State of Oregon
DEQ **Department of Environmental Quality**

Reduce, Reuse, Reimagine: Materials Management Grants

Applicant Guidebook 2026

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Document information

This document was prepared by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Materials Management

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Visit our website for additional information.

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Grant Cycle Overview

About the program

The Materials Management program at Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) takes a holistic view of environmental impacts across the full life cycle of materials, as well as actions that can be taken to reduce those impacts.

The purpose of the Reduce, Reuse, Reimagine Grants program is to support statewide efforts to reduce the environmental and human health impacts of materials at all stages of their life cycle.

The goal of the program is to build local capacity and support community solutions that address the environmental, social and health impacts created by production, consumption, use and disposal of materials.

The objectives of the program are to:

- Inspire promising solutions to reduce the impacts of materials by funding innovative projects and programs.
- Empower community action to reach environmental solutions.
- Create environmental and health benefits that result from more sustainable consumption and use of materials.
- Advance equity and environmental justice by providing resources to historically underserved and underrepresented communities across Oregon.

To learn more about the statute and administrative rules associated with the program, please visit ORS 459A.120 and OAR 340-083.

Application timeline*

Overview	Details
March 2026: Application posted	Application solicitation period begins March 23, 2026
April 2026: Pre-application due	Pre-application must be completed by April 30, 2026
June 2026: Round 2 announcement	Qualified applicants will be notified of their invitation to the second round on June 22, 2026
July 2026: Main application due	Applications and all required documents must be submitted by July 30, 2026
Nov. 2026: Grantee announcement	All grantees will be notified of conditionally approved grants

Overview	Details
Jan. 2027 (Tentative): Grant agreement and disbursement of funds	Grantees will work with a DEQ grant administrator to sign a grant agreement and establish the schedule for disbursement of funds

*All dates are subject to change

Annual funding area

The 2026 RRR grant cycle is: **Built for Well-Being: Reducing Exposure to Toxics Substances in Building Materials**. This grant cycle supports projects that reduce harmful environmental and human-health impacts of toxic substances found in building materials.

Building materials are those materials used to construct our built environment – concrete, wood, asphalt, carpet, paints, and more. For the purposes of this grant cycle, building materials is used to mean both the basic material, as well as finished products such as cabinets, lighting, and furniture.

DEQ may award grants for activities that reduce the environmental and human health impacts of materials such as:

- Buying safer building materials that don't include harmful chemicals such as furniture without flame retardants, low-VOC emitting paints, etc.
- Creating guides to help homeowners choose safer materials
- Starting programs to carefully take apart old buildings and avoid spreading lead or asbestos
- Teaching contractors about safer material choices
- Testing a new, safer building product (like hemp insulation instead of toxic foam)
- Changing design or purchasing rules to prefer safer materials
- Developing school lessons about safer chemistry in building materials
- Researching how to remove or replace a specific toxic chemical

Eligible applicants

- Local governments,
- Nonprofit (501(c)3 or 501(c)4 status) or fiscally sponsored organizations,
- Organizations created by an Oregon public entity,
- Tribal nations, Government, and Entities
- Public schools,
- Public universities,
- Community colleges, or
- Small businesses of 50 people or less.

Available funds

- Up to $2,000,000 is available for the 2026 grant cycle.
- $25,000 is the minimum available for individual grant awards.
- $225,000 is the maximum available for individual grant awards.
- $500,000 will be set aside for Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribal Nations.

There are no matching funds requirements. If the requested grant funds cover only a portion of your project costs, additional information will be required to explain the full project budget. This information will be requested only if you are invited to submit a main application proposal.

Grant term

DEQ anticipates that grant agreements will be drafted beginning in December 2026. The grant term begins the date that the grant agreement is signed. After signing the agreement, recipients must complete their projects within 24 months.

Eligible and ineligible activities and costs

Grant funds may be used for the following activities and costs, as long as they are directly tied to the grant project and are supported by eligible proof of payment documentation. These activities include but are not limited to:

Eligible activities

- Education and outreach
- Training
- Research
- Program, project or policy development
- Workforce development

Ineligible activities

- Environmental cleanup: cleaning up old, polluted sites (e.g., brownfields)
- Hazardous waste management: dealing with chemical waste
- Required activities: projects already required by law (for example, mandatory deconstruction required by Portland's Deconstruction Ordinance)
- Projects focused on other types of materials: such as clothing or packaging—this grant is only for building materials.

Eligible costs

- Administrative costs, such as travel, office expenses, and overhead
- Salaries and benefits for project personnel and payments to consultants or contractors

- Publications and other printed materials
- Machinery, vehicles, equipment, signs, containers and project-related supplies

Ineligible costs

- Costs for which payment has been or will be received under another financial assistance program
- Costs associated with solid waste or materials management planning that are outside the scope the proposed project
- Costs incurred before DEQ issues a grant agreement (anticipated January 2025)
- Costs incurred after the expiration date of the grant agreement (anticipated January 2027)
- License applications or permit fees
- Ordinary operating expenses of the grant applicant that are not directly related to the project
- Costs incurred for permitted facility closures
- Payment of fines, penalties, arrears, judgments, or other such obligations
- Costs associated with preparing a grant proposal, proposal, stock or debt offering, formation of partnerships, incorporations, fundraising or other forms of such business costs
- Any activity or program that supports mechanical, chemical or other forms of recycling of paper, packaging, food serviceware or other products*

*Recycling projects are not eligible for Reduce, Reuse, Reimagine grants. Oregon's new Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (RMA) will leverage the resources of producers of packaging, printing and writing paper, and food serviceware to pay for many necessary improvements to the statewide recycling systems to ensure these materials are recycled successfully. Grants or loans will be available for activities that reduce the environmental impacts of these products through methods other than recycling and waste recovery, anticipated to begin in late 2026.

- For more information, visit the [RMA webpage](#)
- Sign up for [RMA email updates](#)

Webinars, information sessions and office hours

Webinar sessions

Join DEQ's Materials Management team to learn about the 2026 Reduce, Reuse, Reimagine grant cycle: Built for Well-Being: Reducing Exposure to Toxic Substances in Building Materials. These webinars are designed to share information on the 2026 funding area, highlight project examples, and connect with DEQ staff to learn about program goals and project eligibility.

- Tuesday, March 3, 2026 – **11 a.m. - 12 p.m.**
  - [Register via Zoom](#)

- Thursday, March 19, 2026 – **1 p.m. - 2 p.m.**
  - [Register via Zoom](#)

Information sessions

DEQ will host information sessions to provide guidance to those who may be interested in applying. Registration is required. Information sessions will begin with a brief presentation about the program, including: the annual funding area, the application platform, and application process. There will be time for questions following the presentation. All sessions will take place over Zoom and will be recorded. The recordings will be posted to the DEQ website within a week. If you do not have stable internet access, require translation services, or have other needs or access barriers, please contact RRRGrants@deq.oregon.gov at least five days in advance and we will provide assistance.

- Tuesday, March 10, 2026 – **1 p.m. - 2 p.m.**
  - [Register via Zoom](#)
- Saturday, March 21, 2026 – **9 a.m. - 10 a.m.**
  - [Register via Zoom](#)
- Wednesday, March 25, 2026 – **6 p.m. - 7 p.m.**
  - [Register via Zoom](#)
- Monday, March 31, 2026 – **3 p.m. - 4 p.m.**
  - [Register via Zoom](#)

Office hours

DEQ will be hosting open office hours the week before the pre-application is due. This is an opportunity for interested applicants to drop-in and ask questions related to their project or application. There will be no formal presentation. These office hours will not be recorded, but questions will be collected and shared on the DEQ website. As a reminder, the pre-application is due on **April 30, 2026**.

