

2022 Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant Program

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

N.C. Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service

The purpose of this grant program is to assist local governments with the implementation, expansion, and improvement of waste reduction and recycling programs in North Carolina. The Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS) administers the Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant program through the Solid Waste Management Outreach Program.

With the release of this Request for Proposals (RFP), DEACS is seeking proposals that request grant funding to help initiate or expand public waste reduction programs within the state. **Applicants should carefully read this entire RFP prior to submitting a proposal. Proposals must be received by DEACS by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 17, 2022.** Please address any questions about this grant program to Sandy Skolochenko at (919) 707-8147, sandy.skolochenko@ncdenr.gov.

Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant Program Parameters:

The 2022 Community Waste Reduction and Recycling (CWRAR) Grant Program seeks to fund projects that help communities build lasting capacity to divert materials from the waste stream and / or that increase public awareness of waste reduction and recycling. There are two categories of CWRAR Grants for 2022: Priority Project Grants and Standard Project Grants. Different levels of grant funding are available for each project category.

Available Funding:

- Priority Project: Applicants are eligible for a Priority Project grant award of up to **\$40,000**.
- Standard Project: Applicants are eligible for a Standard Project grant award of up to **\$30,000**.

Priority Project Grants:

Priority Project Grants support investments in public recycling program areas that have been determined by the state recycling program to be of particular importance to growing and expanding efficient and effective waste reduction and recycling services throughout North Carolina.

2022 CWRAR priorities include:

- Projects that fund outreach enforcement efforts (e.g., tagging program) to reduce contamination in the recycling stream and improve material quality. If seeking funding for educational enforcement efforts, please see additional provisions in the Special Requirements section.
- Projects that divert food waste from landfill disposal by implementing or expanding collection, management, and recycling of food waste from residential or commercial sources.
- Projects that establish or expand glass recycling collection. To qualify as a Priority Project, the community must collect glass to be recycled by a downstream glass recycling processor, not to be sent for end-use applications such as aggregate or daily cover.
- Projects that implement new permanent Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) programs or that expand existing permanent HHW programs. To qualify as a Priority Project, a newly established permanent HHW program must be open to collect HHW from the public at least four (4) separate days during any given fiscal year and an existing HHW program must significantly increase the number of days or hours of operation so that citizens have improved access to HHW services.

Standard Project Grants:

Standard Project Grants include any projects that increase and / or enhance public waste reduction and recycling but fall outside of the 2022 priorities. Standard Projects may include but are not limited to:

- Projects that significantly increase a community's overall diversion of materials from the solid waste stream.
- Projects that improve recycling program efficiency and/or cost effectiveness.
- Projects that implement new or expand existing curbside recycling programs or that help transition a curbside recycling program from collection using bins or blue-bags to a cart-based collection system.
- Projects that increase the diversion of materials that are banned from disposal in North Carolina.
- Projects that implement recycling programs for special wastes such as fluorescent bulbs, used motor oil or filters, used cooking oil, antifreeze, pesticide containers, batteries or latex paint.
- Projects that implement or expand construction and demolition recycling efforts to divert materials such as concrete, unpainted/untreated wood, asphalt (from roads and shingles), gypsum, metals, brick, glass, plastics, carpet, or salvaged building materials from landfill disposal.
- Projects that implement education and outreach to reduce contamination in the recycling stream and improve material quality. If seeking funding for recycling education, please see additional provisions in the Special Requirements section.
- Projects that implement or expand public school recycling programs. If seeking funding for public school recycling, please see additional provisions in the Special Requirements section.
- Projects that increase the efficiency or effectiveness of public electronics recycling programs. If seeking funding for electronics recycling, please see additional provisions in the Special Requirements section.
- Projects that create or expand away-from-home recycling opportunities such as recycling infrastructure for parks, sports fields, streetscape / pedestrian recycling, and / or recycling at public venues. If seeking funding for away-from-home recycling, please see additional provisions in the Special Requirements section.

