

Solid Waste Trust Fund Grant Program

Tire Products Grant Guidelines

FY 2025

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Tire Products Grant

Introduction

The Solid Waste Trust Fund (SWTF) Grant Program furthers the goals of the SWTF by providing financial support for projects that meet the requirements described in O.C.G.A. § 12-8-27.1 and O.C.G.A. § 12-8-37.1 of the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act (Act), and Rule 391-3-21.17 of Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia (Rules).

The Tire Products (Tire) Grant created as a part of the SWTF Grant Program, will reduce solid waste in Georgia, support manufacturing and market development for scrap tires, and encourage innovation.

The Tire Grant is separate from the Recycling and Waste Diversion (RWD) and the Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement (STAR) Grants. The Tire Grant is restricted to projects that utilize tire-derived products (TDP) or identify innovative uses for scrap tires or new products derived from scrap tires through research.

Grant Description and Project Tracks

Grants will be awarded subject to the amount of funds available. Eligible applicants may apply up to the established cap of \$250,000.

Projects at various stages will be considered. The timeline for the portion of the project funded by this grant may not exceed 24 months in length.

There are two project tracks eligible for funding within the Tire Grant. Applicants must choose the project track and may not apply for more than one in the same grant cycle.

1. Tire-derived Products

These are projects that utilize TDP.

An example of a TDP is ground tire rubber (GTR) which is recycled tire rubber which has been ground into very small particles to use as an asphalt cement or asphaltic concrete modifier (GDOT Standard Specifications 2021).

Awarded grant funds will only pay for the direct costs related to the incorporation of TDP and associated services into projects which would normally utilize conventional or virgin materials. Direct costs may include material costs or services, such as hauling, and mixing of the TDP.

TDP may be used in projects including, but not limited to:

- a. Paving
- b. Poured playgrounds or trails
- c. Mats, pavers, and tiles
- d. Courts for schools or parks
- e. Traffic related products

No matching is required for this track.

Recent studies have raised concerns with the environmental and public health impacts of some TDP. As a result, EPD will not be funding projects utilizing loose tire-derived mulch or tire-derived beads for artificial turf.

2. Research of New and/or Innovative Uses for Scrap Tires

These are projects that seek to identify innovative uses and/or conduct research, tests, or develop beneficial uses or products derived from scrap tires. Awarded grant funds may be used for all costs related to research, such as salaries and material testing.

For the Research of New and/or Innovative Uses of Scrap Tires track, the applicant must provide a minimum 20% match of the total project cost. Awarded grant funds will pay up to 80% of the total project cost.

A match is a cash or in-kind resource commitment beyond the grant dollar amount requested. Match items must be documented through letters of commitment, copies of checks, payroll records, etc. Common sources of matches include:

| Cash | In-Kind |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engineering• Construction• Materials• Equipment Rental | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Donations• Volunteers• Staff time• Materials• Office Space |

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible recipients of competitive grants are those described as eligible in O.C.G.A. § 12-8-37.1.

Eligible applicants and recipients for the Tire Grant include:

1. Counties, municipalities, or any combination of the same, hereafter referred to as local governments;
2. Public authorities, agencies, commissions, or institutions.

Local government applicants must have Qualified Local Government status as of the date of their application, as determined by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs maintains an active listing of local governments who are ineligible to receive state funding, including grants: <https://apps.dca.ga.gov/LocalGovStatus/planning.asp>

Nonprofit or private organizations are not eligible to apply for funding, however, they may partner with eligible applicants on projects.

In addition to those baseline eligibility requirements:

1. Applicants who are subject to an open EPD consent order or other EPD enforcement action are not eligible to receive grants.
2. Applicants who have received grant funds in past years but have NOT demonstrated successful administration of those grant funds may be deemed ineligible by EPD. Successful administration includes but is not limited to completing all project activities during the contract period, meeting all required deadlines, completing the project on time and on budget, expending all grant funds requested on project activities, and providing adequate documentation as requested by EPD.

SWTF Grant Program Administration Portal

The SWTF Grant Program Administration Portal is an online grant management platform. Previously, applications, reports, and reimbursement requests were downloaded by applicants and awardees and then emailed to SWTF Grant Program Staff. Now, applicants and awardees may complete and submit applications, reports, and reimbursement requests online through the portal.

Prospective applicants for the FY25 Tire Grant must submit their applications through the portal.

