



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

EGLE Recycling Infrastructure Grant

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Issue Date: October 24, 2025

Response Due: January 28, 2026

**Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
525 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan 48933**

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EGLE Recycling Program Request for Proposals

PART I GENERAL INFORMATION

I-A Purpose

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Recycling Unit is offering grants for recycling infrastructure projects. The State anticipates the grant period will start September 2026 and will end on September 30, 2028.

I-B Program Description

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) 2026, EGLE will provide matching grants to support Governor Gretchen Whitmer's climate priorities by supplementing efforts to increase access to recycling services and grow the statewide recycling rate.

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 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 avoiding energy consumption associated with the mining and extraction of virgin materials, and reducing methane emissions from landfills. As reported in EGLE's NextCycle Michigan Recycling Gap Analysis (Resource Recycling Systems, 2023-2024), achieving a 45 percent recycling rate in Michigan will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 6.8 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent annually. This corresponds to the annual energy consumption of more than 800,000 households (approximately 20 percent of Michigan households), or the annual emissions of nearly 1.4 million passenger vehicles.

These grants are crucial 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 also has other positive impacts including water and energy savings and local job creation.

Applicants must consider the following program objectives, priorities, and tasks in the planning of their proposal.

i. Program Objectives

- a. Increase access to recycling infrastructure while building diversity, equity, and inclusion across Michigan.
 - b. Increase collection and processing capacity of recyclable materials.
 - c. Increase participation rate in existing recycling programs.
- ii. Program Priorities
- a. Programs with the largest projected increases in processing or collection capacity volume and/or access and participation.
 - b. Programs with sustainable funding mechanisms in place.
 - c. Programs that currently provide or propose robust, continuing education programs.
 - d. Applicants with demonstrated ability to collaborate and partner with other groups and organizations.
 - e. Applicants that consulted with [EGLE Recycling Program staff](#) in the process of project development.
 - f. Projects that leverage concurrent project funding from other sources, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), The Recycling Partnership, Carton Council, Foam Recycling Coalition, Closed Loop Fund, Michigan Soft Drink Association, American Beverage Association, or local foundations or businesses.
 - g. Projects that support Governor Whitmer’s climate change priorities through measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
 - h. Projects that will benefit an environmental justice community or underserved and vulnerable populations within a community.
- iii. Applicant Tasks
- NOTE: Applicants must clearly and succinctly explain how they will accomplish each required task below **during the grant period.***
- a. Purchase of infrastructure items
 - b. Installation of infrastructure items
 - c. Assess and report impact of new infrastructure items

I-C Grant Award

A total of \$6 million in funding is expected to be available. The maximum amount of funding that can be requested for a grant is \$1 million and the minimum grant funds an applicant may request is \$5,000. Applicants must provide a complete Budget using the budget section of the online application form. Budgets must be itemized and be accompanied by a narrative which adequately describes each budget category. This is a reimbursement-based opportunity, costs must be incurred and paid before they are reimbursed.

All applicants must provide a minimum 20 percent of the total grant amount requested but are encouraged to consider higher match percentages. Reference section IV-A for details on acceptable match types. The sum of the State share plus the Recipient share of allowable costs will equal the total allowable project cost.

Grantees may be offered partial funding. EGLE may add or subtract money from the EGLE Recycling Infrastructure Grant program at its discretion.

The Recycling Unit will award funds to applicants that agree to the terms set forth in this Request for Proposals (RFP) and the [Grant Agreement](#). The Recycling Unit, an entity within EGLE, will be the primary contact with selected applicants to negotiate the scope of work, budget, reporting periods, report format, and reporting content. All other requirements are non-negotiable. Funds must be expended by **September 30, 2028**.

I-D Eligibility Criteria

For purposes of this RFP, the following types of entities located in Michigan are eligible to apply:

- non-profit organizations,
- tribal governments,
- public school districts,
- universities/colleges,
- local health departments,
- regional planning agencies,
- cities, villages, townships, charter townships, counties,
- municipal solid waste authorities, and
- resource recovery authorities.

Eligible Recycling Infrastructure Grants include *but are not limited to*:

The transition from recycling bins to carts, new or improved public drop-off recycling, new or improved recycling processing infrastructure, school recycling projects, collection vehicles, multi-family recycling projects, and foam recycling projects that leverage financial support from the foodservice packaging industry.

Ineligible projects include organics/food waste projects, household hazardous waste projects, scrap tire recycling projects, one-day collection events, foam recycling projects that do not leverage financial support from the foodservice packaging industry, private school district projects, public space recycling containers, glass crushers for use in mixed recycling operations, and open top/uncovered collection containers that will be stored outside.

