Oregon DEQ General Materials Management Grant Questions and Answers 2020

State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
2020 Materials Management Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink Grant Program

UPDATE: APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED UNTIL OCT. 30 DUE TO WILDFIRES AND EVACUATIONS

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink Grant applicant questions and answers during 2020 solicitation period from July 24- Oct. 30, 2020

Please note that it is a legal requirement from the Department of Environmental Quality’s Business Office to restrict all answers to applicants’ questions to technical assistance only. No content-related questions will be answered. This is to be as fair and as transparent as possible during this grant solicitation period.

The Department of Environmental Quality recommends reading the Materials Management grant webpage to learn more about the grant program and application process. There will also be a webinar recording shortly available on our website that answers questions about the grant process. You can also contact Marie Diodati, if you would like to consult past application documents for guidance.

All applicant questions are reported in this frequently updated document during the 2020 solicitation period. Please contact Marie Diodati, 503-229-5446, if you have other questions linked to the application process or if you are experiencing technical problems with the application documents. You can also consult the Materials Management Grant DEQ website for a link to online resources about grant writing tips.

- Questions weeks July 24 – August 10, 2020:

1. What types of projects are eligible?
   
   **Answer:** The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality’s Materials Management grant program’s purpose is to reduce the environmental and human health impacts of materials at all stages of their lifecycle and support solid waste and other materials management planning activities. The recipients help reduce waste, build capacity for reuse and repair, support responsible recycling, or otherwise advance the 2050 Vision and Framework for Action.

   Project costs that DEQ funds may be used for (but are not limited to):
   
   - 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
2. Who can apply to this grant program?

   **Answer:**
   - Government entities in Oregon responsible for materials management. This includes but is not limited to cities, counties, metropolitan service districts, regional parks districts, sanitary districts and county service districts.
   - 501(c)(3) and (c)(4) nonprofit organizations registered in Oregon (please see additional application requirements).
   - Federally-recognized tribal governments located in Oregon.
   - Organizations created through intergovernmental agreements as allowed by ORS 190.010.
   - Public universities, colleges, community colleges and public schools, but only for projects that prevent the wasting of food. See below for “food waste prevention” project examples.
   - Small businesses (50 or fewer employees).*

Eligible applicants may partner with other public or private entities or individuals.

Repeat applicants will have to state the stage of their previous grant projects. DEQ will consider the progress of the previous project during the evaluation of this new application project.

*Small businesses are eligible to apply directly. This is a new component for the General Materials Management grant 2020 cycle. The small business is required to use the funds to reduce the environmental and human health impacts of materials at all stages of their lifecycle.

3. What (where?) is the website with the grant application and instructions?

   **Answer:** This is the grant website: [https://www.oregon.gov/deq/mm/pages/grants.aspx](https://www.oregon.gov/deq/mm/pages/grants.aspx)

   You can also find the application documents below:

   In English:
   - Application document in PDF
   - Application document in a Word format
   - Instructions document

   In Spanish:
   - Application document in PDF
   - Application document in a Word format
   - Instructions document

   For specific examples of recent projects, visit these lists of projects funded in previous cycles: [2019](#), [2018](#), [2017](#), [2016](#) and [2015](#)

4. Does the project proposed in the application have to respect a certain deadline for completion?

   **Answer:** There is no pre-determined deadline for project completion, however if your
project is selected to receive funding, you will have to sign a Grant agreement in which you determine and establish a specific completion date for your project.

5. Can individuals apply for a grant?  
   **Answer:** No, only these types of entities can apply:
   - Government entities in Oregon responsible for materials management. This includes but is not limited to cities, counties, metropolitan service districts, regional parks districts, sanitary districts and county service districts.
   - 501(c)(3) and (c)(4) nonprofit organizations registered in Oregon (please see additional application requirements).
   - Federally-recognized tribal governments located in Oregon.
   - Organizations created through intergovernmental agreements as allowed by ORS 190.010.
   - Public universities, colleges, community colleges and public schools, but only for projects that prevent the wasting of food. See below for “food waste prevention” project examples.
   - Small businesses (50 or fewer employees).*

Eligible applicants may partner with other public or private entities or individuals.

