



# Stormwater Three-Acre Funding Assistance

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Testimony to House Corrections and Institutions Committee  
April 4, 2024

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\*\*All imagery in this slide deck is provided for demonstration purposes only. Dollar values subject to slight variability. Photos may not represent three-acre sites

# Presentation Outline

- All In for Clean Water
- Costs of Compliance and Funding Gaps
- Available Funding for Three-Acre Sites
- After ARPA
- Key Takeaways



# Vermont Clean Water Act (Act 64 of 2015)

## “All-in for Clean Water”

**Reasonable assurances** to meet nonpoint source targets:

- Water quality regulations
- Clean Water Board and Fund\*
- Tracking, accounting, and reporting requirements

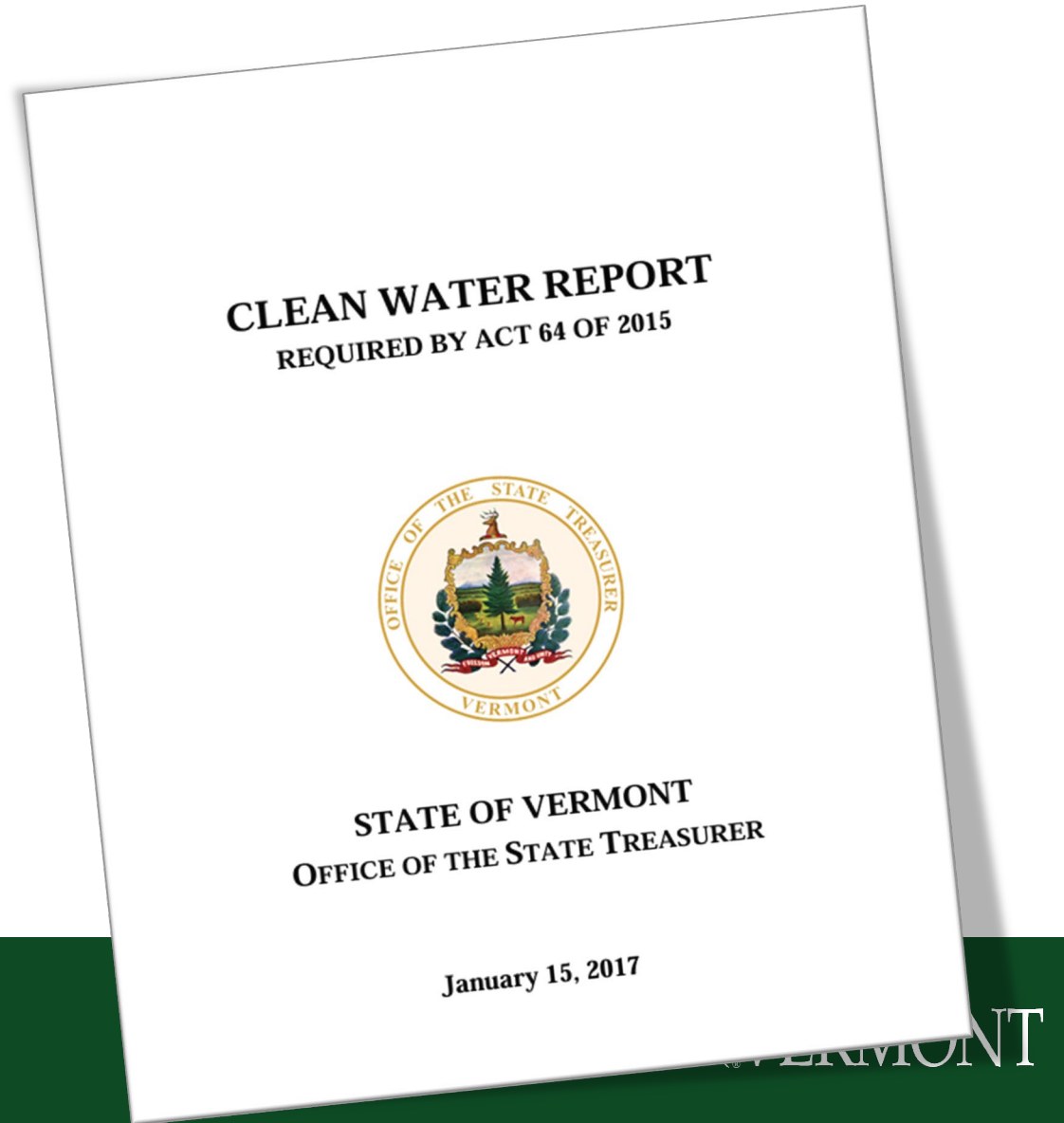
\*Requested a report with recommendations on long term sufficient funding source



