



Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Green Infrastructure – Environmental Quality



Frequently Asked Questions

This FAQ document supports information on the [Environmental Quality Program](#) webpage and in the [Program Guide](#). Applicants are advised to refer to these resources prior to applying.

GENERAL

Q: What is the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Green Infrastructure – Environmental Quality Sub-stream?

A: Canada and British Columbia governments, through a bilateral agreement, are investing in the Environmental Quality sub-stream to support infrastructure projects in communities across the province.

Canada created the Investing in Canada plan with the objectives to create long-term economic growth, support a low carbon, green economy, and build inclusive communities.

In 2017, Canada committed \$4.1 billion in infrastructure funding to BC in an Integrated Bilateral Agreement for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). In signing the agreement, BC agreed to assign provincial funds to the four funding streams: public transit infrastructure, community, culture and recreation infrastructure, green infrastructure, and infrastructure in rural and northern communities.

The Environmental Quality program represents a combined federal-provincial funding under the Green Infrastructure stream. The other sub-stream is CleanBC Community Fund.

It is a competitive, merit-based grant program, focused on local government and indigenous community infrastructure providing drinking water, wastewater (sewage), stormwater (drainage), solid waste diversion (including landfill gases), and remediation services. For additional information about program goal and objectives, please read section 1.1 of the [Program Guide](#).

For more information on the Investing in Canada plan, see the Government of Canada websites: <http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/about-invest-afropos-eng.html> or <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/pt-sp/bc-eng.html>

Q: Do you have any tips for preparing to apply to the program?

A: Yes:

- Please ensure that your project is supported by:
 - Your long-term community plan and project is included in the capital plan;
 - [Council/Board/Band Council](#) supports the project;
 - Sufficient fund is available to cover your share of the project cost and any cost overruns;
 - [Cost estimate](#) is up to date and sufficient contingency is provided;
 - Multiple options are considered prior to deciding on the proposed option for the project;
 - Asset Management Plan is complete and up to date or in the process of updating; and,
 - For water/wastewater projects, an up-to-date council endorsed water conservation plan is

in effect.

- Ensure that a potential project is ready to go:
 - Land is purchased, permits/approvals are in place where possible;
 - Project timeframe aligns with program timelines (anticipated approval in Spring 2023 and that the project can be completed within 3 years).
- Read the [Program Guide](#) and [Application Questions](#) to ensure that the project will be eligible and that it will meet the program criteria and outcomes. An application closely aligned with the Program Goals and Selection Criteria outlined in section 5.3 has better chance of success in receiving the grant. Please read all the requirements outlined in Section 3, 5 and 6 of the [Program Guide](#).
- Contact Ministry staff in advance with questions.
- Apply for a business BCeID if your organization does not already have access to the Local Government Information System, as applications will be via this system and it takes at least 15 working days to obtain the access.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Q: Who can submit applications for the Environmental Quality Program?

A: Local governments and Indigenous Ultimate Recipients can submit applications to the Environmental Quality program. For detailed information please review section 2.1 of the [Program Guide](#).

Q. Can improvement districts apply for funding under the program?

A. Improvement Districts themselves are not eligible to apply. Applications must be made by a sponsoring regional district or municipality. If the application is successful in obtaining program funding, the ownership of the infrastructure and associated assets must be transferred to the sponsoring local government. Please see section 2.1 of the [Program Guide](#).

Q: Can a not-for-profit organization or for-profit organization apply for funding under the Environmental Quality program?

A: No, a not-for-profit or for-profit organization is not eligible to independently apply for funding under the program. A local government or Indigenous ultimate recipient would need to apply for funding for the project and would then be required to retain title and ownership of the assets for the Asset Disposal Period according to the stipulations set out in their Shared Cost Agreement with the province (5 years following substantial completion).

Q: Can I partner with another local government or First Nation to apply for funding under this program?

A: Yes, one eligible ultimate recipient can partner with another eligible recipient to apply for funding. A partnership agreement or MOU should be provided with the application. Another organization is considered a partner when they contribute value to the project (generally funding, either for construction of the project or for ongoing operations and maintenance). Funding will be awarded to the primary applicant, who would be expected to fulfill the requirements of the Shared Cost Agreement.

FUNDING TIMELINE

Q: What are the application timelines?

A: The Application intake opens on **October 8, 2021**. Online applications can be submitted until **4:00 pm PST on February 23, 2022**.

IMPORTANT: Online application is submitted through Local Government Information System. You can only access the online application through LGIS if you have a BCeID user account. If your organization does not have a BCeID for you to be added as an user, it can take up to 15 business days to obtain a BCeID, if all the information is correctly entered.

Please review the [Accessing the Online Application](#) document to find more information about the two-step application process.

Q: When will funding decisions be announced?

A: Funding announcements are based on a two-stage process for provincial and federal decisions. It takes time to complete assessment, shortlisting and final approvals.

Applicants are encouraged to regularly check the [program webpage](#) for any updates on the approval timeline.

WHAT PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE?

Q: What types of projects are supported by the Investing in Canada's Infrastructure Program – Green Infrastructure – Environmental Quality Sub-stream?

A: The Green Infrastructure – Environmental Quality Sub-stream provides grant funding for projects to improve community infrastructure that meets at least one of the following outcomes:

- increase the capacity to treat and/or manage wastewater;
- increase the capacity to treat and/or manage stormwater;
- increase access to potable water;
- increase the capacity to divert or manage solid waste (including landfill gases);
- increase capacity to reduce and/or remediate soil and/or air pollutants through remediation.

Please refer the [Guidance on Aligning Projects with Outcomes](#) document available on the [program website](#).

Those projects that meet one or more of the program goals as in section 1.1 and provide added value as described in Section 5.3 of the [Program Guide](#) have a better chance of success.

A list of example projects is available on the [program website](#). If you are still unsure, please contact program staff. In certain circumstances, we may also confer with federal staff at Infrastructure Canada.

Q: In previous programs, projects were not required to meet outcomes. Why does this program require projects to meet outcomes?

A: This program uses a federal outcome-based approach rather than a category-based approach. Projects that meet the specified outcomes as listed in section 1.1 of the [Program Guide](#) will be eligible for funding. The use of outcomes focuses funding on particular desired results and provides more flexibility around

the types of projects able to be applied for under the program.

Please review the [Guidance on Aligning Projects with Outcomes](#) and [Project Examples](#) for more information.

Q: The Program Guide identifies that the program is designed to support projects that can be completed within three years. Does this mean that projects that can be completed in a shorter timeframe are ineligible?

A: All projects that can be completed within this timeframe are eligible, including those that can be completed in a shorter period. We encourage that projects that will take longer than 3 years to complete be phased in such a way that each phase independently meet the outcomes requirement.

Q: Can we award the tender prior to the project being approved for funding?

A: No, a project is deemed ineligible if a tender has been awarded prior to the final project approval.

Q: Can we submit an application for a project that was unsuccessful under a previous infrastructure grant program?

A: Yes, if the project has good alignment with the program outcomes and criteria. We recommend that you contact Ministry staff to discuss your previous application and areas where improvements can be made prior to submission under ICIP. Note that the [application questions](#) are different than for previous intakes of the EQ program.

Q: Is there a maximum grant amount for projects?

A: There is no maximum grant amount under the program. However, fair distribution of the funds will be considered. If the proposed project's total eligible cost exceeds around 10% of the total funding available under the intake, the proponent should consider phasing the project.

If submitting an application for a phase of a larger project, the phase as included in the application should be able to independently demonstrate how it meets the outcome requirements and align with the overall program objectives (program outcomes must be met at completion of the phase). Please see Section 3.5 of the [Program Guide](#) for more information.

Q: Are First Nation projects that provide services on-reserve eligible funding?

A: To be eligible for funding a project must demonstrate that direct benefits extend beyond the reserve community and result in services being delivered to land off-reserve.

Q: Can we award the tender prior to the project being approved for funding?

A: No, a project is deemed ineligible if a tender has been awarded prior to the final project approval.

Q: When should I anticipate being able to proceed with tendering and construction of the project / when will funding decisions be announced?

