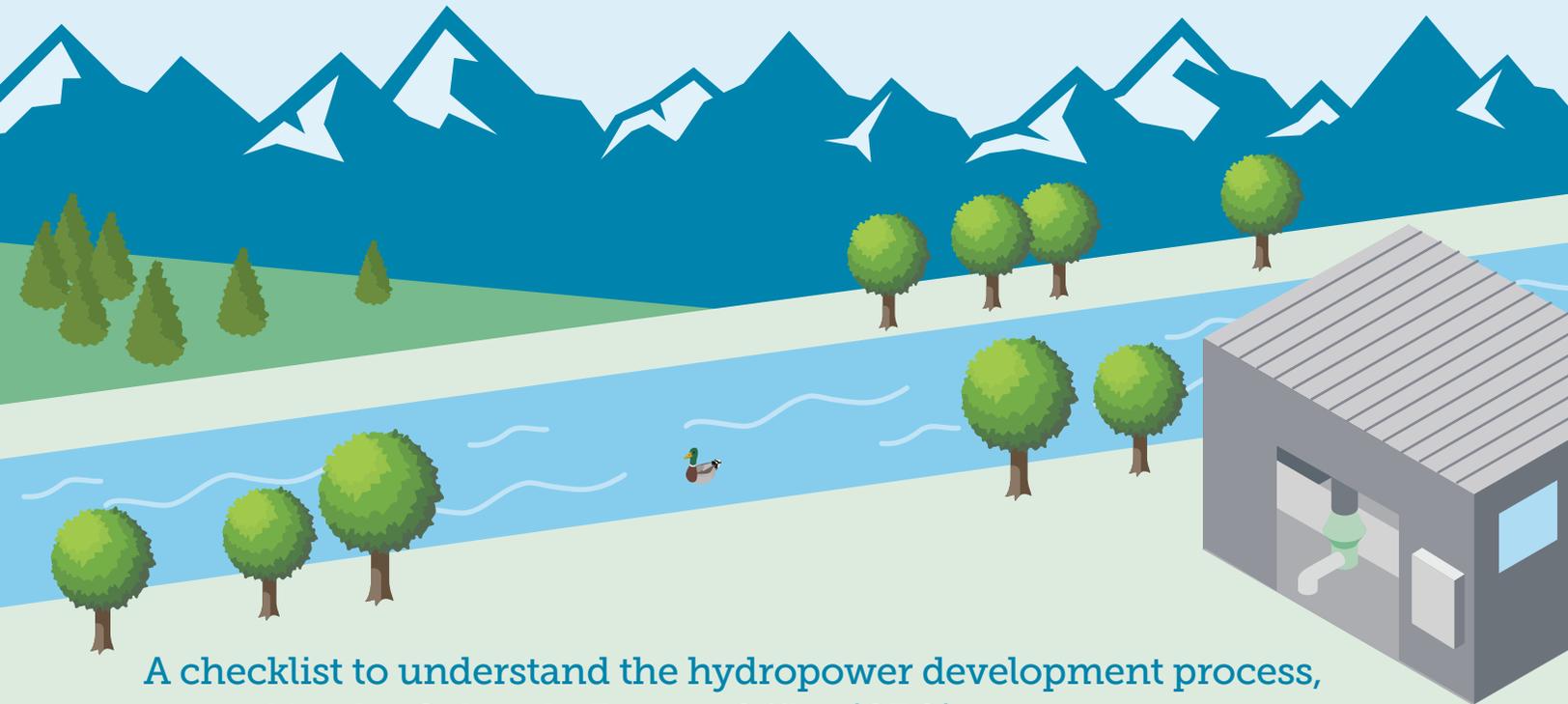




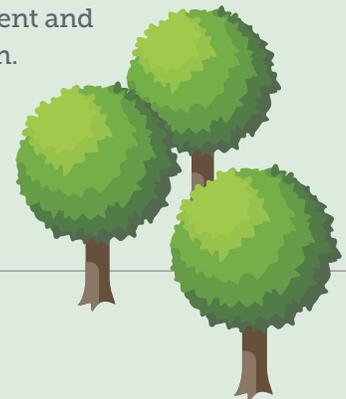
# FACT SHEET | Getting Started with Small Hydropower



A checklist to understand the hydropower development process, created by the Colorado Energy Office (CEO).

Typical steps in project development include the following:

- ▶ **Site assessment.** This requires gathering information about available water pressure and quantity to preliminarily determine if a project site is likely to be technically feasible (see Project Site Assessment Factsheet by CEO).
- ▶ **Feasibility assessment.** A feasibility analysis typically requires help from a consultant to complete conceptual project design and estimate cost and expected energy generation (the Colorado Small Hydro Handbook includes a list of Colorado small hydro consultants).
- ▶ **Permitting.** Small hydropower can typically complete federal approval in 60 days (see Federal Regulatory Approval Process Factsheet by CEO).
- ▶ **Interconnection.** The local utility can verify their net metering and interconnection requirements (see Utility Interconnection and Power Sales Factsheet by CEO).
- ▶ **Financing.** Colorado has grant and loan programs that can help pay for project feasibility and construction (see Grant and Loan Financing Factsheet by CEO).
- ▶ **Construction.** Once permitting and financing is complete, construction can proceed, typically including soliciting proposals for generation equipment and project construction.





## Ready to get started? Staff from state agencies can help.

The CEO can help with initial project assistance for **municipal** projects. In addition, the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority can provide \$15,000 matching grants for feasibility studies, permitting, and final design activities for small hydropower projects developed by local governments (see Grant and Loan Financing Factsheet by CEO).

Contact: Samantha Reifer  
Colorado Energy Office  
sammy.reifer@state.co.us  
303-866-2418

The Colorado Department of Agriculture can help with assistance for **agricultural** projects and also provides grant funding to Colorado agricultural producers to help install small net-metered hydropower projects (up to 100 kW) at new and existing irrigation systems.

Contact: Sam Anderson  
Colorado Department of Agriculture  
sam.anderson@state.co.us  
303-869-9044

## Additional Information

See the Colorado Energy Office Small Hydropower webpage at [www.colorado.gov/energyoffice/hydropower](http://www.colorado.gov/energyoffice/hydropower)

See the *Colorado Small Hydropower Handbook*, available at [www.colorado.gov/energyoffice/atom/32666](http://www.colorado.gov/energyoffice/atom/32666)

