



Q1. The Colorado NextCycle application states that entities that have received previous RREO or FRWD grant funding are not eligible to participate in the NextCycle program. If we plan to submit an application for RFA #SF011224 (due January 12, 2024), are we still eligible to apply for the 2024 NextCycle cohort (application due December 1, 2023)?

A1. Yes, you can apply to both programs as long as you have not *previously* received an RREO or FRWD award at the time of applying for NextCycle. The notification of award for RFA #SF011224 is not anticipated until April 1, 2024. For clarification purposes: If an applicant has received a FRWD or RREO grant award prior to December 1, 2023 (the NextCycle Colorado application deadline), then the applicant is *not* eligible to apply or participate in the 2024 NextCycle Colorado cohort. If an applicant has *not* received a FRWD or RREO grant awards prior to December 1, the applicant *is* eligible to apply for the 2024 NextCycle Colorado cohort. If you are accepted into the 2024 NextCycle Colorado cohort *and* you receive a grant award as part of RFA #SF011224 or a different FRWD or RREO grant opportunity in early 2024, the grant award may be contingent upon the applicant's successful completion of the NextCycle Colorado program (note: the 2024 NextCycle Colorado cohort begins in January 2024 and runs through June 30, 2024). Past RREO and FRWD grant applicants and awardees are eligible to apply for RFA #SF011224.

Q2. Would grant funding be available for setting up a recycling site that utilizes burning machines such as Airburners for a wood waste recycling operation?

A2. Yes, if being used for the development of bio char as a soil amendment. If the proposed project involves equipment being purchased for the purpose of recycling and advancing waste diversion, and the project will satisfy the requirement to divert 1,000 additional tons of waste currently going to Front Range landfills per year, it is eligible for grant funding. For this type of project, the applicant should have identified the need for and process to obtain any [Air Pollutant Emission Notice \(APEN\) or permitting requirements](#) and have a comprehensive understanding of all required permits at both the local and state levels. Permitting requirements and details must be fully explained in the application narrative to determine the shovel-readiness of the proposed project. Please contact the department's [Air Pollution](#) website for more information. Please note, that with the exception of anaerobic digestion, waste-to-energy projects are not eligible.

Q3. Can grant funding be used to purchase land to set up a recycling center that becomes a permanent fixture of our community?

A3. No, grant funds are not provided to purchase or lease real property. Additionally, grant funds are not available for and should not be requested for leases, lease to own, rent, or real property including land, office space, etc. (Also see RFA Attachment III Budget Requirements p. 16.) Projects must also be shovel-ready in order to be eligible for funding, meaning the project should be ready to be implemented immediately upon execution of the contract. This includes having secured a designated site with a lease in place if necessary, a comprehensive understanding of all required permits at both the local and state levels, and the financial capability to fund the project upfront.

Q4. Can an application be submitted to develop a composting facility based on proposed rules changes to Colorado solid waste regulations scheduled for review by the [Solid and Hazardous Waste Commission](#) in spring of 2024?

A4. Yes, an application may be submitted for a project based on the proposed rules changes; however, it is suggested that an applicant proposes two project scenarios: An option A project (if revised regulations are passed) and an option B project (if regulations remain as are currently written). An applicant submitting two project options should clearly explain and delineate the two project options in the application narrative including differences in diversion capacity or tonnage. Additionally the applicant proposing the two project options must also submit two project work plans, and two project budgets and budget narratives. In the event that there is not a decision on the regulations when the grants are awarded, the FRWD Board of Directors may approve a project contingent upon regulatory changes. If a single option based on proposed rules changes is submitted and the changes are not approved, any awarded funds will be rescinded. (Also see RFA section II, Project Requirements, for full details.)

Q5. Can we submit more than one project on a single application and if not can we submit multiple applications?

A5. If projects are not aligned, it is suggested that separate applications be submitted. If projects are aligned or have a similar scope, multiple budget options should be presented in the same application to differentiate between the projects. Note, in a multiple project/budget submission, it is possible for one project to be awarded and the other declined by awarding the desired project budget. If a single budget is submitted and one project is not supported, neither project can be funded. Importantly, because the process is competitive and because funding is limited, entities filing multiple applications may be competing with themselves.

Q6. Could funds be awarded to convert rented or financed equipment into owned?

A6. Rented or leased equipment is eligible for purchase with grant funds. It's important to note that CDPHE will not reimburse for any costs incurred or any items taken possession of by grantees prior to execution of the project contract. If the rented or leased item is onsite prior to contract execution, documentation will be required confirming that payment in full and transfer of ownership occurred after contract execution. Leased vehicles, equipment, supplies, etc., where the awardee does not hold the title or rights to the item will not be reimbursed. (See RFA Attachment III Budget Requirements p. 16)

Q7. Improving our spare parts inventory will increase our capacity. Are spare parts an allowable expense?

A7. Spare parts are considered an allowable expense if they are directly related to the proposed project and contribute to the additional tonnage diversion requirement of 1,000 additional tons per year. The board may deny budget items considered unnecessary for project implementation, decide to partially fund projects by award funding for specific line items, or propose alternate budget options (refer to RFA Attachment 3). It's essential that the applicant clearly identify why spare parts would be critical for project success.

Q8. We currently have an intake facility for green waste in Denver and we purchased land that is shovel ready to expand operations (for end market processing) and significantly increase collection. We are having a difficult time figuring out how to prove that the additional material was being

landfilled, despite having options to meet the additional tonnage requirements. What are some examples that will satisfy as 'proof' the material was once going to the landfill?

A8. For the purpose of this RFA “additional tons” is defined as tons of materials, not currently being diverted from landfills, annually upon implementation of the project. Any evidence to support the application narrative, such as providing the entity’s weight tickets to demonstrate current annual waste diversion, may support the position. The onus is on the applicant to provide sufficient information to convince the review team of the project’s potential for success. (See RFA Section I Background and Eligibility and Attachment I Application Narrative Questions 3.a.i) The applicant will also be asked to provide a Diversion Explanation including how the estimated diversion was previously going to the landfill, but will be diverted through the implementation of the proposed project. A written answer explaining how the project affects the local waste stream of the diverted material, including any supporting evidence that the material was going to a landfill, is advised. For example, letters of intent to use new service(s) from those that previously landfilled the material may be included in optional attachments. (RFA Attachment I Application Narrative Questions 3.d.i).

Q9. Given we are required to show new tonnage being diverted, our current intake facility would not qualify towards that tonnage, correct? Even though it would significantly increase collection (new tonnage) & only be hauled to process?

A9. An application requesting funding to increase waste diversion of a minimum of 1,000 additional tons per year at an existing facility would be eligible for consideration. The data for both the baseline and additional tonnage should be directly associated with the proposed project and the facility where the proposed project will occur. Both the baseline and additional tonnage data should also be focused solely on the materials being diverted within the proposed project. Previously diverted materials are not counted. For example, one entity may divert plastic, aluminum, and glass, but the proposed project is focused on infrastructure to increase glass diversion. Therefore, all data must be solely focused on glass diversion. Any tonnage being diverted prior to the proposed project’s implementation is considered to be baseline data. The dataset for “additional tons” is directly based on diverted tonnage increased as a result of the proposed project, and should not include any tonnage outside of the proposed project. Also see Q/A 8 for details regarding additional tons.