



Alachua County, Florida
Solid Waste & Resource Recovery
Gus Olmos, Director
County Administration Building, Gainesville, FL 32601

PROPOSAL DOCUMENT REPORT

RFA No. RFA 22-333-MM

[Waste Reduction Grant](#)

RESPONSE DEADLINE: June 22, 2022 at 2:00 pm

Report Generated: Wednesday, July 6, 2022

The Repurpose Project Proposal

CONTACT INFORMATION

Company:

The Repurpose Project

Email:

info@repurposeproject.org

Contact:

Sarah Goff

Address:

1540 NE Waldo Road
Gainesville, FL 32641

Phone:

(954) 444-1219

Website:

www.repurposeproject.org

Submission Date:

Jun 21, 2022 10:45 AM

ADDENDA CONFIRMATION

Addendum #1

Confirmed Jun 21, 2022 10:22 AM by Amanda Waddle

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Acknowledge that you have reviewed all Addendum(s) issued with this solicitation.*

Confirmed

***Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.*

2. Alachua County Government Minimum Wage*

Select which option that apply

Employees involved with Alachua County projects are paid a minimum of \$17.00 hourly or the current prevailing wage but are not provided health benefits

***Please Note:** Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.*

3. Drug Free Workplace*

In accordance with §287.087, Florida Statute

Do you certify that you meet the following:

1. Publish a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition.

2. Inform employees about the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace, the business's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace, any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs, and the penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations.
3. Give each employee engaged in providing the commodities or contractual services that are under bid a copy of the statement specified in subsection (1).
4. In the statement specified in subsection (1), notify the employees that, as a condition of working on the commodities or contractual services that are under bid, the employee will abide by the terms of the statement and will notify the employer of any conviction of, or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, any violation of Chapter 1893 or of any controlled substance law of the United States or any state, for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than five (5) days after such conviction.
5. Impose a sanction on, or require the satisfactory participation in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program if such is available in the employee's community, by any employee who is so convicted.
6. Make a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of this section.

As the person authorized to sign the statement, I certify that this firm complies fully with the above requirements.

Yes

Please Note: Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

4. Conflict of Interest*

The bidder certifies that to the best of his knowledge or belief, no elected/appointed official or employee of the County is financially interested, directly or indirectly, in the purchase of the goods or services specified on this order. (Select yes, if there is no conflict of interest)

Confirmed

Please Note: Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

5. You have reviewed and completed all the required submittal requirements..*

Confirmed

Please Note: Responses to this question may be publicly displayed after the due date has passed.

6. Waste Reduction Grant Application

On April 12, 2022 the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners approved the creation of a Waste Reduction Grant program to be administered by the Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Department. The purpose of this grant is to create, or enhance, Waste Reduction activities by the non-governmental, non-profit and for-profit sector for the benefit of Alachua County. Grant proposals will be evaluated based on criteria including, but not limited to, the amount of solid waste diverted from the landfill, the ability of the Waste Reduction activities to continue when the grant is exhausted, and the activity's alignment with the County's Waste Reduction goals as approved in the County's Zero Waste Plan. The maximum award for a Waste Reduction Grant is \$40,000.00.

Recipients of a Waste Reduction Grant from Alachua County will be required to provide quarterly reports to Alachua County detailing the progress of the activities supported by the grant, the tons of waste diverted and a summary of the activities undertaken in support of the Waste Reduction activity proposed in this application.

APPLICANT INFORMATION*

Name of Entity: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Primary Contact Name/Title: _____

Entity Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN): _____

Name of Entity: The Repurpose Project

Address: 1540 NE Waldo Rd., Gainesville, FL 32641

Phone Number: 352 359-1385

Primary Contact Name/Title: Amanda R. Waddle, Director of Zero Waste

Entity Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN): 45-4241510

IS THE ENTITY APPLYING A NON-GOVERNMENTAL NON-PROFIT OR FOR-PROFIT ENTITY REGISTERED IN, AND IN GOOD STANDING WITH, THE STATE OF FLORIDA? *

Eligibility

Yes

DOES THE ENTITY APPLYING HAVE A BUSINESS ADDRESS LOCATED IN ALACHUA COUNTY, FL?*

Eligibility

Yes

IS THE ENTITY APPLYING INVOLVED IN ONE OF THE BELOW ACTIVITIES? *

Proposals that include the use of tires, plastics or plastic derived materials as a fuel source or as feedstock for a waste to energy facility are not eligible to receive funding.

