



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, Inc Proposal

CONTACT INFORMATION

Company:

The Repurpose Project, Inc

Email:

amanda@repurposeproject.org

Contact:

Amanda Waddle

Address:

1540 NE Waldo Rd
Gainesville, FL 32641

Phone:

(352) 359-1385

Website:

www.repurposeproject.org

Submission Date:

Jun 21, 2022 9:52 AM

ADDENDA CONFIRMATION

Addendum #1

Confirmed Jun 20, 2022 10:45 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): _____

Applicant Information:

1. Name of Entity: The Repurpose Project
2. Address: 1540 NE Waldo Rd, Gainesville, FL 32641
3. Phone Number: 352 359-1385

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

5. 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

Vehicle Purchase

The Repurpose Project (RP) requests grant funds to purchase a Box Truck and Cargo Van. The Repurpose Project is a 501c3 nonprofit whose mission is to divert usable goods from the landfill and redirect them to the public. The vehicles requested in this grant application will enable RP to do more pickups and more deliveries. The transportation of large bulky items are barriers to those donating and purchasing used goods. Adding another box truck and cargo van will help eliminate these barriers and encourage more participation in the local circular economy.

Our current box truck is on the road seven days a week, picking up large and bulky items. Expanding our fleet will expand our resource diversion efforts by increasing our capacity to handle more bulky materials. These items include used building materials, home goods, furniture, kitchen cabinets, and commercial goods. Many of the items we pick up are not suitable for traditional thrift stores because of minor damages or because no one will accept them, such as building materials or custom commercial goods. If we do not pick these items up, they are often sent to the landfill.

Additionally, we are building partnerships with the City of Gainesville, Alachua County, and the University of Florida to divert more usable materials from going to the landfill:

- We just completed a pilot program with UF to explore how we can divert more usable goods from landing in the dumpster when students move out from their dorms. For this initial pilot program, we stood next to a dumpster, talked with students about resource diversion efforts, and accepted items that could be reused/repurposed instead of thrown out. We intend to expand it over the next few years and be stationed at all sixteen campus dumpsters.
- We are working with the City of Gainesville on a study to determine the amount and value of bulky items from single-family homes that end up on the curb.
- We are also hoping to partner with Alachua County to study the bulky items brought to the Leveda Brown Environmental Park and Transfer Station to learn how we can divert more usable goods from ending up on the transfer station floor.

The City of Gainesville recently passed a Zero Waste ordinance requiring larger apartment complexes to have a plan in place to reduce the amount of usable goods going into the dumpsters. We plan to partner with apartment complexes to help divert these materials from the trash.

All of these unique programs require trucks to move materials. Our normal operations of pickups, deliveries, and green cleanouts are expanding rapidly and additional vehicles will allow us to meet this growing demand year-round. This grant will allow us to expand our fleet and resource diversion efforts substantially.

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

We estimate conservatively that we will divert an additional 200 tons per year of materials that would have gone to the landfill in addition to the materials that we already divert. The materials that we will be able to divert with the additional vehicles include furniture, building materials, household items, and other bulky items that are hard for individuals to transport to us for donation.

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

Waste Reduction Activities Description

We will purchase these vehicles upon notification of the grant award. Our goal is to buy them in the fall of 2022.

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_-_Vehicle_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

We have researched the prices of box trucks and cargo vans and intend to purchase both vehicles entirely with the grant money we have requested from Alachua County. If additional funding is required, we will use general funds acquired through normal operations at The Repurpose Project and Reuse Planet.

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

Waste Reduction Activities Description

Adding a box truck and cargo van will allow us to expand our deliveries, pickups, and green cleanout services, which aligns with the Alachua County Zero Strategy Report. This will lead to more materials staying in our local economy and more materials being diverted from the landfill.

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. Our organization's mission, in addition to the expansion of pickups and deliveries of used items (made possible with additional vehicles), align perfectly with these principles.

#1 Keep Resources Local: Large and convenient reuse infrastructure is essential to keeping resources local. We have learned that transportation of used items is a barrier for many when purchasing or donating items. Providing transportation for used items is an essential and missing link to keep used resources circling in our local community.

#2 Foster Job Growth: We estimate that adding two vehicles to our fleet will add six green jobs to our local economy. Four jobs will be drivers and additional hand on trucks, and two more positions will be needed to process and sell the used material.

