



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 2022

MICHIGAN RECYCLING GRANTS

Application Period Begins December 7, 2021

Michigan.gov/MiRecycles

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I. GRANT INFORMATION

A. GRANT DESCRIPTION

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) protects Michigan's environment and public health by managing air, water, land, and energy resources, and is focused on addressing climate change, diversity, equity, and inclusion. In fiscal year (FY) 2022, EGLE will provide matching grants to support Governor Gretchen Whitmer's climate priorities by supplementing efforts to increase the statewide recycling rate, ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion, and grow recycling markets and recycling supply chains through the NextCycle Michigan Initiative (NextCycle). A total of \$15 million is currently available for NextCycle Michigan Recycling Grant projects in FY 2022. A minimum of 50 percent of this funding will be earmarked for entities that have not received an award from the EGLE recycling grants program in the last fiscal year.

These grants, enabled by the Renew Michigan Fund, are an important mechanism for achieving EGLE's priorities of equitable and inclusive support to all Michigan communities and businesses, and the grants support Governor Whitmer's climate change priorities through measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Recycling prevents the generation of greenhouse gases at several points along the lifecycle of a product, including avoided energy consumption associated with the mining and extraction of virgin materials and reduced methane emissions from landfills. As reported in the 2021 Recycling Gap Analysis (Resource Recycling Systems, 2021) achieving a 45 percent recycling rate in Michigan will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent annually. This corresponds to the annual energy consumption of more than 760,000 households (approximately 20 percent of Michigan households), or the annual emissions of nearly 1.5 million passenger vehicles.

Additionally, these grants are important to facilitate the safe management of waste materials and help to maintain the flow of vital raw materials for Michigan manufacturing by protecting our domestic supply chains. Increasing access to recycling opportunities and expanding local recycling end-use markets also has other positive impacts including water savings, energy savings, local job creation, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

NextCycle Michigan is a State of Michigan sponsored partnership and innovation platform designed to support the state's recycling, climate, and circular economy objectives through broad and diverse engagement across Michigan. NextCycle Michigan is designed to help applicants bring quality recycling projects forward, not just for EGLE grant funding but for broader recycling public and private investment across the state. NextCycle Michigan grant application support begins with the online application portal and the NextCycle Michigan program website. The NextCycle Michigan website provides data driven recycling gap information, specific opportunities to improve Michigan's recycling systems, access to best practice solutions and success stories, funding partnerships, and provides guidance on the project development process.

Successful EGLE grant applicants are expected to leverage the NextCycle Michigan

technical support and resources as they move forward with their applications in response to this RFP. The State of Michigan sponsored partnership and innovation platform (see NextCycleMichigan.com) has been provided to guide the applicant through four key steps in developing the quality of projects that these grants target. Applicants should check through these four stages as they proceed through the grant development process, checking off each of the stages as part of a grant application submittal.

The NextCycle Michigan Recycling Grants have the following categories:

1. Michigan Recycling Infrastructure Grants
These grants are designed to increase the statewide recycling rate, with the goal of achieving a 45 percent statewide recycling rate by 2025. Additionally, the Recycling Infrastructure Grants work to increase collection and processing capacity of recyclable materials or food waste and increase access and participation rates in recycling or food waste composting programs while promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion across Michigan, and they will support Governor Whitmer's climate change priorities through measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Michigan Recycling Market Development Grants
These grants are designed to create new markets or expand existing markets and create supply chains for recycled materials, as well as stimulate demand for recycled materials and recycled content products and strong supply chains to feed that demand. In addition, these grants aim to assist businesses that manufacture, market, and use recycled-content products while building diversity, equity, and inclusion. These grants will also commercialize technologies to replace materials with recycled content; to improve the quality, increase the quantity, and grow demand for utilizing recycled materials in manufacturing or other uses; and facilitate research and development of new uses for recycled materials.
3. Michigan Small Community Education Grants
These grants are designed to help small communities access education and outreach resources to improve local recycling programs, reduce contamination, and further educate residents. This grant program is a collaboration between EGLE and [The Recycling Partnership](#), a nonprofit action agent transforming the U.S. residential recycling system for good.

