

Organics Grant Program - Overview

Fiscal Year 2014/15

Purpose

To lower overall greenhouse gas emissions by expanding existing capacity or establishing new facilities or food waste reduction projects in California to reduce the amount of California-generated greenwaste, food materials, and/or ADC being sent to a landfill(s). This will be a competitive grant program.

Eligible Applicants

- Local governments (cities, counties, and cities and counties) as defined in Public Resources Code Section 30109.
- Regional or local sanitation agencies, waste agencies, or Joint Powers Authorities.
- Solid waste service providers, owners/operators of solid waste facilities (e.g., landfills and transfer stations).
- Operators of composting or anaerobic digestion facilities or other related digestion or fermentation facilities.
- State agencies (including offices, departments, bureaus, and boards).
- The University of California, the California State University, or other public universities or colleges.
- Private, for-profit entities. For purposes of this program, a “private, for-profit entity” is defined as a business intended to operate at a profit and return a profit to its owners. This definition includes benefit corporations, as defined in Corporations Code section 14601(a). The business must be qualified to do business in California and in good standing with all applicable California state agencies, including, but not limited to, the Secretary of State and the Franchise Tax Board.
- Nonprofit organizations (except private schools) registered with the federal government under 501(c)3, (c)4, (c)6 or (c)10 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Qualifying Indian Tribes. A “Qualifying Indian Tribe” is defined as an Indian tribe, band, nation or other organized group or community, residing within the borders of California, which:
 1. Is recognized for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of the status of its members as Indians; or
 2. Can establish that it is a government entity and which meets the criteria of the grant program.

Project Requirements

Projects must be located in California and result in permanent, annual, and measurable:

1. Reductions in Green House Gas (GHG) emissions from the handling or landfilling of California-generated green and food materials; **and**
2. Increase in quantity (tons) of California-generated greenwaste, food materials, and/or ADC (a) diverted from a landfill(s) **and** (b) composted or digested.

Eligible Projects

- Construction, renovation or expansion of facilities in California that compost, anaerobically digest, or use other related digestion or fermentation processes to turn green or food materials into value-added products; this includes purchase of equipment and machinery and real estate improvements associated with the installation thereof. (Note: A facility may partner with another facility.)
- Food waste prevention projects, when partnered with a project described in the bullet above, that rescue edible food from becoming waste normally destined for landfills and results in increased food distribution to people, with any food waste residuals from the project being sent to composting or anaerobic digestion or other digestion or fermentation process when they are available within their service areas. (Note: For a food waste reduction component of a project, collection/delivery expenses are eligible as long as the project scope includes the delivery of rescued food to people in need and tracks the amounts.)

Ineligible Costs

- Costs incurred prior to the date of the Notice to Proceed letter or after the end of the Grant Term.

- The purchase or retrofitting of vehicles or containers for collection of feedstock. For a food waste prevention component of a project, collection/delivery expenses are eligible as long as the project scope includes the delivery of rescued food to people in need and tracks the amounts.
- Food waste dehydrators and liquefiers unless coupled with increased tons of California-generated greenwaste, food materials, and/or ADC (a) diverted from a landfill(s) and (b) being composted or digested.
- Salaries, permitting, and public education/outreach costs (sum total of all three) exceeding 5 percent of total amount requested. Design engineering exceeding 5 percent of total amount requested.
- The same activities or purposes already being funded through other agencies using Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds.
- Environmental review for project permitting, including the preparation of Environmental Impact Reports or related documents.
- Purchase or lease of land or buildings.
- Travel costs exceeding the state-approved rates for mileage, per diem, lodging, etc.
- Purchase of feedstocks. Purchase of offsets.
- Costs deemed unreasonable or not related to the grant project by the Grant Manager.

Scoring Criteria

- GHG emission reductions: GHGs reductions in metric tons of CO₂ equivalent (MTCO₂e) and in MTCO₂e per grant dollar spent.
- Total tons of additional organic material composted, digested, or prevented from becoming waste and tons per grant dollar spent.
- Disadvantaged communities- Provide economic benefits to these communities (as identified in the OEHHA CalEnviroScreen).
- Shovel readiness – Permits must either be in place or must be pending, so the project exhibits a high degree of readiness and is able to move forward quickly. Major permits may include: Air Quality Management District, Wastewater Discharge, Fire, Solid Waste Facility, and Conditional Use Permits. Provide status of CEQA process.
- Benefits for air and water quality.
- Amount and types of funding already secured and all other funding necessary to complete the proposed project (if applicable). Amount and types of expenditures already incurred to initiate work on the proposed project.
- Fiscal stability – e.g., information regarding financial soundness or past 3 years of balance sheets, profit/loss statements, and federal tax returns.

Funding

- \$3,000,000 maximum per award

Coordination with Air Resources Board

As part of project selection, monitoring, and ongoing reporting, CalRecycle will consult with Air Resources Board to ensure that the GHG emission reduction estimation methodologies are as consistent as practicable with methodologies used in other AB 32 program areas.