

# 2019 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Grants

Supporting projects that promote waste prevention, reuse and recovery to strengthen Oregon communities and protect our environment.



2019 Grant Recipients (left to right): Adelante Mujeres, Rogue Valley Farm to School, Materials Exchange Center for Community Arts and Corvallis Sustainability Coalition

Since 1991, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has invited local governments, schools, nonprofits and Tribal governments to apply for Materials Management grants that bolster DEQ's efforts to fight waste, inspire reuse and recycle responsibly. **In 2019, DEQ invested nearly \$600,000 across 17 projects.** These projects bring us closer to the *2050 Vision for Materials Management*, which envisions an Oregon in 2050 where people produce and use materials responsibly—conserving resources, protecting the environment and living well.

We need the contributions and creativity of local community-based organizations to achieve the *2050 Vision*. Grants expand our reach by connecting with local governments, nonprofits, schools and Tribal governments.

## 2019 Recipients

Adelante Mujeres: \$25,000

The Center for Architecture: \$47,267

Community Warehouse: \$10,842

Corvallis Sustainability Coalition: \$45,826

Emerging Futures Youth Network: \$50,000

The Environmental Center: \$55,247

High Desert Museum: \$36,780

Marion Polk Food Share: \$31,439

MECCA: \$14,774

Northwest Earth Institute: \$23,110

Portland State University: \$49,157

Rogue Valley Farm to School: \$31,125

Salem Environmental Education: \$15,070

The Rosewood Initiative: \$9,174

Source One Serenity: \$20,000

Sustainable Northwest: \$64,708

Trash for Peace: \$64,690

## Grant Descriptions

Grants are organized into four categories: **Food waste prevention and rescue, waste prevention, recycling and composting and training and education.** In 2019, DEQ placed an added emphasis on supporting projects that foster new partnerships between community-based organizations and environmental organizations in Oregon. Several projects that met this criteria are included in the following list.

## **Food Waste Prevention and Rescue Grants**

Curbing wasted food is one of DEQ's top priorities because 25 to 40 percent of all food produced or imported for consumption in the United States is never eaten. We also supports efforts to rescue edible and nutritious food for redistribution, because it helps ensure that food is put to its highest and best use – feeding people. The projects below were funded to facilitate food waste prevention and rescue efforts throughout the state.

### **Corvallis Sustainability Coalition**

*Project:* No Food Left Behind

*Amount:* \$45,826

*Area of impact:* Benton County

No Food Left Behind in Corvallis – a project of the Waste Prevention Action Team of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition – launched its food waste prevention program in 2018 after being awarded a prior DEQ grant. Now they will expand the Smart Strategies tools to reach the Spanish-speaking community members and local schools. Smart Strategies tools are designed to help households reduce waste at home through smart planning, shopping and meal prep.

### **Marion Polk Food Share**

*Project:* Retail Food Recovery - Retail Agency Direct

*Amount:* \$31,439

*Area of impact:* Marion County

Marion Polk Food Share's mission is to lead the fight to end hunger in Marion and Polk counties, because no one should be hungry. Grant funding will be used to build capacity for Marion Polk Food Share's local hunger relief partners. The project will strengthen the area's hunger relief network through training and purchase of new freezers and other equipment.

### **Portland State University**

*Project:* Extending the Classroom to the Cafeteria to Prevent Food Waste in Portland Public Schools

*Amount:* \$49,157

*Area of impact:* Multnomah County

This project will fund professional development for six teachers to create and test food waste lessons aligned with Next Generation Science Standards. The food waste lessons will use the school cafeteria as a classroom and give students an opportunity to collect real data to better understand the impacts of wasted food and how it relates to policy. The project will be implemented at Portland Public Schools, which is the largest school district in Oregon and whose students come from diverse households. Portland State University will lead this project and make the final lesson plans available to other school districts.

### **Rogue Valley Farm to School**

*Project:* Feed the Student, Save the Food: Waste Reduction at Phoenix-Talent Elementary School

*Amount:* \$31,125

*Area of impact:* Jackson County



Rogue Valley Farm to School links local farms with schools primarily to address concerns about the diet and health of children and the dwindling of small farms. This grant's focus is to reduce food waste in the Phoenix-Talent Elementary school by 30% in two years, while also addressing health, nutrition and student success. The project is intended to serve as a replicable pilot for future food waste prevention efforts at other schools.