Communities preparing proposals for a 2022 CWRAR Grant are strongly encouraged to contact Sandy Skolochenko at (919) 707-8147, sandy.skolochenko@ncdenr.gov or Mel Gilles (for education and outreach projects) at (919) 707-8127, mel.gilles@ncdenr.gov. These staff are available to discuss potential grant projects and provide technical assistance and advice prior to submitting a grant proposal.

Cash Match Requirement:

Required Cash Match: CWRAR grant winners must provide a cash match equal to or exceeding 20 percent of the requested grant funding. For example, a grantee requesting a \$20,000 grant must match at least \$4,000 with local funds for a total project cost of \$24,000.

Calculating Cash Match: To determine the necessary cash match for any grant project, first determine the total budget associated with the project and then use the following equation: total project budget ÷ 6 = required cash match.

Distributions from the \$2 per ton Solid Waste Disposal Tax may be used to cover cash match requirements. In-kind contributions will not be accepted in lieu of cash match.

Grant Project Planning:

Available funding is limited, and it is anticipated that the 2022 CWRAR Grant Round will be highly competitive. For this reason, it is important that projects seeking grant funding be well thought out and well planned, and that applicants follow the instructions in this RFP when preparing proposals by providing all information as outlined in the Required Proposal Format section. Proposals that seek grant funds for the replacement of existing equipment will be scored substantially lower than projects that implement new recycling services or projects that expand existing recycling services.

Use of Grant Funds:

Examples of **approved uses** of CWRAR Grant funds include site development costs, construction of facilities to handle recyclable materials, equipment purchases, equipment installation costs, key recycling program components, public awareness programs and materials that support public education such as signs or brochures.

Grant funds **MAY NOT** be used for employee salaries, land acquisition costs, administrative expenses such as overhead, utility costs, studies or work performed by consultants, contracted collection costs, and / or payment for other contracted recycling services such as payment to a vendor for operating a household hazardous waste collection event.

If you have questions about eligible uses of grant funds, please contact Sandy Skolochenko at (919)-707-8147 or sandy.skolochenko@ncdenr.gov for more information.

Eligible Entities:

- Local governments, defined as counties, municipalities, councils of governments and solid waste authorities in North Carolina, are eligible to apply for funding from the CWRAR Grant Program.
- Former CWRAR grantees are eligible to apply. Applicants with an **open 2021 CWRAR Grant contract** must have invoiced for 90% of eligible grant funds by the proposal due date (February 17, 2022). Proposals **will not** be accepted from applicants with an open CWRAR Grant from cycles prior to 2021. Applicants with open grants from other programs (e.g., Abandoned Manufactured Home Grants) are eligible to apply.
- Federal and state agencies **are not eligible** for funding through this grant program.
- Public universities, community colleges and private colleges and universities **are not eligible** for funding through this grant program.
- Not-for-profit entities **are not eligible** for funding through this grant program; however, these entities are eligible for funding through the Recycling Business Development Grant Round. Contact Sandy Skolochenko at (919) 707-8147 or sandy.skolochenko@ncdenr.gov for more information.
- Public school systems and individual public schools **are not eligible** to apply directly for funding through this grant program. **However**, local governments (counties or municipalities) may apply for funding to support public school recycling projects - see Special Requirements section below.

Conditions on Submittals:

- **ONLY ONE PROPOSAL PER ELIGIBLE ENTITY WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Grant proposals may combine funding requests for multiple types of projects into one proposal. The available funding limits still apply, and total request may not exceed the grant award amounts noted in the Available Funding section.
- Multi-party initiatives such as joint projects involving two or more local governments where each local government contributes towards project funding are strongly encouraged. Any group participating in a regional or multi-party project proposal may not submit additional proposals.
- Applications will not be accepted from local governments that have not submitted the required Solid Waste and Materials Management Annual Report for the most recent fiscal year.

