
Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling Demonstration Grants

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



What municipalities, businesses and non-profits need to know

What is the aim of the Demonstration Grant Program?

The Demonstration Grant Program, administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, provides \$500,000 each year to fund waste reduction, reuse and recycling pilot projects. The program provides financial support for demonstration of products and processes that could have an impact on the reduction of solid waste in Wisconsin.

Who is eligible?

Wisconsin counties, municipalities, public entities, businesses, non-profit organizations and schools can apply. The applicant must provide evidence of having the technical ability, experience and financial support necessary to successfully carry out the project.

What funds are available for a project?

The maximum grant amount is \$150,000, or 50% of the total eligible costs of a project, whichever is less.* The applicant must match the grant in cash or through in-kind contributions such as labor, equipment or facilities. Grant recipients can initially receive 75% of their grant award. The remainder is paid after the Department has reviewed and approved the final report and costs for the project.

What makes a project eligible?

- ❖ The project must be conducted on a pilot or demonstration scale with the potential to be commercialized, expanded, shared or transferred for wider use.
- ❖ The project must contribute to reducing the amount of solid waste being landfilled or treated.
- ❖ The project must demonstrate a new idea for waste reduction, reuse or recycling or one not generally well known or utilized in Wisconsin. The project may also qualify if it demonstrates that a practice used previously in one particular area of Wisconsin can be adapted to another with different characteristics, for example from urban use to rural. Or the innovation may involve adopting a process used in one industrial sector to another.
- ❖ Under the Request for Proposal component of the program, projects may be funded that, although not innovative, target special and hard-to-recycle wastes or that may significantly impact the reduction or reuse of Wisconsin solid waste.

*A special category, community wide waste reduction projects, can now receive 75% of total eligible costs.

How are eligible costs determined?

Costs are eligible that are incurred during the project period and are considered necessary and reasonable to carry out the project. They may include: wages, and fringe benefits; costs of facility and equipment use prorated for the length of the project; operating expenses and raw materials required, and small equipment necessary.

When are grants available?

Applications for the annual grant cycle are due by August 1 of each year and grant agreements will be mailed no later than November 30.

What must an application include?

An application needs to include background information on the problem the project is intended to address, project objectives, a detailed work plan and timetable, testing and evaluation procedures, a discussion of the innovative nature of the proposal, an estimate of solid waste diversion, key personnel and their qualifications, applicability to others, information and education activities, documentation of financial capability, letters of support from partners and supporting literature.

To date, the program, has funded 192 projects, representing a broad range of ideas and materials.

For example:

- ❖ Locating, repairing, and distributing used wheelchairs, walkers and hospital beds previously headed for landfills.
- ❖ Composting of source-separated food waste and non-recyclable paper from grocery stores, restaurants and schools.
- ❖ Cost-effective sorting of reusable construction material such as cardboard, wood cuttings, gypsum boards, etc.
- ❖ Recovering chromium-laden leather waste and modifying it to be marketed as adhesives or fertilizer, and reusing the chromium in the production process.
- ❖ Separating aluminum and iron from automobile shredder "fluff" (shredded car interiors).

If you would like to discuss a project proposal:

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Application packets are available
by calling (608) 264-8902.

More Information on the Demonstration Grant Program is available at our website at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/EF/Recycle/index.htm>