A: Funding announcements are anticipated to be in Spring 2023. Project costs are not eligible for funding until after the funding is approved and a Shared Cost Agreement is signed. Please plan project timelines accordingly.

Q: Why is a staged funding approach being used, with initial Provincial approval in principle prior to formal approval into the program by Canada?

A: A staged funding approach allows applicants to apply without having to complete the more extensive requirements of the program which are required prior to approval into the program by Canada (such as a federal environmental assessment form, and for larger projects (>\$10 million) [climate lens assessments](#) and [community employment benefits plans](#)). This will reduce the need for applicants whose applications are not shortlisted to complete these additional requirements.

Province will shortlist and provide an Approval In Principle decision needing additional requirements. Federal funding partner will review, determine additional requirements, and provide final approval decision.

Q: Will an Impact Assessment be required?

A: Applicants are responsible to determine that all applicable legislative and regulatory requirements will be or have been met, including requirements for federal or provincial environmental assessment as defined in the Impact Assessment Act 2019.

Q: What is the federal environmental assessment form?

A: This form has been developed by Infrastructure Canada for applicants to complete to help determine if there are any federal environmental assessment requirements that could apply to the project or a requirement to consult with Indigenous groups. The form will be required after a project application is given Provincial approval in principle and will be required prior to approval by Canada. The form assists in identifying factors that could trigger an assessment only, and applicants are required to ensure that requirements of both federal and provincial environmental assessment processes are met and continue to be met, and that additional approvals and permits are identified and obtained.

Applicants are encouraged to provide any supporting information related to the consultation process, with the application. Please see section 6 for more information.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PROJECTS OVER \$10 MILLION

Q: What additional requirements are there for projects over \$10 Million?

A: For projects with total estimated eligible expenditures of \$10 million or more, requirements will include:

- Climate Lens Assessments – a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessment and a Climate Change Resilience Assessment for projects with total eligible expenditures of \$10 M or more. Please see [Climate Lens – General Guidance](#) document for more information.
- [Community Benefits Reporting](#) – for projects with total eligible expenditures of \$25 M or more. Please see section 8.6 of the [Program Guide](#).
- Value Analysis/Engineering – for projects with total eligible expenditures of \$15 M or more and a sufficiently complex nature that they would benefit from a value engineering assessment. Please see section 8.6 of the [Program Guide](#).

These requirements are applicable on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of BC. These will be requested following Provincial “approval-in-principle” of the project. Costs associated with completing these assessments will be eligible after Approval in Principle is received.

Contact program staff to discuss this requirement.

Q: What will be required as part of the climate lens assessments?

A: Details on the federal climate lens assessment requirements are available here:

<https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/pub/other-autre/cl-occ-eng.html>. Climate lens assessments must be conducted or validated by a qualified assessor. Applicants should include expected costs associated with this work within the [detailed cost estimate](#) for their project as these costs will be eligible if the project is awarded funding.

Q: What will be required as part of community employment benefits reporting?

A: General guidance on this can be found here: <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/pub/other-autre/ceb-ace-eng.html>. Community employment benefits will include reporting on community employment benefits provided to at least three (3) federal target groups (apprentices, Indigenous peoples, women, persons with disabilities, veterans, youth, new Canadians, or small- medium-sized enterprises and social enterprises).

Q: What is a Value Engineering Assessment?

A: Value Engineering, in this context, is an exercise of project review carried out by experts in Value Methodology and in technical fields relevant to the project. The exercise incorporates functional analysis and resource optimization resulting in identification of the best value, in terms of the overall project and its components, to meet the required outcomes and performance expectations during the life cycle of the infrastructure. The process can lead to innovative ways to meet those needs. This requirement will be applied on a project-specific basis, and applicants are advised to contact program staff before considering undertaking Value Engineering. General information about Value Engineering can be found here: <https://www.valueanalysis.ca/>

Q: How do these additional requirements affect funding approval?

A: These additional requirements for larger projects, along with a federal form to determine if there are any federal environmental assessment or Indigenous consultation requirements (form is applicable to all projects, not just large projects), will be required to be completed to BC and Canada's satisfaction prior to Canada's approval of a project into the program. Only organizations whose applications are shortlisted and given Provincial "approval-in-principle" will need to complete these additional requirements.

