

Subject Zero-waste grant program

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Date March 18, 2022

Overview

Creates the zero-waste competitive grant program for nonprofits and local governments to do projects consistent with zero-waste practices, such as electronic waste reuse and recycling, source reduction, market development, and organics recycling infrastructure. Appropriates \$1,500,000 each year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 from the general fund for this program.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	[116J.4381] Zero-waste grant program.
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Creates the zero-waste grant program.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms for the program, including that “eligible entity” means a nonprofit organization or unit of government. Defines “zero-waste practice” as a practice that helps achieve conservation of all resources without destroying embodied energy or discharges that threaten environmental or human health.

Subd. 2. Establishment. Establishes the zero-waste competitive grant program to make grants to eligible entities for projects consistent with zero-waste practices, such as electronic waste reuse and recycling, source reduction, market development, and organics recycling infrastructure.

Subd. 3. Electronic waste reuse and recycling. Requires electronic waste reuse and recycling projects be carried out by organizations certified in sustainable electronic waste standards by an accredited organization. Allows funds granted under this subdivision to be used for infrastructure, technology, research and development, and product refurbishment, but not for electronic waste buy-back programs that give credit towards the purchase of additional electronics.

Subd. 4. Source reduction. Allows grant funds for source reduction projects to be used for educational programming and outreach to encourage consumer

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behavior change, product or manufacturing redesign or redevelopment to reduce outputs. Requires that projects involving product manufacturing redesign or redevelopment pay a living wage and not result in higher toxicity, more complicated recyclability, or increased volume of byproducts.

Subd. 5. Market development. Requires projects related to market development, such as creating demand for recycled commodities and refurbished goods, to target easily or commonly recycled materials that are disproportionately disposed of in landfills or incineration and to reduce this waste without conflicting with other laws or requirements identified by the commissioner.

Subd. 6. Organics recycling infrastructure. Allows grant funds for organics recycling infrastructure to be used for facilities, machinery, or equipment needed for organics collection or processing on a city- or county-wide scale. Requires projects to result in increased capacity for separated organics streams and to generate a useable product with demonstrable environmental benefits. Forbids funding projects that include mixed-waste composting.

Subd. 7. Grant process. Directs the commissioner to award grants through a competitive grant process with a written application form developed by the commissioner. Requires applications to demonstrate specific source reduction or waste prevention targets and that the project will take place in a community in the 80th percentile or higher for one or more pollutants as noted in tools provided by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Subd. 8. Award criteria. Sets priorities for awarding grants, such as favoring projects that create living wage jobs, take place in schools, address their own environmental consequences, show the need for additional projects, develop new technologies or strategies, encourage further investment, and incorporate stakeholder involvement.

Subd. 9. Report to the legislature. Requires a report to the legislature by January 15, 2024, on the use of grant funds.

2 Zero-waste grant program; appropriation.

Appropriates \$1,500,000 in fiscal year 2022 and again in fiscal year 2023 from the general fund for the zero-waste grant program.



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