

household items that should not be disposed of in toilets, sinks or storm drains due to the potential harm they can cause to our rivers is also available. Call (204) 986-5858. www.winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/default.stm

Municipal/Residential: Non-Governmental Organizations

- **Evergreen:** Evergreen is nonprofit environmental organization that has three core programs through which it provides funding, tools, materials and other resources to various stakeholders in support of environmental stewardship and community naturalization projects. Nature and green grant programs are available to community stewardship groups in cities and towns across Canada through the Common Grounds program. The Learning Grounds program is targeted at schools across Canada to help teachers engage students in nature-related topics. Call 888-426-3138. www.evergreen.ca/en/index.html
- **Resource Conservation Manitoba - Compost Action Project:** provides how-to-compost information to consumers, from backyard enthusiasts to community groups, schools, municipalities, agricultural producers, industry and government departments. Nutrient management through effective composting of organics protects ground and surface water sources, rebuilds soil fertility and can eliminate the need for chemical inputs. Call 866-394-8880. www.resourceconservation.mb.ca/cap/
- **Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation:** this organization encourages expansion of recycling services across Manitoba. Programs include municipal residential recycling, promotion and education, technical support and consulting, waste reduction initiatives and research and development. A Community Recycling Handbook has been developed to help municipalities establish and maintain well-planned and cost-efficient recycling programs. The website also offers various recycling-related resources and materials. www.mpsc.com/main.asp?contentID=1
- **Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium Inc. (LWRC):** LWRC was founded in 1998 to facilitate scientific research on Lake Winnipeg and is comprised of representatives from various agencies. Their website offers several ideas and projects to help improve the Lake's water quality. One resource is a page targeted towards urban and rural residents of the Lake Winnipeg Watershed titled "What Can You Do." The web page offers suggested actions for individuals to help contribute to the health and restoration of Lake Winnipeg by reducing shoreline degradation and water quality deterioration. Topics addressed include phosphorus reduction, shoreline restoration to natural conditions, septic system maintenance, among others. Call (204) 642-4446. www.lakewinnipegresearch.org/lwrc%20pages/whatyoucando.htm
- **North American Stormwater and Erosion Control Association of Manitoba:** this organization is dedicated to bringing individuals together to discuss, inform and network in the erosion and sediment control industry. Call (204) 477-1700. www.naseca.org/Manitoba/
- **International Erosion Control Association - Northern Plains Chapter:** provides education, resource information and business opportunities for professionals in the erosion and sediment control industry. IECA's Northern Plains Chapter includes Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in Canada, as well as Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota in the United States. Call (204) 478-1322. www.ieca.org/Chapter/northernplains/northernplainshome.asp
- **Manitoba Livestock Manure Management Initiative Inc.:** the initiative is a livestock industry-driven approach to address manure management concerns. The Initiative's mission is to foster sustainable development of the livestock industry in Manitoba in an environmentally sound and community friendly manner, through research and development and demonstration. The Initiative's challenge is to coordinate the work being done to develop new approaches and to serve as a clearinghouse for information on effective manure management. Call (204) 945-0225. www.manure.mb.ca/



Red River Basin Commission
119 S. 5th St. • PO Box 66
Moorhead, MN 56561-0066
Ph: 218-291-0422 • Fax: 218-291-0438
staff@redriverbasincommission.org

Red River Basin Commission
410 - 283 Bannatyne Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 3B2
Ph: 204-982-7250 • Fax: 204-982-7255
redriverbasincommission@shawcable.com

www.redriverbasincommission.org

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The RRBC is a group of people from the Red River Basin working together to achieve common goals for water protection and management.

WATER QUALITY IN THE RED RIVER BASIN

A Report to Basin Residents and a Call to Action *Part 2 - Program Assistance Reference Guide*



This guide highlights financial assistance programs provided by federal, provincial and state governments for local leaders, landowners and individuals to help reduce or remove nutrients in the waterways of the Red River Basin.

United States Programs **Federal and State**

Agricultural Programs: Federal Assistance

US Department of Agriculture: www.usda.gov

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA), has the largest and broadest number of programs for agricultural producers. These programs have been developed through the Farm Bill Program; the current program was developed in 2002 and is active until 2007. Typically, these two federal agencies coordinate efforts with local units of governments such as the Soil (and Water) Conservation Districts. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has initiatives for private land owners as well.

