



AWT Research and Development Grant – Alternative Uses for General Waste

Guidelines for Applicants – Round 2



© 2021 State of NSW and the NSW Environment Protection Authority

The State of NSW and the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) are pleased to allow this material to be reproduced in whole or in part for educational and non-commercial use, provided the meaning is unchanged and its source, publisher and authorship are acknowledged.

The EPA has compiled these guidelines in good faith, exercising all due care and attention. No representation is made about the accuracy, completeness or suitability of the information in this publication for any particular purpose. The EPA shall not be liable for any damage which may occur to any person or organisation taking action or not on the basis of this publication. Readers should seek appropriate advice when applying the information to their specific needs.

All content in this publication is owned by the EPA and is protected by Crown Copyright, unless credited otherwise. It is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0), subject to the exemptions contained in the licence. The legal code for the licence is available at Creative Commons.

The EPA asserts the right to be attributed as author of the original material in the following manner: © State of New South Wales and the NSW Environment Protection Authority 2021.

Published by:

NSW Environment Protection Authority

4 Parramatta Square

12 Darcy Street, Parramatta NSW 2150

Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124

Phone: +61 2 9995 5000 (switchboard)

Phone: 131 555 (NSW only – environment information and publications requests)

Fax: +61 2 9995 5999

TTY users: phone 133 677, then ask
for 131 555

Speak and listen users:

phone 1300 555 727, then ask for 131 555

Email: info@epa.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.epa.nsw.gov.au

Report pollution and environmental incidents

Environment Line: 131 555 (NSW only) or info@epa.nsw.gov.au

See also www.epa.nsw.gov.au

ISBN 978 1 922447 91 3

EPA 2021P3419

December 2021

Background

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is the primary environmental regulator for New South Wales. We partner with business, government and the community to reduce pollution and waste, protect human health, and prevent degradation of the environment. The EPA works with industry to find sustainable solutions to minimise the amount of waste going to landfill.

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 comprises:

- \$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 grants
- \$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. Of this, \$1.05 million was awarded to five projects in Round 1 of the grant.

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 EPA recognises that innovation can be a risky exercise with a moderate rate of failure, and is usually a collective and cumulative process. The EPA 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.

Application forms for this program are available on the SmartyGrants EPA page at <https://epa.smartygrants.com.au/>

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. The grant is intended to accelerate or enhance existing research and development activities and support new ones.

In particular, the grant is aimed at:

- supporting sustainable resource recovery of general waste in NSW, in line with government policy including the *NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041*, the *NSW Circular*

Economy Policy Statement: Too Good to Waste, the NSW Waste Hierarchy and the Net Zero Plan

- encouraging innovation, including the discovery and development of long-term solutions that divert general waste away from landfill, and increase resource recovery rates
- supporting the development of solutions that will be environmentally, socially and economically beneficial.

The grant's objectives are to deliver funding for:

- project activities that explore options to improve resource recovery outcomes
- development of commercially viable options that are consistent with the grant's aims.

Key information

- **\$1.46 million** is the total funding available.
- **\$25,000– \$500,000** is available per grant.
- Eligible AWT owners and/or operators can submit multiple applications for different projects.

Key dates

See the webpage on [AWT research and development grants](#) for when:

- applications open
- applications close
- applications are assessed
- successful applications are announced.

Eligible AWT facilities

Eligible AWT facilities are those listed in the *NSW Government Gazette*, Number 114 (2 November 2018), namely:

- Biomass Solutions – Englands Road, Coffs Harbour
- Suez Recycling and Recovery – Elizabeth Drive, Kemp's 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 keep separate records for each project, including tracking in-kind and cash contributions separately for each 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. It 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.

The EPA encourages collaborative projects, such as where an AWT collaborates with local government(s), a research institute or a manufacturer.

A project partner is any organisation or individual, other than the applicant and its employees/contractors, that is 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 Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041*, *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 (but are not limited to):

- research – that is, 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
- consultants' reports and consultants' fees
- identifying opportunities, concept screening, marketing concept development and feasibility studies
- buying equipment to support research or a proposed change to a technology or process
- building or installing infrastructure to develop new or improved products for alternative end markets for MWOO or general waste.

What will not be funded

The grant cannot be used to fund:

- salaries of existing employees supervising or working on the project as part of their usual duties. However, the EPA 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 application using the [SmartyGrants](#) platform
- 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 EPA's standard funding deed (see [example](#) on the EPA website).

If your proposal involves **energy from waste** technology, you must also show that your proposal will comply with the [NSW Energy from Waste Policy Statement](#) and [Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan](#), which support the *NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041*. To do this, you'll have to present evidence such as 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 and cover at least half of the project costs.

In-kind contributions

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

- 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 such as a private entity, an association, a government entity or a product stewardship organisation.

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 EPA if you have current applications relating to this project lodged with other government agencies, or if you receive funding from other government agencies while your project is under way.

Managing your grant

Getting started

1. Provide a detailed project plan and incorporate any feedback provided by the Technical Review Panel.
2. Sign the EPA'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 EPA with high-level progress reports, case studies and data (excluding commercial-in-confidence research findings but including non-confidential project intellectual property) for general publication.
- Have quarterly update meetings with the EPA and project partner(s).

Completing your project

When your project is complete, you will need to submit a final report reflecting on achievements against the project's objectives. We will send you a reporting template.

As with progress reports, a representative of the EPA 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 Project merit assessment criteria

Criterion	Description
WHAT	<p>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).</p> <p>Describe how the project aligns with NSW Government policy, including the <i>NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041</i>, the <i>NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement: Too Good to Waste</i> and Net Zero Plan. What NSW waste hierarchy outcome is being targeted?</p>
WHO	<p>Show the capacity, capability and experience of the organisation(s) – the lead applicant and any project partners and collaborators – to deliver this project.</p>
WHY	<p>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.</p>
HOW	<p>Please describe how you will carry out the project. See extra guidance in the <i>Project planning</i> section below.</p>

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 EPA to improve the EPA's corporate knowledge and help it 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

Applications must be submitted using the online application form in the [SmartyGrants](#) platform. Each grant proposal requires a separate application form. You will receive a confirmation email once your application form has been successfully submitted. Applications must be received by the closing date and time outlined on the EPA website - late applications will not be accepted.

Need help?

If you need assistance with your application or have questions, email localgovernmentprograms@dpie.nsw.gov.au.