

# CHAPTER 9:

## Distribution of Aid

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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.

This chapter provides a summary of those aid activities for fiscal year 2010. It also provides information regarding the Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program as required by §81-1504.01.

### **Waste Management Grants**

Following is a summary of funds provided in FY 2010 through the waste grants programs managed in the Waste Planning and Aid Unit.

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 \$1.9 million was received in FY2010.

In FY 2010, 68 Litter Reduction and Recycling grants were awarded, totaling \$1,893,244. The grants were awarded in three categories: Public Education, \$547,595; Cleanup, \$76,575; and Recycling, \$1,269,074. These grants were awarded to both public and private entities.

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 FY 2010, 79 projects totaling \$2,442,902 were funded from the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants Program.

The Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program, established in 1997, receives up to five percent of the total revenue from the disposal fee collected in the preceding fiscal year. This program provides funding for political subdivisions to clean up solid waste disposed of along public roadways or ditches. In FY2010, the program provided \$60,065 to 6 recipients.

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 FY2010, the program provided \$74,772 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 10 cent rebate from the \$1.25 per ton disposal fee. Rebates are provided no more than quarterly and no less than annually.

### **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 provided mostly by a fee on petroleum sold in Nebraska. Over \$152 million has been disbursed since the program began. The program provided \$6,680,783 to 301 sites for investigation and cleanup in FY2010.

### **Wastewater grants and loans**

There are three grant and loan programs administered by DEQ related to wastewater facilities, which are funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan program. They are:

I. The Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund provides low interest loans to municipalities for construction of wastewater treatment facilities and sanitary sewer collection systems. The sources of funding for this program include federal grants (including ARRA funds), and funds from Nebraska Investment Financial Authority (NIFA) through bond issuance. In FY2010, loans totaling \$52.8 million was allocated, and \$28 million was disbursed.

II. Clean Water Small Community Matching Grants provides matching grants to eligible communities with populations of 10,000 or less. In FY2010, \$507,500 was allocated for these small town grants.

III. Facility Planning Grants provide initial planning assistance to eligible municipalities for wastewater treatment system improvement projects. Grants may be provided to municipalities with populations of 10,000 or fewer that are identified with a financial hardship. The Department did not provide any grants for studies during FY2010.

### **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund**

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund provides low interest loans and loan forgiveness to owners of public water systems. In FY2010, loans totaling \$13.6 million were allocated, and \$32 million was disbursed.

The construction of wastewater and drinking water facilities is a multi-year process. There are projects which have been approved in previous fiscal years which may have received funds in fiscal year 2010. Conversely, projects approved in fiscal year 2010 may receive funds in future fiscal years.

Planning grants may be provided to publicly owned water supply systems serving 10,000 or fewer people. This includes any city, town, village, sanitary improvement district, natural resource district, or other public body having jurisdiction over a public water supply system. Privately owned water supply systems are not eligible for assistance.

### **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. Funds provided in FY2010 included: \$6,280,745 for large

competitive projects; \$106,163 for small projects; and \$281,315 for community lakes restoration projects.

### **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 with storm water permits to implement their local Storm Water Management Plans (SWMPs). In FY2010, approximately \$2.4 million was distributed to 19 cities and 3 counties, to be used to implement aspects 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.

### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding**

In fiscal year 2009, NDEQ received significant supplemental funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

These are funds provided to Nebraska through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and are being distributed by the state to local efforts that protect the environment and stimulate the economy.

The specific NDEQ programs that have received ARRA support include the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program, the Diesel Emission Reduction Act and 604b Water Quality Planning. In addition, \$25.3 million was allocated through the EPA Superfund program for the Omaha Lead Superfund site. For more information, refer to Chapter 1 of this report.

Information regarding this funding is updated periodically on NDEQ's web page, [www.deq.state.ne.us](http://www.deq.state.ne.us). Go to the "NDEQ Recovery Funds" tab in the right column of the web page for updated grant information.