



Business Item 2026-95 SW:

2026-2028 Water Efficiency Grant Program Awards



Environment Committee: May 12, 2026

**Henry McCarthy, Senior Environmental Scientist, Water Resources
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services**

Program background

- Began in 2016
- 41 communities participating in the 2024-2026 grant cycle
- Expanded offerings over time
- Communities design their own programs, Met Council sets guidelines

Total Water Efficiency Grant outcomes through Sept. 30, 2025



4,271

clothes washers replaced



8,498

toilets replaced



5,760

irrigation controllers
replaced



1,003

irrigation spray sprinkler
bodies replaced



191

irrigation audits



1,724

residential dishwashers
replaced



\$2.7 million

total rebates



260,000,000

estimated annual
gallons saved

Overview for 2026-2028

Total appropriation of \$1.4 million

- Minnesota Session Law 2025, Chapter 36, Article 1, Section 2
 - \$650,000 the first year and \$750,000 the second year are for grants that implement water demand reduction measures. The grants are to assist municipalities in the metropolitan area with implementing water demand reduction measures to ensure the reliability and protection of drinking water supplies.
- **Grant program goal:** support technical and behavioral changes that improve municipal water use efficiency in the seven-county metropolitan area.



Changes for 2026-2028

- Maximum grant amount: \$50,000 → \$75,000
- Clearer guidelines for grant activity/device eligibility and property type
 - Faucets and faucet accessories added
 - Flushing urinals and flushometer-valve toilets added
 - Commercial clothes washers and commercial dishwashers added
- **Municipal facility grant activity option added**
 - Replacement of water using devices in municipal properties
 - Property turfgrass conversion/replacement
- **Low-income cost assistance option** (additional \$10,000 available to expand maximum grant amount to \$85,000)
 - Full cost coverage for eligible residents on indoor water use devices
- Updated reporting form
- Improved standardization of estimated water savings

Applications from communities

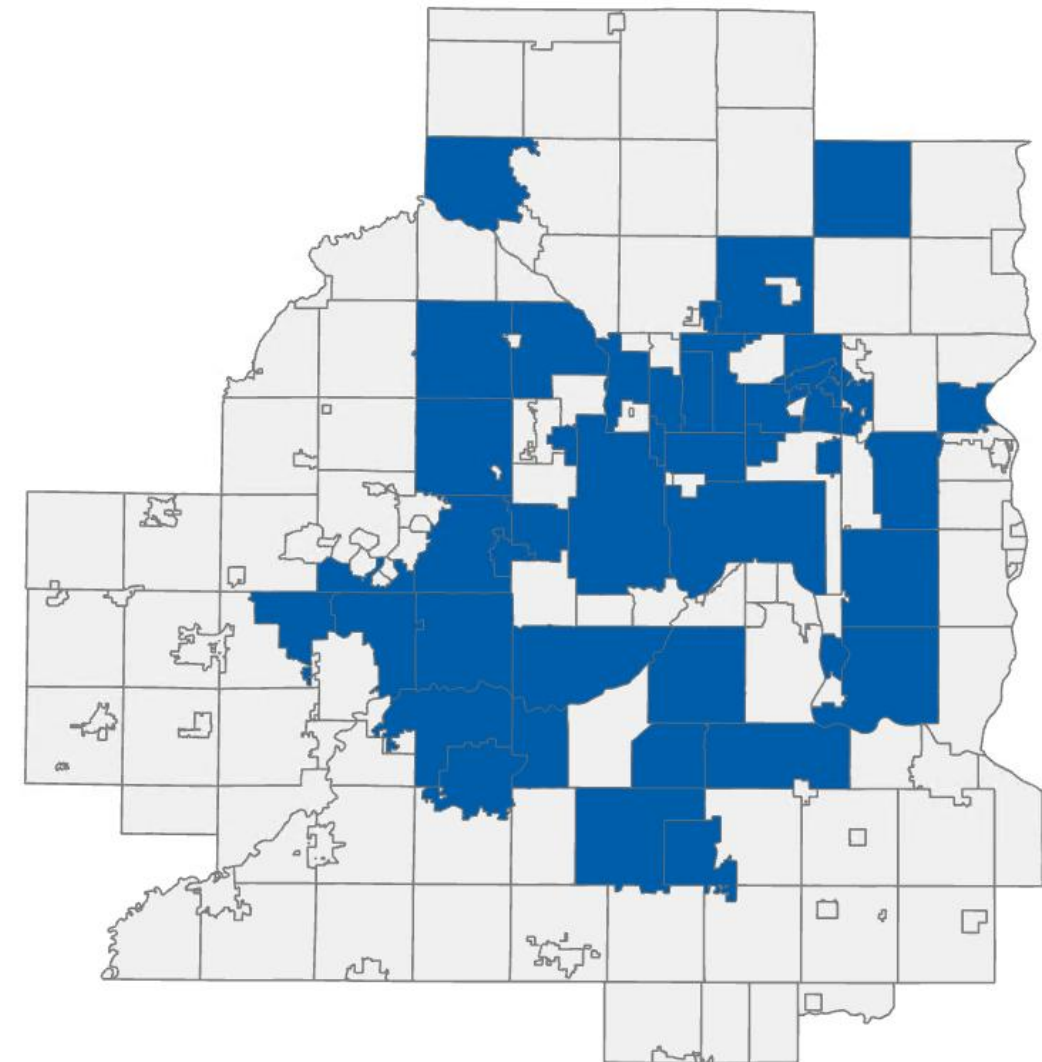
44 municipalities applied – program record