These NextCycle Michigan Recycling Grants are critical for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of Michigan residents, and are not only important for facilitation of safe management of waste materials, but also help to maintain the flow of vital materials for Michigan manufacturing. Additionally, increasing access to recycling opportunities and expanding local recycling end-use markets will result in water savings, energy savings, local job creation, and will support Governor Whitmer's climate change priorities through measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

B. GRANT RESPONSE TIMELINE

Under this common RFP application for FY 2022, Michigan Market Development Grants will be awarded in three separate rounds and Michigan Recycling Infrastructure Grants will have a single round. The application deadlines for each round are outlined in Table 1 below:

| Grant Opportunity | Application Deadline |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Michigan Market Development Grants | January 7, 2022 |
| Michigan Recycling Infrastructure Grants and Michigan Market Development Grants | April 20, 2022 |
| Michigan Market Development Grants | June 30, 2022 |
| Michigan Small Community Education Grants | On-going until all funds distributed |

Table 1: Michigan Recycling Grant Application Deadlines

Grant funding requests must be completed and submitted through the following website: Webportalapp.com/sp/EGLE_recycling_grant_program. Note that EGLE may release additional RFP Guidance that adds or modifies project grant categories, available funding, and application process dates. Potential applicants should check Michigan.gov/MIRecycles for the latest releases of any additional RFP Guidance and sign up for the EGLE Grants and Loans listserv for notifications: Public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIDEQ/subscriber/new.

C. PROJECT GRANT OBJECTIVES

Project proposals must describe how the project aligns with the objectives as applicable:

All NextCycle Michigan Recycling Grants:

- Target specific recycling gaps/opportunities with best practice solutions.
- Target solutions that leverage added public/private investment.
- Target solutions that can be scaled across the state.
- Target increasing the statewide recycling rate to 45 percent by 2025, while building diversity, equity, and inclusion across Michigan.
- Target benefits for an environmental justice community, underserved, or vulnerable populations within a community.
- Target climate change priorities through measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by diverting material from disposal.
- Target economic and environmental impacts, including greenhouse gas reduction, jobs created, water saved, energy saved, or other positive environmental and economic outcomes.
- Target benefits that exceed costs, including societal benefits to the target community that justifies the investment.

Michigan Recycling Infrastructure Grants specific targets:

- Projects that increase collection and processing capacity of recyclable materials or food waste.
- Projects that increase access to recycling or food waste composting infrastructure.
- Projects that increase participation rates in recycling or food waste composting programs.

Michigan Market Development Grants specific targets:

- Create new markets or expand existing markets and supply chains for recycled materials.
- Stimulate demand for recycled materials and recycled content products.
- Assist businesses that manufacture, market, and use recycled-content products to ensure pool of applications are diverse and inclusive and provide opportunities for both public and private sectors.
- Commercialize technologies to replace materials with recycled content, to improve the quality, increase the quantity, and grow demand for utilizing recycled materials in manufacturing or other uses.
- Research and development of new uses for recycled materials.

Michigan Small Community Education Grants specific targets:

- Provide access to recycling education resources for small communities (fewer than 10,000 households).

D. ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants for Michigan Recycling Infrastructure Grants are non-profit organizations, tribal governments, school districts, universities/colleges, local health departments, regional planning agencies, cities, villages, townships, charter townships, counties, municipal solid waste authorities, and resource recovery authorities located in Michigan.

Eligible applicants for Michigan Recycling Market Development Grants are businesses, non-profit organizations, tribal governments, school districts, universities/colleges, local health departments, regional planning agencies, cities, villages, townships, charter townships, counties, municipal solid waste authorities, and resource recovery authorities located in Michigan.

Eligible applicants for Michigan Small Community Education Grants are nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, regional planning agencies, cities, villages, townships, charter townships, counties, municipal solid waste authorities, or a resource recovery authorities located in Michigan serving fewer than 10,000 households with a curbside and/or drop-off recycling program.

Preference will be given to communities that face historic environmental or socio-economic disparities.

Eligible applicants must be able to confirm the endpoint of materials collected or processed using items purchased with grant dollars. It is expected that grant-funded items will be deployed and utilized in a material management system where collected materials are directed to market for manufacture of new products and are not disposed.

All grant applicants must follow electronic submission and vendor registration requirements as requested by the program. To be considered for multiple grants, eligible entities must submit separate applications for each project. Links to the online application forms are found on the [grants online portal](#).

Applicants selected for funding will be required to register with the SIGMA Vendor Self Service web site at Sigma.Michigan.gov/Webapp/PRDVSS2X1/AltSelfService.

