

## **How States and Local Governments Can Use Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to Achieve Food Waste, Organic Waste & Landfill Methane Reduction Priorities**

### **Grants Open for Applications**

IIJA [Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling \(SWIFR\) Grant Program](#) provides \$275 million to support Building a Better America. This is allocated as \$55 million per year from Fiscal Years 2022 to 2026 to remain available until expended.

- Develop or update plans to advance post-consumer materials management. Plans can be for Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 256 solid waste management plans or other planning documents (e.g., circular economy plans).
- Develop, strengthen, and/or implement comprehensive data collection efforts that demonstrate progress toward the National Recycling Goal and Food Loss and Waste Reduction Goal. Data collection and measurement efforts should be designed to improve the state's ability to track progress towards national and state recycling and/or circular economy goals. Data collection efforts could include state-wide or other targeted waste characterization studies.
- Support the state-led implementation of plans to advance post-consumer materials management.

IIJA [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant \(EECBG\) Program](#) Formula Grant Application is open for eligible entities. Two categories of the eligible activities are for waste management.

- Example eligible activities for [Material Conservation Programs](#):
  - The cost of vehicles required for a materials conservation/recycling program, such as recycling trucks
  - Municipal waste reduction programs, including education and outreach
  - Establishing or expanding policies and programs for materials reuse and recycling, including equipment and facilities and associated tracking and reporting systems
  - Organic and food waste recovery and recycling via food waste recovery programs, and organics recycling, such as composting, and anaerobic digesters for clean renewable electricity generation)
  - Expanding infrastructure and/or participation in existing recycling programs
- Example eligible activities for [Reduction, Capture, and Use of Landfill Gases](#):
  - Reducing the carbon emissions of landfills or similar waste-related sources, including wastewater treatment plants, operations producing food waste, dairy farms, and other animal operations, through measures to reduce, capture and use methane and other greenhouse gases

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- Anaerobic digestion systems
- Utilization of landfill gas for electricity generation
- Direct use of landfill gas to offset the use of other fuels
- Conversion of landfill gas to renewable natural gas

IRA [Community Change Grants NOFO program](#) is open for application by 11/21/2024.

[Climate Change Strategy 7: Waste Reduction and Management to Support a Circular Economy](#)

Project activities should demonstrate that they will result in materials being diverted from end-disposal facilities (e.g., landfills, incinerators) to reduce GHG emissions, toxic air pollution, and soil and water pollution. Examples:

- Implement a community-scale composting program to reduce emissions from food waste that includes an educational campaign to inform Project Area residents about climate benefits of reducing food waste.
- Implement a community-scale recycling program.
- Reduce emissions from food waste by implementing programs that distribute unused food to project area residents.

## **Closed Grant with Deliverable from Grantees Due Soon**

IRA [Climate Pollution Reduction Grants](#) (CPRG): [Most states and dozens of Metropolitan Statistical Areas](#) have received a CPRG planning grant award. They're using the funding to design climate action plans that incorporate a variety of measures to reduce GHG emissions from across their economies in six key sectors including waste management. And they're required to submit a [Priority Climate Action Plan](#) (PCAP) to the EPA by March 1, 2024 in order to compete for implementation funding.

Propose specific GHG reduction measures for the PCAP as recommended by [RMI and Industrious Labs](#):

1. Phase out organic waste disposal in landfills and incinerators.
2. Promote waste prevention and surplus food donation.
3. Support source-separated organics collection, processing, and recycling infrastructure.
4. Develop end markets for products made from organic waste.
5. Expand voluntary adoption of landfill best management practices, beyond minimum federal standards.
6. Deploy advanced monitoring technology to quickly find and fix large landfill methane leaks.

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Engage the 56 local elected officials in 18 states (13 in CA) who sent a [letter](#) to EPA, calling for fast action to deliver the methane reductions urgently needed.

