



2024 Organics Management Grant

Administered by the Dane County Department of Waste & Renewables, the Organics Management Grant seeks to provide funding for community composting projects that help reduce the amount of organics (food scraps, yard waste) being sent to landfills.

Organics, such as food waste, comprise about one-third of the materials being sent to the Dane County landfill. When food waste can be composted instead of landfilled, valuable nutrients can be recovered and applied to Dane County farmlands to increase soil health. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers the following recovery hierarchy to promote the productive use of excess food and food residuals:



Figure 1. Image courtesy of EPA.

Dane County Waste & Renewables strives to support environmentally-sound and sustainable waste management and renewable energy solutions that are in line with the EPA's hierarchy through its innovative programs, partnerships, and grant programs.



DANE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WASTE & RENEWABLES

Eligibility and Award Details

Who Is Eligible for Funding?

All Dane County businesses, institutions, municipalities, Native American tribal governments and organizations, community groups, and nonprofit organizations are eligible.

Eligible Projects & Available Funding

The Organics Management Grant is intended to help fund projects that reduce or eliminate the volume of organic materials, such as food scraps and yard waste, disposed of at the landfill. Projects that support food waste reduction or creative reuse will also be considered under this grant.

Examples of projects that would be eligible for funds include, but are not limited to:

- The construction or purchase and set up of on-site systems for collection of food scraps, yard waste, and garden debris for composting. The system must be available for use by all applicant community members or employees.
- Establishing an on-site compost system for a community, institutional facility or business.
- Development of an innovative new program to promote and enable efforts to reduce food waste at its source, and/or provide reuse options.

Some examples of project expenses that qualify include the purchase of equipment & supplies, and any printing and fabrication cost. Past projects are available on the Dane County Waste & Renewables [Website](#).

Each applicant may receive up to \$2,500 during this round of funding. More funding may be awarded on a case-by-case basis depending on requests for FY24. A total of \$10,000 is available in grant funding for FY24. Applicants may submit more than one proposal.

Awardees may qualify for reimbursement of up to 75% of the cost of approved project expenses. Awardees may receive credit for in-kind donations of goods, services, or labor to cover the remaining 25% of project expenses.

Selection Criteria

Selection criteria include:

- Inclusivity and accessibility of project / project program. Composting programs within disadvantaged and low-income communities will be prioritized.
- Amount (volume) of food or yard waste to be diverted.
- Likelihood of success and long-term sustainability of project.
- Alignment of submitted budget.
- Community need.
- Demonstration of community support for the project.



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Terms of Acceptance/Rejection

Award of grant funding will be based upon how well the application meet the requirements and intent of the Organics Management Grant Program. Dane County Department of Waste & Renewables is the sole authority responsible for the approval of applications and reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

A Grant Agreement will be drafted and signed between Grantor (Dane County) and Grantee (Applicant/Awardee) outlining project scope of work, funding distribution timeline, and reporting requirements. Upon execution of the Grant Agreement, the Grantee agrees to provide data pertinent to the grant's success including gaining cooperation from residents to support the grant. Interim and final reports will be required documenting estimated waste diverted from the landfill, lessons learned and detailing plans for future sustainability.

In general, grant awards will be distributed as a reimbursement to the sponsoring municipality or institutional applicant upon receipt of paid invoices or receipts for approved project expenses, unless otherwise determined on a case-by-case basis. Project expenses must be incurred and all receipts or other proof of payment submitted to Dane County Department of Waste & Renewables in the interim and final report. Dane County Waste & Renewables is available to provide technical expertise, training and assistance to awarded projects. Project awardees may also utilize the [UW Extension Master Composter Network](#) for additional assistance and guidance on projects.

How To Apply

Please complete the application on pages 4 and 5 and submit electronically to Alex Thomas at thomas.alex@danecounty.gov

Deadline

Applications will receive priority consideration if received before June 1st, 2024. If funds remain after initial review, applications may be evaluated on a rolling basis.

For More Information

Applicants can reach out to Alex Thomas at thomas.alex@danecounty.gov for additional clarification or questions. Questions asked this way are subject to public disclosure and may be anonymously published on the department's website.

Limitation of Liability

Dane County assumes no responsibility or liability for costs incurred by parties in preparing or submitting applications for the Organics Management Grant. In addition, with the exception of municipal governments, applicants who become grant recipients must agree to indemnify Dane County and will have their grant conditioned upon providing proof of insurance.



2024 Organics Management Grant Application

Applicant Information

Name of Organization: _____

Organization Type:

- Municipality
- Native American tribal governments and organizations
- Community Group or Garden
- Institution (ie. Church, university)
- K-12 School
- Residential building or housing
- Non-profit organization
- Business
- Other

Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Person Name: _____

Contact Person Phone: _____

Contact Person Email: _____

Project Information

Please describe nature of project, including: project goal/purpose, educational component, timeline, source of matching funds, an estimate on project's waste diversion volume (250 words max):



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Please expand upon your project's team ability to complete proposed project (250 words max):

In terms of equity & inclusion, how has this project considered who benefits, who burdens, and who gets left out? Please explain what measures have been taken to reduce barriers to participating in your project/ program (250 words max):

Please submit any letters of support for the project along with this application.

Budget Information

- Expected Cost of Materials/Services. (Must be itemized.) Upload price quotes or send separately as appropriate.
- Itemized list of expected In-Kind Contributions (for community groups, public, or 501(c)(3) entities only). Volunteer hours can be estimated and valued at \$15/hour. If not applicable, enter "0":

Total Estimated Project Cost: _____

Requested Grant Dollars (up to 75% project cost): _____

Applicant has read and understands the Terms of Acceptance for the Organics Management Grant.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____