

Capital Project Appropriation Request

11/1/2023

FY 23/24

Project: 001380 SWIFR FOOD WASTE COLLECTION/COMPOST AND SUS
Agency: 0214 Operations: Solid Waste

Oracle Date	
Commitments	
Obligations	
YTD Balance	
Amount Available	
Unfunded	

Total Request: \$2,016,940.78

Part A - Description of Request

The SWIFR Food Waste Collection/Composting and Sustainability project's main goal is to reduce the amount of food waste that the City of Stamford sends to landfills by collecting and composting it as well as through education and outreach in Stamford's thirteen neighborhoods. This project is expected to eliminate about 667 metric tons of Co2-e emissions that would have otherwise been emitted from landfills in the grant period. It contributes to Mayor Simmons' environmental goals. Stamford plans to purchase and install three new composters to be made available in strategic public locations. The City also plans to purchase and install one composter in a Stamford public school (Westhill HS) in a program that will encourage the next generation's (students') involvement in food scrap recycling. If successful, it could become a model for other schools in future projects. The City plans to hire six part-time staff including a truck driver/laborer, four laborers, as well as a Food Waste and Sustainability Coordinator (FWSC) who will manage this project.

In addition, the City plans to purchase and install approximately 52 new food waste collection smart bins (which will be typically installed on street sidewalks and other locations, such as parks). The City plans to purchase a new truck to be used by the driver and two of the laborers to pick up curbside food waste containers from participating large multi-unit housing complexes as well as the interior containers of the smart bins (filled with food scraps). Plans are for the other two laborers to work with the public at two of the new composter sites for two days a week (including Saturdays) to accept food waste drop-offs and run the composting machines. The purchase of the food waste collection smart bins will be spread over the project period as community education and outreach efforts will continue to build awareness regarding and increase participation in food waste recycling.





The City plans to purchase a large number of the Home Food Scrap Recycling Kits and plans to give them away during community meetings throughout the grant period to help motivate interested residents to recycle food scraps.

The City will partner with the Mill River Park Collaborative, Stamford Downtown (DSSD), and an ambassador for each of Stamford's 13 neighborhoods for this project's education, outreach, promotion, ideas, and collaboration efforts. The grant includes funding for marketing, public outreach, communications, and research to improve our food waste recycling program. Construction will be required for each of the composters to: build concrete pads, roofs/overheads, area perimeter security (e.g., fencing), and install power. Smart bin installations require concrete foundations, so some small concrete pads will need to be built for locations that don't already have concrete.

Part B - Appropriation Request Detail

Fund Source	FY 23/24	Capital Forecast						Total
	Amount	FY 24/25	FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29	FY 29/30	
Federal Grant	2,016,940.78	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,016,940.78
Total	\$2,016,940.78	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,016,940.78

Part D - Approvals

Preparer <i>OPM Dept</i>	Date 11/01/2023	OPM Director/OPM Asst Director  <small>Elda Sinani (Nov 6, 2023 11:54 EST)</small>	Date Nov 6, 2023
Department Head <i>Dan Colletuori</i> <small>Dan Colletuori (Nov 6, 2023 09:36 EST)</small>	Date Nov 6, 2023	Director of Administration  <small>Benjamin Barnes (Nov 6, 2023 11:58 EST)</small>	Date Nov 6, 2023
Director  <small>Matt Quiñones (Nov 6, 2023 10:08 EST)</small>	Date Nov 6, 2023	Mayor 	Date Nov 29, 2023

**The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant
Board Meeting Backup Files**

A. SWIFR Grant and Project Overview

B. Letters of Support

1) U.S. Congressional support from:

- Senator Christopher Murphy;
- Senator Richard Blumenthal; and
- Congressman Jim Himes;

2) Mayor Caroline Simmons;

3) Stamford Downtown (DSSD);

4) Mill River Park Collaborative; and

5) Westhill HS Environmental Club; and

6) Public support from members of the City's Food Scrap Recycling Task Force.