## **Waste Prevention Grants**

By preventing waste and reusing what we already own, we can have profound impacts on the air we breathe, the water we drink, the productivity of our soils and the health of numerous ecosystems. Most of the damage to our environment takes place before this waste reaches the trash or recycling bin—during the processing, design, manufacturing and transportation phases. The following projects were funded with this in mind.

### **Community Warehouse**

*Project:* Building Capacity for Furniture Storage & Redistribution

*Amount:* \$10,842

*Area of impact:* Multnomah County

Community Warehouse connects donated household goods and furnishings to neighbors in need. This funding will help Community Warehouse increase its capacity to accept more furniture, in response to increasing demand for these services. Economizing the space will also enable Community Warehouse to secure more large capacity donations from institutions such as hotels and restaurants.

### **Emerging Futures Youth Network**

*Project:* Southern Oregon Food Solutions

*Amount:* \$50,000

*Area of impact:* Jackson County

Southern Oregon Food Solutions is working with their community's momentum around climate change and local resiliency to reduce food waste in their daily activities. Emerging Futures Youth Network, a new grassroots organization, will use this funding to hire a project coordinator to create and implement a waste prevention awareness and outreach program in southern Oregon.

### **High Desert Museum**

*Project:* Central Oregon Waste Reduction Campaign

*Amount:* \$36,780

*Area of impact:* Deschutes County

The High Desert Museum helps visitors appreciate the High Desert's unique landscape, cultures, wildlife, history and arts. The museum will purchase reusable dishware and support recycling initiatives and education at several influential central Oregon attractions. Transitioning to reusable dishware will reduce waste from single-use foodservice ware at the museum, and the recycling education that will be conducted through Visit Bend, Central Oregon Visitors Association and Discover Your Forest.



### **Materials Exchange Center for Community Arts (MECCA)**

*Project:* Teacher Resource Center Expansion Project

*Amount:* \$14,774

*Area of impact:* Lane County

MECCA inspires its community to re-imagine materials while breaking down the financial barriers to arts and creativity. In this project, MECCA will develop and implement a strategic marketing plan designed to build awareness in the community about their program, including their Teacher Resource Center, which provides free materials to local educators. MECCA will also partner with 15<sup>th</sup> Night, a local organization that connects youth experiencing homelessness with free resources, to rapidly respond when youth need materials for school. The project will also help MECCA increase efficiencies so they can make more reusable materials available to the community and expand the reach of their programs.

### **Salem Environmental Education**

*Project:* Salem Cloth Project Pilot

*Amount:* \$15,070

*Area of impact:* Marion County

The Salem Cloth Project sells handmade products that reduce waste, and they use their proceeds to donate reusable diapers to Salem families in need. This grant will provide cloth diaper kits to 50 families with small children along with training and resources on how to use them. The project will decrease waste and reduce the financial burden on families so they can thrive.

### **Sustainable Northwest**

*Project:* Juniper Roundup: New Markets for Juniper Restoration Residuals

*Amount:* \$64,708

*Area of impact:* Wallowa County

Juniper is an invasive species in Oregon, and this project will help Sustainable Northwest's efforts to find markets for this native tree to restore grasslands and boost eastern Oregon's economy. This project will increase the production, marketing and sale of juniper posts, poles, and erosion control bags filled with juniper shavings from peeling operations and mill residuals. The goals of the project are to reduce waste, increase business profitability, source and process material based on highest value, and increase industry efficiency and viability.

### **The Rosewood Initiative**

*Project:* Rosewood is Going Green

*Amount:* \$9,174

*Area of impact:* Multnomah County

The Rosewood Initiative has been implementing neighbor-led strategies in Portland's Rosewood neighborhood—one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Oregon—since 2009. The Rosewood Initiative

will boost their sustainability efforts by purchasing a new dishwasher and durable dishware for their community center.

