

# LEGISLATIVE TRACKING FORM

Filing for Council Meeting Date: 05/05/26

Resolution  Ordinance

Contact/Prepared By: Andrew Sullivan

Date Prepared: 02/27/26

Title (Caption): Award acceptance of EPA SWIFR Grant. RS2025-993 was the legislation for approval to apply. Funds used to purchase and install specialized recycling equipment for a materials recovery facility to sort and bale recycleables and public litter baskets with A.I./ smart technology.

Submitted to Planning Commission?  N/A  Yes-Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Proposal No: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposing Department: Waste Requested By: Andrew Sullivan

Affected Department(s): Waste Affected Council District(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Legislative Category (check one):**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonds                | <input type="checkbox"/> Contract Approval           | <input type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental Agreement   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budget - Pay Plan    | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Lease                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budget - 4%          | <input type="checkbox"/> Easement Abandonment        | <input type="checkbox"/> Maps                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Improvements | <input type="checkbox"/> Easement Accept/Acquisition | <input type="checkbox"/> Master List A&E               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Outlay Notes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant            | <input type="checkbox"/> Settlement of Claims/Lawsuits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Code Amendment       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Application           | <input type="checkbox"/> Street/Highway Improvements   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Condemnation         | <input type="checkbox"/> Improvement Acc.            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                  |

<b>FINANCE</b>	<b>Amount +/-:</b> \$ <u>\$ 2,440,000.00</u>	<b>Match:</b> \$ <u>\$ 0.00</u>
<b>Funding Source:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Capital Improvement Budget <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Outlay Notes <input type="checkbox"/> Departmental/Agency Budget <input type="checkbox"/> Funds to Metro <input type="checkbox"/> General Obligation Bonds <input type="checkbox"/> Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Increased Revenue Sources	<input type="checkbox"/> Judgments and Losses <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government Investment Project <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue Bonds <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Insured Liability <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Unappropriated Fund Balance <input type="checkbox"/> 4% Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Approved by OMB: <u>Aaron Pratt</u>	<u>DH</u>	Date to Finance Director's Office: _____
Approved by Finance/Accounts: _____		<b>APPROVED BY</b>
Approved by Div Grants Coordination: <u>Juanita Paulsen</u>		<b>FINANCE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE:</b> _____

<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>
Council District Member Sponsors: _____
Council Committee Chair Sponsors: _____
<b>Approved by Administration:</b> _____ <b>Date:</b> _____

<b>DEPARTMENT OF LAW</b>	Date to Dept. of Law: _____	Approved by Department of Law: _____
	<b>Settlement Resolution/Memorandum Approved by:</b> _____	
	Date to Council: _____	For Council Meeting: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> All Dept. Signatures	<input type="checkbox"/> Copies	<input type="checkbox"/> Backing
<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Summary	<input type="checkbox"/> Settlement Memo	<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk Letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Ready to File	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mailed Clerk	

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## GRANT SUMMARY SHEET

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**Grant Name:** Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) 26-28

**Department:** WASTE SERVICES

**Grantor:** ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**Pass-Through Grantor  
(If applicable):**

**Total Award this Action:** \$2,440,000.00

**Cash Match Amount** \$0.00

**Department Contact:** Sharon Smith  
862-8715

**Status:** NEW

**Program Description:**

Funding opportunity from the US EPA established by the 2021 Bipartisan infrastructure Law to implement the National Recycling Strategy. These funds will be used to purchase and install specialized equipment for a materials recovery facility to sort and bale recyclables and public litter baskets with A.I./Smart technology.

**Plan for continuation of services upon grant expiration:**

Public litter baskets will be collected and maintained within Waste Services operational budget as they are currently. The Materials Recovery Facility will generate revenue that will support funding staff and operations.

### Grants Tracking Form

Part One

<b>Pre-Application</b> <input type="radio"/>		<b>Application</b> <input type="radio"/>		<b>Award Acceptance</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/>		<b>Contract Amendment</b> <input type="radio"/>	
Department		Dept. No.		Contact		Phone	
WASTE SERVICES		072		Sharon Smith		931-6227	
<b>Grant Name:</b>		Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant 26-28					
<b>Grantor:</b>		ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY				<b>Other:</b>	
<b>Grant Period From:</b>		05/01/26		<small>(applications only)</small> <b>Anticipated Application Date:</b>			
<b>Grant Period To:</b>		04/30/29		<small>(applications only)</small> <b>Application Deadline:</b>			
<b>Funding Type:</b>		FED DIRECT		<b>Multi-Department Grant</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> <b>If yes, list below.</b>	
<b>Pass-Thru:</b>				<b>Outside Consultant Project:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Award Type:</b>		COMPETITIVE		<b>Total Award:</b>		\$2,440,000.00	
<b>Status:</b>		NEW		<b>Metro Cash Match:</b>		\$0.00	
<b>Metro Category:</b>		New Initiative		<b>Metro In-Kind Match:</b>		\$0.00	
<b>CFDA #</b>		66.920		<b>Is Council approval required?</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Project Description:</b>		<b>Applic. Submitted Electronically?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
<p>Funding opportunity from the US EPA established by the 2021 Bipartisan infrastructure Law to implement the National Recycling Strategy. These funds will be used to purchase and install specialized equipment for a materials recovery facility to sort and bale recyclables and public litter baskets with A.I./Smart technology.</p>							
<b>Plan for continuation of service after expiration of grant/Budgetary Impact:</b>							
Public litter baskets will be collected and maintained within Waste Services operational budget as they are currently. The Materials Recovery Facility will generate revenue that will support funding staff and operations.							
<b>How is Match Determined?</b>							
<b>Fixed Amount of \$</b>		\$0.00		<b>or</b>		<b>% of Grant</b>	
<b>Explanation for "Other" means of determining match:</b>		n/a					
<b>For this Metro FY, how much of the required local Metro cash match:</b>							
<b>Is already in department budget?</b>		n/a		<b>Fund</b>		30502	
<b>Is not budgeted?</b>				<b>Business Unit</b>		72803100	
<b>(Indicate Match Amount &amp; Source for Remaining Grant Years in Budget Below)</b>				<b>Proposed Source of Match:</b>			
				N/A			
<b>Other:</b>							
<b>Number of FTEs the grant will fund:</b>		0.00		<b>Actual number of positions added:</b>		0.00	
<b>Departmental Indirect Cost Rate</b>		15.70%		<b>Indirect Cost of Grant to Metro:</b>		\$383,080.00	
<b>*Indirect Costs allowed?</b>		<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		<b>% Allow.</b>		0.00%	
				<b>Ind. Cost Requested from Grantor:</b>		\$0.00	
<b>*(If "No", please attach documentation from the grantor that indirect costs are not allowable. See Instructions)</b>							
<b>Draw down allowable?</b>							
<b>Metro or Community-based Partners:</b>							
Nashville Downtown Partnership; Bloomberg Sustainable Cities;							

