



State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

2020 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink! Grants



Photos: (left to right): Oregon Food Bank, Metalwood Salvage, Oregon Coast Aquarium and Community Warehouse

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Rethink! grants support human and environmental health by reducing the environmental impacts of materials at all stages of their lifecycle. The recipients help reduce waste, build capacity for reuse and repair, rescue food and support responsible recycling. Since 1991, DEQ has awarded over \$9 million in these and other Materials Management grants.

2020 Grant Recipients

- | | |
|---|---|
| ACCESS: \$50,000 | Oregon Food Bank: \$37,650 |
| BRING Recycling: \$32,368 | Portland Open Bible Community Pantry: \$46,000 |
| Community Warehouse: \$78,627 | ReBuilding Center: \$39,250 |
| Give & Take Resale: \$14,325 | Repair PDX: \$24,058 |
| Habitat for Humanity McMinnville: \$11,170 | Salem Public Library Foundation: \$43,300 |
| Habitat for Humanity Umpqua Valley: \$37,250 | Sparrow: \$30,723 |
| Loopt Foundation: \$23,243 | Sponsors: \$25,000 |
| Metalwood Salvage: \$29,518 | Wallowa County: \$38,381 |
| Oregon Coast Aquarium: \$34,305 | |

Grant Descriptions

The 2020 grantees fall into four categories: 1) food waste prevention and rescue, 2) recycling, 3) reuse and repair, and 4) outreach and education. This year, in light of the extraordinary disruptions caused by COVID-19, DEQ prioritized projects that have been adapted to meet new health and safety restrictions and that provide greater access to waste prevention and reuse activities, particularly for historically marginalized communities.

Food Waste Prevention and Rescue Grants

ACCESS

Project: Capacity Increase

Amount: \$50,000

County: Jackson

ACCESS Food Program relies on its fleet of box trucks to ensure that food collected from partnering grocers is provided to people in the area who are most in need and doesn't end up in the local landfill. They will use the funds to update their fleet needs to support and expand their food rescue activities.

Oregon Food Bank

Project: Localization of Food Rescue Services

Amount: \$37,650

County: Multnomah

In a shift away from a centralized model to secure food donations from retailers, the Oregon Food Bank (OFB) will assist its network of partner agencies in securing food donations directly from grocery stores in their community OFB will help partners expand trucking and storage capacity and develop digital solutions to match available retail donations to partner agencies. A full transition of OFB's grocery rescue work is expected by 2022.

Portland Open Bible Community Pantry

Project: Safe Food Transport

Amount: \$46,000

County: Multnomah

Portland Open Bible Community Pantry will purchase a refrigerated truck to meet the increasing demand for rescued food in the Lents community. As an OFB partner, they are transitioning to collecting food from multiple local retailers to supply their pantry with rescued food for redistribution.

Recycling Grants

BRING Recycling

Project: BRING@50: A Plan for Growth and Resiliency

Amount: \$32,368

County: Lane

BRING Recycling plans to launch a new product line utilizing upcycled materials. The products will be made by BRING employees and sold through a new online store. This project calls for capital investment in technology, specialized tools and equipment, provides existing staff with training, and funds one-half of a new staff position.

Wallowa County

Project: Mobile Recycling Program

Amount: \$38,381

County: Wallowa

Wallowa County will use the funds to launch a new Mobile Recycling Program. The project will support a new part-time position and the purchase of a new trailer and bins to collect sorted recyclable material from local schools, community events and businesses for delivery to the county recycling center.

Reuse and Repair Grants

Community Warehouse

Project: Furniture Coordinated Collection & Reuse

Amount: \$78,627

County: Multnomah

Community Warehouse (CW), in collaboration with Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling, will conduct a pilot project to collect unwanted but usable household goods from multifamily communities. The funding will pay for a new truck and driver to collect and deliver usable goods to people in need or to be sold in CW retail stores. The pilot project is also expected to increase awareness of CW programs and strengthen relationships with property managers, management companies and housing development organizations.

Give & Take Resale

Project: Promote Upcycling in the Cully neighborhood

Amount: \$14,325

County: Multnomah

The organization will develop a virtual store that offers shoppers a variety of reused and upcycled textile and household items with online ordering and curbside pickup. The store site will feature a diverse set of neighborhood models who reflect the entire community and will be updated regularly to offer a fresh selection of items.

