

Organics Grant Program - Scoring Criteria Cycle 4

Applicants must score a minimum of 60 points of a possible 100 points to be considered for funding.

Points	Description
25	<p>PROJECT DESCRIPTION, TONS OF ORGANIC MATERIAL COMPOSTED OR DIGESTED, AND GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSION REDUCTIONS</p> <p>Note: This section will be evaluated and scored based on clarity of responses, and the tons that will be diverted and corresponding GHG emission reductions resulting from the project.</p> <p>Project Description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a succinct summary of how green and food materials that are currently landfilled in California will instead be composted or digested and turned into compost, fertilizer, bioenergy, or biofuels as a direct result of this grant. • Describe and provide documentation supporting the origin of the feedstock materials, including jurisdiction(s) of origin for the materials, the name of the hauler(s), the type of collection or self-hauling program, and whether a franchise agreement, contract for collection or delivery of these materials is in place. Documentation may include a signed contract or franchise agreement, a letter of intent, or other documentation which shows the feedstock will be available by the time the project is operational. For haulers with a franchise agreement for the jurisdiction(s) in question, provide tonnage records to substantiate the claim. • Explain the function, purpose, and throughput capacity of all equipment and/or technology being purchased and/or built to execute the grant project. Provide a comprehensive description of each step of the process that will be utilized to process the feedstock into compost, fertilizer, bioenergy, or biofuels. A description must also be included for existing equipment or equipment purchased with non-grant funds that will be used to execute the project. • If bioenergy or biofuels will be produced, explain the production process and how the bioenergy or biofuels will be used. <p>Tons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specify the tons of green and food material that will be composted or digested and the projected timeline for the project to be operating at full capacity. Indicate the specific landfills where these materials are currently landfilled or used for ADC. • For digested materials, identify the quantity of solid and liquid digestate that will be produced and describe the fate (e.g., landfill, compost, land application) of the solid and liquid digestate. • Explain the management of residuals removed in a pre-processing step or after the composting or digestion process is complete. <p>GHG Emission Reductions:</p> <p>Calculate and state the GHG emission reductions in CO₂ equivalents (MTCO₂e) using the quantification methodology and calculator posted on the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) CCI Quantification, Benefits, and Reporting Materials webpage (http://www.arb.ca.gov/cci-resources).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specify the quantity of GHG emission reductions that will be achieved annually beyond the grant term and the expected life of the project.

Organics Grant Program - Scoring Criteria Cycle 4

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20	<p>PERMITS</p> <p>Provide copies of applicable supporting documents to indicate the status of all permits. This includes but is not limited to: existing permits, letters of completeness, evidence of permit fees paid, or evidence of filed documents such as engineering plans or technical reports.</p> <p>This section will be evaluated and scored based on clarity of responses and the actual progress of obtaining each permit required for completion of the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): Describe the level of anticipated CEQA review required for the project (e.g., negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report) as determined by the lead agency. If truck traffic was considered, describe the change in routing and provide calculations of increased or reduced mileage that would occur as a result of the project. Clearly indicate the current status of the CEQA review, and the projected timeline for completing the CEQA process. Provide copies of--or a link to-- the CEQA documentation. If no CEQA review will be required, provide documentation from the lead agency confirming that the project is exempt from CEQA review. • Conditional Use Permit (CUP): If the project covered by this application requires a new or revised conditional use permit, indicate the status of that permit and any barriers to obtaining the permit, including local opposition. If the project has permit by right, or is covered under an existing CUP, explain. • Air Quality Permit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide documentation or correspondence from the local or regional air pollution control district confirming that the project which is the object of this application has an Authority to Construct (ATC) or a Permit to Operate. If no air quality permits are required, provide correspondence from the air district confirming that no permits are required. ○ If the project has not yet received an ATC, provide evidence that the fees to apply for an ATC have been paid and that the engineering plans have been submitted. Provide evidence that the ATC application is complete enough to begin the formal air permitting process. ○ If any of the required documents to begin the air permitting process have not yet been submitted, provide the timeline for doing so. • Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Permits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide documentation or correspondence from the RWQCB confirming that the project that is the object of this application has a water permit or is eligible to be enrolled in the State Water Board's General Order for composting facilities. If no permits are required, provide correspondence from the RWQCB confirming that no permits are required. ○ If the project has not yet received a permit or a general order enrollment, indicate whether a Notice of Intent (NOI) has been filed with the regional water board. Provide evidence that the NOI fees have been paid and that the draft technical report has been submitted. Provide a letter from the RWQCB indicating that the NOI submission is complete enough to begin the formal water permitting process. ○ If any of the documents required to begin the water permitting process have not yet been submitted, provide a timeline for doing so. ○ If a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit is required, provide the permit number or describe how the production of leachate will be

