



Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Carter H. Strickland, Jr., Commissioner

2013 Green Infrastructure Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

When are Grant Applications Due?

Applications are due by 4:00pm on **Tuesday, February 19, 2013**. Applications will no longer be accepted until midnight of the due date. Applications that are received after 4:00pm on Monday February 4th will not be accepted for review.

Can I submit an application for a sidewalk project?

DEP will no longer accept applications for projects in the sidewalk. Only applications that propose green infrastructure on non-city owned property will be accepted.

Can I submit an application for more than one property on my block?

Only one property may be submitted in each application. Applications that propose green infrastructure on multiple properties (e.g. three green roofs owned by three different property owners on the same block) will not be accepted for review. Owners with multiple properties may submit up to three separate applications. However, if an applicant owns multiple adjacent parcels and the green infrastructure proposal would manage runoff from all parcels, then the applicant may submit one application for the entire project including the multiple adjacent parcels.

Do I have to submit site connection information?

All applicants must submit existing certified site/house connection application information at the time of the application. Applicants must visit their local [DEP Borough Water and Sewer Office](#) and bring the address and Block and Lot numbers to retrieve existing sewer connection information. If the local sewer office does not have the information, contact DEP at sustainability@dep.nyc.gov with the date, time, and the person you spoke to at the office.

Can I submit an application for a Condominium or a Home Owner Association?

DEP will no longer accept applications from buildings made up of more than 2 condominiums. If awarded, both Condominium owners must record the Declaration of Restrictive Covenant.

Applications from Home Owner Associations (HOAs) will be eligible for the grant program given they are able to authorize and execute one set of legal documents on behalf of the entire HOA.

If awarded, how long do I have to construct my project?

Applicants should propose projects that can be built within 12 months of the Notice to Proceed. However, DEP may consider on a case-by-case basis longer construction timelines for projects that can demonstrate a clear construction timeline and reasonable justifications for a longer construction period.

What's an appropriate cost/benefit ratio for my project?

DEP will thoroughly review the design and soft costs and will only reimburse for soft costs directly related to the proposed green infrastructure practice. Applicants should be prepared to identify and separate these costs relative to other aspects of the project.

Note that the minimum criterion to “manage at least 1” of stormwater volume from the contributing impervious surfaces” is meant to encourage cost-effective projects given that 90% of storms in NYC are 1.2” or less. Therefore, projects that proposed to manage 3, 4, and 5 times that (or more) are not necessarily better projects. They become more expensive for less benefit. Keep in mind that the 1” minimum volume is optimal and DEP encourages applicants to design to that volume.

What site investigations are required?

Applicants should be aware that, if awarded, site investigations must be conducted immediately. A NY State licensed P.E. stamped engineering report of the structural analysis will be required within 30 days of the Award Letter for all rooftop projects. A NY State licensed P.E. stamped Geotechnical Report will be required within 60 days of the Award Letter for all infiltration projects. Projects that do not show favorable results from structural analysis for rooftops, and soil borings for infiltration projects will have funding rescinded. While the results are not required as part of the application, DEP will reject projects where these analyses are not favorable to support the proposed project.

What if my property is in a combined sewer area but not in a priority watershed? Is it still eligible?

All combined sewer areas of New York City are eligible for the grant program. This includes Manhattan and most of Queens, Brooklyn, the Bronx, and a portion of northern Staten Island. You can use the map provided to help determine if your project is in a combined sewer area. Remember, all applicants must visit your local DEP Borough Water and Sewer Office and confirm that your property connects to a combined sewer (see above). However, DEP encourages grant applicants to propose projects in priority combined sewer areas.

Are public school green roofs eligible for funding?

Public properties, including public school buildings, are not eligible for the grant, including public schools. Only projects that are on non-city owned property are eligible.

Can I propose a workforce development project or educational programs?

DEP encourages those types of partnerships in the grant program. However, DEP cannot fund any program costs, staffing, overhead, or other administrative costs related to these programs as they are not capitolly eligible.

What are the maintenance requirements for selected projects?

Applicants must include a maintenance plan that details maintenance tasks and activities for twenty (20) years. Maintenance costs are not eligible for grant funding, so applicants must detail how they will pay for maintenance activities. Note that projects on non-City property shall be

required to execute a Declaration of Restrictive Covenant to ensure that the project will be kept in place and maintained for a period of at least twenty (20) years.

How much should my project contribute in matching funds?

Matching funds are not required in the GI Grant Program, but applicants that include matching funds are encouraged, particularly for expenses that are not eligible for capital funding (e.g. maintenance, education activities, outreach materials, fences, benches etc.)

I'd like to submit an application for a sidewalk project on behalf of a Business Improvement District (BID). Will all of the abutting property owners be required to sign Funding Agreements?

Starting this year, DEP will no longer accept applications for projects in the sidewalk. Only applications that propose green infrastructure projects on non-city owned property will be considered for funding.

I would like to build a green roof on my property. I've read the Funding Agreement and Declaration of Restrictive Covenant and have major issues with it. Can I negotiate these issues with DEP if my project is selected?

Grant Recipients should be prepared to sign the Funding Agreement and Declaration of Restrictive Covenant as-is. DEP cannot entertain changes or editions to either document. If you are not willing to sign the Funding Agreement or Declaration of Restrictive Covenant, you should not apply for the GI Grant Program.

I am part of a non-profit that will be managing the project. Can grant funds cover part of my salary or our operations costs?

No. Grant funds can only be dispersed to third-party contractors. Operational costs are not capital eligible.

Can project costs be provided up front?

No. The GI Grant Program is a reimbursement program. After the Funding Agreement has been executed and registered (6-8 weeks), and final designs have been reviewed and approved (2-3 months depending on complexity), DEP will issue a Notice to Proceed to Grantees. Upon receiving the Notice to Proceed, Grantees can begin issuing monthly invoices (for design, labor material and construction costs) to DEP. It usually takes 30-40 days to receive the reimbursement.