

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program: Grants for Political Subdivisions

PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot

November 18, 2022

<u>Agency:</u> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	<u>Bureau:</u> N/A
<u>Application Deadline:</u> January 16, 2023	<u>Max Award:</u> \$4 million

Description

Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the EPA has \$275 million for grants under the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act from FY2022-2026. Under this allocation, the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program (SWIFR) grants will assist local waste management authorities by supporting improvements to local post-consumer materials management, including municipal recycling programs, and assisting local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems.

Applicants may submit an informal Notice of Intent to Apply by December 15, 2022 to SWIFR@epa.gov. This is not a required step; however, submission of a Notice will help EPA staff with process management.

Eligible Recipients

Political subdivisions of states and territories, including counties, cities, towns, parishes, and similar units of governments that have executive and legislative functions.

Matching Grant Requirements

None

Eligible Projects

The EPA is soliciting applications for a wide variety of projects that are designed to build and transform solid waste infrastructure to equitably reduce waste and manage materials to achieve a circular economy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create cleaner, resilient, and healthier communities.

Proposed projects should address one or more of the following objectives:

- Establish, increase, expand, or optimize collection and improve materials management infrastructure;
- Fund the creation and construction of tangible infrastructure, technology, or other improvements to reduce contamination in the recycled materials stream;
- Establish, increase, expand, or optimize capacity for materials management;
- Establish, improve, expand, or optimize end-markets for the use of recycled commodities; or

- Demonstrate a significant and measurable increase in the diversion, recycling rate, and quality of materials collected for municipal solid waste.

Applications may include (but are not limited to) projects that fund:

- Innovative solutions and/or programs that provide or increase access to prevention, reuse, and recycling in areas that currently do not have access, including development of and/or upgrades to drop-off and transfer stations (including but not limited to a hub-and-spoke model in rural communities) etc.;
- The purchase of recycling equipment, including but not limited to sorting equipment, waste metering, trucks, processing facilities, etc.;
- Upgrades to material recovery facilities (MRFs) such as optical sorters, artificial intelligence, etc.;
- Development of and/or upgrades to composting facilities or anaerobic digesters to increase capacity for organics recycling;
- Development of and/or upgrades to curbside collection programs or drop-off stations for organics;
- Development of and/or upgrades to reuse infrastructure such as online reuse platforms, community repair spaces, technology and equipment to improve materials management reuse options, food donation, and upcycling, staging areas for material reuse/donation, reuse warehouses, and reuse centers, and electronic waste and computer recycling and refurbishing;
- Other activities that the applicant believes will further the objectives of this funding program.

Under this Request for Applications, proposed projects can fall under two tracks:

- Track 1: Projects that benefit disadvantaged communities. EPA anticipates approximately 40% (or \$16,000,000) of the funding will be awarded to projects that benefit disadvantaged communities.
- Track 2: Projects that benefit all other communities that do not meet the definition of disadvantaged communities.

New or Existing Program

New program

Tips for Being Competitive

This is a Justice40-covered program, which aims to deliver 40% of the overall benefits of climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, clean water, and other investments to disadvantaged communities.

Potential applicants should also review the EPA's FY2022-2026 Strategic Plan and the National Recycling Strategy to identify and align with the goals and objectives. The central goals and objectives are listed below.

[EPA FY2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#) Goals:

- Goal 1: Tackle the Climate Crisis
- Goal 2: Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights
- Goal 5: Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities
- Goal 6: Safeguard and Revitalize Communities

[National Recycling Strategy Plan](#) Objectives:

- improve markets for recycled commodities
- increase collection and improve materials management infrastructure
- reduce contamination in the recycled materials stream
- enhance policies and programs to support circularity
- standardize measurement and increase data collection

Labor Requirements EPA encourages project labor agreements; the use of an appropriately trained workforce; the use of an appropriately credentialed workforce; and neutrality with respect to union organizing.

Examples of prior award recipients N/A

Agency contact SWIFR@epa.gov

Upcoming Webinars and Information Sessions Overview of request for application, eligible entities, evaluation criteria, the application process, and answer questions (same presentations)

- Dec. 5, 2022 @ 2:00pm – 3:30pm (EST)
- Dec. 7, 2022 @ 6:00pm – 7:00pm (EST)

Review procurement, subawards, and answer questions (same presentations)

- Dec. 13, 2022 @ 2:00pm – 3:30pm (EST)
- Dec. 19, 2022 @ 6:00pm – 7:00pm (EST)

Registration for all 4 webinars can be found [here](#).

Types of Partners Required None required

Total Allocation Approximately \$40 million

Anticipated Award Date Summer/Fall 2023

Links to Grant Opportunity

- [Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program Homepage](#)
- [Request for Applications](#)
- [Grant Opportunity on Grants.gov](#)
- [Webinar Registration](#)