Growing Greener Plus Grants Program

Watershed Restoration and Protection

Grant Applicant Presentation

April 21, 2023
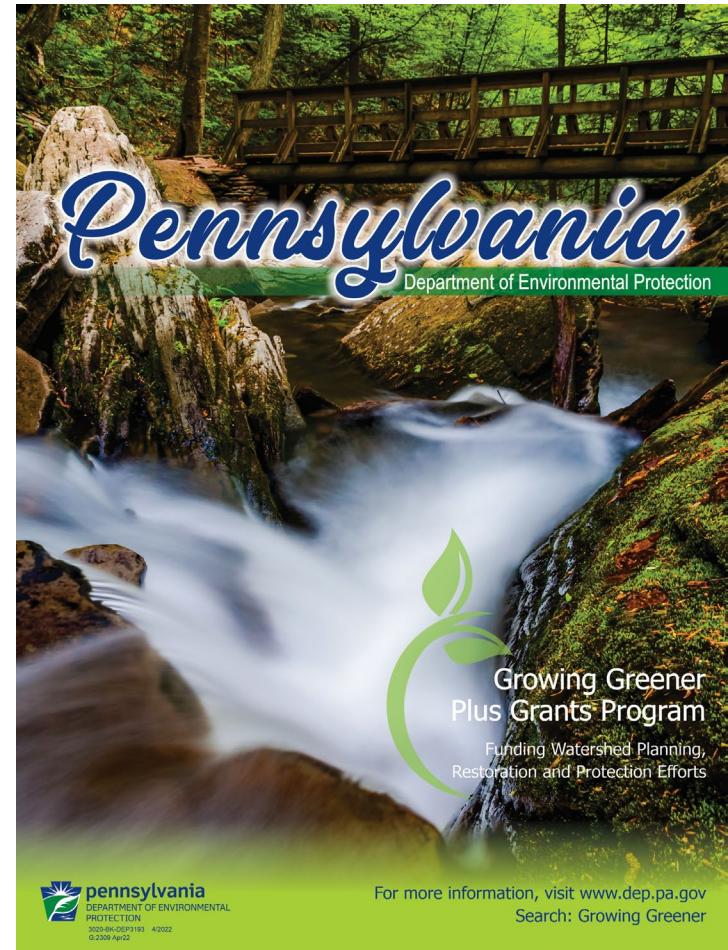
Josh Shapiro, Governor   Richard Negrin, Acting Secretary

Agenda

- Welcome

- Overview

- What's New?

- Eligibility

- Funding

- Priorities

- Preparing a Proposal

- Successful Projects

Section 1: Overview and Purpose

Overview

- Introduction
  - Available on GG webpage
- Three grant programs
- Overview
  - Environmental Stewardship and Watershed Protection Act
  - Watershed Restoration and Protection grants
- Purpose
  - Restore and protect from Nonpoint source pollution

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

What is Growing Greener?

- Largest single investment
- Provide grants to implement local watershed-based activities
- Current funding
- Tipping fees
- Act 13
- Amounts vary from year to year

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NPS Management Plan

Improve and protect from:

- AMD and other energy resource extraction activities

- Agricultural activities

- Stormwater runoff, streambank and shoreline degradation

- Develop and update watershed plans leading to the improvement and protection

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Section 2: What's New?

What's New?

- Maximum grant request amount - $500,000
  - Fund more quality projects across state
- Project Workplan Form
- AMD Set Aside Update
  - Pre-1977 coal mining discharge projects – Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation's new AML/AMD Grants Program
  - AMD/mining-related projects still eligible – post-1977 and SMCRA Bond Forfeiture

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

What's New?

