



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2021 Final Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2021-344

Staff Lead: Michael Varien

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: August 18, 2021

Project Title: Create Jobs Statewide By Diverting Materials From Landfills

Project Budget: \$2,244,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Steve Thomas

Organization: Better Futures Minnesota

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Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR:

Reporting Schedule: December 1 / June 1 of each year.

Project Completion: July 31, 2023

Final Report Due Date: September 14, 2023

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 07e

Appropriation Language: \$2,244,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements with Better Futures Minnesota and the Natural Resources Research Institute to partner with cities, counties, and businesses to create and implement a collection, restoration, reuse, and repurpose program that diverts used household goods and building materials from entering the waste stream and thereby reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Net income generated by Better Futures Minnesota as part of this appropriation may be reinvested in the project if a plan for reinvestment is approved in the work plan.

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Narrative

Project Summary: By diverting over 15,000 tons of used household goods and building materials from the waste stream, this project will: reduce CO2 emissions; create 13 jobs; and, launch two businesses

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

45% of emissions worldwide comes from the production of consumer goods and buildings. The preservation of Minnesota's air, water and land, depends on adopting viable practices for reducing the harmful effects of making, using, and then discarding consumer goods and buildings. Yet, most efforts to reduce harmful emissions have focused on the energy sector.

Here are two examples of how the current process of extracting virgin materials and then throwing them away have a negative effect on Minnesota's environment. 1) The MPCA has identified at 42 landfills across the State which are leeching toxic chemicals. 2) Based on data from a previous LCCMR-funded project, the partners found the demolition of a typical house emits 250 million metric tons of CO2. This level of pollution is equal to driving 5 cars for a year.

The serious harm caused by current practices, however, is a great opportunity for Minnesota's environment and citizens. An alternative production model, focused on restoration, regeneration, and reuse of products and materials yields significant environmental and economic benefits. Instead of discarding goods and materials (assets) after only one product cycle, companies are developing ways to continually re-acquire and re-introduce these assets back into the marketplace.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? i.e. What are you seeking funding to do? You will be asked to expand on this in Activities and Milestones.

This project will foster the development of sustainable practices for diverting consumer goods and materials from the waste stream throughout the State. Just as important, the partners will test and help build small businesses focused on reusing, repairing, or re-purposing the goods and materials diverted.

Our goal is to demonstrate the viability of alternative business and operating models that generate multiple life cycles for products and materials through restoration, re-purposing, or reuse. We will also document the significant environmental and economic benefits of these new business processes. Overall, this project is an investment in Minnesota's future: by reducing harmful emissions, we help ensure the future quality of our air, water and land; and, by fueling the emergence of new businesses with jobs for local people, we help build a more stable environmental and economic future.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

This project will benefit Minnesotans and preserve our air, water, and land. Specific outcomes include:

1. Diverting at least 15,000 tons of used consumer goods and building materials from the waste stream;
2. Reducing or averting the emission of at least 11,000 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions;
3. Developing local practices and businesses focused on restoration, re-purposing or reuse;
4. Building markets for products or materials restored, reused, or repurposed;
5. Creating at least 13 FT sustainable jobs with living wages and benefits.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

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Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Implement waste diversion practices at transfer stations

Activity Budget: \$1,096,168

Activity Description:

- a) Host briefing sessions for county staff statewide to introduce this project and present the multiple benefits of diverting goods and materials from the waste stream
- b) Draft templates for operating agreements and budgets for waste diversion program at transfer stations based on feedback and advice from county staff
- c) Establish operating agreements for county partners; agreements outline roles and responsibilities of all parties, performance expectations, budget, fee schedules, metrics and staffing plans
- d) Hire and prepare local staff for diversion and processing team at the sites, includes operating protocols and work processes
- e) NRRI and Ecotone Partners prepare and implement tools for collecting data to measure the social, economic and environment impact/benefits of diverting the materials from transfer stations
- f) Launch operations and produce performance and impact reports every six months; share reports via social media outlets

