)
- Additional Attachments: Supporting documentation from other grant or incentive partners such as a grant award notice or notice of receipt of application or a communication indicating that the proposed clean energy project(s) are likely to be eligible for a grant or incentive. If you have completed an ASHRAE Level I or Level II energy audit, you can upload the full report as an additional attachment during the Phase 2 or Phase 3 application, respectively (e.g., File Name – Entity Name_MassSave_inc_email.pdf)

Online Application Submission

Applications must be completed on the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs new [Grants Management System](#). *To access the GMS, grant applicants must create a username and password and have their profile validated, which could take several days to complete. MassDEP recommends that potential applicants create an account and become familiar with the system as soon as possible.*

MassDEP's WWER Review Team will review each application for eligibility and completeness and score each application according to its scoring criteria. (see RFR p.10)

Pilot Procurement (Request for Response-RFR): The WWER pilot grant program will be executed through a competitive grant solicitation posted on COMMBUYS and open to municipal, private, and nonprofit sectors. The grant solicitation will be open, and applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, first come, first serve for a two-to-three-year period or until all initial funds are awarded. Successful pilot applicants will be expected to leverage all available funding in addition to MassDEP funding. To be eligible to advance to the next phase of funding, a project proponent must demonstrate both technical and financing feasibility and likelihood that the project will be implemented for a subsequent phase application to be competitive.

Program Structure & Funding Assistance

MassDEP's WWER grants will provide funding assistance for project development in three phases. A project may apply for funding but must provide documentation that demonstrates technical and financial viability for executing the phase for which they are applying. Facilities

can leverage funding based on need at their appropriate project phase. MassDEP will evaluate the final report and deliverables from each completed phase to determine successive funding eligibility for the next application phase based on the viability and likelihood that the WWER project will be successfully implemented.

Financial / Technical Support

MassDEP, MassSave® and Technology Providers

- MassSave® and Technology providers can provide funding or in-kind technical assistance for energy and technology assessments.
- WWER Grants: MassDEP may provide funding for up to \$100,000 for eligible pilot projects meeting the requirements of the Design Phase.
- Funding assistance may vary for projects in municipal light plant territories.

Grant Terms and Conditions

All Grantees must execute/agree to the following forms with MassDEP to receive funding:

1. All Grantees must execute/agree to the following forms with MassDEP to receive funding.
 - a. MassDEP WWER Pilot Grant Agreement
 - b. Commonwealth [Standard Contract Form](#)
 - c. [Commonwealth Terms and Conditions](#) this is incorporated by reference into the Standard Contract Form and does not need to be executed separately.
 - d. [Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing \(CASL\) Form](#)
 - e. [W-9 Form](#)
 - f. [Electronic Funds Transfer \(EFT\) form](#)
2. Upon MassDEP approval, grant awards will be distributed on a payment schedule with 50% at contract signing and the remaining 50% at project's phase completion.

WWER Pilot Project Tasks and Target Timelines (estimated)

Tasks	2025		2026				2027																	
	Jun	To	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Project Partners Coordination / Kickoff Meetings																								
Implement Targeted Outreach and Communication Plan																								
MassDEP Releases COMMBUYS/GMS RFR for Pilot Projects																								
Ongoing Review of Proposals and Selection of Grant Pilot Sites																								
Initial Grant Awards (Rolling Application)																								
Assessment Phase*																								
Design Phase*																								
Construction Phase*																								
DEP Project Management, Oversight, Reporting, and Deliverables																								
Phased Draft Reports & Deliverables ²																								
Phased Final Reports																								
Evaluation of Pilots																								

*Each pilot project may use grant funding in one, two, or all three of these noted project phases. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, and the opportunity is dependent on funding availability. The project phases are expected to be completed within the timeframe listed and upon execution of a grant award contract unless prior arrangement is made and written approval granted by MassDEP: Energy Assessment Phase within six (6) months, Design Phase within nine (9) months, and Construction Phase within two (2) years).

² Grantees will need to submit both draft and final reports for MassDEP review during the project's implementation. Timing of the reports will depend on the phased project start date.

APPENDIX E.2: ONLINE APPLICATION QUESTIONS (adapted for Phase 2)

Complete the following questions in the **APPLICATION DETAILS** section on the Grant Management System Portal. The following questions appear in the online application.

Asterisk (*) indicates answer is required.

General Application and Project Site Overview

Please complete all questions in this section. For questions pertaining to building energy, heating, or cooling needs, please use information from the energy assessment completed for your proposed project. For a new building, please estimate these values as best as possible and, if the information is not known, enter zero (0).

- Entity Name*
- Entity Function*
- Type of Governance*
- Project Site/Building Name*
- Project Site Address, including No. Address, City/Town, STATE, Zip Code*
- Project Site Municipality, e.g. City/Town
- Project Site County*
- Project Site phone Number
- Main Office Address*
- Wastewater Utility Serving Project Site*: Input the name of the system providing sewer services to the project site. Refer to this online map to determine the name of the system: <https://bit.ly/MassDEP-Sewer-ServiceAreas>
- Electric Utility Serving the Project Site*: Input the name of the electric company providing electricity to the project site. Refer to this map to determine the name of the electric company: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-my-electric-gas-and-water-company#find-my-electric-company>
- Total Annual Energy Usage (kWh)*: **As identified in your Energy Assessment**
- Total Annual Electricity Costs (\$) *: **As identified in your Energy Assessment**
- Energy Use Intensity (EUI) of Building(s) (kBtu/sf) *: **As identified in your Energy Assessment**
- Gas Utility Serving the Project Site*: Input the name of the gas company providing gas to the project site. Refer to this map to determine the name of the electric company: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-my-electric-gas-and-water-company#find-my-gas-company>
- Total Annual Heating Costs (\$) *: **As identified in your Energy Assessment**
- Total Annual Cooling Costs (\$) *: **As identified in your Energy Assessment**
- Total Annual Estimated Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Emissions (metric tons) *: **If you don't have the Annual Estimated Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Emissions value, use the**