C. EPA Award Fact Sheet for the City of Stamford

D. EPA's SWIFR Award Press Release focused on Connecticut

E. EPA's SWIFR Award Press Release (national)

SWIFR Grant and Project Overview – 10/20/2023

Project Name:	SWIFR Food Waste Collection/Composting and Sustainability Project
Project Overview:	<p>The SWIFR Food Waste Collection/Composting and Sustainability project’s main goal is to reduce the amount of food waste that the City of Stamford sends to landfills by collecting and composting it as well as through education and outreach in Stamford’s thirteen neighborhoods. This project is expected to eliminate about 667 metric tons of Co2-e emissions that would have otherwise been emitted from landfills in the grant period. It contributes to Mayor Simmons’ environmental goals.</p> <p>Stamford plans to purchase and install three new composters to be made available in strategic public locations. The City also plans to purchase and install one composter in a Stamford public school (Westhill HS) in a program that will encourage the next generation’s (students’) involvement in food scrap recycling. If successful, it could become a model for other schools in future projects. The City plans to hire six part-time staff including a truck driver/laborer, four laborers, as well as a Food Waste and Sustainability Coordinator (FWSC) who will manage this project.</p> <p>In addition, the City plans to purchase and install approximately 52 new food waste collection smart bins (which will be typically installed on street sidewalks and other locations, such as parks). The City plans to purchase a new truck to be used by the driver and two of the laborers to pick up curbside food waste containers from participating large multi-unit housing complexes as well as the interior containers of the smart bins (filled with food scraps). Plans are for the other two laborers to work with the public at two of the new composter sites for two days a week (including Saturdays) to accept food waste drop-offs and run the composting machines. The purchase of the food waste collection smart bins will be spread over the project period as community education and outreach efforts will continue to build awareness regarding and increase participation in food waste recycling.</p> <p>The City plans to purchase a large number of the Home Food Scrap Recycling Kits and plans to give them away during community meetings throughout the grant period to help motivate interested residents to recycle food scraps.</p> <p>The City will partner with the Mill River Park Collaborative, Stamford Downtown (DSSD), and an ambassador for each of Stamford 13 neighborhoods for this project’s education, outreach, promotion, ideas, and collaboration efforts. The grant includes funding for marketing, public outreach, communications, and research to improve our food waste recycling program.</p> <p>Construction will be required for each of the composters to: build concrete pads, roofs/overheads, area perimeter security (e.g., fencing), and install power. Smart bin installations require concrete foundations, so some small concrete pads will need to be built for locations that don’t already have concrete.</p>
Project Budget:	\$2,016,940.78 (Grant Award Amount); Grant agreement execution is expected in January 2024.
Grant Period:	3 years
Funding Source:	The Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant
Letters of Support:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) U.S. Congressional support from our senators (Christopher Murphy & Richard Blumenthal) and congressman (Jim Himes); 2) Mayor Caroline Simmons; 3) Stamford Downtown (DSSD); 4) Mill River Park Collaborative; 5) Westhill HS Environmental Club; and 6) Public support from members of the City’s Food Scrap Recycling Task Force.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 10, 2023

Dan Halpert
Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (MC 5306P)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Letter of Support for the City of Stamford SWIFR Grant Application for Recycling Food Waste Infrastructure, Education, and Outreach

Dear Mr. Halpert,

We are writing in support of the City of Stamford's application for consideration under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Solid Waste Infrastructure For Recycling (SWIFR) grant program. The City is seeking \$2.2 million to expand their infrastructure for recycling food waste and provide enhanced recycling education and outreach to city residents.

The City of Stamford plans to install compost machines at locations in Mill River Park, Westhill High School, North Stamford, Harbor Point, and the Stamford Transfer Center. In Fiscal Year 2021-22, the City composted over 43,000 pounds of food scraps and they expect to compost about 75,000 pounds in Fiscal Year 2022-23 with their existing equipment. If awarded, SWIFR funding would allow for Stamford to process up to 400,000 pounds annually. If the pilot project at Westhill High School is successful, future funding would enable the City to establish composting programs at additional Stamford Public Schools.

This project will promote equitable and accessible composting throughout Stamford, including in underserved and low-income neighborhoods. To facilitate this, the City will establish a food waste collection program at housing complexes (such as apartments, condominiums, and senior housing facilities) and restaurants. Additionally, the City will implement a recycling education and outreach strategy to encourage consumers and businesses to adopt and support composting and recycling habits.