## **Grants Seen in [Draft National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics](#) ([Public Comments](#) due on Jan. 4, 2024)**

1. USDA is investing \$30 million over three years in the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production's (OUAIP's) Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) cooperative agreements. This program engages private producers and their local governments and partners to develop, implement and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and/or food waste reduction plans.
2. EPA will fund up to \$275 million in grants through the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program (SWIFR) (part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law), which includes supporting organics recycling infrastructure (e.g., composting and anaerobic digestion) as eligible activities. EPA anticipates providing technical assistance and peer networking opportunities to SWIFR grantees and will make available future funding opportunities under SWIFR.
3. EPA will fund up to \$75 million in grants through the Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program (REO)<sup>45</sup> (part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law), which includes supporting education and outreach efforts for food and organics recycling as eligible activities. EPA will provide technical assistance and peer networking opportunities to REO grantees and will make available future funding opportunities under REO.

## **Implementation of Awarded Projects**

IIJA [Recycling Grant](#). (Some of the selectees and recipients are below as examples.)

1. **Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grants**
  - a. [CalRecycle](#) will focus on incorporating rural needs into California's zero waste plan. They will examine current waste management practices and local government resources, engaging communities to better understand needs specific to their local economies, geography, and demographics. California will analyze data to gather materials flow data from transfer, processing, and disposal facilities in rural counties and engage with local governments. California will also assess opportunities to implement zero waste strategies in rural counties and stimulate job creation in the circular economy through enhanced recycling, composting, material diversion, and reuse/refill infrastructure. They will also develop methods to measure the progress and success of such a plan in those counties.
  - b. [Ontario](#) received \$3,571,064, will establish new recycling collection routes and optimize materials management infrastructure through the purchase of recycling equipment such

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as electric trucks, electric vehicle charging stations, bins and carts, a power steam wash machine, and software to enhance zero waste strategies. The project will also create a digital food donation marketplace for businesses and nearby nonprofits and expand source separation of organic food waste and mixed recyclables by distributing carts and bins to residents and businesses in the city. The proposed project facilitates the city's compliance with California Senate Bill 1383.

2. **Recycling Education and Outreach Grants (See [Waste Dive article](#))**

- a. [Long Beach](#) received \$1.22m, plans to use its funding to hire and train community outreach ambassadors for a program. Ambassadors will conduct door-to-door recycling and organics outreach. The city will also partner with community-based organizations to provide in-person "culturally informed" food waste prevention outreach events.

## Other References

EPA:

- [Quantifying Methane Emissions from Landfilled Food Waste](#), including [landfill methane from food waste graphic](#) and [car emissions food waste life cycle graphic](#).
- [From Field to Bin: The Environmental Impacts of U.S. Food Waste Management Pathways](#), including [wasted food scale graphic](#).
- [Example Government Climate Action Plans that Address Materials Management and Waste](#)

Sierra Club California's SB 1383 campaign materials:

- [proposal to municipalities](#)
- newsletter articles:
  - [Food Waste, Food Insecurity, Climate and Equity](#)
  - [Garbage In, Global Warming Out: Can We Disrupt the Flow?](#)
  - [SB 1383 Tackling Hunger, Waste and Climate](#)
  - [Instead of Pausing Composting in California, Here's What the State Should Do](#)

Sierra magazine has more articles:

- [Which "Best By" Labels Do I Need to Pay Attention To?](#)
- [How to Rescue Out-of-Fashion Foods](#)
- [How to Reduce Food Waste](#)
- [Policymakers Race to Curb Edible Waste](#)
- [Dig Into Food-Upcycling Apps](#)

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- [Occam's Refrigerator](#)
- [We're Running Out of Seafood, Yet We Waste Billions of Pounds of It](#)
- [How Do I Get My Family to Reduce Our Food Waste?](#)
- [How Can I Grow Food From Scraps?](#)
- [Easy Ways to Grow, Preserve, and Share Your Own Food](#)

Berkeley report [Getting to Implementation: The Status of Local Climate Action in California:](#)

- Methane is an Opportunity for Increased Local Impact
- Half of the survey respondents selected state and federal grants as one of the three resources that would best support climate action implementation.

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