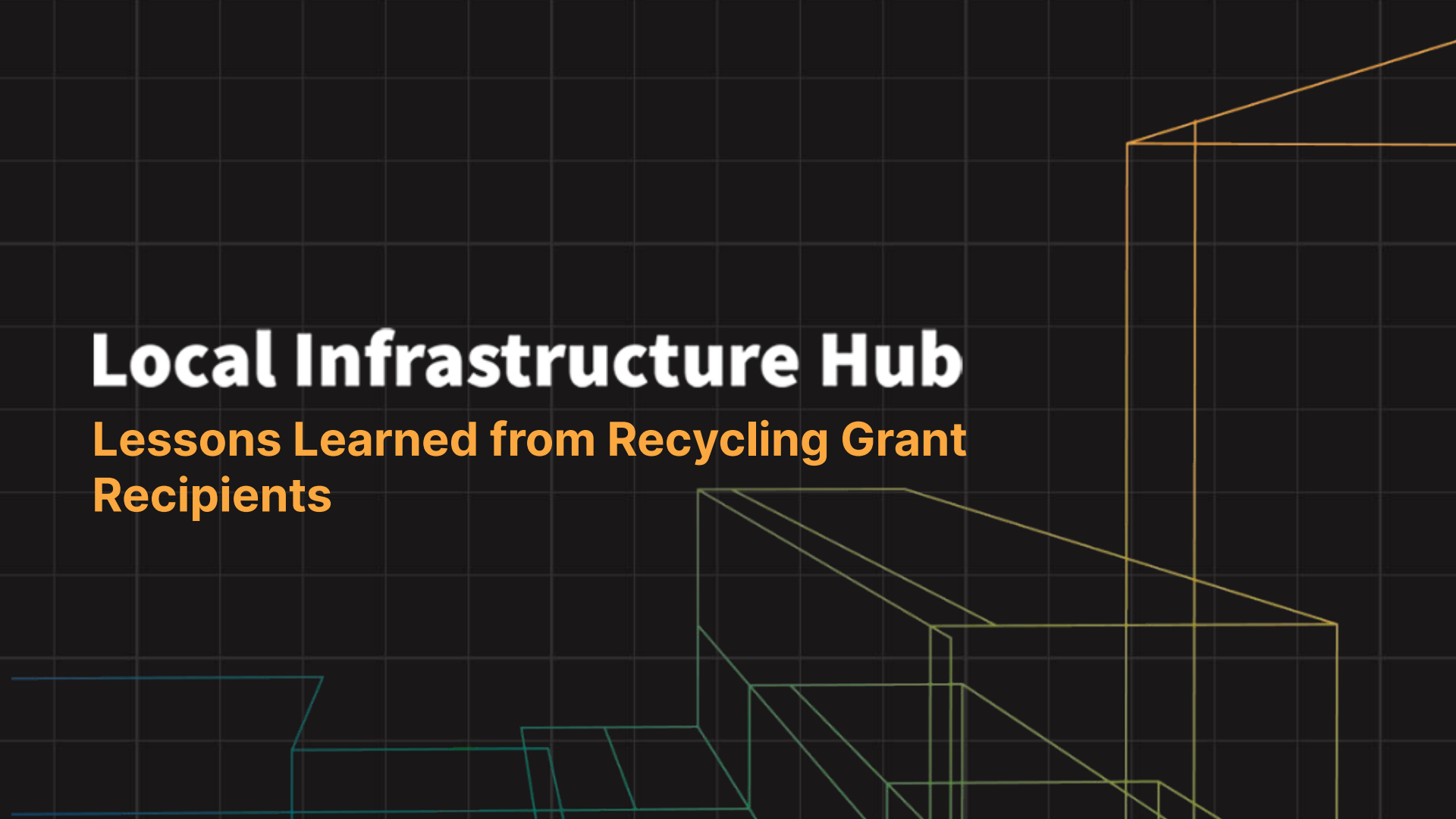


Local Infrastructure Hub

**Lessons Learned from Recycling Grant
Recipients**





Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program

February 2024



CONGRESSIONAL AND POLICY DRIVERS: EPA'S MATERIALS MANAGEMENT WORK

- ❖ **2020 Save Our Seas 2.0 Act:** provides authority for grants, reports and a strategy on post-consumer materials management
 - EPA released the ***Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*** in **April 2023!**
- ❖ FY2020 Congress directed EPA to produce a national recycling strategy
 - EPA released the ***National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy*** in **November 2021!**
- ❖ **2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law:** provides funding for solid waste infrastructure and education and outreach projects across the U.S.
 - \$275 million in funding for the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program
 - \$75 million in funding to support Recycling Education and outreach Grant Program
 - \$25 million in funding to support battery recycling initiatives
- ❖ **More to come:**