General Requirements:

General requirements for all applicants:

- Usage of N.C. Solid Waste Disposal Tax proceeds: Solid Waste Disposal Tax proceeds are distributed to eligible local governments on a quarterly basis by the Department of Revenue. According to G.S. § 105-187.63, these funds must be used by a city or county solely for solid waste management programs and services. CWRAR Grant applicants must certify in writing that all disposal tax proceeds are used only for the purpose of providing solid waste and recycling services.

In addition to this written certification, applicants should describe how disposal tax funds are utilized and whether proceeds will be used to supply matching funds.

- **Public Building Recycling Services:** CWRAR Grants will not be awarded to applicants that do not have recycling services for cans, bottles and paper available at their government buildings. As part of the grant proposal, all applicants must indicate that employees in the key government buildings operated by the applicant have reasonable access to recycling services and are able and encouraged to recycle materials generated in the course of government business. Please include a list of the materials collected for recycling at these facilities.
- **Mercury Product Recycling:** G.S. § 130A-310.60 requires that any public agency using state funds for the construction or operation of public buildings shall establish a program for the collection and recycling of all spent fluorescent lights and thermostats that contain mercury generated in public buildings. As part of the grant proposal, all applicants must indicate that they have a program in place for the collection of fluorescent lights and mercury thermostats from their public buildings. If the applicant does not have a program in place for the collection of these materials, then as a precondition of any grant award the applicant must initiate such services. For more information about these requirements and / or for assistance implementing a mercury products recycling program please contact Sandy Skolochenko at 919-707-8147, sandy.skolochenko@ncdenr.gov

Special Requirements:

Applicants seeking funding for recycling education, public school recycling, away-from-home recycling and/or electronics recycling **MUST** address the following Special Requirement(s) in their submitted proposal.

- **Special Requirements for Recycling Education/Enforcement Projects:** Applicants should contact DEACS Recycling Outreach Specialist, Mel Gilles at (919) 707-8127, mel.gilles@ncdenr.gov, to discuss a project before applying.
 1. Provide a list of the recyclable materials accepted by the program and indicate how the materials are to be collected (single stream, dual stream, source separated). If the grant application is for regional outreach materials, all local governments or entities participating must agree on a common list of materials for recycling and provide that common accepted list with the grant application.
 2. If the grant application is for regional outreach materials, a letter of agreement and support must be provided by each local government or entity participating in the proposed grant project. Each participating entity should establish and provide a designated recycling contact for project coordination.
 3. Identify the primary message of the outreach effort.
 4. Indicate whether you will be using your own design or if you will be using DEACS customizable design services. <https://deq.nc.gov/conservation/recycling/general-recycling-information/customized-outreach-materials>
 5. Supply mock-ups or example graphics for the outreach materials, enforcement tags, or ads. Are your materials dependent on words or images?
 6. If the grant is awarded:
 - Discuss the material design with your assigned DEACS grant manager as soon as possible to ensure clear communication about the project content and timing.
 - Documents must be submitted for review prior to printing or execution. Reviews may take up to two weeks, so plan accordingly and submit well in advance of printing (not days before going to print). It is often helpful to submit an initial draft for early feedback.
 - Post your community's accepted recyclables list online.
 - Program changes can affect the grant and messaging. Inform DEACS immediately if program changes occur to determine if a contract amendment is needed.

- **Special Requirements for Public School Recycling Projects:** Local governments may apply for funding to support public school recycling projects, but **must** provide the supplemental information outlined below to ensure that all necessary school recycling program elements are addressed and to help demonstrate project planning. This is a competitive grant program and projects that institute or expand a system-wide school recycling program will compete better than projects that only serve an individual school. Eligible grant projects may seek funding for equipment (such as bins and roll carts) and/or education materials. As with other CWRAR projects, administrative expenses, staff salaries and contract collection costs are not eligible for grant funding nor can they be used as matching funds. If a public school system will be contributing funds towards the implementation of a recycling grant project, these funds should be paid to the state grantee in order to ensure that the state grantee makes the purchases associated with the grant project. All purchases associated with a grant project must be made by the grantee. Purchases made directly by a public school system shall not be eligible for reimbursement. Please contact Mel Gilles at 919-707-8127, mel.gilles@ncdenr.gov for information or assistance with public school recycling projects.

