

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2023 Consumptive Use Mitigation Grants Now Available

HARRISBURG, Pa. – The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) is offering a second year of grants for projects focused on improving the sustainability of streamflow’s and groundwater during times of drought to support both water supplies and the aquatic ecosystem. Up to \$6 million in funding is available this round.

Consumptive use (CU) refers to water that is used but not returned to the river basin. The [2023 Consumptive Use Mitigation Grant](#) program is aimed at projects that will improve the watershed’s drought resilience including:

- Water storage and release projects (e.g., impoundments, inactive quarries, and underground mine pools);
- Projects that modify current operations or implement new practices that increase instream flows or improve flow resilience (e.g., reservoir conservation releases, aquifer storage and recovery, and coordinated use of surface water and groundwater);
- Demand modification projects (e.g., projects that achieve water conservation, reuse and/or recycling); and
- Environmental and water quality improvement projects that support the resiliency of water resources (e.g., groundwater recharge, restoring wetlands/streams/floodplains, improving stormwater management, and treating abandoned mine drainage).

“In our inaugural year, we were able to fund some remarkably innovative and beneficial projects,” said SRBC Executive Director Andrew Dehoff. “For example, Kline Township in Schuylkill County was awarded a grant to use cutting-edge satellite technology to find leaks in their water supply distribution system. It’s estimated that detecting and fixing these leaks will save 125,000 gallons per day in real water loss.”

Grant funds, anticipated in the range of \$100,000 or more, may be used to cover a variety of project costs that reduce water use or increase water availability to help protect public health and safety, avoid water use conflicts, prevent water quality impacts, sustain economic production, and/or support ecological flow needs. A minimum 10% cash match of the requested funds is required, or 25% cash match for requests more than \$500,000.

Eligible applicants include SRBC permit holders, government agencies, academia, and non-profit organizations. Although proposed projects generally must be located within the Susquehanna River Basin, adjacent projects may be eligible provided the mitigation will benefit watersheds and streams within this basin.

The SRBC will host two informational webinars on November 15th and December 8th to provide an overview of the program and answer questions. Please email cugrant@srbc.net to register. And for full details on the program, please visit our [website](#).

Applications will be accepted from November 1, 2022, through January 31, 2023. Awardees will be announced in April 2023.