 - FY 2021 Appropriations asked EPA to collect data on recycling and single-use plastics and estimate the costs needed to modernize U.S. recycling infrastructure
 - Dec. 2020 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report includes actions for EPA to strengthen recycling and recommend future policies
 - Several other pieces of proposed legislation related to recycling



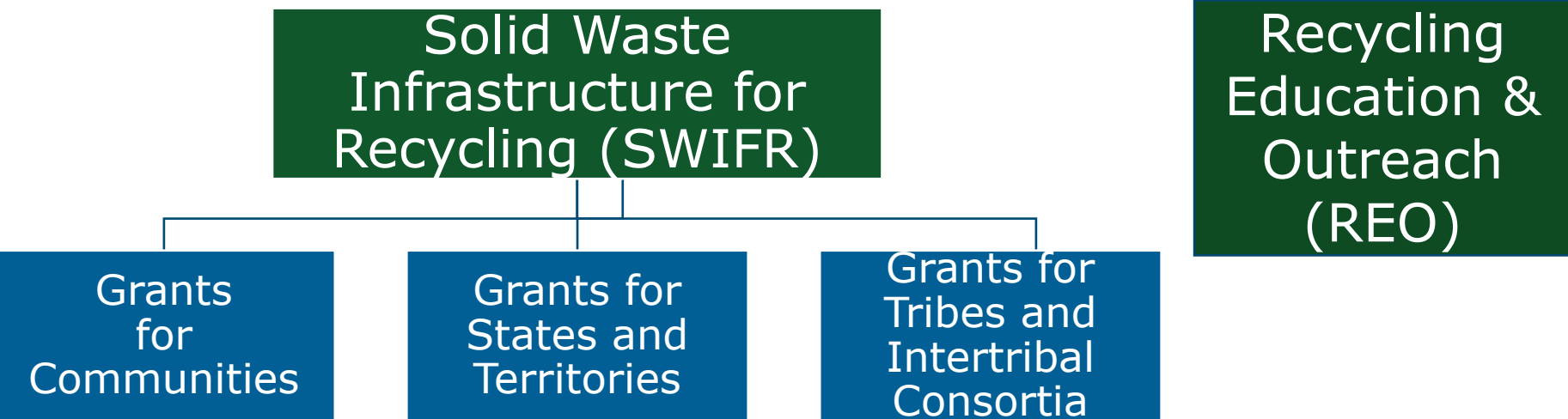
SUPPORT FOR BUILDING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Source: U.S. EPA

RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE AND EDUCATION & OUTREACH GRANTS

Solid Waste
Infrastructure for
Recycling (SWIFR)



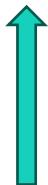
```
graph TD; SWIFR[Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR)] --- G1[Grants for Communities]; SWIFR --- G2[Grants for States and Territories]; SWIFR --- G3[Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia]; REO[Recycling Education & Outreach (REO)];
```

Grants
for
Communities

Grants for
States and
Territories

Grants for
Tribes and
Intertribal
Consortia

Recycling
Education &
Outreach
(REO)



RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS (SWIFR)

