



# Maine's Solid Waste Diversion Grant Program

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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

*Protecting Maine's Air, Land and Water*

# Background

- §2201-B. Maine Solid Waste Diversion Grant Program
- Established to help to increase the diversion of solid waste from disposal in the State
- Awards must be aligned with:
  - §2101. Solid waste management hierarchy
  - §2101-B. Food recovery hierarchy
- Awards are prioritized based on maximum benefit in terms of increasing the diversion of solid waste from disposal
- Department's grant webpage:  
<https://www.maine.gov/dep/sustainability/compost/grant.html>



# Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Any public or private entity residing within the State of Maine
- Must be able to demonstrate that a proposed program, project, initiative or activity is likely to increase the diversion of solid waste from disposal within a particular community, municipality or region of the State
- Examples: solid waste facilities, private businesses or nonprofits, schools, municipalities, institutions of higher learning, etc.



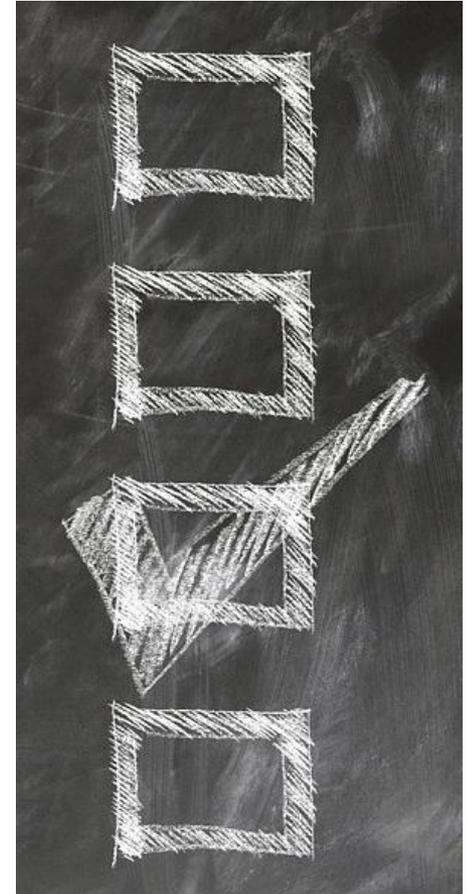
# Examples of Eligible Activities

- Establish/expand programs - composting, organics collection, food rescue, waste reduction (reuse, repair, etc.), recycling
  - Equipment or supplies needed to implement, improve or support waste diversion activities
  - Programs or business models designed to collect, transport for processing or process organic or recyclable materials
  - Pilot programs to evaluate the feasibility of new programs or initiatives
- Education and outreach initiatives or programs about composting, organics recovery or recycling or other sustainable practices to reduce solid waste



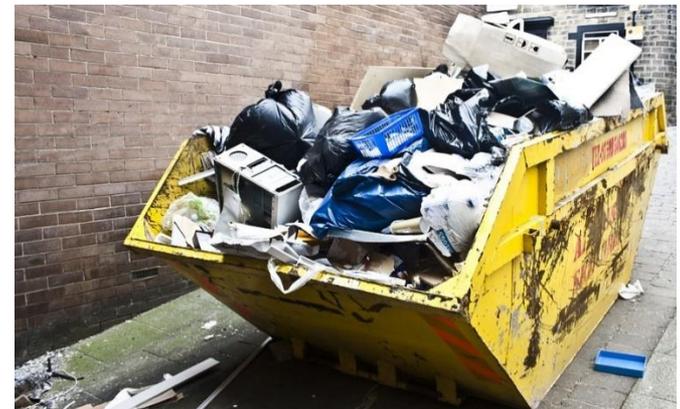
# What is Prioritized?

- Highest priority: Proposals from municipal or regional association applicants
- Increasing removal and recycling of organic materials from municipal waste streams
- Other priorities include:
  - Underserved areas
  - Waste prevention: food donation, gleaning, reuse, repair, lending libraries, etc.
  - Education and outreach
  - Addressing a statewide need
  - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
  - Expanding the type of materials recovered



# What Activities are NOT Eligible?

- Proposals requiring passage of legislation to implement
- Administrative and indirect costs (benefits, overhead costs, etc.)
- Project staff salaries, with the following exception:
  - Temporary funding for staff essential and **limited to project development**
  - For example: educators, research associates and interns
- Disposal costs or any on-going cost like waste handling or hauling needed to run the program permanently for which the applicant does not have funding may be ineligible, but it depends on the nature of the project



# Can I Ask Questions During the RFP?

- Only through the proper channel, which is **NOT** an email or phone call to Department staff including the RFP Coordinator
  - Department staff including the RFP Coordinator may not answer questions or otherwise discuss the RFP during the open RFP
- Questions **MUST** be submitted in writing following all instructions in the RFP
  - Bidders and other interested parties must use Appendix E – Submitted Questions Form – to submit questions
  - This form must be submitted via e-mail to the RFP Coordinator (see cover page of RFP) **by the deadline** provided in the RFP
  - Only answers issued in writing on the RFP website are considered binding



# Making an Application Stand Out

- Think beyond your organization or immediate community
- Consider project reach – will multiple communities or a large geographic area be served?
- Is the target area underserved, and will your project make a real and substantial difference?
- Is your project unique, and if so, what about it is different?
- Is this project likely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and if so, will you be able to estimate the emissions impact of the project?
- Does the proposal push materials up the waste hierarchies?
  - For example, food donation, gleaning, reuse, repair, lending programs (tool libraries, etc.) and other sharing initiatives preserve existing resources.



# How to Apply

- Simply follow the directions listed in the issued RFP.
- All information related to the RFP is available at:  
<https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/grants>.
- Proposals must be submitted exactly as described in the RFP instructions
- The information in the application must be complete and accurate; read and follow directions carefully
- Submit any questions by e-mail to the RFP Coordinator identified on the cover page by the date and time specified on the RFP cover page



# Common Pitfalls

- Math: double-check your match, your cost totals, etc.
- Pay attention to deadlines; for questions and for the completed application
- Make sure you submit all required documents and that each document is complete and accurate
- Ask questions through the appropriate channel and on time
- Follow all instructions to submit the application and questions via email.





**Questions?**

