



ECOS

THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
COUNCIL OF  
THE STATES

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**Alexandra Dapolito Dunn**  
Executive Director &  
General Counsel

**To: ECOS Members**  
**From: Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, Executive Director and General Counsel**  
**Date: April 27, 2017**  
**Re: Your Input Needed for CWSRF Innovations Report**

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In 2016 ECOS published an ECOS Green Report, “[Innovations in the Clean Water SRF Program](#),” and held a [national webinar](#) highlighting the flexibility, effectiveness, and ability of the CWSRF to meet the complex and diverse water quality needs of communities of all sizes. This work was the result of a collaboration between ECOS and EPA. ECOS is pleased to announce the commencement of a project to document additional innovative projects funded by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). ECOS is working under a cooperative agreement with U.S. EPA’s (EPA’s) Office of Water on this project with a goal of publication by Spring 2018.

***Background:***

The CWSRF has been one of the more successful federal-state-local partnerships, providing more than \$118 billion to communities through 2016. Projects supported by the CWSRF have delivered significant environmental, economic, and public health benefits nationwide. Over the years, CWSRF administrators have taken new and innovative approaches to dispersing funds and to supporting cutting-edge and novel water quality projects. More than just a traditional infrastructure funding and construction program, the CWSRF has evolved into a flexible and dynamic program that is meeting the diverse needs of communities of all sizes and levels of sophistication in America.

***Our Project:***

We are seeking information about projects and approaches that demonstrate unique uses and dispersion of CWSRF funds. The uniqueness and creativity of the work could lie in the project itself or in the financing approaches, terms, and conditions. We will ultimately profile about 15 projects, in a variety of large, medium, and small communities, and in rural, suburban, and urban settings. **We are especially focusing on projects that benefit disadvantaged communities, that build recipient capacity, and that address sustainability challenges.** To see the types and variety of projects that have previously been featured, please view the Green Report linked above.

If you would like to submit your project for consideration to be included in ECOS’ report and webinar, please 1-2 paragraphs covering the following information to Layne Piper ([lpiper@ecos.org](mailto:lpiper@ecos.org)):

- Project Title, Project Location, and Community Type/Size
- Funding Mechanism: List SRF money awarded and any other funding source(s)
- Project Description: Describe what makes this project innovative
- Results to Date: Describe environmental, economic, and community impacts or benefits
- Project Contact Information: Name, Title, Agency, Phone, and Email

An example of the type of information we are seeking follows. *Thanks to Sandy Sutton of the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona for sharing this example with ECOS through CIFA:*

**Clean Water Project – Clarkdale, AZ - small community**

WIFA’s 2013 Clean Water Project of the Year was for Clarkdale’s Broadway Reclamation Facility, a \$5.5 million infrastructure project to replace an outdated lagoon treatment system with a recycled and refurbished mechanical wastewater treatment facility. After it was determined that their original plans to construct a new plant were cost-prohibitive, Clarkdale officials decided to purchase and refurbish a decommissioned wastewater treatment plant from a subdivision in Surprise, AZ saving the community nearly \$9 million. The outdated lagoon system posed significant water quality threats to the adjacent Verde River. With the new enclosed wastewater treatment plant, potential discharge to the Verde River is eliminated. This project is an incredibly innovative and sustainable solution to improve water infrastructure and protect water quality. Contact: (Phone and Email)

ECOS is also seeking input for this report from the Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities (CIFA) the Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA), Water Environment Federation (WEF), and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA).

***Project Timeline:***

We would appreciate it if you could share examples with ECOS’ Layne Piper ([lpiper@ecos.org](mailto:lpiper@ecos.org)) by Friday, May 19. ECOS will select 10-15 projects to be featured and will follow up with those points of contact to document the approach in detail. ECOS will write the case studies in summer 2017, and will share drafts with the parties referenced in each case study. A panel of judges will choose three projects from EPA, ECOS, and our partner water associations to be featured in a national webinar in the fall. The report will be designed and finalized shortly thereafter. We share a link to a recording of the webinar for future use and viewing.

***Contact Information:***

Please feel free to reach out to Layne Piper with any questions about this project at 202-266-4928 or [lpiper@ecos.org](mailto:lpiper@ecos.org). Thank you for your help!

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