Part Two

Grant Budget

Budget Year	Metro Fiscal Year	Federal Grantor	State Grantor	Other Grantor	Local Match Cash	Match Source (Fund, BU)	Local Match In-Kind	Total Grant Each Year	Indirect Cost to Metro	Ind. Cost Neg. from Grantor
Yr 1	FY26/27	\$1,440,000.00						\$1,440,000.00	\$226,080.00	\$0.00
Yr 2	FY27/28	\$1,000,000.00						\$1,000,000.00	\$157,000.00	\$0.00
Yr 3	FY28/29									
Yr 4	FY__									
Yr 5	FY__									
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,440,000.00</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	<b>\$2,440,000.00</b>	<b>\$383,080.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Date Awarded:</b>			04/02/26		<b>Tot. Awarded:</b>		\$2,440,000.00		<b>Contract#:</b>	
<b>(or) Date Denied:</b>					<b>Reason:</b>					
<b>(or) Date Withdrawn:</b>					<b>Reason:</b>					

Contact: [juanita.paulsen@nashville.gov](mailto:juanita.paulsen@nashville.gov)  
[vaughn.wilson@nashville.gov](mailto:vaughn.wilson@nashville.gov)



RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A resolution accepting a Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to the Metropolitan Government, acting by and through the Nashville Department of Waste Services, to fund the first phase of a multi-phase plan to invest in collection infrastructure and specialized equipment.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a grant in an amount not to exceed \$2,440,000 with no cash match required to the Metropolitan Government, acting by and through the Nashville Department of Waste Services, to fund the first phase of a multi-phase plan to invest in collection infrastructure and specialized equipment; and,

WHEREAS, it is to the benefit of the citizens of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County that this grant be accepted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVISION COUNTY:

Section 1. That the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant by and between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in an amount not to exceed \$2,440,000 to the Metropolitan Government, acting by and through the Nashville Department of Waste Services, to fund the first phase of a multi-phase plan to invest in collection infrastructure and specialized equipment, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein, is hereby approved.

Section 2. That the amount of this grant be appropriated to the Nashville Department of Waste Services, based on the revenues estimated to be received and any match to be applied.

Section 3: That this resolution shall take effect from and after its passage, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

APPROVED AS TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:

Jenneen Reed/mjw  
Jenneen Reed, Finance Director


INTRODUCED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Courtney Mohan  
Assistant Metropolitan Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Member(s)

	<b>U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY</b>  <b>Cooperative Agreement</b>	<b>GRANT NUMBER (FAIN):</b> 06D01926 <b>MODIFICATION NUMBER:</b> 0 <b>PROGRAM CODE:</b> 4Z	<b>DATE OF AWARD</b> 04/02/2026
		<b>TYPE OF ACTION:</b> New	<b>MAILING DATE</b> 04/07/2026
		<b>PAYMENT METHOD:</b> ASAP	<b>ACH#</b> 40074
<b>RECIPIENT TYPE:</b> County		<b>Send Payment Request to:</b> Contact EPA RTPFC at: rtpfc-grants@epa.gov	
<b>RECIPIENT:</b> NASHVILLE & DAVIDSON COUNTY, METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF P.O. BOX 196300 NASHVILLE, TN 37219-6300 <b>EIN:</b> 62-0694743		<b>PAYEE:</b> NASHVILLE & DAVIDSON COUNTY, METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF 1600 2nd Avenue N. Nashville, TN 37208	
<b>PROJECT MANAGER</b> Jenn Harman 1600 2nd Avenue N. Nashville, TN 37208 <b>Email:</b> jenn.harman@nashville.gov <b>Phone:</b> 615-880-2419		<b>EPA PROJECT OFFICER</b> Alyssa Kuhn 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30303-8960 <b>Email:</b> kuhn.alyssa@epa.gov <b>Phone:</b> 404-562-8197	<b>EPA GRANT SPECIALIST</b> Leah Vasser Grants Management Section 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30303-8960 <b>Email:</b> vasser.leah@epa.gov <b>Phone:</b> 404-562-9742
<b>PROJECT TITLE AND DESCRIPTION</b> Solid Waste Infrastructure Financing - Save Our Seas Act Grants See Attachment 1 for project description.			
<b>BUDGET PERIOD</b> 05/01/2026 - 04/30/2029	<b>PROJECT PERIOD</b> 05/01/2026 - 04/30/2029	<b>TOTAL BUDGET PERIOD COST</b> \$ 2,440,000.00	<b>TOTAL PROJECT PERIOD COST</b> \$ 2,440,000.00
<b>NOTICE OF AWARD</b>			
Based on your Application dated 12/20/2024 including all modifications and amendments, the United States acting by and through the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereby awards \$ 2,440,000.00. EPA agrees to cost-share 100.00% of all approved budget period costs incurred, up to and not exceeding total federal funding of \$ 2,440,000.00. Recipient's signature is not required on this agreement. The recipient demonstrates its commitment to carry out this award by either: 1) drawing down funds within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date; or 2) not filing a notice of disagreement with the award terms and conditions within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date. If the recipient disagrees with the terms and conditions specified in this award, the authorized representative of the recipient must furnish a notice of disagreement to the EPA Award Official within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date. In case of disagreement, and until the disagreement is resolved, the recipient should not draw down on the funds provided by this award/amendment, and any costs incurred by the recipient are at its own risk. This agreement is subject to applicable EPA regulatory and statutory provisions, all terms and conditions of this agreement and any attachments.			
<b>ISSUING OFFICE (GRANTS MANAGEMENT OFFICE)</b>		<b>AWARD APPROVAL OFFICE</b>	
<b>ORGANIZATION / ADDRESS</b> U.S. EPA, Region 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, GA 30303-8960		<b>ORGANIZATION / ADDRESS</b> U.S. EPA, Region 4, Land, Chemicals, and Redevelopment Division R4 - Region 4 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30303-8960	
<b>THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY</b>			
<b>Digital signature applied by EPA Award Official</b> Shantel Shelmon - Grants Management Officer			<b>DATE</b> 04/02/2026

### EPA Funding Information

FUNDS	FORMER AWARD	THIS ACTION	AMENDED TOTAL
EPA Amount This Action	\$ 0	\$ 2,440,000	\$ 2,440,000
EPA In-Kind Amount	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Unexpended Prior Year Balance	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Other Federal Funds	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Recipient Contribution	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
State Contribution	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Local Contribution	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Other Contribution	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Allowable Project Cost	\$ 0	\$ 2,440,000	\$ 2,440,000

Assistance Program	Statutory Authority	Regulatory Authority
66.920 - Solid Waste Infrastructure Financing - Save Our Seas Act Grants	33 USC 4282 & Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (PL 117-58)	2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 1500 and 40 CFR 33