Following program precedent, no eligible communities with a complete application and an approved program proposal were turned away

Total requested: **\$1,683,575**

Total available: **\$1,400,000**

\$283,575 to be reduced



Grant program requests

Community	Requested Amount	Community	Requested Amount	Community	Requested Amount
Apple Valley	\$50,000	Lino Lakes	\$24,000	Saint Paul	\$75,000
Arden Hills	\$40,000	Little Canada	\$31,800	Savage	\$65,200
Bloomington	\$25,000	Mahtomedi	\$16,000	Shakopee	\$50,000
Brooklyn Park	\$15,000	Maple Grove	\$40,000	Shoreview	\$10,000
Chanhassen	\$25,000	Minneapolis	\$50,000	Shorewood	\$5,040
Circle Pines	\$13,200	Minnetonka	\$70,000	St. Louis Park	\$60,000
Cottage Grove	\$75,000	New Brighton	\$40,000	St. Paul Park	\$85,000
Eagan	\$55,760	North St. Paul	\$26,400	Stillwater	\$40,000
Eden Prairie	\$24,000	Plymouth	\$60,000	Vadnais Heights	\$75,000
Farmington	\$15,000	Prior Lake	\$20,800	Victoria	\$22,880
Forest Lake	\$32,000	Ramsey	\$11,200	White Bear Lake	\$28,000
Fridley	\$20,670	Robbinsdale	\$29,000	White Bear Township	\$65,625
Hopkins	\$20,000	Rosemount	\$13,600	Woodbury	\$60,000
Lake Elmo	\$50,000	Roseville	\$50,000		
Lakeville	\$56,000	Saint Anthony Village	\$42,400		

Cells in blue mean the municipality plans to include a low-income cost assistance option

Cells in yellow mean the municipality plans to include grant activities at municipal properties

Cells in green mean the municipality plans to include both low-income cost assistance and grant activities at municipal properties

Scoring criteria

Applications were scored based on:

- **Municipal residential per capita water use** (1x weight)
- **Municipal ratio of peak month to winter month water use** (0.75x weight)
- **Estimated water savings from proposed program** (0.5x weight)

Calculated scores were used to determine how much would be reduced from the amount requested in the municipality's application.

Cities requesting \$10,000 or under did not have their award amounts reduced.

Scores

Community	Score	Community	Score	Community	Score
Apple Valley	42.25	Lino Lakes	59.25	Saint Paul	21
Arden Hills	35.75	Little Canada	42.75	Savage	50.25
Bloomington	40.25	Mahtomedi	50.5	Shakopee	54.5
Brooklyn Park	79	Maple Grove	57	Shoreview	33
Chanhassen	79.5	Minneapolis	26	Shorewood	88
Circle Pines	50.75	Minnetonka	56.25	St. Louis Park	16
Cottage Grove	55.25	New Brighton	13.75	St. Paul Park	40.75
Eagan	76	North St. Paul	22.25	Stillwater	41.5
Eden Prairie	60.25	Plymouth	54.5	Vadnais Heights	30.25
Farmington	68.75	Prior Lake	62.5	Victoria	80.25
Forest Lake	59	Ramsey	80.25	White Bear Lake	23
Fridley	21.25	Robbinsdale	18.25	White Bear Township	52.25
Hopkins	52	Rosemount	79.5	Woodbury	54
Lake Elmo	80.25	Roseville	22.5		
Lakeville	52.5	Saint Anthony Village	40.25		