Repeat applicants will have to state the stage of their previous grant projects. DEQ will consider the progress of the previous project during the evaluation of this new application project.

*Small businesses are eligible to apply directly. This is a new component for the General Materials Management grant 2020 cycle. The small business is required to use the funds to reduce the environmental and human health impacts of materials at all stages of their lifecycle.

6. What is the project funding maximum?  
   **Answer:** No. Historically, the average award amongst all grant categories offered in this program has been approximately $25,000, ranging from $1,500 to $148,550. Up to $600,000 may be awarded in this 2020 grant round. DEQ may offer an award for less than the amount requested.

7. Can you still apply to the General Materials Management grant program, if you received a Repair and Reuse grant?  
   **Answer:** Yes, you can apply to both program.

8. Can I apply even if my business is currently closed because of the health crisis?  
   **Answer:** Yes, DEQ understands the situation. Your application will NOT be penalized if you are currently closed, but are applying because you anticipate reopening later this season and using the grant funds at that time.

9. What are the reporting requirements if you are selected as a grantee?  
   **Answer:** Your reporting requirements will be customized to your project when you
develop your grant agreement with DEQ. You can consult the grant agreement template here: https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/mm-grantagreementtemplate.pdf. The basic reporting requirements are listed at Exhibit C.

DEQ does not want to overburden small organizations that already have a lot going on. We will work together to keep your reporting efficient. The main goal is to be able to learn from your experience and then share your learning with the rest of the materials management community in Oregon.

DEQ will also encourage you to document your project with pictures and/or videos to help tell that story.

10. If I currently have a project being implemented through another DEQ Materials Management grant program, can I still apply?
Answer: Yes and you will not be penalized. Please note, however, that the scoring committee can consult your current and past project reports as references on how the collaborative work has gone and how you managed your grant funds in the past.

11. What is a reimbursement grant?
Answer: DEQ will reimburse the grant recipient upon receiving an invoice for costs incurred and prepared as required in the grant agreement. Funds will not be provided in advance. The grant recipient must be prepared to spend its own funds before requesting reimbursement from DEQ. In most instances DEQ will reimburse the grant recipient within six weeks (at most, and we will work together to minimize this turnaround) of receiving a properly completed reimbursement request. The project’s reimbursable expenses can only start after the grant agreement has been signed, which usually takes two to six months after announcing the recipients (hopefully more 2 months). You do not need to have the full project funds on hand before the project starts, but you will need to cover at least the initial expenses before you will be reimbursed. With each reimbursement request you submit, we will ask for a proof of payment before processing your reimbursement.

12. Can a project linked to bicycle repair work be eligible?
Answer: Yes, a reuse and repair project is linked to materials management work. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality’s Materials Management grant program’s purpose is to reduce the environmental and human health impacts of materials at all stages of their lifecycle and support solid waste and other materials management planning activities. The recipients help reduce waste, build capacity for reuse and repair, support responsible recycling, or otherwise advance the 2050 Vision and Framework for Action.

Project costs that DEQ funds may be used for (but are not limited to):
- 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
13. Where is the recording of the August 4th FAQ webinar posted?

**Answer:** Here is the link to the recording (with a password):
https://zoom.us/rec/share/5NAqP-riqvBLTqPmwh7OcPULGNn7T6a81iMe_PEFzWEiylh9ZBetuGddLnX6xuo
Password: QR.3NB?!

The official recording will also be posted online on our website with captions, the week of August 10: https://www.oregon.gov/deq/mm/pages/grants.aspx

14. Can DEQ tell us what needs to change in our project to be eligible?

**Answer:** The Department of Environmental Quality’s Business Office restricts all answers to applicants’ questions to technical assistance only. No content-related questions will be answered. This is to be as fair and as transparent as possible during this grant solicitation period.

As a general comment though, it is important to explain why you are pursuing your project in the first place, is it a need of the community? Also, if this project involves testing/research, how certain are you that this is the right path? Has this been used and implemented elsewhere? The program supports innovative projects, but as an environmental department, we need to know and support the environmental solution you are putting forward.