USDA programs offer economic incentives ranging from annual payments for conservation use to up-front, onetime payments and may include cost-share incentives for installation of conservation measures. NRCS offers technical assistance to landowners for conservation practices on their land and may also have "certified technical service providers" available who are not federal employees, but who are contracted to assist landowners in developing farm plans. USDA also partners with local or nongovernmental groups that work to achieve conservation enhancements on private lands. NRCS works closely with the Soil (and Water) Conservation Districts situated in each throughout the basin.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Programs: www.fsa.usda.gov/daftp/cepd

- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP):** provides annual rent payments for planting permanent vegetation on idle or highly-erodible farmland.
- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP):** a state and federal partnership that provides incentive payments for installing specific conservation practices. Targeted priority areas are described by the agreement between the state and FSA.
- **Grassland Reserve Program (GRP):** easements or rental incentives provided to the landowner to limit the future use of the land while retaining the ability to graze, hay or produce seed. Its focus is to restore and protect grassland and rangeland, enhance biodiversity and protect land from being converted to other land uses.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Programs: www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs

NRCS has the largest amount of Technical Assistance Program and activities of any federal agency. Some of their most recognized programs are:

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** promotes agriculture production and environmental quality as compatible goals. Financial assistance is available to install or implement structural and management practices on eligible land.
- **Conservation Security Program (CSP):** provides technical and financial assistance to promote, conserve and improve soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life and other conservation purposes on Tribal and working previous efforts of the landowner, and assists with further development of conservation on the land.
- **Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP):** this program provides technical assistance and 75% cost-share assistance to people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on private land.
- **Wetland Reserve Program (WRP):** restoring wetlands that have been lost due to farming prior to 1985 can be restored to provide wildlife benefits under this program.

Other programs that may be of interest and which the NRCS can provide more information about include: Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention, Emergency Watershed Protection Program, Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program; Conservation of Private Grazing Lands; Conservation Partnership Initiative, to name a few.

US Fish and Wildlife Programs (USFWS): www.fws.gov

- **Partners for Fish and Wildlife:** working with private landowners, tribes, organizations, businesses and communities, this program restores, enhances and protects important habitat. Participation is voluntary; technical and financial assistance is available. Habitats targeted include wetlands, grasslands, riparian corridors and in-stream improvements. www.fsw.gov/partners/
- **Waterfowl Production Areas:** these lands are purchased with funds derived from the US Federal Duck Stamp program. The lands are acquired as a means to manage and provide high quality wetlands and nesting cover for waterfowl and other wildlife species. The WPAs are open to the public for activities including hunting, hiking, birdwatching and photography. www.fws.gov/refuges/faqs/WPAs.html
- **Habitat Easement Programs:** The USFWS also acquires easements for both wetland and grassland habitats. The purpose is to manage habitat for specific wildlife needs in areas of concern.

Agricultural Programs: State Assistance

Minnesota Programs

Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR): www.bwsr.state.mn.us

- **State Cost-share Program:** base grant funding is provided to the state Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to help local landowners offset costs of installing conservation practices that protect and improve water quality by controlling soil erosion and reducing sedimentation.
- **Feedlot Water Quality Management Grant:** funding from this grant assists SWCDs to provide financial and technical assistance to identify and evaluate water quality problems and develop solutions with feedlot operators.
- **Reinvest in Minnesota:** a program to purchase conservation easements from landowners for the protection of highly erodible land, riparian areas and sensitive groundwater recharge areas. The program further protects and creates habitat for fish and wildlife and improves water quality.
- **Minnesota CREP II:** is a state and federal partnership providing incentive payments for installing specific conservation practices. Targeted priority areas are described by the agreement between the state and FSA.
- **Wetland Banking Program:** also administered through BWSR, this program allows landowners to utilize wetland credits to mitigate unavoidable impacts. It is a mechanism to provide wetland protection and enhancement, and allow property owners an ability to develop their property.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture: www.mda.state.mn.us

