

# STORMWATER RETENTION CREDIT PRICE LOCK PROGRAM GUIDE

The Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) is buying [Stormwater Retention Credits](#) (SRCs) from new, voluntary green infrastructure (GI) in areas draining to the District's [Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System](#) (MS4). DOEE issued a grant to the [Center for Watershed Protection](#) (CWP) to help administer this program. As described below, CWP will interact with program applicants and participants on DOEE's behalf.

## Eligibility Criteria

You must meet the following requirements and qualifications to enter into an *SRC Purchase Agreement*:

- The project team\* includes a professional engineer registered in the District of Columbia.
- The project team\* includes an engineer who has received approval for a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) since December 2014, or who has attended both DOEE trainings *General Compliance* and *Using the Surface and Groundwater System (SGS)*.
- The project team\* includes a person who has attended the DOEE training *Generation and Certification of SRCs*.
- The proposed GI practice is a new GI practice, for which the SWMP has been or will be approved by DOEE on or after September 12, 2016. GI practices that are installed to comply with the District's stormwater management regulations or were built prior to September 12, 2016, do not qualify.
- The SWMP design and the maintenance details for the proposed GI practice will comply with the version of the District's [Stormwater Management Guidebook](#) (SWMG) in use at the time the *SRC Purchase Agreement* is signed. If a new version of the SWMG becomes available after the *SRC Purchase Agreement* is signed and before obtaining DOEE approval of the project's SWMP, the project has the option of using the newer version of the SWMG.
- The contributing drainage area to the GI practice is within the District's [MS4](#) area.
- Runoff from the contributing drainage area to the GI practice does not already drain to an existing GI practice or other Best Management Practice (BMP).

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- The GI practice(s) are located on a single property or on properties for which all owners consent to the project.
- The project will not result in removal of or detrimental impact to healthy Special Trees (44-inch to 100-inch circumference) or Heritage Trees (greater than 100-inch circumference).

\*Project team is defined as the primary applicant and others associated with the project via contract or otherwise retained to provide services.

## How to Participate

1. Complete the *SRC Price Lock Program Application* via DOEE's SGS (<http://doee.dc.gov/sgs>), including submittal of preliminary design drawings.

Preliminary design includes, at a minimum, calculation of approximate storage volume, contributing drainage area, and GI area; plan view and cross section details; and construction cost estimate.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Does the proposed project meet all the Eligibility Criteria?
- Is the project approach feasible and likely to be completed within the required timeframe?
- Is the project budget reasonable?
- Is the proposed project likely to produce an approved SWMP?
- To what extent does the project provide water quality and quantity benefits in areas draining to the District's MS4?
- What are the key community stakeholder benefits, which may include:
  - How does the project benefit the property owner?
  - What potential benefits does the project provide for the community in which it is located, including addressing historical or current environmental injustices or inequities?
  - How will the property owner and community be engaged in the project's decision-making process, including planning, siting, and design (i.e., participatory process)?

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- What additional environmental benefits will the project provide (e.g., educational signage explaining the benefits of green infrastructure or other co-benefits of GI)?
- Has the applicant received entered an *SRC Purchase Agreement* for another property?

SRC Price Lock applications will be accepted year-round. However, to best support ongoing project development throughout the year, DOEE plans to host biannual, 60-day open application windows for funding opportunities in the spring and fall, respectively. During these windows, applications that were previously submitted may be amended and resubmitted for consideration. DOEE will provide advance notification for each funding opportunity.

Applications submitted for review during the fall application window will be funded through an anticipated \$1.25 million of Price Lock program funds released fiscal year. Applications submitted for review during the spring application window will be funded through unreserved funds that have become available from unused *SRC Purchase Agreement* reserves.

CWP will notify applicants of tentative funding within 60 days of the close of each application window. Applicants will be contacted if there are any questions about their application, if additional information is required, or if it is determined that it will not be feasible to obtain SWMP approval for the proposed project.

DOEE and CWP reserve the right to make an award at other, undetermined times during the year, pending the availability of funds, if extraordinary projects are submitted that best exemplify and serve the program's objectives.

### 2. Review and sign your *SRC Purchase Agreement*.

CWP will send an *SRC Purchase Agreement* to each approved applicant to review and sign. The *SRC Purchase Agreement* includes a project schedule and other rules regarding the process to certify SRCs and sell them to DOEE.

3. Obtain DOEE approval of the SWMP containing GI practice design, construction, and maintenance details.
4. Construct GI practice, successfully passing DOEE construction inspections.
5. Submit as-built SWMP to DOEE.
6. Apply to DOEE for SRC Certification.

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7. As stated in the terms of the *SRC Purchase Agreement*, SRCs sold to a private purchaser may be eligible for a subsidy from DOEE. If selling to a private purchaser:
  - a. Seller submits an *Application for Transfer of SRC Ownership* as described in the DOEE's SWMG.
  - b. CWP pays the agreed-upon subsidy for SRCs (as stated in the *SRC Purchase Agreement*) within 30 days via electronic funds transfer and submits proof of payment to DOEE.
8. Eighteen months after SRC certification, any SRCs that have not been sold to a private purchaser may be sold to DOEE. If selling to DOEE:
  - a. Seller submits Attachment C of the *SRC Purchase Agreement: Intent to Sell SRCs* to DOEE via the SGS.
  - b. CWP pays the agreed-upon price for SRCs (as stated in the *SRC Purchase Agreement*) within 30 days via electronic funds transfer and submits proof of payment to DOEE.
  - c. DOEE records the SRC transfer and retires the SRCs.
9. Maintain GI practice and notify DOEE of any change in the GI practice that may affect its performance. Request and pass DOEE inspection of the GI practice within six months of the end of the SRC certification period.
10. Continue certifying additional SRCs on three-year certification cycle and decide whether to sell according to the terms outlined in the *SRC Purchase Agreement*, repeating steps 7 through 10 for up to 12 years).

For more information about the SRC Price Lock Program, visit <http://doee.dc.gov/src> or contact Matt Johnson at [matt.johnson2@dc.gov](mailto:matt.johnson2@dc.gov) or (202) 741-0861.