15. Are community colleges and public schools limited to only Food Waste Prevention projects, not including composting or donations?

**Answer:** Yes, for this 2020 grant cycle, public schools, colleges and universities are solely invited to apply for grant funding for projects that will prevent wasted food. Redistributing/donating edible food, composting and anaerobic digestion projects are not considered prevention and do not qualify for this grant. Please consider your project as a whole, read past grant recipients projects (on our website) and read our Instruction document. You can also explore the list of project ideas, which includes food waste prevention projects on page 1.

16. Are trucks eligible for project funding?

**Answer:** It depends. DEQ has funded trucks for organizations linked to materials management in the past. Depending on how you build your project application it can be an eligible project by linking it to materials management outcomes. While it can be an eligible project, to get selected, depends of the competitiveness of the grant cycle. Please explore our website and all the resources on it to better understand the grant program objectives and procedures https://www.oregon.gov/deq/mm/pages/grants.aspx. The competitiveness of your project highly depends on the environmental needs you are addressing highlighted at Question 1a) of the project application. Consulting the Materials Management 2050 Vision will help you understand when materials and products have high impacts on the environment and what can be done to reduce them. Also note that for equipment of $5,000 or more, at least one bid/quote needs to be
17. How is your Program funded?
   Answer: The Materials Management program is funded with tipping fees. Here are a few documents that might help understand the tipping fee structure:
   o Recent 2019 document: https://www.oregon.gov/deq/mm/Documents/swFeeChangesFS.pdf
   o Older document, breaking down the policy behind it: https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/mmSB245pop132.pdf

18. Can a project that takes waste materials (such as plastic, styrofoam, tires, PPE, motor oil etc.) and converts it into synthetic fuels be eligible?
   Answer: It depends. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality’s Materials Management grant program’s purpose is to reduce the environmental and human health impacts of materials at all stages of their lifecycle and support solid waste and other materials management planning activities. The recipients help reduce waste, build capacity for reuse and repair, support responsible recycling, or otherwise advance the 2050 Vision and Framework for Action.

   As a general comment though, it is important to explain why you are pursuing this project in the first place, is it a need of the community? Also, if this project involves testing/research, how certain are you that this is the right path? Has this been used and implemented elsewhere? The program supports innovative projects, but as an environmental department, we need to know and support the environmental solution you are putting forward.

19. Can a “safer choice certification” be eligible?
   Answer: It depends on how the project is developed. The program can’t confirm if you project will receive a grant.

   The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality’s Materials Management grant program’s purpose is to reduce the environmental and human health impacts of materials at all stages of their lifecycle and support solid waste and other materials management planning activities. The recipients help reduce waste, build capacity for reuse and repair, support responsible recycling, or otherwise advance the 2050 Vision and Framework for Action.

20. Can a wood chipper be eligible?
   Answer: It depends. DEQ funded a wood chipper in 2016 in the City of Sandy: https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/2016FundedProjects.pdf

   However, it depends on how the project is developed. The program can’t confirm if you project will receive a grant.

21. Can an illegal dumping project be eligible?
   Answer: Yes, but the project needs to be accompanied by policy changes to address
illegal dumping and education for the community that is struggling with this issue. Funding a free drop-off day has to be a multi-layer project to sustainably address this issue.

However, it depends on how the project is developed. The program can’t confirm if you project will receive a grant.

22. Can a vehicle recycling project be eligible?
   **Answer:** It depends what will be addressed in the project submission. Recycling infrastructure is an eligible cost in this grant program. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality’s Materials Management grant program’s purpose is to reduce the environmental and human health impacts of materials at all stages of their lifecycle and support solid waste and other materials management planning activities. The recipients help reduce waste, build capacity for reuse and repair, support responsible recycling, or otherwise advance the [2050 Vision and Framework for Action](#).

23. Can a food rescue project be eligible?
   **Answer:** Yes, food rescue is linked to materials management. I also encourage you to consult the list of [project ideas](#) to build a competitive grant proposal and this [list of answer example](#).

   However, it depends on how the project is developed. The program can’t confirm if you project will receive a grant.