Fiscal									
Site Name	Req No	FY	Approp. Code	Budget Organization	PRC	Object Class	Site/Project	Cost Organization	Obligation / Deobligation
-	2604FRG015	25	E1SD	04V8	000D11X81	4183	-	-	\$ 2,440,000
									\$ 2,440,000

Budget Summary Page

Table A - Object Class Category (Non-Construction)	Total Approved Allowable Budget Period Cost
1. Personnel	\$ 0
2. Fringe Benefits	\$ 0
3. Travel	\$ 0
4. Equipment	\$ 2,400,000
5. Supplies	\$ 40,000
6. Contractual	\$ 0
7. Construction	\$ 0
8. Other	\$ 0
9. Total Direct Charges	\$ 2,440,000
10. Indirect Costs: 0.00 % Base N/A	\$ 0
11. Total (Share: Recipient <u>0.00</u> % Federal <u>100.00</u> %)	\$ 2,440,000
12. Total Approved Assistance Amount	\$ 2,440,000
13. Program Income	\$ 744,788
14. Total EPA Amount Awarded This Action	\$ 2,440,000
15. Total EPA Amount Awarded To Date	\$ 2,440,000

## Attachment 1 - Project Description

This action approves an award in the amount of \$2,440,000 to the Metropolitan Government of Nashville-Davidson County. This agreement provides funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grants for political subdivisions of states and territories will fund activities that will result in a significant decrease in the generation of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and/or an increase in the diversion of MSW from landfills and incineration, as well as funding innovative solutions and programs that provide or increase access to prevention, reuse, mechanical recycling, anaerobic digestion, and composting. The purpose of this award is to enhance the recipient's efforts to meet the SWIFR grant elements. Specifically, the recipient will build regional waste management by establishing Nashville's first Metro-owned Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) as well as installing recycling infrastructure through the installation of litter/recycling baskets with Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) and smart sorting technology. The activities to be performed include 1) Purchasing and installing mini-MRF system including a drum feeder, conveyor system, and mechanical auto-tie baler to build immediate capacity for the County to directly process material from residential recycling programs, downtown Nashville residents and businesses, and public litter baskets; 2) Installing waste stations in Downtown Nashville and Jefferson St. with A.I./Smart technology to recover recycling where currently no public infrastructure for recycling collection exists for businesses, residents, and visitors with minimal contamination; 3) Market high quality, high value commodities from downtown collection points the County's 11 recycling drop-off sites and curbside collection program, and public litter baskets processed at the mini-MRF, to increase diversion and create new revenue stream that funds future expansion of the recycling program; and, 4) Establishing the foundation for the future development of a regional MRF owned by the County to serve all of Davidson County as well as surrounding counties. The anticipated deliverables include infrastructure investments and an increase in municipal solid waste collected with diversion of approximately 2,500 tons of recyclable material. The expected outcomes include the reduction of harmful impacts of litter, reduction of Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET), High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE), Polypropylene (PP), Cardboard, Paper, Cartons, and Glass landfilled in the County, and an increase in the number of permanent and temporary jobs related to MRF operations (estimated 5 or more permanent jobs). The intended beneficiaries include Nashville-Davidson County, Tennessee residents. No subawards are included in this assistance agreement.

## Administrative Conditions

### General Terms and Conditions

The recipient agrees to comply with the current Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) general terms and conditions available at: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-general-terms-and-conditions-effective-october-1-2025-or-later>

These terms and conditions are in addition to the assurances and certifications made as a part of the award and the terms, conditions, or restrictions cited throughout the award.

The EPA repository for the general terms and conditions by year can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/grant-terms-and-conditions#general>.

### A. Correspondence Condition

The terms and conditions of this agreement require the submittal of reports, specific requests for approval, or notifications to EPA. Unless otherwise noted, all such correspondence should be sent to the following email addresses:

- Federal Financial Reports (SF-425): [rtpfc-grants@epa.gov](mailto:rtpfc-grants@epa.gov)
- All other forms/certifications/assurances, Indirect Cost Rate Agreements, Requests for Extensions of the Budget and Project Period, Amendment Requests, Requests for other Prior Approvals, updates to recipient information (including email addresses, changes in contact information or changes in authorized representatives) and other notifications:
  - Leah Vasser, Grants Management Specialist, [vasser.leah@epa.gov](mailto:vasser.leah@epa.gov), (404)562-9742
  - Alyssa Kuhn, Project Officer, [kuhn.alyssa@epa.gov](mailto:kuhn.alyssa@epa.gov), (404)562-8197
- Payment requests (if applicable):
  - Alyssa Kuhn, Project Officer, [kuhn.alyssa@epa.gov](mailto:kuhn.alyssa@epa.gov), (404)562-8197
- Quality Assurance documents, workplan revisions, equipment lists, programmatic reports and deliverables:
  - Alyssa Kuhn, Project Officer, [kuhn.alyssa@epa.gov](mailto:kuhn.alyssa@epa.gov), (404)562-8197

## Programmatic Conditions

### Grant-Specific Programmatic Terms and Conditions

#### A. PERFORMANCE REPORTING AND FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

##### Performance Reports – Content

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.329, the recipient must relate financial data and project or program accomplishments to the performance goals and objectives of the EPA award and must provide cost information to demonstrate cost-effective practices (for example, through unit cost data) when reporting program performance. The recipient agrees to submit performance reports that include information on each of the following areas: 1) A comparison of accomplishments to the outputs/outcomes established in the assistance agreement work plan for the reporting period (for example, comparing costs to units of accomplishment); 2) explanations on why established outputs/outcomes were not met; and 3) Additional information, analysis, and explanation of cost overruns or higher-than-expected-unit costs.

Additionally, the recipient agrees to notify the EPA when a significant development occurs that could impact the award. Significant developments include events that enable meeting milestones and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or that produce different beneficial results than originally planned. Significant developments also include problems, delays, or adverse conditions which will impact the ability to meet the milestones or objectives of the award, including outputs/outcomes specified in the assistance agreement work plan. If the significant developments negatively impact the award, the recipient must include information on their plan for corrective action and any assistance needed to resolve the situation.

**For State Categorical Program Grants Only:** Interim performance and final progress reports must prominently display the three Essential Elements for state work plans: 1) Strategic Plan Goal; (2) Strategic Plan Objective; and (3) Workplan Commitments plus time frame.

(See [Grants Policy Issuance 11-03 State Grant Workplans and Progress Reports](#) for more information)

##### Performance Reports - Frequency

The recipient agrees to submit **annual** performance reports electronically to the EPA Project Officer within 90 days after the annual reporting period ends on 4/30. The recipient must submit the final performance report no later than 120 calendar days after the end date of the period of performance. Further, the recipient agrees to submit **quarterly** performance reports to the EPA Project Officer. Quarterly reports are due within 30 days after the reporting period (every 3-month period) as described below.

PERIOD ENDING	QUARTERLY DUE DATES
March 31	April 30
June 30	July 31
September 30	October 31
December 31	January 31 (of the next calendar year)

**Final Report:** The recipient must submit the final performance report no later than **120 calendar days** after the period of performance.