- Monday, April 20, 2026 – **3 p.m. - 4 p.m.**
  - [Register via Zoom](#)
- Tuesday, April 21, 2026 – **3 p.m. - 4 p.m.**
  - [Register via Zoom](#)
- Wednesday, April 22, 2026 – **3 p.m. - 4 p.m.**
  - [Register via Zoom](#)
- Thursday, April 23, 2026 – **3 p.m. - 4 p.m.**
  - [Register via Zoom](#)
- Friday, April 24, 2026 – **3 p.m. - 4 p.m.**
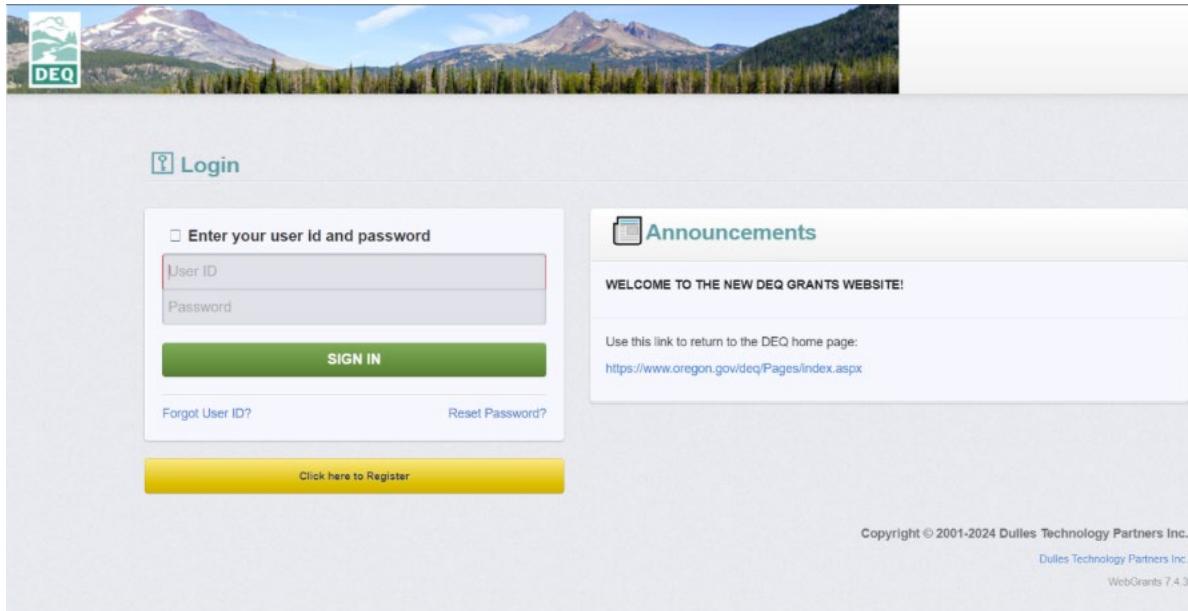 - [Register via Zoom](#)

Language accessibility

The WebGrants application platform is only available in English. Application and supplementary materials will be available in .pdf form in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Russian, and German on the DEQ website. Please email DEQ at RRRGrants@deq.oregon.gov with any additional language requests by April 23, 2026.

Application Instructions

WebGrants application access

The grant application will be hosted through an online platform called WebGrants. To apply, you must register for an account by April 23, 2026. Upon registration, you will be approved by DEQ's grants coordinator. It may take 1-2 days to receive an email with your username and password.

Figure 1. WebGrants login/registration page

- If you already have a WebGrants account through another DEQ program, you will not need to create a new account.
- WebGrants can be accessed using any web browser (Chrome, Internet Explorer, etc.).
- WebGrants works best on a laptop or desktop. You may encounter problems using a cellphone or tablet.
- Visit the DEQ Grants registration page to sign up for a WebGrants account.
- For more information about how to register check out the WebGrants Registration Guidebook.
- To access a step-by-step guide on navigating the application, review DEQ's WebGrants Application Guidebook, available on the Materials Management Grants Program webpage.

Important tips for WebGrants:

- Start your application early so you can ask for help with navigating the WebGrants platform.
- All information must be saved by clicking Save on the forms. If you do not click Save and back out of the form or section of the form, the information will be lost. There is no autosave feature and the system may time out due to inactivity.
- We recommend starting your application in a Word document and pasting it into WebGrants.
- Once you finish each section of the application, you must click Mark as Complete. Sections that have been marked as complete may still be edited until an application is submitted. Each section must be marked as complete to submit the WebGrants application. Applications may not be edited once they have been submitted.

Application submittal and deadline

- The pre-application deadline is April 30, 2026.
- If your project is selected to proceed to the main application round, the anticipated notification date is May 22, 2026.
- The anticipated main application deadline is July 30, 2026.

Application Process

The application process occurs in two stages: a pre-application and a main application.

Pre-application

The pre-application will ask narrative questions related to the below topics to gain an overview of the applicant's organization and project proposal.

- Organizational Description
- Project Description
- Community Need, Impact, and Participation
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Environmental Justice

Main application

The main application will ask more in-depth narrative questions related to the below topics to better understand the project proposal.

- Project Planning and Viability
- Environmental and Human Health Benefit
- Long-term Change and Success
- Project Challenges and Success Factors

The main application will also include work plan and project budget tables, as well as supplemental questions related to financial management tools.

Three letters of support are required with the main application.

- At least one letter of support must come from someone who will directly benefit from the proposed project such as residents, neighbors, local environmental justice groups, or others.
- Letters may also come from:
    - Former or current grantors
    - Former or current partner organizations
    - Local governments or jurisdiction representatives
    - Subject matter experts

Grant Review and Award Process

Pre-application review process

Scoring criteria will be published with the pre-application on March 23, 2026. An invitation to submit a main application proposal will be determined by score as well as by the evaluation committee's deliberation. After the close of the pre-application period on April 30, 2026, a DEQ evaluation committee will review for completeness, eligibility, alignment with the Reduce, Reuse, Reimagine program's purpose, goal and objectives; connection to the Built Environment funding area; and the evaluation committee's professional judgement and subject matter expertise. Applicants will be notified by June 22, 2026, if they are invited to submit a main application proposal.

Main application review process

Scoring criteria will be published with the main application on June 22, 2026. Main application proposals will be due July 30, 2026. All complete and eligible applications will be reviewed, scored, and placed in rank order based on the combined score from each reviewer. Main application grant reviewers will have access to pre-application proposals in order to gain a full understanding of the project. Pre-application proposals will not impact how a main application is scored. Scores will not solely determine the final funding recommendations. Final funding recommendations are made through the committee's group deliberations.

The program will fund projects totaling up to $2 million. All eligible applicants must be in compliance with applicable local, state and federal laws, rules, or other requirements applicable to its operations, including any regulatory, licensing, or franchise requirements of DEQ and other relators, in all jurisdictions where the applicant conducts business.

Grant award process

Applicants will be notified in November 2026 if their project will receive funding. Grant recipients will then work with a DEQ grant administrator to develop a grant agreement and signed contract with DEQ to determine the schedule for disbursement of funds and reporting.

Grant Program Administration

Successful applicant submission requirements

Grant agreements

DEQ grant administrators will work with grant recipients to enter into grant agreements. These agreements will outline specific responsibilities and legal obligations of each party, including eligible expenses and activities, reporting timeline and requirements. Template grant agreements will be shared after the pre-application.

Unique entity ID (UEID #)

The Unique Entity ID is the official identifier for doing business with the U.S. Government as of April 4, 2022. Grant recipients will be asked to provide or obtain one prior to signing a grant agreement with DEQ.

Taxpayer identification number

Grant recipients shall provide an Employer Identification Number (EIN) (or Social Security Number) and a completed W-9 form in order to be entered into the State's payment system. The Department of Administrative Services will confirm the information with the Internal Revenue Service before DEQ completes any disbursements of funds.

Reporting process

Grant recipients will be required to report on the project's status, successes, and challenges in quarterly progress reports. The quarterly report will include a few, short narrative questions and receipt submissions indicating how grant funds were spent during the quarter.

Grant recipients will also be required to submit a more detailed final report once the grant term is completed. The final progress report will address overall project impact, successes, challenges, and lessons learned. A copy of the template quarterly and final progress reports will be shared with the grant recipient at the time of signing the grant agreement.

Payment request process

Oregon DEQ grants will be reimbursement based with advances available under certain circumstances. More information will be available in spring.

Other important process considerations:

- It may take a minimum of 45 days from when the invoice is submitted for grant recipients to receive the funds, so please plan accordingly to avoid project delays.

- Due to DEQ's fiscal year schedule, there will be no fund disbursement in the month of June. Please plan accordingly to avoid project delays.

Glossary

Key terms used throughout the applicant guidebook, application materials and other supporting documents:

- **Building materials**: Building materials are those materials used to construct our built environment – concrete, wood, asphalt, carpet, paints, and more. For the purposes of this grant cycle, building materials is used to mean both the basic material, as well as finished products such as cabinets, lighting, and furniture.
- **Classes of chemicals**: Grouping of chemicals based on similar attributes and functional properties. Approaching chemicals of concern as classes helps to narrow the focus for improved material stewardship and reduce risk. The six classes include:
    - **PFAS**: As a class of substances, PFAS are useful in many everyday modern applications from kitchenware and waterproof clothing to batteries that power electric cars. PFAS, when released into the environment remain indefinitely because they are exceptionally durable. They can accumulate in living bodies and in the environment and may cause serious health problems.
    - **Anti-microbial**: Antimicrobials have limited benefit, if any, and are associated with developmental, hormonal, and reproductive problems. They are found in many household and commercial products used in the built environment such as textiles, insulation and flooring.
    - **Flame retardants**: Flame retardants are added to products to meet flammability standards. They often don't improve fire safety and can harm our health. They are found in furnishings, carpets and flooring, insulation and paints and can increase exposure during application and in indoor spaces.
    - **Phthalates and bisphenols**: These hormone disrupting chemicals are so widely used that we are constantly exposed. They can harm our health, even at very low levels. Phthalates may be found in PVC-based building materials like vinyl flooring, carpet backing, and wall coverings. They are also known to be in sealants and caulks used in kitchens and bathrooms. Bisphenols can be part of the composition of pipes used in plumbing.
    - **Solvents**: Some solvents used in consumer products are linked to neurological problems and increased cancer risk. Paints, strippers, and finishing products may contain various solvents that off gas during use and long after the application.
    - **Certain metals**: Metals are essential for many uses, but some, such as mercury, arsenic, cadmium, and lead, can cause health harm. Fetuses and young children are particularly susceptible.
- **Community need**: An opportunity for improvement or intervention to enhance well-being, address disparities, fill gaps in services and/or foster community resilience that has been identified or prioritized by the communities most impacted.
- **Developmental toxicant**: Agents which interfere with proper growth or health of a child acting at any point from conception to puberty. Source (pg.37).
- **Diversity**: Honoring and including people of different backgrounds, identities, and experiences collectively and as individuals. It emphasizes the need for sharing power

