



**Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) No. 131**  
**CWSRF Project No. C6-6076-06-70**  
**City of Utica**  
**Project Name: Utica Green Engineering Program**

**DEC Region: 6 County: Oneida**

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**Type of Financing:** American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Green Innovation Grant Program

**Estimated Total Project Cost:** \$718,490.20

**Recommended GIGP Award Amount:** \$646,641.00

**Local Share:** \$71,849.20

**Other Funding Sources:** \$0.00

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**Project Category:** Clean Water SRF. Green Wet Weather Infrastructure.

**Project Description:**

The eligible portion of the City of Utica's Green Engineering Program involves three activities to mitigate stormwater impacts to the Mohawk River: purchase and installation of rain barrels, installation of tree pits, and planting of trees at various locations throughout the City.

The scope of this project is defined by engineering report titled "Engineering Report for Stormwater Tree Pits and Rain Barrels" dated October 2009 approved by NYSDEC on October 30, 2009 and made eligible by NYSEFC on December 7, 2009. The project is further defined by the plans & specifications titled "City of Utica, Green Engineering Project" dated October 30, 2009 approved by NYSDEC on October 21, 2009 and made eligible by NYSEFC on December 7, 2009.

**Project Summary:**

Utica's Green Engineering Program utilizes a number of methods to mitigate stormwater at various locations throughout the City. The eligible portions of the project include rain barrels, tree pits and tree planting. The project will result in planting 275 trees in curb modified tree pits and 25 trees in engineered pre-cast tree pits. The rain barrels will provide for on-site storage of stormwater, allowing homeowners to disconnect downspouts to the sewer system and reuse water on-site for plant irrigation. This will mitigate peak flows and reduce the use of potable water for plant watering. The tree pits combined with the tree planting are designed to collect stormwater and reuse stormwater to alleviate stormwater impacts. The project is located within a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) community covered by an MS4 State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit. The green infrastructure methods involved in this project will assist in the mitigation of combined sewer overflows.

This project is categorically eligible for GIGP financing in two categories per the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) "Guidance for Award of Recovery Act Funding to State Revolving Funds" dated March 2, 2009:

1. Green Wet Weather Infrastructure. This project involves "water harvesting and reuse programs, downspout disconnection, and comprehensive street tree or urban forestry programs" (page 45) and include the following examples:

V.b. "Implementation of water harvesting and reuse programs or projects, where consistent with state and local laws and policies."

V.c. "Implementation of wet weather management systems for parking areas which include: the incremental cost of porous pavement, bioretention, trees, green roofs, and other practices that mimic natural hydrology and reduce effective imperviousness..."

V.e. "Downspout disconnection to remove stormwater from combined sewers and storm sewers."

V.f. "Comprehensive retrofit systems designed to keep wet weather out of all types of sewer systems using green infrastructure technologies and approaches."

V.g. "Implementation of comprehensive street tree or urban forestry programs, including expansion of tree box sizes to manage additional stormwater and enhance tree health."

2. Water Efficiency. Categorically eligible projects include the use of "improved technologies and practices to deliver equal or better services with less water" (page 42). Through the reuse of rainwater for efficient landscape irrigation, this project meets the EPA criteria, particularly for the following examples (page 43):

V.c. "Efficient landscape or irrigation equipment"

V.e. "Reclamation, recycling, and reuse of existing rainwater, condensate, degraded water, stormwater and/or wastewater systems."

A portion of funds requested by this applicant did not meet GIGP eligibility requirements for green infrastructure. The hydrodynamic separation units and catch basin hoods are stormwater controls that are not GIGP eligible.

This project is located in the City of Utica which is designated as an economically distressed area.

**Funding Summary:**

The City has committed to provide the 10% local match.

**SEQR Findings:**

The Corporation has determined that the proposed action will finance a project which constitutes the "...construction or expansion of a primary or accessory/appurtenant, non-residential structure or facility involving less than 4,000 square feet of gross floor area..." and the "placement of minor accessory/appurtenant residential structures... not changing land use or density..." which are "Type II" actions under SEQR, pursuant to 6 NYCRR Section 617.5(c)(7) and (10).

**Construction Schedule:**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Construction Start</u>	<u>Construction Completion</u>
Utica, City of Utica Green Engineering Program	May 3, 2010	June 30, 2011