



Department of Environmental Protection

CLEANENERGYRESULTS

Massachusetts' Wastewater Energy Recovery (WWER) Pilot Program¹

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR ASSESSMENT PHASE

May 26, 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)

Energy Assessment (Phase 1)

Assessment Scope: Conduct a focused Technical Assistance Study performed by a (energy utility, consultant, 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](#)).

Application Submission Process – Energy Assessment 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 and an overview of the project budget, organizations engaged that will assist with this project and anticipated funding sources that will enable the applicant to complete the project. (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)
 - 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).
- 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, neighborhood associations, etc.).
- Appendix B1 – Application Authorization and Funding Sources
- Appendix B2 – Tax and Non-Profit Certification (For Non-Public Entities Only)
- Online questionnaire (Appendix E)
- Attachments
 - Attachment 1 – Proposed Scope of Work
 - Attachment 2 – Proposed Budget Table (Excel File)

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 in order 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 \$15,000 for energy and technology assessment work.
- 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

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.