



Will County Water REFILL Station Grant Program 2023

In an effort to reduce water loss and single-use plastic bottle waste, Will County is offering grants to schools, institutions of higher education and park districts to replace existing water fountains with water bottle refill stations.

The consumption of water is healthier than alternative beverages and encouraging people to bring water with them results in healthier hydration. Filling a bottle from a traditional water fountain is ineffective, with most bottles only being able to be partially filled, while providing a bottle refill station fills bottles and offer many other benefits:

- Prevents hundreds of plastic single-use bottles from being produced
- Saves landfill space when the single-use bottles don't make it to the recycling facilities (71% don't get recycled)
- Uses local water resources instead of transporting water from far distance, saving energy, preventing pollution

Grant Summary Information (Please see the Application for detailed information).

Water Refill Station: Up to \$10,000 total available in 2023

RRE will fund up to \$500 of the cost of the purchase and installation of a new Water Refill Station. Limit of two per recipient.

Eligible applications must be in Will County and include:

- Public and Private Schools
- Park Districts and Municipal Parks
- Will County Forest Preserve
- Colleges and Universities

Desirable Locations:

- Replacement of existing water fountain in high use area
- Replacement of existing water fountain in a prominent public area
- New installation, if no water fountain is currently available, in a prominent area



Program Goals

The goals of the Will County Water Refill Station Grant program are to:

1. Promote the use of tap water while preventing the loss of water associated with standard drinking fountain.
2. Reduce harmful air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions.
3. Gather data on Water Refill Station usage. The application of this data is pertinent to planning, measuring sustainability activities, etc.
4. Promote the Will County Solid Waste Plan and the Will County Energy and Conservation Plan.

Each applicant must address how their project achieves two or more of these goals within the application.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

The 2023 application round will run **January 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023**. Selected projects need to be completed and expended by November 30, 2022. Applications will be reviewed as they are received, awards made throughout the open round until all available funds have been committed.

Section I. Contact Information and Background Information (One organization must be designated as the applicant and be responsible for implementing the entirety of the submitted project).

1.1	Organization Name	
1.2	Organization Type <i>(city, park, private, etc)</i>	
1.3	Organization Address <i>(include 9 digit zip)</i>	
1.4	Chief Officer or Official	Name:
		Title:
		Address:
		Phone:
1.5	Grant Contact	Email:
		Name:
		Title:
		Address:
		Phone:
		Email:
1.6	Brief Description of Applicant	
1.7	Applicant Website	
1.8	Identification Code <i>(Check the appropriate box)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FEIN Number <input type="checkbox"/> SSN Number <input type="checkbox"/> DUNS Number

2.1	Type of Water Refill Station to be installed	
2.2	Project Location <i>(full address)</i>	

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2.3	Area Served (# people)	
2.4	Does this facility already have a Water Refill Station?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please indicate estimated number of people use it _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No
2.5	Complete Budget	

Mandatory Requirements:

1. Project must be located within Will County and be publically accessible.
2. Projects implemented prior to receiving an award AND confirmation to proceed given by Will County Land Use Resource Recovery and Energy (RRE) are not eligible for funding.
3. Repeat applicants are eligible for additional funding for new projects if additional grants are offered.
4. Grant applications may contain researched estimates for Water Refill station installation. However, awards will be made based upon proof of actual expenditures.
5. Manufacturers of Water Refill Stations are NOT eligible to apply.
6. The applicant must have title ownership of the site or facility where the proposed Water Refill Station is being installed.
7. The station(s) must be kept operational and in service for a minimum of 5 years. The applicant must notify the County RR&E division if the station becomes inoperable for more than ten working days.
8. If a station is sold prior to 5 years of operation, the applicant may be required to pay a pro-rated portion of the station back to the County. If a station is destroyed or otherwise disposed of, the applicant must notify the County RR&E division and under certain circumstances may be required to pay a pro-rated portion of the station cost back to the awarding agency.
9. The station(s) must have a sign indicating it was funded by a grant from Will County.
10. The applicant must apply for any required local government, utility and/or water use permits and approvals.
11. The applicant must comply with all applicable federal, state and local permitting, zoning and code requirements.
12. The applicant must follow independently published recommendations on the installation of Water Refill Stations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
13. If possible, applicants must share data on overall usage of the station. (i.e. change in use from water fountain or tracking of gallons used to equate plastic bottles avoided)
14. In order to be reimbursed, all claimed eligible costs and final invoicing must be provided in a legible format and may be required on a form provided by RR&E. Backup original invoicing will be required at the time of submittal. If documents are illegible, confusing or incorrect in any manner, the project will not be funded. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure documents are clear.

As the project applicant, I hereby certify and agree to the aforementioned Requirements.

Sign and Print Name

Scope and Project Justification

1. Please provide a brief summary of the project you are submitting. Please indicate your entity's top priorities for funding if grant funds are limited due to demand.
2. Please describe in specific detail how your project addresses the program goals listed. Applicants should consider all the requirements when answering this question.
3. Please provide a time line for this project including estimated completion date of each phase.
4. Has your organization provided a Water Refill Station to employees/clients/customers?
5. If yes to #4, do you have any data on the switch from a traditional water fountain to a refill station?

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Please provide a time line for this project including estimated completion date of each phase.

Has your organization provided a Water Refill Station to employees/clients/customers?

If yes, do you have any data on the Water Refill Station's use? If no, do you have a reasonable estimate of use?