Curbside Collection Carts: Wheeled, covered carts for existing or new curbside recycling 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. Carts may be stamped with the names/logos of the community or public sector recycling program, but not with the name of an individual person, staffer, official, or private sector contractor/business.

Applicants that receive concurrent cart project funding through The Recycling

Partnership will be given additional consideration. Please contact Vincent Leray with The Recycling Partnership for further information:
VLeray@RecyclingPartnership.org.

Collection Vehicles: Recycling collection vehicles for new programs or expansion of existing programs. Grantee would be expected to purchase vehicle(s), establish routes, and train drivers. The grant's eligible expense is the vehicle purchase. Metrics will include reductions in CO₂e, collection volume, participation, and/or access increases.

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 for traditional recyclables (ex: paper, metal, plastic, glass, cardboard) and hard-to-recycle materials (ex: batteries, electronic waste, mattresses, construction & demolition waste), such as additional collection containers, additional equipment/vehicles, and additional storage buildings. Site improvements such as paving, lighting, cameras, fencing, and replacement or maintenance 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. Grant funding does not include pre-construction costs (ex: design, engineering, consulting, bid process) or downpayments and partial payments. Metrics will include reductions in CO₂e, collection volume, participation, and/or access increases. Applicants that receive concurrent drop-off site project funding through The Recycling Partnership will be given additional consideration. Please contact Rob Taylor with The Recycling Partnership for further information:
rtaylor@recyclingpartnership.org.

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. Open top or uncovered collection containers for outdoor use are not eligible expenses. Metrics will include reductions in CO₂e, collection volume, participation, and/or access increases. Applicants that receive concurrent multi-family project funding through The Recycling Partnership will be given additional consideration. Please contact Craig Wittig with The Recycling Partnership for further information:
CWittig@RecyclingPartnership.org.

Processing Infrastructure: Equipment needed for processing recyclable materials. Grantees would be expected to contract for design, engineering,

purchase, and installation of items, as well as train staff, operate, and maintain equipment. Grant eligible expenses include construction, shipping, and installation of equipment. Metrics will include reductions in CO₂e, and increased processing capacity. Glass crushers for use in facilities that process mixed recyclables are not eligible for funding through this grant program. Applicants that receive concurrent processing infrastructure funding through The Recycling Partnership will be given additional consideration. Please contact Rob Taylor with The Recycling Partnership for further information: rtaylor@recyclingpartnership.org.

Other notes on eligibility for the Michigan Recycling Infrastructure Grant:

- Subcontractor costs associated with shipping, assembly, and installation of the infrastructure items are eligible for grant funding.
- Infrastructure items purchased through a subcontractor must be billed separately from non-grant goods/services provided by that subcontractor. For example, if containers/carts are purchased through a recycling collection service subcontractor then a separate invoice must be provided for the containers/carts.
- Impacted facilities must have long-range plans for continued use.
- Construction projects must be located on property owned by the grantee entity.
- 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.
- Recycling infrastructure grants are designed for projects that have proven feasibility and are “shovel-ready”, needing only funding support to implement. If a project lacks a detailed workplan, budget, or sustainable funding structure, an applicant may be directed toward the NextCycle Michigan Accelerator Program as a more appropriate opportunity.
- If an infrastructure item purchased through this grant includes equipment purchases over \$10,000, it will require additional documentation, such as Lien or Uniform Commercial Code Filing, and the State of Michigan listed as the lienholder/creditor for 5 years, prior to reimbursement.
- If a project, once complete, would require an authorization or reauthorization under Part 115, the new authorization will need to be complete in order to receive final payment.

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 materials management system where collected materials are directed to market for manufacture of new products and are not disposed.

- Entities receiving \$500,000 or more in grant funding will be required to submit a financial audit.
- Grantees must agree to supply data related to the project for up to five years from the project end date as requested by EGLE.
- All grant recipients will be required to report material volumes collected/processed to the [EGLE Recycling Reporting platform](#) (via Re-TRAC).

