



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

# Legislative Report

## 2024 SECTION 245 SPECIAL GRANTS REPORT

**Report Period:**  
October 1, 2023, to September 13, 2024

**Authority:**  
Section 245(10) of Article 4, Part 2, of Public Act 119 of 2023

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## FY24 Special Grants in the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

Boilerplate Section	Special Grant Title	Amount Allocated/Appropriated	Grant Recipient	Project Purpose	Location	Amount Disbursed as of 9/12/24 **	Sponsor
1002	Dam Risk Reduction	\$1,800,000	Republic Township	The removal and replacement of the Republic Dam originally built in 1915, is critical to protecting public safety and reducing risk. The primary goal of this project is to replace the Republic Dam with an engineered nature-like fishway consisting of a series of rock-arch rapids maintaining similar reservoir elevations. This new structure will decrease the operation and maintenance costs related to the original dam, maintain a river elevation upstream of the constructed rapids for recreation, improve river connectivity and reduce public safety hazards. Full removal of the dam without a means to maintain water levels would be detrimental to recreational use, property values and municipal revenue. The funding of this project will result in substantial safety, economic and recreational benefits to the State and local community.	Republic Township	\$0	Rep. Jenn Hill
1007	Transfer Facility	\$1,000,000	City of Benton Harbor	The public purpose of this project is to fund an operation designed to increase efficiency of the City of Benton Harbor's solid waste process significantly by enabling some recycling, reducing the number of trips to dispose of the volume of waste material that the City generates. Currently, as each Packer truck is filled, each vehicle makes a 30 to 40 mile round trip, tying up the vehicle, the driver, and using the fuel required. With this transfer station, each vehicle can unload at the facility where a heavy track-loader can further compact and load the refuse into a larger open top truck which would be filled by tractor to the disposal facility. It is anticipated that one of these loads would replace four or five individual packer trips, saving significant costs. If funding permits, the City would also like to establish a compost facility very close to the transfer station.	Benton Harbor	\$0	Rep. Joey Andrews
1009	Water Career and Workforce Development Pilot	\$100,000	Dr. Kelvin Butts, Superintendent	The purpose of this grant is to assist in the endeavor to complete the following: Proposal: Design and implement a Benton Harbor Water Operator Career and Workforce Development Pilot Project to recruit, train, and create a pipeline of qualified Benton Harbor residents to fill water operator positions at the Benton Harbor water treatment plant and distribution system, as well as for neighboring water systems in the region. The water operator career and workforce development program can build on other regional programs, and eventually be expanded statewide.  The initial year of the project will see the addition of a water treatment career pathway individual as a science faculty to aid in building knowledge and skills as well as exposing students to career pathway opportunities related to the water operator field. The students will learn biology and/or environmental science with an emphasis on water supply, treatment, distribution, recycling, and more.  Through this project, our students will have field experiences to better understand the career field and the connections to academic work in the classroom. Our students will build a stronger foundation within biology and/or environmental science which will lead to a higher success rate within the training and licensing requirements for Water Operator certification.	Benton Harbor	\$0	Rep. Joey Andrews
1010(a)	Reverse Vending Machine Technology	\$1,000,000	Tomra	To improve consumer experience of bottle redemption by installing bulk counting reverse vending machines at retail locations. The goal is to increase bottle deposit redemption rate to 90% or above, pre-pandemic levels. To make deposit container collection more efficient with the use of new collection bins.	Wixom	\$0	Rep. Rachel Hood
1010(b)	Reverse Vending Machine Technology	\$1,000,000	Schupan	To educate the general public of deposit bottle redemption rate reduction post pandemic and the importance to return deposit containers to retailers. To educate school-aged children about the importance of redemption and recycling. The goal is to increase bottle deposit redemption rate to 90% or above, pre-pandemic levels. To make deposit container collection more efficient with the use of new collection bins.	Kalamazoo	\$0	Rep. Rachel Hood
1012	Sustainable Business Park*	\$5,000,000	Kent County Department of Public Works	Infrastructure for the Kent County Sustainable Business Park and Kent County Bioenergy Facility to divert municipal solid waste from landfill, capture recyclables in the municipal solid waste stream and separate organics from the municipal solid waste stream for anaerobic digestion to generate renewable natural gas.	Kent County	\$0	Reps. Phil Skaggs, Rachel Hood, Carol Glanville

\*Article 16 of PA 121 of 2024 repurposed these funds for another program via a negative appropriation.

\*\* Grantees are preparing final invoices for work completed through 9/30 and EGLE anticipates processing reimbursements before the end of October.