PROJECT COSTS

Q. Our project incurred costs before we were approved for ICIP funding. Are these costs considered eligible and can we claim them for reimbursement?

A. Only costs incurred after the project approval date as specified in the Shared Cost Agreement with the Province of BC are eligible, except for the costs associated with [climate lens assessments](#) and [community benefit](#) plans. Note that costs associated with climate lens assessments and community benefit plans can only be claimed after a Shared Cost Agreement is in place.

Q: Do invoices need to be paid prior to submitting a claim to the Province for reimbursement under the grant?

A: Yes, invoices must be incurred and paid by the applicant prior to reimbursement under the program. The program is claims based.

Q: There are changes or variations to our original, approved project works and/or timelines. Do we have to notify the Province?

A: Yes, the proponents are required to receive approval from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, in writing, of any variation from the approved project. If the changes are not pre-approved, costs incurred may not be eligible for reimbursement.

Q: We have decided not to proceed with our project as originally outlined. Can we use the program funds for another infrastructure project in our community?

A: The funding is specific to the project, not the community. Please contact program staff to discuss as soon as the decision is made.

Q: Can we directly award a contract(s) for undertaking the project?

A: No, all contracts must be awarded in a way that is transparent, competitive, and consistent with value for money principles. All records of the tendering process need to be retained and made available upon request. Projects that involve sole source contracting (contracts over \$40,000 or, for the acquisition of architectural and/or engineering services, over \$100,000) will be subject to federal Treasury Board approval prior to approval into the program. Additional information will be requested from applicants in this case to support a submission and to ensure that contracts are being awarded in a fair manner.

Q: Are we allowed to plan to use our own staff time to carry out project construction?

A: The use of external contractors to carry out project construction is a preference under the program. However, use of the organization's staff time may be allowed in certain cases where it is not economically feasible to tender a contract and where the employee is engaged directly in respect of the work that would have been the subject of the contract. This type of arrangement must be approved in advance and in writing by the Province and by Canada.

Q: We are unable to move forward with the project after funding is awarded. Can they be reimbursed for costs incurred prior to the cancelation?

A: No, any cost incurred to the cancelled project will not be reimbursed. Funding requires that projects meet the outcomes of the program.

Q: Are the costs incurred for Federal Environmental Assessment (FEA) eligible under this program?

A: Yes, costs associated with an FEA that are incurred once the Shared Cost Agreement for funding is in place are eligible for funding contribution. Please consider the potential expenses involved in preparing a FEA while preparing the project cost estimate.

Q: Are costs incurred for Climate Lens Assessments, Community Employment Benefits plans, and Value Engineering eligible under this program?

A: Yes, these costs are eligible where a project is successful in obtaining funding under the program. Costs associated with Climate Lens Assessments and Community Employment Benefits plans incurred prior to project approval are eligible. The ultimate recipient should plan to meet the incurred costs for these which can be reimbursed through a claim once a Shared Cost Agreement with BC is in place.

Q: Are costs associated with completing climate lens assessments and community benefit plans able to be reimbursed if the application is not successful in obtaining grant funding?

A: No, only projects that are awarded funding will be able to claim costs for these items.

USE OF OTHER FUNDING SOURCES AND BORROWING

Q: Can we use funding acquired from other federal grant programs as our contribution to project funding under the program?

A: It cannot be utilized as part of the ultimate recipient contribution to the project. Funding from other federal government programs can contribute to overall project funding, as long as it is not used as part of the applicant financial contribution. Federal government funding is subject to stacking rules, please refer Section 1.5 for more information. Utilizing other grant funding has the potential to reduce the grant funding under this program (i.e., it would be counted as federal funds and the grant amount would be reduced accordingly).

When you enter information on other senior government grants within the [online application](#) form, the potential impact on funding under this program will be calculated. Note that funding under this program may also have the potential to affect funding under other programs.

Q: Can we use money from Canada Community-Building Fund (formerly Gas Tax Community Works) as part of the applicant financial contribution under the program?

