



# Pollution Recovery Fund

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

### **What is PRF?**

PRF stands for Pollution Recovery Fund. The money in the fund comes from administrative penalties and costs obtained through enforcement for the necessary correction of pollution. These funds are collected and used within Hillsborough County for the restoration of polluted areas, mitigation of the effects of pollution and to otherwise enhance pollution control activities.

### **Who can apply for PRF?**

Any citizen, organization, or governmental entity can apply for PRF grant funding provided that all project activities and environmental benefits take place within the geographic boundaries of Hillsborough County.

### **How much money can I request?**

Like any bank account, the fund balance changes from day-to-day. The funds available for projects will be advertised at the commencement of the February 1st through May 1st application period. Past projects have ranged in funding from \$2000 to \$200,000. It is important to note that projects requesting a large percentage of the available funds may score lower during the review process. This could occur in order to allow more smaller-scale projects with greater overall environmental impact to be funded, rather than spending most of the fund on a single project.

### **Is a match required?**

No matching funds are required to participate in the PRF grant process. However, projects that do provide matching funds or in-kind services are typically looked upon more favorably than equivalent projects that do not.

### **When should I apply for funding?**

Applications are made available on the EPC Website on or about February 1st each year. The deadline for submittal of completed applications is 5:00pm (EST), May 1st of each year. It is important to note that we are always striving to improve upon the process. As a result, current year applications are not made available until February and previous years' applications will not be accepted.

### **How long does the process take?**

Applications that have been received prior to the posted deadline of May, 1st at 5:00pm (EST) will spend the summer being reviewed by both EPC Staff and the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC). Final determinations are typically made by the EPC Board by November of each year. For planning purposes, successful applicants should expect to have a signed grant agreement and commence work approximately 1 year from the date of application.

### **What types of projects are funded?**

PRF is a competitive grant. It is the Commission's intent to obtain all correction necessary from the person's responsible for the pollution through enforcement. Where sufficient correction cannot be obtained, then appropriate monies for correction shall be obtained in addition to other appropriate penalties or costs to the greatest extent possible.

The Commission shall give the following priority to identified and reasonable uses of the available fund monies:

- Polluted areas which were the subject of Commission action or enforcement action but for which restoration or mitigation could not be obtained from the responsible party.
- Polluted areas for which adequate restoration or mitigation could not be obtained through enforcement but for which monies were contributed to the fund.
- Polluted areas for which adequate restoration or mitigation could not be obtained through enforcement and for which no monies were contributed to the fund.
- Polluted areas for which pollution control activities are designed to prevent, minimize, mitigate or correct the effects of the pollution, or to determine the extent of the effects of or the primary causes of the pollution.
- The Commission may assign, certain amounts of the fund to be used for educational programs designed to alleviate existing pollution. However, the Commission shall insure that there is always, except in emergencies, a reasonable balance to cover unexpected or emergency situations.