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
First of six-month performance and impact reports are completed and distributed via social media	January 31, 2022
At least 8 briefing sessions for county staff statewide to introduce project are completed	April 30, 2022
Operating agreements with 3 county partners are signed	December 31, 2022
Local staff for diversion and processing at 3 sites are hired and trained	March 31, 2023
A final impact report is produced: emissions averted; waste diverted; jobs created	July 31, 2023

Activity 2: Develop, test, and implement financially viable methods for restoring, repurposing or reusing of materials diverted from the waste stream

Activity Budget: \$332,436

Activity Description:

- a) Identify current businesses focused on using reclaimed materials and determine capacity/willingness to work with more materials. NRRI will assist Better Futures in identifying and meeting with these existing businesses
- b) Coordinate research about emerging restoration, reuse, or re-purposing methods using materials diverted from the waste stream, focusing on building materials, furniture, textiles, mattresses, and carpet; led by NRRI
- c) Based on feedback from existing business and NRRI research explore ways to expand uses and markets for materials diverted from the waste stream; share ideas and findings with business community and government partners
- d) Develop 6 prototypes from material reclaimed and share as opportunities for material re-purposing; led by NRRI
- e) Fully develop an online retail site for promoting the sale of reclaimed materials and repurposed products
- f) Fully develop and maintain a social media network to promote online sales and the value/impact of reuse, repair and repurposing

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Social media network to promote retail sales and value/impact of reuse is operational	June 30, 2022
4 briefing sessions to share NRRI research and explore new ideas for reuse are held	December 31, 2022
Online retail site for promoting the sale of reclaimed materials and repurposed products is operational	December 31, 2022

Activity 3: Provide pick up services for cities, households and businesses with used products and materials in the Twin Cities

Activity Budget: \$741,439

Activity Description:

- a) Host briefing sessions for city staff, neighborhood groups, and local businesses in the Twin Cities to introduce this project and assess the level of interest in supporting a curbside/job site pick up service that reuses, repairs and repurposes the materials collected
- b) Draft templates for operating agreements and budgets for a full time curbside/job pick up service based on feedback and advice from city staff, homeowners and local businesses
- c) Establish operating agreements for county partners; agreements outline roles and responsibilities of all parties, performance expectations, budget, fee schedule, metrics and staffing plan
- d) Hire and prepare local staff for this collection and processing activity, includes operating protocols and work processes
- e) NRRI and Ecotone Partners will prepare and implement tools for collecting data to measure the social, economic and environment impact/benefits of collecting and reusing the materials collected
- f) Launch operations and produce performance reports every six months; distribute via social media outlets

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
First of six-month performance reports and impact reports are distributed via social media	December 31, 2021
Local staff for collection and processing are hired and trained	March 31, 2022
Operating agreements with 3 partners/customers are signed	December 31, 2022
15 briefing sessions for potential partners/customers to introduce this project are held	July 31, 2023

Activity 4: Assist with developing two new businesses for restoring, repurposing and/or reusing of materials diverted from the waste

Activity Budget: \$73,957

Activity Description:

- a) Based on NRRI research, and information from existing reuse businesses, government partners, and collection customers, draft business and financial plans for two new businesses
- b) Identify individuals/partners interested in launching new businesses
- c) Provide advice for individuals/partners in organizing and launching new businesses focused on reuse, repair, and/or repurposing

This activity is about helping to develop and launch several reuse businesses owned by private individuals. A portion of the LCCMR Project Manager's time will be used to provide advice and coaching for these business owners. The partners will also use webinars and training sessions to train and advise potential owners. Other than the Project Manager's time, no other project grant funds will be used for this activity. This activity is directly related to disseminating the lessons and experience accumulated during the operation of this project. The goal is to support the launch or at least prepare owners to launch several small businesses. No earned revenue is expected from these small business services during the grant period. If any revenue is generated during the grant period, Better Futures will contact LCCMR to determine if additional approvals are necessary to satisfy the appropriation law requirements for this project.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Draft business and financial plans for two new businesses are completed	January 31, 2023
Individuals/partners interested in launching new businesses are identified	January 31, 2023
Two new businesses focused on reuse, repair, and/or repurposing are launched	July 31, 2023