The benefits of municipal composting are multi-faceted. The regulated program will divert food waste from landfills, curb global warming, and support nutrient rich soil. Overall, composting will aid in transforming the City of Stamford into a more efficient, environmentally, and economically conscious community that will have a sustainable and positive impact on the climate.

We strongly support this food waste recycling initiative and the City of Stamford's commitment to reducing greenhouse emissions and improving the quality of life for all residents of the community. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

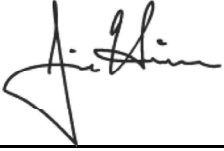
Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senate



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate



JIM HIMES
Member of Congress

CAROLINE SIMMONS
MAYOR
CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT



TEL: 203 977 4150
FAX: 203 977 5845
E-MAIL: CSIMMONS@STAMFORDCT.GOV

February 6, 2023.

Dan Halpert
U.S. EPA, Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (MC 5306P)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Letter of Support for the Stamford SWIFR grant application for Recycling Food Waste Infrastructure, Education, and Outreach

Dear Mr. Halpert,

I am writing in support of the City of Stamford's request for EPA funding for infrastructure for recycling food waste as well as recycling education and outreach through the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant program.

The City of Stamford plans to install four compost machines at Mill River Park, Westhill High School, North Stamford, and another strategically located site. In FY 21/22, the City composted over 43,000 lbs. of food scraps. They expect to compost about 75,000 lbs. in FY 22/23 with their existing equipment. If they are awarded this grant, the annual amount of food waste that Stamford processes could rise to 400,000 lbs. annually. If the pilot project at Westhill High School is successful, future funding would enable the City to establish composting programs at additional Stamford public schools.

This project will promote accessible composting throughout the city, including underserved and low-income neighborhoods. To facilitate this, the City will establish a food waste collection program at housing complexes (such as apartments, condominiums, and senior housing facilities) and restaurants. In addition, the City will implement a recycling education and outreach strategy to encourage consumers and businesses to adopt and support composting and recycling habits.

The benefits of municipal composting are multi-faceted. The regulated program will divert food waste from landfills, curb global warming, and support nutrient rich soil. Overall, composting will aid in transforming the City of Stamford into a more efficient, environmentally and economically conscious community that will support a sustainable positive impact on climate change.

I strongly support this food waste recycling initiative. We are committed to reducing greenhouse emissions and improving the quality of life for all members of our community. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Caroline Simmons

Mayor

City of Stamford, Connecticut



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Stamford Town Center

Five Landmark Square, Suite 110, Stamford, CT 06901

Tel (203)348-5285 Fax (203)348-6857

dssd@stamford-downtown.com stamford-downtown.com

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LMC, a Lennar Company

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R. Hollander: Master Goldsmith Inc.

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Beth Krupa Interiors

Todd Lindvall, General Manager

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Residence Inn by Marriott Stamford Downtown

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MarLo Associates, Inc.

Michael Marchetti

Columbus Park Trattoria

Nagi Osta, General Manager

36 Atlantic St LLC and Old Town Square LLC

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Grant Silver, Director

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Caroline Simmons, Mayor

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Robert Stoddard, Partner Strategic Corporate Tax

KPMG

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Dr. Sharon J. White & Associates, LLC

Alex Yaraghi, Textile Buyer

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Robert H. Kahn, Present

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BE Rep Group

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Pyramid Real Estate Group

Frank J. Mercede, President & CEO

Frank Mercede & Sons, Inc.

David M. Kooris, President

February 9, 2023

Dan Halpert

U.S. EPA, Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (MC 5306P)

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20460

RE: Letter of Support –

Stamford SWIFR Grant Application for Recycling Food Waste Infrastructure, Education, and Outreach

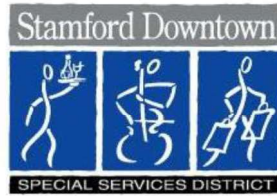
Dear Mr. Halpert:

Please accept this letter of support from the Stamford Downtown Special Services District (Stamford Downtown) in support of the City of Stamford's request for EPA funding for infrastructure for recycling food waste as well as recycling education and outreach through the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant program. Stamford Downtown serves as the Business Improvement District for the City of Stamford's central business corridor.

