

Organics Grant Program - Overview

Fiscal Year 2014/15

Purpose

To lower overall greenhouse gas emissions by establishing new or expanding existing facilities or food waste reduction projects in California to reduce the amount of food and green materials being disposed in landfills. 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
- 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. Increases in tons of California generated green and food materials destined for landfilling either being prevented from disposal, composted, or digested annually

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
- 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 result 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 its service areas. (Note: For a food waste reduction component of a project, collection 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 the collection of feedstock
- Food waste dehydrators and liquefiers unless coupled with additional composting or digestion
- Salaries, permitting, and public education and outreach costs exceeding 5 percent of total amount requested

- For a food waste prevention component of a project, collection expenses are eligible as long as the project scope includes the delivery of rescued food to people in need and tracks the amounts.
- Funding for activities or purposes already being funded through other agencies using Cap and Trade money
- 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
- Costs deemed unreasonable or not related to the grant project by the Grant Manager

Scoring Criteria

- GHG emission reductions: metric tons of CO2 equivalent (MTCO2e) reduction per grant dollar spent
- Tons of organic material composted, digested, or prevented per grant dollar spent
- Environmentally burdened and economically vulnerable 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/Control District, Wastewater Discharge, Fire, Solid Waste Facility, and Conditional Use Permits. Completion of any required CEQA review
- Criteria pollutant reductions (including volatile organic compound (VOC) reductions)
- Air and water quality benefits
- In-kind services/matching funds – quantity of in-kind services and matching funds that have been or will be utilized to support the grant project
- Fiscal stability – e.g., information regarding financial soundness or past 3 years of P/L statements

Funding

- \$3,000,000 maximum per award

Tentative Timeline

| Dates | Activity and Details |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| December 2013 – February 2014 | Criteria Development |
| February 2014 | Stakeholder Workshop |
| March 2014 | Criteria RFA Presentation |
| May 2014 | Application Release |
| August 2014 | Application Due Date |
| November 2014 | Grant Awards |