

RWD Grant Questions and Answers

Question	Response
Is there a maximum award per project?	Eligible applicants may apply for any amount up to the maximum available in that cycle. A total of \$2,000,000 is available for funding for the first grant cycle.
Is matching required for the grant?	There is no minimum match required, however, applications demonstrating a match will receive more points in the ranking process.
Is there an average dollar amount for project submittals?	At this time, we are not setting any project cost limits or averages, and leaving the proposals up to the applicants.
Could this grant help with some of the recycling fees for household hazardous waste and electronics recycling we currently do on annual and semi-annual basis?	Any proposal for recycling and waste diversion will be considered.
Is this the first time a grant has been offered to support recycling, other than the scrap tire program?	EPD had grants for recycling up until 2008. Since then, the only SWTF grant was the local government scrap tire abatement reimbursement (STAR) program.
Would a company that helps a local government recycle used boxes be eligible for the grant?	Nonprofit or private organizations are not eligible to apply for funding, however, they may partner with eligible applicants on projects. Eligible applicants include counties, municipalities, and public authorities, agencies, commissions, or institutions.
Who should the Cover Sheet be addressed to?	There is a template to complete the Cover Sheet included in the Application.
Would a project already included in an entity's upcoming budget be eligible for the grant?	As long as the entity and project meet all the eligibility criteria, they would be able to submit an application. If an entity intends to use their own funds in addition to grant funds, that information must be included in the match sections of the application. Note that the EPD will not reimburse for any project expenses incurred or project work performed prior to an executed agreement.
What local governments in the state have been recipients of this award, and what are examples of their funded projects?	This is the first year the RWD Grant is being offered. EPD had other grants for recycling up until 2008. We do not have a list of the recipients or projects for the 2008 and earlier recycling grants.
Would the purchase of a book de-binder be eligible for the RWD grant?	Any proposal for recycling and waste diversion will be considered.
Can grant funds be acquired in advance?	Advance funds are permissible.
What additional documentation is required to receive grant funds in advance?	Notify EPD staff at SWTF.grant@dnr.ga.gov before submitting your application if you require advance funds. Please include a copy of the email to submit as supporting material with the application. In the budget narrative of the application, explain why you cannot follow the reimbursement model and why the funds are needed in advance.

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Can a Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation (KGBF) affiliate apply for the RWD Grant?	Nonprofit or private organizations are not eligible to apply for funding, however, they may partner with eligible applicants on projects. A KGBF affiliate would not be able to apply alone for KGBF. If a KGBF affiliate were to apply alongside or on behalf of the local government that the affiliate represents, that would be acceptable, assuming that the local government meets the minimum eligibility requirements. The project and the grant funding would go to the local government.
Would purchasing scales to use at landfills be an eligible project for the RWD Grant?	Landfill projects are not eligible. The RWD Grant is for recycling, waste reduction, and diversion projects only.
Is there a maximum or minimum amount for the grant projects?	We are not requiring a maximum or minimum at this time. Eligible applicants may apply for any amount up to the maximum available in that cycle. A total of \$2,000,000 is available for funding for the first grant cycle.
Can cities submit more than one project?	Each applicant may submit one project per grant cycle.
Is there designated funding for each of the project types? For example, 50% Infrastructure, 20% hubs, and so on?	We have not split the funding up at this time. Applicants can request any amount of funding for any type of project.
Would compost projects around in-vessel systems be considered?	Yes, this would be eligible.
Would expanding capacity and centers for building material reuse in metro Atlanta and the Savannah-Brunswick corridor to community development projects, such as affordable housing solutions, be eligible?	It would have to be explained how this project would divert waste from the landfill in the Project Narrative section of the application.
Will more money be awarded to fewer, bigger projects, or less money awarded to more, smaller projects?	We are not limiting anything at this time. The \$2,000,000 we have for this grant is the total for everybody; how it's divided will depend on the types of projects we receive.
Are joint applications for two cities accepted?	Yes, eligible applicants may apply jointly.
Can multiple different aspects be included under the same project? For example, could we request funding for multiple ways of facilitating composting under the same project?	Yes, any project to divert the waste from the landfill would be considered.
If a project idea is geared for a private entity (Atlanta Beltline is a Private Entity), would they have to create a Public Private Partnership (with the City of Atlanta or Fulton County) in order to submit an application?	Yes, they may partner with eligible applicants on projects. Private organizations are not eligible to apply for funding. The funds must go to an eligible applicant, which includes counties, municipalities, and public authorities, agencies, commissions, or institutions.
Can a community apply for a grant through two different government entities in that community? For example, could a city government apply for one grant and the county apply for a different grant?	Yes, everyone is encouraged to reply. Each local government can apply for one project per grant cycle.