- Stormwater Management Planning (Act 167) Grants

  – Review grant guidance for details

- Technical Assistance Priority

  – Include public-private partnerships and focus projects with the purpose to expedite on-the-ground, BMP implementation

  – Projects will provide new resources—new technologies, plan writing, design creation and permitting

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Section 3: Eligibility

Eligible Applicants

- Incorporated watershed associations
- Counties, county planning commissions, or municipalities
- County conservation districts
- Council of governments
- Non-profit organizations
  - 501(c)(3)
  - Registered with Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations
- Educational institutions
- Municipal authorities

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Eligible Applications

- Complete and submitted by due date and time
- Submitted through eGrants
- Budget correct and meets requirements
- Applicants contacted by deadline
  - DEP
  - Countywide Action Team
  - Conservation District Watershed Specialist
- Good standing with Commonwealth
- Program specific criteria

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Ineligible Projects

- Negatively impacts public health or out of state

- Post-construction stormwater management BMPs caused by new or proposed construction activities

- No landowner commitment letters for projects on state-owned land

- AMDTreat report missing

- Landowner letters not included or not in the process of being obtained

- Preclude access to or use of forested land for sustainable forestry and commercial production of timber or other forest products

Ineligible Projects

- Project workplan missing

- Budget request is greater than $500,000

- Applications submitted late

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Ineligible Expenses

- Outdoor recreation construction—gazebos, pavilions, decks, trails and bridges
- Dredging of streams, lakes, ponds or other waterways
- Administrative expenses more than five percent
- Registration fees for workshops
- Clothing or give-away materials
- Membership dues not directly related to project implementation

Helpful Tips

Check out the "Budget Primer"

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Section 4: Priorities

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Priorities

1. BMP Implementation Projects

2. Technical Assistance

- Regional or statewide projects with public-private partnerships that expedite on-the-ground, BMP implementation.

3. Planning

- Agricultural erosion and sediment control or nutrient and manure management plans

4. Healthy Waters and Watershed Renaissance Initiative

5. Priority projects located in or benefiting EJ Areas

pennsylvania
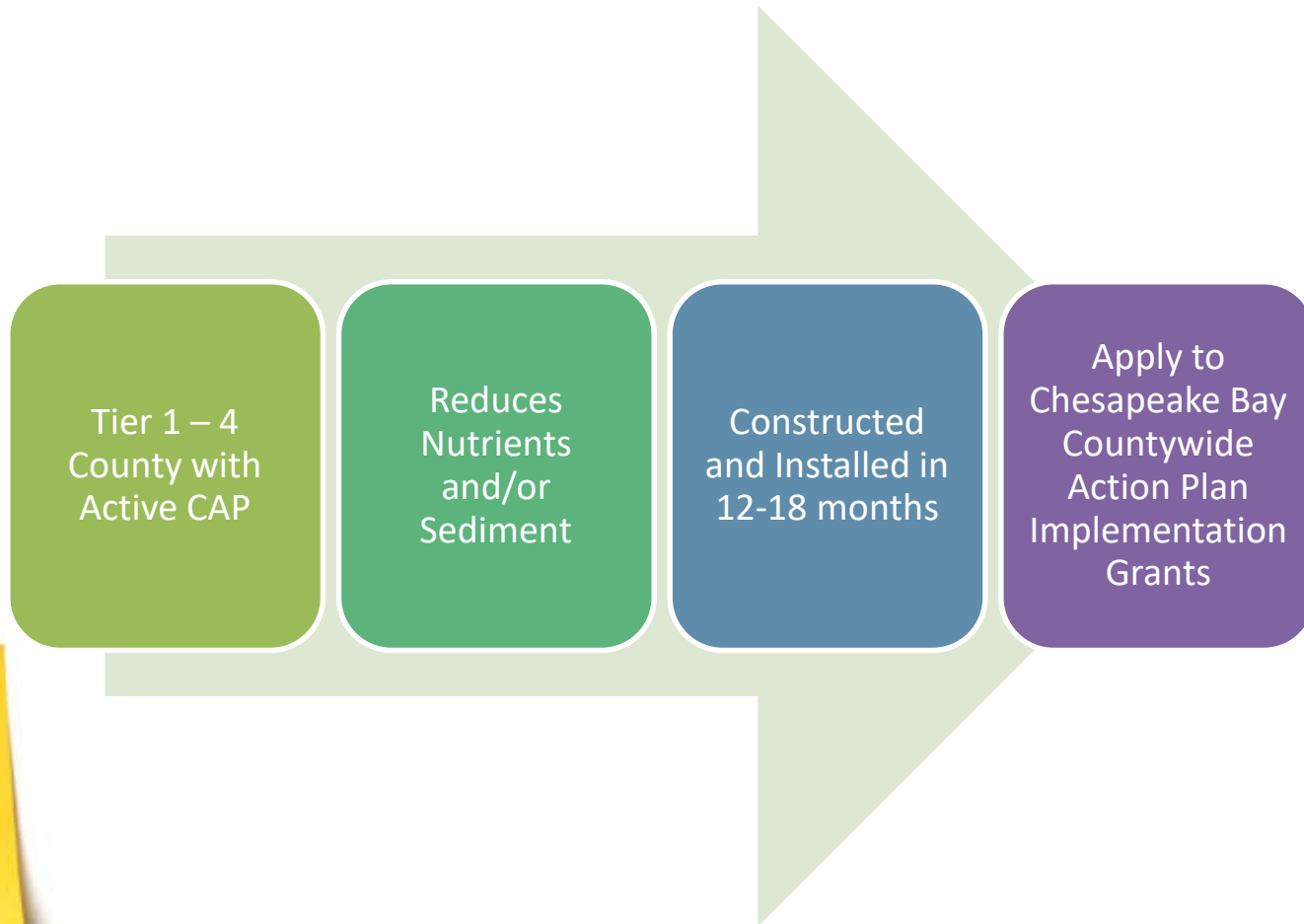DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Preferences