24. What is the definition of “Historically marginalized communities”?
   **Answer:** A limited term that refers to groups who have been denied access and/or suffered past institutional discrimination in the United States and, according to the Census and other federal measuring tools, includes African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanics or Chicanos/Latinos and Native Americans. This is revealed by an imbalance in the representation of different groups in common pursuits such as education, jobs, housing, etc., resulting in marginalization for some groups and individuals and not for others, relative to the number of individuals who are members of the population involved. Other groups in the United States have been marginalized and are currently underrepresented. These groups may include but are not limited to other ethnicities, adult learners, veterans, people with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals, different religious groups and different economic backgrounds.

   **Sources:**
   University of California, Berkeley. (2015). Berkeley Diversity – Glossary of Terms. Retrieved from: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uxXow_se_f1iNbZlfRz2H7Jw161Mn7G/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uxXow_se_f1iNbZlfRz2H7Jw161Mn7G/view)
25. Is there a separate application for planning grants?
   Answer: No. In the past, the program had a separate application for local governments that were seeking grant funds to cover developing a Materials Management plan (e.g., local strategies to reduce generation of waste or use of toxics, reuse of products or purchase of more durable products or a local guide to help ensure safe management of waste and provide a path toward achieving watershed and statewide recovery goals). This year, we are no longer requiring applicants fill out a separate “planning grant” form, and use the standard applications. There will not be a separate application for plan proposals. Planning grants are for local Solid Waste Management Plans and Materials Management Plans. A plan-type project can only be requested by a local government to receive funds to develop their own plan or may contract with private individuals, consulting firms, non-profit organizations or others.

26. What is an indirect cost rate?
   Answer: Indirect costs means those costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective, and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. To facilitate equitable distribution of indirect expenses to the cost objectives served, it may be necessary to establish a number of pools of indirect costs. Indirect cost pools should be distributed to benefitted cost objectives on bases that will produce an equitable result in consideration of relative benefits derived.

   Please note: If your organization is charging an indirect rate, that indirect rate CANNOT be greater than 10%, unless you have a negotiated indirect rate with the federal government. If you have a negotiated agreement with the Federal Government, please supply executed letter with Federal Agency. Additionally, the indirect rate that is charged to DEQ cannot be higher than what is charged against any other provider of funding.

   Some organizations assess an indirect cost to cover facilities and administration, which is expected. If your organization does not have a standard indirect cost, you may select “not applicable.” You may follow these links for additional information about and modified direct total costs.

27. Can a project that has already started be eligible?
   Answer: Yes, however, the costs that you are including in your project proposal can’t have already happened as stated below and in our Instructions. The portion of the project you are asking funding for has to happen after you have signed your grant agreement if you are selected.

   What costs are NOT covered?
   • Costs incurred for activities outside the scope of the grant agreement; however, DEQ reserves the right to reassign unused funds, due to finishing tasks under budget, to new/other tasks that fulfill or advance the mission of the Materials Management Program.
   • Costs for which payment has been or will be received under another financial assistance program. (This includes funding that another organization is passing through to you the Grantee.)
• Costs incurred before issuance of, or after the completion date of a signed grant agreement with DEQ, unless expressly authorized by DEQ in the grant agreement
• Ordinary operating expenses (i.e., staff time that is already a part of your current work)
• DEQ permit fees or costs incurred for solid waste facility closure

28. Can 501(c)(6) nonprofit apply to project grants?
   **Answer:** Not for this 2020 grant cycle. Eligible applicants for grants are:
   • Government entities in Oregon responsible for materials management. This includes but is not limited to cities, counties, metropolitan service districts, regional parks districts, sanitary districts and county service districts.
   • 501(c)(3) and (c)(4) nonprofit organizations registered in Oregon (please see additional application requirements).
   • Federally-recognized tribal governments located in Oregon.
   • Organizations created through intergovernmental agreements as allowed by ORS 190.010.
   • Public universities, colleges, community colleges and public schools, but only for projects that prevent the wasting of food. See below for “food waste prevention” project examples.
   • Small businesses (50 or fewer employees).*

Eligible applicants may partner with other public or private entities or individuals.