Applicants cannot appear on the Federal Debarment and Suspension List. The list can be searched through the federal System for Award Management (www.sam.gov).

Applicants must be in good standing with EGLE programs. Within the 24 months immediately preceding the RFP:

No EGLE grant terminated for cause.

No demonstrated inability to sign an agreement in a timely fashion, manage a grant, or meet the obligations in a project with EGLE.

The minimum grant funds an applicant may request is \$5,000. Applicants may resubmit unsuccessful applications in future grant cycles.

All grant recipients are encouraged to register and enter program information within the Michigan Recycling Directory, and/or the Michigan Materials Marketplace, as applicable. The [Michigan Recycling Directory](#) and the [Michigan Materials Marketplace](#) are online recycling directories sponsored by EGLE.

E. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The eligible projects and activities for each Project Grant Category are as follows:

MICHIGAN RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

The maximum amount of funding that can be requested for a Recycling Infrastructure Grant is \$1,000,000. The minimum grant funds an applicant may request is \$5,000. Applicants are required to pledge matching funds at least equal to 20 percent of the total grant budget but are encouraged to consider higher match percentages.

The Michigan Recycling Infrastructure Grants will have one submission date in 2022. Applications must be submitted by April 20, 2022.

Eligible Recycling Infrastructure Grants include but are not limited to:

The transition from recycling bins to carts, public space recycling containers, creation, or enhancement of public drop-off recycling, new or improved recycling processing infrastructure, school recycling projects, collection vehicles, and multi-family recycling projects. Ineligible projects include household hazardous waste projects, electronic waste recycling projects, scrap tire recycling projects, and one-day collection events.

Curbside Collection Carts: Wheeled, covered carts for existing or new curbside recycling or food waste collection programs. Grantees would be expected to contract for purchase, distribution, and servicing of curbside carts. Grant eligible expenses include cost of carts, shipping, assembly, and distribution. Metrics will include reductions in carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e), collection volume, participation, and/or access increase, which align with the priorities of the NextCycle Michigan Program. Applicants that receive concurrent cart funding through The Recycling Partnership (www.recyclingpartnership.org) will be given additional consideration. **Collection Vehicles:** Recycling or food waste collection vehicle for new program or expansion of existing program. Grantee would be expected to purchase vehicle(s), establish routes, and train drivers. The grant eligible expense is the vehicle purchase. Metrics will include reductions in CO₂e, collection volume, participation, and/or access increases, which align with the priorities of the NextCycle Michigan Program.

Drop-off Infrastructure: Constructing and equipping new drop-off sites, as well as improvements to existing drop-off sites that achieve significant increase in collection/processing or participation/access, such as additional collection containers, additional equipment/vehicles, and additional storage buildings. Site improvements such as paving, lighting, cameras, fencing, and replacement items, must be able to demonstrate significant increases in volume collected/processed or participation/access to be competitive. Grantee would be expected to purchase and install items, oversee any construction activities, contract for collection services, operate and maintain drop-off center. Grant eligible expenses include purchase, shipping, and installation of site improvements, as well as costs associated with new construction. Metrics will include reductions in CO₂e, collection volume, participation, and/or access increases, which align with the priorities of the NextCycle Michigan Program.

Multi-Family Infrastructure: Indoor and outdoor containers, signage, and other associated site improvements. Grantee would be expected to purchase and install items, secure partnerships with property owners, contract for collection services (as applicable), and oversee construction activities. Grant eligible expenses may include recycling containers, signage, associated site improvements, shipping, and installation. Metrics will include reductions in CO₂e, collection volume, participation, and/or access increases, which align with the priorities of the NextCycle Michigan Program.

Public Space Infrastructure: Recycling or food waste bins for parks, schools, institutions, offices, events, etc. Grantees would be expected to purchase and install items, contract for collection services, secure partnerships with property owners, and provide education elements. Grant eligible expenses may include dual waste and recycling containers (“twinned bins”), shipping, installation, and signage. Metrics will include reductions in CO₂e, collection volume, participation, and/or access increases, which align with the priorities of the NextCycle Michigan Program.

Processing Infrastructure: Equipment needed for processing recyclable materials. Grantees would be expected to contract for design, purchase, and installation of items, train staff, operate and maintain equipment. Grant eligible expenses include design, purchase, and installation of equipment. Metrics will include reductions in CO2e, increased processing capacity, which align with the priorities of the NextCycle Michigan Program.