## **B. Cybersecurity Condition**

### **Cybersecurity Grant Condition for Other Recipients, Including Intertribal Consortia**

(a) The recipient agrees that when collecting and managing environmental data under this assistance agreement, it will protect the data by following all applicable State or Tribal law cybersecurity requirements.

(b) (1) EPA must ensure that any connections between the recipient's network or information system and EPA networks used by the recipient to transfer data under this agreement, are secure. For purposes of this Section, a connection is defined as a dedicated persistent interface between an Agency IT system and an external IT system for the purpose of transferring information. Transitory, user-controlled connections such as website browsing are excluded from this definition.

If the recipient's connections as defined above do not go through the Environmental Information Exchange Network or EPA's Central Data Exchange, the recipient agrees to contact the EPA Project Officer (PO) no later than 90 days after the date of this award and work with the designated Regional/Headquarters Information Security Officer to ensure that the connections meet EPA security requirements, including entering into Interconnection Service Agreements as appropriate. This condition does not apply to manual entry of data by the recipient into systems operated and used by EPA's regulatory programs for the submission of reporting and/or compliance data.

(2) The recipient agrees that any subawards it makes under this agreement will require the subrecipient to comply with the requirements in (b)(1) if the subrecipient's network or information system is connected to EPA networks to transfer data to the Agency using systems other than the Environmental Information Exchange Network or EPA's Central Data Exchange. The recipient will be in compliance with this condition: by including this requirement in subaward agreements; and during subrecipient monitoring deemed necessary by the recipient or subrecipient under 2 CFR 200.332(e), by inquiring whether the subrecipient has contacted the EPA Project Officer. Nothing in this condition requires the recipient to contact the EPA Project Officer on behalf of a subrecipient or to be involved in the negotiation of an Interconnection Service Agreement between the subrecipient and EPA.

## **C. Competency Policy**

### **Competency of Organizations Generating Environmental Measurement Data**

In accordance with Agency Policy Directive Number FEM-2012-02, Policy to Assure the Competency of Organizations Generating Environmental Measurement Data under Agency-Funded Assistance Agreements,

Recipient agrees, by entering into this agreement, that it has demonstrated competency prior to award, or

alternatively, where a pre-award demonstration of competency is not practicable, Recipient agrees to demonstrate competency prior to carrying out any activities under the award involving the generation or use of environmental data. Recipient shall maintain competency for the duration of the project period of this agreement and this will be documented during the annual reporting process. A copy of the Policy is available online at <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-03/documents/competency-policy-aaia-new.pdf> or a copy may also be requested by contacting the EPA Project Officer for this award.

#### **D. Program Income**

In accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.307(b) and 2 CFR 1500.8(b), the recipient is hereby authorized to retain program income earned during the project period.

The recipient agrees to use the following method for applying income:

Addition. Program income is added to the total allowable costs, increasing the overall total amount of the award. Program income must be used for the original purpose of the award and under the conditions of the assistance agreement.

The recipient must provide as part of its performance report, a description of how program income is being used. Further, a report on the amount of program income earned during the award period must be submitted with the Federal Financial Report, Standard Form 425.

#### **E. Use of Logos**

If the EPA logo is appearing along with logos from other participating entities on websites, outreach materials, or reports, it must **not** be prominently displayed to imply that any of the recipient or subrecipient's activities are being conducted by the EPA. Instead, the EPA logo should be accompanied with a statement indicating that the **[Insert Recipient or subrecipient NAME]** received financial support from the EPA under an Assistance Agreement. More information is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/stylebook/using-epa-seal-and-logo#policy>

#### **F. Paperwork Reduction Act**

Notwithstanding any references to collection of information in the recipient's application or proposal for EPA funding, the scope of work for this cooperative agreement does not include a survey or other information collection of identical information from 10 or more parties. No EPA funds (directly paid by EPA or from the recipient's cost share) may be used for the design or administration of such an information collection, and EPA personnel may not participate in such activities. Reasonable costs for analyzing independently collected information and publishing the results of such information collections are allowable to the extent authorized in the EPA approved budget for this agreement.

#### **G. Substantial Involvement**

EPA will be substantially involved in this agreement although final decisions rest with the recipient of this agreement, not the EPA. Substantial involvement by the EPA Project Officer may include:

- 1.) monthly telephone calls and other monitoring (or meeting on an alternate schedule suggested by EPA's Project Officer),
- 2.) reviewing project phases and providing approval to continue to the next phase,
- 3.) reviewing and commenting on any documents, web content, or other materials developed under this agreement (the recipient will make final decisions on these matters),
- 4.) approving substantive terms included in contracts or subawards (EPA's Project Officer will not suggest, recommend or direct the recipient to select any particular contractor or subrecipient except to the extent permitted in Section 10 of EPA's Subaward Policy).
- 5.) reviewing and commenting on the programmatic progress reports
- 6) consultation with EPA regarding the selection of key personnel (EPA's involvement is limited to reviewing the technical qualifications of key personnel and the recipient will make the final decisions on selection. EPA's Project Officer will not suggest, recommend or direct the recipient to select any individual).
- 7.) joint operational involvement, participation, and/or collaboration between EPA and the recipient. EPA's Project Officer or designee may provide data, advice, and information that will help the grantee carry out the agreement effectively.

## **H. Health and Safety Training**

The recipient agrees that all staff, contractors, or subrecipients involved in construction work will take or show evidence of having taken safety training for equipment such as balers, compacters, shredders, crushers, skid steers, recycling trucks, and similar equipment that may be purchased and used under the grant.

## **I. Permits**

The recipient agrees to ensure that all necessary permits are obtained prior to implementation of any grant funded activity that may fall under applicable federal, state, Tribal or local laws. The subgrantee's project implementation plan must identify permits that may be needed to complete work plan activities. The recipient must keep documentation regarding necessary permits in the project file. EPA approval of a workplan does not imply nor guarantee that a federal, state, Tribal or local permit will be issued for a particular activity.

**Title:** Expanding Recycling for Regional Resilience in Nashville and Davidson County

**Name:** Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Nashville Department of Waste Services (NDWS)

**Eligible Entity Type:** Political Subdivision (local city/county government)

**UEI:** LGZLHP6ZHM55

**Project Summary:** The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County (Metro) seeks to build regional resilience of waste management by reducing reliance on landfilling through aggressively increasing diversion of recyclable material. By establishing Nashville's first Metro-owned Materials Recovery Facility, Nashville can increase both the quantity and quality of material recovered for recycling. Additionally, by improving public recycling infrastructure through installation of litter baskets with A.I. and Smart Technology, Nashville can increase diversion from public litter, reduce negative impacts of litter on the community and environment, and improve collection of public litter baskets. Combined, this project will build community trust and excitement in the recycling program while laying the foundation for a regional recycling hub that will benefit Nashville, Davidson County, and beyond.

