

How to Fund a Reuse Project in Idaho

Abstract: The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) offers grants and loans through the Water Pollution Control State Revolving Loan Fund (or SRF) for wastewater projects, including those that incorporate reuse. DEQ offers planning grant that pays up to 50% of the planning study for systems to evaluate possible improvements. The SRF provides below-market-rate interest loans to help build new or repair existing wastewater treatment facilities. Loans of up to 100% of project costs may be awarded for project planning, design, and/or construction. The DEQ awarded \$325,000 in wastewater planning grants and the DEQ SRF awarded close to \$19,560,000 in clean water loans in 2017. Please note that the SRF program had \$62,000,000 available for wastewater projects in 2017. This left over \$42,440,000 to be carried forward into the next year for wastewater projects.

The DEQ grants and loans group will demonstrate how to get facilities through the planning process and we encourage the development, during the facility planning effort, of all feasible alternatives, including reuse. A few project examples will be given to demonstrate the alternatives analysis during the planning process, along with engineering and environmental hurdles, permitting, construction challenges, and finally, proven successes in reuse. Your facility can incorporate reuse into your system – and we can help with the planning and the funding, along with other funding agencies in Idaho: Idaho Department of Commerce, USDA Rural Development, and the US Army Corps of Engineers. We work together to get facilities the best funding package to suit the needs of the users. Other states funding options may also be included in the discussion.

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Aimee Hill has lived in Idaho for 24 years. She attended Boise State University and received a B.S. in Environmental Health and a minor in Biology. After starting her career in water quality planning and outreach with Idaho conservation districts, she ventured in to environmental consulting. Aimee spent 15 years in the consulting industry working with local, state, and Federal government agencies and entities to reach environmental compliance on airport, highway, and dam rehabilitation projects. In January of 2016, Aimee began working at DEQ in the Grants and Loan Program as the Outreach and Environmental Planner/SERP Coordinator.