



AWT Research and Development Grant - Alternative Uses for General Waste

Guidelines - Round 1

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Closing date: 4pm, Monday 29 June 2020



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Background

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment aims to preserve our environment, support our industries and contribute to a strong economy. The management of waste is a key focus area.

Alternative Waste Treatment Transition Package

This funding is a response to the EPA's decision to revoke the general and specific Resource Recovery Orders and Resource Recovery Exemptions for the application of Mixed Waste Organic Outputs (MWOO) used as a soil amendment on agricultural, mining rehabilitation and forestry land.

In 2018, the NSW Government provided a transition funding package for the alternative waste treatment (AWT) industry to minimise cost and disruption to services. Following public consultation, the NSW Government allocated an additional \$24 million in early 2020, under the Phase 2 AWT Transition Package. This package is comprised of:

- \$6.26 million Research and Development Fund
 - (i) \$2.51 million for new or alternative uses for general waste
 - (ii) \$3.75 million for organics infrastructure (large and small) for processing and transfer stations
- \$5 million Local Council Transition grant
- \$12.5 million Organics Collections grants.

This funding package will deliver \$2.51 million in grants to help AWT facilities transition to sustainable resource recovery outcomes for general waste.

About the grant

The grant provides funding to eligible AWT owners and operators in NSW to support the development of new products or end markets for general waste throughout the state.

Investment in research and development is critical for generating the knowledge needed to create fit-for-purpose products, services, processes and end markets. Innovation is encouraged. The Department recognises that innovation can be a risky exercise with a moderate rate of failure, and it is usually a collective and cumulative process. The Department is looking to stimulate ideas by supporting the research and development process. Additionally, funding will be provided to eligible AWT owners and operators to reconfigure or upgrade facilities and processes to produce alternative end products from general waste.

Aims and objectives

Broadly, the aim of this grant is to help eligible AWT owners and operators undertake research and development of alternative end products and markets for general waste, processed in eligible AWT facilities. It seeks to accelerate or enhance existing and support new research and development activities.

In particular, the grant aims to:

- support sustainable resource recovery of general waste in NSW, in line with Government policy including the *NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement: Too Good To Waste*, the NSW Waste Hierarchy and the Net Zero Plan
- encourage innovation, including the discovery and development of long-term solutions that divert general waste away from landfill, and increase resource recovery rates

- support the development of solutions that will be environmentally, socially and economically beneficial.

The objectives of the grant are to deliver funding for:

- project activities that explore options to improve resource recovery outcomes; and/or
- development of commercially viable options

that are consistent with the aims of the grant.

Key information

- **\$2.51 million** total amount of funding available
- Amount per grant: \$25,000 - \$500,000 per project
- Eligible AWT owners and/or operators can submit multiple applications for different projects

Key Dates

- Applications – open Monday 18 May 2020 and remain open for a 6-week period
- Applications – close Monday 29 June 2020
- Assessments will be made by a technical review panel in July 2020
- Successful grants will be announced in September 2020

Eligible AWT facilities

Eligible AWT facilities are those listed in the Government Gazette of NSW, Number 114, dated Friday 2 November 2018, namely:

- Biomass Solutions - Englands Road, Coffs Harbour
- Suez Recycling and Recovery - Elizabeth Drive, Kemps Creek
- Suez Recycling and Recovery – Newline Road, Raymond Terrace
- Veolia Environmental Services – Collector Road, Tarago
- Eastern Creek Operations – Wallgrove Road, Eastern Creek

Eligible organisations

Organisations eligible to apply are the owners (including part owners) and/or operators of eligible AWT facilities in NSW.

Multiple applications

Applicants may submit multiple applications if proposing several projects. Applicants must show they have enough resources to implement all projects, including capacity to manage any ongoing projects funded in previous years.

Applicants will also be expected to maintain separate recordkeeping for each project, including tracking in-kind and cash contributions for each separate project. The maximum amount of funding per project is \$500,000.

Collaboration and partnerships

Collaboration is highly beneficial in research (and development), particularly when it's between researchers and end-users. They can help you to:

- identify knowledge gaps and develop informed and practical research (based on end-user needs)
- spread ownership of the project and share responsibility for its outcomes.

Collaborative projects are encouraged, for example projects where an AWT collaborates with local government(s), a research institute or manufacturer.

A project partner is any organisation or individual, other than the applicant and its employees/contractors, involved in carrying out the project.

Applicants are able to partner with other AWT operators and pool their funding to propose joint research and development projects.

What will be funded?

This grant provides targeted support for eligible AWT owners and operators. It will allow them to undertake work to investigate or develop new or improved materials, products and processes, and alternative end markets for MWOO or general waste.

Priority funding

Priority will be given to projects that:

- support or investigate long term changes
- align with NSW Government policy, including the *NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement: Too Good To Waste*, and Net Zero Plan
- achieve or have the potential to achieve the highest waste hierarchy outcome, as set out on page 6 of the *NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement: Too Good To Waste*.

Activities that may be funded

The types of activities that will be funded include (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Research, by systematically gathering data, information and facts to advance knowledge and develop new techniques that can be applied practically
- Investigating potential alternative end products or end markets for general waste
- Design, development and installation of product and equipment, and modifications to existing equipment
- Laboratory work for product testing, in situ testing and altering existing processing
- Odour modelling and emission testing
- Consultant reports and consultant fees
- Identifying opportunities, concept screening, marketing concept development and feasibility studies
- Buying equipment to support the research, or proposed technology or process change
- Building or installing infrastructure to develop new or improved products for alternative end markets for MWOO or general waste.

