



ILLINOIS EPA

Impact

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Message from

DIRECTOR JAMES JENNINGS



July and August are transitional months. Between students getting ready to head back to school, the Illinois State Fair kicking off, and funding opportunities coming from the new State Fiscal Year, this is a truly exciting part of the calendar. In recent weeks and months, our staff have continued their exceptional work to prepare for our role in each of these while also ensuring that Illinois retains its place among the nation's environmental leaders.

In the coming months, our team will be rolling out new funding opportunities that will support providing clean air, land, and water for residents across the state. These projects include more than \$1.3 billion in available funding to upgrade wastewater and drinking water systems statewide. Over \$400 million of those funds are intended to directly support replacing lead service lines, which will directly support the numerous communities whose residents are still served by lead-containing drinking water lines. In addition, we recently made \$5 million available to support watershed management plan development to minimize nonpoint source pollution from agricultural fields and urban areas. In August, the Agency will further its efforts to enhance air quality statewide by opening the next round of electric vehicle rebates, affording residents up to \$4,000 for the purchase of a new or used all-electric vehicle, subject to applicant eligibility. Finally, our nationally-recognized brownfields program will be releasing additional funding in the coming months for assessments intended to assist units of local government in cleaning up historically contaminated properties. These are just a few of the numerous programs we are deploying this fiscal year to improve the lives of Illinoisians.

In 2025, members of our team were among the more than 1 million people who visited the Illinois and DuQuoin State Fairs. This year we will be back and hoping to see an even higher attendance. While you and your family are enjoying a lemon shakeup and a corn dog, we encourage you to visit the Illinois EPA exhibit. This year, our offering will focus on ways to address water pollution, offering guidance on water quality and drinking water enhancement opportunities as well as games for kids. Drinking water quality is of fundamental importance to our state and we want to provide attendees with valuable information that can assist them in their day-to-day lives. Our exhibit will be displayed at Conservation World for the State Fair in Springfield and in the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Tent at the DuQuoin State Fair.



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ILLINOIS EPA'S 56TH BIRTHDAY

On July 1, the Illinois EPA celebrated its 56th birthday! Signed into law by Governor Richard Ogilvie on July 1, 1970, Illinois was the first state in the country to pass a comprehensive Environmental Protection Act and establish an Environmental Protection Agency, preceding even the U.S. EPA by five months. Environmental protections were also enshrined in our state's Constitution in 1970, with an article added to read, "The public policy of the State and the duty of each person is to provide and maintain a healthful environment for the benefit of this and future generations." To this day, the Illinois EPA remains committed to our mission of safeguarding environmental quality, consistent with the social and economic needs of the State, so as to protect health, welfare, property, and the quality of life. Thank you all for being such an integral component of our Agency's success. To learn more about the Illinois EPA's history, view our [website](#).

LAKES APPRECIATION MONTH

The North American Lake Management Society declares July as Lakes Appreciation Month, and we recognize the declaration in appreciation of the 2,900+ lakes in Illinois. Our lakes provide habitat for wildlife, recreational opportunities, and valuable water resources for communities across the state. Most of our lakes are man-made reservoirs that also provide flood control and other important benefits for communities across the state. Reservoirs also have unique characteristics. The upstream areas, where tributaries flow in, often behave more like streams, while the downstream areas near the dam are more lake-like. These differences influence water quality, fisheries management, and phytoplankton.

Illinois EPA has been monitoring Lake Michigan conditions since 1977, and with a program redesign in 2010, we added harbor sampling and public water supply intake sampling. Since 2010, water samples have been collected from 400 different nearshore sites, 13 harbors, and 22 public supply intake sites.

You can find more information on Illinois' [inland lakes](#), [Lake Michigan](#), and how the Illinois EPA interacts with these bodies of water on our website. You can learn more about Lakes Appreciation Month and take part in some challenges to show your love for lakes by visiting the [North American Lake Management Society's website](#).





STATE REVOLVING FUND FISCAL YEAR 2026 SUMMARY

The Illinois EPA's State Revolving Fund (SRF) provides low-interest loans to communities seeking to upgrade, repair, or otherwise modify their water infrastructure. The SRF provides loans for wastewater and stormwater projects through the Water Pollution Control Loan Program (WPCLP) and for drinking water projects through the Public Water Supply Loan Program (PWSLP).

In State Fiscal Year 2026 (SFY26), which ended June 30, 2026, Illinois EPA provided more than \$1.2 billion across all SRF loan programs to support the health of local communities and their water quality. This is a 14% increase from awards in SFY25 (\$1.07B) and precedes another projected increase of 9% for SFY27 (\$1.33B). One large reason that more funds are being awarded is due to the current growth of the Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) program as part of the PWSLP due to increases in funding and assistance in helping communities navigate the process. All Illinois communities deserve the opportunity to improve their water infrastructure, and Illinois EPA low-interest loan programs provide a vital resource to fund such projects. If your community would like to take advantage of the SRF, please view our website for information on program details and how to apply.



FISCAL YEAR 2026 LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENTS

The Illinois EPA provided \$267.3 million in financing for lead service line replacement (LSLR) in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026 for projects directly related to activities that reduce or eliminate lead from potable water, as part of the Public Water Supply Loan Program. Lead is a toxic chemical that can have severe health impacts over time, meaning that reducing or eliminating lead from service lines that carry drinking water to consumers can have a profound positive impact on the health of a community.

In addition to our SFY 2026 LSLR funding, Illinois EPA has over \$444 million in reserved in funding for SFY 2027, which began on July 1, 2026. Unlike other loans administered as part of the State Revolving Fund (SRF), LSLR loans have an interest rate of 0% and a loan term of 30 years, though high-scoring applications in areas considered a disadvantaged community are sometimes eligible to receive principal forgiveness, meaning all or a portion of the loan will not have to be repaid. To learn more about Illinois EPA's Lead Service Line Replacement Loans, visit our LSLR webpage.





REBATE CYCLE

NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLE REBATE CYCLE

As outlined by the Electric Vehicle Rebate Act ([415 ILCS 120/27](#)), the Illinois EPA maintains an Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate Program. This program provides for a rebate, as funding is available, to Illinois residents that purchase a new or used all-electric vehicle from an Illinois licensed dealer, meet all other eligibility requirements, and apply during a rebate cycle. The rebate amount is \$2,000, with low-income individuals eligible for an additional \$2,000, totaling \$4,000. Our newest application cycle opened on **August 1, 2026**. For updates, application, frequently asked questions, and eligibility requirements regarding the rebate program, please view [our website](#).

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING AWARDS

The Illinois EPA has awarded \$18.25 million in grants for publicly accessible EV charging infrastructure. Through a call for applications issued in January 2026, nine grant recipients have been awarded sums to install new fast-charging stations in a total of 101 locations across the state. For the locations of all charging locations supported by the State, view our [interactive map](#).

NEW NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Illinois EPA is announcing a new funding opportunity aimed at helping communities address nonpoint source pollution. While point source pollution is a way of describing pollution that can be precisely traced back to one specific source, nonpoint source pollution, in contrast, is a type of pollution that cannot be traced back to any single source. Examples include rain or snowmelt washing across agricultural or urban surfaces into a river at the bottom of a watershed. While it can be identified that this runoff water picked up some pollutants on the way, it cannot be identified where specifically these contaminants came from. The [new funding opportunity](#) is available through the Clean Water Act Section 319(h) and contains \$5 million in available funding to “aid in the development and implementation of watershed management plans to benefit local watersheds.” The funding prioritizes programs such as best management practice (BMP) implementation, environmental monitoring, social indicator monitoring, and outreach efforts.

The Illinois EPA routinely has a variety of funding opportunities available to groups ranging from nonprofits to local governments to assist in carrying out a diverse range of environmental projects. Some of these are first-come, first-serve grants, such as the Unsewered Communities Planning Grant Program and Energy Efficiency Trust Fund Grant Program, both of which are currently accepting applications. Be sure to check our website for the chance to apply soon. All current funding opportunities can be viewed on our [Grants and Loans webpage](#).





ACCESSING ILLINOIS EPA RECORDS

Illinois EPA receives thousands of requests for records each year. In an effort to provide access to highly sought Agency records, we offer the online [Document Explorer](#) tool making certain documents available for viewing and downloading. For documents that are not available through the online tool, individuals may submit a [Freedom of Information Request](#).



POLLUTION COMPLAINTS

Illinois EPA is committed to responding to complaints as quickly as possible. The quickest and easiest way to submit a complaint to Illinois EPA is through the [online complaint form](#). Individuals can also contact the closest [Illinois EPA Regional Office](#). To report an environmental emergency, please contact the Illinois Emergency Management Agency at 800-782-7860.

Currently, we are also working to improve our pollution complaint system! By implementing a central complaint database and an automatic emailing system, we hope to increase the amount of resolved complaints we work on across all Bureaus. We expect a soft launch for our new system in August before a potential transition by the end of the summer. We hope to be of even better service to you in responding to and investigating your pollution complaints when we begin the transition.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Summer may be in full swing, but that doesn't mean the Illinois EPA is slowing down. We had a number of career applications close in July and we are excited to welcome these new members to our team. Illinois EPA has a variety of technical and professional staff positions, including specialists, geologists, engineers, biologists, chemists, as well as positions involved with legal and administrative services. Make sure to check back often, as current postings are always available [online](#) and posted on all of our social media pages. We would love for you to join the team!

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