#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. Convenient pickup and delivery services help the reuse economy compete with new retail. 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. Transportation is essential to removing barriers to purchasing these low-cost used items.

In section 4.2.1, the Zero Waste Strategy Report states, “Develop Partnership with the Private Sector to Implement a Large-Scale Reuse Program.” The additional vehicles requested in this grant proposal will allow us to scale up our operations and continue building the large-scale reuse program. An additional box truck will enable us to collaborate with county staff on pilot programs related to assessing the quality and quantity of items self-hauled to the Leveda Brown Environmental Park and Transfer Station. This strategy is recommended for phase I of the implementation plan in the Zero Waste Strategy Report. We agree that this should be a priority in our county because there are a lot of durable goods going to the landfill that could be salvaged, sold through the local reuse economy, and help our community members access lower-cost goods.

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 = \$40,000.00

Salaries = none

Equipment = \$40,000.00 – for the purchase of a Box Truck and Cargo Van

Supplies = none

Promotional materials = none

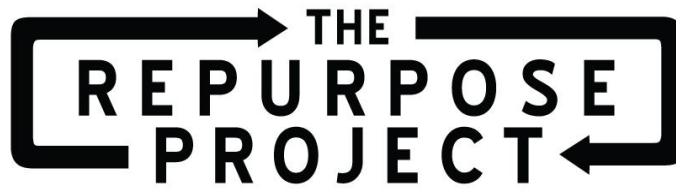
IS THE APPLYING ENTITY WILLING TO ACCEPT PARTIAL FUNDING OF THEIR GRANT REQUEST IF THE SOLID WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT, WHICH ADMINISTERS THIS GRANT, OPTS TO ONLY PARTIALLY FUND THE GRANT REQUEST.*

Yes

UPLOAD SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)

Upload any supplemental information.

No response submitted



Business Plan for Alachua County Waste Reduction Grant - Vehicle Purchase

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.

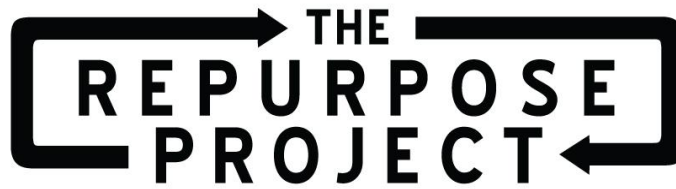
Our organization has grown by being a reliable retailer with good customer service and community relationships. We are primarily self-funded and have run our organization as a business relying on the sale of the items to finance our operation. We have recently begun fundraising and seeking grants to 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.

Moving material is an essential function to our entire operation and resource diversion efforts. The addition of a box truck and a cargo van will allow us to expand our services and therefore expand our resource diversion capacity. Most of our services to move material require a fee and are designed to be financially self-sustaining and cover all costs.

The three main day-to-day operations for the requested vehicles are:

- Deliveries
- Donation Pickups
- Green Cleanouts

Delivery fees, pickup donation requests, and green cleanout service fees cover the majority of expenses to operate and maintain our current fleet of one box truck, one flatbed truck, and three trailers. We charge for deliveries and request an optional sliding scale donation for pickups. This income completely covers the costs (labor & truck expenses) for deliveries and subsidizes the costs for pickups. The remaining expenses are paid for by the sale of the items that get picked up.



We have learned that delivery is an essential service to grow the circular economy and remove the barriers of buying used. The expense of operating our current fleet is \$45,000/year. The addition of two vehicles will approximately double our earned income as well as our expenses bringing our yearly expense to \$90,000.

We also offer green cleanout services in place of traditional waste hauling services, but instead of landfilling the items, we resell the material at our two reuse retail facilities effectively putting it back into the reuse economy. All items that are not reusable are broken down so the metal and other material can be recycled. This service is lucrative and in-demand. A second box truck will allow us to bid on and efficiently execute large cleanouts.

An enclosed van will allow our store staff to efficiently do smaller deliveries as they are requested, eliminating much of the scheduling and administrative time. This will reduce our labor expenses while increasing customer satisfaction with same day deliveries.

These day-to-day services coupled with programs with partnering organizations and municipalities will ensure the use of these vehicles will be directly capturing resources that would otherwise go to the landfill. The vehicles will fit seamlessly into our organization that has spent over a decade developing a sustainable model of reselling these materials. Our systems will ensure the use, maintenance and upkeep of the vehicles long into the future.