Reuse / Repair

PROVIDE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE WASTE REDUCTION ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH GRANT FUNDS ARE BEING REQUESTED.*

Waste Reduction Activities Description

Assess the Quality, Quantity, and Value of Reusable Materials Entering the Transfer Station

Project Goals & Outcome

The Repurpose Project (RP) proposes a pilot project to assess the quality and quantity of materials available for reuse that come to the Leveda Brown Environmental Park and Transfer Station (TS). RP will also follow the sale of the materials diverted from the TS to assess the economic value of the salvaged materials. The outcome of this project will allow us to determine the financial feasibility of a large-scale reuse program and recommend the necessary infrastructure, employees, and equipment to allow the capture, storage, and resale of reusable materials that enter the Transfer Station.

Our goals during the pilot program are:

- Divert materials from the landfill that can enter the local reuse economy
- Assess the level of effort needed by RP staff at the TS to complete the first goal
- Gather data daily on the quality and quantity of materials that are diverted
- Assess the value of the materials diverted through this program
- Assess the financial feasibility of an ongoing large-scale resource diversion operation at TS

Project Methods

RP staff will be stationed at the TS to assess the type, quality, and quantity of reusable goods from community members who self-haul to the TS. We will use covered trailers or a box truck to collect materials from the self-haul community and transfer those materials back to Reuse Planet (4.2 miles south of the TS). We will work with the Alachua County solid waste staff to develop an agreement on the limitations of RP staff and where they will be positioned while at the transfer station.

The method for categorizing reusable goods in this study is outlined below. Each bulk item will be categorized as:

- Furniture
- Building Materials
- Household Items
- Other (if categories as other, the item will be specified)

The items will also be rated based on their condition. Each bulk item will receive one of the following ratings:

- #1 Immediately Resellable
- #2 Reusable/Repairable
- #3 Recyclable (components potentially recyclable if disassembled or deconstructed)
- #4 Landfill (items without reselling potential or material value)

RP will collect items rated as #1 (Immediately Resellable) and #2 (Reusables/Repairable). These resellable and reusable items will be taken to Reuse Planet for further evaluation and preparation for resell. Items rated as #3 (Recyclable) or #4 (Landfill) will be left behind for disposal at the TS. Digital images of all items assessed will be recorded by RP staff.

RP will collect data on the total daily weight and estimated volume of the items collected at the TS. At RP's facility, each item collected will be weighed individually and assigned a unique Stock Keeping Unit (SKU) number to track the item from arrival to sale. Each item will have up to three months to sell, with discounts assigned to items over time. Items not sold within three months will be disposed of (sent to the landfill), and that information will be recorded.

Project Tasks

RP will have staff members at the TS during TS hours of operations for the duration of this pilot program. RP will work with Alachua County staff to determine the number of days and number of weeks for this pilot program. We will also have administrative costs for staff to oversee the project, collect and enter data, and generate a report. Staff at the store will be tasked with weighing items and tracking and selling items at Reuse Planet. We may need to rent covered trailers or a box truck to use during this pilot program if we cannot secure funds to purchase another box truck.

The information gained from this pilot will give Alachua County valuable information on the opportunity to divert usable goods from the landfill to achieve the county's Zero Waste goals.

HOW MANY TONS OF SOLID WASTE ARE ESTIMATED TO BE DIVERTED FROM THE LANDFILL BY THESE WASTE REDUCTION ACTIVITIES ON AN ANNUAL BASIS? IF MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF WASTE (E.G. FOOD WASTE, C&D MATERIALS, RECYCLABLES, ETC.) WILL BE DIVERTED, PLEASE PROVIDE TONNAGES FOR EACH TYPE.*

Waste Reduction Activities Description

This pilot program is designed to assess the tonnage of reusable and resellable materials currently being landfilled at the TS to determine the financial and logistical feasibility of a long-term reusable materials diversion system. The diverted materials will include furniture, building materials, household items, and other reusable items. We will keep track of the quantity and weight of the items collected and share that with the county via the required reports.

PROVIDE AN ESTIMATED TIMELINE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE WASTE REDUCTION ACTIVITIES.*

Waste Reduction Activities Description

This proposed pilot program requires acquiring another box truck since our vehicle is currently in operation seven days a week for our ongoing operation. We estimate we will need 1-2 months to purchase a box truck if we are awarded that grant. This pilot program will also require staff time and warehouse space and cannot overlap with the Curbside Bulk Material Reuse Study we are completing for The City of Gainesville. Depending on the timing of the Curbside Bulk Material Reuse Study and approval of the waste reduction grant award, we will implement one pilot program followed by the other. We aim to complete the fieldwork section (where RP staff is at the TS) by June 2023.

