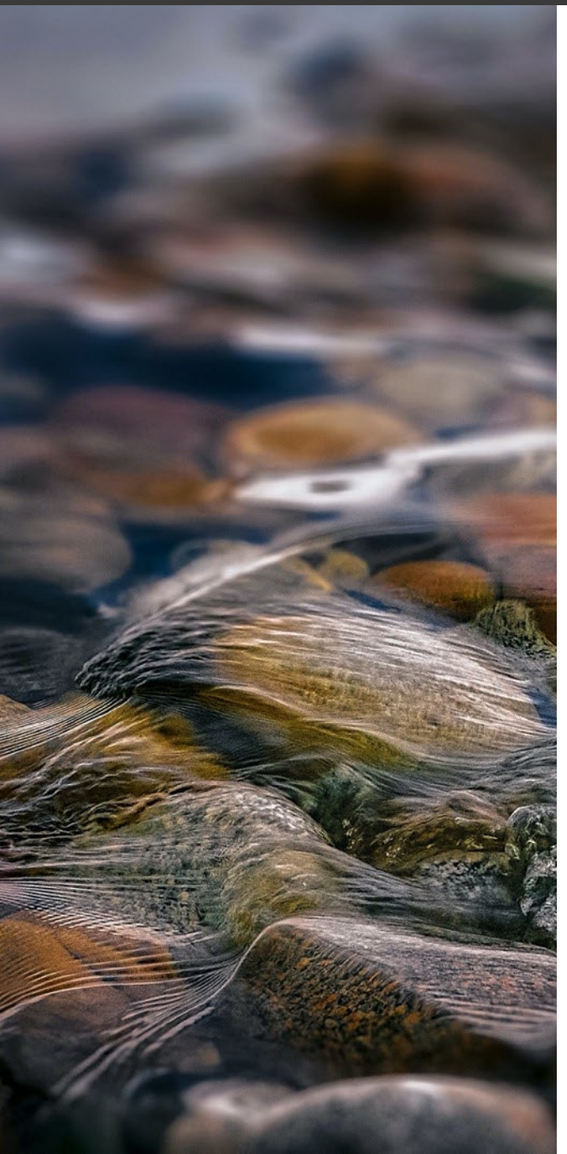
2026-2028 Water Efficiency Grant Program

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee

Henry McCarthy | Jen Kostrzewski

Program overview

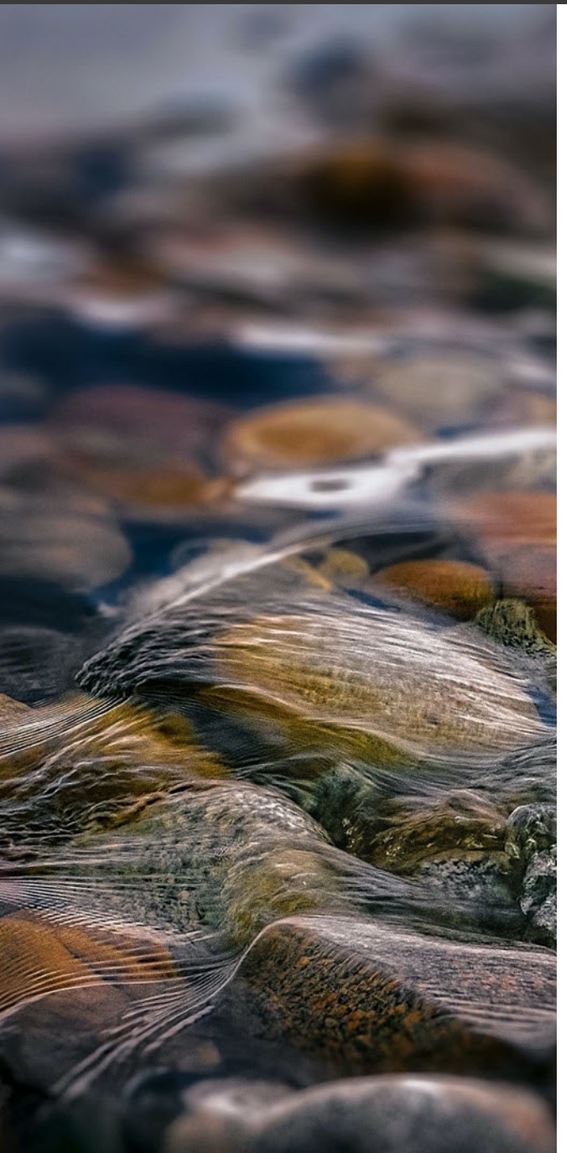


$1,400,000 for program

Running from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028

- From Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment
- Passing through to communities
- For municipalities that are operate or are served by a municipal water system
- Requires matching amount: 80% Met Council, 20% municipality

DRAFT - Changes for 2026-2028



- Maximum grant amount: $50,000 → $75,000
- Minimum grant amount: $5,000 → $10,000
- Low-income cost assistance element → additional $10,000 available to expand maximum grant amount to $85,000
  - Full cost coverage for eligible residents on indoor water use devices
- Municipal installation element
  - Turfgrass conversion/replacement
  - Replacement of water using devices
- Clearer guidelines for device eligibility and property type
  - Faucets and faucet accessories added
  - Irrigation controller and spray sprinkler bodies now require an irrigation system audit to be eligible
- Updated reporting form
- Standardized estimated water savings (with option for municipalities to provide more specific estimates)

DRAFT - Eligible grant activities

	Grant Activity	Property Type		
		Residential	Commercial	Municipal
Indoor water use	Toilet replacement			
	Clothes washer replacement			
	Dishwasher replacement			
	Showerhead replacement			
	Faucet replacement or faucet accessory			
Outdoor water use	Irrigation system audit*			
	Irrigation controller replacement*			
	Irrigation spray sprinkler body replacement*			
	Turfgrass conversion/replacement			

DRAFT - Grant funding design

Here is an example of the grant funding design*:

A	**Requested grant amount (funding from Met Council)** (80% of traditional grant program subtotal):	**$16,000**
B	**Required municipality matching amount** (20% of traditional grant program subtotal):	**$4,000**
C	**Traditional grant program subtotal** (sum of Met Council grant amount and required municipality match):	**$20,000**

D	*(OPTIONAL)* **Low-income cost assistance requested amount (funding from Met Council)** (100% covered by Met Council funds):	**$5,000**

E	**Total program budget** (sum of traditional grant program subtotal and low-income cost assistance funds):	**$25,000**

**in cases where municipalities have opted in to the low-income cost assistance element, the percent covered by Met Council may exceed 80%*

Evaluating applications

Program proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Completed application form
- Detailed work plan and program strategy
- Example communications (for grant activities on municipal properties, signage explaining device replacements or landscape conversion with reference to Met Council and Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment)

In the event that funds requested exceed funds available, the following criteria will be used to determine the amount granted to a given municipality.

- Municipal residential per capita water use
- Municipal ratio of peak month to winter month water use
- Estimated water savings from proposed program

Next steps

- Adjust guidelines and application form as needed
- Environment Committee and Met Council
- Open for applications March 13, 2026

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