- Act 47 financially distressed municipalities

- Co-benefits climate resiliency, as identified in the Pennsylvania 2021 Climate Action Plan

- Updated and DEP-approved Act 167 plan, within the last 5 years

- Countywide or watershed-based plan implementation

- More than the minimum match requirement

- Provides significant improvement to water quality based upon pollutant load reductions

- For existing grantees, failure to submit timely and complete reports and accurate reimbursement requests may result in decreased competitiveness
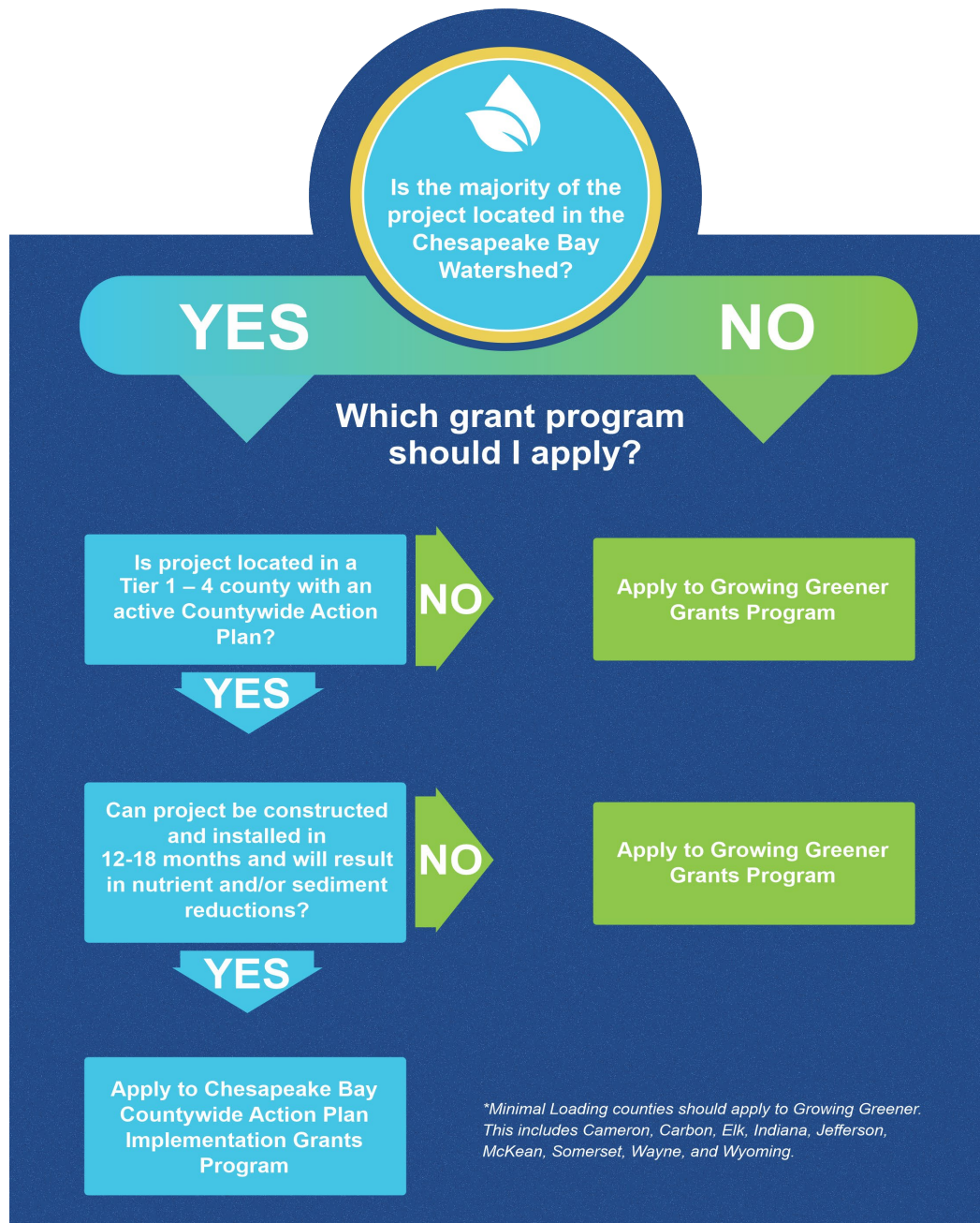
pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chesapeake Bay Implementation