Applications submitted via email or through other means will not be accepted.

The SWTF Grant Team will host a virtual training on August 1, 2024, at 10:00 AM to review profile creation and application submission for the Tire Grant. The training will be recorded and posted online.

Register in advance for the Tire Grant Portal Training:

https://gaepd.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1evXDLOrTjiNdVVJf1acsw

Resources can be accessed at:

<https://epd.georgia.gov/swtf-grant-program-administration-portal>

Access the Tire Grant Portal at:

https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/georgia_epd_tp_grants

Schedule

The Tire Grant will be administered according to the following schedule:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| August 1 | SWTF Grant Administration Portal Training |
| August 8 | Tire Grant Informational Webinar |
| August 15 | Application period open |
| September 30 | Application submission deadline |
| October – November | Application review |
| December - January | Grant funds awarded |

EPD will host an informational webinar on August 8, 2024, at 10:00 AM to review schedule, budget, and application requirements for the FY25 Tire Grant.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://gaepd.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_X2e5FncqTWCzD_ZiBdWa-w

Special Requirements

Grant funds are paid out on a reimbursement basis. If you require advance funds in order to achieve grant objectives, please indicate this in your application and provide justification.

Contractual costs for one-time only services are allowed, provided the project itself is approved. The first year of a recurring cost may be allowed if future non-EPD funding is available.

Eligible grant award amounts will be determined by EPD. Grant awards may be less than amounts requested.

All purchases of goods and services shall be made according to the recipient's procurement (bid) requirements and policy.

Recipients may also be asked to provide documentation to be used by EPD as a case study illustrating the approach to supporting market development activities from scrap tires.

EPD staff may perform site inspections during the term of the grant.

EPD shall have the right to terminate a grant award and demand refund of grant funds for non-compliance with federal, state, or local regulations, the terms of the grant award, or these guidelines.

EPD may declare the recipient ineligible for further participation in the program until the recipient complies with the regulations, the terms of the grant award, or these guidelines.

Evaluation Criteria

Tire Grant funds are limited and are contingent upon available funding. Applications will be evaluated by EPD to determine if the applicant and proposed project are eligible (see Eligibility Requirements).

Eligible projects will be scored according to the criteria described below. EPD will fund projects starting with the highest-ranking score first and will continue awarding funds to those qualifying applications until EPD has exhausted available funds for that grant cycle.

Awardees from previous Tire Grant cycles are eligible to apply if they have completed the terms of their previously awarded agreement.

EPD reserves the right to coordinate with applicants as needed to modify project scopes and budgets.

Minimum Application Requirements

The following elements must be included in all applications. An application will not be considered for a grant award if the minimum project requirements are not met.

Tire-derived Products

1. The application must feature a complete project narrative that addresses the following:
 - a. Description of the overall project, including location.
 - b. Description of the need and purpose of the project.
 - c. Description of how the project benefits the community.
 - d. Description of the TDP(s) utilized in the project.
 - e. Description of the total project cost utilizing conventional or virgin materials vs. the total project cost utilizing TDP(s).
 - f. Description of the number of lbs. of TDP(s) used in the project.
 - g. Description of how the TDP(s) will be incorporated into the project.
 - h. Description of the sourcing of the TDP(s).
 - i. Description of how information will be shared about the project with the community.
2. The application must include a timeline that describes the project's start and end dates, and milestones.
3. The application must include a budget detailing the amount and intended use of funds requested. This includes but is not limited to a line-item estimate of all expenses associated with TDP and associated services. Documentation for expenses must be provided. Examples include quotes for TDP material costs or associated services.

Research of New and/or Innovative Uses for Scrap Tires

1. The application must feature a complete project narrative that addresses the following:
 - a. Description of the overall research project, including the need and purpose.
 - b. Description of the objective(s) of the research project.
 - c. Description of the methodology of the research project.
 - d. Description of the evaluation process that will be used to evaluate the project's impact on recycling and material recovery for scrap tires.

- e. Description of how the results of the research project will be shared with the scrap tire industry and other decision makers.
 - f. Description of how the research project will benefit markets for scrap tires and the usage of TDP.
 - g. Description of how the research project is innovative.
2. The application must include a timeline with clearly identifiable steps for project implementation that are likely to result in the achievement of identified objectives.
 3. The application must include a budget detailing the amount and intended use of funds requested. This includes but is not limited to a line-item of all expenses associated with the research project. Documentation for expenses must be provided. An example includes salary information for staff.