Repeat applicants will have to state the stage of their previous grant projects. DEQ will consider the progress of the previous project during the evaluation of this new application project.

*Small businesses are eligible to apply directly. This is a new component for the General Materials Management grant 2020 cycle. The small business is required to use the funds to reduce the environmental and human health impacts of materials at all stages of their lifecycle.

29. Does a small business have to partner with a nonprofit or a government to apply?
   **Answer:** No. Small businesses can apply on their own, however it is important to mention any partnerships or support you have from local nonprofits or local governments. This would help build credibility for your project and help us understand that this is a need identified by multiple groups in your region.

30. How long does it take to receive a reimbursement and when do you submit a reimbursement?
   **Answer:** DEQ will reimburse the grant recipient upon receiving an invoice prepared as required in the grant agreement with all required backup documentation. The grant recipient must be prepared to spend its own funds before requesting reimbursement from DEQ. In most instances DEQ will reimburse the grant recipient **within six weeks**, at most, of receiving a properly completed reimbursement request. The project’s
reimbursable expenses can only start after the grant agreement has been signed, which usually takes two to six months after announcing the recipients.

You can submit reimbursement as often as you like. Usually, grantees do it **monthly**, but it can be determined based on your project needs.

31. Can photos be submitted with an application?
   **Answer:** Yes, but there must be an added value to the photos submitted. Do they help complete the project description?

32. Do small businesses and nonprofits need to be based on Oregon?
   **Answer:** No, but they need to be registered in Oregon. The majority of the benefits of the project needs to be for people in Oregon.

33. Who is on the grant evaluation committee?
   **Answer:** There is representation from different DEQ staff from around the state. All members of the committee are internal DEQ staff from different programs and divisions. They bring their individual and regional expertise to the group to make sure proposals are evaluated from different perspectives.

34. What is the overall budget for funding. Can people receive partial funding?
   **Answer:** Up to $600,000 may be awarded in this 2020 grant round. Historically, the average award amongst all grant categories offered in this program has been approximately $25,000, ranging from $1,500 to $148,550. DEQ may offer an award for less than the amount requested based on recommendations from the evaluation committee. Based on the score of each project, the evaluation committee determines who get funding. No more than $600,000 will be awarded.

35. When are the grantees announced?
   **Answer:** The program will try to announce grantees on Dec. 11, 2020.

36. Is there a limit on the number of partners on a project?
   **Answer:** No, your application just needs to clearly identify everybody’s role in the project.

• **Questions from August 11 – August 14, 2020:**

37. Can a project link to sewage infrastructure qualify?
   **Answer:** No. Even though multiple materials end up in the waste water system, a sewage infrastructure linked project is outside the scope of our Program. Our colleague Jennifer, Jennifer.KENNY@deq.state.or.us, that works in our Water Division, can help provide information about our Clean Water State Revolving Fund to see if you project is eligible. It offers loans not grants. They do offer very low interest rates and some additional assistance for economically distressed communities. For more information you can fill out this form and you will be contacted by a technical assistant: https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/cwsrf/Pages/ApplicationAssistance.aspx
38. Can an education project linked to materials management in partnership with school students and education staff be eligible?
   Answer: Yes, an education project can be eligible. Please see the list of project ideas. You can also explore the list of project ideas. Please also read our Instructions document to learn about the other eligibility criteria to make sure you meet the minimum qualification.

For specific examples of recent projects, visit these lists of projects funded in previous cycles: 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 and 2015

- Questions from August 14 – August 28, 2020:

39. Is a planning project linked to wastewater sludge management plan that moves towards in-vessel composting of waste sludge eligible?
   Answer: Yes, because it specifically addresses reducing waste that would go to a landfill. There is overlap with water programs and Materials Management, since the sludge is closer to a solid material, and the link to landfills links to Materials Management funding.

The competitiveness of this project would still need to be discussed and it is important to remember that our overall funding is $600,000.
Below is the definition of solid waste.