School Recycling Supplemental Requirements:

1. Describe the existing school recycling program (if any) that is available in the school system associated with the grant project. The description should include the following items:
 - Indicate whether recycling service is available to *all* schools within the district or only to certain schools within the district.
 - If recycling collection presently exists or if this project implements a new school recycling service, then please indicate the recycling service provider (e.g. indicate whether the collection of recyclables is provided by public school system employees, by a specific local government, or through a contracted or third-party service provider).
 - Provide a list of the recyclable materials accepted by the program and indicate how the materials are to be collected (single stream, dual stream, source separated).
 - Indicate where the recyclables are going after they are collected (provide the name of the materials processor).
2. List all of the public agencies and/or departments that collaborate to assist with or operate the school recycling program and list the role of each entity. Examples could include the local educational authority (school district), municipal and/or county solid waste management departments. Ideally, a holistic school system recycling program should include cooperation between the community's public recycling program and the public school system.
3. If a system-wide school recycling program is in place, explain if and how this grant will expand recycling throughout the school system and note whether this grant project is part of a phased plan.
4. A designated recycling contact should be established for each school facility participating in the recycling program. Examples of designated contacts might include school facility manager, head custodian, the faculty coordinator or leader of a group or club, the principal, or school administrator. Please provide a list of schools to be served by this project and the designated recycling contact for each school including the name and title of the designated contact.
5. Indicate the locations where recycling containers are or will be placed at the school facilities (e.g. classrooms, cafeterias, hallways, athletic fields, administrative offices, library, copy rooms, etc.).
6. Indicate who will be responsible for emptying the recycling containers (e.g. custodian / cleaning staff, teachers, students, student groups, etc.).
7. Provide a plan for promoting recycling within the schools impacted by the grant project as well as a plan for educating staff and students about the program.

- **Electronics Recycling Projects:** Any community seeking grant funds related to an electronics recycling related project must indicate in their proposal whether the local government has ever received funds distributed from the State’s Electronics Management Program. For more information on eligibility for Electronics Management Program Funds see this web site: <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/waste-management/solid-waste-section/electronics-management/nc-local-governments-info-page>. If the local government has received Electronics Management Fund distributions in the past, then the applicant must include information in its proposal about how those funds have been used and how the community intends to use the funds that will be distributed in February 2022 and February 2023.

Successful **county** applicants seeking grant funds to support an electronics recycling related project that **have not** previously been eligible for distributions from the State’s Electronics Management Program will be required to become eligible for Electronics Management Funds on or before December 31, 2022 as a precondition of receipt of CWRAR Grant funds.

Successful **municipal** applicants seeking grant funds to support an electronics recycling related project that **have not** previously been eligible for distributions from the State’s Electronics Management Program must decide whether or not to make themselves eligible for Electronics Management Funds prior to the December 31, 2022 eligibility deadline. This decision should be made in consultation with the county where the municipality is located and should be based on how the distribution of funds can best serve the advancement of electronics recycling within the community. If it is determined that the municipality should seek Electronics Management Funds, the municipality should take action to become eligible for funds on or before December 31, 2022.

- **Away-From-Home Recycling Projects:** Grant funds for away-from-home recycling projects can only be used for recycling related purchases and cannot be used to pay for the purchase of away-from-home receptacles for the collection of waste (garbage). If a proposal includes the purchase of away-from-home receptacles that collect BOTH waste and recyclables, then the standard cash matching fund requirement will be adjusted so that the applicant (grantee) covers the full cost of the waste portion of the container with their matching funds. For example, if a community seeks to purchase a combo waste / recycling station that has one slot for garbage and one for recyclables and the receptacle costs \$1,000 then the applicant will be expected to provide a cash match equal to one half of the purchase price, or \$500. If seeking funding for an away-from-home recycling project, please indicate in the Special Requirements section of the proposal whether any of the equipment to be purchased will be used to collect waste materials that are intended to be disposed of in a landfill.

In addition, applicants for away-from-home related grant projects are strongly encouraged to specify which particular recycling receptacles are being considered for purchase as a part of their proposal. For assistance with and guidance on the selection of recycling receptacles, please contact Mel Gilles at 919-707-8127 or mel.gilles@ncdenr.gov.

Grant Project Period / Funding Period:

Successful grant applicants will be required to enter into a grant contract with the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The resultant grant contract period is intended to align with the local government fiscal year and will generally have a one (1) year contract long term. Grantees must expend funds within the year-long contract period unless the grant contract end date is extended by written agreement between the applicant and the DEQ. Extensions are possible but not guaranteed. It is anticipated that grant contracts resulting from this grant cycle will begin on July 1, 2022 and end on June 30, 2023. **All purchases associated with grant funds must be made within the grant contract period. Any purchases made prior to the start of the grant contract or after the end date of the grant contract will not be eligible for reimbursement.**

Proposal Due Date:

Proposals **MUST** be received by DEACS by **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 17, 2022**. Any proposals received after the deadline will not be considered. Local governments requiring board approval to apply for grant funds should plan to procure that approval before the submittal deadline. **Late proposals will not be accepted.**

How to Submit Proposals:

One electronic copy of the proposal must be submitted by email to sandy.skolochenko@ncdenr.gov. Receipt of all acceptable proposals will be acknowledged by e-mail. ***If you do not receive a confirmation, contact Sandy Skolochenko at sandy.skolochenko@ncdenr.gov or 919-707-8147 as soon as possible.*** It is the responsibility of anyone submitting a proposal to contact DEACS if they do not receive a confirmation. No arrangements will be made for lost applications after the due date. Please submit electronic versions of proposals as Microsoft Word (preferred) or Adobe (PDF) files. If submittal of an electronic version of a grant proposal presents a hardship, please contact Sandy Skolochenko to discuss submittal options.

Required Proposal Format:

The following outline indicates what applicants **must** include in their proposal for their application to be considered complete. Proposals that fail to provide all of the required information or that fail to follow the following format may not compete well and may not be considered for funding.

- Project Title
- Applicant Contact Information: to include the following:
 - ✓ Name and title of main contact
 - ✓ Organization
 - ✓ Address
 - ✓ Phone number
 - ✓ E-mail address
- Date of Proposal Submittal: this should be the date the proposal is submitted to DEACS
- General Requirements: (see General Requirements section for more information)
 - ✓ Written statement certifying that Solid Waste Disposal Tax Proceeds are used only for solid waste management purposes and a description of how proceeds are used.
 - ✓ Written statement indicating that the applicant has recycling services for cans, bottles and paper available at the key government buildings and a list of the materials collected.
 - ✓ Written statement indicating that the applicant has established a program for the collection and recycling of fluorescent lights and mercury containing thermostats from public buildings owned by the applicant.
- Project Description: Provide responses to each of the following prompts below. Applicants are encouraged to provide a clear project description and consider the Award Criteria as they describe the project elements.
 1. Describe the proposed project and identify specifically what items (and how many) you intend to purchase with grant funds.
(Planning: 0-20 points; Priority Project: 0-10 points)
 2. What is the anticipated service life for the items or materials to be purchased with grant funds? Estimate how long the project will continue to serve the community and how you will sustain the project after the grant ends.
(Planning: 0-20 points; Efficiency/Cost Effectiveness: 0-20 points)
 3. How does the proposed project address a specific recycling need for the community? Will the grant project create a new service, enhance or expand an existing service, or support an existing recycling service without expanding that service?
(Demonstration of Need: 0-20 points)

4. How many households or businesses will be impacted by or have access to the recycling services associated with the proposed project?
(Demonstration of Need: 0-20 points; Efficiency/Cost Effectiveness: 0-20 points)
 5. Estimate the number of tons of waste expected to be reduced annually as a result of the proposed project. Please explain how you came up with the estimate.
(Waste Reduction Impact: 0-25 points)
 6. Describe any partnerships associated with the proposed project. Please include documentation of support from any partner entities.
(Joint Effort: 0-5 points)
- **Special Requirements:** Proposals for recycling education, school recycling, electronics recycling or away-from-home recycling must include additional information as stipulated in the Special Requirements section.
 - **Project Timeline:** Simple bulleted list showing approximate dates for major project milestones. Timeline must begin on or after July 1, 2022 and project must be complete by June 30, 2023. Please follow the example below:
 - ✓ November 1, 2022: Carts and educational materials purchased, and commercial recycling program launched *(adjust based on proposed project)*
 - ✓ May 31, 2023: Submit all invoices and draft Final Report to DEACS *(required)*
 - ✓ June 30, 2023: Submit Final Report to DEACS *(required)*
 - **Project Budget:** to include the following:
 - ✓ Itemized list of intended expenditures and estimated costs;
 - ✓ Total project cost with breakdown of grant funding requested from the state and amount of matching funds to be provided by the applicant (see Cash Match Requirements);
 - ✓ Please submit in a table following the example below:

Project Elements	Estimated Cost		
Recycling Carts for Commercial Recycling Program	\$ 10,500		
Labels for Carts and Signs for Recycling Sites	\$ 900		
Program Brochures (Printing)	\$ 600		
Project Budget	Total Project Cost	State Grant Award	Applicant Cash Match
Total	\$ 12,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,000

* Note about Project Budgets: state and local sales taxes **are not** reimbursable expenditures and should not be included as part of grant budgets.

Grant Selection Process:

A selection committee will use the pre-established Award Criteria identified below to rank proposals and make award decisions. The review process is expected to be completed and preliminary award announcements should be made by April 2022.

Award Criteria:

Applicants are encouraged to consider the following Award Criteria as they develop their grant proposals. A total of 100 points is available.

1. **Demonstration of Need (0-20 points):** Does the proposed project address a specific equipment, educational, or infrastructure need for the community?

2. **Planning (0-20 points):** Did the Project Description include all necessary elements as outlined in the Required Proposal Format? Is the proposal well thought out, well researched and backed by valid facts and assumptions? Is the project consistent with recycling industry best management practices?
3. **Waste Reduction Impact (0-25 points):** Will the project contribute substantially toward reduction of the local waste stream or will it substantially increase tonnage recovered through recycling services? Will the project improve the material quality in the recycling stream by reducing contaminants?
4. **Efficiency / Cost-effectiveness (0-20 points):** Will the project improve the efficiency or cost-effectiveness of the local waste reduction program? Does the project increase the efficiency or effectiveness of an existing recycling service? Does the project reduce the operating cost of a current recycling service or does it adopt practices proven to be cost effective in other communities? Does the project make investments that will continue to serve the community for years to come?
5. **Joint Effort (0 or 5 points):** One-party proposals will receive zero (0) points; multi-party proposals (involving cash match from all participants) will receive five (5) points.
6. **Priority Project★ (0-10 points):** Is the project seeking funding for a Priority Project Grant? To what extent does the project support investments in one of the Priority Project Grant categories?