Scoring

Applications will be scored based on how successfully the application demonstrates the following:

Tire-Derived Products

| Category Weight | Evaluation Criteria for Tire-Derived Products | Score 0 = incomplete 1 = Poor 2 = Good 3 = Excellent | Weighted Score |
|-----------------|---|--|----------------|
| 3.00 | Does the application provide a clear description of the overall project, including location? | 0 | 0 |
| 3.00 | Does the application demonstrate the need and purpose for the project? | 0 | 0 |
| 2.00 | Does the application demonstrate how the project benefits the community? | 0 | 0 |
| 2.00 | Does the application describe the TDP(s) that will be utilized in the project, and was manufacturer documentation provided? | 0 | 0 |
| 1.00 | Does the application describe the total project cost utilizing conventional or virgin materials vs. the total project cost utilizing TDP(s)? | 0 | 0 |
| 1.00 | Does the application include a description of the number of lbs. of TDP(s) used in the project? | 0 | 0 |
| 1.00 | Does the application describe how the TDP(s) will be incorporated into the project? | 0 | 0 |
| 1.00 | Does the application describe where the TDP(s) and/or related service(s) are sourced? | 0 | 0 |
| 3.00 | Does the application describe how information about the project will be shared with the community? | 0 | 0 |
| 1.00 | Does the application provide a timeline? | 0 | 0 |
| 3.00 | Does the application provide a clear and coherent budget? | 0 | 0 |
| 4.00 | Does the application demonstrate the percentage by cost of the project that utilizes TDP and associated services in relation to the total project cost? 1 point If yes, what is the percentage by cost of the project that utilizes TDP and associated services in relation to the total project cost? <50% = 1 point; 51%-100% = 2 points | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | | 0 |

Research of New and/or Innovative Uses for Scrap Tires

| Category Weight | Evaluation Criteria for Research of New and/or Innovative Uses for Scrap Tires | Score 0 = incomplete 1 = Poor 2 = Good 3 = Excellent | Weighted Score |
|-----------------|---|--|----------------|
| 3.00 | Does the application provide a clear description of the overall research project, including the need and purpose? | 0 | 0 |
| 2.00 | Does the application describe the objective(s) of the research project? | 0 | 0 |
| 3.00 | Does the application describe the methodology? | 0 | 0 |
| 4.00 | Does the application describe how the project's impact on recycling and material recovery for scrap tires will be evaluated? | 0 | 0 |
| 3.00 | Does the application demonstrate how the results of the research project will be shared with the scrap tire industry and other decision makers? | 0 | 0 |
| 2.00 | Does the application demonstrate how the research project will benefit markets for scrap tires and the usage of TDP? | 0 | 0 |
| 4.00 | Does the application demonstrate how the research project is innovative? | 0 | 0 |
| 1.00 | Does the application provide a robust timeline with clearly identifiable steps for project implementation? | 0 | 0 |
| 3.00 | Does the application provide a clear and coherent budget? | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | | 0 |

Applications for both project types may be assigned bonus points for:

- a. Projects that use Georgia-based suppliers for products and services (5 points).
- b. Project proposals jointly submitted by two or more eligible applicants (5 points).

Tire Grant Award Procedures

Grant applications will be scored according to the criteria described in the Evaluation Criteria section. If a grant application is approved for award, EPD will notify the applicant and provide an agreement for signature.

The applicant must then return the signed agreement within 30 days of receiving the agreement through the portal.

Any electronic signatures constitute original, valid signatures pursuant to the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, O.C.G.A. § 10-12-1 et seq.

Upon receiving the signed agreement, EPD will route the agreement for signature to the EPD Director. EPD will then send the fully executed agreement to the recipient. Recipients may begin work upon receipt of the fully executed agreement and must commence work within 30 days.

Purchases or work related to the project as described in the application performed prior to the execution of the agreement will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Recipients are required to submit Quarterly Reports throughout the duration of the project to document implementation progress. A Final Report must be submitted at the end of the project that includes a summary of the project.

Recipients must submit a Reimbursement Request Form to EPD along with invoices and proof of payment for grant expenditures. Reimbursement Request Forms may be submitted along with the quarterly reports or as needed, no more than once every 30 days.