(24) “Solid waste” means all useless or discarded putrescible and nonputrescible materials, including but not limited to garbage, rubbish, refuse, ashes, paper and cardboard, sewage sludge, septic tank and cesspool pumpings or other sludge, useless or discarded commercial, industrial, demolition and construction materials, discarded or abandoned vehicles or parts thereof, discarded home and industrial appliances, manure, vegetable or animal solid and semisolid materials, dead animals and infectious waste as defined in ORS 459.386. “Solid waste” does not include:
   (a) Hazardous waste as defined in ORS 466.005.
   (b) Materials used for fertilizer or for other productive purposes or which are salvageable as such materials are used on land in agricultural operations and the growing or harvesting of crops and the raising of animals.
   (c) Woody biomass that is combusted as a fuel by a facility that has obtained a permit described in ORS 468A.040.

40. Would a planning project linked to a materials flow analysis for a local community led by a local government with the help of university research and local communities be eligible?
   Answer: Yes, a local government can apply for a planning project for a materials management type of plan. In the past, the program had a separate application for local governments that were seeking grant funds to cover developing a Materials Management plan (e.g., local strategies to reduce generation of waste or use of toxics, reuse of products or purchase of more durable products or a local guide to help ensure safe management of waste and provide a path toward achieving wasteshed and statewide recovery goals). This year, we are no longer requiring applicants fill out a separate “planning grant” form, and use the standard applications. There will not be a separate
application for plan proposals. Planning grants are for local Solid Waste Management Plans and Materials Management Plans. A plan-type project can only be requested by a local government to receive funds to develop their own plan or may contract with private individuals, consulting firms, non-profit organizations or others.

41. Can I apply for a grant if the organization that is partnering with me already has a grant with Materials Management?
Answer: Yes. There are no limits on the number of application submitted and the fact that you or your partner have a current grant with DEQ does not prevent you from applying to this 2020 cycle.

42. Is a project linked to the management of a reuse store and investment in technology to adapt services to current physical distancing measures be included in a project budget?
Answer: Yes. The staff time and the technology must serve an organization, entity or project that is linked to Materials Management.

For this 2020 cycle, projects that increase or improve online or other access to activities that reduce the environmental and human health impacts of materials (materials management activities) have an opportunity to gain more points during the evaluation period. Access must comply with state COVID-19-related guidelines and restrictions. Additional points will be awarded for projects that increase or improve access for historically marginalized communities.

43. Would a monthly cost to rent a space fall under the "overhead" category? The potential applicant is still working out of their garage but will need to lease a larger space to implement their project.
Answer: Yes, that is correct, those cost would be considered overhead.

44. Would a project linked to training youth about waste prevention be eligible?
Answer: Yes. The project scope needs to be developed to understand the potential subject matters related to the project implementation and to make sure the evaluation committee understands the link to materials management.

Questions from August 31 – Sept. 11, 2020

45. Can private schools apply to the grant program?
Answer: Yes. It has to be a food waste prevention project. I would encourage them to address why they need public funds and why they cannot fund their project with their own financial structure. Entities that can apply are:
- Government entities in Oregon responsible for materials management. This includes but is not limited to cities, counties, metropolitan service districts, regional parks districts, sanitary districts and county service districts.
- 501(c)(3) and (c)(4) nonprofit organizations registered in Oregon (please see additional application requirements).
- Federally-recognized tribal governments located in Oregon.
- Organizations created through intergovernmental agreements as allowed by ORS
190.010.

- Public universities, colleges, community colleges and public schools, but only for projects that prevent the wasting of food. See below for “food waste prevention” project examples.
- Small businesses (50 or fewer employees).*

Eligible applicants may partner with other public or private entities or individuals.

Repeat applicants will have to state the stage of their previous grant projects. DEQ will consider the progress of the previous project during the evaluation of this new application project.

*Small businesses are eligible to apply directly. This is a new component for the General Materials Management grant 2020 cycle. The small business is required to use the funds to reduce the environmental and human health impacts of materials at all stages of their lifecycle.

46. Is there a cap on the project duration?
Answer: No. There are no caps on the project period. Usually they last for approximately 1-1.5 years, but it is up to the applicant to decide how they use the funds. DEQ encourages applicant to include enough time for reporting, so they can share information about the impacts of their project. Also note that grantees can only start spending the funds once their grant agreement is signed, which will probably be around February 1st, if they are selected for the 2020 general materials management grant cycle.

