



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Wastewater News

Environmental Services

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Iowa Finance Authority and DNR announce Hometown Pride Water Tower Contest

Video Contest Highlights the Importance of Water Quality and Gives Communities a Chance to Win a Custom Water Tower Design

The Iowa Finance Authority and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources are sponsoring a water tower contest that challenges Iowa communities to show off their hometown pride in a short video for a chance to win a one-of-a-kind water tower design by Iowa artist Laura Palmer as well as design installation. The contest is in recognition of the importance of water quality and the State Revolving Fund's efforts to assist communities in financing water quality improvements.

To enter the contest, communities need to create a video, no longer than one minute, that showcases their hometown pride and features a water element in their community. Video submissions will be accepted through the official contest entry page from Oct. 19 - Nov. 16. A public voting period will be held from Nov. 17 - Nov. 24 to determine the winning video.

"The State Revolving Fund has assisted nearly 700 Iowa communities in advancing their water quality efforts and we look forward to helping even more," said Iowa Finance Authority Executive Director Debi Durham. "This water tower contest is a fun way to highlight the fundamental role that water quality plays in making Iowa the first choice for families and business."

"I encourage all communities to submit a video showcasing their hometown pride and the essential role water plays in how they live, work and play, for the unique chance to win a custom water tower," said Iowa Department of Natural Resources Director Kayla Lyon.

Videos may be created by an individual or group representing the community, but the video must be submitted by the city with authority over the water tower. The full contest details are available at the [Hometown Pride Water Tower Contest link](#). Please see the official contest rules [here](#).

The State Revolving Fund is one of Iowa's primary sources for financing projects designed to improve Iowa's water quality. Two funds, one for drinking water and one for

wastewater and pollution control, have provided a total of more than \$4.3 billion in water quality assistance to nearly 700 Iowa communities in addition to farmers, watershed groups and others for water quality projects. The program is jointly administered by the Iowa Finance Authority and Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

SRF Water Resource Restoration Sponsored Project Application Materials for March 2022 Application Round Now Available

The SRF Water Resource Restoration Sponsored Project program provides wastewater utilities with the opportunity to fund locally directed, watershed-based, nonpoint source projects to address water quality problems. The SRF Sponsored Project Application for the March 1, 2022 application deadline is now available. Communities or wastewater utilities interested in applying for an SRF Water Resource Restoration Sponsored Project should note the upcoming deadlines:

December 17, 2021: Deadline to hold a pre-application conference call with DNR. The call is mandatory with the purpose of discussing potential projects, getting technical advisors involved early, and going over the application requirements.

March 1, 2022: Deadline to submit a sponsored project application.

The new application materials are now posted online at:

http://www.iowasrf.com/about_srf/2022-sponsored-project-application-packet/

To schedule a pre-application call or for information about the SRF Sponsored Project program contact Theresa Enright, theresa.enright@dnr.iowa.gov, 515-725-0498.

General information about sponsored projects can be found at: http://www.iowasrf.com/about_srf/sponsored_projects_home_page.cfm.

Operator Certification: Continuing Education Opportunities

Online and virtual training opportunities are being created and offered through community colleges, state industry associations, national industry associations, EPA, and other state industry partners. All operators should continue to monitor their emails and the Training Calendar on the [Iowa DNR Operator Certification Database](#). Look at the calendar often, as there are new opportunities posted throughout the week.

Upcoming training opportunities include:

- [IAWEA Region 1 Fall Meeting, October 27, Manchester](#)
- [IAWEA Region 5 Fall Meeting, October 27, Newton](#)
- [Iowa Groundwater Association Virtual Fall Conference, November 4](#)
- [Environmental Professionals of Iowa, 2021 Symposium, November 15 and 16](#)

Please contact Laurie Sharp at (515) 725-0284 with any questions concerning operator certification training.