**Contact Information:** Tracey Turner Thurman, Director, Nashville Department of Waste Services, 1600 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N., Nashville, TN 37208, (615) 862-4556

**Project Location:** Nashville, Tennessee

**EPA Funding Requested:** \$2,440,000

**Project Period:** The project would kick off immediately following notice of funding. With equipment lead times ranging potentially from 12 to 24 months, equipment would be purchased as soon as possible following contract award, as early as June/July 2026. It is expected that the project will be completed by February 2027.

**Program Objective Elements:** This project meets at least four of the objectives: expands collection and improves materials management infrastructure; funds the construction of tangible infrastructure and technology to reduce contamination in the recycled materials stream; increases capacity for materials management; demonstrates a significant and measurable increase in the diversion of materials collected for municipal solid waste.

**Award of Grant from Previous Rounds of Funding:** The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Department of Solid Waste does not have an open EPA SWIFR grant and has not received funds from a previous SWIFR funding opportunity.

**Cooperative Partners:** Nashville Downtown Partnership; Bloomberg Sustainable Cities; Metro Water Services

## **Narrative: Nashville, TN**

### **Project Summary and Approach**

The Nashville Department of Waste Services (NDWS), established in 2024—forming out of a division of the Metro Water Services (MWS) department within the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County (Metro)—, aims to make Nashville the greenest city in the south by building infrastructure and implementing innovative technology that will support aggressive diversion for all the middle Tennessee region.

Nashville is currently facing a landfill capacity crisis—there is estimated only 5 years of permitted landfill space in the middle Tennessee region and future landfilling farther away will increase costs and increase environmental impacts to the community—while the city also faces a lack of local and regional infrastructure to increase diversion of recoverable materials. To address these issues, Metro funded the transition of NDWS from a division to a department and hired its first Director, Tracey Thurman, to lead the department’s strategic development making this the perfect time to shift operational programs and charge a new path forward. This includes a multi-phased plan to move out of the constraints of inadequate, privately controlled infrastructure that Metro is currently beholden to for diversion efforts to Metro/NDWS-owned infrastructure and technology that aggressively drives recycling and organics diversion for the entire region.

The proposed project for this application is for “Phase I” of a multi-phased plan will help NDWS and the Nashville community improve and transform our post-consumer materials management infrastructure, increase in the diversion of MSW from landfills, and increase access to mechanical recycling. This project includes investing in collection infrastructure, specialized equipment, and innovative technology to build Nashville’s first Metro/NDWS-owned Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and establishing public-facing recycling collection in high-trafficked, commercial corridors. Phase I allows NDWS to take charge of our own destiny and build our own narrative in how material is managed in Nashville for a long-term, sustainable, and resilient diversion and materials management program.

Phase I has two major project components: 1) Building a material processing facility to increase capacity and diversion by processing and directly marketing material for recycling from county-wide collection programs including NDWS’ drop-off recycling collection and residential curbside recycling collection programs. 2) Establishing effective public litter collection including recycling in Nashville’s urban neighborhoods that sets a foundation for improved public litter collection across the county and builds brand awareness and excitement around NDWS and its recycling and diversion programs.

If this project is funded, NDWS will build a small scale (materials recovery facility) MRF that will set the foundation for future infrastructure investments and will include a drum feeder, conveyor system, and mechanical auto-tie baler. NDWS would hire and train staff to operate the specialized equipment and market the material to local and regional end-markets, building a revenue stream to fund future upgrades and investments in more infrastructure. This would give NDWS the ability to process its own material collected at its 11 recycling drop-off collection sites and residential curbside collection program and receive 100% of the revenue from the sale of recovered commodities instead of the current model of NDWS paying a third-party contractor to process NDWS collected material at a net loss to the recycling program. Owned by NDWS, the MRF would also have the immediate capacity to sort materials such as Polypropylene that currently isn’t recovered in Nashville for recycling along with other high-value

commodities including PET, HDPE, Mixed Paper, Cardboard, and Aluminum and Steel cans. Bulky rigid plastics could also be recovered, and future investment would see glass from single-stream collection recovered as well.

Phase I builds off momentum established by local leaders to redevelop and reactivate Nashville's downtown 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. following the 2020 Christmas Day bombing including envisioning how waste can be managed more efficiently and effectively, while increasing diversion of waste materials from downtown Nashville through establishment of a NDWS-owned MRF and improving public litter collection for waste materials and recycling. It also builds off the momentum of Nashville's selection as a Bloomberg Sustainable City, which includes work to improve and reactivate the Jefferson St. corridor including addressing public litter collection for waste and recycling.

Both Jefferson St. and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. represent two of Nashville's historic mixed-use neighborhoods that face significant waste and materials management challenges. Like many cities, Nashville's historic streets were designed with narrow or no alleys and insufficient space for waste aggregation presenting space constraints, aesthetic issues, odors, and inefficient collection processes. Waste and recycling receptacles for the public are also lacking, which may lead to an increase in littering and limits the ability to successfully recover material for recycling. This poses the perfect backdrop to implementing the second component of Phase I, public litter baskets equipped with A.I. and Smart technology.

If the project is funded, NDWS will install approximately 20 public waste stations that collect both trash and recycling and are equipped with A.I. technology that automatically sort waste and recycling into the correct interior receptacle and equipped with Smart technology that alerts the collections management team to when the container is nearing capacity and requires collection. These containers will be custom branded with NDWS educational messaging that engages and excites users to recycle in Nashville. Additionally, the automated sorting will prevent significant contamination in recycling by taking human error out of the sorting process. The public waste stations will be installed on both the Jefferson St. corridor and throughout the downtown 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. redevelopment project. Once installed, staff will be trained on reading and analyzing data collected from the containers allowing NDWS to understand trends in public collection, optimize routing based on container usage, and evaluate investment of similar infrastructure in other urban commercial corridors around Nashville to further expand the public recycling program.

Through the creation of the MRF and establishment of effective public waste and recycling collection, this project sets the stage for future phases of infrastructure investment and diversion potential for Nashville's residential recycling collection programs. If funded, this project will lead to future phases that invest in additional MRF equipment and establish a regional MRF that can drive substantial increases in residential and commercial diversion across the county and middle Tennessee region.