Organics Grant Program - Scoring Criteria Cycle 4

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	<p>limited and the run-on and run-off contained. If a NPDES permit is not needed or if the project is covered under an existing stormwater permit, provide proof of that coverage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide facility details entered into the California Integrated Water Quality System Project, if applicable. ● Utility Agreements and Approvals: If electricity or biomethane will be sold, describe approvals needed for the sale (e.g., utility interconnection agreements, signed agreements with utilities, capacity/engineering studies, or power purchase agreements) and documentation that verifies the status of obtaining the required approvals. ● Provide status regarding all other regulatory permit requirements, including but not limited to Solid Waste Facilities Permit, fire permits, building occupancy permits, etc.
15	<p>EXPERIENCE AND PROJECT VIABILITY</p> <p>Demonstrate that the applicant (including its contractors) and cooperating organizations have sufficient staff resources, technical expertise, and experience to successfully complete the proposed project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide the resumes of key project personnel and contractors. ● Explain why this project is technically viable. Identify and provide information regarding performance of all reference facilities operated by the applicant, its contractors, and cooperating organizations. Include a description of any differences between the reference facilities and the proposed grant project. ● Explain why this project is economically viable. Quantify gate fees, cost to process material, and sale price of products. Demonstrate and provide documentation that rate negotiation has occurred and status and timeline by which any rate increases needed for the project will be secured. ● Describe and quantify expenditures already incurred to initiate work on the project, such as engineering, site preparation, infrastructure, utility hookups, permitting and environmental review. ● Identify any risks to successful execution of the grant project and how the risks will be mitigated. This includes but is not limited to equipment or permitting delays, hiring or training, market changes, feedstock quality or contamination. If there are no project risks, explain how that determination was made.
15	<p>BUDGET</p> <p>Provide a clear accounting of all costs associated with all activities necessary to complete the project using the Budget template.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Costs shall be itemized into categories and be consistent with the activities included in the Work Plan. ● All budget documentation including but not limited to quotes, estimates, and equipment details shall be uploaded, clearly marked, and support budget costs. Invoices must clearly match items in the budget in order for payment requests to be approved. ● Describe and quantify the source and amount of local, state, and federal funds, loans, other grants, and all other funding necessary to complete the proposed project, if applicable. Describe which activities these monies will fund. ● Describe and quantify if the project currently has or intends to seek any CalRecycle funding. If so, describe which activities each CalRecycle funding source will fund. ● Describe and quantify personnel costs.

Organics Grant Program - Scoring Criteria Cycle 4

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate how operation and maintenance costs of the project will be sustained beyond the term of the grant and the expected lifetime of the grant-funded equipment. Describe anticipated costs, revenues, and any ongoing funding sources.
10	<p>COMMUNITY BENEFITS</p> <p>All projects are expected to consider impacts to the local community. Projects benefitting disadvantaged and/or low-income communities (AB 1550 communities) are eligible for up to 10 points in the Community Benefits Category by using the Benefit Criteria Tables developed by CARB. Projects that do not have AB 1550 (Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016) community benefits, but still benefit their local community, are eligible for up to 5 points. Explain how the community will be engaged within a ½ mile radius of the proposed project and along potential project truck routes.</p> <p>Applicants that do not provide documentation or a community benefits agreement to support the needs, benefits, and jobs claimed will receive 0 points for the entire category of “Community Benefits.” If a signed community benefits agreement with organizations representing residents of the surrounding AB1550 (Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016) community is not available, evidence of a careful process to ascertain and address community needs and concerns, including records of meetings with community members, and letters to and from community leaders and organizations showing sustained effort to engage local residents with the project, may be considered. For applicants with a community benefits agreement, see the Bonus Points section.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include funds in the budget to support community benefits and jobs. Identify the census tracts of disadvantaged communities or low income communities, or residents of a low-income household that will be impacted by the project. Describe how the project will meaningfully address important community or household needs and how each community need was determined. Describe the direct, meaningful, and assured benefits that the project provides to the community. The benefit provided must directly address the identified need. Provide the total number of jobs and job description(s) for jobs provided including, total project work hours, job classification/trade, approximate salaries and benefits for each job classification and trade, how long these jobs will last, and how training leads to industry recognized credentials. Identify any adverse impacts on the community and explain how those impacts will be mitigated (e.g., air and water). If no impacts were identified, explain how that determination was made.
10	<p>WORK PLAN</p> <p>Provide a specific list of all tasks that must be completed to execute the project. Use the Work Plan template.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include a detailed Work Plan that clearly and concisely describes the tasks and activities required to achieve the goals/objectives in the proposed Project Narrative. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a projected timeline for the project to be operating at full capacity, including any ramp-up period. Include a schedule that details the quantity of additional green and food material that will be used as feedstock from the start of the grant until the project is operating at full capacity. Identify critical project milestones that must be met to accomplish the project within the grant timeline and the specific date by which each milestone will be completed.

Organics Grant Program - Scoring Criteria Cycle 4

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demonstrate that all tasks are achievable within the grant term and that the resources included in the Budget template are sufficient to complete the tasks. ○ Include an evaluation component, including progress reports, to measure success of the project and to determine whether the goals/objectives were accomplished. ● Include major work items (e.g., permitting, site planning, engineering, site and infrastructure work, construction, equipment procurement/installation, testing, commissioning, field supervision, jobs hiring and training, health and safety requirements, bonds).
95	TOTAL POSSIBLE GENERAL REVIEW CRITERIA POINTS
5	<p>BONUS POINTS – Community Benefits Agreement</p> <p>Provide a community benefits agreement signed by both the applicant and the group(s) representing the residents of an AB 1550 (Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016) community surrounding the facility. The agreement shall include, at a minimum: a description of clear and ongoing communication between the facility and its neighbors, actions that will be taken to reduce facility impacts including litter and odors, monitoring and complaint reporting protocols, as well as other community benefits (e.g. free compost or mulch, or financial assistance).</p>
100	TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS

