

Soil & Water Conservation Grants

How They Work

The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) provides grants to eligible landowners to fund up to 50 percent of the costs of approved soil and water conservation projects.

Application

Landowners apply to local Soil Conservation Districts, which assist in developing farm conservation plans and ensure projects are necessary and feasible. Applications are forwarded to the N.J. State Soil Conservation Committee, which recommends projects to the SADC for funding approvals.

Criteria

Farms must be permanently preserved or enrolled in a term (8-year or 16-year) farmland preservation program.

Types of Projects

Soil and water conservation projects include projects designed to control and prevent soil erosion and sediment damages; control pollution on farmland; impound, store and manage water for agricultural purposes; or improve management of land and soils to achieve maximum agricultural productivity.

Examples of eligible projects include: terrace systems; diversions; stream protection; water impoundment reservoirs; irrigation systems; sediment retention, erosion or water control systems; drainage systems; animal waste control facilities; agri-chemical handling facilities; and land shaping or grading.

Special Considerations

Permanently-preserved farms receive first priority for grant funding. Term-preserved farms receive second priority (farms with a 16-year term) or third priority (farms with an 8-year term). Some independently-preserved (non-SADC-preserved) farms, e.g., farms preserved through county independent easement purchase, cluster development, transfer of development rights, or severing of Pinelands or Highlands development credits/rights, also may receive first priority if they meet certain criteria.

Projects must be completed within three years of SADC funding approval. Grants may be renewed for a one-year period under certain circumstances, such as seasonal constraints or other unavoidable delays, only upon the approval of the local Soil Conservation District, the State Soil Conservation Committee and the SADC.

For More Information

Landowners should contact their local Soil Conservation District, or the SADC, and also see SADC Policy P-48, <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/rules/p48.pdf>.



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