

2019-2020 Investment and Innovation Grants

Below is a summary of the FY2019-20 Investment and Innovation (I&I) grants. The **17 grants** represent a **total Metro investment of \$6,117,919**, which will leverage an additional \$6,886,776 in matching funds provided by the grant recipients.

Investment and Innovation grants are intended to build lasting, private-sector and nonprofit-sector capacity to reduce waste through reuse, recycling, composting or energy creation from discarded materials in the Metro region. They seek to both strengthen local efforts to reduce the amount and toxicity of waste while generating positive benefits for communities of color and other communities that have historically not benefitted from the garbage and recycling system.

I&I CAPITAL GRANTS

City of Roses Disposal & Recycling ***Material Recovery Facility Expansion***

Grant amount: \$311,500
Match amount: \$311,500
Total amount: \$623,000

City of Roses Disposal & Recycling will install an elevated sort line to replace the existing floor sort process for increased dry waste recovery and improved working conditions. Recovery rate of dry waste is expected to increase from 50 percent to 60 percent. Grant funds will be used for construction, equipment (processing line, wire granulator and pre-shredder) and professional services.

Denton Plastics ***Single Stream Eco-Line***

Grant amount: \$684,496
Match amount: \$684,496
Total amount: \$1,368,992

Denton Plastics will install an Eco-Line, a series of four new pieces of equipment that will expand capacity and improve performance for additional processing of plastics into feedstock for manufacturers. This project targets material such as used plastic containers from grocery stores, restaurants and nurseries that are currently too dirty to process and would otherwise be discarded. Denton estimates the Eco-Line will process 4,680 to 6,240 tons of material each year that would otherwise go to a landfill. Grant funds will be used for equipment, construction, materials and professional services.

Environmental Fibers International

Unders Recovery

Grant amount: \$310,000

Match amount: \$312,000

Total amount: \$622,000

Environmental Fibers International will install new equipment to recover more than 65 percent of the “unders,” the small materials that fall through sort screens and are currently landfilled (shredded paper, small paper scraps, plastic pieces, and small metals). EFI estimates it will be able to recycle 160 tons of mixed paper and containers per month as a result. Grant funds will be used for equipment, materials and supplies and professional services.

GreenWay Recycling

Advanced Material Recovery System

Grant amount: \$750,000

Match amount: \$750,000

Total amount: \$1,500,000

GreenWay Recycling will build an advanced dry-waste recovery system with new equipment and processes to increase recovery of primarily construction and demolition materials. GreenWay’s overall recovery rate is projected to increase from 41 percent to 56 percent, and workplace conditions will improve by separating workers from processing machinery (removing dust and noise hazards). Grant funds will be used for a conveyor, ballistic sorter, and terminator shedder, and a small portion of the budget is allocated to diversity, equity and inclusion consulting services provided by Constructing Hope.

Grimm’s Fuel Company

Compost System Modernization

Grant amount: \$750,000

Match amount: \$750,000

Total amount: \$1,500,000

Grimm’s Fuel Company will modernize its compost system from static piles to aerated static pile composting to reduce odors and increase yard debris recycling capacity by 50 to 60 percent. The grant is for Phase II of a larger project, and includes land-clearing, building a bulkhead wall, laying aeration and drainage pipes, pouring the concrete floor, and installing blowers, dampers, bio-filters and related process control devices. Grant funds will also be used for a bucket loader to accommodate the additional movement of material with the new compost system.

Pioneer Recycling Services

Optical Sorting of Mixed Paper

Grant amount: \$750,000

Match amount: \$1,850,000

Total amount: \$2,600,000

Pioneer Recycling Services will install optical sorters on existing sort lines to remove contaminants (plastic, metal and trash) and produce higher quality paper bales than human sorters can produce. This equipment will allow Pioneer to make higher quality bales that will be better suited for recycling can meet stringent end-market quality specifications. Grant funds will be used for the optical sorters and related construction, materials and supply costs.

Recology Oregon Compost
Aumsville Compost Facility Expansion

Grant amount: \$750,000
Match amount: \$750,000
Total amount: \$1,500,000

Recology Oregon Compost will create two mass beds for active composting, replacing six small beds, and expand the existing cure pad. The project is anticipated to increase processing capacity of residential and commercial food scraps and yard debris by 44,000 tons per year. Grant funds will be used for costs of construction, permitting, equipment, materials and supplies and professional services.

Recology Oregon Compost
North Plains Compost Facility Expansion

Grant amount: \$750,000
Match amount: \$750,000
Total amount: \$1,500,000

Recology Oregon Compost will create two mass beds for active composting and expand the existing cure pad. The project is anticipated to increase processing capacity of residential food scraps and yard debris by 24,000 tons per year. Additionally, Recology will improve stormwater and leachate infrastructure, and implement operational changes to improve traffic flow onsite. Grant funds will be used for construction, equipment and professional services.