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Do local governments need to have a current solid waste management plan to be eligible for the grant? Does the proposed project have to be consistent with the local plan?	No, applicants do not have to have a solid waste management plan. However, bonus points may be awarded if applicants can demonstrate how the project is consistent with a solid waste management plan.
I am a KGBF affiliate. We are considered a nonprofit, but we support the education of the citizens of our county. So, would we be ineligible for this grant?	The KGBF affiliates can facilitate the application process but must apply on behalf of the given local government. Nonprofits are not eligible to apply for funding but may partner with eligible applicants on projects.
Some KAB affiliates are quasi-governmental organizations, part of a city government with a nonprofit component. Can they apply through their government side?	Yes, but the agreements would be between the local government and the EPD. The affiliate would have to apply on behalf of the local government and the funds would be awarded to the local government.
Can a city apply for a grant and team up with another entity on a different grant in the same cycle?	That would be acceptable at this time.
Would vehicles for composting collections be an eligible project for the grant?	Yes, if that will increase your capacity for reducing waste.
Would the procurement of planning documents, consultants, or solid waste studies be an eligible project for this grant, as the infrastructure or innovation category?	It would be eligible, but it may be hard to demonstrate metrics on how that will directly relate to tons of waste diverted. Thus, it may not be the most competitive project at this time.
Are vehicles, compactors, recycle containers, etc. eligible for the grant if used for Recycled Material and/or trash collection?	Yes, but only for recyclable collections, not trash collection. Anything that will aid in diverting recyclables, recovered materials, or waste from the landfill would be eligible.
Would vehicle purchases be considered for the grant, such as compacting trucks?	Yes, it could be if that would increase your capacity to transport recycling to an MRF.
Could an equipment request for organics diversion be paired with a larger education campaign request that goes beyond organics and into traditional recyclables?	Yes, this would be eligible.
Will the presentation slides be available online with the webinar recording?	Yes, the presentation and webinar recording are posted on the website.
We are planning to start a recycling program with the grant by purchasing trucks, bins, etc. After the 2-year period, we need to have a sustainability plan/process in place, correct?	Yes, that is correct. It will be part of the application to explain how you plan to sustain the project and pay for it after the grant money is expended.
Will we have a listing of the points you can obtain?	The evaluation criteria can be found on pages 4 and 5 of the Program Guidelines. See the RWD Grant Presentation Slides on the website for a breakout of the points.