- **Agriculture Best Management Practices Loan Program:** provides low-interest financing to farmers, rural landowners and agriculture supply businesses to encourage best management practices to prevent or reduce runoff from feedlots and farm fields and provides loans for projects that reduce existing water quality problems caused by agricultural activities or failing septic systems.
- **Sustainable Agriculture Loan Program:** these loans enable farmers to adopt practices that will lead to a more sustainable farming system. The loans are for capital purchases enhancing the environmental and economic viability of the farm. Eligible purchases may include: rotational grazing systems, tree plantings, on-farm energy production, composting equipment, solar-powered equipment, low-cost livestock housing, hoop buildings, breeding livestock, processing equipment, no-herbicide weed control, equipment to handle cover crops, alternative fertilizer management equipment, soil conserving equipment and more.
- **Livestock Equipment Pilot Loan Program:** this loan program is designed to help finance the first purchase of livestock-related equipment and make livestock facilities improvements. Loans may be used for the acquisition of equipment for animal housing confinement, animal feeding, milk production and waste management.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/land

- **Wetland Tax Exemption Program:** provides financial incentives to maintain wetlands in their natural state and promotes awareness of wetland values.
- **Native Prairie Tax Exemption and Native Prairie Bank Program:** these two programs are oriented to sustaining, protecting and conserving native prairie grasslands. Financial assistance may be in the form of tax exemptions or purchased easements. Both programs allow the land to remain in private ownership.
- **Shoreland Habitat Restoration Grant Program:** this program is oriented to diversifying and enhancing the abundance of native aquatic and shoreland plants; protecting the quality of shoreland habitat and enhance water quality.
- **Landowner Incentive Program:** is a cooperative program between DNR and the US FWS. It assists private landowners who wish to manage their land to benefit listed species. Financial assistance is available for habitat management and enhancement.
- **Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM):** this program funds acquisition and development of critical fish and wildlife habitat. A special state fund will match donations of land or cash to restore wetlands, improve forest habitat, plant critical habitat cover and other habitat preservation projects. Funding comes from the annual registration fee associated with "critical habitat" automobile license plates.

benefits are available to farmers and livestock producers who make a 5-year commitment to protect a strip of agricultural land along a waterway. The program was initiated by the Manitoba Department of Finance and includes beneficial riparian management practices such as elimination of tillage, limitation of grazing and watering by livestock, and the maintenance of various types of riparian vegetation to control erosion. Call 800-782-0771. www.gov.mb.ca/finance/esa/riparian.html

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

- **Covering New Ground (CNG):** this program provides funding and technical help to producer groups and commodity organizations to carry out sustainable agriculture demonstration or technology transfer programs, with the goal of improving health of agricultural ecosystems. CNG focuses on projects related to sustainable crop management, livestock and forage management and integrated pest management. Funding supports projects that emphasize two major goals: (1) projects must offer solutions to challenges of sustainable development with an emphasis on improving the environmental performance of the agricultural industry, and (2) projects must encourage activities built on partnerships, particularly among producers, government and industry; projects are conceived by local industry stakeholders seeking local solutions or by provincial industry stakeholders seeking sector-wide solutions. www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/research/covering/index.html
- **Public Concerns with Livestock Production (Living with Livestock Production):** this initiative involves a series of 15 fact sheets dealing with manure management. It is a multi-department provincial government collaboration prepared by Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Health and Manitoba Water Stewardship. Various topics are available, including "Land Application of Manure," "Livestock Manure Storage," "Livestock Operations and Groundwater Quality," "Nitrates in Soil and Water," "Phosphorus in Soil and Water" and "Surface Water Issues." www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/publicconcerns/cwa01s00.html
- **Soil Testing Awareness Initiative:** this initiative was informs producers about soil testing options and nutrient management and was developed in relation to the Lake Winnipeg Action Plan to help reduce nutrients from all sources that enter Lake Winnipeg. A "Test Your Soil" brochure is associated with this initiative, as well as the "Manitoba Soil Fertility Guide" that provides more detailed information on soil testing and general fertilizer use considerations in Manitoba. www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/soilwater/soil/fbd05s01.html