Tier 1 – 4 County with Active CAP

Reduces Nutrients and/or Sediment

Constructed and Installed in 12-18 months

Apply to Chesapeake Bay Countywide Action Plan Implementation Grants

Helpful Tips

Check guidance for contacts

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Not sure? Use the flow chart.

Growing Greener

- "Minimal Loading" Counties
- Other River Basin
- Design and Permitting Only
- Growing Greener
- More than 18 Months for Construction
- Other Project Category
- Addresses Other Pollutants

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Section 5: Funding Information

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Funding

- Maximum request
  - $500,000
- Average award - $235,000
- Grant period of performance – 3 years

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Section 6: Preparing the Proposal

Project Categories

- Design and Construction
- Planning
  - Watershed Assessment and Restoration Plans
  - Ag E&S Control
  - Nutrient and Manure Management Plans
- Education and Outreach
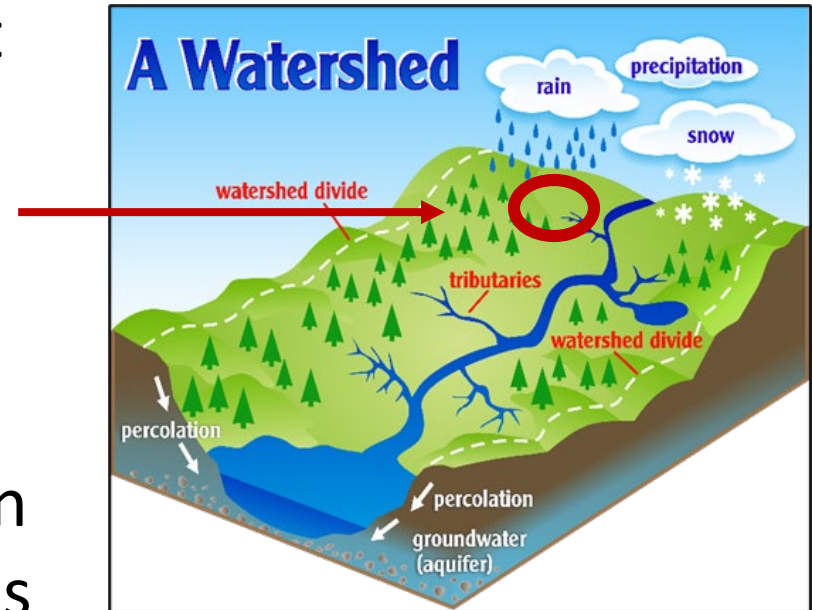- Operation, Maintenance and Repair/Replacement
- Technical Assistance

