

Technology Innovation and Resource Recovery Fund

Growing the Innovation Economy thru Clean Water Investments

Overview and Purpose

The Technology Innovation and Resource Recovery Fund (TIRRF), managed through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, is designed to help communities deploy innovative technology to transform the way they deliver clean water services and manage resources in a more environmentally-effective and economically-efficient manner. Specifically, TIRRF funding could support the following types of projects:

- innovative stormwater control infrastructure
- water reclamation and reuse
- energy efficiency and generation
- nutrient reduction and recovery

Appropriations

The TIRRF is based on the Green Project Reserve (GPR) in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. Currently, 20% of all CWSRF funds must go towards green infrastructure projects. NACWA proposes to establish the TIRRF by:

1. Expanding the GPR to include the innovative and resource recovery technologies and activities like those listed above and supported by *The Water Resources Utility of the Future*,
2. Rebranding the GPR to the TIRRF to reflect the additional project types eligible for this funding,
3. Increasing the TIRRF set-aside to 30% of all CWSRF funds.

Establishing the TIRRF would ensure that in addition to supporting traditional infrastructure projects, the CWSRF promotes the adoption of 21st century technology to transform POTWs from basic providers of wastewater services to advanced resource recovery managers who can efficiently deliver improved environmental and economic benefits to a community. NACWA was a strong supporter of the GPR when it was established, and the TIRRF builds on that work.

Legislative Opportunity

While establishing a new EPA grant program to help deploy this type of innovative technology at wastewater treatment plants is NACWA's ideal approach, it would be difficult considering the current fiscal environment. Alternatively, the approach taken with the proposed TIRRF should have significant appeal today as it would not require additional spending to the CWSRF, and NACWA could continue to advocate for ample funding of the SRF programs as a top priority.

The TIRRF could be designated in a FY2015 Interior and Environment appropriations bill or an SRF reauthorization bill. Representatives Bob Gibbs (R-OH) and Tim Bishop (D-NY), Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, have been in talks to develop an SRF Reauthorization bill with the support of House Majority leadership. This would be an excellent vehicle should the bill materialize.

Types of Projects Eligible for TIRRF support:

Innovative Stormwater Control Infrastructure: Any innovative stormwater infrastructure management technique that

- I. Uses natural systems or engineered systems that mimic natural processes to infiltrate, evapotranspire, or capture stormwater; and
- II. Preserves, enhances, or mimics natural hydrology to protect or restore water quality.

Water Reclamation and Reuse: Any technique that

- I. Reclaims and/or reuses wastewater for another application to help maintain or increase water supply and improve water quality.

Energy Efficiency and Generation: Any technique that

- I. Improves the energy efficiency of the utility, and/or
- II. Generates renewable energy for use at the utility.

Nutrient Reduction and Recovery: Any technique that

- I. Reduces the level of nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorous, being released from the utility, and/or
- II. Recovers nutrients for commercial use