

Grants available for recreational boating sewage disposal facilities

Does your public, private or tribal entity own or operate a recreational boating facility such as a marina, floating barge or dock? If so, you could be eligible for grant funding to build, renovate, operate and/or maintain a sewage disposal system. The grants are available through the Clean Vessel Act (CVA), which Washington State Parks Boating Program administers.

What does the funding pay for?

CVA grants will reimburse up to 75 percent of the following:

- Construction, renovation, operation and maintenance of stationary and portable pumpouts, portable toilet dump stations, floating restrooms and pumpout boats—used solely by recreational boaters. This includes the cost of new equipment or the renovation or upgrading of existing equipment, as well as necessary pumps, fitting, lift stations, on-site holding tanks, pier or dock modifications, signs, permits and other miscellaneous equipment needed for a complete and efficient station.
- Equipment necessary to hold and transport sewage to sewage treatment plants, such as holding tanks, piping, haulage costs and any activity necessary to get sewage treatment plants to accept sewage, such as installing bleed-in facilities.
- Education that informs recreational boaters of the location of grant-funding facilities and about the environmental pollution problems resulting from sewage discharges.



A boater uses a free public pumpout facility at Swantown Marina, which was partially funded by the CVA grant program.

What is *not* eligible for grant funding?

- Activities that do not provide public benefit.
- Enforcement activities.
- Construction or renovation of upland restroom facilities.
- Construction, renovation, operation and maintenance of on-site sewage treatment plants (package treatment plants, leach fields, septic systems or other special treatment devices) or municipal sewage treatment plants for primary and secondary treatment.



What is required for grant-funded facilities?

- Grant recipients provide 25 percent of the project costs and guarantee to keep the pumpout facility operated, maintained and accessible to the public for the full duration of the facility's useful life.
- CVA-funded facilities must be open to the public where users have full and reasonable access during normal business hours.
- Signage directing boaters to the pumpout or dump station must be visible from the water.
- Pumpouts should be located to allow easy access and use by all boats typically using the facility.
- Boating facilities may not charge users more than \$5 per pumpout. Fees must be accounted for and used solely for the purpose of maintaining a pumpout or dump station facility. Funding preference will be given to boating facilities who do not charge a user fee.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2018, Washington's recreational boaters prevented a record 10.8 million gallons of sewage from contaminating the state's coastal and inland waters by using Clean Vessel supported pumpout facilities.

What about ongoing operation and maintenance costs?

A separate five-year operation and maintenance grant is available to sustain a pumpout facility. This grant provides an annual reimbursement for up to 75 percent of the cost of replacement parts, repairs, sewage disposal and documented hours for staff labor spent servicing pumpouts, portable toilets, dump stations, floating restrooms or pumpout boats.

About Clean Vessel Act funding

Congress passed the Clean Vessel Act of 1992 to establish grant funding for the construction, renovation, operation and maintenance of sewage disposal systems serving recreational boaters. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the national CVA grant program through a competitive annual process among all states and territories. Funding comes from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, which is supported by excise taxes on sport fishing equipment, recreational boats and boat fuel. In Washington State, the State Parks Boating Program administers the CVA grant program.



Want more information to apply for a grant?

Contact the CVA Program Manager at boatpumpouts@parks.wa.gov, or call (360) 902-8659.