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Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Victor Krause	Natural Resources Research Council (NRR)	NRR will research emerging techniques for re-purposing used goods such as building materials, furniture, textiles, and mattresses. Assist with identifying businesses focused on re-purposing such materials. Support the development of prototypes using reclaimed materials; and with Ecotone Partners measure the economic, social and environmental impact of this project	Yes

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

The partners will ensure the acknowledgement requirements prescribed for ENRTF will be followed. Specifically, when appropriate, the ENRTF will be acknowledged through the use of the ENRTF logo and/or attribution language on this project's print and electronic media, presentations, publications, and other communications.

Throughout the grant period, the partners will be routinely sharing stories, providing updates and disseminating performance data via multiple social media channels.

At the end of the grant period, the partners will produce a manual and training curriculum to support the operation of waste diversion, material recovery, and pick up services. This resource will be accessible via the partner's websites. We will work with county partners to promote and publicize waste diversion activities occurring in their localities. The partners will develop briefing materials and graphs to support the expansion of this project to sites throughout the State.

The partners will prepare banners and "lawn signs" to place at job sites to explain our work and promote the project. The box truck purchased with LCCMR funds will acknowledge the support of the ENRTF grant and carry a tagline about the goals of this project

Environmental, economic and social impact reports for each major component of this project: curbside pick up, waste diversion at landfills, and repair efforts will be prepared and shared via six month reports.

A report summarizing the experiences related to developing the two new businesses will be produced and shared via the partners' final report.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this be funded?

A major aim of this project is to develop business models and multi-year financial plans to sustain the core activities of this project. The grant period will enable the partners to test assumptions related to the level of commitment from counties, the volume and demand for used and repurposed products, and the amounts of revenue that can realistically be generated by each activity. Based on two years of experience, the partners expect to support sustainable diversion, collection, and repurposing activities with fee income and revenue generated by the sale of used and repurposed goods.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
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Building Deconstruction to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Solid Waste	M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 07c1	\$845,000
Expand Materials Reuse and Recycling Jobs Program	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 05k	\$800,000

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Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Workers		Work at transfer stations diverting and packaging reclaimed materials; picking up used materials at curb or job sites; working on reuse, restoration and repurposing projects			45.53%	18		\$1,036,000
Field Supervisors		Daily supervision of workers at transfer stations and pick up services; supervision of workers assigned to reuse, restoration and repurposing projects			45.53%	8		\$545,000
Retail Sales Manager		Fully develop and manage online sales platform connected to inventory; help promote online and place-based sales to public and private partners and retail customers			33%	1		\$73,150
Vice President for Enterprise Services		Oversee operations of work crews; assist with managing relations with partners and customers			55%	0.74		\$75,050
Director of Development		Coordinate the promotion of online and place-based sales; disseminate stories, results and impact of this project			33%	0.6		\$47,800
Project Manager for LCCMR Grant, beginning 10-1-21		Oversee the activities and partnerships required to meet the goals and outcomes for this project			33%	1.75		\$117,251
							Sub Total	\$1,894,251
Contracts and Services								
Steve Thomas, The Next Frontier, LLC	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Steve Thomas will serve as the Project Manager through 9-30-21. He will be reimbursed for actual time spent on this project. He will also assist with supporting the on-boarding of a new project manager. Better Futures expects to hire a full time employee to serve in this role.				0.15		\$16,749

University of Minnesota Duluth, Natural Resources Research Institute	Sub award	NRRI will: research emerging techniques for repurposing used goods such as building materials, furniture, textiles, and mattresses. Assist with identifying businesses focused on repurposing such materials. Collect data and with Ecotone Partners prepare economic, social, and environmental impact reports for this project's activities.				1.62		\$201,000
							Sub Total	\$217,749
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	PPP safety gear, fall protection gear, remote time clocks for staff in Greater Minnesota, power saws, tool boxes, power drills and denailers, generators	These tools will be used to repair, restore, repurpose or dismantle materials diverted					\$30,000
	Equipment	Purchase and/or Rental of steel Shipping Containers	For storing materials diverted at transfer stations; for storing materials picked up from customers; and for storing tools and equipment at job sites					\$22,000
							Sub Total	\$52,000
Capital Expenditures								
		15 foot, cab over engine, crew cab box truck with lift gate	For transporting diverted materials from collection sites to locations for sale, repair, and/or repurposing	X				\$50,000
							Sub Total	\$50,000
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	8 meetings x 350 miles per meeting + \$600 for meals = \$2,008	Mileage and meals for site visits and meetings among partners in Twin Cities					\$2,008
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Estimated 10,895 miles with vehicles not purchased with LCCMR funds at .55 a mile = \$5,992; Gas for	Mileage for transport of materials among collection sites and from					\$8,792

		truck purchased with LCCMR funds, estimate of 8,000 traveled = \$2,800	Greater MN to Minneapolis warehouse					
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	20 day visits/workshops, 4 people per trip x 400 miles per trip x .55 per mile + \$960 for food = \$5360	Day Trips: Mileage and meals for in-state travel for up to 20 workshops, meetings with public agency staff, and business development support					\$5,360
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	20 trips x 0.55 per mile x 400 miles per trip \$4,400; Lodging 40 nights x \$200 = \$8000; 120 meals x \$12 a meal = \$1,440	Overnight Travel: 20 overnight trips with meals in State for workshops and agency staff meetings, trainings and business development support in Greater Minnesota					\$13,840
							Sub Total	\$30,000
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$2,244,000

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Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Capital Expenditures		15 foot, cab over engine, crew cab box truck with lift gate	<p>A cost effectiveness analysis has been prepared and the analysis is attached as an optional document</p> <p>Additional Explanation : This project is expected to be maintained and expanded to more parts of the State after the two year LCCMR grant ends. The partners expect the long term operation of the project to be sustained by fee income and earned income generated by providing the services described in this work plan. The truck purchased with LCCMR funds will continue to be dedicated to the activities described in this work plan. It will continue to be used by Better Futures to collect and transport diverted materials from landfills and collection sites statewide throughout its useful life.</p>

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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
In-Kind	Better Futures Minnesota and at least three county partners, not yet identified	The cumulative value of county/Better Futures staff time, work space and utility costs, equipment, insurance, and other operating and administrative costs NOT covered by the LCCMR funds	Pending	\$2,125,000
Cash	Foundations and Revenue from Reuse Activities	These revenue sources will be used to cover costs not funded by the LCCMR grant. Please see the partners' request to reinvest revenue.	Potential	\$850,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$2,975,000
			Funds Total	\$2,975,000

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Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [f7893e96-6dc.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

The attached slide deck presents pictures and highlights from a pilot waste diversion and reuse pilot in Becker County. This pilot, funded with 2018 ENRTF dollars is one prototype for the type of initiatives that will be developed Statewide with this new grant.

The presentation shows the type of materials rescued from the Becker County landfill and it shows scenes from sales events where local residents could shop and buy the materials reclaimed....

Financial Capacity

File: [9975eb8a-873.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Letter from Better Futures Board Chair	1dd8324f-8ce.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
45% of GHG Emissions Generated by Production and Consumption	d20757c3-bb4.pdf
IRS 990 for The Network for Better Futures	d8fcd3cc-9ba.pdf
Cost Effectiveness Analysis for Capital Expense	f1cd49b5-466.docx
Background Check Certification Form	f91f5a76-6c7.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Due to the decrease in the amount of funds awarded, this work plan was adjusted to reflect a reduced level of activity, including:

The projected amount of waste diverted is decreased from 20000 tons to 15000 tons

Accordingly, the estimated amount of CO2 emissions averted is reduced from 15000 MM tons to 11000 MM tons

The number of new jobs to be created is reduced from 18 to 13

Funding for a portion of a Better Futures staff person is eliminated and funding for the two remaining positions is reduced

Funds for a box truck are eliminated

Funding for two consultants, focused on marketing and business development, is eliminated

Accordingly, activities and outcomes related to providing business development assistance to at least 10 potential businesses is deleted

Funding for NRRI is reduced by \$2000

Revisions made on March 4, 2021

8/22/2021

1) Eliminated Steger Leadership Institute as a partner. The COVID lockdown and restrictions reduced the organization's capacity to provide the level of services planned. The \$151,000 budgeted for the Institute's activities has been reallocated in the following manner: Increased NRRI budget from \$166,000 to \$201,000 to generate economic and social impact reports along with environmental impact statements; and, Better Futures' budget is increased by \$116,000 to cover partial costs for one new position and a funding increases for two existing.

The new position is a social media and communications coordinator to disseminate the stories, results, and impact of this project statewide. This person will also coordinate the promotion of online and place-based retail sales. \$47,800 is budgeted to cover .6FT of this position. Increased funding of \$43,150 is provided for the retail sales manager position, \$30,000 to \$73,150. This increases the retail sales person time from .6FT to 1.0 FT.

Additional funding of \$25,050 is also provided for the business manager, \$65,000 to \$90,050. The portion of the business manager's time changes from .6FT to .8FT.

- 2) New activities are added to reflect the additional analyses being completed by the NRRI and their consultant Ecotone Partners.
- 3) New activities are added related to online sales, social media marketing and dissemination of news about the project.
- 4) The increased hours for the Better Futures business manager and the addition of time for Better Futures' social media and communications coordinator will enable the partners to complete the activities originally assigned to the Steger Institute.
- 5) Minor revisions were also made to the plan to clarify and/or provide greater detail about a particular activity or expected result.

Revisions made May 14, 2021

- 1) The description for the Equipment line in the Budget was revised to include the word "purchase and/or" rental of steel containers. In some cases, purchasing a container may be more cost effective. Usually, container cost less than \$2000
- 2) Travel costs were broken out into four categories and detailed expense back up provided for each category
- 3) A new visual component was downloaded
- 4) Attachments were rearranged and placed in the appropriate section
- 5) A new milestone was added to Activity One; a final impact report summarizing the amount of emissions averted; the amount of waste diverted and the number of jobs created will be produced at the end of the grant period.
- 6) Two job titles were changed. The 'social media and communications coordinator' was changed to "Development Director"; the "Business Manager" was changed to "VP for Enterprise Services". The expense allocation for each position remains the same. The duties and responsibilities for each position has not changed.
- 7) A COA was prepared and uploaded in the Optional Attachments section.

8) The capital expenditure budget item was edited, the box "generally ineligible" was checked

Revisions made June 2, 2021

As requested by the LCCMR staff, the statement concerning reinvestment of net revenue from this project was revised to clarify any net revenue will only be used to pay for eligible expenses directly related to this project.

Revisions made July 12, 2021

The budgeted funds for the Vice President for Enterprise Services was reduced by \$47,880 to \$42,170.

The \$47,880 was reallocated to three expense items:

\$32,880 is proposed for a new, generally ineligible expense item, a portion of Better Futures' warehouse rent and utilities. This expense will be incurred as Better Futures launches the activities in this grant, consisting of receiving, processing, repairing, recycling and shipping materials collected from Twin Cities sites. This portion of the warehouse will be used exclusively for the activities outlined in this work plan. A justification for this generally ineligible expense was also inserted.

The expense line for equipment was increased by \$5000 to cover the cost of remote time clocks needed to support new staff at Greater Minnesota locations.

The equipment line was increased by \$10,000 to allow for an increased number of storage containers likely to be needed at job sites and locations in Greater Minnesota.

A note was inserted indicating Steve Thomas will transfer his duties as project manager on 9-30-2021. He will assist with orienting and training the new project manager.

The following note was inserted to clarify how Better Futures intends to use any revenue generated during this project. "As with past LCCMR projects, Better Futures and its partners will reinvest any revenue earned from sales or fees directly into this project. As noted in the project narrative, Better Futures is using the LCCMR funds to launch and test new business activities related to diverting waste from landfills and then reusing, repairing, and repurposing those materials. A key activity is to develop financial models that indicate a realistic path toward long term financial sustainability for these new business activities. Typically, it takes 5 to 7 years for a new business such as these to reach a financial breakeven point. Accordingly, any revenue from sales of items or fees for services will be used to offset direct operating costs not covered by this grant. In addition, Better Futures will use revenue from other contracts and philanthropic sources to cover the expected operating gap over the first two years.

July 13, 2021

The project completion date was changed from June 30, 2023 to July 31, 2023. Activities with June 30, 2023 completion dates were also changed to July 31, 2023.

August 5, 2021

Revised language related to request to reinvest any earned income was inserted after review and approval of LCCMR staff

Proposed funding for warehouse space was deleted and reallocated to VP for Business Services

Funding for contracted project manager was reduced to reflect 9-30-21 end date for this contract; remaining funds allocated to personnel budget to cover expense of Better Futures staff person assuming this role

Travel costs for LCCMR-funded vehicle and vehicles not funded by the LCCMR was revised

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Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

Yes

Do you agree travel expenses must follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

Yes, I agree to the Commissioner's Plan.

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, or sale of products and assets?

Yes

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

Yes

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF? If so, describe here:

Yes, We are requesting to reinvest revenue now and, in the future, as described here. This project is expected to generate a modest level of earned income over its first two years. The earned income is expected from three core activities: 1) the sale of used goods and materials diverted from transfer stations and collected from curb side pickups; 2) collection fees paid by customers for curbside pickup services; and 3) proceeds from selling products made from reclaimed materials. The total projected amount of earned income is \$350,000. No net revenue is expected to be realized during this project. Typically, it takes 5 to 7 years for a project of this size and scope to breakeven financially. This LCCMR grant is a valuable source of startup funding. The LCCMR grant combined with other grant funds, earned revenue, and a substantial investment of in-kind support from Better Futures and its partners will help build a path towards financial sustainability.

As noted in the Non-ENRTF funds section of this work plan, a substantial amount of in-kind support is expected to be committed by Better Futures and at least three county partners. Any earned income will be reinvested directly into this project and be used to offset a portion of these type of project costs (not covered by the LCCMR grant). These types of costs include front line staff time (who will work with employees funded with the LCCMR funds), workspace and utility costs, equipment and maintenance of equipment, fees for disposal of materials not reused or recycled, life coaching, counseling, and housing supports for workers, insurance, and general administrative expenses related to management, fund development, supervision, training, and payroll and accounting expenses.

Any revenue generated from the sale of the vehicle(s) purchased with ENRTF funds is exempted from this revenue reinvestment plan. As certified in the budget portion of the workplan, that asset will continue to be used for the same program through its useful life, or, if the use changes, Better Futures will pay back the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund an amount equal to either the cash value received or a residual value approved by the LCCMR director if it is sold. The vehicle will be tagged as an asset purchased under this award and records kept accordingly of this use and payback requirement.

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Key findings

Today's efforts have focused on the critical role of renewable and energy-efficient measures in the transition to a net-zero economy. However, meeting climate targets will also require tackling the remaining 45% harder-to-abate global emissions, which are associated with the production of goods and materials. A circular economy offers a systems-level and cost effective approach to tackling this challenge. This paper shows that when applied to the food system and industry - more specifically to cement, steel, plastic and aluminium production - circular economy strategies could help reduce global emissions by around 9.3 Gt CO₂e in 2050. This is equivalent to removing all forms of GHG-emitting transport from the planet. Such an emissions reduction could bring key industry materials 40% and the food system 49% closer to their respective net-zero emissions targets for 2050.

COMPLETING THE PICTURE: TACKLING THE OVERLOOKED EMISSIONS