# 2017 Office of the State Treasurer's Report on Clean Water

- Comprehensive stakeholder process
- Estimated total clean water funding need, existing funding sources, and gap (~\$62.4 million)
  - **~\$25.3 million/year funding gap for regulatory developed lands**
- Provided recommendations on long term funding sources

[https://www.vermonttreasurer.gov/sites/treasurer/files/committees-and-reports/FINAL\\_CleanWaterReport\\_2017.pdf](https://www.vermonttreasurer.gov/sites/treasurer/files/committees-and-reports/FINAL_CleanWaterReport_2017.pdf)



# Available Funding for Three-Acre Sites

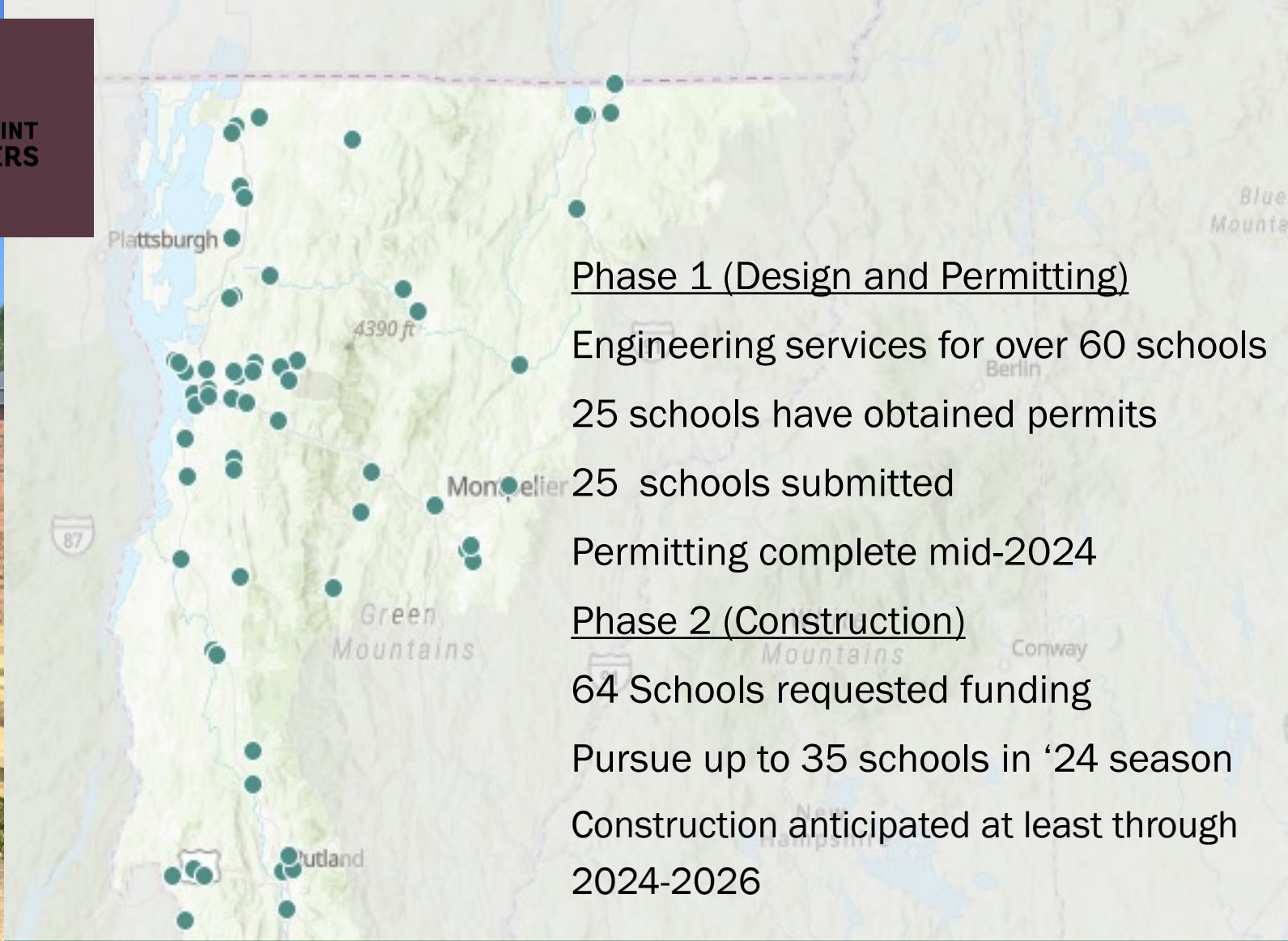
Program	Budget	Funding Source
Green Schools Initiative	\$ 29,672,045.00	ARPA, LCBP-EPA
Public-Private Partnerships	\$ 3,079,717.00	ARPA
Phase 1 Engineering Services for Manufactured Housing Communities	\$ 480,656.00	ARPA
Permit Obtainment Assistance	\$ 12,377,627.00	ARPA
Phase 2 Construction Assistance for high need sites	\$ 7,784,080.00	ARPA
Total	\$ 53,394,125.00	