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Project Categories

- Evaluation, Assessment and Monitoring Tools for Watershed Management Planning

- Watershed Group Organization/Support

- Healthy Waters Initiative

- Renaissance Initiative

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Renaissance Initiative

- Reduce nutrient and sediment impairments in agriculturally-impaired waterways
  - 2022 Integrated Report
- Complete implementation of watershed restoration plans on selected small catchment areas
  - Approximately 25 or fewer land parcels
  - Centre, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Snyder and Union counties

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Watershed Renaissance Initiative

- Complete BMP implementation in 7 years

- Rapid delisting in 10 years

- Phase 1

  - Landowner education and outreach

  - Agricultural planning

    - Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control
    and/or Chapter 91 manure management requirements

  - Design/engineering

  - Permitting and Data Management

  - Structural BMPs meet NRCS standards and specifications

  - Maximum amount - $500,000

- Phase 2 - construction

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Catchment Example

- Air Hill Road (Headwaters to Chiques Creek)

Catchment Name	Acres	Square Miles	County Name	NHD Flowline COMID		Impairment Sources and Causes
Air Hill Road (formerly Headwaters to Chiques Creek)	294	0.46	Lancaster	57461907 57461891	57461889 57461893	AGRICULTURE - SILTATION

Check pages 17-21 of guidance

Common Projects

- Design and Construction
  - Most common category of projects
  - Agriculture BMP projects on priority areas
    - Barnyard improvements, stream fencing, buffers, crossings
  - Urban/residential stormwater reductions projects
    - To reduce the volume of runoff
    - Rain gardens, basin retrofits, MS4-related projects
    - Infiltration practices

Helpful Tips

Check out the examples on Growing Greener webpage

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Preparing a Proposal

- Break large projects up into stages
  - Stage 1 - Design and permit
  - Stage 2 - Construction

- Must discuss with DEP regional staff prior to submitting application (June 2nd)
  - Determine project eligibility and relevance
  - Provide guidance in the completion of the application

- Discuss with County Conservation District (June 2nd)

- Discuss/share with Chesapeake Bay Community Clean Water Coordinator (June 2nd)

- Must be willing to maintain the project

Helpful Tips

Start early. Don't wait until deadline to discuss project.

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Project Workplan

- Project Workplan
  - Project Summary
  - Environmental Need
  - Funding Justification
  - Environmental Justice
  - Partnerships and Match

Helpful Tips

Check out the example on Growing Greener webpage

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Project Workplan

- Project Workplan
  - Scope of Work
    - Goals and Deliverables
    - Timeline
  - Contractor Provisions
  - Project Data
  - Landowner Situation
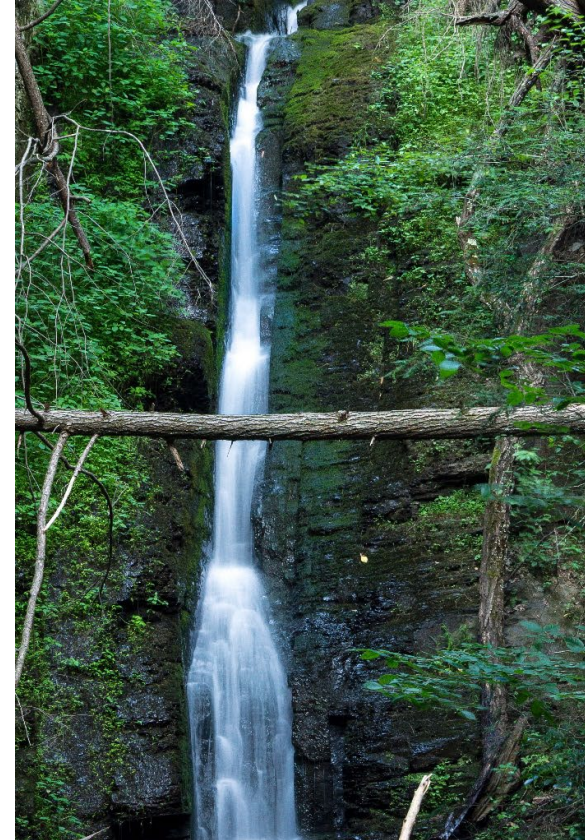- Attachments
  - Application Completeness Checklist