Urban Gypsum
Pelletizing/Processing System for Drywall Waste Reduction

Grant amount: \$541,500
Match amount: \$541,500
Total amount: \$1,083,000

Urban Gypsum will install new equipment that will pelletize and package recycled drywall powder to produce a gypsum product for agricultural use. Urban Gypsum will be able to process at least 66,875 tons of drywall annually. As part of the project, Urban Gypsum has committed to working with Constructing Hope for diversity, equity and inclusion consulting services. Grant funds will be used for construction costs and to purchase processing and storage equipment, and a bagging system.

I&I PROGRAM GRANTS

Salvage Works

Wood shop expansion

Grant amount: \$58,772

Match amount: \$14,516

Total investment: \$73,288

Salvage Works will expand its custom furniture wood shop to enable the company to transform more reclaimed lumber into high-quality furniture. The grant funds will purchase equipment to bring re-saw services in-house, which will enable Salvage Works to double the tons of reclaimed wood that it processes into furniture from house deconstructions (an additional approximately 45 tons of wood per year). The wood shop expansion will help the company expand its product line to use a wider range of reclaimed lumber. The company expects to add two full-time staff that will be exclusively recruited from technical training programs serving youth of color and people with barriers to employment.

ReBuilding Center

Equity and Efficiency in Reuse Operations

Grant amount: \$75,000

Match amount: \$16,820

Total investment: \$91,820

The ReBuilding Center will develop a centralized processing area and pricing system as part of a larger project to significantly improve inventory and resale systems by 2021. The suite of proposed improvements will enable the ReBuilding Center to more effectively receive, process, and sell reusable building materials to the community at a low price. Grant funds will be used to hire two new salvage specialists for product research, merchandising, pricing, lumber processing and customer assistance. The organization is currently undergoing an equity assessment to help shape organizational policies and staff and board training.

Lovett Deconstruction, Inc.

Full House Deconstruction Training Program

Grant amount: \$66,316

Match amount: \$16,579

Total investment: \$82,895

Lovett Deconstruction will scale up the company's deconstruction services by acquiring the tools and equipment needed to recruit, train and outfit an additional deconstruction team. With a new crew the company estimates it can deconstruct an additional 12 homes per year, diverting thousands of cubic yards of materials from entering the waste stream. Metals from their deconstructed homes are recycled and reusable materials are transferred to retail venues in the Metro region. Lovett's expansion will create four jobs, and the company has committed to leveraging existing partnerships with community organizations to recruit and hire a diverse workforce. Lovett provides all of its staff with diversity and equity training and reimbursement for English as a Second Language and work-related trainings.

City of Roses Disposal & Recycling
Building Capacity for New Wood Waste Markets

Grant amount: \$65,000
Match amount: \$13,000
Total amount: \$78,000

This grant will support City of Roses' recently launched division to create and expand new commercial-scale markets for wood waste by creating pallet "kits" and architectural panels from discarded wood. Approximately 170 to 300 tons of wood per month will be processed for reuse in these new markets. Grant funds will support staff time to solicit additional material supply, process materials and fulfill orders, and after the grant ends the positions will be sustained through ongoing sales revenue.

Repair PDX
Repair Education Programming and Outreach

Grant amount: \$31,689
Match amount: \$9,129
Total amount: \$40,818

Repair PDX will provide repair skill workshops and apprenticeships and host multiple "Repair Café" events. The project estimates it will result in repair of more than 26 tons of material per year that would otherwise likely be discarded as waste. Repair PDX will partner with local non profits and public schools to teach sewing and technology repair skills to resilient youth experiencing homelessness and other school-aged students. Grant funds will support an Education and Outreach Coordinator and related materials.

University of Portland
Intelligent Curbside Recycling: Composition and Contamination Analysis

Grant amount: \$74,774
Match amount: \$76,346
Total amount: \$151,120

University of Portland will install intelligent robotic platforms on collection vehicles to detect and quantify the composition and contamination of residential curbside recycling at pick-up. Information gathered with this proof-of-concept technology will provide a detailed data set on the recycling and contamination practices of multiple communities in the region and inform future contamination handling needs. Grant funds will support staff time and sensor platform equipment including cameras, microphones and proximity range sensors.

Urban Gleaners
The Second Shift Food Rescue Initiative

Grant amount: \$73,872
Match amount: \$24,960
Total amount: \$98,832

Urban Gleaners will scale up its proven model for food rescue that picks up and repackages large quantities of surplus edible food from local businesses and delivers to pantries and meal sites in the region. This grant will fund an expansion of services and additional staff for an evening "second shift" to better accommodate the needs of donors and recipients that may not be available to donate

or receive during day times. The estimated impact is an increase of rescued food by 87,000 pounds per year. Grant funds will be used for staff, materials and supplies, and transportation costs.

Urban Gypsum, LLC

Waste Reduction Specialist for Increased Drywall Recycling

Grant amount: \$75,000

Match amount: \$16,200

Total amount: \$91,200

Urban Gypsum will hire a Spanish and English-speaking Waste Reduction Specialist to increase its supply of recovered drywall from construction sites for processing for reuse as agricultural and industrial products. Urban Gypsum seeks to grow its supply to reach its capacity of processing over 60,000 tons of drywall per year. The new position will be hired through a first source agreement with Prosper Portland, and the grant also includes funding for Constructing Hope to provide support on improving the company's diversity, equity and inclusion practices.