



Eco-Impact Grant Guidelines

Ecomaine's eco-Impact Grants provide project-specific funds to schools and educational organizations to support sustainable waste management efforts. Qualified projects should be new or expanding, and involve students and educators in waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, or other waste diversion strategies.

1. Grant eligibility/qualifications

- a) Must be a school or non-profit organization serving students that live in an ecomaine community. Visit ecomaine.org for a full list of ecomaine communities.
- b) To receive full funding, the organization must agree to participate in two progress reports to ecomaine: one in-person site visit and review conducted by ecomaine staff in early spring of 2027; and a written closing report detailing the project status and plans for completion (submitted no later than May 3, 2027).
- c) Organizations understand that ecomaine may share information about their project model with other schools and organizations for replication purposes.
- d) Organizations who have received the grant previously are eligible to apply under the following guidelines: projects should be either new and distinct from the prior project; or substantially expand or build upon the prior funded project leading to its eventual sustainability. This grant should not be considered a continuous year-over-year source of funding for a single project.

2. Grant Funds Available

- a) ecomaine will make eco-Impact Grants available from a pool of \$25,000.
- b) Organizations may apply for a grant in any amount up to \$7,500. A detailed budget is required as part of the application process to justify funding. See the Application Questions section of the Guidelines for a budget template.
- c) Money awarded by ecomaine must be spent in accordance with the applicant's submission to ecomaine.
- d) Grant monies will be awarded to schools or non-profits, not to individuals.
- e) Grant monies will be disbursed at the following intervals:
 - a. 80% upon signature of initial grant agreement.
 - b. 20% upon completion of the final project report.



3. Grant Application

- a) Applications are due by 11:59pm on Tuesday, October 20th; late applications will not be considered.
- b) Grant applications must be approved by the school or organizational leadership (principal, superintendent, president, or executive director). Applicants will attest to this approval in their application.
- c) The application must be submitted via ecomaine's application form, [which can be accessed here](#). To help you prepare your application, the questions are available to you in the "Application Questions" section of this document.

4. Notification

- a) All applicants who have provided valid contact information will be notified of whether their application was successful no later than December 1, 2026.
- b) ecomaine may contact applicants with questions about their submission. These questions do not constitute notification that funds have been awarded.
- c) Recipients of grants must respond to ecomaine's notification of funding and return their signed grant agreement by December 10, 2026, to be eligible for funds.

Closing reports are to be completed no later than May 3, 2027. Failure to complete required reports may affect future grant consideration.

Examples of Eligible and Ineligible Projects

The following examples are provided to help guide you in determining whether your proposed project is eligible for funding. It does not constitute a comprehensive list of eligible projects, and we encourage creative ideas and solutions. If you have further questions, please contact info@ecomaine.org.

Eligible Projects

Projects that reduce solid waste through reduction, reuse, recycling, or composting.

Examples:

- a) School-Wide Composting Program: Launching a composting initiative in the cafeteria and classrooms, including compost bins, student training, and signage.
- b) Reusable Cafeteria Ware Initiative: Replacing disposable plates, cups, and utensils with reusable items to reduce waste during school meals.
- c) Recycling Bin Expansion and Education Campaign: Adding recycling bins in key areas and creating student-led videos or posters to teach proper recycling habits.

Ineligible Projects

Projects that do not include waste reduction or diversion; one-time events; projects focused on awareness-raising without measurable outcomes; funding for a service without integrated educational efforts that involve students.

Examples:

- a) School Garden or Gardening supplies without composting: A rain barrel for a school garden without food waste composting or solid waste diversion efforts.
- b) Beautification or Landscaping Projects: Painting murals, planting trees, or other aesthetic improvements not tied directly to waste reduction or having an objective with a measurable outcome.
- c) Funding for Subscription Service: A subscription for a curbside compost pickup without student involvement or a plan for sustaining the service long term.

Application Questions

This list of questions is for reference, to assist you with preparing your application.

Applications must be submitted through our online form to be considered.

Project Contact Information

- Name, title and contact information for the primary point of contact for the project

School/Organization Information

- Name of School / Organization
- Name of ecomaine Community
- Physical Address
- Name and email of school/organization administrator approving funding
- Has your school ever received a grant from ecomaine? If so, what year?

Proposal Narrative

- Describe your proposed project. Include:
 - o a description of the problem or need you wish to address and how this project will contribute to a solution
 - o The project activities and an approximate timeline (please note that initial funds will be available in December, and closing reports are due May 1, 2027) *Recommended: 250-500 words.*
- How might this project be replicated or sustained after the conclusion of the initial grant term? *Recommended: 150-250 words.*
- How does this project integrate with your curriculum, or your organization's work as a whole? *Recommended: 150-250 words.*
- How will students play an active role in this project, and what do you expect them to learn from this experience? *Recommended: 150-250 words.*
- How will you evaluate the success of this project? *Recommended: 100-150 words.*
- Total amount of grant funding requested (Up to \$7,500)
- Project Budget. [A template is provided for your use.](#) Projects are not required to use this template, but a similar level of detail is expected. This budget template should be submitted to ecomaine no later than October 20, 2026.

Timeline and Reporting Confirmation

- Do you agree to participate in a timely mid-year review (February/March 2027) and to submit a closing report (May 1, 2027), and to provide any additional updates to ecomaine regarding personnel changes or other barriers to completion as necessary?