

## **SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT ROUND 2 (SMMR2) GRANT PROGRAM**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – 5/27/25**

**Q. Could DEEP professionals guide our proposal development? We'd value advice on structuring a successful application for an ASP operation at our Transfer Station.**

A. As the state agency responsible for reviewing applications and awarding funding, DEEP staff cannot provide assistance or application specific guidance to potential applicants.

**Q. Is rent/lease of equipment eligible or only purchase?**

A. The rental or leasing of equipment needed to start up a permanent program or permanent infrastructure, but that would then no longer be needed afterwards, would be an eligible expense. However, the on-going rental/lease of equipment in lieu of purchasing the equipment would not be considered eligible.

**Q. What is allowable under operational expenses?**

A. Operational expenses will only be funded to the extent that they are necessary for the start-up and implementation of permanent waste diversion and reduction programs and initiatives. On-going operational costs for permanent programs with an indefinite timeframe are not eligible for funding.

**Q. Can a municipality apply for two projects simultaneously (e.g., composting infrastructure for organics recycling AND transitioning curbside trash pick-up to UBP)? Would those both fall under one category, or could one application span both categories?**

A. An eligible applicant can submit one application that contains components that span both RFA categories as a unified project.

**Q. What education programs would DEEP fund for our diverse population? As Connecticut's most diverse suburb with significant multifamily housing, we need tailored and tailorabile approaches.**

A. Education and outreach that is necessary for implementing a new permanent program or initiative would be an eligible expense. It would also be eligible for similar efforts around other waste management programs and services above and beyond existing legal requirements for waste and recycling collection and disposal. However, education and outreach of a more general nature centered around compliance with existing law would not be eligible.

**Q. Would our container-based Unit Based Pricing approach qualify? We're looking at progressively smaller totes adjusted to household size rather than bag-based programs.**

A. Container-based UBP approaches would be eligible for SMMR2 grant funding.

**Q. Can the formula take account of regional benefits? Our Transfer Station's Aerobic Static Pile operation would serve beyond just our municipality's MSW.**

A. Regional benefits are only eligible for consideration if other municipalities are committed to sending organic waste to the proposed facility in your municipality.

**Q. How can we meet the grant's diversion quotient requirements? Currently, we could divert about 30 tons of food waste from our schools, but this creates a small quotient when divided by our number of residents.**

A. The amount of waste diverted relative to the municipal population is an important metric. Prospective applicants should continue a variety of waste streams to increase their tonnage.

**Q. Is a feasibility study for a regional anaerobic digestor eligible under this R2 that includes start-up and phased implementation for multiple communities and educational institution(s) in the region?**

A. If the feasibility study transitions into the start-up and implementation of a permanent regional anaerobic digester as a unified project, the study would be considered eligible. However, just a standalone feasibility study that does not automatically lead to permanent infrastructure or the implementation of a permanent program would not be considered eligible.

**Q. I work for a public school food service department and was hoping funds would be available for us to implement composting in our school sites. I am unsure on #4 in implementation and reporting requirements considering we have not yet done our waste audits. In order to receive funding would this need to be done prior to applying for the grant?**

A. Waste audits would not necessarily be needed to be completed prior to the submission of an SMMR2 application by an eligible applicant.

**Q. I gather that no expenses incurred before the Assistance Agreement is executed would be reimbursable. Correct?**

A. Correct, any expenses incurred before the full execution of the Assistance Agreement would NOT be eligible for reimbursement.

**Q. Would expenses incurred after Assistance Agreement is executed in early 2026 and before July 1, 2026 be eligible under the grant, even if the schools have the project funded in their budget than ends June 30, 2026?**

A. Yes, expenses incurred after the Assistance Agreement is executed and before July 1, 2026 would be eligible under the grant, even if the schools have a project funded in their budget which ends June 30, 2026.

**Q. In general, I see in one of your answers that the timing of the Assistance Agreements is more in step with projects to be implemented during FY27. That effectively precludes schools working to comply with CORL by 7/1/26.**

A. As far as using funds to assist with preparations for the law change on 7/1/26, if the project were a quick duration one, a substantial amount of the grant funds could be utilized by school prior to 7/1/26, so it definitely wouldn't rule out such projects.

**Q. Does DEEP anticipate an additional round of SMM funding in 2026/2027?**

A. DEEP does not currently have funding to support an additional round of SMM funding in 2026-27, but will announce any additional funding opportunities as soon as they become available.