

Resource Conservation Funds 2005: Requests for Proposals

Overview (note: the full text announcement is below)

Federal Agency Name: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

Funding Opportunity: Resource Conservation Grant Program

Announcement Type: Initial Announcement for Fiscal Year 2005

Funding Opportunity Number:

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:

66.808 Solid Waste Management Assistance

Objectives: To promote use of integrated solid waste management systems to solve solid waste generation and management problems at the local, regional and national levels. Funding Priority - FY2005: (1) Partnerships - Establishing and developing partnerships with states, local governments, and other non profit organizations to assist them in advancing their waste management programs, including recycling and reduction of wastes, appropriate management of wastes that are generated, and developing integrated waste management plans. (2) Education and Outreach - Developing and providing education, training, and outreach materials to educate and inform Americans about waste's impact on resource and energy use and pollution. Fostering a better understanding of the environmental ramifications of collective actions including how individual purchasing and manufacturing decisions are connected to the environment and to enable Americans to make better choices resulting in increased recycling, less waste, and greater energy savings.

Dates:

Applicants submit grant proposals to EPA by Friday, September 9, 2005.

EPA evaluates proposals and notifies potential grant recipients by Friday, September 30, 2005. Potential recipients are instructed to submit full grant packages (proposals with completed Applications for Federal Assistance) to EPA.

Full grant packages due to EPA by Friday, October 14, 2005

Expected date for grant awards to be made: November-December 2005 timeframe

Executive Summary

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 is soliciting proposals for grants that address solid waste generation and management issues at the local, State, regional and/or national levels.

The aim of this funding is to support innovative projects that can be reproduced throughout the Region and promote the following Region 10 priorities listed below. These priorities reflect the national priorities of EPA's Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC):

Reducing the generation and disposal of the following materials and waste streams through reuse, recycling, composting, market development or product stewardship:

Municipal Solid Waste

- Paper
- Packaging
- Glass and Plastic Beverage Containers
- Organics

These grants will be awarded under the authority of Section 8001 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA). The solicitation describes program goals and priorities and gives specific information on the application and selection process, proposal format, and evaluation criteria.

Funding Availability: Individual awards will be based on the needs of the project and the availability of funds. Region 10 expects to fund projects ranging from \$10,000 to \$45,000. The total estimated funding available is not expected to exceed \$45,000.

Applicant Eligibility:

Funds can be awarded to the following organizations. Profit making organizations are NOT eligible.

- Eligible nonprofit organizations include any organizations that meet the definition of a nonprofit in OMB Circular A-122. However, nonprofit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply.
- State governments, possessions of the U.S., and federally-recognized tribal governments
- Local governments, city or township governments, special district governments, independent school district governments
- State controlled and private institutions of higher education, hospitals, laboratories, and individuals.

EPA Regional Contact:

Pat Springer, 206-553-2858

Full Text Announcement

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I. Funding Opportunity Description

EPA Region 10, under the Resource Conservation Funding program is providing funding for projects that are unique and innovative. This funding supports EPA's strategic goal of land preservation and restoration. This funding opportunity links to EPA's Strategic Plan through sub-objective 3.1.1: reduce waste generation and increase recycling. For more information visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/ocfopage/plan/2003sp.pdf> (PDF - 4.47 MB)
[About PDF files](#)

All applicants are required to link their projects to "environmental results". Environmental results are used as a way to gauge a project's performance using output and outcome measures. The term "output" means an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work product that is related to an environmental goal or objective, that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specific date. The term "outcome" means an environmental result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. For example, an expected "output" is the completion of a plan to address the specific needs of a community, while an "outcome" is the result of the plan's implementation in terms of cleaner water and the protection of aquatic species' diversity.

Applicants should also pay attention to the information outlined in Section V of this solicitation notice for guidance on specific evaluation criteria for proposals. Outcomes and outputs from this funding will help reduce materials use, and increase energy and materials recovery from wastes otherwise requiring disposal.

Specifically, EPA Region 10 seeks to fund proposals that fit into one or more of the following priorities:

- Provide education and outreach, technical assistance, or spur innovative approaches that promote EPA Resource Conservation Challenge National Priority of increasing the national municipal solid waste recycling/diversion rate to 35%
- Stimulate market development for materials that are challenging to recycle/reuse (e.g., organic materials)
- Integrate recycling, source reduction, pollution prevention, and waste reduction concepts into local, state, regional, and tribal environmental programs.

All proposals must include plans for measuring and reporting the quantitative and qualitative results of the project.