Manitoba Conservation

- **Environmental Youth Corps (EYC) Program:** administered through the Pollution Prevention Branch, this program provides an opportunity for Manitoba youth to become involved in a variety of environmental activities. Financial assistance is available to project sponsors who plan to carry out activities such as community clean-ups or creating green space. Projects must relate to environmental protection, enhancement, rehabilitation, conservation and resource management. Project sponsors eligible to apply for funding support include: charitable and voluntary organizations; environmental organizations; service clubs; educational institutions and student groups; and local government organizations including municipalities, band councils and Aboriginal organizations. Call (204) 945-8443. www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/eyc/index.html
- **Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF):** this program provides funding for development, implementation and promotion of environmental innovation and sustainable development projects delivered by local governments, industry, community and youth groups, Aboriginal organizations and First Nation communities. Grants are provided through several priority program areas; proposed projects must address one or more priority area and achieve or demonstrate measurable progress toward achieving the fund's objectives, be environmentally and ecologically sound, promote a sustainable approach, have clear environmental benefits, take into account benefits to the community and the economy and, where possible, involve youth. Call 800-282-8069, ext. 0146 or email sdif@gov.mb.ca. www.susdev.gov.mb.ca or www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/sdif/index.html

Municipal/Residential Programs

Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Program - Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund:

- **Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Program - Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CMIP-MRIF):** this program provides approximately \$120 million for infrastructure renewal in Manitoba over a six-year period. The Infrastructure Program assists municipal governments with funding for various types of projects including investments in Green Environmental Infrastructure projects that have the effect of providing cleaner air, water or wastewater or optimizing energy usage. www.infrastructure.mb.ca

City of Winnipeg Water and Waste Department Programs: a number of initiatives are in place to reduce waste and the potential for nutrient contributions to the Red River. The City offers a Blue Box recycling program to collect recyclable materials and prevent them from going to the landfill. The "leaf it with us" program involves collection depots where bagged and loose leaves can be dropped off to be collected and composted into a reusable soil-like material. The "let's chip in" program involves Christmas tree collection depots; the wood chips are then available for free pick-up. The City also promotes "grasscycling," leaving clippings on lawns after mowing so that nutrients can be recycled back into the lawn. An educational brochure titled "Don't Throw Garbage Down the Drain" detailing

Canada Programs Federal, Provincial, Municipal and Non-Government

Agricultural Programs: Federal

Agriculture and Agrifood Canada

- **Canada-Manitoba Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program:** this program helps the agriculture sector better identify its environmental impacts and to promote growth of stewardship activities within the industry. The program utilizes EFP workshops where producers receive technical assistance and guidance to perform an environmental assessment of their farm operations to outline risks and benefits and then develop an action plan to mitigate their on-farm agri-environmental risks. This program involves collaboration between the Farm Stewardship Association of Manitoba (FSAM), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), and Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI). Contact the Farm Stewardship Association of Manitoba at 866-872-8521. www.agr.gc.ca/env/efp-pfa/index_e.php
- **Canada-Manitoba Farm Stewardship Program (CMFSP):** this program assists Manitoba producers to address on-farm environmental risk through adoption of beneficial management practices (BMP). Thirty environmentally sustainable BMP categories are eligible for cost-share funding. Many of these BMPs, such as manure treatment, nutrient management planning and nutrient recovery from waste water, contribute to decreased nutrient loading in river and lake systems. A producer is eligible to apply for financial and technical assistance through the CMFSP after completing an Environmental Farm Plan. The program is delivered by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration and is the Manitoba component of the National Farm Stewardship Program under the Agricultural Policy Framework. Call 1-800-667-8567. www.agr.gc.ca/env/efp-pfa/index_e.php?section=nfsp-pnga&page=mb-nfsp-pnga
- **Greencover Canada Program:** this program targets producers, helping them improve grassland-management practices, protect water quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance biodiversity and wildlife habitat. The program involves four component areas that include: land conversion, critical areas management, technical assistance and shelterbelts. Call 1-866-844-5620. www.agr.gc.ca/env/greencover-verdir/index_e.phtml
- **Riparian Stewardship Program:** this program assists landowners and rural communities with protection and restoration of riparian habitat for wildlife, fish and cleaner water. The program is delivered by the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration and Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives. Program features include cost-shared fencing of riparian and associated lands, assistance to explore off-site water supply options, financial assistance for seed to establish permanent forage buffer strips on cultivated lands adjacent to permanent wetlands and recognition for landowners who protect riparian areas under the program. Call (204) 784-4350. www.mhbc.mb.ca/riparian/steward.html

Farm Credit Canada (a Federal Crown Corporation)