PROVIDE A BUSINESS PLAN WHICH INCLUDES INFORMATION ABOUT HOW THESE WASTE REDUCTION ACTIVITIES CAN SUSTAIN THEMSELVES BEYOND THE LIFE OF THE GRANT.*

Upload PDF Formatted Business Plan

RP_Business_Plan_-_Transfer_Station_Reusable_Material_Grant.pdf

IF THE WASTE REDUCTION ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH GRANT FUNDS ARE BEING REQUESTED WILL REQUIRE FUNDING OUTSIDE OF THE WASTE REDUCTION GRANT IN ORDER TO BECOME VIABLE, PLEASE DETAIL HOW THE ADDITIONAL FUNDING WILL BE ACQUIRED AND WHETHER OR NOT THE ADDITIONAL FUNDING HAS ALREADY BEEN SECURED.

Additional Funding Detail

This pilot program will require the purchase of a box truck since our current vehicle is in use seven days a week for our regular operation. We have applied for this vehicle in a separate Waste Reduction Grant from Alachua County. We want to prioritize the truck grant if we are only awarded one. If we are not awarded the truck grant, we would need to secure funding for a vehicle. We will not require additional funds to implement the pilot program if we are awarded both grants.

Other costs, such as fuel, truck expenses, or tool purchases to assist in this work, will come from funds raised through normal operations at RP.

PROVIDE A DETAILED RESPONSE TO HOW THESE SOLID WASTE REDUCTION ACTIVITIES ALIGNS WITH THE ALACHUA COUNTY ZERO WASTE PLAN.*

Waste Reduction Activities Description

The data collected during this pilot program will provide valuable information about the feasibility of expanding reuse infrastructure and programs. This pilot program begins a public-private partnership between The Repurpose Project and Alachua County, which aligns directly with the Alachua County Zero Waste Strategy Report.

The Five Guiding Principles for evaluating the Zero Waste Strategies in the Zero Waste Strategy Report are: Keep Resources Local, Foster Job Growth, Emphasize Upstream Solutions, Mitigate Climate Change, Address Environmental Justice and Create Equity of Services. These principles align with RP's mission in many ways, and this pilot is an important step in developing a reuse system at the Leveda Brown Environmental Park and Transfer Station.

#1 Keep Resources Local: Large and convenient reuse infrastructure is essential to keeping resources local. Intercepting reusable items at the TS will supply a large volume of reusable items to our local community.

#2 Foster Job Growth: A large-scale reuse diversion program has enormous potential for job growth. The Institute for Local Self Reliance reports that it takes 75 - 200 jobs in the reuse industry to manage 10,000 tons of materials. The number of jobs estimated to manage materials in the reuse industry far outnumbers the jobs needed to manage materials entering the landfill (1 job to manage 10,000 tons of materials) (<https://ilsr.org/recycling-means-business/>).

#3 Emphasize Upstream Solutions: A local reuse economy reduces upstream manufacturing by replacing the need for new items with those items already in our community. Buying used also eliminates all the packaging associated with new items and reduces the environmental footprint since transportation is significantly reduced.

#4 Mitigate Climate Change: Harvesting, mining, manufacturing, packaging, and shipping of new retail items is a large contributor to climate change. Building a large-scale circular economy and promoting buying used is an essential and overlooked climate change mitigation strategy. Building a large-scale reuse economy is also an overlooked climate change resiliency strategy. We have recently seen how fragile our supply chains are. As climate change disasters increase, we must have systems and infrastructure to keep the reusable items and materials circling in our local communities.

#5 Address Environmental Justice and Create Equity of Services: Much of the land, air, and water degradation worldwide are concentrated in low-income areas. Reusing resources instead of new item manufacturing reduces pollution, keeps natural areas intact, and improves the health and lives of people. Local circular economies also help our local community access lower-cost items.

This pilot program directly with the Zero Waste Strategy Report. These strategies include:

- Phase I, Section 1. General Recommendations - “Establish Public and Private Partnerships to Facilitate Innovative Research and Develop New Technologies for Managing Solid Waste in Alachua County and City of Gainesville.”
- Phase I, Section 1. General Recommendations – “Develop Partnerships with the Private Sector to Implement a Large-Scale Reuse Program.”
- Phase II, Section 1. General Recommendations – “Evaluate the Waste Reduction Impacts & Potential Capacities for Expansion within Existing Reuse Infrastructure.”

The pilot program we propose in this grant aligns with those strategies. We will research and provide data on the volume, weight, and resale value of reusable material entering the TS. We will also offer innovative systems and strategies that divert these materials from the landfill and back into the circular economy. With our ten years of experience operating a creative reuse center, we are uniquely qualified to conduct this pilot program and help Alachua County achieve these strategies included in the Zero Waste Strategy Report.

