



# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding Available for Advancing Clean Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

America faces an array of water-related challenges – from lead pipes and other drinking water contaminants, to wastewater and stormwater management, to lack of sustainable water supply in some areas. Fortunately, BIL includes an unprecedented level of funding for state and local governments to address these challenges.

The table below lists several potential types of water infrastructure projects, available funding opportunities under BIL, and examples of the successful implementation of these projects.

Project	Grants Available	Notable Projects
<p><b>Lead Pipe Replacement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead pipe replacement is an allowable use of the <a href="#">Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)</a>, which consists of advantageous loans from the federal government that cities can <a href="#">apply to through their state</a>. BIL expanded the DWSRF and made a portion of these loans forgivable. The EPA is also providing <a href="#">technical resources</a> for Lead Service Line Replacement in small and disadvantaged communities.</li> <li>BIL also includes funds specifically for:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» <a href="#">Schools and child care centers</a> (cities will get funding from states: <a href="#">your state's contact information is here</a>); and</li> <li>» <a href="#">Rural areas</a> through the USDA (**Applications accepted year round, cities can apply <a href="#">here</a>**).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>In Buffalo, NY; Pittsburgh, PA; and Toledo, OH <a href="#">BIL dollars are being used to accelerate lead pipe removal projects</a>.</p> <p>In Buffalo, for example, BIL funds are being used to remove lead service lines from over 1,000 homes, in addition to the 500 homes whose service lines were already replaced using other funding.</p> <p>The town of Stockton, UT had a water main with <a href="#">100-year old piping and lead joints</a>. Additionally, a nearby construction site was causing ground vibrations, which led to leaks and soil erosion. Using financing from the DWSRF, as well as support from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the town replaced 7,400 feet of piping, which improved the drinking water by eliminating the leaks and lead exposure.</p>
<p><b>Removing emerging contaminants from the water supply</b></p>	<p>Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, a group of chemicals known as PFAS, have been linked to adverse health effects and have been found in drinking water in many cities and towns.</p> <p>Since 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency has taken a more active approach to regulating PFAS, releasing interim <a href="#">drinking water health advisories</a> for 2 chemicals in the PFAS family and proposing that they be considered <a href="#">hazardous substances</a>, among <a href="#">other regulatory actions</a>.</p> <p>The following grants can be used to address emerging contaminants like PFAS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BIL included \$1 billion for communities working to address PFAS pollution through the <a href="#">Emerging Contaminants (EC) in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant (SDC)</a>. Grants for communities that qualify will be provided through states that elected to participate in the program; state contacts can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>BIL also funded a carve out in the <a href="#">Clean Water State Revolving Fund</a> specifically to address emerging contaminants. Funding goes through states; state contacts can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>	<p>Though not paid for with BIL funds, the experience of the Wilmington, NC area illustrates the kind of project that can be undertaken with emerging contaminant grant funds.</p> <p>Upstream from Wilmington, a chemical plant had discharged PFAS into the Cape Fear river, which was affecting the drinking water of over 200,000 people.</p> <p>After <a href="#">significant publicity</a> about the contamination and potential harm, the <a href="#">Cape Fear Public Utility Authority (CFPUA)</a> installed granular activated carbon (GAC) filters, among other technologies, to filter out PFAS. According to CFPUA, these filters have been highly effective, removing PFAS to at or near non-detectable levels.</p> <p>This <a href="#">case study</a> includes additional information about the capital and ongoing costs of the project.</p>



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<p><b>Stormwater Management</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stormwater infrastructure is one of the allowable uses of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). Cities can <a href="#">apply through their state</a>.</li> <li>The <a href="#">319 Grant Program for States and Territories</a> can be used for stormwater management. Grants to cities are through states: <a href="#">your state contacts here</a>.</li> <li>Federal Emergency Management Agency <a href="#">Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants</a>, including the <a href="#">Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities</a> program covered in a previous <a href="#">Local Infrastructure Hub session</a> grant program can also be used for stormwater management.</li> </ul>	<p>In response to excessive stormwater overflow and flood risk, the city of <a href="#">Chester</a>, PA created a stormwater authority and implemented a user fee to fund stormwater management, creating a dedicated funding stream that enabled the city to qualify for a \$34 million CWSRF loan. Through a public-private partnership and combined efforts at the local, state and federal level, the project eliminated around 47,000 tons of debris from stormwater systems and created over 90 local jobs.</p>
<p><b>Sustainable Water Supply</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Drinking Water State Revolving Fund</a> (DWSRF) can be used for grants that improve a city's water supply source.</p>	<p><a href="#">In response</a> to a recurring drought, Altus, OK blended and braided a DWSRF loan and an emergency drought relief grant to construct a new water line to service its rural citizens.</p> <p>The city of Raymondville, TX <a href="#">developed</a> a sustainable water supply using DWSRF to build a public well and reverse osmosis facility.</p>
<p><b>Wastewater Treatment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <a href="#">Clean Water State Revolving Fund</a> (CWSRF) program is a federal-state partnership that provides communities low-cost financing for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects. Funding goes through states; state contacts can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>Locals can take the additional step of leveraging Energy Efficiency Block Grant (EECBG) funding through BIL in tandem with the Inflation Reduction Act's tax incentives to improve the energy efficiency of their wastewater treatment plants. Through these tax credits, cities and other tax-exempt entities can <a href="#">directly monetize specific tax credits</a> including many renewable energy credits such as the <a href="#">Investment Tax Credit (ITC)</a> and the <a href="#">Production Tax Credit (PTC)</a>, treating them as refundable payments of tax. This allows cities to receive a direct payment from the IRS for any amount paid in excess of their tax liability for credits.</li> </ul>	<p>The town of Gresham, OR <a href="#">employed</a> clean energy technologies – primarily a digester that turns wastewater into biogas– to make their wastewater treatment plant carbon neutral.</p> <p>The <a href="#">City of Santa Barbara's El Estero</a> wastewater treatment plant uses waste gas fuel cell technology to produce nearly one-half of the facility's electricity needs and uses a tertiary water reclamation facility to provide recycled water for irrigation in the city's parks, schools, commercial landscapes, and golf courses.</p>