# Green Schools Initiative

Phase 1 | \$2,092,614

Phase 2 | \$27,579,431



## Phase 1 (Design and Permitting)

Engineering services for over 60 schools

25 schools have obtained permits

25 schools submitted

Permitting complete mid-2024

## Phase 2 (Construction)

64 Schools requested funding

Pursue up to 35 schools in '24 season

Construction anticipated at least through 2024-2026

<https://www.greenprintpartners.com/vtgreenschools>



# Public-Private Partnerships (P3s)



## Public-Private Partnership for Stormwater Management

Final Report – May 2021

SUBMITTED TO:

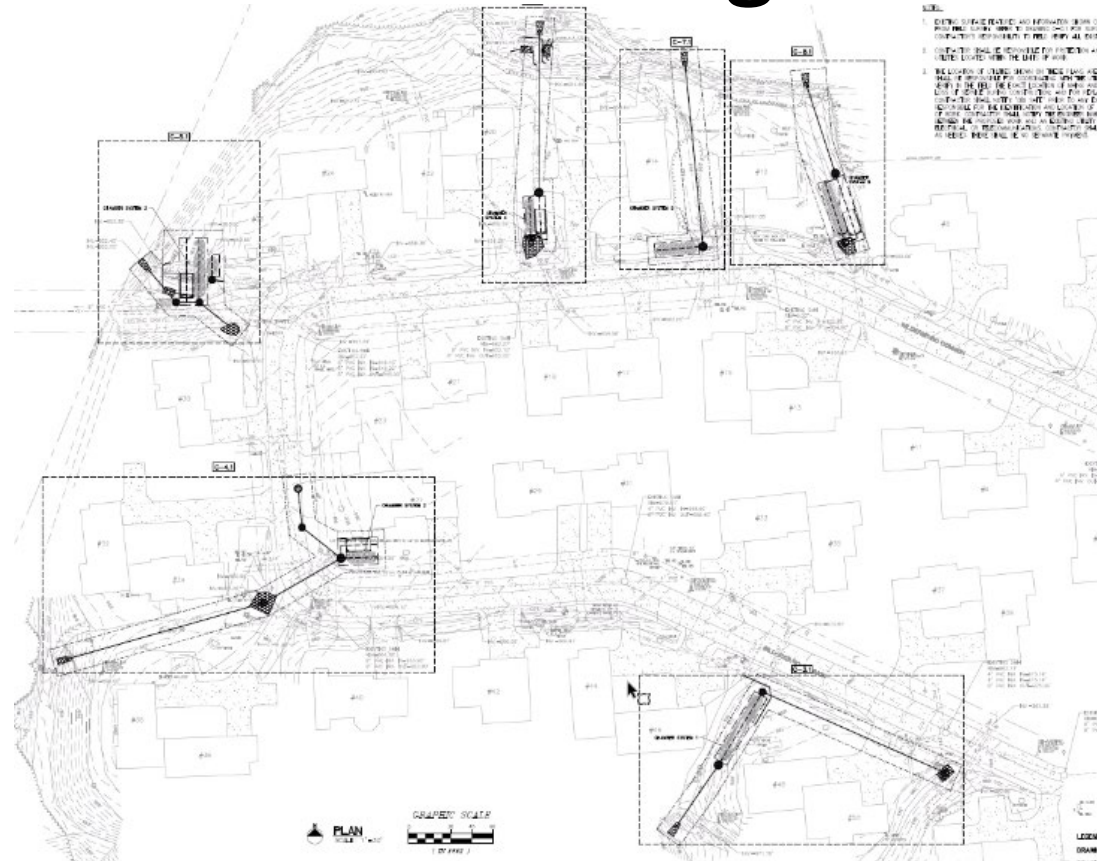
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# Phase 1 Engineering Services for Manufactured Housing Communities





Hello and Happy Spring,

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is reaching out to ask for your assistance in getting the word out to your residents about the [3-Acre Permit Obtainment Assistance \(POA\) Program](#).

Vermont's Clean Water Act requires sites with impervious surfaces of three or more acres, known as 3-acre sites, to obtain the Three-Acre Permit. To comply with this requirement, sites such as housing subdivisions and businesses with large parking lots must manage their impervious surfaces—like roofs and parking lots—so that they do not pollute our waters.

Clean water projects can be expensive. We're excited to announce that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has provided funding to help 3-acre sites obtain their permit. Funding is currently available for most 3-acre sites. Up to \$49,999 is available for most 3-acre sites.