This pilot program also overlaps and will provide valuable information related to the following Zero Waste Strategy Report strategies:

- Phase II, Section 3. Recyclables and C&D Material Recovery – “Foster the Expansion and New Development of C&D Reuse and Recycling Facilities for the Region.”
- Phase III, Section 3. Recyclables and C&D Material Recovery – “Conduct a Feasibility Study on the Development of a Regional Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM) Facility for Processing Bulky Materials.”

We have experience managing and selling many types of Construction and Demolition materials such as bricks, doors, windows, roof shingles, wood, metal, and piping. Even though C&D materials aren’t supposed to enter the TS, those material types do enter the TS, and through this pilot program, we will include them in our analysis.

We are a unique organization that has spent the last decade in Alachua County finding ways to keep usable goods circulating in our community. This proposal and partnership will expand our knowledge on developing the reuse infrastructure at the TS and help Alachua County reach its zero waste goals.

WHAT IS THE TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED BY THE ENTITY THROUGH THIS GRANT APPLICATION? PLEASE INCLUDE A DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF HOW THE FUNDS POTENTIALLY PROVIDED THROUGH THIS GRANT WOULD BE USED.*

Example:

Total Request = \$40,000.00

1. Salaries = \$12,500.00 – Position title(s)
2. Equipment = \$15,000.00 – Equipment information
3. Supplies = \$10,000.00 – Supplies information
4. Promotional materials = \$2,500.00 – Promotional materials information

Total Request = \$40,000

1. Salaries = \$40,000

- Sarah Goff, Co-Founder and Executive Director
- Tommy Baker, Operations Director
- Amanda Waddle, Director of Zero Waste
- Five Reuse Planet Staff

2. Equipment = 0

3. Supplies = 0

4. Promotional materials = 0

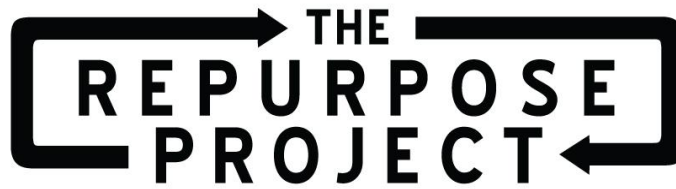
IS THE APPLYING ENTITY WILLING TO ACCEPT PARTIAL FUNDING OF THEIR GRANT REQUEST IF THE SOLID WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT, WHICH ADMINISTERS THIS GRANT, OPTS TO ONLY PARTIALLY FUND THE GRANT REQUEST.*

Yes

UPLOAD SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)

Upload any supplemental information.

No response submitted



Assess the Quality, Quantity, and Value of Reusable Materials Entering the Transfer Station

The Repurpose Project is a 501c3 nonprofit business located in Alachua County FL. Our mission is to divert useful resources from the landfill, redirect them to the public for art and education, inspire creativity, and help us all rethink what we throw away. We have operated a thrift and creative reuse store for over ten years where we accept items not accepted at traditional thrift stores. These items usually find their way to the landfill because there is a lack of reuse infrastructure to capture and resell them. We have developed many systems and made a name for ourselves by capturing this material, marketing it, and making it accessible to the general public.

Our organization has grown by being a reliable retailer with good customer service and community relationships. We are primarily self-funded and have run our organization as a business relying on the sale of the items to finance our operation. We have recently begun fundraising and seeking grants to help expand our services and increase our impact by reducing the resources in the landfill and educating the community on the benefits of a circular economy.

This pilot program is designed to assess the financial feasibility of operating a long-term reusable material diversion program at the TS. The Repurpose Project has run a thriving and self-funded reuse center for over a decade. Our recent expansion, Reuse Planet (used furniture, appliances, cabinets, and other bulk material), has proven there is demand for these items (approximately 1000 items resold monthly) and is profitable in its first year of operation.

We will learn several key things to help us and Alachua County understand how a long-term resource diversion operation at the TS can be sustained:

- Value and amount of the goods - We will inventory, market, and keep track of items that are removed from the TS. This will indicate how much revenue could be generated from this operation.
- Cost of the operation - We will document all labor costs, truck expenses, and any other expenses accrued in this pilot. This will give us a baseline of understanding how much labor and other costs are required to operate it.
- Infrastructure and other improvements - We will assess what infrastructure and systems are needed to make the resource diversion efforts efficient and cost effective. We will document and report these suggestions.

Learning the value of reusable materials discarded at the TS will inform us how a long-term resource diversion operation can be sustained. This pilot program will provide us with the financial value of the reusable material and the operational costs to determine how a long-term program is feasible.