Other notes on eligibility for the Michigan Recycling Infrastructure Grant:

- Capital expense and associated installation and service costs that meet the objectives of the project are eligible for grant funding.
- Site improvements such as paving, lighting, and fencing are eligible for grant funding, but must be able to demonstrate significant increases in volume collected/processed or participation/access to be competitive. The State reserves the right to seek changes to proposals that include site improvements.
- To be eligible for grant funding, food waste projects must focus on collection infrastructure, such as curbside collection carts, containers for drop-off collection sites, public space collection bins, or collection vehicles. Food waste processing infrastructure is not eligible for funding under the 2022 Michigan Recycling Infrastructure Grant. Please see the Michigan Recycling Market Development Grant, NextCycle Michigan Innovation Challenge, or MICROS grant opportunities if seeking funding for food waste processing projects.
- Recycling infrastructure grants are designed for projects that have proven feasibility and are “shovel-ready”, needing only funding support to implement. If a project is lacking a detailed workplan, budget, or sustainable funding structure, an applicant may be directed toward the Michigan Recycling Market Development Grant, NextCycle Michigan Innovation Challenge, or MICROS grant as a more appropriate opportunity.
- Recycling Infrastructure Projects will also be evaluated for alignment with the State’s climate priorities as determined by the [Council on Climate Solutions](#).

MICHIGAN RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Michigan Recycling Market Development Grants are designed to complement the NextCycle Michigan Initiative, which serves as an incubator to ready projects for investment and leverages public private investment to amplify impact and grow Michigan’s circular economy. The following Recycling Market Development categories are available for funding.

NextCycle Michigan Innovation Challenge Grants: Projects in this category may request up to \$500,000 with a required minimum match of 50 percent. Note: The State reserves the right to adjust the match amount/percentage to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion in the pool of applicants. Applicants must have successfully competed as a Team in any of the Innovation Challenge Tracks. All the following Innovation Challenge Track Teams are eligible for this funding.

Foods, Liquids, and Organic Waste Flows (FLOWS) – Successful applicants must improve Michigan’s organic waste reduction, recovery, processing, and end markets.

Intergovernmental Initiatives and Public/Private Partnerships (I2P3) – Successful applicants must create or design regional collaborations, public private partnerships, and innovative municipal programs for recycling system efficiencies and growth that improve access and recovery.

Recycling, Innovation and Technology (RIT) – Successful applicants must develop a business that best innovates new material processing methods, sorting technologies, or recycled product designs.

Roadways (ROADS) – Successful applicants must include recycled material content in road, parking lot, trail, and/or bike path projects with the potential to improve end markets for tires, glass, plastics, and organics (along with other recyclables) in Michigan while creating a resilient regional closed loop economy.

Recycling Supply Chains (RSC) – Successful applicants must increase material collection and/or processing through improved hub and spoke efficiencies, processing, logistics, or material end market innovation.

NextCycle Micro Project Grants: Projects in this category can request up to \$10,000 with no match required for development of NextCycle Michigan projects including but not limited to Innovation Challenge Track project teams. These reimbursable expenses can be for data collection, analysis, research, or any other approved expense to facilitate a team’s continuation in the NextCycle process.

Project Development Grants: Projects in this category may request up to \$100,000 with a required minimum match of 50 percent. Note: The State reserves the right to adjust the match amount/percentage to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion in the pool of applicants. The following Project Development Grant types are eligible.

Feasibility Analysis and Business Plan Development – to develop and evaluate a proposed eligible project, system, or solution on all its key elements (technical, economic, legal, operations, organization and management, market opportunity and scheduling considerations) to determine the cost/resources required and the value to be attained – to ascertain the likelihood of the project being completed successfully and provide information upon which future go/no-go decisions can be based.

Analysis, Data Collection, and Facilitation – Market analyses, data collection, evaluation, and facilitated interactive dialogue among key players in the recycled materials valuechain. The applicant must clearly describe and quantify how the project will result in stronger recycling markets and greenhouse gas reduction in Michigan. Additionally, grant applications will be selected in this category for projects that analyze Michigan’s progress toward achieving recycling rate and waste minimization goals

Research and Testing – Materials testing, equipment evaluation, certification, research, and other activities designed to be a step in the development of a new product containing recycled content or development of a technology that will result in the growth of recycling

markets in Michigan by improving the quality or quantity of recycled material. Applicant must clearly describe how the research and testing will result in the development of recycled materials end-markets in Michigan.