- ❖ **First Round of Awards – \$100+ million** in new **BIL-funded** awards to support **recycling infrastructure in all states, territories, and the District of Columbia**
 - **\$32.1 million** awarded to all 50 states and 6 territories
 - **\$60.8 million** awarded to 59 tribes and intertribal consortia
 - **\$73 million** awarded to communities, ranging from big cities to small rural communities.
- ❖ Grant recipients to invest in a **range of project types**, including:
 - **Purchase of new fleet** of recycling collection vehicles to provide curbside pickup to communities that do not have access
 - **Construction of recycling drop-off stations** in rural areas where curbside collection is not feasible
 - Construction to establish **new composting facilities** or increase capacity at existing facilities.
- **76% of funding for communities will benefit disadvantaged communities**



RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS (SWIFR)

- ❖ The SWIFR Grants are:
 - The **largest EPA investment in recycling infrastructure in over 30 years**, and
 - The **most significant investments** in support of the *National Recycling Strategy* and for building a circular economy that aims to keep materials, products, and services in circulation for as long as possible
- ❖ Other objectives include:
 - Reducing the impact that materials have on the climate by **reducing greenhouse gas emissions** and **keeping valuable materials out of the landfill**
 - **Creating jobs** in both rural and urban communities, including union jobs and jobs that don't require four-year degrees
 - **Improve local waste management systems** and **strengthen supply chains**