A: No, funding obtained under Community-Building Fund cannot be used as part of the local government funding contribution under this program. It is counted as federal funds and would be subject to stacking rules under the program. (i.e., the maximum senior government contribution under the program would be maintained and using these funds could reduce the federal grant award amount).

Q: Where can I find out more about the borrowing process for long term borrowing / loan authorization bylaws?

A: More information can be found here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/local-governments/governance-powers/bylaws/provincial-approval-of-bylaws/loan-authorization-bylaw-requirements>. Refer to the section on Borrowing Process. Bringing the loan authorization bylaw to third reading is the initial step in the process.

Q: We will need to borrow funds above the local government's assent free borrowing limits to carry out the project. Can I submit the loan authorization bylaw at a later date after submitting the application?

A: The loan authorization bylaw is required to have had its third reading. A copy of the bylaw that has received 3rd reading should be submitted upon application to the program. The local government then can choose to proceed with the process of obtaining approval of the bylaw, including Inspector and electoral approval, if required, after they find out whether they have obtained funding under the program, or to proceed with the entire approval process immediately. The [Ministry of Municipal Affairs](#), Local Government Finance branch can provide advice on bylaw wording if needed (Ph: 250-387-4060).

Q: We are having trouble completing the 3rd reading for a loan authorization bylaw by the intake deadline. What should I do?

A: Please contact program staff for options. Where a delay is justified, a short extension may be granted. The 3rd reading will still be required for the project to be assessed and move further in the selection process.

Q: In the Agreement for the program, it indicates that projects that meet one of the project outcomes for Green Infrastructure may also be eligible under a future Rural and Northern Communities stream. If/when the Rural and Northern Communities stream becomes available for application; will there be any restriction to applying if we have already applied to the Green Infrastructure – Environmental Quality program?

A: An applicant may apply for more than one active funding programs for the same project; however, the project will only be funded through one program. Ministry's decision will be final to determine under which program the project will be funded. If project is funded under one program, it is automatically deemed ineligible under other active programs. Applicants are expected to prioritize which funding stream they apply to with the same project each year.

While application intake for Environmental Quality program is open; there is no decision on whether or when an intake for Rural and Northern Communities will be available.

HOW DO I APPLY

Q: What is the process for submitting an application for the ICIP – Green Infrastructure - Environmental Quality Sub-stream?

A: Applicants are required to complete a two-stage process to be able to apply. Applicants must complete and submit an [online application](#) form through the Local Government Information System (LGIS). Applicants must have access to Business BCeID by February 2nd, 2022 to access the [online application](#) through LGIS. You will not be able to apply without following this process. New users are encouraged to start the process of requesting a business BCeID as early as possible to set up access to the LGIS. Please see [Accessing the Online Application](#) for more information.

Please refer to the [Program Guide](#) prior to identifying a project and preparing an application. Ensure that you have all the mandatory documents listed in section 6 of the [Program Guide](#) available prior to submitting the application. You may also include additional documentation to support your application.

Q: Do I need to answer all of the questions on the application form?

A: Yes. Please note that answering N/A to required questions may affect your project's scoring and ranking in the technical assessment process. There is a need to ensure that projects align with program and senior government priorities, and to gather enough information to assess applications accordingly.

Q: Why is the content of the application form different than for past infrastructure funding programs?

A: Each funding program has differing objectives and requirements. The questions lead the applicants in providing the appropriate information needed for technical assessment. In addition to program criteria, federal criteria and reporting requires that we capture information upfront where possible, and several questions are associated with these requirements.

Q: I don't know how to answer one of the questions on the application form. What should I do?

A: Please contact program staff for guidance if you do not know how to answer a question. We can help answer any questions you may have.

Q: Why are there 5 outcomes listed in the application form as opposed to the 3 federal outcomes in the Program Guide and Agreement?

A: The three federal outcomes were broken into subsets within the application form to be able to target questions to the appropriate type of infrastructure. The federal outcome “increased capacity to treat and/or manage wastewater and stormwater” has been divided into “increased capacity to treat and/or manage wastewater” and “increased capacity to treat/and or manage stormwater”. The federal outcome “increased capacity to reduce and/or remediate soil and/or air pollutants” has been divided into “increased capacity to reduce soil/air pollutants through solid waste diversion” and “increased capacity to reduce and/or remediate soil/air pollution through remediation”.