### ***Scope of Work***

This project meets several of the objectives listed in section I.F by improving materials management infrastructure through the installation of public waste and recycling containers with AI and smart technology that sorts recyclable material and alerts to container fill level, and through creation of a mini MRF that will serve to increase capacity to capture and process high quality, high value recyclable commodities from residential recycling programs, downtown Nashville, and public containers including, but not limited to PET, HDPE, PP, steel, aluminum, mixed paper, cartons, and cardboard; by optimizing







elected officials, highlighting the city's dedication to sustainability, waste diversion, and community resilience. Downtown Nashville, home to more than 17,600 residents and 3,000 businesses (69% of which are locally owned according to the Nashville Downtown Partnership) and serves as a destination for 16.8 million visitors annually. This central hub embodies the city's values, making its waste management systems a highly visible representation of its commitment to recycling and sustainability. Jefferson St., historically the heart of Nashville's rhythm and blues and rock'n'roll music scenes and home to many black and African American churches and residents adjacent to downtown Nashville, has faced lasting impacts from interstate construction that disrupted its economy and fractured its community. Currently, inadequate public waste management infrastructure, such as the absence of litter baskets, exacerbates issues like litter, odors, and underutilized streets and sidewalks. By deploying state-of-the-art litter baskets with A.I./smart technology, this project will help mitigate these problems, providing environmental, social, and economic benefits for the Jefferson St. corridor. These enhancements will support Jefferson St.'s revitalization, creating a cleaner, more welcoming environment for pedestrians, residents, and businesses while fostering opportunities for on-street dining, parklets, and other community-oriented uses. Additionally, this project supports Nashville's Bloomberg Sustainable Cities initiative, aligning waste management improvements with broader efforts to reactivate and restore the vibrancy of Jefferson St. The establishment of NDWS' mini-MRF also demonstrates the city's commitment to recycling long-term, putting investment in long-term solutions for the benefit of the entire region. Future phases of this project will work towards a regional MRF that will increase recycling access not just in Nashville, but across middle Tennessee, but requires initial investment in equipment and infrastructure like the baler, conveyor system, and drum feeder requested through this opportunity. By investing in our own infrastructure, we are also able to take charge of our own destiny, bringing capacity to expand the recovery of materials beyond what current infrastructure allows. This will expand the recycling program for residents to include materials such as polypropylene and build public trust and confidence in the recycling program as we are able to accept more materials. Additionally, by directly marketing our own material, we can further grow public confidence in the recycling program by having transparency in where Nashville's recycling ends up after it's been collected. By enhancing waste management systems and public perception of recycling, this initiative directly environmentally, economically, and socially benefits the city's urban residents and the regional workforce that powers downtown.

***Quantify the anticipated magnitude of both near-term and long-term impacts to waste management resulting from the proposed project, the relative cost-effectiveness of those impacts, and the reasonableness and quality of the assumptions and calculations used to determine the impacts and cost-effectiveness of those impacts.***

Near-term impacts: 1) Increase diversion by 20% of trash currently collected downtown (including businesses, residents, and public litter baskets) and on Jefferson St. (including public litter baskets) totaling an estimated 2,500+ tons annually; 2) Reduce costs for source separated recycling processing by up \$100,000+ annually by eliminating contract service and processing material directly by NDWS; 3) Increase revenue for source separated recycling program by a potential \$480,000 annually.

	<b>Current Recycling Collected (Tons)</b>	<b>Current MSW Landfill Collected (Tons)</b> *Estimated per data available	<b>Projected Recycling Tonnage Collected</b>	<b>Projected MSW Landfill Tonnage Collected</b>
<b>Downtown Collection</b>	N/A	13,000	2,500	10,500

Long-term impacts: 1) Increase diversion by 8%-10% of county-wide NDWS recycling program giving the potential to capture an additional 16,500 tons of material for diversion, and increase diversion of privately collected MSW by a minimum of 8-10% with a potential to capture an additional 100,000+ tons of material for diversion by using the mini-MRF as a foundation for a large scale MRF capable of collecting and diverting glass, polypropylene, and other valuable commodities that currently has no or limited infrastructure for recycling; 2) Increase revenue for single stream recycling program by a potential of \$840,000+ annually.

	<b>Current Recycling Tonnage Collected</b>	<b>Current MSW Landfill Tonnage Collected</b>	<b>Projected Recycling Tonnage Collected</b>	<b>Projected MSW Landfill Tonnage Collected</b>
<b>NDWS Curbside Program</b>	12,250	164,300	28,750	147,800
<b>Private Sector</b>	170,672	1,006,252	270,672	906,252

Both near-term and long-term impacts are calculated based on: 1) Historical MSW collection data for both downtown and across Nashville’s service area; 2) Historical trend data in MSW generation increases year over year both downtown and across Nashville’s service area; 3) Waste characterization data collected for Nashville including breakdowns in material categories for both commercial and residential MSW and recycling; 4) Annually quantified recycling rates per state reported Nashville specific data; 5) Secondary Materials Pricing data for the Southeast USA; 6) Monthly invoices for recycling processing from MRF contractor; 7) EPA’s Waste Reduction Model.

***How the project addresses engagement with local residents in these communities who will be affected by the project, to ensure their meaningful participation with respect to the design, project planning, and performance of the project.***

The project ensures meaningful engagement with local residents in the affected communities by integrating multiple strategies aimed at inclusivity and responsiveness. Council members from Districts where litter baskets will be located will be involved to support awareness and education within their constituencies, and NDWS will partner with community-based organizations, such as JUMP, Stand Up Nashville, The Equity Alliance, and others, that are active in advocating for addressing constituent needs

in the project areas and in topics relating to waste management, economic and community development, beautification, and racial equity, ensuring that local perspectives are considered throughout the project. This collaborative effort will also support creating public value, identifying solutions, and educating residents. Communications and community engagement teams in Metro departments and Council Members will be able to help manage resident expectations associated with temporary disruptions necessitated by infrastructure projects. Involving multiple Metro departments and community partners will help ensure the project fosters an inclusive environment that ensures residents' concerns are addressed at every stage, from planning to execution.

### **Measuring Environmental Results: Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes**

#### ***Anticipated Outcomes***

1) Reduction of harmful impacts of litter. 2) Reduction of PET, HDPE, PP, Cardboard, Paper, Cartons, Metal, and Glass being landfilled by NDWS. 3) Increase number of permanent and temporary jobs related to MRF operations, equipping more Nashvillians with the skills to sustainably manage waste materials.

Infrastructure investments: #1 will be tracked through use of smart technology in the litter baskets to determine fullness of containers and ensure collection prior to overflow. #2 will be measured by weighing inbound and outbound material to quantify diversion and is estimated to divert approximately 10,500 tons of material from downtown, public litter baskets, and recycling drop-off sites.

Tons of MSW collected: #1 will be measured by weighing recovered material for recycling and landfill and is anticipated to increase diversion of approximately 2,500 tons of recyclable material. #2 will be measured by weighing outbound bales of commodities from the MRF and has the potential to increase diversion of PP collected from downtown, public litter baskets, and recycling drop-off sites by 3% and is estimated to divert approximately 10,500 tons of material from downtown, public litter baskets, and recycling drop-off sites.

Tons of MSW generated by material type: #2 will be measured by weighing outbound bales of each commodity from the MRF and has the potential to increase diversion of PP by 3% and is estimated to divert approximately 10,500 tons of material from downtown, public litter baskets, and recycling drop-off sites.

