



**EPA REGION 1 – NEW ENGLAND
Stormwater Toolbox Equipment Loan Program**

I. PURPOSE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 has developed and adopted the Stormwater Toolbox as an effective method to detect non-stormwater discharges within municipal separate stormwater systems (MS4s) and small tributaries. The Stormwater Toolbox utilizes a combination of indicator parameters in order to assist in the determination and characterization of a non-stormwater discharge. Refer to the EPA New England Bacterial Source Tracking Protocol which outlines the application of the Stormwater Toolbox within the Region. The agency recognizes the value of this monitoring data in guiding efforts to help improve both the protection of public health and quality of the Nation's waters. With this equipment loan program, EPA New England expects to support and enhance the work of existing monitoring groups and assist the startup of new groups to meet the goal of expanding the number of waters and MS4 which are monitored for illicit discharges.

II. EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR LOAN

This loan program is restricted to equipment and initial consumables that come with that equipment only and does not include replenishment of consumables or other expendable supplies (e.g., gloves, calibration standards, reagents, etc.) or costs associated with disposal of generated hazardous wastes. The equipment will be available through a loan term of one (1) year. Equipment must be returned to EPA once the loan term is over. There is no limit on the number of years an organization can apply. Refer to Table 1 below for a list of materials that make up the Stormwater Toolbox.

Table 1

| Instrument¹ | Analyte | Initial Quantity |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Equipment</i> | | |
| YSI meter with probe/cable and conductivity calib. standard | Temperature, Conductivity, Salinity | 1 |
| Hach® Pocket Colorimeter | Total Chlorine | 1 |
| <i>Consumables</i> | | |
| Hach® Test Strips 0-6.0 mg/L | Ammonia | 25 samples |
| Hach® DPD Reagent Powder Pillows, 10 mL | Total Chlorine | 100 samples |
| CHEMetrics K-9400 (Refills R-9400) | Surfactants | 20 samples |

^{1.} The use of trade names or commercial products does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. EPA.

III. ELIGIBILITY OF VOLUNTEER MONITORING GROUPS

The equipment loan program is open to all non-governmental organization (NGO) monitoring groups in New England including those coordinated by tribes, universities, and other organizations. Organizations that currently provide monitoring data to a state or tribal agency and are seeking to upgrade the type of methods used, and/or expand the number or types of monitoring sites are eligible as well as organizations just getting started with monitoring who need equipment.

Monitoring groups coordinated by or with municipalities, and/or any organization which are subject to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase I or Phase II MS4 permit conditions are **not eligible**. Groups cannot conduct monitoring on behalf of a municipality subject to MS4 monitoring

requirements. In other words, groups must conduct monitoring **independently** of any permittee subject to MS4 monitoring requirements.

As part of the loan program, selected groups will need to have a current Quality Assurance Program or Project Plan (QAPP). A QAPP is required for any project that uses or collects environmental information. If a group is just getting started in monitoring, the QAPP will need to be approved by a deadline agreed upon by EPA, which will allow some time for a new group to become familiar with details of monitoring protocols and QA requirements.

The goal of gathering data is to identify illicit discharges into MS4s and small tributaries. Data use must include a local application and sharing data collected with EPA. Groups collecting data only for educational purposes will not be eligible for this program. This request comes in the context of gathering citizen science information to support the Agency's efforts in determining how best to work with communities to promote an understanding of the data they collect and assist the U.S. EPA Region 1 in evaluating future needs for our Equipment Loan Program.

IV. SELECTION PROCESS

Minimum criteria for ranking applications include the following:

- Complete application: Applications with incomplete or missing information may not be considered. **Make sure all required information is provided.** Applications will be considered as they are received, with no follow-up for missing information. Refer to Appendix A for application.
- A brief description of the organization to include: The goal of the organization, brief history of the organization, how long the organization has been in operation, the purpose of generating monitoring data and if there any partners involved. Organizations are encouraged to be as specific as possible with their proposed use of equipment.
- A statement that indicates there has been agreement with a state or tribal regulatory agency or EPA about providing data for reporting under a Clean Water Act or other federal statutory program. **The name and phone number of the contact with the agency is required, as generating data useable by a state, tribe, or EPA is one of the core criteria for a loan.**
- The group has an EPA or state-approved Quality Assurance Project or Program Plan or indicates the intention and schedule of having an approved QAPP by a reasonable deadline.
- A description or map indicating location and number of sample sites for which equipment will be used.
- If monitoring is already being conducted, a description of how the monitoring program will be improved by upgrading protocols, adding protocols, and/or expanding the number of sample sites.
- A description of who results will be shared with and how they will be shared. Data generated from loaned equipment should be summarized and submitted to EPA.

- A statement on how equipment will be stored and maintained.
- A statement outlining when and how EPA will be notified if there is any loss or damage to the equipment.

V. CONDITIONS OF EQUIPMENT LOAN AGREEMENT

- a. Equipment can be loaned on a long-term basis of one (1) year. After this period, equipment must be returned. There is no limit on how many times an organization can apply for a loan.
- b. Applicant agrees to maintain equipment in good working condition.
- c. Equipment will be labeled as belonging to EPA and will remain EPA equipment for the duration of the loan.
- d. The applicant agrees to notify EPA upon loss or damage to the equipment. Damaged equipment may be repaired by EPA or may need to be returned to EPA without replacement, depending upon circumstances.
- e. A revocable license agreement/loan agreement will be signed by the responsible leader of the organization.
- f. Each group agrees to provide a final data collection report, detailing objectives, monitoring results with associated coordinates, and impacts of their study by **February 1st** for the previous year's work.
- g. All hazardous waste generated will be disposed of in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.
- h. Any unused expendable equipment will be returned to EPA.
- i. All samples will be collected from public property by public access, unless otherwise granted permission by property owner.

VI. APPLICATION PROCEDURE & SCHEDULE

An application form is attached to this announcement (Appendix A). Applications should be limited to five (5) pages, including a map of monitoring sites (if appropriate).

Once applications are received, a review committee will review and make recommendations on selections.

Applications will be accepted through close of business **03/07/2025**, with selections to be announced by **03/21/2025**.

Applications can be submitted by e-mail to shea.shannon@epa.gov