- **Enviro-Loan Program:** This program is available through and is targeted at the Canadian agricultural community. Its goal is to provide financing for environment related projects on farms such as the installation of methane digesters, upgrading of manure storage handling facilities, or the development of buffer zones between crop areas and watercourses. Contact the Steinbach office at (204) 326-9400, the Morden office at (204) 822-7350 or the Carman office at (204) 745-6759. www.fcc-fac.ca/en/products/lending/enviro_loan_e.asp

Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)

- **Stewardship-In-Action (SIA) initiative:** DFO is seeking project proposals for this 2006-2007 initiative, which was conceived of as a way to expand and strengthen existing prairie watershed stewardship initiatives that enable an ethic of ownership and responsibility to protect, maintain and restore freshwater fish and fish habitat among people that influence and affect it. The program provides matched financial support, up to \$7,500, to help regional, watershed and local community groups increase their capacity to be effective advocates of fish habitat. The SIA initiative strives to strengthen and expand prairie stewardship group capacity by helping groups identify their interests and capabilities and come to their own conclusions about how best to meet their stewardship objectives. Information and guidance on writing a funding proposal can be found at www.prenticehall.ca/rogers/3_6.html.

Agricultural Programs: Manitoba Provincial, Municipal and Non-Governmental Organizations

Manitoba Riparian Health Council (MRHC) www.riparianhealth.ca/index.html

The Council is a network of agencies working collaboratively on riparian initiatives. It has developed a vision for cooperative programming that enhances riparian areas and surface water quality across agro-Manitoba in ways that also support landowner needs. A series of Manitoba Watershed Reports are available on the MRHC website and provide a summary of resources and land use issues related to riparian areas.

Manitoba Finance

- **Riparian Tax Credit Program:** this program is designed to encourage farm operators to upgrade management of lakeshores and river and stream banks to help contribute to protecting rural water quality. Property tax credit

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): www.pca.state.mn.us/water/cwp-319.html

- **Clean Water Partnership and 319 Program:** MPCA provides financial and technical assistance to local governments and other water resource managers to address nonpoint-source water pollution through the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) and Clean Water Act Section 319 programs. Both programs are used to support efforts of local units of government and citizens to address nonpoint sources of pollution. The programs provide financial and technical assistance for the study of water bodies experiencing pollution problems, development of action plans to address the problems and implementation of the plans to fix the problems. Projects funded by both programs are led by local coalitions of those concerned about water quality in the area. www.pca.state.mn.us/water/cwp-319.html
- **Clean Water Partnership Loan Program:** this low-interest loan program targets restoration of specific water resources. Activities could include replacing or upgrading individual sewage treatment systems and fostering beneficial agricultural practices.

North Dakota Programs

North Dakota Game and Fish Department: www.nd.gov/gnf/info/pli-program.html

- **Private Lands Initiative:** provides funding for cost-share and easement reimbursement to create habitat and access for hunting and fishing. Habitat enhancement provides reduction in sediment from wind and water erosion. Financing for the program comes through the sale of hunting licenses, habitat stamps and legislative appropriation. Signs identifying the use of the program are provided to the landowner and publicize the location of the project.
- **Coverlocks for Conservation:** is a jointly funded program using the USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Pheasants Forever and the NDG&F Department. The program enhances habitat, while providing public access.

North Dakota Department of Health: www.health.state.nd.us/wq/

- **North Dakota 319 (non-point source reduction) program:** local oriented projects are funded through the State Department of Health to target reduction of non-point source pollution, including sediment and nutrients that are delivered to surface waters or ground water aquifers. Local projects can be funded up to 60% with a 40% local match required. Projects can be sponsored by Soil Conservation Districts, Water Resource Boards, City Councils and nonprofit organizations.
- **Red River Basin Riparian Project:** this program utilizes best management practices along riparian areas to restore function of streambank stabilization, grass filter strip plantings and bioengineering. The program is funded with cost-share from the EPA-319 programs. www.health.state.nd.us/rrbrp/

North Dakota Department of Agriculture: www.agdepartment.com/programs/plant/waterbank.html

- **Water Bank program:** a program that is funded by several state and federal agencies that provides financial incentive to landowners to preserve wetlands. The Department of Agriculture administers the programs and develops 5- or 10-year agreements.

