



Fact Sheet

Reduce, Recycle, Reimagine Grants

Examples of Built for Well-Being activities and projects

This document provides examples of eligible activities and potential projects that may be supported through a DEQ Reduce, Reuse, Reimagine grant. This year's annual funding area is Built for Well-Being: Reducing Exposure to Toxics Substances in Building Materials. Only projects that fit within this funding area will be eligible. This grant cycle supports projects that reduce harmful environmental and human-health impacts of toxic substances found in building materials.

For questions or more information, reach out to us at: RRRGrants@deq.oregon.gov.

Eligible activities and costs:

Grant funds may be used for (but are not limited to) the following activities and costs, so long as they are directly tied to the grant project.

Activities:

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

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

Built for Well-Being project examples:

This project list is not exhaustive – we welcome new and creative ideas to reduce exposure to toxic substances in building materials that meet the needs of your community. Unfortunately, we will not be able to fund every project that meets the eligibility requirements. Project proposals will be reviewed by a panel of DEQ subject matter experts and only the highest scoring projects will be awarded grant funding.

Procurement and material selection

- Buying safer building materials that don't include harmful chemicals such as furniture without flame retardants, low-VOC emitting paints, etc.
- Changing design or purchasing rules to prefer safer materials
- Create material libraries showcasing pre-approved healthier alternatives for common building applications
- Develop material specification templates that default to safer options across product categories

Training and education

- Contractor education on identifying toxic chemicals in building materials and selecting safer alternatives
- Develop guides and toolkits to help homeowners choose healthier materials for repairs and renovations
- Green chemistry curriculum development that teaches toxin elimination principles in building materials
- Develop case studies showcasing successful toxic-free building projects to demonstrate feasibility and cost-effectiveness

Research and development

- Researching and testing of safer replacement building materials that don't include harmful chemicals (like insulation, paints, or flooring)
- Assessments that evaluates environmental and health impacts of conventional versus healthier materials

Deconstruction

- Starting programs to carefully take apart old buildings and avoid spreading lead or asbestos
- Establish take-back programs where manufacturers reclaim and responsibly dispose of products containing unavoidable toxic components

Program name and contact

Reduce, Recycle, Reimagine Grants

RRRGrants@deq.oregon.gov

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