What will not be funded

- Salaries of existing employees supervising or working on the project as part of their usual duties. However, the Department will fund salaries of staff employed specifically to work on the project.
- Privately owned research facilities that cannot provide evidence of NATA accreditation.
- Advertising and education.
- Land acquisition.
- Projects not servicing NSW.
- Projects already funded under other WLRM programs.
- Projects that seek retrospective funding for work already undertaken (although a new stage of an existing project can be funded).

Conditions of eligibility

Applicants must

- be an eligible organisation
- complete all sections of the Department's application form
- include the names of two senior officers in your organisation (e.g. General Manager, CEO, Chief Financial Officer, Group Manager or Secretary) who can attest to the accuracy of the information within the application
- ensure your application is received by the closing date. Late applications will not be accepted
- show in your application that your project is aligned with the program aims and objectives
- demonstrate awareness (where applicable) of the need for Resource Recovery Orders and Exemptions, and include a plan to ensure these will be sought at an appropriate time
- demonstrate that proposed activities to be funded will take place in NSW, or make a strong case for why any research, design or trial activities must be undertaken outside NSW
- Provide at least 50% financial co-contribution of the total project value

Successful applicants will sign the Department's standard funding deed (example provided on the EPA website).

If your proposal involves energy from waste technology, you must also show that your proposal will comply with the [NSW EPA's Energy from Waste Policy Statement](#). This includes providing details of investigations that have been performed and information on how the proposal will meet the resource recovery criteria and all other requirements of the Policy.

Your organisation will be ineligible for funding, or funding may be revoked if the proposed project

- results in non-compliance with NSW environment protection laws (or any other laws)
- transports waste outside of NSW (other than for laboratory testing, where this is to be conducted interstate).

Applicant co-contribution

A co-contribution of at least 50% is required from the applicant. This must be cash based, covering at least half of the project costs.

In-kind contributions

Applicants are encouraged to list any in-kind contributions. This can include

- cash and salaries paid by the lead applicant, and any other project participants for employees' time allocated or directly related to delivering the project
- voluntary labour such as unpaid research time
- donated goods or services
- extra funding from a project partner, for example private entities, associations, government and product stewardship organisations.

In-kind contributions **do not** form part of your co-contribution, but are part of your overall financial commitment to the project.

Other sources of funding

The applicant must disclose any other sources of funding, including other grants. This grant will not fund project work that has already received funding from any government agency. You must also advise the Department if you have current applications lodged with other government agencies relating to this project, or you receive funding from other government agencies while your project is underway.

Managing your grant

Getting started

1. Provide a detailed project plan and incorporate any feedback provided by the Technical Review Panel.
2. Sign the Department's grant funding agreement, which confirms project progress reporting requirements.
3. Provide a tax invoice to receive your first milestone payment.

During your project

- Show in your detailed work plan that your intended outcomes are measurable. Proposals must include a process for gathering and evaluating evidence about the success or failure of the project. This should include the assessment of any future activities enabled by the funded research which are consistent with the cumulative nature of innovation.
- Include the relevant financial reporting with all progress and/or final reports.
- Provide the Department with high-level progress reports, case studies and data, excluding commercial-in-confidence research findings (non-confidential project intellectual property) for general publication.
- Have quarterly update meetings with the Department and project partner(s).

Completing your project

When your project is complete, grantees are required to submit a final report reflecting on achievements against the project's objectives. A reporting template will be provided.

Like progress reports, a representative of the Department will review your final report. Your grants administrator will provide you with feedback on your project, and formally acquit your grant.

Assessment criteria

Your application will be assessed on the ability to meet program aims and objectives. The Technical Review Panel will make assessments against the following criteria.

Project merit

Table 1.1: Project merit assessment criteria

Criteria	Description
WHAT	Describe the project objective, what you are going to do and how the project aligns with grant aims and objectives (see Page 1 and 2) Describe how the project aligns with NSW Government policy, including the <i>NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement: Too Good To Waste</i> and Net Zero Plan. What NSW waste hierarchy outcome is being targeted?
WHO	Show the capacity, capability and experience of the organisation/s (lead applicant, and also including any project partners and collaborations) to deliver this project.
WHY	Why is this project needed? Describe what benefits the project will have for applicants and partners, the broader market, the NSW waste industry and the environment.
HOW	Please describe how you will carry out the project. See extra guidance in the project planning section below.

Project planning

The applicant must show robust planning and an ability to deliver the project to a high standard. Projects will be assessed on how well they provide

- clearly defined inputs, outputs and outcomes that are measurable through quantitative and qualitative means
- a robust methodology for gathering evidence about the success or failure of the proposal, including any future activities enabled by the funded activity that are consistent with the cumulative and collective nature of innovation
- project activities (such as research, services, technology, equipment) that comply with relevant specifications, quality standards and the EPA's Resource Recovery Exemption framework
- a robust plan to share knowledge with the Department to improve the Department's corporate knowledge and help it to apply lessons for policy and regulatory purposes
- the extent to which the project can stimulate a holistic market response to the management and/or processing of general waste.

How to apply

Download the guidelines and application form and complete the application form. Email your completed application form to: Recycling.Centres@epa.nsw.gov.au. Please put the description '*your organisation name*, R&D Application' in the subject line.

Or post your application form to:

AWT Research and Development Grant
Circular Economy Resource Management
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

The Department must receive the application form and any supporting documents by **4pm Monday 29 June 2020**.

The Department will acknowledge receipt of your application by email within three working days of receipt of your application.