State Forest Service: www.ndsu.nodak.edu/forests-service/

- **Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP):** funded through the 2002 US Farm Bill, this program provides technical, educational and cost-share assistance to promote sustainability of nonindustrial private forests. Cost-share applications for treatments are taken through the county Soil Conservation Districts.
- **Forest Stewardship Tax Law:** provides incentives to landowner to preserve native and planted tree stock by reducing property taxes on eligible lands.
- **Living Snow Fence:** this program utilizes tree rows established along roadways to reduce wind erosion, helping hold soil in place, and to reduce drifting snow, minimizing road maintenance and reducing accidents. This is a national program administered by the State Forest Service.

South Dakota

Game and Fish Department Private Lands Programs: www.sdgfp.info/wildlife/privatelands/PrivatelandsIndex.html

The Department of Game and Fish has several financial assistance programs to help landowners develop critical habitat for wildlife, primarily upland game birds. The following programs are funded by the Department:

- **Dense Nesting Cover Establishment:** to establish cool season grasses and legumes to provide dense nest cover for upland game.
- **Food Habitat Plots Establishment:** attracts and retains wildlife in areas where there is sufficient wintering habitat, or to keep wildlife away from areas where they aren't wanted.
- **Habitat Fence Construction:** the program utilizes fences to protect riparian areas from overuse by livestock.
- **Native Warm Season Grass Establishment:** the program helps landowners reestablish the tall grass native prairie grasses that South Dakota was once covered with. This habitat is important for wildlife.
- **Woody Habitat Projects:** the program assists landowners stretch funding from other agencies to maximize success of establishment of woody habitats by providing assistance to maintain woody tree rows up to four years beyond the planting date.

Department of Agriculture

- **Coordinated Soil and Water Conservation Grant Fund:** the program provides assistance for projects that show natural resource conservation benefit to the state. Any organized conservation district within the state may make an application to the State Conservation Commission. Potential projects: windbreak tree plantings, water developments for livestock to protect riparian areas, waterway construction and seeding, water quality improvements including watershed assessments

Municipal/Residential Programs: Federal Assistance

US Department of Agriculture

Rural Development www.usda.gov/rurdev.usda.gov

The Rural Development agency is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in all of rural America. The Office of Community Development administers rural community development programs within USDA Rural Development. Each program and initiative promotes self-sustaining, long-term economic and community development in rural areas.

- **Water and Environmental Programs (WEP):** provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns of 10,000 or less. Public bodies, nonprofit organizations and recognized Indian tribes may qualify for assistance. WEP also makes grants to nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance and training to assist rural communities with their water, wastewater, and solid waste problems. www.usda.gov/rus/water/index.htm

Resource Conservation and Development www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rcd

The purpose of the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program is to accelerate conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, to improve the general level of economic activity and to enhance the environment and standard of living in designated RC&D areas. It improves the capability of state, tribal and local units of government and local nonprofit organizations in rural areas to plan, develop and carry out programs for resource conservation and development.

How RC&D Works Assistance is provided, as authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture, to designated RC&D areas through their organized RC&D councils (comprised of local leaders). RC&D councils and their sponsors, in association with state, local, and federal governments and nonprofit organizations, develop and implement local RC&D area plans. Councils also obtain assistance from other local, state, and federal agencies; private organizations; and foundations. RC&D priorities are set by area residents to meet their needs. RC&D councils implement their area plans through projects that may include natural resource improvement, community improvement, forestry, education, economic development, water quantity and quality, recreation and tourism, marketing and merchandising, fish and wildlife habitat enhancement and waste management and utilization.

Municipal/Residential Programs: State Assistance

Minnesota

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

- **MPCA Storm Water Permit Program:** this program is aimed at reducing sedimentation from entering surface waters through the use of Best Management Practices. There are three types of permits, for construction sites, industrial areas and municipal levels, designed to control polluted discharges from entering water bodies. A "Stormwater Compliance Assistance Toolkit for Small Construction Operators" is available to help identify obligations.
- **Capital Assistance Program:** cities, counties, solid waste management districts and sanitary districts are eligible for grants to help finance capital costs of building solid waste processing facilities. Projects funded include waste-to-energy, recycling or composting facilities; transfer stations to serve waste processing facilities and projects that reduce amounts or toxicity of waste-processing residuals. The project must be located in a county with a comprehensive solid waste management plan approved by the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance (as of this date, the OEA has been joined with MPCA). www.moea.state.mn.us/grants/cap.cfm
- **Open Grant Program:** the environmental assistance Open Grant Program was established by the Legislature to provide financial assistance in the development of environmentally sustainable practices in Minnesota through voluntary partnerships and goal-oriented, economically driven approaches to pollution prevention and resource conservation. This Open Grant round is a competitive, two-stage application process to identify and assist projects that will be most beneficial in meeting the Agency's mission of working with Minnesotans to protect, conserve and improve Minnesota's air, land and water resources. www.pca.state.mn.us/grants/index.html
- **Environmental Assistance Loan Program:** this program allows MPCA to award up to a maximum loan of \$100,000 at zero percent interest. Program guidelines call for loan funds to be matched by a minimum dollar-for-dollar match (1:1) by loans from a participating financial institution. www.pca.state.mn.us/grants/index.html

