

Community Composting for Green Spaces Grant Program, Scoring Criteria

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

Max Points, Scoring Category, and Description

25 - Program Implementation

Provide a clear and concise description of all tasks, the process that will be used to complete the tasks, and the timeline for completing the tasks.

- Estimate the number of individual community composting project sites that will be supported by the Community Composting for Green Spaces Grant Program (Program). Describe how the needs of each community composting project site will be identified, what services will be offered, and how those services will be delivered to each community composting project site.
- Describe the process for developing community composting project site applications and evaluating applications. Describe how the evaluation process will ensure that awarded applications come from individuals or groups vested in the disadvantaged communities (DAC) or low-income communities and ensure the projects will meet community needs. Describe how the community composting project site applications will be structured to result in selection of projects that are likely to continue composting operations after State funding ceases.
- Describe any equipment that will be offered to improve the composting process or reduce the amount of labor required for successful composting, such as micro-aerated static pile systems. Explain Applicant's expertise in designing and operating the systems that will be offered to community composting project sites. Describe how equipment will be purchased and installed at individual project sites.
- Describe plans for providing education on composting fundamentals, equipment, techniques, and best management practices to each project site.
- Describe plans for providing capacity-building training to each project site, such as developing sustainable funding mechanisms, recruiting and training volunteers, developing strategic partnerships, and instituting leadership or legal structures which will help ensure community groups can successfully manage the site after the grant term ends.
- Describe plans for working with city or county authorities, such as Local Enforcement Agencies, to ensure each selected project site complies with all State and local laws, regulations, or ordinances.
- Quality of the Work Plan. The Work Plan (template provided) should align with the Program implementation tasks described in this section and should provide timelines for completing tasks. Tasks should be broken down into detailed sub-tasks with associated timelines.

20 - Community Benefits

Explain how the grant will benefit DAC and low-income communities (Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016). Grant activities that will benefit DAC and low-income communities should also be included in the Work Plan.

- Jobs – Estimated number of full-time jobs, part-time jobs, or paid consulting positions that will be created for community members directly related to selected project sites. Estimate the number of work hours for each position, anticipated salaries and any benefits (e.g., health insurance, paid vacation) provided.
- Training - Describe job training that will be provided for employees or volunteers at community composting project sites that will provide employment experience or industry-recognized credentials/certifications (identify credential/certification programs by name). Examples include University of California Master Gardener or Master Composter, U.S. Composting Council Compost Operations Training Course, food safety certifications, or other trainings/certifications. Volunteer experience which may lead to future employment counts but must be described in detail.
- Food – Estimate the quantity of food the Program will provide to residents in DAC or low-income communities, or low-income households. Describe how the Program will result in distribution of produce to community members who lack access to food. For example, if fruit trees are planted, how many pounds of fruit will be generated by an average tree and how will this fruit be distributed?
- Green Spaces – Explain how the project will expand or improve green spaces or garden/community areas that are publicly accessible to residents of DAC or low-income communities, or low-income households. California Air Resources Board (CARB) guidelines require that projects be open to members of the public; describe how this requirement will be met and managed.
- Compost – Estimate the quantity of compost that will be provided to residents of DAC or low-income communities, or low-income households. Explain how the compost will be made available and any costs to the residents to obtain the compost.
- Environmental outreach – Explain how the Program will increase understanding of composting, the benefits of compost use, the benefits of healthy soil, and climate issues for residents of DAC or low-income communities. Describe community education efforts that will be conducted and the expected outcomes.

15 - Data Collection and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Reductions

- Describe what data will be collected from all of the selected community composting project sites to substantiate progress and to calculate GHG emission reductions.
- Explain who will collect data from community composting project sites, and how the data will be collected, verified, and reported to CalRecycle quarterly.
- Describe how the data from individual community composting project sites will be analyzed, evaluated, and compiled into a final report to CalRecycle that summarizes the factors which lead to successful community composting project sites.

Applicant will be required to calculate GHGs during the grant period. When reporting data for the Program to CalRecycle Applicant must use CARB-approved emissions factors for all activities for which GHG reductions are claimed. The following CARB-approved emissions factors will be used.

1. Total cubic yards of finished compost generated and used. This calculation is derived from the existing compost emissions reduction factor and will be supplied by CalRecycle to the Grantee.
2. Number and type of trees planted and a tree maintenance plan. Use the [I-tree planting application](https://planting.itreetools.org) (<https://planting.itreetools.org>) to determine GHG potential based on species and location.

15 - Financial Management

Estimate the range of the cost of goods and services (including equipment, training, and capacity building) that will be delivered to individual community composting project sites. Describe how the Applicant will determine the amount of goods and services that will be provided to each community composting project site. Applicants with lower overhead costs that are able to deliver a greater percentage of grant funds to community composting project sites will receive a higher score in this section.

- Describe the estimated cost of Program implementation. Include all anticipated costs, including, but not limited to; equipment and services, outreach, training, data collection, report preparation, travel, overhead, and staff costs including any paid staff at community composting project sites. Costs described should align with major tasks described in the Program Implementation section and listed in the Work Plan. For more information see the Guidelines and Instructions.
- CalRecycle has up to 45 days after approval of progress reports and associated invoices to reimburse Applicant for expenses. Explain how Applicant will cover the costs of implementing the Program prior to being reimbursed with grant funds. Explain any other resources which will be used to implement the Program. Include in-kind donations, other grants or funds, local government contributions and any other sources of funding, training or equipment. An advance of up to 25 percent of the grant award may be provided by CalRecycle; see the Guidelines and Instructions for more information.
- If planning to hire regional coordinators or individuals to assist with project sites, describe the process that will be used to hire and manage employees. Describe Applicant's existing systems or experience to comply with federal and state employment requirements. Provide details on planned wages and benefits for employees implementing the grant. If not hiring regional or local Program representatives, describe how regular operations at individual community composting project sites will be supported and managed.

15 - Qualifications

Technical expertise, experience, and staff resources possessed by Applicant and cooperating organizations to complete the proposed project.

- Describe experience developing and implementing similar programs, knowledge of composting, and expertise working with DAC and low-income communities. Explain the Applicant's skills and experience which would enable it to implement the Program
- Provide resumes of key project personnel and contractors who will be involved in developing and implementing the Program.
- Describe any partnerships with other community groups that will be involved with implementing the Program. Describe how the partnerships will benefit implementation of the Program.

Identify and describe any other resources the Applicant will utilize to leverage the funding from CalRecycle and effectively and efficiently implement the Program.

10 - Outreach Strategy

Explain the methodology that will be used to solicit, evaluate, and select individual community composting project sites with a preference for sites in DAC and low-income communities. Describe the approach that will be utilized to outreach to communities and how the Applicant will ensure there is a geographic distribution of projects throughout California; including in DAC and low-income communities. Geographic areas are described in more detail in the Guidelines and Instructions, but include: Inland Empire, Greater Los Angeles area, San Diego and Imperial area, Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, and the San Francisco Bay area.

- Describe techniques, such as community meetings, social marketing campaigns, workshops, or webinars that Applicant will use to outreach to communities. If available, provide examples of past experiences conducting outreach to DAC and low-income communities.
- Provide an explanation of how the Program will coordinate with community groups and/or organizations involved in each selected community composting project site to identify and address the unique needs of the community.

100 – Total Possible Points