## **Recycling and Composting Grants**

Recycling and composting can create significant environmental benefits. However, recycling and composting only works with the right infrastructure in place, and this year DEQ is supporting the following projects to do that.

### **The Environmental Center**

*Project:* Recycling at Multifamily Complexes: Increasing Recovery and Decreasing Contamination

*Amount:* \$55,247

*Area of impact:* Deschutes County

Reducing recycling contamination is critical to the health and flow of our recycling system. This project will address a major recycling challenge—contamination in multifamily communities. The Environmental Center and Housing Works will support recycling infrastructure at four multifamily communities through pre- and post-implementation recycling bin audits. The audits will assess the level of contamination, what's in the bin that shouldn't be, and how much is recycled. The lessons learned from this project will be shared with partners working on these issues.

### **Trash for Peace**

*Project:* Sustainability Education 2.0

*Amount:* \$64,690

*Area of impact:* Multnomah County

Trash for Peace builds relationships with some of the most vulnerable members of our community, both unhoused and living in affordable sites. Trash for Peace will conduct waste audit training for recycling and potentially repurposed materials. This will help create a culturally responsive system to collect and track baseline waste data.

### **Source One Serenity**

*Project:* Worm Farm Project

*Amount:* \$20,000

*Area of impact:* Douglas County

Source One Serenity empowers veterans to reclaim their sense of purpose through conservation work. With this grant, Source One Serenity will develop a site for a worm farm, contract with a local welder to fabricate a worm digester, and promote it for use in the Douglas County community. The goals of the project are to achieve a sustainable revenue model to fund outdoor activities and employment opportunities for disabled veterans, as well as to build composting infrastructure in an area where it is currently lacking.



## **Training and Education**

Providing barrier-free education and training to local communities is essential to reach an Oregon in 2050 where people produce and use materials responsibly. Community-based organizations are trusted by local groups and industries to meet them where they are and can provide relatable examples. These innovative projects are specifically built to reach a targeted portion of the Oregon population.

### **Adelante Mujeres**

*Grantee:* The Forest Grove Farmers Market Waste Center

*Amount:* \$25,000

*Area of impact:* Washington County

Adelante Mujeres provides holistic education and empowerment opportunities to low income Latina women and their families to support full participation and active leadership in the community. This project will build long-term sustainability for and increase the impact of the Waste Center at the Forest Grove Farmers Market. The goals of the project are to improve materials management education efforts in Forest Grove, create training materials to help staff, and develop a model that other farmers markets can replicate. Adelante Mujeres will partner with Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling to develop a pipeline of bilingual Master Recycler/Environmental Promoter volunteers that can assist the Waste Center and educate the community about waste reduction.

### **The Center for Architecture**

*Project:* Bringing Life Cycle Thinking to the Oregon Design Community

*Amount:* \$47,267

*Area of impact:* Multnomah County

Construction materials and building energy use were responsible for approximately 30 percent of Oregon's 2016 consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions. There is tremendous potential to reduce these emissions, and this grant will help train the Oregon building design community on the theory, practice, and tools of life cycle assessment for building design and construction. Workshop participants will receive licenses for life cycle inventory software so they can apply the practice directly to their work.

### **Northwest Earth Institute**

*Project:* 2020 Youth Drawdown Ecochallenge

*Amount:* \$23,110

*Area of impact:* Multnomah County

Northwest Earth Institute will support youth efforts to reverse climate change through its online platform, [Ecochallenge.org](http://Ecochallenge.org). This project will create a 2020 Youth Drawdown Ecochallenge focused on solutions to reverse climate change and establish regenerative resource cycles. The youth challenge will build from Northwest Earth Institute's existing Drawdown Ecochallenge, which is based on Paul Hawken's Project [Drawdown](http://Drawdown), a comprehensive look at top solutions for reversing climate change. The platform allows participants to create teams, log daily and one-time challenges, post resources, and share experiences with the goal of supporting environmental and social change habits.



## How do I learn more?

For more information, contact Materials Management Grant Coordinator Marie Diodati at [Diodati.Marie-Helene@deq.state.or.us](mailto:Diodati.Marie-Helene@deq.state.or.us) or 503-229-5446.

## Alternative formats

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