



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

## 2024 Request for Proposal

### General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2024-249

**Proposal Title:** Reuse for the Future: Youth Education and Engagement

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Emily Barker

**Organization:** Reuse Minnesota

**Office Telephone:** (612) 314-6872

**Email:** emilybarker@reusemn.org

### Project Basic Information

**Project Summary:** To offer curriculum-based opportunities for students to learn about reuse and engage in hands-on activities to cultivate excitement for adopting reuse behaviors into their lives, now and in the future.

**Funds Requested:** \$199,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** June 30, 2026

**LCCMR Funding Category:** Small Projects (H)

**Secondary Category:** Environmental Education (C)

### 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

## Narrative

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

Classroom learning activities related to solid waste are often focused primarily on recycling and composting. While these are important, Reuse Minnesota strives to create more opportunities for students to learn about reuse such as repair, resale, and rental. These activities are critical to building a regenerative economy in our state and combating the climate impacts caused by the production of goods. They also help significantly reduce waste. As we know from our impact study, funded through ENRTF, reuse creates many quality local jobs and generates significant economic activity. Exciting young people about reuse ensures there will be reuse practitioners into the future.

Through a Hennepin County grant, we developed a reuse-focused curriculum for high school students and piloted the program in two high schools in spring 2023. Students heard from our staff about benefits of reuse, the difference between reuse and recycling, how to look at life cycle impacts of products, and ways to implement reuse in their lives. Students heard from guest speakers on topics of textile repair, electronics refurbishment, building material reuse, and unique car restorations. They had hands-on opportunities to practice visible mending and disassemble Chromebooks. Student planned events to share what they learned with their communities.

### **What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.**

We are applying for additional county funding in spring 2023 to refine and expand our curriculum in the next year. We will add learning modules on topics such as tool libraries, fix-it clinics, and running a thrift store. We will create video content and handouts to complement lectures.

With the LCCMR funding, we will align our curriculum with state educational standards, so educators can use the materials to best meet their class needs and know they are meeting state requirements. In addition, we know that multilingual materials are needed to ensure equitable learning opportunities. After alignment, we will hire one or more contractors to translate the materials into 3-4 additional languages. Finally, we will select 10 schools in which to implement the curriculum; 4 will be in-person with Reuse Minnesota staff presenting content and 6 will be supported remotely with teachers presenting content. Teachers who present curriculum content will be trained by Reuse Minnesota staff prior to implementation. Students at all schools will have the opportunity to hear from reuse practitioners and be given hands-on opportunities. Reuse Minnesota staff will also present the curriculum at educator conferences and to any district interested in learning more.

### **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?**

Students will be engaged on topics of reuse so they have the resources needed to reduce waste and adopt other sustainable lifestyle practices. Reuse Minnesota's reuse curriculum will be aligned with state standards to ensure it can be used by educators across the state. Translation of curriculum materials will provide the opportunity for more meaningful engagement of students (and families) who will benefit from materials in their first language. 10 schools will implement the curriculum during the grant and have curriculum available into the future.

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Curriculum alignment with Minnesota state standards

**Activity Budget:** \$35,775

**Activity Description:**

Using an RFP process, Reuse Minnesota will hire a contractor to align our curriculum with Minnesota state educational standards. We seek to maximize the number of educational disciplines that can utilize the curriculum, so standards will be matched in STEAM, family and consumer sciences (FACS), trades, and more. Utilizing a contractor that is well versed in Minnesota standards will ensure we meet this goal. The alignment will be provided to school districts for review prior to finalization.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Hire contractor to complete alignment with state standards	September 30, 2024
Share curriculum (with standards) with school districts for review	November 30, 2024
Finalize alignment	February 28, 2025

### Activity 2: Curriculum translation

**Activity Budget:** \$40,630

**Activity Description:**

To ensure our curriculum is accessible and usable to a wide number of educators and students, we will use an RFP process to hire one or more contractors to translate materials from English to 3 or 4 additional languages. All curriculum materials will be translated and then provided to school districts for review prior to finalization.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Hire contractor(s) to translate all curriculum materials	January 31, 2025
Share curriculum translations with school districts for review	April 30, 2025
Finalize translations	June 30, 2025