Q: Where can I obtain assistance in completing the application form?

A: Program staff are happy to provide advice and clarify where we can. However, please note that we are a small team. With a large number of potential applicants, we are limited in capacity, so we ask that applicants with questions review the program materials on the website first. This will increase the quality

of the conversation and corresponding advice.

Q: What are some tips for submitting an application with multiple phases?

A: The application should clearly identify the breakdown of the different phases. A detailed break-down for all phases should be included in the [Detailed Cost Estimate](#). Contact program staff if you wish to discuss how phasing will affect your application.

Q: My organization/municipality purchases water from a regional district. Am I still required to submit a Water Conservation Plan for a water or wastewater project?

A: Yes. If your organization is a bulk water purchaser, it is responsible for delivery and encouraging water conservation with its customers. The plan can align with and refer to existing water conservation initiatives of the regional district and activities might be specific to the municipal authority such as development bylaws encouraging retention of water within the ground (trees, riparian setbacks, topsoil, etc.) or more specific conservation initiatives where these are not addressed by the regional district. Applicants are encouraged to review following resources:

- <http://www.obwb.ca/water-conservation-guide-for-bc-now-available/> for advice on developing a water conservation plan;
- <http://waterconservationcalculator.ca> tool for exploring water conservation options;
- <https://bcwatercalculator.ca/landscape/irrigation> BC landscape water calculator tool
- https://waterbucket.ca/wcp/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2017/11/livingwatersmart_book.pdf British Columbia's Water Plan outlining actions and targets to be water smart

PROJECT SELECTION

Q: What is the evaluation process for applications under the funding?

A: This is a merit-based program and applications are subject to a comprehensive review and assessment process. Program staff conduct a technical and financial assessment for every project that is eligible under the program and where all required information is submitted as part of the application. The projects are evaluated and ranked on merits of meeting the program objectives and senior government priorities and other requirements outlined in the Program Guide. The assessment includes consideration of project risks and mitigation measures; community need, regional distribution of funding, previous funding and success rate in completing projects through the Ministry's grant programs. A list of ranked projects is submitted to the Steering and Oversight Committees and the recommendations are then submitted to Canada for final approval. Our programs are always oversubscribed and not all applications that qualify will receive funding.

Q: How do I create a strong application?

A: A strong application clearly demonstrates that the project is well planned, aligns with program outcomes and goals, and add value while meeting all the program requirements. Please see Guidance on Aligning Projects with Outcomes and Example Projects on the program website. Ensuring that the project is supported by long term community plan, is included in the capital plan with detailed budget, that appropriate stakeholders have been consulted, and appropriate permits identified, demonstrates that

asset management plan is in place for operation and maintenance and asset renewal, and has good alignment with organizational objectives, improves chance of success.

A well written application is clear and concise, with full but succinct answers that directly address the questions. Leaving questions unanswered indicates to the reviewer that you have not completed your application. Ensure that attachments are in a searchable format and appropriate reference to the sections of the attached documents are made in the application. Include supporting documents such as letters of support from health authorities where applicable and from any project partners (or a MOU), documents related to consultation process and environmental assessment, as applicable.

Please contact program staff for assistance if you have trouble answering any application question.

Q: Is a Water Conservation Plan essential to apply for funding? Where can I find additional resources on water conservation planning?

A: Yes, a recent water conservation plan, endorsed by council/board within last 5 years, is required as a mandatory document. Please refer the following resources for Water Conservation Planning:

- A Water Conservation Guide for system level planning and that can assist with developing a water conservation plan is available at: <http://www.obwb.ca/water-conservation-guide-for-bc-now-available/>
- A Water Conservation Calculator is available for exploring the impacts of different water conservation options at: www.waterconservationcalculator.ca
- BC landscape water calculator tool is available at: <https://bcwatercalculator.ca/landscape/irrigation>
- British Columbia's Water Plan outlining actions and targets to be water smart is available at: https://waterbucket.ca/wcp/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2017/11/livingwatersmart_book.pdf

Q: Where can I find more information about Integrated Resource Recovery and Asset Management plan?