The City of Stamford plans to install four compost machines at Mill River Park, Westhill High School, North Stamford, and another site. In FY 21/22, the City composted over 43,000 lbs. of food scraps. The City expects to compost about 75,000 lbs. in FY 22/23 with their existing equipment. If the City receives this grant, the annual amount of food waste that Stamford processes could rise to 400,000 lbs. annually. If the pilot project at Westhill High School is successful, future funding would enable the City to establish composting programs at additional Stamford public schools.

It is important to note, Stamford Downtown has worked with the City's Department of Recycling and Sanitation for more than a year to locate food waste in, or proximate to, downtown. Mill River Park, which is located immediately adjacent to downtown, is an excellent site for a composter. Stamford Downtown is well positioned to support the City's food composting program by working with downtown-based residential developments and restaurants to collect and deliver food waste to the Mill River-based composter.

This project will promote accessible composting throughout Stamford including underserved and low-income neighborhoods. To facilitate this, the City will establish a food waste collection program at housing complexes (such as apartments, condominiums, and senior housing facilities) and restaurants. In addition, the City of Stamford will implement a recycling education and outreach strategy to encourage consumers and businesses to adopt and support composting and recycling habits.



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Pyramid Real Estate Group

Frank J. Mercede, President & CEO

Frank Mercede & Sons, Inc.

Stamford Downtown is a strong proponent for this food waste recycling initiative. We are committed to reducing greenhouse emissions and improving the quality of life for all members of our community. As cited above, Stamford Downtown has been working with the City of Stamford to locate a composter in, or near, downtown. Located on the western edge of downtown, Mill River is an excellent location for such a composter.

Stamford Downtown has experienced dramatic residential growth in recent years. Since 2016, more than 1,900 residential units have been constructed downtown with an additional 1,300 scheduled for construction within the next four years. Additionally, more than 90 restaurants are located downtown. Such development will generate substantial levels of food waste.

Stamford Downtown will partner with the City of Stamford to design a downtown-wide food waste collection program. Stamford Downtown intends to utilize its ten-member Hospitality Ambassador and Environmental Maintenance Teams to regularly collect food waste from multi-family residential buildings as well as restaurants then deliver these items to the composter site at Mill River Park.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Stamford Downtown is confident you will find the City of Stamford is an excellent candidate for an expanded food waste recycling program. Stamford Downtown looks forward to partnering with the City of Stamford to successfully implement such a program. This program will generate a variety of environmental benefits for Stamford and its residents.

Sincerely,

M. T. Moore

Michael Moore

VP, Operations

Stamford Downtown Special Services District



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Chairman
Arnold M. Karp
Vice Chair
Fatima Mawji, MD
Vice Chair
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Adam Whittingham
Jon Winkel
Jennifer Young
Fabrizio Zichichi
Nate Zubal

Nette Compton,
President & CEO

January 12, 2023.

Dan Halpert
U.S. EPA, Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (MC 5306P)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Letter of Support for the Stamford SWIFR grant application for Recycling Food Waste Infrastructure, Education, and Outreach

To Mr. Halpert:

I am submitting a letter of support the City of Stamford's application to expand the current Food Waste Recycling Program. We are very excited to partner with the City to be the home for an on-site food composting machine. As an educational and outreach partner, we will be able to improve the understanding and usage of this critical food waste diversion tool. The ideal geography of our site and size of the machine will not only expand residential access but will also allow our program to access commercial restaurant participation.

Our park location is especially important due to the population access that we can uniquely provide. As an educational center providing field trips, camp and after school care, we have thousands of students come through the park each year. We are dedicated to folding this resource into curriculum for students, who are key ambassadors in family adoption of compost practices. Students will also be able to see the finished product of compost in use across the park and learn about the benefits of compost in native landscape maintenance and care.

Our central location provides key connections to critical populations beyond students. Two of Stamford's six disadvantaged census tracts straddle the park, as determined by the Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool. The remaining 4 tracts are all within a 10-minute drive of the park. Our two neighboring census tracts account for almost 12,000 residents who could easily walk to our site to drop off compost. Our wide range of free and low-cost programming routinely brings thousands of families into the park, providing exposure and awareness of this resource to area residents.