47. Can a project linked to research about recycling plastic waste and wood waste be eligible?
Answer: Yes. To be transparent, startups and R&D projects have a more challenging hurdle to meet the evaluation factors linked to the project continuity and ongoing benefits. It is important to explain the applying entity’s history of performance or customer base. If interested, look at the lists of past projects (2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 and 2015) to help self-assess the direction you want to take with your application. Materials Management can also share a copy of a past recipient’s application that might help with your project development, as reference only.

For research projects, it is also important to address the following evaluation factors: Potential for Project Continuity/Ongoing Benefits. DEQ wants to know “what are the direct benefits of the project for people in Oregon?” After the grant funds are spent, will there be benefits or are the project benefits contingent of future unconfirmed funding or future phases of implementation?

Project costs that DEQ funds may be used for (but are not limited to):
- 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

48. Can a project linked to a reuse store be eligible, if they are trying to fund strategic planning to adjust to the current context and for infrastructure?

**Answer:** Yes. Reuse and repair efforts are directly linked to materials management. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality’s Materials Management grant program’s purpose is to reduce the environmental and human health impacts of materials at all stages of their lifecycle and support solid waste and other materials management planning activities. The recipients help reduce waste, build capacity for reuse and repair, support responsible recycling, or otherwise advance the [2050 Vision and Framework for Action](#).

This project also seems to fit in the focus area for the 2020 cycle. A proposal may receive Focus Area points for the following type of proposal:

Projects that increase or improve online or other access to activities that reduce the environmental and human health impacts of materials (materials management activities). Access must comply with state COVID-19-related guidelines and restrictions. Additional points will be awarded for projects that increase or improve access for historically marginalized communities.

• A project can touch on either or both of these characteristics. The scoring committee will allocate from zero (0) to twenty (20) points for projects that are linked to the focus area. The number of points attributed to a focus area project will depend on how directly it embodies the focus area and how they explain they are providing a service that is needed by the community targeted (Is somebody else doing similar work? Is there a population not being served right now? Is the community targeted the one saying they need this or it is assumed by the applicant?)

• Look at the list of [project ideas here](#).

Every year, DEQ includes “focus points” to bolster the state’s efforts around specific projects or agency initiatives. For example, two years ago the focus was on food waste prevention. This year’s focus points align with DEQ’s efforts to help organizations affected by COVID-19 and/or support historically marginalized communities. **While the focus points will help elevate certain projects, they are in no way intended to discourage other applications who may not qualify for these points.** DEQ looks to fund a wide array of projects that reflect both project and geographic diversity. Your project does not need to qualify for the focus points in order for it to be funded. Learn more about this year’s focus points on page 3 and 4 of the grant [Instructions document](#).

49. Can a project linked to research that focuses on raw food material waste at production level?

**Answer:** Yes. To be transparent, startups and R&D projects have a more challenging hurdle to meet the evaluation factors linked to the project continuity and ongoing benefits. It is important to explain the applying entity’s history of performance or customer base. If interested, look at the lists of past projects ([2019](#), [2018](#), [2017](#), [2016](#) and [2015](#)) to help self-assess the direction you want to take with your application. Materials
Management can also share a copy of a past recipient’s application that might help with your project development, as reference only.

For research projects, it is also important to address the following evaluation factors: Potential for Project Continuity/Ongoing Benefits. DEQ wants to know “what are the direct benefits of the project for people in Oregon?” After the grant funds are spent, will there be benefits or are the project benefits contingent of future unconfirmed funding or future phases of implementation?

50. Can a research/pilot project linked to reused wood be eligible?
   Answer: Yes. To be transparent, startups and R&D projects have a more challenging hurdle to meet the evaluation factors linked to the project continuity and ongoing benefits. It is important to explain the applying entity’s history of performance or customer base. If interested, look at the lists of past projects (2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 and 2015) to help self-assess the direction you want to take with your application. Materials Management can also share a copy of a past recipient’s application that might help with your project development, as reference only.