### Activity 3: Curriculum implementation and dissemination

**Activity Budget:** \$122,595

**Activity Description:**

The bulk of this project will be implementation and dissemination of the curriculum. We will identify at least 10 schools (or districts, depending on size) that wish to adopt the curriculum. Our equity platform (<https://reusemn.org/mission>) will guide our selection to ensure we work with a diverse set of educational institutions. We will consider school location and select at least 3 schools in Greater Minnesota. We will also prioritize schools in communities that are disproportionately impacted by waste and environmental degradation. For schools selected for in-person implementation, Reuse Minnesota staff will travel to the schools to give presentations and work directly with students. For schools selected for remote implementation, our staff will work with educators via Zoom to do "train the trainer" sessions, so teachers are prepared to use the curriculum. In all cases, Reuse Minnesota staff will identify and recruit guest speakers to present on topics such as deconstruction, electronics refurbishment, fix-it clinics, and more. Reuse Minnesota staff will present overviews of the curriculum at events such as FACS to the Max and the MN

Association for Environmental Education conference. We will create dedicated space on our website for teachers to obtain curriculum resources into the future.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Select schools for implementation of curriculum (4 in-person, 6 remote)	February 28, 2025
Train the trainer for remote implementation schools	April 30, 2025
Upload all materials to Reuse Minnesota website	June 30, 2025
Presentations at educator workshops and conferences	December 31, 2025
Curriculum implementation (fall 2025/spring 2026)	April 30, 2026

## Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Annika Bergen	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Reuse Minnesota Board President, expertise, guidance	No
Kira Berglund	Hennepin County	Solid waste professional focused on work with schools; guidance on best practices for working with schools; grant manager for current county grant	No

## 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 work be funded?**

Reuse Minnesota's curriculum and all associated materials are available for use by educators, free of charge. The curriculum, once matched to state standards and including all translated materials, will be available on our website. These materials will be shared with teaching professionals through a variety of teachers associations throughout the state, through our government partners who often work with schools, and through school districts. Reuse Minnesota staff will continue to be a resource to answer questions, suggest guest speakers, and provide other support to educators implementing the curriculum.

## Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Expanding the State's Reuse Economy to Conserve Natural Resources	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 05j	\$275,000
Strengthening Minnesota's Reuse Economy To Conserve Natural Resources	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 07f	\$334,000

## Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

**Project Manager Name:** Emily Barker

**Job Title:** Executive Director

**Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.**

Emily Barker has a decade of experience working in areas related to waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting. As the Executive Director of Reuse Minnesota, her role is to lead the organization, build partnerships, and support the reuse sector throughout Minnesota. Previously she was a solid waste specialist for the City of St. Louis Park where she established a series of swap events, championed the deconstruction of city-owned properties, and created a directory of reuse businesses. Emily also spent two and a half years at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency where she worked on commercial and state agency recycling and composting. She has experience creating training programs, such as the St. Louis Park Recycling Champions program which engages citizen ambassadors in peer-to-peer waste prevention and recycling information sharing. Emily has also created educational programs and classes, including Reuse Minnesota's youth reuse curriculum for high school students, funded through Hennepin County's Green Partners grant program. She is a frequent presenter at events and meetings for the general public, government staff, reuse professionals, and more. Emily has experience managing several grants, including grants through LCCMR/ENRTF, Hennepin County, and MPCA. Emily has a life-long commitment to reuse and waste reduction, which she puts into practice personally and

professionally on a regular basis. Outside of work, she serves as a board member and volunteer for Old School thrift store in Minneapolis. Emily has a biology degree from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington.

**Organization:** Reuse Minnesota

**Organization Description:**

Reuse Minnesota was founded in 2012 and is a member-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to leading a movement grounded in the principles of reuse. Our membership includes small and large reuse businesses, government entities, academic institutions, and individuals who support reuse. We build partnerships and support this vibrant network of reuse practitioners through education, advocacy, promotion. We envision regenerative, reuse-centered communities that protect the environment and value the well-being of future generations. Reuse Minnesota believes in the value of all people and chooses to be an organization that not only welcomes diverse voices and perspectives, but actively seeks to incorporate them. We are committed to building the next generation of reusers and ensuring that the majority of Minnesotans understand the environmental, social, and economic benefits of reuse.