Marketing – Marketing to increase use of a recycled content product, inform consumers on the correct use and benefits of using the recycled content product, or train or inform users, vendors and clients on the benefits or use of the product. The applicant must clearly describe and quantify, how the results of the marketing effort will positively impact the use of recycled materials in Michigan, and reduction in greenhouse gas production or otherwise support climate change initiatives.

Project Implementation Grants: Projects in this category may request up to \$500,000 with a required minimum match of 50 percent. Note: The State reserves the right to adjust the match amount/percentage to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion in the pool of applicants. The following Project Implementation Grant types are eligible.

Sorting and Processing Equipment – Purchase of sorting and processing equipment that will improve the quality of recycled materials for use in a Michigan end-use market. Examples include, but are not limited to, optical and robotic sorters, granulators, densifiers, etc. The applicant must clearly describe how the equipment will facilitate delivery to an end-market and reduce greenhouse gas generation in Michigan.

Recycled Content Product Commercialization and Use – large scale projects that will result in a significant increase in use of recycled materials in a product made in Michigan. Projects may include research, testing, marketing, sorting, and processing equipment, analysis, and data collection with the result being a product or use of recycled materials that results in substantial waste diversion. The applicant must clearly describe how the project will result in a significant increase in recycled materials use and greenhouse gas reduction.

Targeted Partnership Projects – Material specific market development activities supported by industry trade organizations, manufacturers, national brands, or non-profits – designed to achieve clear material specific market development outcomes through Michigan based market development activities. The targeted Applicant is the lead organization for implementing the Michigan based Partnership Project (e.g., a MRF in Michigan) with the industry funding partner for the targeted Partnership Project providing the targeted Applicant with a letter of commitment for matching grant funds (e.g., an equipment grant for the MRF) that clearly outlines the required terms and conditions for distribution of those funds. In addition to describing outcomes, the application must describe the due-diligence and financial management process for the Partnership Project. Projects that are designed to directly address climate change and greenhouse gas reduction will receive priority

MICHIGAN SMALL COMMUNITY EDUCATION GRANTS

The grant is accessed through an [online platform](#) where grantees can select and customize a variety of templates that will be printed and sent directly to residents. There is no match requirement for this grant opportunity. All outreach costs are included – design, printing, and mailing. Material options include info postcards, top issue postcards, magnet

postcards, information sheets, cart tags, and dumpster signage, which can be customized with a local logo, website, and phone number and are provided in a bilingual format (English and Spanish).

The program is open now through October 2022. Grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis until allotted funds are disbursed. For additional information, please visit RecyclingPartnership.org/MI-EGLE.

F. INELIGIBLE GRANT ACTIVITIES

The following activities are ineligible under the **FY 2022 Michigan Recycling Infrastructure Grant**. This list may not be exhaustive.

- Administration of projects that are a part of an entity's regulatory responsibility.
- Implementation of other activities deemed inappropriate under contract management standards.
- Lobbying or directly influencing legislative decision-making.
- All grant and matching funding may only be used for eligible items. Staff time, indirect costs, and in-kind services are not eligible for a grant or match funding. Grantee matching contributions may only be in dollars.
- Salaries, including expenses related to employment of graduate students, to complete the objectives listed above are not eligible for reimbursement for Michigan Recycling Infrastructure Grants.
- Registrations, licenses or permits, fees, taxes, insurance, training costs, office equipment (including computers), indirect or overhead expenses, grant administration, staff expenses, household hazardous waste projects, one-day collection events, electronic waste recycling projects, scrap tire recycling projects, and the purchase of real property are not eligible for reimbursement for Recycling Infrastructure Grants.
- In some cases, there will be significant ineligible costs that are required to implement the project. These costs may be listed and defined to describe applicant support of the project more completely.
- The grantee fiduciary entity will serve as the responsible party to EGLE grant agreement and should be an active partner in the grant project.
- The following activities are ineligible under the FY 2022 Michigan Recycling Market Development Grant, this list may not be exhaustive:
 - Administration of projects that are a part of an entity's regulatory responsibility.
 - Implementation of other activities deemed inappropriate under contract management standards.
 - Lobbying or directly influencing legislative decision-making.

