



News Release

USDA Announces Cooperative Agreements for Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction

Indianapolis, IN, May 12, 2020 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the availability of \$900,000 for local governments to host a Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CCFWR) pilot project for fiscal year (FY) 2020. The cooperative agreements will support projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans. The agreements are offered through USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.

"Food waste shouldn't end up in landfills when options like food recovery and composting are available," Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Bill Northey said. "Such options not only benefit communities and the environment, they can also provide farmers and urban gardeners with exceptional, nutrient dense planting material."

"We are tapping into the creativity of communities across the nation to rethink the lifecycle of food in ways that minimize waste and maximize use," said Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Greg Ibach. "We look forward to highlighting the innovative practices of selected pilot projects."

USDA will accept applications on [Grants.gov](https://www.usda.gov/grants) until midnight June 26, 2020. Projects should span two years with a start date of October 1, 2020 and completion date of September 29, 2022.

Cooperative agreements support projects led by local governments that: 1) generate compost; 2) increase access to compost for agricultural producers; 3) reduce reliance on, and limit the use of, fertilizer; 4) improve soil quality; 5) encourage waste management and permaculture business development; 6) increase rainwater absorption; 7) reduce municipal food waste; and 8) divert food waste from landfills. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide assistance for conservation related activities.

Priority will be given to projects that anticipate or demonstrate economic benefits; incorporate plans to make compost easily accessible to farmers, including community gardeners; integrate other food waste strategies, including food recovery efforts; and collaborate with multiple partners.

A webinar, which will be held on June 4, 2020, from 2 to 4 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, will provide an overview of the cooperative agreements' purpose, project types, eligibility and basic requirements for submitting an application. Information on how to register and participate in the webinar, or listen to the recording, will be posted at <https://www.farmers.gov/manage/urban/opportunities>.

Questions about this cooperative agreement opportunity can be sent to UrbanAgriculture@usda.gov.

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