

# FISCAL TOPICS

Fiscal Services Division

October 18, 2023



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

## Environment First Fund

The Environment First Fund (EEF) was established in 2000 Iowa Acts, chapter [1225](#) (FY 2001 Appropriations — Infrastructure and Capital Projects Act), to provide funding for protection, conservation, enhancement, and improvement of natural resources. That legislation established a standing appropriation of \$35.0 million for the Fund beginning in FY 2001 from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF). Funding levels have varied over the years, and the current standing appropriation has been \$42.0 million beginning in FY 2014. Recent funding levels are detailed below:

Environment First Fund				
	Actual FY 2021	Actual FY 2022	Actual FY 2023	Estimated FY 2024
<b>Resources</b>				
Balance Forward	\$ 90,250	\$ 90,250	\$ 90,250	\$ 90,250
RIIF Appropriation	42,000,000	42,000,000	42,000,000	42,000,000
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>\$ 42,090,250</b>	<b>\$ 42,090,250</b>	<b>\$ 42,090,250</b>	<b>\$ 42,090,250</b>
<b>Appropriations</b>				
<b>Department of Agriculture</b>				
Soil Conservation Cost Share	\$ 8,325,000	\$ 8,325,000	\$ 8,325,000	\$ 8,325,000
Soil & Water Conservation Fund	3,800,000	3,800,000	3,800,000	3,800,000
Water Quality Initiative	2,375,000	2,375,000	2,375,000	2,375,000
Conservation Reserve Enhancement (CREP)	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000
Watershed Protection Program	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000
<b>Total Department of Agriculture</b>	<b>\$ 17,300,000</b>	<b>\$ 17,300,000</b>	<b>\$ 17,300,000</b>	<b>\$ 17,300,000</b>
<b>Department of Natural Resources</b>				
REAP Program	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 12,000,000
Park Operations and Maintenance	6,235,000	6,235,000	6,235,000	6,235,000
Water Quality Monitoring Stations	2,955,000	2,955,000	2,955,000	2,955,000
Animal Feeding Operations	1,320,000	1,320,000	1,320,000	1,320,000
Water Quality Protection	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Air Quality Monitoring Program	425,000	425,000	425,000	425,000
Floodplain Management	375,000	375,000	375,000	375,000
GIS Information for Watersheds	195,000	195,000	195,000	195,000
<b>Total Department of Natural Resources</b>	<b>\$ 24,005,000</b>	<b>\$ 24,005,000</b>	<b>\$ 24,005,000</b>	<b>\$ 24,005,000</b>
<b>Board of Regents</b>				
Water Quantity Program	\$ 495,000	\$ 495,000	\$ 495,000	\$ 495,000
Geological and Water Survey	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
<b>Total Board of Regents</b>	<b>\$ 695,000</b>	<b>\$ 695,000</b>	<b>\$ 695,000</b>	<b>\$ 695,000</b>
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$ 42,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 42,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 42,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 42,000,000</b>
Reversions	0	0	0	0
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 90,250</b>	<b>\$ 90,250</b>	<b>\$ 90,250</b>	<b>\$ 90,250</b>

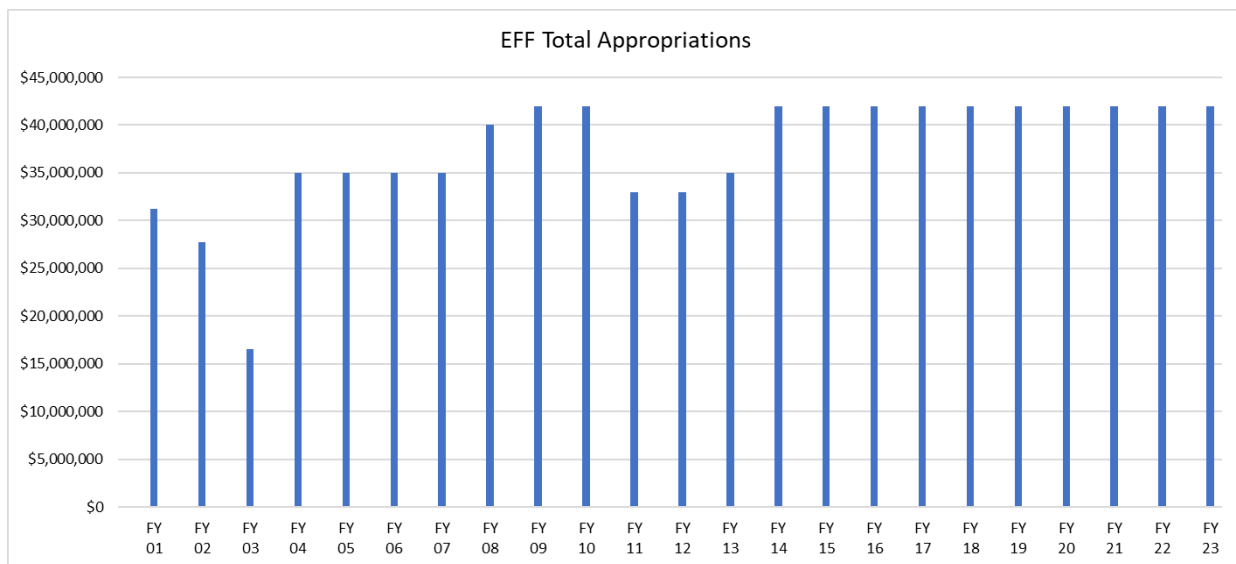
### More Information

Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee: [legis.iowa.gov/committees/committee](https://legis.iowa.gov/committees/committee)  
LSA Staff Contact: Austin Brinks (515.725.2200) [austin.brinks@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:austin.brinks@legis.iowa.gov)

**Description of Programs**

- [Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program](#) — provides funds for wetlands development.
- [Watershed Protection Fund](#) — provides financial assistance to establish permanent soil and water conservation practices.
- [Conservation Reserve Program](#) — provides financial incentives to landowners to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production.
- [Soil Conservation and Water Quality Cost Share Program](#) — provides funds for permanent soil and water conservation practices.
- [Soil and Water Conservation](#) — provides funds to the Department of Agriculture, Soil and Water Conservation Division.
- [Water Quality Initiative](#) — assesses and reduces the amount of nutrients that flow into Iowa waters.
- [State Park Operations and Maintenance](#) — provides maintenance and related State Park activities.
- [Geographic Information System \(GIS\) for Watersheds](#) — provides local watershed managers with data to develop, monitor, and display watershed improvements.
- [Water Quality Monitoring](#) — provides funds to monitor water quality.
- [Water Quality Protection Fund](#) — administers the federal [Safe Drinking Water Act](#).
- [Animal Feeding Operations](#) — provides oversight, technical assistance, and enforcement of animal feeding operations.
- [Ambient Air Quality Monitoring](#) — provides funds to monitor air quality.
- [Floodplain Management](#) — monitors stream gages, administers the Dam Safety Program, develops floodplain mapping, and provides flood insurance technical assistance.
- [Resource Enhancement and Protection Fund](#) — as specified in Iowa Code section [455A.19](#).
- [Geological and Water Surveys Operations](#) — develops programs that provide information regarding mineral and water resources in Iowa.
- [Water Resource Management](#) — provides long-term planning for water use for industrial operations, drinking water, and other water purposes.

Historical funding levels for the EFF can be seen below:



**Related Statute**

Iowa Code section [8.57A](#)