For research projects, it is also important to address the following evaluation factors: Potential for Project Continuity/Ongoing Benefits. DEQ wants to know “what are the direct benefits of the project for people in Oregon?” After the grant funds are spent, will there be benefits or are the project benefits contingent of future unconfirmed funding or future phases of implementation?

For pilot projects, successful past applicants, had a regional smaller effort, with secured partners and clear identified benefits. This helped guarantee the feasibility of the larger scale future project and the grantee could address replicability components before growing the efforts.

51. Can a food rescue project, trying to fund larger space to operate, be eligible?
   Answer: Yes. Food rescue efforts are directly related to materials management. If interested, look at the lists of past projects (2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 and 2015) to help self-assess the direction you want to take with your application. Materials Management can also share a copy of a past recipient’s application that might help with your project development, as reference only.

52. In regards to this year’s focus area, what is included in the definition of “Historically marginalized communities”?
   Answer: The definition of “Historically marginalized communities” is: A limited term that refers to groups who have been denied access and/or suffered past institutional discrimination in the United States and, according to the Census and other federal measuring tools, includes African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanics or Chicanos/Latinos and Native Americans. This is revealed by an imbalance in the representation of different groups in common pursuits such as education, jobs, housing, etc., resulting in marginalization for some groups and individuals and not for others, relative to the
number of individuals who are members of the population involved. Other groups in the United States have been marginalized and are currently underrepresented. **These groups may include but are not limited to other ethnicities, adult learners, veterans, people with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals, different religious groups and different economic backgrounds.**


Every year, DEQ includes “focus points” to bolster the state’s efforts around specific projects or agency initiatives. For example, two years ago the focus was on food waste prevention. This year’s focus points align with DEQ’s efforts to help organizations affected by COVID-19 and/or support historically marginalized communities. **While the focus points will help elevate certain projects, they are in no way intended to discourage other applications who may not qualify for these points.** DEQ looks to fund a wide array of projects that reflect both project and geographic diversity. Your project does not need to qualify for the focus points in order for it to be funded. Learn more about this year’s focus points on page 3 and 4 of the grant Instructions document.

53. Can an entity that already has an ongoing grant with the Materials Management program apply for the 2020 cycle?

**Answer:** Yes. The evaluation committee will look at the progress reports of your current funded project. If you already have a grant with DEQ and are asking for more funds, it would be important to be transparent about that in your application.

It is also important to address the following evaluation factors: Potential for Project Continuity/Ongoing Benefits. Why does your entity need more funds? Is your current project depending on these additional funds or it is for a separate effort from a same entity?

**Questions from Sept. 14 – Sept. 18, 2020**

54. Can a project linked to materials management research be eligible?

**Answer:** Yes. To be transparent, startups and R&D projects have a more challenging hurdle to meet the evaluation factors linked to the project continuity and ongoing benefits. It is important to explain the applying entity’s history of performance or customer base. If interested, look at the lists of past projects (2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 and 2015) to help self-assess the direction you want to take with your application. Materials Management can also share a copy of a past recipient’s application that might help with your project development, as reference only.

For research projects, it is also important to address the following evaluation factors: Potential for Project Continuity/Ongoing Benefits. DEQ wants to know “what are the
direct benefits of the project for people in Oregon?” After the grant funds are spent, will there be benefits or are the project benefits contingent of future unconfirmed funding or future phases of implementation?

Project costs that DEQ funds may be used for (but are not limited to):
- 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

55. Can a project linked to changing an entity’s status be eligible? If it is to increase capacity and better respond to growing community needs.

Answer: Yes. You just need to include time for reporting, to display the impact of these changes. You also need to link the project objectives to materials management. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality’s Materials Management grant program’s purpose is to reduce the environmental and human health impacts of materials at all stages of their lifecycle and support solid waste and other materials management planning activities. The recipients help reduce waste, build capacity for reuse and repair, support responsible recycling, or otherwise advance the 2050 Vision and Framework for Action.

56. How is the program responding to the Oregon wildfires?

Answer: The application deadline has been extended until Oct. 30 due to wildfires and evacuations.

If you are seeking information about wildfires, please visit DEQ’s wildfire webpages: https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wildfires/Pages/default.aspx.