

RDN Continuing Innovative Zero Waste Grant Program

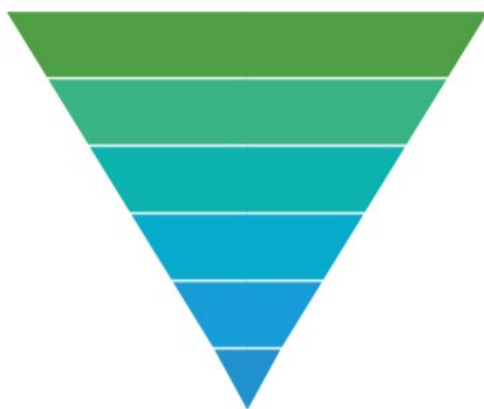
The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is pleased to announce that after a successful year for the Zero Waste Recycling Funding (ZWRF) program, up to \$300,000 in grants will again be available in 2022. Non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for project funding that focuses on sustainable waste diversion and related activities that support the development of a circular economy in our region. Organizations have until October 11, 2021 to apply for funding.

“The ZWRF program has shown governments play an important role in helping organizations develop effective waste-reduction initiatives as part of building a circular economy,” said Tyler Brown, RDN Chair. “There are many benefits to a circular economy including healthier and more sustainable communities and a lighter environmental footprint, both of which are strategic priorities for the RDN.”

The main focus of the ZWRF program is to fund projects that fall within the higher tiers of the zero-waste hierarchy and support the RDN’s goal of 90 per cent diversion of waste from the landfill by 2029. For example, proposals could include:

- Research and recycling hubs for hard to recycle items
- Reduction and redesign of materials
- Re-using, repairing and reprocessing of materials
- Investigating barriers to recycling

ZW Hierarchy of Highest & Best Uses



- Reduce, reuse & return
- End subsidies for wasting
- Product & packaging redesign
- Clean production & takebacks
- Reuse, repair, remanufacture
- Recycle, compost & digest
- Regulate (bans, biological energy recover, landfills with re-processing)
- Not ok: incineration, bioreactor landfills

Figure 1. Zero Waste Hierarchy for highest and best uses

Get Involved RDN!

“We are impressed with the accomplishments of the 2021 ZWRF grant recipient organizations. They are actively contributing to a circular economy while building a foundation that will sustain their activities well into the future,” said Director Ben Geselbracht, Chair of the Solid Waste Committee. “We are excited to see the innovative ideas to come that will result in even more waste being diverted through recycling or repurposing.”

The Zero Waste Recycling Funding program is an initiative of the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). The SWMP reflects a long-term vision for how the RDN manages its solid waste, including diversion and disposal. Grant applications will be evaluated using several criteria aligned with the SWMP and funding award preference will be given to applications from non-profit organizations operating in the RDN that meet the following objectives:

- Maximize waste diversion
- Sustainable projects that do not rely on ongoing funding
- Improved convenience for repurposing and recycling of end-of-life materials
- Innovation in developing markets or processes
- Collaboration and partnerships that leverage the funding to maximize community benefit

Applications will be accepted until October 11, 2021 at 12 p.m. and can be submitted by email to:

Nikita Kitagawa at nkitagawa@rdn.bc.ca

Subject line: Zero Waste Recycling Funding Proposal

An application guide with a sample proposal outline is available on the RDN website at rdn.bc.ca/current-bid-opportunities. Questions about the application process can be directed to 250-390-4111 or toll free at 1-877-607-4111. For more information on the Solid Waste Management Plan, visit rdn.bc.ca/solid-waste-management-plan.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Rebecca Taylor
Communications Coordinator
Regional District of Nanaimo



250-390-6502



rtaylor@rdn.bc.ca

Get Involved RDN!