Our location also allows us to connect with area restaurants in collaboration with the Downtown Stamford Special Services District, who will partner with us to collect restaurant waste. These large volumes of material will ensure a maximum impact of the equipment, as well as supply the park with sufficient compost for use on site, reducing our costs and demand for remote sourcing of compost by the park. Our landcare staff and steward intern program are well established and capable of overseeing the use and maintenance of this community resource.

Nette Compton
President & CEO
Mill River Park Collaborative

Westhill Environmental Club

Westhill High School
125 Roxbury Rd,
Stamford CT, 06902
02/14/2023

Dan Halpert
U.S. EPA, Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (MC 5306P)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460

Re: Letter of Support for the City of Stamford's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Application

Dear Mr. Halpert,

I am writing in support of the City of Stamford's application for EPA funding through the SWIFR grant program for composting. As the largest high school in Stamford, Westhill High School is representative of the future generations of the City. Westhill is home to over 2,200 students and many faculty members, unifying many diverse communities across Stamford. Lead by the Westhill Environmental Club and Westhill's passionate Science Department, students are eager for hands-on, engaging projects that will have a lasting impact on climate change mitigation efforts. The City has made profound - and successful - strides in educating the public about waste reduction and food scrap recycling. At the Katrina Mygatt Recycling Center, many Stamford residents participate in a drop-off composting service, diverting over 30 tons of waste from Stamford landfills.

Westhill would like to follow the City's lead. Westhill has a unique ability to educate the youth about environmental issues. The Science Department, Environmental Club, and AgriScience Department would make great use of a composter for in-field labs and activities, serving as an effective educational tool for higher-level learning. The compost produced would be used to enhance the soil quality (nutrient-density, permeability, water retention) of AgriScience's community garden and the upcoming Purple & Gold pollinator garden!

Needless to say, composting is a key component of climate change prevention; with food waste comprising ~35% of typical landfill mass, diverting food waste from landfills significantly reduces methane emissions. With such a vast student and staff population, Westhill is an ideal site to recover food waste from landfills and reduce the school's environmental footprint. It is vital that we change the culture around food waste and encourage people to be mindful of where their waste goes beyond the garbage bin. It is at the student level where these changes in mindset and behavior can most easily emerge. Help us return food back to the Earth!

Sincerely,
Carley Grant
Science Department; Westhill Environmental Club Advisor
203-977-4477

Kayla Williamson
President of Westhill Environmental Club; Student



October 20, 2023

To the Stamford Boards Reviewing the EPA SWIFR Grant:

We are Stamford residents and members of Stamford's Food Scrap Recycling Task Force. As volunteers, we work with the Department of Recycling and Sanitation to establish and promote food scrap recycling in our city. We urge you to accept the recent \$2,016,971 SWIFR Grant awarded to Stamford by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The grant money will increase the city's capacity for food waste composting, expand collection locations and make participation more convenient for those living in the middle and northern parts of the city as well as those who live in apartment buildings. The grant requires no matching funds.

Our efforts began in 2019, when we raised money for a matching grant from Sustainable CT to get this important effort off the ground. Food scraps make up some 30-40 percent of our city's garbage sent to landfills, at a current cost of \$89/ton. Decomposing in landfills, it's a major source of the greenhouse gas methane.

We started food scrap collection in FY 2022 and processed 43,000 pounds that year. In FY 2023, participation increased, and we collected 84,000 pounds. More and more residents are aware of our program. We are thrilled at how food scrap recycling has expanded.

Our program is voluntary; and residents must bring their scraps to collection locations (no home pickup). It can take residents in the northern parts of the city an hour round trip to bring food scraps to the Mygatt Recycling Center. Discussions with residents there indicate this is a major impediment to participation.

What makes Stamford's program unique among other regional towns and cities is that we have opted to further reduce both our cost and our carbon footprint by processing residents' food scraps on site, rather than trucking them to a central composting site. If you haven't seen the green composter at the Mygatt Recycling Center, we encourage you to check it out. While there, visit the covered area in the back of the Mygatt driveway, where our compost is "cured" for residents to take home for free to enrich their soil.



Stamford's Food Scrap Recycling effort has been so successful we have exceeded our composter's capacity. A second composter, installed at Fairgate Farm (through a USDA grant), will start accepting food waste by November 6.

