

2021-2022 Cost-Share Program Guidelines

Eligible Applicants: Any person addressing a natural resource problem who owns land within the Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District boundaries is eligible to apply for a cost-share conservation project.

Properties within city limits are not eligible.

County Tax Bill: All applicants must provide a copy of their current COUNTY TAX BILL and submit with their application. (Do not submit the County Valuation Notice).
County Tax Bill copies can be obtained through your county assessor's office.

Applications: Applications will be accepted from **May 7, 2021 – June 1, 2021**.

Application Review: Each application will be reviewed and ranked based on conservation merit and benefit to natural resources, and estimated project costs.

Applicant Notification: All applications received will be ranked by June 2nd. Funding will be made to those who meet ranking criteria, until all funds are allocated. Notification letters will be mailed to all applicants within 10 days of completed ranking.

Reimbursement Payments:

- Payment will be made on **75%** of the actual cost of the project.
- The maximum reimbursement payment for a project is \$4500.
- The reimbursement check will be issued to the name(s) as listed on their application.
- The Participant is responsible for the up-front project costs.
- Only the practice applied for, planned, and completed within the contract time frame (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) are reimbursable.
- All original receipts must be submitted at check-out for reimbursement.
- Reimbursement will not be made for the purchase of tools or equipment.

Categories for applications:

Urban/Rural/Non-Ag: 1 lot – 639 acres

Farm/Ranch: Determined by the FSA Farm and Tract number or IRS Schedule F

Community: Senior Citizens Center, Parks, Schools, Churches etc.

Eligible Practices Include: **Only one practice may be applied for.*

All Categories:

Brush Management
Diversion
Forest Stand Improvement
Noxious Weed Management
Rainwater Harvesting
Windbreak with Drip Irrigation
*Other practices may be eligible

Farm/Ranch Category Only

Cross Fencing
Critical Area Planting
Irrigation Water Management
Irrigation Pipeline
Livestock Pipeline & Watering Facility
Range Planting
Watering Facility

Rainwater Harvesting Applications on New Construction or Where Mandated by the County

WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

PROGRAM PROCEDURES:

1. To apply for cost-share assistance, the Landowner must complete the attached application: a.) apply for one conservation practice, b.) describe the natural resource concern and why you are applying for assistance and, c.) detail how the practice applied for will address this natural resource concern.
2. All paperwork submitted must contain the signature of each applicant as listed on application.
3. Incomplete applications will not be processed and shall be denied.
4. A copy of the applicant's current **county tax bill** must be submitted with their application.
5. All practices must meet Edgewood SWCD and/or NRCS standards and specifications.
6. Every Applicant will be notified in writing of the status of their application by June 25, 2021.
7. Any costs incurred, work started, or contracts signed prior to July 1st are not eligible for reimbursement.
8. Each approved cost-share Participant will be provided project specifications, a project plan and estimated cost from the District technician during their initial on-site planning.
9. Scheduling for On-site Planning by District staff will begin after **July 1, 2021**.
10. Project work can **only** begin after the District and the Participant sign the Project Agreement.
11. Edgewood SWCD is not responsible for arrangements/quotes/contracts between the cost-share participants and contractors.
12. Projects must be completed within the fiscal year (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022). **Final on-site checkout deadline is Friday, June 24, 2022.**
13. No project extensions are allowed. Projects must be completed within the district's fiscal year.
14. A Participant may cancel their project and Project Agreement at any time. The Participant must notify Edgewood SWCD to ensure cancellation is recorded and filed.
15. If a Participant cancels or does not complete their project within the District's fiscal year, the Participant may reapply for cost-share assistance after 5 years. Incomplete or cancelled projects have ranking score implications during reapplication.
16. A former cost-share Participant may apply for additional cost-share projects after 3 years from their previous project completion date. Ranking scores are lessened for previous Participants.
17. When the practice is **100% complete**, contact Edgewood SWCD to schedule an on-site inspection of the practice for approval and review the Participant's receipts. District staff will then file the proper forms to reimburse the Participant. Incomplete or unsatisfactory projects are not reimbursable.
18. Participants must provide the original expense receipts and attach to their completed Reimbursement Form at time of project checkout.
19. Only one payment will be made to the name(s) of the Participant(s) as listed on their application. The payment will be mailed to the Participant(s) within 30 days after inspection.
20. Spot checks of the practice will be performed to ensure compliance.