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We have an old unlined landfill in the county adjacent to our Recycling Convenience Center. We are interested in building a CHARM and possibly some other Solid Waste handling facility that may or may not involve recycling on that property. Before we can even consider these projects, we need a study done on the land to see if it can be used for this purpose due to the landfill. Would the study itself qualify as a project?	The study could qualify, but it may not be as competitive as submitting a project to build and operate that facility.
Will the final services provided need to be provided directly to the local government or can we partner to reach waste diversion goals, like with recycling centers or CHARM?	The local government may partner with nonprofits and private organizations, but the funds must be awarded to the local government.
Regarding the \$2,000,000 available for funding for the first grant cycle, is this the total amount for the grant recipient or would this total amount be divided into several recipients?	That's going to depend on the type of projects that we get. The \$2,000,000 we have for this grant is the total for everybody; how it's divided will depend on the types of projects we receive. We want to see the most ways that we can start recovering and diverting from the landfill as quickly as possible, and we're looking for high quality projects that will move the needle.
For an equipment purchase like a vehicle, what does the project end look like?	A one-time purchase will not require a quarterly report or end date. Projects are not required to go to 24 months and each project will have a different timeline.
Would a one-time event, such as a hazardous household waste collection, be eligible for this grant?	Yes, this would be eligible.
Are the points in the main evaluation criteria all or nothing? For the 25 points, can the score only be 25 or 0, or is there a scale that would score a 17?	The points system is a scale. It is possible to score a 17 out of 25.
If we offer garbage and recycling pick up, would the purchase of another truck be considered for this grant?	If it's for recycling pick up it would be eligible, but it would have to be solely for recycling.
How do I get the application form?	The application form is available on the website, along with all other documents and information.
Is only one point allotted for participation in the Municipal Measurement Program, or is an additional point awarded per MMP survey?	The Municipal Measurement Program is an online tool for cities and counties to track waste and recycling. There is one MMP account per entity, and one individual would complete the three required surveys. Only one point is awarded per project if the applicant, or an applicant's partner, participated in the MMP. More information about the MMP can be found at https://epd.georgia.gov/mmp .
Would funding salaries to manage a Transfer Station be eligible?	Your project may be eligible, provided it increases recycling. Projects that handle waste or waste/litter clean up are not eligible.

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Would a compactor for solid waste be an eligible project for the RWD grant?	A compactor for solid waste would not be eligible for funding. Projects must support recycling, waste reduction, and/or diversion.
Are education projects eligible?	Yes, education projects are eligible. However, they may not be the most competitive projects at this time.
Is expanding MRF infrastructure that debags and sorts contamination from post-consumer compost eligible as a project?	Yes, this is eligible if it will increase your recycling tonnage capacity and waste diversion.
Can multiple initiatives that feature innovative reuse or diversion be combined into one project submission?	Yes, a proposal with multiple innovative reuse and diversion initiatives would be considered.
We are having problems with trash and recycled items contamination. Is there anything we can apply for from that standpoint?	Yes, any project to divert waste from the landfill will be considered.
What if there was a collaboration between a county and a public university?	This would be permissible; eligible applicants may apply jointly.
Would electric car charging stations be an eligible project?	No, this would not be eligible for the RWD grant.
Are private universities eligible applicants?	Private universities are not eligible on their own, but could partner with an eligible applicant. Eligible applicants include counties, municipalities, and public authorities, agencies, commissions, or institutions.
Can salaries be paid through the grant?	This would be eligible if it would divert waste from the landfill and increase recycling, however, it may not be the most competitive project at this time. We would need to see the plan in your application for how this would be achieved, and how it would be sustained after grant funds have been expended.
How will match amounts be evaluated; i.e., on a basis of percent of the value of the grant?	5 points will be awarded for any level of investment. Up to 10 points total may be awarded depending on the percentage matched. A 100% match or higher would yield 10 points.
What is the Georgia Municipal Measurement program about?	The Municipal Measurement Program is an online tool for cities and counties to track waste and recycling program performance. It is only available for local governments and there is one account per entity. The MMP consists of 3 surveys that take 60-90 minutes total to complete. More information about the MMP can be found at https://epd.georgia.gov/mmp .
Is there a close date for completing the MMP surveys?	To obtain the additional point for this grant cycle, MMP surveys need to be submitted by 9/30/2022.
Are studies, plans, and designs eligible projects?	These are eligible projects, however they may not be the most competitive projects at this time. If studies, plans, or designs were coupled with an active waste diversion project, it would be more competitive.

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If we apply and are awarded the grant for this year's funding cycle, can we apply again for the next year's funding cycle?	More details will come on this in the future.
Do you have a copy of a "buy recycled" ordinance, policy, practice, or procedure to review?	We do not have an example of a "buy recycled" ordinance, policy, practice, or procedure. The "buy recycled" policy would be a policy or plan in place implemented by your organization that commits to buying products using recycled content, such as office paper with recycled content. The following resource may be helpful: https://www.usgbc.org/credits/retail-%E2%80%93-existing-buildings/v4-draft/mrp1 .
Would equipment for a grant project need to be purchased from a Georgia-based supplier?	All purchases of goods and services shall be made according to the recipient's procurement (bid) requirements and policy. You do not need to purchase from a Georgia-based supplier (unless it is required by your organization's procurement policy), but you can receive one bonus point for using a Georgia-based supplier.
Would a private cardboard recycling business be eligible to apply for the grant?	Private businesses are not eligible to pursue the RWD Grant, though you may partner with an eligible applicant to pursue the grant. Eligible applicants include counties, municipalities, and public authorities, agencies, commissions, or institutions. However, funding would go only to the eligible applicant and not your private company, unless the recipient planned to use your services as part of the grant project.
What resources are available for glass recycling information?	https://www.glassrecycles.org/ https://recyclingpartnership.org/stateofcurbside/ https://www.gpi.org/ https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/glass-material-specific-data https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-03/documents/warm_v14_containers_packaging_non-durable_goods_materials.pdf
Is there a time frame for when receipts should be submitted for reimbursement?	Reimbursement Request Forms may be submitted as needed, no more than once every 30 days.
After submitting a receipt for reimbursement, what is the expected time frame for being reimbursed?	Payment details are still being worked out with our Finance Team.

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Can a proof of funds document be submitted to document matching funds? And will it fit into the Cash category on the budget worksheet?	An official letter confirming funds would be sufficient at the point of application to demonstrate matching. If you are contributing monetary funds, the information would be entered into the Cash category in the budget template.
We are interested in using RWD grant funds to help address some of the upfront costs for a pilot program. Will a pilot study make for a competitive application?	A pilot project may not be as competitive, given that pilot projects are usually small-scale and are meant to prove viability. We are considering projects at any level, so initial development is fine. To make your application as competitive as possible, you would need to demonstrate the community need for the project, the expected diversion from landfill, and how the project would be able to sustain itself after grant funds have been expended.
Where can I access landfill and recycling tonnage?	Landfill tonnage can be accessed on EPD's website at the following address: https://epd.georgia.gov/about-us/land-protection-branch/solid-waste/regulated-solid-waste-facilities . Recycling tonnage may be requested (if available) through the Municipal Measurement Program. Send your request to sarah.knapp@dnr.ga.gov .
Are purchases made or work performed before grant award eligible for reimbursement?	If your application is selected for award, you will receive an agreement for execution from EPD. Work related to the project performed prior to the execution of the agreement (including items purchased or ordered before the execution of the agreement) will not be eligible for reimbursement. Grant funds will be paid out on a reimbursement basis; you must incur them first (after award execution) and then submit a form to be reimbursed. Advance funds are permissible on a case-by-case basis.
If we pay an architect/engineer for a preliminary site plan ahead of the grant award, are we able to get that money reimbursed as part of the award?	No, work related to the project performed prior to the execution of the agreement will not be eligible for reimbursement. Grant funds will be paid out on a reimbursement basis; you must incur them first (after award execution) and then submit a form to be reimbursed.
Is it okay to submit two potential site plans or do you prefer to see the plan within the site boundaries that we currently have control over? Can we update the plan during the grant period as we enter the design phase?	For the purposes of the application, you may submit both sites.
Can some of the grant funds go towards the acquisition cost?	Yes, funding can go towards acquisition costs. Please keep in mind that you will need to have an award in place prior receiving reimbursement. Purchases or work performed prior to grant agreement execution will not be reimbursed.

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How can we demonstrate salaries for matching?	For the matching component, you can provide information about how you plan to demonstrate matching (salaries, equipment, etc.). If selected for award, the EPD grant team will work with you on the finer details.
What is not considered an allowable expense for the grant funding?	Funding for giveaways, food, etc. is not an allowable expense, but you may provide that on your own and consider that towards matching.
Could different departments within one eligible entity be considered separate applicants?	Different departments within an eligible entity may count as their own applicant. Only one application per applicant is allowed. If there are multiple applicants from the same eligible entity, EPD would most likely award to only one applicant.
We want funding for equipment to boost our recycling program, but we already have the trucks and employee salaries for recycling; would this count as in-kind matching?	Yes, this would be considered in-kind matching.
Is equipment rental for a recycling event eligible for funding?	Yes, equipment rental is eligible for reimbursement.
We are looking to purchase additional equipment through the grant that increases the capabilities of our current equipment. Can we consider our current equipment towards our match contribution?	Yes, so long as you can demonstrate that the capacity of your current equipment to increase recycling or divert waste from landfill will be enhanced with the purchase of additional equipment.
How do we incorporate manufacturing delays for equipment purchases into our timeline?	Base your timeline on anticipated activities. The timeline can be adjusted as necessary after grant award.
Should shipping and handling costs be a separate line item on the budget form, or should it be included as one lump sum with the materials?	Shipping and handling costs may be included as a separate line item, or they may be included as one lump sum with the materials. Additional information may be provided in the budget narrative to explain the breakdown of costs if needed.
Are indirect costs allowed to be included in the budget and, if so, is there a specific rate or amount allowed?	Awarded grant funds may pay up to 100% of project costs, subject to available funding. At this time, we do not have any guidelines or rates for indirect or direct costs; however, the activity must support recycling, waste reduction, or diversion. If you are intending to ask for funding to support the indirect costs associated with maintaining a waste reduction or recycling program, that may not be the most competitive application, unless you can demonstrate how the project will be able to sustain itself after grant funds have been expended.

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Would annual expenses for an existing recycling program (without increasing recycling capacity) be an eligible project for the grant?	Annual expenses would be eligible, however it may not be the most competitive application at this time, as it does not increase or expand recycling capacity. The intent of the RWD grant is to enhance existing programs or start new ones, not to fund existing recycling programs.
Can the RWD Grant be used for salary or stipend for a Graduate Assistant to assist with waste reduction?	Yes, the RWD Grant can be used for salary or stipend for a graduate assistant to assist with waste reduction. It can only be used for those efforts; it cannot pay for other efforts that the graduate assistant might support (like unrelated research, etc.). If the graduate assistant will be working on other, non-waste reduction efforts, only include the portion of the salary or stipend in the budget that is related to waste reduction.
We are applying to fund a Hazardous Waste Collection Day, so the actual cost will depend on the waste material and volume we receive at the time of the event. Is it acceptable to complete the Budget Form with an estimated amount based on per unit pricing?	An estimate for the line items on the Budget Form is acceptable, as long as the estimate is detailed and explained in the budget narrative.
Do we need to have our project resolution signed by a city official for the application?	No, this is not required, but you may consider submitting it as supplemental material at the end of your application.
What if our project has no end date, such as the initiative to begin collecting a hard to recycle material?	The timeline for the portion of the project funded by this grant may not exceed 24 months in length. Your project doesn't have to be 24 months in length; it can be shorter (or longer, however, only we can only provide funding for 24 months max). Given those parameters, use whichever end date makes sense for your project. If selected for award, we can adjust timelines later on if needed.
May we use a chart to describe the goals and objectives?	A chart is acceptable as long as all the required prompts are addressed.
What is the "in-kind" section of the budget?	In-kind matches can be resources or staff time that are contributed to the project by the applicant. You can provide information about how you plan to demonstrate matching (salaries, equipment, etc.) on the Budget Form and in the budget narrative. Match items may be documented through letters of commitment, copies of checks, payroll records, etc., as supplemental materials. If selected for award, we can work together on the finer details.
Should the total on the budget form include the match amount?	Yes, the total cost on the Budget Form should include both the match amount and the amount of grant funds requested. However, note that on the Cover Sheet, the match amount and grant funds requested should be listed separately.