To expand collection and make it easier and more convenient for residents to separate food from their garbage, EPA's SWIFR grant would provide for the following:

- Four additional food scrap recycling composters, including one in Mill River Park and one in North Stamford
- 52 solar-powered technology-enabled food waste collection bins (see photo, right, of a similar bin in New York City). These "smart bins" will be placed on city sidewalks, in/near city parks, and at other convenient locations. They are sealed and don't attract critters and when nearly full, they alert the Department to come and empty them
- A part-time hire to coordinate food waste collection and the EPA Grant program
- A new flatbed truck to collect food waste from smart bins and participating large residential complexes
- Additional home food scrap recycling kits to give to residents at food scrap education and outreach events and to encourage participation in the program



We urge you to accept this grant so that our food scrap efforts can continue to grow, to make our city greener, and to further reduce garbage hauling and landfill costs.

Sincerely,

Jenny Henkind, Caryn Furst, Karen Fisher-Baird, Wendi Hoak, Colleen Wood, Lisa Siebert
Stamford residents and members of the Stamford Food Scrap Task Force

Investing in America through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants

Community Grant Fact Sheet

Stamford, Connecticut

Selected Grant Recipient

Name: City of Stamford, CT

Project Title: Food Scrap Collection/Compost Programs and Other Recycling

Highlights

- Creates four jobs.
- Benefits disadvantaged communities.

EPA Information

Region: EPA Region 1

Grant Funding: \$2,016,941

The City of Stamford, CT's project will create four strategically located food waste collection points, a curbside collection program for residential and commercial food waste, a recycling education and outreach program for the public, and a pilot for a food waste collection and composting program at a public high school. The city will purchase and install 3 new composters and will use composted generated in public parks and distribute to interested residents for personal use. This project will increase food waste diverted from landfills by 165 tons and reduce CO₂ emission production by 288.4 tons. Additionally, this project will increase composting capability by 430%, from 1000lbs per day to 4300lbs per day.

SWIFR Grants for Communities

The 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides the largest EPA investment in recycling in 30 years to support National Recycling Strategy implementation and build a circular economy for all. As part of the Investing in America agenda, this funding supports improvements to waste management systems and programs, allowing resources to be used more efficiently and reducing the impact on the climate. SWIFR Community grant funding can be used to establish or optimize collection and management of materials; fund infrastructure, technology, or other improvements to reduce contamination; enhance markets for recycled commodities; and increase the diversion, recycling rate and quality of materials collected for municipal solid waste. These grants also advance the Justice40 Initiative, which aims to ensure that 40% of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.

EPA will make the award to the City of Stamford once all legal and administrative requirements are satisfied.

SWIFR State Grant Program Fact Sheet

[Connecticut SWIFR State Grant Fact Sheet](#)



Biden-Harris Administration Invests More Than \$2.6 Million in Connecticut Recycling Infrastructure Projects Through Investing in America Agenda

EPA grants funded in part by largest recycling investment in 30 years under President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

September 14, 2023

Contact Information

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BOSTON (Sept. 14, 2023) — Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced more than \$2.6 million from President Biden's Investing in America agenda to expand recycling infrastructure and waste management systems across Connecticut.

EPA has selected Stamford, Connecticut to receive a grant of more than \$2 million under the newly created Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling [funding opportunity](#). In addition, the agency is making available approximately [\\$592,000 for Connecticut](#) to improve solid waste management planning, data collection and implementation of plans. Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, this investment totaling is a part of EPA's largest recycling investment in 30 years.

The grants support the implementation of [EPA's National Recycling Strategy](#) to build an economy devoted to keeping materials, products, and services in circulation for as long as possible —what's known as a "circular economy."

"President Biden's Investing in America Agenda tackles our most pressing environmental challenges including climate change and lead in drinking water, and today we add another historic investment to better manage waste in communities across America," said **EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. "By investing in better recycling, EPA is deploying resources to provide recycling services across the country, including in disadvantaged communities, while preventing waste that contributes to the climate crisis, supporting local economies and creating good-paying jobs."

"Connecticut's recycling efforts are commendable, and the City of Stamford's project will more than quadruple the City's composting capability," said **EPA New England Regional Administrator, David W. Cash**. "The project will benefit historically marginalized communities in Stamford by making food composting and recycling accessible and convenient."