I-E Ineligible Projects and Expenses

1. Projects deemed illegal under the law or inappropriate under contract management standards.
2. Projects considered scientifically unsound or that significantly increase risks to workers and/or the public.
3. Projects that will not be conducted in Michigan.
4. Projects involving the demonstration of non-commercially available equipment and technologies.
5. Projects that cannot be shared with or have restricted transferability to other entities in Michigan.
6. Projects that do not adhere to the State of Michigan authorization or permit requirements.
7. Projects that are deemed part of an entity's regulatory responsibility.
8. Ineligible projects include organics/food waste projects, household hazardous waste projects, scrap tire recycling projects, one day collection events, foam recycling projects that do not leverage financial support from the foodservice packaging industry, private school district projects, public space recycling containers, glass crushers for use in mixed recycling operations, and open top/uncovered collection containers that will be stored outside.
9. Lobbying or directly influencing legislative decision-making.
10. All grant and matching funding may only be used for eligible items. Staff time, indirect costs, and in-kind services are not eligible for grant or match funding. Grantee matching contributions may only be in dollars.
11. Salaries, including expenses related to employment of graduate students, are not eligible for reimbursement under the EGLE Recycling Infrastructure Grant.
12. Registrations, licenses or permits, environmental assessments, inspections, fees, taxes, insurance, training costs, office equipment (including computers), office supplies (ex: binders, notebooks, etc.)

indirect or overhead expenses, grant administration, staff expenses, pre-construction fees (ex: design, engineering), down payments or partial payments, equipment or facility rental, household hazardous waste projects, one-day collection events, scrap tire recycling projects, and the purchase of real property are not eligible for reimbursement under the EGLE Recycling Infrastructure Grants.

Additional notes about eligibility:

- In some cases, there will be significant ineligible costs that are required to implement the project. These costs may be listed separately to describe applicant support for the project more completely.
- The grantee fiduciary entity will serve as the responsible party to the EGLE grant agreement and should be an active partner in the grant project.
- 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.

I-F Issuing Office and Point of Contact

This Request for Proposals (RFP) has been issued by EGLE's Recycling Unit. All questions regarding this solicitation should be directed to:

Emily Freeman
Freemane@Michigan.gov

I-G Changes to the RFP and Responses to Questions

Any written answers to questions, changes, and/or clarifications will be posted at: Michigan.gov/MIRecycles

I-H Proposals

To be considered, applicants must submit a complete response to this RFP, addressing the Program Objectives, Program Priorities, and Applicant Tasks listed in the Program Description I-B, and using the format and attachments provided in the [EGLE Recycling Infrastructure Grant online application](#). Applicants must also submit all supporting documentation by the due date below. Supporting documentation may include letters of commitment, letters of partnership or community support, price quotes, photographs, calculations, data, financial audit, and other substantiating information. Please note that letters of commitment, partnership, or support should not be authored by the applicant entity or a subcontractor of the applicant entity.

I-I Response Date

Proposals must be submitted by 5:00 PM on January 28, 2026.

PART II INFORMATION REQUIRED FROM APPLICANTS.

Online Application

Complete the [Online Application](#). Questions marked with an asterisk (*) require a response. Applicable materials listed in Section II must be uploaded within the Online Application. Applicants can submit their completed Online Application by clicking “Submit” button on the bottom of the application page.

II-B Approved Budget Form

1. Applicant(s) must use the budget section of the online application form. All budget categories must be addressed. Please use “N/A” or “None” to indicate there are no costs associated with a given budget category.
2. All applicants must provide a **minimum 20 percent match** of the total grant request amount.
3. **Equipment** –All Equipment expenses must be justified in your proposal. For expense estimates, provide a rationale for the estimated cost (ex: price quote). Also, indicate whether the equipment is being used for other projects or is 100% dedicated to this project. Equipment purchases over \$10,000 will require additional documentation, such as Lien or Uniform Commercial Code Filing, and the State of Michigan listed as the lienholder/creditor for 5 years prior to reimbursement.
4. **Incurring Costs** – The State is not liable for any costs incurred by an applicant prior to issuance of a [Grant Agreement](#). The following documentation will be required by selected applicants to receive reimbursement:
 - a. Receipt/Invoice for cost incurred.
 - b. Proof of payment via bank statement, ACH payment, or scanned cashed check.

Note: *All match types (cash, in-kind, third-party) will be held to the same documentation requirements.*

Additional Budget Information:

1. In the event of a partially funded proposal, selected applicant(s) will be required to submit a revised proposal before entering into a Grant Agreement.
2. The selected applicant(s) assumes the responsibility for ensuring the grant project is performed within the established timeline.
3. If the entire State share of the grant award is expended, the entire matched funds must be spent and supported by source documentation. If the entire State share of the grant award is not spent, the matched funds may be reduced proportionately by the percentage of the grant award not spent.
4. Selected applicant(s) may not commingle award funds with current or future

- awards received from the EGLE Recycling Program. Financial assistance from each funding source must be managed, reported, and accounted for separately from all other funding sources.
5. Should selected applicant(s) cease business operations or dissolve the program established under the grant agreement, existing capital must be returned to the State of Michigan.
 6. Applicants that receive cumulative federal funding of over \$750,000, or that receive a single state award over \$500,000 are required to provide an A-133 single audit. Entities must submit the most recent copy of the A-133 or outside audit OR the most recent financial statements (balance sheet and income statement).