Here is a [list of many of the sites](#) subject to the permit that may still be eligible for assistance.

There are roughly 700 3-acre sites across Vermont. We need your help to make it possible about available funding. We need your help.

Here's a collection of outreach materials you can use. Please share widely and as soon as feasible.

1. [An infographic for a Facebook post](#)
2. [A Word document containing a caption for a Front Porch Forum post](#)
3. [A QR code linking to the POA Program](#)
4. [A flyer about the POA program to upload to your website](#)

The content above can also be included in your website.

Applications for the POA Program close on September 30, 2024. We encourage people to apply well in advance of the deadline. We encourage you to take steps toward permit obtainment to apply. We encourage you to take steps toward permit obtainment to apply. We encourage you to take steps toward permit obtainment to apply. We encourage you to take steps toward permit obtainment to apply.

My name is Madeline Russell and I am the 3-Acre Program Lead at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). I am reaching out to you about this ask or the POA Program, and I will be happy to provide you with support. You can reach me by email at [Madeline.Russell@vermont.gov](mailto:Madeline.Russell@vermont.gov) or by phone at 802-261-5739.

Best,  
Madeline Russell

### 3-ACRE PERMIT OBTAINMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

#### Purpose

The 3-Acre Permit Obtainment Assistance Program has \$12.4 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to help 3-acre site owners manage their stormwater runoff.