"This federal funding will help cut food waste going to landfills and strengthen recycling services in underserved communities," **said U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal**. "It will also create good-paying jobs. Overall, it's a win-win, fighting the climate crisis and expanding the economy. I'm thrilled by this award and look forward to fighting for more."

U.S. Senator Chris Murphy said, "Connecticut produces more trash than our system can currently handle, and a lot of that waste comes from food scraps. This more than \$2 million grant from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will help Stamford make it more convenient for residents to start composting and improve waste management across the state," said Murphy."

"Proper waste management, recycling systems, compost infrastructure – these are the essential, often unglamorous, nitty-gritty of what makes a city run, and what makes it a wonderful, clean place to live," **said U.S. Representative Jim Himes**. "With this \$2 million grant made possible by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Stamford can purchase new recycling collection vehicles and bins, ensure that every community has access to recycling services, and remove food waste and plastics to create a cleaner, climate resilient, and sustainable city."

"The City of Stamford's food composting program has been a great success, with over 43,000 pounds of food waste composted last year alone," **said Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons**. "With this critical funding, we will be able to increase our capacity, expand the program for residents across the city, save taxpayers money, and most importantly, protect our environment from harmful waste. We are grateful to the EPA, our federal delegation, and the Biden Administration for this funding, their commitment to tackling climate change, and their once-in-a-generation investments in critical infrastructure across the country."

President Biden's Investing in America Agenda is growing the American economy from the bottom up and middle-out – from rebuilding our nation's infrastructure, to driving over \$470 billion in private sector manufacturing and clean energy investments in the United States, to creating a manufacturing and innovation boom powered by good paying jobs that don't require a four-year degree, to building a clean-energy economy that will combat climate change and make our communities more resilient.

EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program is also advancing President's [Justice40 Initiative](#), which aims to ensure that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. Approximately \$56 million out of the \$73 million – or 76% - of the total funding for communities will go toward projects that benefit disadvantaged communities.

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Communities

The recycling grants for communities will support improvements to waste management systems across the country. Connecticut's selected project will:

- Reduce the Amount of Food Waste that Stamford sends to Landfills by Collecting and Composting it and through Education and Outreach.
- Make it More Convenient for Residents and Businesses to Recycle Food
- Facilitate Use of Recycled Food Waste

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for States and Territories

The recycling grants for states and territories will provide funding to all 56 states, territories, and

the District of Columbia via grants ranging from \$360,000 to \$750,000; with the highest grant amounts supporting those states and territories that need it the most.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) will use the funding to develop and implement a new data storage system to track the flow of municipal solid waste, recyclables, and construction and demolition waste materials; evaluate the efficacy of recently implemented municipal diversion programs through targeted waste characterizations and support a solid waste and recycling training program for state and local staff.

These grants represent important steps toward achieving the [EPA's National Recycling Goal](#) and [Food Loss and Waste Reduction Goal](#). Funded activities include improving post-consumer materials management programs through developing or updating solid waste management plans and strengthening data collection efforts.

More information is available at https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-09/Connecticut_SWIFR.pdf (98 KB).

Additional Background

Today's announcement for states, territories, and communities is the first round of funding from this new grant program. In the coming months, EPA will announce the selected recipients of the recycling grants for Tribes and intertribal consortia, as well as the recipients of EPA's new [Recycling Education and Outreach](#) grant program.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$275 million total from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2026 for grants authorized under the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act - the largest investment in recycling in 30 years. The recycling grants are supplemented with additional funding provided through EPA's annual appropriations. EPA has selected these entities to receive funding for recycling infrastructure projects and anticipates making all the awards announced today once all legal and administrative requirements are satisfied.

For details about the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program selectees and other Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-related funding opportunities, visit the [EPA recycling grants webpage](#).

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Biden-Harris Administration Invests More than \$100 Million in Recycling Infrastructure Projects Through Investing in America Agenda

EPA grants funded in part by largest recycling investment in 30 years under President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

September 13, 2023

Contact Information

EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced more than \$100 million from President Biden’s Investing in America agenda to expand recycling infrastructure and waste management systems across the country, representing EPA’s largest recycling investment in 30 years.