max possible = 96.75
max score = 88

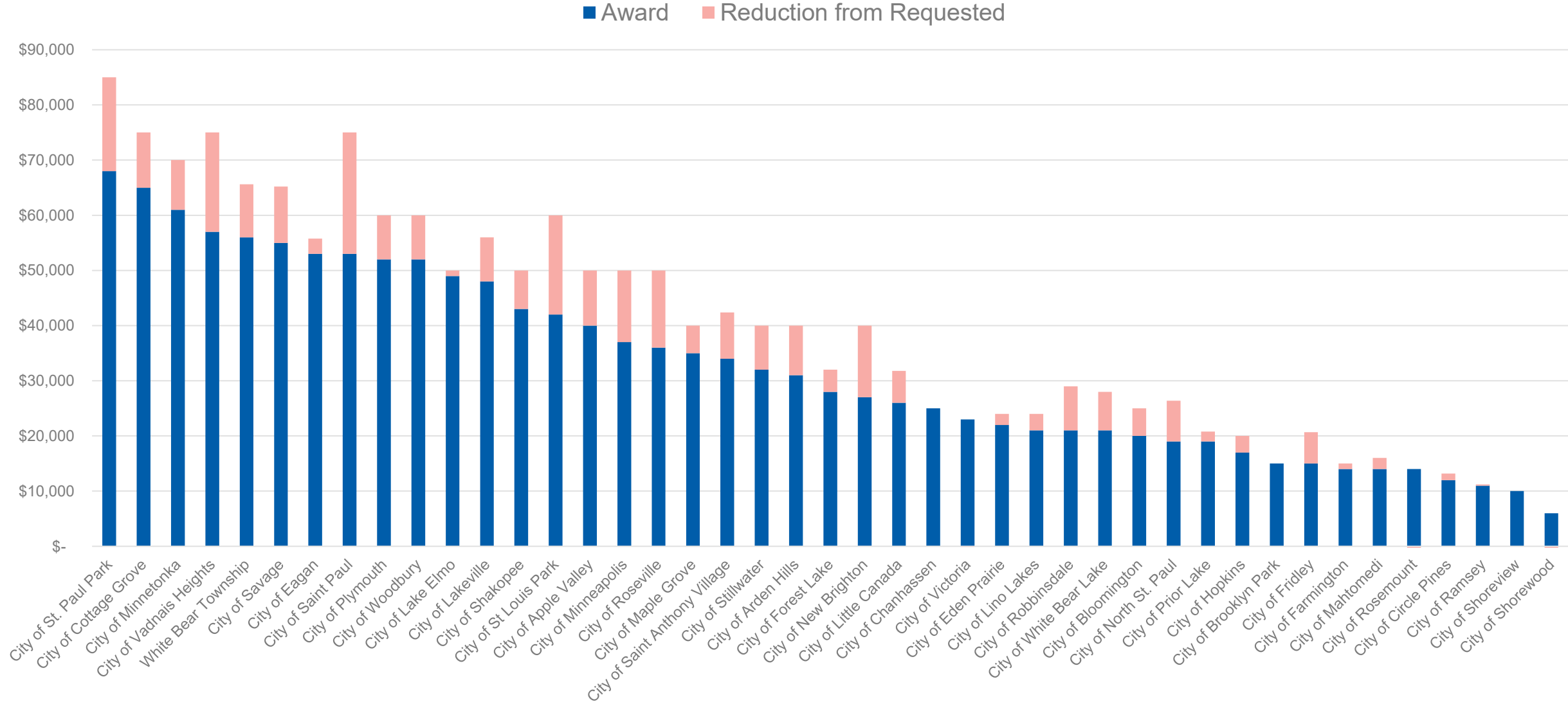
Calculated scores were used to determine how much would be reduced from the amount requested in the municipality’s application. A high score results in a lower reduction from requested.

Proposed awards

Community	Award	Community	Award	Community	Award
Apple Valley	\$40,000	Lino Lakes	\$21,000	Saint Paul	\$53,000
Arden Hills	\$31,000	Little Canada	\$26,000	Savage	\$55,000
Bloomington	\$20,000	Mahtomedi	\$14,000	Shakopee	\$43,000
Brooklyn Park	\$15,000	Maple Grove	\$35,000	Shoreview	\$10,000
Chanhassen	\$25,000	Minneapolis	\$37,000	Shorewood	\$6,000
Circle Pines	\$12,000	Minnetonka	\$61,000	St. Louis Park	\$42,000
Cottage Grove	\$65,000	New Brighton	\$27,000	St. Paul Park	\$68,000
Eagan	\$53,000	North St. Paul	\$19,000	Stillwater	\$32,000
Eden Prairie	\$22,000	Plymouth	\$52,000	Vadnais Heights	\$57,000
Farmington	\$14,000	Prior Lake	\$19,000	Victoria	\$23,000
Forest Lake	\$28,000	Ramsey	\$11,000	White Bear Lake	\$21,000
Fridley	\$15,000	Robbinsdale	\$21,000	White Bear Township	\$56,000
Hopkins	\$17,000	Rosemount	\$14,000	Woodbury	\$52,000
Lake Elmo	\$49,000	Roseville	\$36,000	Total: \$1,399,000	
Lakeville	\$48,000	Saint Anthony Village	\$34,000		

Requested versus granted amounts

Requested vs. Granted Amounts
Water Efficiency Grant Program 2026-2028
Total Amount Requested = \$1,683,575 Total Amount Granted = \$1,399,00



Next steps



- Environment Committee: May 12
- Council Approval: May 13
- Grants Awarded
- Program Begins: July 1

Proposed action

That the Environment Committee approve Business Item 2026-95 SW and recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to award and execute the 2026-2028 Water Efficiency Grant Program awards up to the recommended award amount in Attachment A to the total amount of \$1,399,000. And that any remaining or returned funds will be redistributed to participating municipalities at staff's discretion.

Thank you

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<https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Planning/Water-Supply-Planning/Grants/Water-Efficiency-Grant-Program.aspx>