- **Small Business Environmental Loan Program:** this program provides low-interest loans to small businesses to finance environmental projects such as capital equipment upgrades that meet or exceed environmental regulations and costs associated with the investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites. These loans help small businesses help themselves with environmental projects. Through the program, small businesses are able to achieve successes with their environmental projects and goals, while at the same time helping to preserve Minnesota's air, land, lakes and quality of life. www.pca.state.mn.us/grants/index.html
- **Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund:** (also known as the Clean Water State Revolving Fund) this program provides below-market financing to local governments to upgrade and construct wastewater treatment and collection facilities. The program is administered in conjunction with the Pollution Control Agency. The fund also provides monies to the Pollution Control Agency, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Employment and Economic Development for loan programs to address nonpoint source pollution.
- **Wastewater Infrastructure Fund:** Provides supplemental assistance to local governments for high cost wastewater treatment projects. Supplemental assistance is provided in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development grant and loan program, or in conjunction with financing from the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

- **Minnesota DNR Remediation Fund Grant Program:** this program focuses on helping communities finance protection and restoration of natural resources lost due to landfill operations. The state has identified damages to resources from the release of hazardous substances from closed landfills and provides a mechanism for communities to restore and maintain the area in native vegetation. www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/land/remediation_fund.html

Minnesota Department of Health www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/dwrf/index.html

- **Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRf):** provides below-market-rate loans for new public water systems or extensions or improvements to existing public water systems. Projects that protect public health, achieve or maintain compliance with drinking water regulations and supply communities in financial need receive priority. Eligible systems include publicly owned, municipal-type systems; regional water systems; privately owned condominium and manufactured home park systems or nonprofit, non-community systems such as schools, day care centers, churches or retreat centers. To be eligible, a service area must consist of established homes and/or businesses receiving water from contaminated private wells or private wells not providing adequate water quantity. (This addresses well contamination.) Well sampling must be conducted, documented, and the results forwarded to the department of health. When well contamination is used to justify installing a public water system, the sites with contaminated water should be connected to the new system when it becomes available.

North Dakota

North Dakota State Forest Service Grants www.ndsu.nodak.edu/forests-service/comm_forestry/community_home.htm

- **America the Beautiful Challenge Grant:** this program is funded through the North Dakota State Forest Service and assists communities to establish trees in or around their communities.

North Dakota Department of Health/Division of Municipal Facilities: www.health.state.nd.us/mf

- **Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Loan Funds (SRF):** The following types of projects are eligible for Clean Water SRF : Wastewater treatment plants; sewer rehabilitation; sludge management; non- PWSs are not eligible to receive DWSRF assistance. Community water systems are PWSs which serve at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serve at least 25 year-round residents. Non-community water systems are PWSs that primarily provide service to other than year-round residents. Examples of nonprofit non-community water systems that are eligible for DWSRF assistance include schools and publicly-owned campgrounds, parks and rest areas.

South Dakota

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

- **Small Community Planning Grant Program:** was established to promote a proactive approach to water and wastewater infrastructure management. The grant is available to systems serving a population of 2,500 or fewer. The project sponsor must be an entity of government or a special purpose district or nonprofit organization if their primary purpose is to supply public water system or sanitary service.
- **Solid Waste Management Program:** provides grants and loans for solid waste and recycling projects.
- **Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program:** provides low interest loans for wastewater, storm sewer, and nonpoint source projects.
- **Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program:** provides grants and loans for small water, wastewater and watershed projects. www.state.sd.us/DENR/DFTA/WWFunding/wwfprg.htm