Number of jobs created: #4 will be tracked by quantifying the number of FTEs and temporary labor required to run the MRF annually and is anticipated to create 5 or more permanent jobs.

Political subdivisions served: #1 will be tracked using available population data for the areas served by the litter baskets. #2 will be tracked using available population data for areas served by NDWS recycling drop-off sites and public litter baskets. It is anticipated that the entire political subdivision of Davidson County will be served by this project with programs accessible to everyone who lives, works, and visits Davidson County.

#### ***Anticipated Outputs***

1) NDWS will contract directly with local and regional end markets to ensure material collected is recycling and made into new goods and products. 2) All downtown and Jefferson St. corridor residents

will be exposed to educational information on public litter baskets promoting recycling in Nashville. 3) NDWS will build greater public trust and excitement in Nashville's recycling program.

Infrastructure Investments: #1 will be achieved by contacting end-markets directly to confirm material specifications for all commodities and ensure our operators maintain these requirements. #2 will be achieved by installing public-facing branded educational messaging on all EPA-funded litter baskets. #3 will be achieved by incorporated a public outreach campaign in tandem with installation of MRF and litter baskets including providing the public transparency in the recycling process using known end-markets and providing tours of the MRF. Both #2 and #3 will be qualitatively and quantitatively tracked through the response to the messaging and outreach campaign via social media engagement, media engagement, website traffic, and public interactions.

Tons of MSW collected: #1 will be measured by weighing recovered material for recycling and is anticipated to increase diversion of approximately 2,500 tons of recyclable material.

Tons of MSW generated by material type: #2 and #3 will be tracked by weighing inbound and outbound material and comparing it to historical diversion data.

Number of jobs created: N/A

Political subdivisions served: #1 and #3 will be measured using available population data for the areas served by the MRF. #2 will be measured using available population data for the areas served by the litter baskets.

### **Programmatic Capability and Past Performance**

#### ***Federally/Non-Federally Funded Assistance Agreements performed by NDWS***

- Recycling Partnership Curbside Recycling Education and Promotion Grant – 2022-2023
- State of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Recycling Rebate – 2023
- TDEC Organics Management Grant – 2024-2025
- TDEC Education and Outreach Grant – 2024-2025
- TDEC Recycling Rebate – 2025

#### ***Past performance in successfully completed and managing the assistance agreements identified in response to Section IV.E.b.v.***

Multiple members of the NDWS team have supported the successful management and completion of the listed assistance agreements, including Jenn Harrman, Sharon Smith, and Allie Omens. For the Recycling Partnership agreement, Harrman and Smith met monthly with Recycling Partnership staff to ensure completion of all deliverables within the timeline of the assistance agreement. This included the design and distribution of two educational mailings to increase curbside recycling collection from once a month to every other week collection. This education effort through the agreement successfully saw Nashville transition to every other week recycling, increasing ability to recycling and tonnage of material

collected. For the TDEC assistance agreements, each has a designated point of contact for grant management, (Harrman for the Recycling Rebates and Organics Management grants, and Omens for the Education and Outreach grant). The 2023 Recycling Rebate resulted in the successful purchase and full reimbursement of new curbside recycling carts for Nashville's growing service area. Harrman completed all required documentation. The additional three TDEC grants are ongoing and all in good standing with the grantor. Additionally, Harrman has managed the financial reporting internally within NDWS.

***History of meeting the reporting requirements under the assistance agreements identified in response to Section IV.E.b.v***

All grant awards managed by NDWS staff were managed successfully including both monthly and quarterly reporting structures with reports submitted on time and adequately. NDWS has worked closely with staff of all grantors to ensure reports are provided to the standard required. For the Recycling Partnership grant, all tonnage reports and final impact reports were submitted and accepted by the grantor to receive full funding reimbursement. For the TDEC 2023 Recycling Rebate, all required documentation including final reports were submitted and accepted by the grantor to receive full funding reimbursement. The additional assistance agreements listed are ongoing but are all in good standing with all quarterly reports, inspections, and reviews to date submitted and accepted by the grantor.

***Staff expertise/qualifications (including organizational experience), staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project***

The NDWS operations staff are experienced in collection management, routing, and material hauling and have fleet vehicles capable of performing collection for all litter baskets. Leadership and administrative staff have the necessary skills to monitor and analyze data provided by the litter baskets A.I./Smart technology and are well-versed in route optimization. NDWS leadership has experience managing MRF operations and routinely consults with industry experts that inform operational improvements, upgrades, and solutions. With the funds generated from the sale of materials from the MRF, NDWS will be able to fund new positions to hire and train operators with the knowledge and expertise to operate the MRF efficiently, effectively, and safely. Leadership also has experience in marketing recovered materials and has built strong industry relationships that will ensure material can and is sold at the best value. Requirements for the necessary expertise and qualifications to design, build, and install all equipment to a high standard will be incorporated into the RFPs for the procurement process and NDWS staff are well versed in contract management.

**Budget and Expenditure of Awarded Grant Funds**

**Budget Table and Description**

Federal funding requested totals \$2,440,000, which includes shipment and installation a mechanical baler with auto-tie system, a conveyor system, drum feeder, and 20 AI powered litter baskets. Itemized costs for each component are not possible without completing a competitive bid process as it requires a full proposal from MRF manufacturers. If awarded, NDWS anticipates spending most of the funds in the first year, followed by the remaining funds in the second year after all equipment has been delivered and installed. Timing of final expenditures would be dependent on equipment lead times which could range from 12 to 24 months.

***Proposed expenditures are reasonable to accomplish the proposed goals, objectives, and measurable environmental outcomes:***

Currently, Metro/NDWS owns no infrastructure for processing waste or recycling materials making this equipment essential to grow local and regional recycling systems. EPA-funded equipment requested for this project is therefore necessary to establish foundational infrastructure for NDWS to significantly increase diversion while in the long-term build regional resilience through recycling. This includes the conveyor system, drum feeder, and mechanical baler combined to establish a mini-MRF that will create the capacity for NDWS to process their own material collected from EPA-funded litter baskets and Metro collected recycling from residents and businesses in downtown Nashville and beyond. The drum feeder and conveyor(s) will serve to increase speed and efficiency of sorting the volume of material generated from recycling streams and the baler will serve to allow sorted commodities to be compacted, baled, and fully prepped to be marketed and sold directly to local and regional end-markets. Additionally, Nashville’s walkable commercial corridors, particularly downtown Nashville and Jefferson St., lack recycling collection infrastructure for public recycling sending valuable commodities including but not limited to PET bottles and aluminum cans to landfill instead of diversion. EPA-funded litter baskets utilizing Smart/A.I. technology not only bring recycling collection to these walkable, urban neighborhoods, it also prevents contamination in recycling by automatically sorting material using built-in artificial intelligence. Installation of these litter baskets serves to establish recycling collection in these urban corridors while collecting high quality, high value recyclable material to be diverted from landfill. They also serve to highlight the value and importance of Nashville’s recycling programs through custom branding and education building excitement and public support for sustainable waste management efforts.