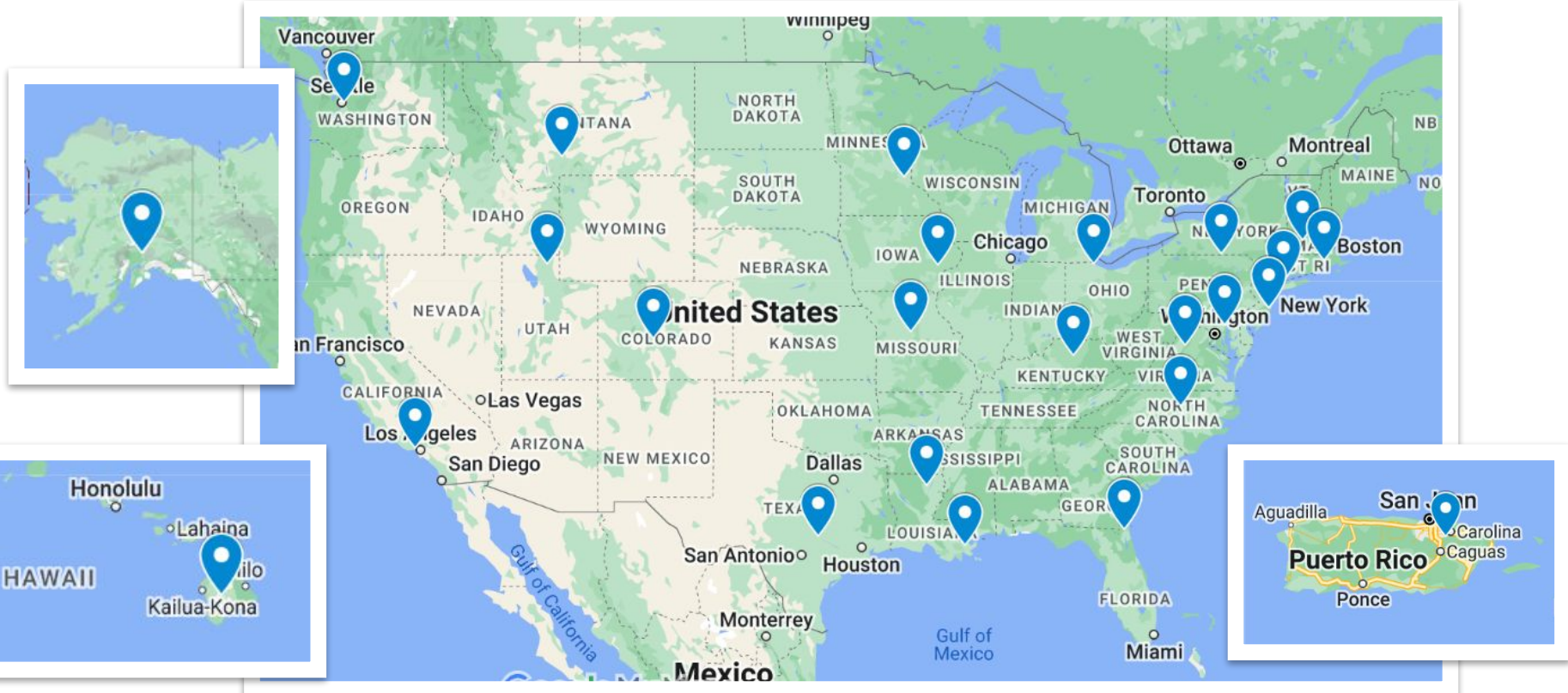


GRANTS FOR COMMUNITIES: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ❖ Improve local waste management systems, meeting Congress’s goal to create a stronger, more resilient, and cost-effective U.S. municipal solid waste recycling system.
- ❖ **25 total selections were made totaling \$72,850,875.** Individual awards range between \$500,000 and \$4,000,000.
 - Eligible entities include local governments, cities, counties, townships, villages, parishes, districts, and any other entity that provides proper documentation that they are considered political subdivisions of their respective state
- ❖ Example selected projects include:
 - Purchasing a new fleet of recycling collection vehicles and bins to provide curbside pickup to communities that do not have access.
 - Constructing recycling drop-off stations in rural areas where curbside collection is not feasible.
 - Infrastructure improvements to materials recovery facilities, such as construction of new buildings or new equipment, such as optical sorters, balers, etc.
 - Construction to establish new composting facilities or increase capacity at existing facilities.