[Environmental Protection Agency's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator](#). To estimate the Total Annual Estimated CO2 Emissions (metric tons), convert the energy and fuel usage for heating and cooling the building to the equivalent amount of CO2 emissions. Sum the total emissions amount.

- Did you apply for Phase 1 funding? *
 - If yes, did you receive funding? *
 - If your Phase 1 assessment was funded, were there any modifications to the project proposal? *
 - If yes, describe the modifications
 - If your Phase 1 assessment was not funded, were there any modifications to the project proposal? *
 - If yes, describe the modifications

Project Description and Grant Request

- Project Summary*: Provide a brief project summary. Additional details and information can be included in the Project Narrative (Appendix A upload)
- Will the WWER system be installed for a new or existing building? *
 - New
 - Existing/Retrofit
- Estimated Total Project Cost (\$)*
- Grant Amount Requested (\$)*
- Utility Incentives (e.g. MassSave, Municipal Light Plant) *: If no incentive is available, report \$0
- Other state grants (e.g. MassCEC, DOER) *: Report the summed funding sources total. Report the individual funding sources in the Funding Overview Portion of the Project Narrative (Appendix A upload). If there are no other funding sources, report \$0.
- Other Funding Sources *: Report the summed funding of all other funding sources. Report the individual funding sources in the Funding Overview portion of the Project Narrative (Appendix A). If there are no other funding sources, report \$0.
- System heating demand analysis in ton hours*: **provide information as documented in your Energy Assessment**
- System heating demand analysis in ton hours @ year 30*: **provide information for your proposed project if an expansion of customers, building space, or other change in demand is already anticipated; the year 30 demand should reflect those projected conditions. This information is expected to be documented in your Energy Assessment. If no significant expansion or change in demand is projected, the Year 30 demand should be based on the current facility and its existing heating demand.**
- System cooling demand analysis in ton hours*: **provide information as documented in your Energy Assessment**

- System cooling demand analysis in ton hours @ year 30*: provide information for proposed project if an expansion of customers, building space, or other change in demand is already anticipated; the year 30 demand should reflect those projected conditions. This information is expected to be documented in your Energy Assessment; enter N/A if not known. If no significant expansion or change in demand is projected, the Year 30 demand should be based on the current facility and its existing cooling demand
- Estimated sewer withdrawal rates in gallons per minute: minimum/low*: This information is expected to be documented in your Energy Assessment, enter N/A if not known
- Estimated sewer withdrawal rates in gallons per minute : average*: This information is expected to be documented in your Energy Assessment, enter N/A if not known
- Estimated sewer withdrawal rates in gallons per minute : maximum/high: enter N/A if not known
- Square footage of project that is Residential*: enter N/A if not applicable
- Square footage of project that is Commercial*: enter N/A if not applicable
- Square footage of project that is Industrial*: enter N/A if not applicable
- Square footage of project that is Other: enter N/A if not applicable
- Energy Assessment/feasibility report*: Submit a Technical Assistance Study prepared by an energy utility, consultant, wastewater energy recovery technology provider, or the applicant's engineering team. If you were funded by the WWER Phase 1 Assessment, please submit all final deliverables and reports you received. If you did not receive WWER Phase 1 funding, please submit document(s) that include a preliminary WWER project plan, estimated project costs, projected energy savings and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions, and a basic site diagram illustrating the proposed use of recovered wastewater energy for space heating, cooling, hot water, or other applicable uses. The study should also identify the existing heating and cooling loads of the building(s) under consideration and evaluate potential wastewater energy sources, such as onsite sanitary lines, municipal sewer lines, pump stations, or effluent channels.
- Letters of Support*: Upload the required letters of support from the applicable municipality or Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW). Non-municipal applicants and applicants that do not own the affected POTW must submit letters confirming agreement to provide access to and review of the relevant wastewater infrastructure acknowledging that, based on available information, the proposed WWER project is not expected to interfere with the operation or maintenance of the sewer system infrastructure. If the municipality owns the POTW, submit a letter of ownership.
- Other Supporting Documentation: Upload any available supporting documentation from other grant or incentive partners, such as grant award notices, application acknowledgments, or communications indicating potential eligibility for funding or

incentives. Please follow the file-naming convention (e.g., Entity Name_MassSave_inc_email.pdf).

- ASHRAE Level I or Level II: If an ASHRAE Level I or Level II Energy Audit has been completed, you may upload the report in this section.

Project Consultant and Contractor Information

- Consultant Name*
- Consultant Organization*
- Consultant Email*
- Consultant Phone*
- Contractor Name*
- Contractor Organization*
- Contractor Email*
- Contractor Phone*
- Which wastewater energy technology provider are you working with?*: Please select other if your provider is not listed.
 - If you indicated "Other" please indicate which wastewater technology provider or consultant is providing assistance to your project.*