

Swanzey, NH

CHALLENGE

The Town of Swanzey's aging Wastewater Treatment Facility is nearing its capacity to meet phosphorus discharge limits and is increasingly strained by rising user demand tied to local development. In 2023, New Hampshire's Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) authorized Swanzey for Clean Water State Revolving Funding (CWSRF) for a Facility Planning Study and installation of a solar array to offset electricity costs at the Treatment Facility. Shortly after, Swanzey's Sewer Commission disbanded, leaving capacity-constrained municipal staff struggling to manage the requirements needed to secure the funding and advance the projects to implementation.



Cresson Covered Bridge, Swanzey, NH. Image: the Greater Monadnock Collaborative



ABOUT NEWIN

The New England Water Infrastructure Network (NEWIN) provides free technical, financial, and managerial assistance to achieve safe, affordable, and resilient drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems. We help municipalities, water utilities, and tribes develop projects and secure funding from Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) and other sources.

PROJECT DETAILS

Location: Swanzey, NH

Timeline: April 2024-2026

Partners:

- Town of Swanzey
- Moonshot Missions
- New England Environmental Finance Center
- New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Funding details:

- NH CWSRF
- \$420,000 loan
- 50% principal forgiveness

OUR APPROACH

FUNDING APPLICATION SUPPORT & MANAGEMENT

NEWIN helped Swanzey complete their CWSRF loan application in coordination with NHDES and meet funding requirements, including reimbursements and reports.

PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SUPPORT

NEWIN collaborated with Swanzey to draft a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a consultant to complete the Facilities Plan, reviewed submissions, and facilitated contract negotiations.

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

NEWIN identified and helped apply for additional funding (grants, tax credits, energy incentives) to reduce the Town's financial obligation on the CWSRF loan.

OUTCOMES

- Successfully helped the Town secure the \$420,000 NH CWSRF loan, enabling Swanzeay to move forward with project construction.
- Guided the Town through the RFQ process to hire an engineer to complete the Facility Planning Study, which will help Swanzeay determine the most cost-effective path forward for future wastewater treatment plant upgrades.
- Identified additional funding sources to reduce the Town's loan obligation, after principal forgiveness, from \$210,000 to \$68,000.
- Assisted the Town in reaching the final implementation stages of the solar array and two energy conservation measure projects, which will provide the Facility with the ability to meet its full electricity needs with solar power, reducing operating costs and supporting long-term community sustainability.



Rendering of the Solar Array at the Swanzeay Wastewater Treatment Facility.
Image: Revision Energy

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The NH CWSRF offers significant loan forgiveness (up to 50%) for projects that advance energy resilience and reduce operating costs in municipal wastewater systems.
- Clear communication with Town and State partners was critical for ensuring all CWSRF application requirements and deadlines were met.
- Proactive pre-screening research into supplemental funding opportunities enabled the Town to quickly apply to funding programs when their internal capacity expanded.
- Technical Assistance played a pivotal role in building local capacity and advancing much-needed infrastructure improvements in a resource-limited Town.
- Engaged Town staff were crucial in moving the project forward.

This project was supported by the New England Water Infrastructure Network (NEWIN), a program of the New England Environmental Finance Center funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

PROJECT CONTACT

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"This assistance has been enormously helpful to the Town of Swanzeay working through several utility-based projects. As a smaller town with a limited and busy staff, NEWIN and Moonshot Missions have provided us with critical expertise to move our utility projects forward."

*- Michael T. Branley,
former Town
Administrator, Swanzeay,
NH*