#### Key Takeaways

Roughly 700 sites in Vermont are 3-acre sites that may need to do more to control stormwater runoff from their lands to support the Vermont Clean Water Act. Examples of how to manage stormwater are pictured on this notice.

Up to \$49,999 per site is now available for most 3-acre sites in the Lake Memphremagog, Lake Champlain and stormwater impaired basins.

Available funding **supports design and permitting** to alleviate the costs of regulatory compliance and help Vermonters play their part in restoring our waters.

3-acre sites have three or more impervious acres that have never had an operational stormwater permit or were permitted to standards in place prior to the 2002 Stormwater Management Manual.

#### Spread the word

Time is short to apply for funds. Please share this opportunity widely to help your community obtain funds, encourage compliance, and promote clean water.

Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as practicable, well in advance of the current **October 31, 2024 4:00 pm** deadline.

#### Learn More

3-Acre Permit Obtainment Assistance Program Website

<https://tinyurl.com/2sz5ckc3>

3-Acre Permit Obtainment Assistance Webinar Recording

<http://tinyurl.com/bddvav6y>

3-Acre Permit Obtainment Assistance Program Point of Contact

3-Acre Program Lead | [Madeline.Russell@vermont.gov](mailto:Madeline.Russell@vermont.gov) | 802-261-5739



# Permit Obtainment Assistance

**Program Overview:** Phase 1 design and permitting assistance for all eligible three-acre sites

**Structure:** Beneficiary program

**Amount:** Up to **\$49,999** split across two categories

- Up to **\$30,000** for engineering expenses
- Up to **\$19,999** for permit review fees

**Timeline:**

Strongly encouraged to apply before September 30, 2024

Must obtain permit before August 2026

**Outreach is a priority**

[POA Program Website](#)





Town/City	Number of Estimated 3-Acre Sites	Number of 3-Acre Sites Applied (as of 4/3/2024)	Town Clerk Email 1 opened? (as of 4/3/2024)
Colchester	56	1	N
South Burlington	51	0	N
Williston	51	5	N
Burlington	40	2	N
Essex	37	3	(Y - Essex Town)
Middlebury	30	2	N
Shelburne	24	4	N
Stowe	23	0	N
Milton	20	6	Y
Barre town	19	8	N
Derby	19	1	N
Newport city	19	0	Y
Berlin	16	2	N
Montpelier	16	4	N
Rutland city	15	2	Y
Saint albans town	15	0	N
Morristown	13	0	N
Waterbury	13	0	N
Barre city	12	0	N
Swanton	12	2	N
Rutland town	11	0	N
St. Albans city	11	0	N
Castleton	10	2	N
Georgia	10	2	N
Rutland	10	0	N

# Who's Hearing About POA?

# After ARPA?

- Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund
- Coordination with Vermont's Congressional Delegation to find federal dollars to help meet these costs
- Clean Water Board budget recommendations out of the Capital Bill and Clean Water Fund to support Municipal Stormwater and Developed Lands Implementation Grants (Priority tiers are defined in [10 V.S.A. § 1389](#))

## Tier 2 (Medium Priority)

Repair riparian conditions for flood resiliency

Education and outreach for Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs) for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs

**Municipal Stormwater Implementation Grants**

Innovative/alternative technologies or practices

Purchase agricultural land

## Tier 3 (Low Priority)

**Developed Lands Implementation Grants**

# Key Takeaways

- Stormwater regulations out of Act 64 are a foundational piece of Vermont's reasonable assurances to the EPA that we will make adequate progress on the Lake Champlain TMDL
- Vermont has made long-term commitments to fund the Clean Water Initiative to support clean water priorities including offsetting the cost of compliance for regulated communities and landowners
- ARPA has presented a unique opportunity to ramp up progress towards stormwater improvements
- DEC is managing multiple funding initiatives to support regulated three-acre sites through design, permit authorization, and construction while targeting funds towards highest need and readiness.

