

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 that meets customer expectations. Specifically, TIRRF funding could support the following types of projects:

- innovative stormwater control infrastructure
- water reclamation, reuse, efficiency, and conservation
- energy generation and conservation
- nutrient reduction and recovery for commercial/residential use
- watershed restoration and improvement
- climate and extreme weather resiliency

Appropriations

The TIRRF is modeled 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 and/or energy efficiency projects. NACWA proposes to redesign the GPR and establish the TIRRF by:

1. Expanding the list of eligible innovative and resource recovery technologies and activities for investment under the TIRRF,
2. Rebranding the GPR to the TIRRF to reflect the additional project types eligible for this funding,
3. Increasing the 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

The TIRRF should have significant appeal today as it would not require additional spending to the CWSRF. Further, 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. Senator Boxer has also indicated an interest in SRF reauthorization. This would be an excellent vehicle should the bill materialize.

Types of Projects Eligible for TIRRF support:

Innovative Stormwater Control Infrastructure: Any alternative technique to traditional stormwater conveyance systems that:

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

Water Reclamation, Reuse, Efficiency, and Conservation: Any technique that:

- I. Reclaims and/or reuses wastewater for potable or non-potable use, and/or
- II. Improves water efficiency or water conservation of utility operations.

Energy Generation and Conservation: Any technique that:

- I. Improves energy efficiency of utility operations, and/or
- II. Generates energy, heat, electricity, or alternative fuels at a utility.

Nutrient Reduction and Recovery: Any innovative technology that:

- I. Recovers nutrients for commercial or residential use.

Watershed Restoration and Improvement: Any technique that:

- I. Meets water quality goals through innovative watershed restoration methods.

Climate and Extreme Weather Resiliency: Any activity that:

- I. Improves utility resiliency during extreme weather events.