Reuse Minnesota currently has two staff including a full-time Executive Director and part-time Communications Assistant. The organization is overseen by a volunteer board of directors. Board members are actively engaged in member recruitment, fundraising, financial oversight, governance, and strategic planning.

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
<b>Personnel</b>								
Executive Director		Project oversight, reporting, reimbursement submittals; contractor management; curriculum implementation, teacher training for curriculum use			20%	1.2		\$115,300
Communications Assistant		Support for curriculum implementation and teacher trainings including scheduling and promotion; graphics creation for additional class materials and translated materials; phone and email support related to grant activities.			15%	0.5		\$28,300
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$143,600</b>
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Contractor will translate Reuse Minnesota's curriculum to additional languages (e.g. Spanish, Hmong, Somali) to ensure learning is available to many students across the state. Hiring of person or contractor will adhere to state contracting guidelines and a competitive bid process.				0.25		\$22,000
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Contractor will align Reuse Minnesota's curriculum to Minnesota educational standards to ensure ease of implementation and use by teaching professionals. Hiring of person or contractor will adhere to state contracting guidelines and a competitive bid process.				0.1		\$10,000
Three Rivers Consulting, LLC	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Accountant: Grant financial management. To satisfy grant accountability and fiscal management, an accountant is necessary for this ENRTF grant period. Three Rivers is our current accountant.				0.08		\$7,200
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$39,200</b>
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>								
	Equipment	Zoom videoconferencing	Virtual meetings and webinars to provide remote support to schools					\$1,500

			implementing the curriculum in Greater Minnesota, and for training educators in areas where in-person travel is not possible					
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	5000 miles X \$0.655 = \$3275 + \$3025 food and lodging	In-person training and implementation of reuse curriculum at schools in Greater Minnesota					\$6,300
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$6,300</b>
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>								
	Printing	Curriculum information and handouts	Printed copies of curriculum information for promotion to educators, such as at conference presentations. Handouts for students in schools implementing the curriculum. Reuse Minnesota limits printing as much as possible, using electronic communication whenever possible, however some physical handouts will help enrich student experience of the curriculum..					\$1,400
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,400</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>								



		Speaker honorariums	Honoriums of \$200 each for individuals, nonprofits, and small business guest speakers in schools where curriculum is implemented. Budget allows for up to 3 per school. Providing an honorarium ensures that a wider variety of individuals can be invited to share their reuse knowledge and skills, and honors the wisdom and time that goes into preparing materials and giving a presentation.					\$6,000
		Background checks for speakers	Background checks for guest speakers in schools to comply with LCCMR requirements. Unless it were to be required by the school or district, we do not typically run background checks for one-time guest speakers.					\$1,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$199,000</b>

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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## Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
<b>State</b>				
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Non-State</b>				
Cash	Membership revenue	General operating	Pending	\$20,000
Cash	Hennepin County Green Partners grant	Phase 1 - Curriculum development, initial pilots in two schools	Secured	\$10,000
Cash	Hennepin County Green Partners grant	Phase 2 - Curriculum refinement, adding modules, creating video content, additional school implementation	Potential	\$25,000
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [d63b12f8-2ec.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

Tutorial: How to create a mending kit (created as a curriculum resource based on kits provided to students for project funded by Hennepin County)...

#### *Financial Capacity*

File: [c6a0f605-d28.pdf](#)

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
Reuse Minnesota board resolution	<a href="#">e254b80c-12e.pdf</a>

### Optional Attachments

#### *Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other*

Title	File
Application from curriculum project currently funded by Hennepin County	<a href="#">0586c1cb-eb7.pdf</a>
Letter of support - Shannon Nordby (Roosevelt HS)	<a href="#">df301134-6af.pdf</a>

## Administrative Use

**Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?**

No

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

No

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

N/A

**Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?**

N/A

**Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?**

No

**Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?**

No

**Does your project include the design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other capital asset costing \$10,000 or more?**

No

**Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services, as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7?**

Yes

**Do you certify that background checks are performed for background check crimes, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 299C.61, Subd. 2, on all employees, contractors, and volunteers who have or may have access to a child to whom children's services are provided by your organization?**

Yes

