
CBEP Water Quality Monitoring Equipment Loaner Program

Request for Proposals 2012

Background

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) invites requests from municipalities, watershed groups, and other local partners to use CBEP water quality monitoring equipment to collect water quality data during the 2012 field season (May to October).

The purposes of the CBEP equipment loaner program are to: (1) support local community efforts to improve water quality monitoring, especially in urban streams; (2) support municipal efforts to comply with MEPDES/NPDES stormwater permits (especially the "MS⁴" permits); and, (3) provide an opportunity for personnel with stormwater-related jobs to gain experience with water quality monitoring in preparation for anticipated increases in monitoring requirements in future stormwater permits.

Applications received before April 30, 2012 will be given full consideration. CBEP will work to resolve potential scheduling conflicts and determine how best to share equipment among organizations submitting applications before the due date. Applications received after the 30th of April will be evaluated on a first come first serve basis if any equipment remains available for loan.

Applications will be accepted from municipalities, government agencies, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations involved with ambient water quality monitoring or water quality researchers and educators. Applications will not be accepted from for-profit businesses, except on behalf of government, educational, or non-profit organizations.

CBEP can provide early, limited technical support to ensure that equipment is used correctly and the resulting data is of high quality. CBEP will consider whether organizations applying to use the equipment have the technical skills to use the equipment correctly and safely.

Generally, data collected using CBEP equipment must be collected under an approved data quality assurance plan (a QAPP). Exceptions are only possible for purely educational uses when data will not be retained beyond the end of the study period. A QAPP is a document laying out steps to be taken to assure that the data being collected is sufficiently accurate to meet its anticipated uses. Creating a QAPP from scratch can be time consuming. CBEP strongly encourages organizations to identify an existing data quality assurance plan which addresses their monitoring needs. Maine DEP has drafted two QAPPS that are likely to be applicable, one for volunteer-based stream monitoring programs and a second for the monitoring of urban streams. CBEP will provide limited assistance with selection or development of a QAPP.

Decision Criteria

Decisions about allocation of monitoring equipment among competing applicants will be made based on the following criteria:

- Projects identified in the CBEP annual workplan (those involving CBEP staff or receiving significant CBEP funding) will get priority over other projects.
- Equipment safety and security. CBEP will not lend equipment if we consider a proposed use to pose unreasonable risks to people or to equipment.
- Timing and flexibility. CBEP will try to accommodate multiple requests for use of the same equipment by offering the equipment successively to different organizations.
 - Requesters who can use the equipment when it becomes available will be more likely to be accommodated than those needing the equipment on specific dates.
 - High demand for mid- to late- summer water quality observations may make equipment less available at that time.
- The need or purpose of monitoring:
 - Proposals that provide a clear rationale for why monitoring is needed will be favored.
 - Preferences will also be given for monitoring efforts with:
 1. Direct regulatory implications – e.g., municipal programs under MS⁴,
 2. A likelihood for significant scientific value; or
 3. Educational value.
- Evidence of existing organizational capacity or willingness to acquire the capacity to:
 - Make productive use of water quality data;
 - Use the equipment productively and safely; and
 - Manage data quality assurance requirements.

CBEP Equipment Available, 2012

- YSI 6600 Water Quality Sondes (4)
 - Water quality sondes can be used either to collect instantaneous data on water quality conditions in depth, or to collect water quality data at regular intervals over an extended period
 - The sondes are not all identically equipped, but they all measure:
 - Dissolved Oxygen
 - Conductivity
 - pH
 - Temperature
 - Water depth / pressure
- Handheld YSI 550 Dissolved Oxygen meter
 - Instantaneous measurements only
- YSI Professional Plus handheld Dissolved Oxygen/Conductivity/Temperature meter
 - Has limited data logging capability, but is designed primarily for instantaneous use.
- LaMotte Turbidimeter
 - Handheld device for quickly measuring turbidity on water samples in the field.
- Current meter, mini current meter and supporting equipment
 - Equipment for measuring stream flow and discharge.

CBEP Water Monitoring Equipment Loaner Program

Electronic Application Form

Contact Information

Organization:
Contact Person:
Address:

Phone:
E-mail:

General Monitoring Project Information

Purpose of environmental monitoring project:

(Outline the uses to which resulting monitoring data will be applied :)

Does the proposed monitoring fit within a specific regulatory context (e.g., priority watershed under MS⁴ permit; collecting data in support of reclassification of waters)?

Location(s) to be sampled (as much as you know at this time):

Data Management

Data collected using CBEP equipment must, in general, be collected under an approved data quality assurance plan (e.g., a QAPP). Will data be collected under an existing QAPP (e.g., Volunteer Monitoring QAPP, Urban Streams QAPP)?

(Circle the appropriate answer below)

Yes

No

Don't Know

What's a QAPP

Who will be responsible for data management (data entry, error checking, maintenance of data, backups, etc.)?

Do you plan to produce a written report based on the data? If so, for whom, and for what purpose?

Who will have access the data (your organization, regulatory agencies, and the general public)?

Who will be responsible for extracting meaning from the data you collect (production of tables and figures, statistical analysis (if any), interpretation, drafting a report)?

Technical Support Needs

CBEP will provide technical support as our resources allow ensuring that equipment is used correctly and the resulting data is of high quality. Answers to the following questions are intended to help us estimate the degree and kind of technical assistance your organization will require in order to use loaner equipment effectively.

How much previous experience does your organization (or partners with whom you will be working) have using water quality monitoring equipment like the equipment you are requesting to borrow?

(Circle the appropriate answer)

None

Limited (e.g. coursework only)

Some

Extensive

Would your organization be interested in receiving training on how to use the equipment or are you primarily interested in getting the resulting data?

(Circle the appropriate answer)

Training is important

We'd like to improve our skills

Data

Equipment Request

Please fill out the following table, indicating which equipment you wish to borrow, and when you would like to use it.

- Number Requested. For sondes and data loggers, indicate how many you need.
- Preferred Dates. Indicate when you would most like to use the equipment
- Possible Dates. Indicate the earliest and latest dates that you would be interested in borrowing equipment
- Preferred #of days. Tell us how many days you would like to use the equipment.
- Minimum # of Days. The shortest period of time you think would still be useful to you.
- How Flexible? How flexible can you be

Equipment	Number Requested	Preferred Dates	Possible Dates	Preferred # of Days	Minimum # of Days
YSI 6600 Water Quality Sondes (4)					
Handheld YSI 550 DO meter	N/A				
YSI Professional Plus handheld DO/Cond./Temp. meter	N/A				
LaMotte Turbidimeter	N/A				
Current meter, mini current meter and supporting equipment	N/A				

Responsibility

Person with authority to sign on behalf of the organization

I recognize that my organization will be responsible for the safe return of equipment borrowed from CBEP, and I hereby acknowledge that our organization will be responsible for loss or damage to the equipment beyond normal wear and tear.

Signature:

Date: