



EPA Circular Economy Strategy and Sustainable Materials Management Updates

Alabama Recycling Coalition Conference & EXPO

Friday, August 25, 2023

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 4

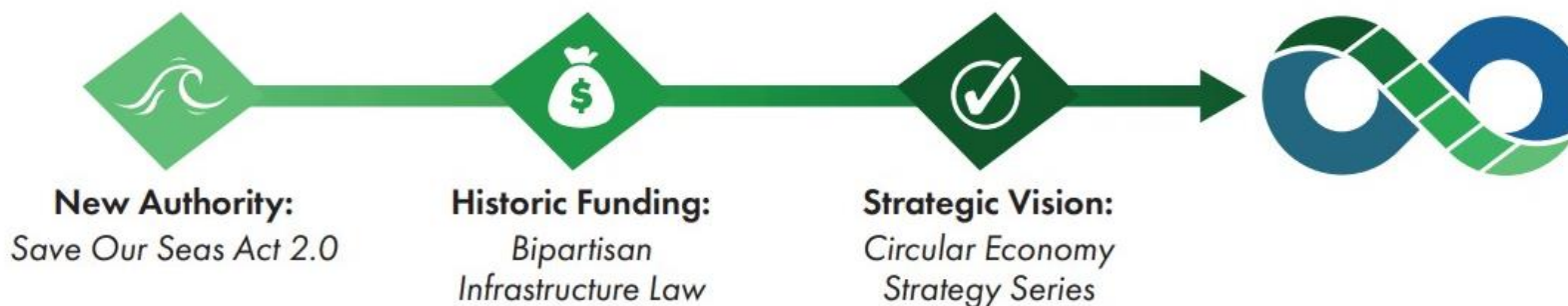
Presentation Today

- Overview of Sustainable Materials Management 10 Year Vision
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Investment
 - Grants
- Applying for Federal Funding
- Resources



Grants Investment

- Congressional commitment to reinventing and reinvesting in recycling is embodied in new legislation, new initiatives, and unprecedented funding.
- EPA's ambitious work authorized under the December 2020 Save Our Seas 2.0 Act and the November 2021 Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act, also referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law



Circular Economy Strategy Series

 **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)**

 Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants

 Recycling Education and Outreach Grants

 Battery Collection Best Practices and Labeling Guidelines



- Objectives:**
- A. Improve Markets for Recycling Commodities
 - B. Increase Collection and Improve Materials Management Infrastructure
 - C. Reduce Contamination in the Recycled Materials Stream
 - D. Enhance Policies to Support Recycling
 - E. Standardize Measurement and Increase Data Collection

EPA is establishing a 10-year vision that embraces circularity, sustainable materials management, and addresses climate change, and environmental justice.



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Investment

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Program

- \$275 Million
 - SWIFR for Political Subdivisions 2023: \$40M
 - SWIFR for States and Territories 2023: \$30M
 - SWIFR for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia 2023: \$40M
- For improvements to local post-consumer materials management and local waste management systems

Recycling Education and Outreach Grants

- \$75 Million
 - Recycling Education and Outreach Grants 2023: \$30M
- Education and outreach grants focused on improving education and outreach about waste reduction and recycling



Updates: SWIFR & REO Grants

SWIFR for States and Territories

- All possible applicants (50 states, Washington D.C., and 5 territories) applied
- Each Region 4 state (eight southeastern states) to receive about \$592,000 to \$713,000

SWIFR for Political Subdivisions

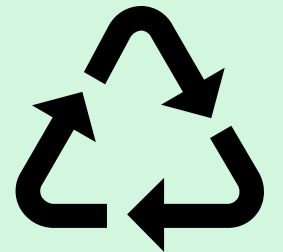
- Total of 25 Grants
- 1 to 3 grants to be awarded in each Region
- Range: \$500,000 - \$4M

Recycling Education and Outreach

- Total of 25 grants
- 1 to 3 grant to be awarded in each region
- Range: \$250,000 - \$2,000,000

SWIFR for Tribes

- Total of 60 Grants
- At least 1 per region
- Range: \$100,000 - \$1.5M



Timelines to Award: SWIFR and REO

SWIFR States and Territories

- By September 30: Most Grants Awarded
- Project Period: Oct 1, 2023, to September 30, 2026

SWIFR Political Subdivisions

- SOON!
- Fall: Grants Awarded

REO and SWIFR for Tribes

- October: Selection Announcement
- January/February: Grants Awarded



Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

- **2023: Historic \$27 Billion from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to be awarded**
- EPA seeking applications to three Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund competitions to advance clean technology projects
 - [National Clean Investment Fund](#) (\$14B)
 - [Clean Communities Investment Accelerator](#) (\$6B)
 - [Solar for All](#) (\$7B)
- Funded by the Inflation Reduction Act

For additional details go to <https://www.epa.gov/greenhouse-gas-reduction-fund>



Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund – Solar for All

- **\$7 Billion Grant Competition to Fund Residential Solar Programs that Lower Energy Costs for Families and Advance Environmental Justice**
- Increase access to affordable, resilient, and clean solar energy for millions of low-income households.
- Award up to 60 grants to states, territories, Tribal governments, municipalities, and eligible nonprofits
- Deadline to apply is September 26, 2023, BUT Notice of Intent Deadline is August.

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs has submitted NOI



Climate Pollution Reduction Grants

- **\$5 Billion** awarded in a two-phase process
 - Phase 1: Planning
 - Phase 2: Implementation
 - Funded by the Inflation Reduction Act
 - Funding to be used to develop or update climate plans
 - R4 States submitted Notice of Intent to Participate to receive **\$3M** each:
- \$25M set-aside for Tribes
 - Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
 - Catawba Indian Tribe
 - Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
 - Poarch Band of Creek Indians
 - Most populous metropolitan areas across the nation to also receive funding

ADEM, GAEPD, NCDEQ, SCDHEC, TDEC

ADEM received planning grant on 6/28/23

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants>

This grant can include Sustainable Materials Management



Applying for a Federal Grant

- Need access to apply in www.grants.gov
- 5-step registration process can take a month or more
- Register with SAM (the *System for Award Management*) at www.sam.gov
 - If you are already registered with www.sam.gov, make sure your account is active
- Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier
 - a 12-digit alphanumeric ID, assigned in www.sam.gov for your organization
- Complete an AOR (Authorized Organization Representative) profile
 - Create a username and password in www.grants.gov; using the correct UEI
- Become an authorized AOR by requesting approval from your organization's E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC).
- Track the AOR status by logging into www.grants.gov

This is a no cost process



Federal Grant Application Materials

Mandatory

- [Application for Federal Assistance \(Standard Form 424\);](#)
- [Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs \(Standard Form 424A\);](#)
- [EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54;](#)
- [EPA Form 4700-4 Pre-award Compliance Review Report;](#)
- Project Attachment Form (Summary Information Cover Letter + Narrative Proposal + Budget Table and Description)

Optional

- Other Attachments (milestones, references, letters of support, etc.)



Environmental Justice

The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

- Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.
- Meaningful involvement means people have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health; the public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision; community concerns will be considered in the decision-making process; and decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

For more information on Environmental Justice at EPA, visit our website: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>



Tips for Preparing an Application

Line up partners
committed to the
work

Double check
calculations

Provide detailed
descriptions of
proposed work

Clearly
demonstrate the
threshold and
evaluation criteria

Use the template
provided





Resources

All resource links can be found at the bottom of their respective slide.

Updates on EPA's Circular Economy Strategy Series



PART 1:
National
Recycling Strategy



PART 2:
Plastics



PART 3:
Food Waste



PART 4:
Critical Minerals
& Electronics



PART 5:
Build Environment



PART 6:
Textiles

Regulations.gov
Your Voice in Federal Decision Making

SUPPORT

NR NONRULEMAKING DOCKET

Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution
Created by the Environmental Protection Agency

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Posted



Region 4 Environmental Finance Centers

Southeast Sustainability Directors Network

- Aims to accelerate, scale, and implement sustainability best practices by helping communities build capacity to effectively access and manage multi-media environmental federal funding opportunities.



University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

- Aims to expand outreach and engagement to better reach disadvantaged communities and provide technical, engineering-based assistance that precedes environmental finance questions to better serve disadvantaged communities.



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

Learn More Here: <https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter/efcn>



Library of Frequently Asked Questions

- **Library of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**
- EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment recently announced a new tool for grant applicants and recipients!
- The Community Library of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) is a comprehensive resource based on questions asked by participants of EPA's grants webinars. Use the library to quickly find answers to questions about applying for grants, executing grants, and complying with EPA grants policies and requirements. In many cases, the answers provide links to more details and additional training materials.
- You can filter questions by topic (for example, Budget, Certification and Compliance, Drawdowns, among others) or use the search control to find questions based on a keyword. The library of FAQs will be updated with new questions and answers as EPA grants webinars are held.

Found here: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-community-library-frequently-asked-questions-faq>



Excess Food Opportunities Map

- Supports nationwide diversion of excess food from landfills.

Display includes locations of

- Nearly 950,000 potential excess food generators, including:
 - correctional facilities, educational institutions, farmers markets, food banks, healthcare facilities, hospitality industry, food manufacturing and processing facilities, food wholesale and retail, restaurants and food services.
- Communities with source separated organics programs, refrigerated warehousing and storage facilities, and about 6,500 potential recipients of excess food. These include:
 - anaerobic digestion facilities, composting facilities, food banks.











Found here: <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/excess-food-opportunities-map>



Model Recycling Toolkit

- Purpose is to help communities in developing and enhancing recycling, reuse, and composting programs

Resource Title	Description	More Info	Like
5 Reasons to Recycle — And How You Can Recycle Right from San Jose, CA	Page with list of reasons to recycle and link to a guide for recycling correctly. Website allows for viewing in Spanish and various other languages.		
Approaches to Encourage Private Sector and Organizations to Buy Recycled Content Products	Products made of recycled content make the recycling system viable. These non-profit organizations and governments have created mechanisms to purchase recycled content at reduced costs.		
Assessments of Market Development Opportunities	Assess the state of existing local and regional markets for materials across the waste stream; study service voids for missed opportunities to recover commodities. Shape strategic action plans around the findings.		
Basic Information on How and Why to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (EPA Website)	Learn how reducing, reusing, and recycling can help you, your community, and the environment by saving money, energy, and natural resources.		

Found here: <https://cfpub.epa.gov/wizards/recyclingtoolkit/>



Composting Food Scraps in Your Community: A Social Marketing Toolkit



- This new toolkit can help entities with the following:
 - (1) launch a new food scrap composting program,
 - (2) increase participation in an existing food scrap composting program, or
 - (3) reduce contamination in their compost collection stream. The toolkit is accompanied by composting campaign materials created by municipalities and organizations that are available for use and customization by any community.

This toolkit intends to move your community from **awareness** about wasted food toward **action** to prevent wasted food, by providing guidance on developing a social marketing campaign and customizable materials that will spur behavior change.

Found here: <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/forms/composting-food-scraps-your-community-social-marketing-toolkit>



Preventing Food Waste in Your Community: A Social Marketing Toolkit



- This tool can help entities who want to start a behavior change campaign to prevent food waste in their communities.
 - It is designed to be used by governments and NGOs to assist their constituents in reducing wasted food in the home.
- Provides downloadable, customizable campaign materials

This toolkit intends to move your community from **awareness** about wasted food toward **action** to prevent wasted food, by providing guidance on developing a social marketing campaign and customizable materials that will spur behavior change.

Found here: <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/forms/preventing-wasted-food-your-community-social-marketing-toolkit>



For More Information

Sign up to **Stay Connected** to learn more about grants,
future strategies and reports:

<https://www.epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/forms/stay-connected>

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Transforming the U.S. Recycling and Waste Management

<https://www.epa.gov/rcra/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-transforming-us-recycling-and-waste-management>

Training for Grant Applicants:

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/recipient-training-opportunities>

SWIFR and REO:

<https://www.epa.gov/rcra/grants-political-subdivisions>

<https://www.epa.gov/rcra/consumer-recycling-education-and-outreach-grant-program>

Questions?

Email: SWIFR@epa.gov

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Questions

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