EPA's statutory (legal) authority for funding assistance agreements under this grant program is the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Section 8001. Under this statutory authority, grant funds are available for the allowable direct cost expenditures incident to program performance, plus allocable portions of allowable indirect costs of the institution, in accordance with established EPA policies.

Projects can include the following types of activities:

- Training
- Surveys
- Education materials and programs
- Studies
- Demonstrations (note: Demonstrations must generally involve new or experimental technologies, methods, or approaches, where the results of the project will be disseminated so that others can benefit from the knowledge gained in the project.)

Assistance to such projects shall not include any element of construction; purchase of capital equipment (e.g., trucks, tractors, recycling bins, front-end loaders, etc.); or any acquisition of land or interest in land or any subsidy for the price of recovered resources.

II. Award Information

Individual grant awards will be based on the needs of the project and the availability of funds. Region 10 expects to fund projects ranging from \$10,000.00 to \$45,000.00. The total estimated funding available is not expected to exceed \$45,000.00. Projects are normally funded for one year, although project periods can be extended if necessary.

III. Threshold Criteria

Proposals that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be considered. Incomplete proposals or proposals that do not follow the required format outlined in Section IV are NOT eligible and will be returned to the applicant without being reviewed. Faxed submissions are NOT eligible.

Matching Requirements: No cost-sharing is required under this program; falls under 40 CFR Part 30.

Costs incurred prior to grant award will not be reimbursed. Please note that research is ineligible for funding as well as other ineligible costs outlined in 40 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Parts 30 and 31.

Eligible Applicants

Funds can be awarded to the following organizations. Profit making organizations are NOT eligible.

- Eligible nonprofit organizations include any organizations that meet the definition of a nonprofit in OMB Circular A-122. However, nonprofit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply.
- State governments, possessions of the U.S., and federally-recognized tribal governments
- Local governments, city or township governments, special district governments, independent school district governments
- State controlled and private institutions of higher education, hospitals, laboratories, and individuals.

Organizations/applicants may submit more than one proposal.

IV. Application and Submission Information

All the information needed to submit a proposal is provided in this solicitation. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Springer at (206) 553-2858 or springer.pat@epa.gov.

Step 1 - Proposal: If your project is eligible, you may submit a proposal to the contact listed below by Friday, September 9, 2005. Proposals that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be considered. Incomplete proposals or proposals that do not follow the required format (below) are NOT eligible and will be returned to the applicant without being reviewed. Faxed submissions are NOT eligible.

Proposal Format

1. Applicant's name, primary contacts, address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail (if available)
2. Brief background information about the applicant and other participants/partners. Background must focus on experience related to the project proposal and grant management abilities
3. Summary of the project
4. Project goals and objectives. Applicants must identify the Region 10 priority or priorities addressed by the proposal. In addition to describing the purpose of the project and how it will be implemented, applicants must address how project results will be measured and how the project's effectiveness will be determined
5. Environmental Results: Applicants must include a description of environmental outputs and outcomes in their proposals. See Section I for more information
6. Project timeline. Provide an overall schedule and milestones
7. Estimated project budget. In-kind support, if applicable, should be included in the budget

Electronically: proposals must be received by close of business (5:00pm PT) on Friday, September 9, 2005 at springer.pat@epa.gov. You may put the proposal in the body of the e-mail to avoid potential problems with incompatible software. If you choose to send an attachment, please use Wordperfect or Microsoft Word.

By mail: proposals must be received by close of business (5:00pm PT) on Friday, September 9, 2005. Send proposals to:

Pat Springer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
1200 6th Avenue, Mailstop: AWT-122
Seattle, WA 98101

Programmatic Capability: Applicants must submit information relating to the programmatic capability criteria to be evaluated under the ranking factor(s) in section V of the announcement. EPA will consider information provided by the applicant and may consider information from other sources including Agency files.

Confidential Business Information: In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their application/proposal as confidential business information. EPA will evaluate confidentiality claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark applications/proposals or portions of applications/proposals they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c)(2) prior to disclosure.

DUNS Number: All recipients must have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number on their formal SF-424 applications. A DUNS number can be obtained by calling 1-866-705-5711. A DUNS number is not required until the full application is submitted.

Step 2 - Grantees Selected: EPA will review the pre-proposals and notify potential funding recipients by Friday, September 30, 2005.

Step 3 - Completed Applications with Final Workplans: Applicants selected for potential funding will be asked to negotiate a final workplan with EPA and submit the workplan with a completed federal application for assistance by close of business on October 14, 2005.

Completed applications (with original signatures) and Final Workplans must be received at EPA Region 10 by close of business (5:00pm PT) on Monday, October 14, 2005. Electronic or faxed submittals of applications will NOT be accepted.

Pat Springer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
1200 6th Avenue, Mailstop: AWT-122
Seattle, WA 98101

V. Application Review Information

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked against the following criteria:

1. Project Description (10 points)
 - Are the goals and tasks clear and concise?
 - Are the tasks, budget, timeline, etc. realistic?
2. Project Objectives/Goals (20 points)
 - Does the proposal address one or more of the EPA Region 10 priorities and/or waste streams?
 - Does the proposal specify realistic goals and objectives that deal with the environmental problems or issues identified?
3. Project Benefits (30 points)
 - Does the project include a well-conceived strategy to reduce the generation and disposal of materials in waste streams through reuse, recycling, composting, market development, or product stewardship?
 - Does the project take a creative, innovative approach and/or implement successful models from other areas?
 - Will the project develop and provide education, training, or outreach materials to educate and inform Americans about waste's impact on resource and energy use and pollution?
 - Does the project establish or develop partnerships with states, local governments, tribes, or non-profit organizations to assist them in advancing their waste management programs, including recycling and reduction of wastes, and appropriate management of wastes that are generated?

- Does the project help any of the aforementioned groups build institutional infrastructure or capacity, thus fostering increased recycling, reduced waste, and greater energy savings?
- Will the project deliverables be transferable or useful to others?
- Will the project benefit from EPA funding, then become self-sustaining?
- Does the project include an effective communication plan for the results?
- Will the project lead to the creation of jobs or other economic development in the areas of reuse, recycling, composting, market development, or product stewardship?
- Will the project have direct measurable impacts on markets for recyclable materials?

4. Measurement/Environmental Results (20 points)

Applicants are required to address outcome and output environmental measurements in their proposals. The term "outcome" means the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related or programmatic in nature but must be quantitative. The term "output" refers to an environmental activity, effort and/or associated work products related to an environmental goal or objective, that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during the assistance agreement funding period.

Examples of outcome based metrics include, but are not limited to:

- Pounds of municipal solid waste reduced or recycled
- Pounds of Greenhouse gases (GHG) reduced and BTUs of energy saved or recovered

Examples of output measures include but are not limited to:

- Educational and outreach materials produced and distributed promoting one of the above-mentioned priorities
- Number of additional houses served by curbside recycling

Considerations:

- Does the project include clear measures of success? Measures of success should be either measures of environmental improvement, or should be directly linked to such measures
- Will the project encourage or promote recycling, source reduction, product stewardship, reuse, composting, recycling market development, or the purchase or manufacturing of products with recycled-content?
- Does the project positively impact behavior to achieve environmental results?
- Will the project result in measurable environmental improvements, e.g., amount of pollution prevented, waste reduced, reused, recycled or resources conserved?
- When will measurable results be available?

5. Budget and Schedule (10 points)

- Is the budget and timeline reasonable for the work proposed?

- Does the project leverage other resources?
 - Does the project make effective use of requested federal funds?
6. Programmatic Capability (10 points)
- Do the staff assigned by the applicant to work on the project appear to be competent and have the background, training, skills, etc. to successfully accomplish the project's goals?
 - Does the applicant appear to have the necessary resources and infrastructure to successfully accomplish the project's goals?

Review and Selection Process: Each application will be evaluated by members of the EPA Region 10 Solid Waste and Product Stewardship Team, who have experience with a full range of solid waste management issues. The evaluation team members will base their evaluations solely on the selection criteria disclosed in this announcement (see section V, Evaluation Criteria). Once the members of the evaluation team have reviewed and scored all the proposals, they will convene and rank the proposals according to their total scores, and selections for potential funding will be made, based on rank order.

VI. Award Administration Information

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Applicants must comply with the standard requirements, terms and conditions of EPA assistance agreements. Funded activities must be allowable under EPA statutory authority (see Section III).

Reporting

Recipients will be required to submit progress reports in accordance with the approved workplan. A project officer will be designated at the time of the award of the grant/cooperative agreement. Recipients must also provide project deliverables and a final report at the end of the project. EPA may require additional reporting, depending on the specific project.

Dispute Resolution

Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005), which can be found at:
<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-1371.htm>

Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting Pat Springer at 206-553-2858 or springer@epa.gov.

Non-profit applicants that are recommended for funding will be subject to pre-award administrative capability reviews consistent with Sections 8.b, 8.c and 9.d of EPA Order 5700.8

VII. Agency Contacts

Questions about this solicitation may be directed to Pat Springer at (206) 553-2858 or calabro.domenic@epa.gov.

VIII. Other Information

EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals or applications and make no awards, or make fewer awards than anticipated for this competition.

For information on EPA's policy on grants competition, visit:
www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/competition.htm