



School Waste Prevention and Recycling Grant Program Summary

Introduction

Metropolitan counties are primarily responsible for waste management (Minn. Stat. § 115A.551). By Resolution No. 18-493 (September 18, 2018), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners (County Board) adopted the 2018-2038 Dakota County Solid Waste Master Plan (Master Plan). The Master Plan includes multiple strategies to support the school recycling program, including: for the County to provide technical assistance, infrastructure, and educational resources to implement best waste management practices at schools; and to update the school recycling program to include waste reduction, reuse, food waste prevention and food rescue. The School Recycling and Organics Program has been updated and renamed to the School Waste Prevention and Recycling Grant Program.

Waste Prevention and Recycling Grant Program

The new Waste Prevention and Recycling Grant Program (Grant Program) provides technical assistance, infrastructure, and educational resources for schools to prevent wasted food, reduce waste, divert recycling and organic materials from the trash, and educate students and staff on proper waste management practices.

Eligibility

Public and private schools and districts (includes buildings serving K-12, preschool, college, university) physically located in Dakota County are eligible to participate in the Grant Program.

Grant Program Funding Allocation and Eligible Activities

Grant Program funds reflect the funding levels approved by the County Board as part of the annual budget. Grant Program funds are allocated for specific projects based on County priorities, including recycling, organics, and to serve first-time and district-wide applicants.

- A. Eligible schools/districts can apply for grant allocations by a specified deadline up to \$10,000 per location for:

Traditional Recycling Collection to implement recycling best practices (strategically-located, color-coded, appropriately labeled, and paired recycling and trash containers) in interior spaces.
- B. Eligible schools/districts can apply for grant allocations by a specified deadline up to \$10,000 per location for one or more of the following projects:
 - i. Traditional Organics Collection to implement organics (e.g., food waste) collection best practices (strategically-located, color-coded, appropriately labeled) in interior spaces with a focus on cafeterias and kitchens.
 - ii. Expanded Recycling and Organics, such as to implement outdoor and stadium recycling.
 - iii. Waste and Toxicity Reduction/Reuse, such as to replace single-use items with reusable or bulk options.
 - iv. Wasted Food Prevention, such as for share tables or small refrigerators to prevent food waste from student lunches.
- C. Eligible schools/districts can apply for up to \$1,000 per location to implement Mini Grants on a first-come, first-served rolling basis throughout the year as funds allow, such as to implement organics collection best practices for breakfast-in-the-classroom programs.

Waste Education

The Grant Program includes educational opportunities for in-school education, such as using County-contracted educators. It also includes opportunities for school field trips, such as to recycling, composting, and land disposal facilities. Waste education activities are offered on a first-come, first-served rolling basis throughout the year as funds allow at no cost to schools. The County's standardized waste abatement messaging will be used.

Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses generally include but are not limited to: infrastructure to collect recycling and organics (e.g., containers, compostable bags) and to prevent wasted food (e.g., share tables); equipment (e.g., reusable service ware), education (e.g., staff or student training), and staff stipends (e.g., green team coordinator). Other expenses may be eligible with prior written approval from County staff.

Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible expenses generally include but are not limited to: infrastructure (e.g., dumpsters, pallet jacks) normally provided by the waste hauler or school; supportive costs for eligible infrastructure (e.g., labor costs to install a dishwasher); school operational expenses (e.g., plastic bags for trash), and waste hauling services.

Applications and Submittals

Grant Program Applications for mini grants and waste education may be submitted any time throughout the year. Grant Program Applications for all other activities must be submitted by a specified date.

Grant Agreements

Upon County staff approval of the Grant Application, a Grant Agreement is sent to the school for approval and signature.

Performance Reporting and Reimbursement Requests

Grantees must report performance of responsibilities and, if applicable, request reimbursement payments for pre-approved eligible expenses incurred in connection with the performance of Grant Program activities. Report and reimbursement forms are created by County staff.

For more information, call 952-891-7557 and ask for the [school recycling program coordinator](#) or email schoolrecycling@co.dakota.mn.us.