G. FUNDING SOURCE AND GRANT AMOUNTS

The funding for this program is made available through the Renew Michigan Fund created

in Act 281 of 1967, The Income Tax Act of 1967, as amended.

A total of \$15,000,000.00 is available for NextCycle Recycling Grant projects in FY 2022.

Grantees may be offered partial funding. EGLE may add or subtract money from this grant program at its discretion.

Match funding contributions may come from private, non-profit, foundation, municipal or other partners. Potential local match funding sources may include other grants, bond monies, loans, cash, public partnerships, public/private partnerships, etc. The State reserves the right to adjust the match amount/percentage to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion.

All grant applicants must follow electronic submission and vendor registration requirements as requested by the program.

Applications will be reviewed, and grants will be awarded in three rounds, the application deadline for each round of awards are on the following dates: January 7, 2022, April 20, 2022, and June 30, 2022.

H. SELECTION CRITERIA

Michigan Recycling Infrastructure Grants awards will be offered based upon the following criteria:

- Projects that support Governor Whitmer's climate change priorities through measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Projects that will benefit an environmental justice community or underserved and vulnerable populations within a community.
- Projects that address diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Projects that address infrastructure related gaps identified in the 2021 GAP Analysis (Resource Recycling Systems, 2021)
- Programs with the largest projected increases in processing or collection capacity volume and/or access and participation.
- Projects with clearly stated goals and quantitative success metrics that are clearly described.
- Programs with best supporting data for the projected increases described above.
- Programs with sustainable funding mechanisms in place.
- Programs that currently provide or propose robust, continuing education programs with sustainable funding, particularly programs addressing contamination if applicable.
- Applicants with demonstrated ability to collaborate and partner with other groups and organizations that have secured the necessary support and commitments to accomplish the objectives of the proposal.
- Within the project area, the proposal supports the grant objectives outlined above.
- The grant recipient must be able to enter into a legal agreement with the State of Michigan and must be in compliance and good standing with the State's

environmental department.

Recycling Market Development Grants awards will be offered based upon the following criteria:

- Projects that support Governor Whitmer’s climate change priorities through measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Projects that will benefit an environmental justice community or underserved and vulnerable populations within a community.
- Projects that address diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- An assessment of the benefits vs costs.
- The project goals are clearly stated, and success is quantitatively defined.
- Within the project area, the proposal supports the grant objectives outlined above.
- The proposal contains a clear and well-developed project narrative, work-plan, timeline, and budget.
- The applicant has demonstrated an ability to collaborate and partner with other groups and organizations, as applicable; and has secured the necessary support and commitments to accomplish the objectives of the proposal.
- The grant recipient must be able to enter into a legal agreement with the State of Michigan and must be in compliance and good standing with EGLE.
- Projects that use the grant funds to secure other sources of capital (grants, loans, investment) or otherwise leverage the funds to gain additional support or investment.
- Projects with the best supporting data.
- Projects that demonstrate a long-term commitment.
- Projects that create circularity in the recycling market for Michigan businesses and/or communities. For purposes of this grant, circularity means returning materials back to the manufacturing or use process by closing the loop and creating a system of material flow that enables resources to return for a second use.
- Projects that result in increased capacity to manage challenging materials streams or otherwise create increased demand for materials currently being disposed.
- Projects that demonstrate the largest measurable economic and environmental impacts, including greenhouse gas reduction, jobs created, water saved, energy saved, or other positive environmental and economic outcomes.

Michigan Small Community Education Grants awards will be offered based upon the following criteria:

Grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis until allotted funds are disbursed.

During the grant review process, applicants may be contacted for clarification and for the purpose of negotiating changes in project activities, timelines, and grant amounts, within the parameters outlined in the application instructions.

I. APPLICATION PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

To be considered complete, an application must include all steps and components listed

below, and the “Applicant Signatory” on the application cover sheet must be signed.

Incomplete responses may result in a determination that the application is not eligible for funding.

J. PROJECT PROPOSAL

Grant funding requests must be completed and submitted on the following website:
Webportalapp.com/sp/egle_recycling_grant_program

K. APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Proposals are due no later than 5:00 p.m. EST, on the Proposal Due Dates. Applicants must submit supporting documentation by the relevant due date above. Supporting documentation may include financial audit, and letters of commitment; letters of partnership or community support, price quote(s), photographs, calculations, data, and other substantiating information. Entities receiving more than \$500,000 or more in grant funding will be required to submit a financial audit.

