



*Ohio EPA requests proposals for protecting water resources through deicer application and road salt storage improvements.*

**Announcement: December 11, 2023**

Ohio EPA, through the H2Ohio Rivers Initiative Chloride Reduction Program, is offering grants to Ohio municipalities, villages, townships, and counties to adopt best management practices that reduce salt and deicers contributing to runoff and promote chloride reduction in Ohio water resources. These funds will support upgrades to road salt application equipment and storage facilities with the goal of making improvements to storage and providing tools to reduce over-application of deicing materials and subsequently protect and prevent chloride from impacting surface and ground water resources.

**Purpose**

Chloride from deicers entering surface waters from roadways and stormwater runoff is an increasing water quality concern in Ohio. In rivers and lakes, the increased chloride levels can be detrimental to freshwater aquatic species. Monitoring by Ohio EPA and other entities shows increased concentrations of chloride over time in soils along roadways and in rivers and lakes. These funds are offered to incentivize changes that can slow and prevent increased levels of chloride in Ohio's waterways. A summary of these types of issues and proactive approaches can be found here: [https://www.caryinstitute.org/sites/default/files/downloads/report\\_road\\_salt.pdf](https://www.caryinstitute.org/sites/default/files/downloads/report_road_salt.pdf).

**Funds Available**

Funding will be provided through reimbursement grants. Funds are for actual equipment purchased and installed or for the cost to improve or construct facilities. The funds cannot cover personnel or any administrative costs. Applications are limited to requests for up to \$75,000 per individual unit of government. Entities are encouraged to collaborate with others in the same county to combine small requests into larger collaborative applications organized by one applicant. For example, a county administering one grant application for multiple townships. Whether large or small entities, all applications will be given fair consideration.

**Due Date, Timing of Selections and Selection Criteria**

Applications must be received by close of business on **Jan. 31, 2024**. Ohio EPA grant recipient selections should be finalized by the end of February, with notifications to awardees made soon after. Selected entities will enter an agreement and have 12 months to purchase and install equipment and to make facility upgrades. Applications received will be reviewed and ranked based on the eligible costs that will improve deicer management and/or decrease exposure of materials to rainfall and runoff. Additional criteria such as demonstrated water quality improvements, cost-effectiveness, commitment to staff training, changes expected through the upgrades, and the distributed need across Ohio will also be evaluated.

**Eligible Costs - Road Deicing Equipment/Facility Improvements**

Below is a list of equipment and project upgrades that are eligible for funding:

## H2Ohio Rivers Initiative: Chloride Reduction Grants

- Live Edge/Articulated Blades
- Calibration/Salt Spreader Control Systems/ GPS Tracking/Monitoring Systems/Road Temperature Sensors
- Upgraded Salt Spreader(s) to Allow Calibration/Control System/GPS Tracking or Monitoring Systems
- Brine Mixers
- Brine Application Equipment
- Equipment Rinse and Rinse Collection for Recycling
- Sweeper for Cleaning Salt from Exterior Loading Areas
- Conductivity Meters (for water monitoring)
- Salt Storage (eliminates exposure of salt to rainwater and/or runoff and overburdened storage)
  - Improving salt storage and loading areas (e.g., berms, poured concrete, or covered loading areas)
  - Structural facility improvements (e.g., repair or replacement of existing facilities to address leakage, or to prevent runoff from entering storage shed)
  - Permanent salt storage facility or covers

### Application Procedure

Fill out the application Microsoft Excel and save with your entity's name and the initials of the applicant included in the title (e.g., Salt\_Gr\_Appl-MumfordTwpJM). Then print the document as an Adobe PDF. This PDF can be signed by the authorized person. A completed application must be emailed in both **Microsoft Excel** and as an **Adobe Acrobat (PDF)** with an applicant's signature included.

This request for proposals and the application materials are available here: <https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/surface-water/financial-assistance/319-grants>.

The application in **Microsoft Excel** and the signed **Adobe Acrobat (PDF)** and any additional attachments that you deem helpful should be emailed to the following contacts by the close of business **Jan. 31, 2024**:

- John Mathews, Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program Manager: [john.mathews@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:john.mathews@epa.ohio.gov)
- Kimberly Gaddis, NPS Program Sr. Budget Analyst: [kimberly.gaddis@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:kimberly.gaddis@epa.ohio.gov)
- Cara Hardesty, NPS Environmental Specialist: [cara.hardesty@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:cara.hardesty@epa.ohio.gov)

After review and ranking, recommendations for funding will be made to the chief of the Division of Surface Water and the director of Ohio EPA. Projects selected by Ohio EPA must execute a grant agreement and adhere to local and state procurement requirements and agree to retain equipment for its useful life.

If you have questions about the request for proposals, contact John Mathews at 614.265.6685 or Cara Hardesty at 614.644.2143.