

# Re+ Fast Start Action Overview

## Re+ City Grants

### Description

King County Solid Waste Division (SWD) is developing a competitive grant program for King County cities to implement innovative zero waste and recycling projects. Cities who sign the Re+ Pledge in support of the Re+ plan and the County's zero waste of resources goals can apply to this \$300,000 per biennium grant program. The grant applications are anticipated to open in early 2023 for a two-year grant cycle. Funding priorities are prevention and reuse, recycling, and equity and social justice (ESJ). Grant criteria will be developed in consultation with King County cities and the County's Re+ Community Panel.

### Background

The materials being targeted are organics (including food waste and wood), plastic, and paper, which make up an estimated 70% of materials of value sent to the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill. The purpose of this new competitive grant is to incentivize King County cities to do more to help meet the Re+ goal of zero waste of resources by 2030. Cities currently receive non-competitive grant funds for their ongoing recycling and waste reduction programs; however, King County recycling rates have remained relatively flat for nearly a decade (going from 50% in 2010 to 54% in 2017). If past trends continue, it is projected we would only hit 60% recycling by around 2030. This new grant program is intended to help move the needle closer to zero waste of resources.

### Benefits

Preventing waste and reusing and recycling materials has significant benefits for King County residents, including tackling the climate emergency by reducing greenhouse gases emitted throughout the lifecycle of materials and products. This could include the avoided energy consumption associated with the mining and extraction of virgin materials and reduced methane emissions generated from material disposal. Projects funded with this grant could result in many environmental and social benefits, including rescuing food for human consumption, reducing greenhouse gases, creating green jobs, and saving water and energy. Projects with an emphasis on ESJ could include serving non-English speaking populations, partnering with Tribes, and providing cultural competency training to city staff.

### Considerations

- Costs:
  - \$300,000 total over the biennium starting 2023 and ongoing.
  - County and city staff time to manage an additional grant program.
- Challenges:



- Cities may or may not be interested in and/or have the capacity to apply for and manage additional grant funds.

## Equity and Social Justice Considerations

King County SWD is committed to advancing equity and social justice (ESJ) within its workplace and the communities we serve, and as such we are working to incorporate more ESJ practices into our grant programs. Grant criteria will include an evaluation of how grant funded projects align with [King County's Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan](#).

## Next Steps

- Q4 2022: City Recycling Coordinator and Re+ Community Panel engagement
- Q3/Q4 2022: Grant development
- Q1 2023: Presentation/discussion with advisory committees
- Q1 2023: Grant applications open, outreach to cities
- Q2 2023: Evaluation, negotiation and contract signing
- Q3 2023 - Q2 2025: Ongoing contract management

### *Questions?*

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