***Proposed budget provides detailed breakout of the approximate funding for each major activity allocated to the proper budget category:***

<b>Category</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Total Costs</b>
a. Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	
b. Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	
c. Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	
d. Equipment	\$1,440,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$2,440,000
e. Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	
f. Contractual	\$0	\$0	\$0	
g. Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	
h. Other Direct Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>\$1,440,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,440,000</b>
i. Indirect Charges	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>\$1,440,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,440,000</b>

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$2,440,000

TOTAL EPA FUNDING REQUESTED: \$2,440,000

*A. Personnel:*

No funding requested. Tasks related to implementing project will be absorbed by NDWS staff such as: 1) Developing RFPs to purchase and install equipment; 2) Administrative time associated with working with the manufacturer(s)/installer(s) to order/purchase EPA-funded equipment; 3) Administrative time associated with working with manufacturer of AI powered litter baskets to develop custom designed wraps branded with NDWS educational messaging; 4) Education and outreach for promoting new downtown recycling collection program and mini-MRF including tours of the mini-MRF; 5) Maintenance of EPA-funded equipment. NDWS staff included in this project process will include but is not limited to: Director and Assistant Director of NDWS, NDWS' Finance Manager, NDWS' Administrative Services Manager, NDWS' Solid Waste Engineer, and NDWS' Special Projects Manager.

Position Title	Description	# FTEs	Year 1 Pay Rate	Year 2 Pay Rate	Year 3 Pay Rate	Total Cost
N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>						<b>\$0</b>

*B. Fringe Benefits*

No funding requested.

*C. Travel*

No funding requested.

*D. Equipment*

Equipment costs include a mechanical baler with auto-tie system, a conveyor, and 20 auto-sorting litter baskets that use A.I. and Smart technology, as well as shipment and installation of each. Note that itemization of MRF equipment costs is not possible without conducting a competitive bid process to receive a full proposal from a MRF manufacturer, therefore all MRF equipment is listed together.

Shipping and installation are included under equipment because it is part of the purchase price.

Equipment	Item	Cost
Year 1	MRF equipment including mechanical baler with auto-tie system, conveyor system, drum feeder	\$1,400,000
	20 auto-sorting litter baskets with A.I. and Smart technology	\$40,000
Year 2	MRF equipment including mechanical baler with auto-tie system, conveyor system, drum feeder, 20 auto-sorting litter baskets with A.I. and Smart technology	\$1,000,000
Year 3	N/A	\$0
<b>TOTAL EQUIPMENT:</b>		<b>\$2,440,000</b>

*E. Supplies*

No funding requested.

*F. Contractual*

No funding requested.

*G. Construction*

No funding requested.

*H. Other Direct Costs*

No funding requested.

*I. Indirect Costs*

There are no indirect costs associated with this proposed project.

***Application conveys the approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner:***

If funded, NDWS' approach to ensuring grant funds are expended in a timely and efficient manner will include: 1) At EPA notice of intent to award and beginning of grant period: a) Set up financial account specific to the grant award to ensure grant expenditures are separate from other capital and operational expenses; b) Draft RFP to enter a competitive bid process to procure EPA-funded MRF equipment according to sorting equipment specifications, Metro's procurement guidelines, and all requirements set by the EPA including compliance with Build America, Buy America requirements. c) Enter a competitive bid process for A.I./Smart capable litter baskets according to NDWS' specifications, Metro's procurement guidelines, and all requirements set by the EPA including compliance with Build America, Buy America requirements; 2) Once manufacturers are awarded and purchase order issued: a) Meet with each manufacturer to develop timelines for production and installation that meets the requirements of the EPA grant period and estimated proposal timeline in this application including project milestones; b) Maintain regular communication with manufacturers to ensure project milestones are met; 3) At completion of installation: a) Inspect all equipment to ensure specifications for equipment and installation have been met to the standard set for in the contract resulting from the competitive bidding process; b) Complete invoice processing within Metro procurement and guidelines set forth in the manufacturer's contract with Metro/NDWS; 4) Throughout the entire grant period: a) Maintain regular communication with EPA grants staff to ensure all procurement, reporting, and reimbursement requirements are met correctly and on time.



# EPA KEY CONTACTS FORM

OMB Number: 2030-0020  
Expiration Date: 06/30/2024

**Authorized Representative:** *Original awards and amendments will be sent to this individual for review and acceptance, unless otherwise indicated.*

**Name:** Prefix:  **First Name:**  **Middle Name:**   
**Last Name:**  **Suffix:**   
**Title:**   
**Complete Address:**  
**Street1:**   
**Street2:**   
**City:**  **State:**   
**Zip / Postal Code:**  **Country:**   
**Phone Number:**  **Fax Number:**   
**E-mail Address:**

**Payee:** *Individual authorized to accept payments.*

**Name:** Prefix:  **First Name:**  **Middle Name:**   
**Last Name:**  **Suffix:**   
**Title:**   
**Complete Address:**  
**Street1:**   
**Street2:**   
**City:**  **State:**   
**Zip / Postal Code:**  **Country:**   
**Phone Number:**  **Fax Number:**   
**E-mail Address:**

**Administrative Contact:** *Individual from Sponsored Programs Office to contact concerning administrative matters (i.e., indirect cost rate computation, rebudgeting requests etc).*

**Name:** Prefix:  **First Name:**  **Middle Name:**   
**Last Name:**  **Suffix:**   
**Title:**   
**Complete Address:**  
**Street1:**   
**Street2:**   
**City:**  **State:**   
**Zip / Postal Code:**  **Country:**   
**Phone Number:**  **Fax Number:**   
**E-mail Address:**

# EPA KEY CONTACTS FORM

**Project Manager:** *Individual responsible for the technical completion of the proposed work.*

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**Name:** Prefix:  **First Name:**  **Middle Name:**   
**Last Name:**  **Suffix:**   
**Title:**

**Complete Address:**

**Street1:**   
**Street2:**   
**City:**  **State:**   
**Zip / Postal Code:**  **Country:**   
**Phone Number:**  **Fax Number:**   
**E-mail Address:**

**SIGNATURE PAGE  
FOR  
GRANT NO. Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling 26-28**

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have by their duly authorized representatives set their signatures.

**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF  
NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY**

*Tracey Thurman*  
Department of Waste Services

4/9/2026  
Date

APPROVED AS TO AVAILABILITY  
OF FUNDS:

*Jennene Reed/mjw*  
Director of Finance  
Department of Finance

4/20/2026 | 1:14 PM CDT  
Date

APPROVED AS TO RISK AND INSURANCE:

*Balogun Cobb*  
Director of Insurance

4/21/2026 | 6:59 AM CDT  
Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGALITY:

*Courtney Mohan*  
Metropolitan Attorney

4/20/2026 | 1:40 PM CDT  
Date

FILED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Metropolitan Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date