PART III SELECTION

All proposals received shall be subject to an evaluation by the Recycling Unit. The evaluation will be conducted in a manner appropriate to select the applicant(s) for the purpose of entering into a [Grant Agreement](#) to perform the proposed project within the established timeline. Initial screening of the applications will be conducted to ensure applicants and projects meet all eligibility requirements.

Proposals failing to meet the eligibility requirements described in Sections I-C, that do not comply with the requirements of the Grant Agreement, and/or which are incomplete, **will be rejected automatically.**

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

III-A Project Clarifications/Revisions

During the proposal review process, applicants may be contacted for clarification and for the purpose of negotiating changes in project activities, timetables, and budgeted costs. The Issuing Office reserves the right to award funds for an amount other than that requested and/or request changes to, or clarification of, the proposed project.

III-B Rejection of Proposals

The Recycling Unit reserves the right to reject all proposals received because of this RFP or to negotiate separately with any source whatsoever in any manner necessary to serve the best interest of the State and The Recycling Unit. The Recycling Unit will not pay for the information solicited or obtained as a result of a consultant/vendor's response to any RFP.

III-C Acceptance of Proposal Content

The contents of this RFP and the proposal of the selected applicant become grant obligations if a grant award ensues. Failure of the selected applicant to accept these obligations shall result in cancellation of the award.

Successful applicant(s) will be required to accept all terms and enter into a Grant Agreement with the State. The Agreement consists of standard contract language, applicant's work plan, timetable, and budget information, a compensation clause that adheres to guidelines in this solicitation, and terms and conditions that outline additional requirements.

PART IV ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

IV-A Acceptable Match Types

Applicants may use cash, bond proceeds, federal grants, financing, or loans from the applicant organization or a third-party, for some or all of their match. Match may be categorized as monetary from a third-party, or monetary from the applicant organization. Match is subject to the same backup documentation as expenses incurred.

IV-B SIGMA Vendor Registration

All selected applicants must be registered as a vendor of the State of Michigan on the SIGMA Vendor Self Services (VSS) before entering into a Grant Agreement. If you are an existing vendor and have an account in [Sigma VSS](#), please verify that all your account information is correct. If not, please use the [Sigma VSS](#) to register. This website is for the exclusive use of the vendors and individuals' intent on doing business with the State of Michigan and allows you to be paid if you are awarded a contract. **Your registration may take up to two weeks to be processed.**

IV-C News Releases

News releases (including press releases, press events or groundbreaking events, news articles, print or radio interviews, social media posts, promotional literature, and commercial advertisements) pertaining to the Grant or project to which it relates must not be made without prior written State approval, and then only in accordance with the explicit written instructions of the State.

IV-D Disclosure of Proposal Contents

All information in a bidder's proposal and any Grant resulting from this RFP is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 1976 Public Act No. 442, as amended, MCL 15.231, *et seq.*

IV-E Copyrighted Materials

See Section VI of the [Grant Agreement](#) for a summary of intellectual property provisions.

IV-F Prime Applicant Responsibilities

The selected applicant will be required to assume responsibility for all grant activities offered in the proposal whether or not that applicant performs them. Further, the State will consider the selected applicant (Recipient) to be the sole point of contact with regards to grant matters, including but not limited to payment of any and all costs resulting from the anticipated grant. The Recipient is responsible for adherence by the subcontractor to all provisions of the Grant. For additional information, see Section VII and VIII of the [Grant Agreement](#) for a summary of delegation provisions.

IV-G Partner Responsibilities

Organizations partnering with selected applicant(s) must comply with the requirements of the solicitation and will be held to the same standards as prime applicants.

IV-I Permit Requirements

All activities undertaken with grant funds must comply with State of Michigan authorization and permitting requirements. It is the Recipient's responsibility to acquire all necessary [environmental permits](#) prior to initiating the funded project.

IV-J Prevailing Wage Requirements

The State of Michigan House Bill 4007 established requirements for all public projects sponsored or financed by the state to follow prevailing wages and fringe benefits. Find the [current prevailing wage](#) and fringe benefit requirements for your county.