A: The Ministry is currently developing a Guide that highlights opportunities for Integrated Resource Recovery in community infrastructure and descriptions of past projects carried out in BC. An existing guide is available at: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/local-governments/planning-land-use/resources_from_waste_irr_guide.pdf

The Asset Management BC website at: www.assetmanagementbc.ca provides resources for asset management. The Asset Management BC Framework provides an overview of asset management for those who are new to the subject. The Asset Management Roadmap and Asset SMART Self-Assessment Tool are useful places to start in assessing organizational asset management practice.

Q: I am applying for a water/wastewater treatment plant facility project, involving construction of a building. Can I use mass timber construction for my treatment plant building?

The Province has launched an initiative to use mass timber in buildings. A new provincial strategy will be coming out soon enabling larger buildings to be constructed from timber. Additional information can be found at:

- [Mass Timber Demonstration Program | \(masstimberbc.ca\)](http://masstimberbc.ca)

- [Mass timber investments to change face of B.C. construction | BC Gov News](#)

Q: I am submitting a sewer extension project. What should I be aware of when submitting this type of project?

A: Although a sewer extension project is eligible under this program, an extension on its own does not provide strong benefits in meeting the program objective of improving environmental quality. A sewer extension may be a better fit to the program outcomes if it is a small part of a project with significant improvements in the quality of sewage effluent and/or its impact on the environment. Where the project is related to onsite system failures, the applicant is expected to outline within their responses in the application form: what has been done to address onsite system failures (including enforcement of bylaws), the extent of failures within area the project will serve, and why the continued use of onsite wastewater management is infeasible (attach relevant documents).

Q: I am applying on behalf of a smaller, lower capacity organization. How can we compete with larger local government organizations?

A: A community's size and capacity is given consideration during the technical review process. In recognition that organizations have varying capacity, a provincial lens will also be applied separately from the technical assessment considering factors such as regional distribution / community scale / capacity.

SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

Q: Will an environmental assessment be required?

A: Applicants are expected to determine whether all applicable legislative or regulatory requirements will or have been met, including requirements for federal or provincial environmental assessment. Shortlisted applicants will be required to complete a form from Infrastructure Canada to help determine whether there are any federal environmental assessment requirements, and if there is a requirement to consult with Indigenous Groups. Links to additional information on federal and provincial environmental assessment requirements and processes can be found in Sections 6 and 7 of the [Program Guide](#).

For all ICIP projects, Environmental Assessment and Indigenous Consultation requirements must be met prior to site preparation, vegetation removal or and any construction occurs on the project site.

Q: What should I expect in terms of reporting requirements for a successful project?

A: Ultimate recipients will be required to submit quarterly progress reports and monthly budget forecast reports to provincial program staff. The payment of claims will be conditional upon submission of requirements that support sustainable infrastructure management, such as relevant plans or confirmation that required permits have been obtained. Reporting on federal targets and indicators will be required, as related to long-term drinking water advisories, compliance with federal effluent regulations, and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Section 8.6 of the [Program Guide](#) contains additional details on [reporting requirements](#).

Q: Do I need to retain ownership of infrastructure assets once the project is complete?

A: Yes, there will be a requirement in the Shared Cost Agreement with the Province that ultimate recipients will need to maintain ongoing operations and retain title to and ownership of the asset for at least 5 years following completion of the project. Assets may be transferred to Canada, British Columbia, or a municipality or regional district within this timeframe in certain circumstances with agreement from the Province and Canada.

Q. How do we get reimbursed for expenditures?

A: To be eligible to receive the federal and provincial contributions for the projects, all the relevant reporting requirements such as periodic progress report (PPR), budget forecast report (BFR), applicable contract conditions as per shared cost agreement with the Province should be fulfilled and claims must be submitted to the ministry. Only approved eligible costs incurred, paid, and being consistent with and towards the approved project works as in the signed shared cost agreement, will be reimbursed.