EPA has selected 25 communities to receive grants totaling more than \$73 million under the newly created Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling funding opportunity <<https://epa.gov/infrastructure/solid-waste-infrastructure-recycling-grants-political-subdivisions>>. In addition, the agency is making available approximately \$32 million for states and territories <<https://epa.gov/infrastructure/solid-waste-infrastructure-recycling-grants-states-and-territories>> to improve solid waste management planning, data collection and implementation of plans.

The grants support the implementation of EPA’s National Recycling Strategy <<https://epa.gov/circulareconomy/national-recycling-strategy>> to build an economy devoted to keeping materials, products, and services in circulation for as long as possible – what’s known as a “circular economy.”

“President Biden’s Investing in America agenda tackles our most pressing environmental challenges including climate change and lead in drinking water, and today we add another historic investment to better manage waste in communities across America,” said **EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. “By investing in better recycling, EPA is deploying resources to provide recycling services across the country, including in disadvantaged communities, while preventing waste that contributes to the climate crisis, supporting local economies and creating good-paying jobs.”

“Recycling helps us protect our environment while creating jobs and promoting economic growth,” said **Senator Tom Carper, Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee**. “Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, this unprecedented investment will provide communities across our country with the opportunity to improve their recycling programs and implement more sustainable waste-management practices. I applaud EPA for the hard work in getting this funding out the door, and I look forward to working together to advance policies that strengthen our nation’s recycling infrastructure.”

President Biden's Investing in America agenda, a key pillar of Bidenomics, is growing the American economy from the middle out and bottom up – from rebuilding our nation's infrastructure, to driving over \$500 billion in private sector manufacturing and clean energy investments in the United States, to creating a manufacturing and innovation boom powered by good paying jobs that don't require a four-year degree, to building a clean-energy economy that is lowering energy costs for hardworking families, combatting climate change and making our communities more resilient.

EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program is also advancing the President's Justice40 Initiative [↗](#), which aims to ensure that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. Approximately \$56 million out of the \$73 million – or 76% - of the total funding for communities will go toward projects that benefit disadvantaged communities.

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Communities

The recycling grants for communities will support improvements to waste management systems across the country and will range from \$500,000 to \$4 million per grant. Selected projects include purchasing new fleets of recycling collection vehicles and bins to provide curbside recycling services for communities currently lacking access; upgrades to material recovery facilities to reduce contamination; enhancements to composting and organics programs and infrastructure; and construction of various types of facilities that improve recycling, composting, and reuse infrastructure for materials such as plastics and food waste.

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for States and Territories

The recycling grants for states and territories will provide funding to all 56 states, territories, and the District of Columbia via grants ranging from \$360,000 to \$750,000; with the highest grant amounts supporting those states and territories that need it the most. These grants represent important steps toward achieving the EPA's National Recycling Goal <https://epa.gov/circulareconomy/us-national-recycling-goal> and Food Loss and Waste Reduction Goal <https://epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/united-states-2030-food-loss-and-waste-reduction-goal#:~:text=u.s.%202030%20food%20loss%20and%20waste%20reduction%20goal,-on%20september%2016&text=the%20goal%20seeks%20to%20cut,money%20for%20families%20and%20busi>

nesses.>. Funded activities include improving post-consumer materials management programs through developing or updating solid waste management plans and strengthening data collection efforts.

Additional Background:

Today's announcement for states, territories, and communities is the first round of funding from this new grant program. In the coming months, EPA will announce the selected recipients of the recycling grants for Tribes and intertribal consortia, as well as the recipients of EPA's new Recycling Education and Outreach

<<https://epa.gov/infrastructure/consumer-recycling-education-and-outreach-grant-program>> grant program.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$275 million total from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2026 for grants authorized under the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act - the largest investment in recycling in 30 years. The recycling grants are supplemented with additional funding provided through EPA's annual appropriations. EPA has selected these entities to receive funding for recycling infrastructure projects and anticipates making all the awards announced today once all legal and administrative requirements are satisfied.

For details about the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program selectees and other Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-related funding opportunities, visit the EPA recycling grants webpage <<https://epa.gov/infrastructure/swifr>>.

Contact Us <<https://epa.gov/newsreleases/forms/contact-us>> to ask a question, provide feedback, or report a problem.

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