

CHAPTER 9:

Distribution of Aid

The Department has a number of programs that distribute aid for specific activities. These range from funding for roadside cleanup to providing loans through the State Revolving Fund Loan Programs for construction of wastewater treatment facilities and drinking water systems.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AID PROGRAMS

Following is a summary of funds provided in FY 2014 through the Waste Grants programs managed in the Waste Planning and Aid Unit.

A. Litter Reduction and Recycling

The Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program provides funds to reduce litter, provide education and promote recycling in Nebraska. Funding for the program is an annual fee on manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers who have significant sales in categories of products that would generally be considered to produce litter. Approximately \$2.06 million was received in FY2014.

In FY 2014, 51 Litter Reduction and Recycling grants were awarded, totaling \$2,006,707. The grants were awarded in three categories: Public Education, \$887,141; Cleanup, \$67,164; and Recycling, \$1,052,402. These grants were awarded to both public and private entities.

B. Waste Reduction and Recycling

The Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants Program provides grants for various solid waste management activities. Revenues to the fund are provided by proceeds from various fees, including a one-dollar fee on each new tire sold in the state, and a retail business fee on tangible personal property sold in the state. In addition, 50% of a fee collected on the disposal of solid waste going to landfills goes to this fund.

In FY2014, 161 projects totaling \$4,296,581 were funded from the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants Program.

C. Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program

The Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program, established in 1997, provides funding for political subdivisions to clean up solid waste disposed of along public roadways or ditches. Potential funding is limited to five percent of the total revenue from the disposal fee collected in the preceding fiscal year. In FY2014, the program provided \$49,792 to eight recipients.

D. Landfill Disposal Fee Rebate Program

The Landfill Disposal Fee Rebate Program was created as an incentive to political subdivisions to support and encourage the purchasing of products, materials, or supplies that are manufactured or produced from recycled material. Funding for the program is from the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund. In FY2014, the program provided \$94,878 to 11 recipients.

Any municipality or county may apply for a rebate if they have a written purchasing policy in effect requiring a preference for purchasing products, materials or supplies which are

manufactured or produced from recycled material. If the policy is approved by NDEQ, the applicant may receive a ten cent rebate from the \$1.25 per ton disposal fee. Rebates are provided no more than quarterly and no less than annually.

Additional information about these programs can be found in the Planning and Aid portion of Chapter 5.

WATER QUALITY AID PROGRAMS

A. Petroleum Remediation

The Petroleum Remediation program provides aid through the Petroleum Release Remedial Action Fund to assist in paying the cost of cleanup of sites where petroleum has leaked from tanks, generally service stations. Funding to this program is primarily provided by a fee on petroleum sold in Nebraska. Over \$191 million has been disbursed since the program began. The program provided \$5,176,395 to 233 sites for investigation and cleanup in FY2014.

Additional information about this program can be found in the Petroleum Remediation portion of Chapter 6.

B. State Revolving Loan Fund Program

I. Clean Water (Wastewater) State Revolving Loan Fund Program -- Grant and loan programs administered by DEQ related to wastewater facilities, which are funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program, include:

- The **Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund** provides low interest loans and loan forgiveness to municipalities for construction of wastewater treatment facilities and sanitary sewer collection systems. The sources of funding for this program include federal grants and funds from the Nebraska Investment Financial Authority (NIFA) through bond issuance. In FY2013, the CWSRF funded projects totaling \$25,516,744 in loans and \$1,455,578 in loan forgiveness and grant funds.
- **Clean Water Construction Administration Small Community Matching Grants** provide matching grants to eligible communities with populations of 10,000 or less. In FY2013, \$540,494 was allocated for small community grants.
- **Planning Grants** totaling \$100,000 were awarded to five small (under 10,000) communities in FY2014. These communities were listed on the Project Priority List and used the grants to identify wastewater treatment facility project needs.

II. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program -- The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund provides low-interest loans and loan forgiveness to owners of public water systems. In FY2013, the program provided financial assistance to public water system projects totaling \$10,381,166, of which disadvantaged communities received \$2,333,733 in forgiveness funding.

Additional information about these programs can be found in the State Revolving Loan Programs portion of Chapter 6.

C. Nonpoint Source Management

The Nonpoint Source Management program provides pass-through funding for the prevention and abatement of nonpoint source water pollution and the restoration of watershed resources under Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act. This funding is provided to units of government, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations, for projects that facilitate implementation of the state Nonpoint Source Management Plan. Including the new 2014 funds, a total of 46 Section 310 projects were managed. All but one of these were large multi-year projects, with total funds of all projects equaling \$5,620,679.

Additional information about these programs can be found in the Water Quality Planning portion of Chapter 6.

D. Storm Water Grants

In 2006, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB1226, which established the Storm Water Management Plan Program. This grant program provides funding to cities and counties to implement their local Storm Water Management Plans (SWMPs). In FY2014, nearly \$1.825 million was awarded to 25 communities for implementation of their Storm Water Management Plans. The grant recipients must provide a 20% cash match for any funds received and submit annual reports for the duration of the project.