



WRF Tailored Collaboration Program



The Water Research Foundation (WRF) Tailored Collaboration (TC) Program is a matching program designed to support utility-specific/regional issues. It provides an opportunity for subscribing utilities to partner with WRF on research projects that address issues of interest to a significant subgroup of WRF subscribers.

Projects funded under the Tailored Collaboration Program are chosen annually through a two-stage competitive process:

STAGE 1:

WRF issues an annual call for pre-proposals. Submitted ideas are reviewed by the Tailored Collaboration Review Committee (TCRC) and comments are provided to applicants.

STAGE 2:

Stage 1 applicants are invited to submit full proposals to compete for funding. The full proposals are evaluated and approved by the TCRC.

PROGRAM DETAILS

- WRF provides a 1:1 match, up to \$150,000, for every \$1 in cash that a subscriber or group of subscribers provides toward the project.
- Each project must be sponsored by a WRF subscribing utility; however, funds from all categories of WRF subscribers are eligible for the cash match.
- Cash match is required in order to submit a proposal to the program.
- There is no minimum in-kind contribution required.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Topic Breadth and Applicability
- Originality
- Technical Approach
- Budget
- Management Plan
- Qualifications of Key Personnel

PARTNERING ON CRITICAL RESEARCH

Through the Tailored Collaboration Program, WRF partners directly with utility subscribers on research and innovation. Under this program, a subscriber or group of subscribers can obtain up to \$150,000 in matching funds for a research idea that they have developed. These ideas may be more specialized or regional in nature than those funded through WRF’s other research programs, but still have the potential for broader applicability. **Each year, 20% of WRF’s budget is allocated to the Tailored Collaboration Program.**



The TC Program is a great option because you can take your small budget, have it matched, and draw on the expertise of other utilities. It creates a collaborative environment and makes the project even more impactful.”

KRISTAN VANDENHEUVEL
Director of Applied Research and Engagement,
The Water Tower



2024 TAILORED COLLABORATION PROGRAM AWARDS

Project Title	Sponsoring Utility	WRF Funds	Total Budget
Breaking the Forever PFAS Cycle: Recycle Stream Treatment to Reduce PFAS Loading to WRRF Influent and Biosolids	Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission	\$150,000	\$515,000
Microplastics in Drinking Water Distribution Systems	Eugene Water and Electric Board	\$150,000	\$402,500
Artificial Intelligence-based Early-warning and Mitigation System for Harmful Algal Blooms	Charlotte Water	\$148,980	\$297,959
Per Capita Water Use Calculation	Central Utah Water Conservancy District	\$150,000	\$420,000
Estimating PFAS Using Total Fluorine Methods in Influent and Effluents from a Pilot-Scale Adsorption System	Orange County Water District	\$150,000	\$438,752
Advancing HTL Adoption: Integrating HTL Aqueous into WRRF Digestion Processes through Pilot Testing and Assessing Associated PFAS Destruction	Metro Vancouver	\$150,000	\$532,025
PFAS Removal: Comparison of GAC/Sand vs. Anthracite/Sand Prior to Post-filter GAC	Passaic Valley Water Commission	\$150,000	\$300,000
Electrochemical-driven Partial Denitrification Anammox (ePdNA) Process for Reverse Osmosis Concentrate (ROC) Treatment	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	\$50,000	\$160,000
Investigating the Effect of Operational Strategies and the Role of Microbial Biomass for Extending the Lifetime of Granular Activated Carbon	City of Ann Arbor	\$150,000	\$480,429
One PFAS: A One Water Approach to Managing PFAS Pollution	Fairfax Water	\$150,000	\$679,000
Process Intensification and Decarbonization via Carbon Management: Pilot-scale Demonstration of the Triple A Settler Technology in Municipal Wastewater Treatment	South Platte Renew	\$115,000	\$488,100
Practical Considerations for the Application of Phosphorus Recovery in Biosolids Utilizing Struvite-based Mineral Production	Metro Water Recovery	\$75,000	\$403,060



Visit [waterrf.org](https://www.waterrf.org) for more information about the Tailored Collaboration Program and to view the submission guidelines.