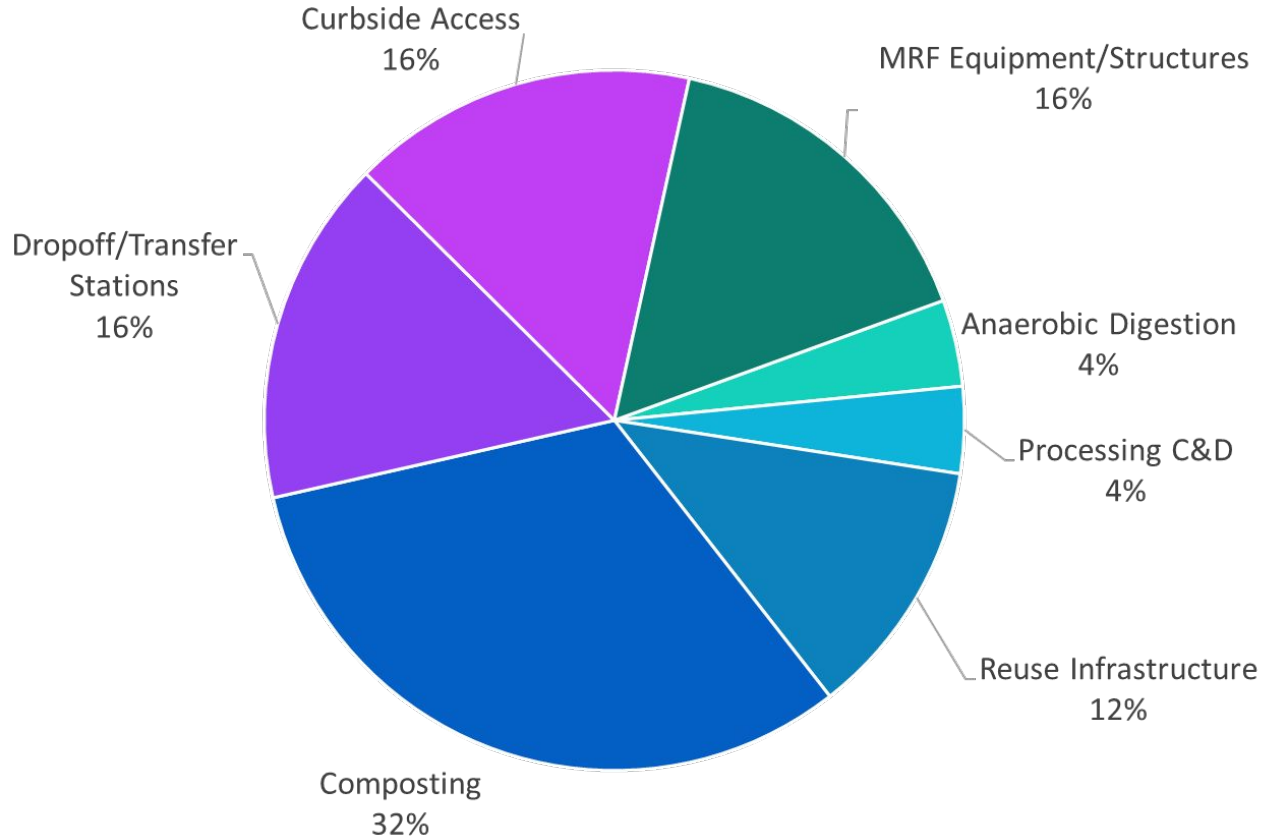


SWIFR GRANTS FOR COMMUNITIES: 25 TOTAL SELECTIONS



<https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/recycling-grant-selectees-and-recipients>

SWIFR GRANTS FOR COMMUNITIES: SELECTED PROJECT TYPES





Highlighting Several Award Selections

Note: This is not an exhaustive list of SWIFR Communities selections. Fact Sheets for all SWIFR Communities Grant Recipients are available on the [SWIFR Grants for Communities Web Page](#)

Region 1: City of Providence, RI

Project Title: Recycling and Food Waste Infrastructure Program, Providence, RI

Location: City of Providence, Rhode Island

Funding Requested: \$3,348,166

Project Track: Track 1

Project Description: Providence will support infrastructure expansions for food waste diversion for businesses, institutions, and households, paired with technical assistance to support best practices for diversion. Providence will also expand and enhance its municipal recycling collection, with a pilot program for businesses and replacement of curbside totes for the neighborhoods that have the highest contamination of recycling streams. Every household will receive information on the recycling programs and legacy totes will receive updated recycling stream labels.

Other considerations:

- This is an urban shovel ready project.
- Project will create 12-15 temporary jobs, 20 permanent jobs



Region 2: Municipality of Trujillo Alto, PR

Project Title: Expansion Project of the Recycling Program

Location: Trujillo Alto, PR

Funding Requested: \$4,000,000

Project Track: Track 1

Project Description: The Expansion Project of the Recycling Program in Rural Areas aims to impact the homes and schools of six (6) neighborhoods of Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico, that do not receive collection and disposal services for recyclable materials due to the lack of funds, equipment, and personnel to carry out the service. This project will do justice to the environment and disadvantaged population living in these neighborhoods with approximately 36,709 inhabitants.

Other considerations:

- This is the only application from any territory that we are recommending for funding.
- This project would create 18 jobs
- This is an urban, shovel-ready project



Region 5: City of Minneapolis, MN

Project Title: North Transfer Station Revitalization, a Promise Zone project to develop an existing site into an operational resource recovery and waste disposal facility, increasing recycling capacity and equity.

Location: City of Minneapolis, Minnesota

Funding Requested: \$4,000,000

Project Track: Track 1

Project Description: The project will permanently mitigate environmental contamination risks and improve equity within the residential material self-haul program and increase recovery of recyclable and reusable materials through access and education by redeveloping the City's North Transfer Station into a new residential self-haul resource recovery and waste disposal site, the first of its kind in this disadvantaged community.

Other considerations:

- This is an urban shovel project



Region 6: City of New Orleans, LA

Project Title: New Orleans Recycling Expansion and Planning

Location: New Orleans, LA

Funding Requested: \$3,982,000

Project Track: Track 1

Project Description: The City of New Orleans is proposing to expand its current residential curbside recycling program to all eligible households that have not already opted into the service. This will ensure access to curbside recycling access to about 73,000 households and to replace 10,000 legacy black recycling carts. In addition, the city is proposing to develop a 10-year Solid Waste Master Plan (SWMP) that will develop a comprehensive waste diversion strategy and roadmap for the city. These project components will help the city meets its Climate Action Plan goal of a 25% waste diversion rate by 2030.

