

## Summary of City of Ottawa Water-related Incentive Programs for Private Property Owners

The City of Ottawa operates many grant programs to support local organizations and individuals to conduct activities that benefit the city and residents. The majority of Ottawa’s ~55 grants and contributions programs are made available to community organizations, however some funding is available to individuals. Table 1 provides a brief overview of Ottawa’s environmental funding programs available to private property owners. This information is based on review of program documentation as well as verbal consultation with program staff.

*Table 1. Environmental funding programs for individual private property owners.*

Program Name, Department, Annual budget	Program description	Enrollment and Lessons Learned
<p><a href="#">Lead Pipe Replacement Program</a> <i>PWES – Locates, Laterals, and Grants</i> \$1,000,000/yr Initiated in 2006, revised in September 2019</p> <p><a href="#">Council report for program update - 2019</a></p>	<p>A rebate of up to \$1,000 – approximately 20% of the pipe replacement cost – is available to homeowners with a partial (private-only) lead water service pipe.</p> <p>The rebate addresses trenching and replacement costs, where the public portion of the water service pipe has been replaced or is scheduled to be replaced within the next 2 years.</p> <p>The cost of the private portion varies based on the length of the private lead water service pipe. The rebate does not address removal and replacement of items such as gardens, landscaping, decks, porches or interior work and finishes.</p> <p><b>Rebate eligibility criteria (all must be met):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The public (City-owned) portion of the water service pipe must not be lead.</li> </ul>	<p>From 2006 to 2019, about 1,070 homes have enrolled in the program. The program is typically underspent by about half.</p> <p>Barriers to participation were identified including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property owners are not aware they have lead pipes;</li> <li>• Property owners are not aware of the potential health impacts of lead in drinking water;</li> <li>• The cost of replacement is too high; and/or</li> <li>• The impact of the construction work is unwanted</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The private portion of the water service pipe must be lead.</li> <li>• The owner of the property must apply.</li> <li>• The property owner must provide all documentation requested as part of the application.</li> <li>• The private water service pipe replacement must have been completed on or after September 25, 2019.</li> </ul> <p>A Loan Option is available to homeowners with full lead services (public and private) to complete the private side replacement. These loans are in addition to the incentives. About 206 homes sought loans from the City valued at \$600,000.</p> <p>This program is administered by City staff. It is promoted primarily through a <a href="#">City-owned webpage</a>, but several local plumbing businesses have also promoted the program through their own websites. Industry-focused blogs and websites have also written about the program. Some targeted direct mail outreach to residents has been conducted in order to boost enrollment.</p> <p>Additionally, the City offers impacted residents a reusable pitcher and approximately a one-year supply of NSF-53 water filters certified to remove lead from your tap water while you await replacement of your lead water service pipe.</p>	
<a href="#">Residential Compassionate Grant for Sewer Backups PWES – Locates, Laterals, and Grants</a>	<p>On November 25<sup>th</sup> <a href="#">2009</a>, Council approved the Residential Compassionate Grant Program in response to the July 24<sup>th</sup> flood event. The program provides funding up to \$1,000 to qualified City of Ottawa residents affected by recurring flooding as a result of sewer surcharging.</p>	<p>Between when the Compassionate Grant Program was adopted in 2009 and December 2018, only 50 applications have been processed, distributing only a small portion of</p>

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		the available funding.
<p><a href="#">Residential Protective Plumbing Program (RPPP)</a> <i>PWES – Locates, Laterals, and Grants</i> \$1 million/yr Started in 2005</p> <p><a href="#">Residential Protective Plumbing Program – Review and Proposed Program Updates</a></p>	<p>The RPPP provides rebates on the installation of backwater valves and sump pumps. It includes rebates for: Permits, CCTV inspections, Indoor sanitary backwater valves, indoor stormwater backwater valves, outdoor stormwater backwater valves, and a sump pump with a backup power sources. All installation work is conducted by the homeowner’s contractor. In a former iteration of the program, residents were required to obtain three quotes from contractors because a portion of total cost was paid by the City. This placed undue burden on residents and contractors and was replaced with a flat rebate, eliminating the three-quote requirement.</p> <p>Eligibility requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant must be the property owner</li> <li>• Property must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Residential</li> <li>○ Located in the City of Ottawa</li> <li>○ Served by City sewers</li> <li>○ Built prior to January 1, 2004 for work related to private storm sewer services</li> <li>○ Built prior to January 1, 2012 for work related to private sanitary sewer services</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Protective plumbing device(s) considered as part of the rebate application shall not be installed for the purposes of maintaining, repairing or replacing existing protective plumbing device(s)</li> <li>• Property taxes must be current</li> <li>• Applications must be completed and approved before any work can commence</li> </ul>	<p>Since 2005, over \$9.3M in funding has been provided. During the last few years, the program experienced an increase in applications, with the greatest peak in 2013.</p>

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	<p>This program is administered by City staff and supported by an external consulting firm which confirms the required work. It is promoted through a <a href="#">City-run website</a>. Some community organizations have promoted the program through newsletters and blog posts (e.g. Bay Ward Bulletin) and some City Councillors written about the program through their own newsletter and blogs.</p>	
<p><a href="#">Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program</a> External administration ~\$100,000 in grants approved/yr Budget: \$~200,000/yr</p> <p><a href="#">Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program (RCWP) Review and Renewal - 2015 2018 Annual Report</a></p>	<p>Rural Clean Water Program helps Ottawans in rural areas take action to keep water sources free from pollution. Grants are available for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean Water Diversion 50% up to \$5,000</li> <li>• Washwater Treatment 50% up to \$5,000</li> <li>• Livestock Restriction from Watercourse 90% up to \$7,500</li> <li>• Pesticide/Chemical/Fertilizer/Fuel Storage and Handling 50% up to \$1,000</li> <li>• Nutrient Management Plans/Precision Farming 50% up to \$1,000</li> <li>• Manure Storage/Treatment 50% up to \$15,000</li> <li>• Tile Drain Control Structures 50% up to \$5,000</li> <li>• Erosion Control - Field and Tile Outlet 75% up to \$2,500</li> <li>• Cover Crops \$50/Acre up to \$1,000</li> <li>• Land Retirement \$150/Acre up to \$1,500/Year</li> <li>• Erosion Control – Shoreline 90% up to \$7,500</li> <li>• Watercourse Buffers 90% up to \$7,500</li> <li>• Windbreaks 75% up to \$6,000</li> <li>• Forest &amp; Wetland Management Plans 75% up to \$750</li> <li>• Private Sewage System Repair 50% up to \$1,000</li> </ul>	<p>Since its inception in 2000, the ORCWP has supported more than 1,300 projects through \$2.6 million in grants. Land owners also contribute financially towards the individual projects. The program attracts about 40-50 projects per year with total grant values of about \$125,000/year. Some approved projects are installed in subsequent years.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well Decommissioning 90% up to \$3,000</li> <li>• Education Initiative 75% up to \$5,000</li> <li>• Innovative Projects 50% up to \$5,000</li> </ul> <p>This program is administered by the South Nation Conservation Authority in partnership with the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, and it is funded through an annual special levy. The Program is promoted on City and Conservation Authority websites and social media. The program is also promoted at events such as the Ottawa Valley Farm Show and through newspaper ads and direct mail. An external advisory committee of agricultural and environmental organizations advises the program. Site visits are conducted by trained staff.</p>	