Habitat for Humanity McMinnville

Project: Donation Materials Management Project

Amount: \$11,170

County: Yamhill

The organization will build two covered carports outside its ReStore donation processing and storage. The new covered areas will help address COVID-19 requirements by allowing staff to rotate the donations that come in, giving ample time for bacteria to die off before processing. This additional storage and processing space will allow Habitat to process more items with more efficiency, reduce trips to the landfill, and support its flagship homeownership programs.

Habitat for Humanity Umpqua Valley

Project: Taking Steps to Open Roseburg's First Habitat ReStore

Amount: \$37,250

County: Douglas

The funding will support Umpqua Valley Habitat in securing a lease for a new, permanent warehouse facility and formally establishing an approved Restore. Habitat will initiate an 18-month planning process to approve and open the Restore, potentially co-located with a local BottleDrop facility. The grant will also partially fund staff time and services of a construction contractor.

Metalwood Salvage

Project: Boost Material Acquisition

Amount: \$29,518

County: Multnomah

The organization will use the funds to purchase a vehicle and cargo trailer that will allow them to capture larger amounts of salvaged material from commercial and residential job sites for reuse, resale, and rebuilding. Metalwood sells both reusable materials and upcycled products made from 100% salvaged material.

Salem Public Library Foundation

Project: Library of Things

Amount: \$43,300

County: Marion

Salem Public Library (SPL) will create a new library collection of nontraditional items – a Library of Things (LoT) that library patrons will be able to borrow. The project will support the purchase and loan of a variety of consumer goods such as cooking pans and appliances, yard and garden tools, electronic devices, games and toys and sewing equipment, The funds will be used to purchase an inventory of these goods, establish an easy to use borrowing system and provide for the cleaning, maintenance, storage and display of the items in the library.

Sparrow

Project: Furniture

Amount: \$30,723

County: Marion

The new Furniture Recycling Apprentice position will help Sparrow receive and refurbish more solid wood furniture donations for sale in its store. The additional staff will increase capacity for processing furniture donations, picking up items from donors and repairing and refurbishing broken items. It will also increase the number of days the donation area is open from one day to four days a week.

Sponsors

Project: Accessing Upcycled Food and Materials for Recently Incarcerated Individuals

Amount: \$25,000

County: Lane

Sponsors serves homeless individuals upon release from incarceration through a variety of housing programs.

They will be purchasing a box truck to more efficiently collect large in-kind donations of food, clothing and household goods. . It also allows for the direct drop-off of these items to vulnerable clients to minimize potential exposure to COVID-19.

ReBuilding Center

Project: Online Sales for Reuse Growth and Accessibility

Amount: \$39,250

County: Multnomah

This project will increase the organization's capacity for online sales and result in greater access to salvaged building materials. It builds on an earlier pilot effort to create an online store by expanding staff capacity, increasing the number of available items in the online store, and increasing their ability to move bulky items through their processing area with a new fleet of flat carts.

Repair PDX

Project: Repair Vouchers

Amount: \$24,058

County: Multnomah

Repair PDX is planning to pilot a repair voucher project, providing economic assistance for repair costs, increasing customers and revenue for repair businesses, and elevating repair culture in Portland. The repair voucher program will subsidize the cost of repair service, allowing access to professional repair service for free or at reduced cost. The funds will cover marketing costs, vouchers, and staffing capacity increase for an intern and their outreach coordinator.

Education and outreach

Oregon Coast Aquarium

Project: Aquarium Youth Education Programs

Amount: \$34,305

County: Lincoln

The organization's Youth Volunteers and Youth Correspondents will create an outreach program about plastic reduction and waste management. The outreach campaign includes creating a plastics information resource, using social media to engage participants in conversations on plastics and working with Latinx youth to develop campaign messages that are culturally and linguistically relevant. Grants funds will go to staff time coordinating this effort, marketing efforts and internship costs for each of the eight student-participants.

Loopt Foundation

Project: CJ's Training Camp: Sustainability

Amount: \$23,243

County: Multnomah

This project will introduce students, with a focus on those from historically marginalized communities, to sustainability concepts through a dynamic program using apparel as a vehicle. They will learn how clothes are made, meet the people who make them, complete a life cycle analysis of Portland Trail Blazer star CJ McCollum's game jersey, and finally develop and pitch their own sustainable business that specifically reduces the environmental and human health impacts of apparel.

How do I learn more?

For more information, contact Materials Management Grant Coordinator Marie Diodati at Marie-Helene.Diodati@deq.state.or.us or 503-229-5446.

Alternative formats DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us