Helpful Tips

Model My Watershed is recommended model for nutrients/sediment load reductions

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Attachments

- Landowner Letters
  - Landowner Access Authorization
  - Landowner Letter of Commitment or Landowner-Grantee Agreement
- Project Location Map
- Project Site Map
- Project Site Photos
- Confirmation of Application Sharing within Chesapeake Bay Watershed

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Additional Attachments

- Project Workplan

- Chesapeake Bay CAP Project Category Form

- Task and Deliverables Budget Worksheet
  - whole numbers only and no lump sums

- AMDTreat Report

- Land Use Planning Form or Letter
  - Multi-municipal planning forms

- Worker Protection and Investment

- Optional
  - Letters of commitment for match

Helpful Tips

Chesapeake Bay CAP Project Category Form to verify project is eligible for GG, and not a CAP Implementation Grant.

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Application Deadlines

- April 21, 2023
  - Grant round opens

- June 2, 2023
  - Contact DEP staff, Community Clean Water Coordinators, County Conservation District

- June 23, 2023
  - Applications due before 11:59 p.m.
  - Commonwealth eGrants system (www.esa.dced.state.pa.us)

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

eGrants

Commonwealth eGrants system (www.esa.dced.state.pa.us)

General Facts

- Create a New Keystone Login Account – Registration
    - Create a new Keystone Login account – Registration
        - Click Register and enter all of the information into the fields with a red asterisk (*) next to them.
            - You will be asked to create your profile, login information and security questions.
        - If you have already created an account with another agency whose application uses the Keystone Login Service, you do not need to register another account with us.
        - If you create a Keystone Login account with us, you will be able to use this account with other agencies that use Keystone Login.
            - Some additional information may be required for those agencies.
    - Account Migration - Migrate Account
        - If you would like to migrate your exiting PA Login account(s) to a new Keystone Login account, this must be done from the Keystone Login Website
            - If you have multiple PA Login accounts, and you wish to continue to use them, each account will need to be migrated to Keystone Login account.
    - Keystone Login Services
        - There are many account options that can be configured for your Keystone Login account. Please see the help documents provided by the Keystone Login Service

Applications are best applied for by using Internet Explorer or Google Chrome and have not been tested with other browsers.

Login

What's New?
For an overview of the changes in the new Single Application, please read Help.

Username	adevine
Password	••••••••••

LOGIN

Powered by

PA KEYSTONE LOGIN

Registration
Forgot Password
Learn more about Keystone Login

Helpful Tips

Need help with eGrants? Customer Service 800-379-7448 or ra-dcedcs@pa.gov.

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Section 7: Successful Projects

Successful Projects

- Successful projects announced through a press release/website

- Grantees notified

- Some awards may be for less than requested
  - Grantee may accept or reject

- Grant contracts are developed based on the award
  - Signed electronically

Successful Projects

- DEP project advisors assigned to each project
  - Review invoices and progress reports
  - Verify practices installed
  - Provide guidance on implementation
  - Help with questions

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

For more information visit DEP's website: www.dep.pa.gov

e-mail: RA-EPGrowingGreener@pa.gov

DEP Grants Center – 717-705-5400