Other considerations:

- This project is a good example of building a new MRF using EPA funds and ~\$1.4M in leveraged funds from the Recycling Partnership and \$50,000 from city funds.
- The project benefits disadvantaged communities. New Orleans has a long history with environmental justice.



Region 8: City of Bozeman, MT

Project Title: Bozeman Sustainable Organics Management Program

Location: Bozeman, MT

Funding Requested: \$4,000,000

Project Track: Track 2

Project Description: The Bozeman Sustainable Organics Management Program will build residential collection infrastructure to provide single- and multi-family households with year-round diversion of organic waste, including food waste. The infrastructure enhancements include the purchase of two automated side loader collection vehicles, 8,000 carts, 100 bear-resistant carts, technology improvements, and programmatic education and outreach. This Program will provide collection services for up to 7,000 households by 2026 and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 1,950 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent (MTCO₂E) annually.

Other considerations:

- This project will result in 2 jobs created as a direct result of the grant.



QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU!

Contact Information:

Swarupa Ganguli

Branch Manager, Resource Conservation Branch

ganguli.swarupa@epa.gov

Dan Halpert

Program Manager, SWIFR Communities and REO Grants

halpert.daniel@epa.gov



Resources

Visit
localinfrastructure.org

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Local Infrastructure Hub website. The header includes logos for various partners: The United States Conference of Mayors, NLC (National League of Cities), RESULTS for AMERICA, Delivery Associates, WITH SUPPORT FROM, Bloomberg Philanthropies, ballmer group, Emerson Collective, FORD FOUNDATION, and THE KRESGE FOUNDATION. Below the header, the site title "Local Infrastructure Hub" is followed by navigation links: CALENDAR, GRANT SEARCH, RESOURCES (with a dropdown arrow), NEWS, and ABOUT (with a search icon). The main content area features a large heading: "It's Not Just for Recycling! Creative Uses of SWIFR Grants". Below the heading is a paragraph of text explaining that Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grants, also called Recycling Grants, are a new program created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to improve recycling and other post-consumer materials management, implement circular economy strategies, and improve local waste management systems. It mentions that in the fall of 2023, the EPA announced the first round of SWIFR grant winners. A sub-heading states: "One thing winning applications had in common was that they were able to provide data about the impact of their project, such as:". This is followed by a bulleted list of four criteria: how their grant will benefit a disadvantaged community or be aligned with the Justice40 initiative; how many jobs would be created as a result of grant funds; CO2 emissions reduction estimates; and estimated waste diverted from landfills.

Local Infrastructure Hub CALENDAR GRANT SEARCH RESOURCES ▾ NEWS ABOUT 🔍

It's Not Just for Recycling! Creative Uses of SWIFR Grants

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grants, also called Recycling Grants, are a new program created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to improve re-cycling and other post-consumer materials management, implement circular economy strategies, and improve local waste management systems. In the fall of 2023, the EPA announced the first round of SWIFR **grant winners**.

One thing winning applications had in common was that they were able to provide data about the impact of their project, such as:

- how their grant will benefit a disadvantaged community or be aligned with the Justice40 initiative
- how many jobs would be created as a result of grant funds
- CO2 emissions reduction estimates
- estimated waste diverted from landfills

Winning Cities Panel

Faith Leach

**Baltimore Chief Administration
Officer**

Katie Kennedy

**Waste Diversion Lead, Seattle Public
Utilities**

Jason McCombs

**Strategic Division Manager, City of
Austin**

Judy Sheahan

**Director, Municipal Waste
Management Association**

Local Infrastructure Hub Sessions

February 28

Local Infrastructure Hub

NO-EMISSION BUSES:

How American Cities Are Driving Innovations in Vehicle Technology, Charging Infrastructure, and Technician Training

 Wednesday, Feb. 28th | 2pm EST

Abena Ojetayo

Assistant City Manager,
City of Tallahassee,
Florida

Chris Payton

Associate Director
of Transit, City of
Albuquerque, New Mexico

**Brandt
Hertenstein**

Programs Manager,
Electrification Coalition

Local Infrastructure Hub

WITH SUPPORT FROM:



THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