L. GRANT AWARD

Grantees will be notified of their funding status once EGLE’s Director approves the final funding recommendations.

M. ASSISTANCE

For general inquiries regarding this RFP, please contact the appropriate recycling specialist using the contact information below.

Michigan Market Development Grants

Matt Flechter
FlechterM@michigan.gov
517-614-7353

Michigan Recycling Infrastructure Grants

Emily Freeman
FreemanE@michigan.gov
517-256-9466

Michigan Small Community Education Grants

Emily Freeman
FreemanE@michigan.gov
517-256-9466

N. PROJECT CLARIFICATION/REVISIONS

During the grant review process, applicants may be contacted for clarification and for the purpose of negotiating changes in project activities, timetable, and grant amounts. EGLE reserves the right to award grants for amounts other than those requested, adjust the match amount/percentage to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion, and/or request changes to, or clarification of, the proposed work plan.

O. NON-DUPLICATIVE PROGRAMS

Funds from the FY 2022 Recycling Grant Program cannot be used to supplant federal, state, or local financial commitments.

P. ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL CONTENT

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a grant agreement with EGLE after accepting the grant award. A grant agreement consists of standard boilerplate language, the applicant's approved work plan, timetable, and budget.

Successful applicants may be required to review the grant award agreement with EGLE staff prior to final agreement acceptance.

Failure of a successful applicant to accept the obligations outlined in the final agreement boilerplate may result in withdrawal or cancellation of the grant. EGLE reserves the right to offer partial funding for any grant proposal.

Q. CONFIDENTIALITY

All information and materials regarding this grant are subject to the Freedom of Information Act. If the grantee selects to provide business sensitive information that may be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, Act 442 of 1976, [Legislature.Mi.Gov/doc.aspx?mcl-15-243](https://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-15-243), the applicant shall clearly describe the reason for the requested exemption and identify the information for which the exemption is requested.

R. GRANT AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVED APPLICANTS

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a standard grant agreement with EGLE. Project costs incurred prior to entering into an agreement signed by both parties will not be reimbursed. There will be limited opportunities for negotiation prior to entry of a grant agreement. Opportunities to modify a signed agreement will also be limited. Failure of a successful applicant to accept the obligations outlined in the standard agreement may result in withdrawal of the grant. EGLE reserves the right to offer partial funding for any approved applicants. If partial funding is offered to an approved applicant, the applicant will be required to provide the necessary matching funds needed to complete the project. The original application becomes part of the grant agreement, along with changes that may occur during contract negotiation. Additional requirements relevant to an individual project may be specified in the grant agreement. The grant agreement will stipulate a project period during which the project must be completed, and all expenditures must be made. Successful applicants (grantees) must be prepared to agree to the

following minimum agreement conditions:

For the Michigan Recycling Infrastructure Grant, reimbursements will be for identified expenditures in the grant agreement. Grant reimbursements will be for up to 80 percent of the documented purchase expenditures, not to exceed the awarded grant amount, less a 5 percent retention amount that will be released upon approval of the final report. Reimbursement requests must be submitted by September 30, 2024. The final project report is due six months after the infrastructure item(s) have been purchased, installed, and/or constructed, but no later than September 30, 2025. Grantees must agree to supply data related to the project for up to five years from the project end date as requested by EGLE.

For the Recycling Market Development Grant, reimbursements will be for identified expenditures in the grant agreement. Grant reimbursements will be for the documented purchase expenditures, not to exceed the awarded grant amount, less a 5 percent retention amount that will be released upon approval of the final report. Reimbursement requests must be submitted by September 30, 2024.

All grants are paid through a reimbursement process. All grantees will submit proof of payment (i.e., canceled checks, ACH, wire transfer confirmations, bank statements, etc.) and proof of receipt of goods to EGLE proving that the vendor has been paid prior to receiving reimbursement from the grant program. Reimbursement must be requested in conjunction with required, quarterly progress reports.

All education, outreach, and publicity products shall acknowledge that the project was supported in whole or in part by the EGLE Recycling Grant Program. Where possible, these products should be printed double-sided on recycled content paper.

II. Works Cited

Resource Recycling Systems. (2021). *GAP Analysis 2021 Update*. Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. Retrieved from <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f3e9fa5d3d16b05bd898b17/t/616e0edba7d0b62df57518a/1634603114916/2021-Gap-Analysis-Update-FINAL.pdf>