and increasing representation of communities that are systemically underrepresented and under-resourced. These differences are strengths that maximize the state's competitive advantage through innovation, effectiveness, and adaptability. [Source](#) (pg. 41).

- **Environmental justice**: Equal protection from environmental and health risks, fair treatment and meaningful involvement in decision making of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, immigration status, income or other identifies with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies that affect the environment in which people live, work, learn, and practice spirituality and culture. [Source](#).
- **Equity**: Acknowledges that not all people, or all communities, are starting from the same place due to historic and current systems of oppression. Equity is the effort to provide different levels of support based on an individual's or group's needs in order to achieve fairness in outcomes. Equity actionably empowers communities most impacted by systemic oppression and requires the redistribution of resources, power, and opportunity to those communities. [Source](#) (pg. 42).
- **Impacted communities**: includes, but is not limited to, people who identify as one or more, and community-based organizations which represent one or more, of the following identities: BIPOC, low-income, rural, LGBTQIA2S+, disabled, elders, youth, renters, houseless, refugees, immigrants, undocumented, and frontline. [Source](#) (pg.8).
- **Inclusion**: A state of belonging when persons of different backgrounds, experiences, and identities are valued, integrated, and welcomed equitably as decision-makers, collaborators, and colleagues. Ultimately, inclusion is the environment that organizations create to allow these differences to thrive. [Source](#) (pg. 42).
- **Life cycle assessment (or analysis), LCA**: A standardized process used to estimate the impact that a product or process has over the whole of its lifespan, including extraction of raw materials, production, transport, use, and disposal. [Source](#) (pg. 41).
- **Materials**: Non-fuel materials that flow through our economy: paper, plastic, metal, glass, food, wood, etc. Materials include those that are important for their structural properties (e.g. paper, plastics, metals, concrete) and those that are important as energy carriers to humans (e.g. food) and machines (e.g. fuels). [Source](#).
- **Materials management**: An approach to reduce environmental impacts by managing materials through all stages of their life. Materials management identifies impacts and actions across the full cycle of materials and products as they move through the economy— from raw material extraction to product design and manufacture, transport, consumption, use, reuse, recycling, and disposal. [Source](#) (page 41).
- **Neurotoxicant**: Substances capable of causing adverse effects in the central and peripheral nervous system, and in sense organs. [Source](#) (pg. 39).
- **Toxins and chemicals of concern**: Chemicals and other substances that are known to affect human and ecological health adversely. Adverse impacts may include cancer, reproductive and learning disorders in humans, and similar affects in wildlife or ecosystems.

- **Toxic substances**: Toxic substances within building materials are defined as any chemical substances that is known to cause human health effects or produce irritation, as well as substances that fall into the "Classes of chemicals" described above. Examples including cancer-causing agents used as fire suppressants on furnishings.
- **Under resourced**: A recent definition of Oregon's historically and currently underserved communities include Oregonians who are: Native Americans, members of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes, American Indians, Alaska Natives; Black, Africans, African Americans; Latino/a/x, Hispanic; Asian, Pacific Islanders; Arab/Middle Eastern/North Africans; immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers; undocumented persons, DACA, "Dreamers"; linguistically diverse; people with disabilities; LGBTQ+; aging/older adults; economically disadvantaged; farmworkers, migrant workers. [Source](#) (pg. 45).
- **Upstream**: Those actions and impacts that occur before that point in the life cycle, at any point on a product's life cycle. For example, as viewed by a consumer, upstream impacts are those associated with extraction of raw materials, production, distribution, and sale of the product. [Source](#) (page 42).

Acknowledgements