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**Soil and Water
Conservation
Committee**

2023 Upper Susquehanna River Watershed Forum

NYS SWCC Funding Programs

Kathy Hochul
Governor

Richard A. Ball
Commissioner

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SWCC

CRF Round 8



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CRF Round 8

- **Round 8**

- EPF FY 23-24: \$15.25 M + \$500,000 for Carbon Sequestration Projects
- Addition of USDA Climate Smart Commodities Funding
- Tentative timeline
 - Round 8 RFP Release: February/March 2024
 - Round 8 Applications Due: June 2024
 - Award Round 8 CRF projects during Climate Week 2024



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Climate Smart Commodities Grant



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Climate Smart Commodities Grant

NYS Connects: Climate Smart Farms and Forests

- Partners: DEC Lands & Forests, AGM, Cornell, ESF, Syracuse University
- Awarded: \$60M
- Main Program Goals:
 1. Direct assistance to farmers for climate smart BMPs to reduce GHG emissions on-farm
 2. Include underserved farmers
 3. Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting, & Verification (MMRV) of GHG reductions

Climate Smart Commodities Grant

NYS Connects: Climate Smart Farms and Forests

- Partner Deliverables:
 - **DEC Lands & Forests** – direct assistance to landowners for climate smart forest management through Regenerate NY
 - **AGM** – direct assistance to landowners for climate smart agricultural practices through CRF and new pilots
 - **Cornell** – Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MMRV) research and tool development, outreach to underserved partners
 - **ESF** – technical assistance for climate smart forest management
 - **Syracuse University** – development of markets for climate smart commodities



Climate Smart Commodities Grant

Direct Assistance through AGM

- **Pilot for Payment for Methane Monitoring and Reporting - \$2M**
 - payments to farmer and SWCD for collection, tracking, and reporting of methane emission reduction on cover and flare systems or existing Anaerobic Digester Systems (ADS)
- **Pilot for Adaptive Management for Methane and Nitrous Oxide Reductions - \$2M**
 - Support farmer use of adaptive management tools for precision feed mgmt. Incentivize farmers use of Net Carbohydrate and Protein System (CNCPS) tool to predict requirements for feed utilization, animal performance, and nutrient excretion for dairy and beef cattle which integrates predication equations for GHG emissions.

Climate Smart Commodities Grant

Direct Assistance through AGM

- **Alternative Manure Management – \$10.5M**
 - Cost-share for alternative manure mgmt. This will be incorporated into CRF R8/R9.
- **Adoption of Climate Smart Practices for agroforestry, silvopasture, urban agriculture, and soil health - \$10M**
 - Cost-share for soil health practices. This will be incorporated into CRF R8/R9.

Climate Smart Commodities Grant

How will this impact State Committee and SWCD work?

- Increased funding in CRF R8 & R9 to enhance alternative manure management and soil health tracks
- New pilots with financial support for data collection and use of precision feed management tools
- Increased partnerships with CCE and SWCDs for outreach to underserved farmers for technical assistance and information about cost-share opportunities

Water Quality Programs



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AEM Base Program – Round 18

Non-Competitive Funding for Technical Assistance and Tier 4 Cost-Share

2-Year Action Plan (due 11/1/23) and Contract Based on AEM Strategy

AEM Base Round 18 Calendar: 1/1/2024 thru 12/31/2025

AEM Technical Assistance (TA) Track

- Option A: up to \$180K over 2-years
- Option B: up to \$220K (CCA, NRCS Planner, TSP)
- Option C: up to \$260K (AEM Planner, SAF, EIT, PE)
- + up to \$10K for soil nutrient, PSNT, CSNT, soil heavy metal, manure/compost, and soil health testing services (or additional TA)...fluid within TA budget
- TA Track funds District staff time for Tier 4 CS projects
- \$51/hour TA rate
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AEM Tier 4 Implementation Cost-Share (CS) Track

- Up to \$200K State share
 - Up to 87.5% cost share
 - For project expenses external to the SWCD
 - Continued emphasis on outreach and local award process
 - Continued aim to complement and not compete with statewide, competitive programs
- Priority projects from Tier 3 Plans
- All BMP Systems from Catalogue
- For projects doable in < 2 years



Round 30 Ag Non-Point Source Program

- **Round 30**
 - EPF FY 23-24: \$19.5M
 - Tentative timeline
 - Round 30 RFP Release: September/October 2024
 - Round 30 Applications Due: December 2024
 - Award Round 30 AGNPS projects April 2025

Environmental Bond Act



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Environmental Bond Act

2022 Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act

- Passed by voters November 2022
- \$4.2 billion to support environmental improvements across the state

Current Status

- Funding sub-allocations
- Project proposals sent to the Bond Act leadership and will be selected based on available funding

Environmental Bond Act

How will this impact State Committee and SWCD work?

- Potential increased funding in future AgNPS and CRF Rounds
- Potential new program with financial support for alternative manure management and methane destruction/avoidance
- Increased funding for BMP Implementation expanding on core EPF funding programs