If a Proposal is Selected for Funding:

DEACS anticipates that applicants selected to receive grant funding will be notified by the end of April 2022. DEACS will notify the applicant with a formal offer by e-mail. The applicant must accept or decline the offer. The following will occur once the offer of grant funding is accepted:

- DEACS may work with applicants to revise initially submitted proposals before entering into a grant contract. Any changes to initial proposals must be approved by DEACS and the applicant and the resultant Final CWRAR Proposal will become an attachment to the grant contract.
- The annual CWRAR Grant cycle typically receives funding requests that exceed available funds. However, it is a priority for DEACS to support as many qualifying projects as possible. After close examination of funding requests and subject to agreement with the applicant, DEACS may award grant amounts lower than the original request.
- Successful applicants will be required to:
 - Provide their federal tax ID number.
 - Register with the state's e-procurement system using the same address provided in the applicant's proposal. To register in the state's e-procurement system or confirm/update your existing registration, please visit the following link: <http://eprocurement.nc.gov/>.
 - Submit a Conflict of Interest Policy using the following template or submitting a copy of your organization's existing policy: <https://deq.nc.gov/conservation/recycling/programs-offered/grants-local-governments#Forms>
- All applicants selected for funding will undergo a compliance review to ensure that they do not have an outstanding Notice of Violation (NOV) related to North Carolina solid waste statutes and rules. Any outstanding NOV's must be corrected to the satisfaction of the N.C. Division of Waste Management (DWM) prior to any grant being awarded. Applicants with outstanding NOV's are responsible for providing DEACS with information from DWM indicating that the community is in compliance and that the NOV's have been corrected before a grant contract can be initiated.
- DEACS will submit a request through the DEQ contract processing system for a grant contract. Grantees must act to execute the resultant grant contract without excessive delay.

NOTE: Successful applicants that make purchases before a grant contract is signed by both DEQ and the grant recipient will not be reimbursed.

Other General Terms and Conditions:

All grantees are subject to the following terms and conditions. Most of these terms and conditions will be outlined in the grant contract.

- **Publications:** all documents and publications associated with a grant contract should be printed on recycled paper containing at least 30 percent post-consumer content.
- **Final reports:** a draft final report is required to be submitted to DEACS at least 30 days prior to the contract end date and a final report is required to be submitted by the contract end date. Final reports and drafts should be submitted electronically. All applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the following web site to review the final reporting format and guidelines:
<https://deq.nc.gov/conservation/recycling/programs-offered/grants-local-governments>.
- **Extensions / Amendments:** no-cost time extensions are possible but not guaranteed for grant contracts. Grantees seeking no-cost time extensions should submit a request for a time extension at least sixty (60) days prior to the contract end date.
- **Reimbursement:** distribution of DEACS grant funds is on a reimbursement basis. Requests for reimbursement can only be made after the grantee has completed purchases associated with the grant project. Reimbursement requests must be submitted on letterhead, must include copies of invoices, and must include proof that the grantee has made payment. Proof of payment may include copies of canceled checks or other financial reports showing that funds were spent. **State and local sales taxes are not reimbursable, may not be counted towards expenditure requirements, and should be excluded from reimbursement requests.** The amount of actual grant payments may be prorated for projects and / or project elements that come in under budget.
- **Final 10 Percent of Funds:** DEACS will continue to reimburse grantees until 90 percent of the grant award amount has been expended. The final 10 percent of grant funds will be held until an acceptable final report has been received by DEACS. The final report must be received and approved prior to the end date of the contract.

A Final Word on Grant Writing:

Proposals may receive low scores or even be rejected because applicants fail to follow the instructions outlined in this document. Applicants stand a better chance of success if they include all of the required components of a proposal and if they follow the Required Proposal Format. Project Descriptions should be clear, concise, and should demonstrate thoughtful planning. Poorly prepared proposals create uncertainty about the project goals and intended results. Clear details will provide grant proposal reviewers confidence about the viability and feasibility of a proposal. Applicants with questions are encouraged to contact DEACS for more information.