



URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION



Composting and Food Waste Reduction Cooperative Agreements

The Purpose

In the United States, over one-third of food is wasted. When food is thrown away, so too are opportunities for food security, economic growth, and environmental prosperity.

Recognizing the link between food waste and food production, USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP) is working with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to make local food systems more resilient on both fronts – reducing and redirecting food waste from landfills to nutrient rich compost for area farms.

Composting and Food Waste Reduction Projects

Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) projects encourage innovative, scalable waste management plans that reduce and divert food waste from landfills. Cooperative agreements are awarded through an annual competitive process. They assist local governments and districts, tribes, and schools with projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost operations and food waste reduction plans.

Projects can combine both or focus on activities that may include:

- Compost-focused projects develop infrastructure for composting and organic waste reclamation to provide local residents with alternative waste streams while increasing access to compost for local farms.

- Food waste reduction projects develop edible food recovery networks, create education campaigns focused on residents or commercial businesses, or test strategies to conserve food scraps as animal feed.

Who is Eligible?

Municipalities, counties, and other units of local government; tribes including federally recognized tribal governments, state recognized tribes, and tribal organizations; special district governments such as waste management authorities, soil and water conservation districts, and regional development authorities; and school districts (including independent school districts) are all eligible.

Applicants are encouraged to partner with other entities wherever possible. Even entities that are ineligible as primary applicants can be listed partners on CFWR projects.

The most successful CFWR projects demonstrate robust partnerships with multiple organizations and individuals in order to broaden the scope of their activities, garner more support for the communities they serve, and increase their long-term sustainability.

Matching Requirement

Per statute, CFWR recipients must provide a matching contribution equal to 25% of the federal assistance provided. This requirement can be met through funds, in-kind contributions, and partner contributions which can also be in-kind.

Program Statistics

To date, 119 projects in 40 states and Puerto Rico have been awarded over \$23.3 million since the program was inaugurated in 2020.

- FY20: \$1,094,862, 13 Projects
- FY21: \$1,919,134, 24 Projects
- FY22: \$9,178,695, 44 Projects
- FY23: \$11,174,830, 38 Projects

USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production was authorized under the 2018 Farm Bill to improve USDA's support for urban and innovative farming operations. The office manages competitive grants and cooperative agreements and administers the People's Garden Initiative. A federal advisory committee on urban agriculture and innovative production and new Farm Service Agency urban and suburban county committees in 27 cities provide the public an opportunity to have input on USDA programs and services.



Learn More

More information, including webinars, Frequently Asked Questions, success stories, and news releases, are available at usda.gov/urban.

For more information on assistance for urban and innovative producers, and to sign up for email notices, visit farmers.gov/urban.