

State of WI SWIFR Funding

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WIRMC 2024

Grant Award

- State SWIFR non-competitive
- ‘Base’ funding for each of \$300-500K, additional funding based on ‘5 programmatic factors’
 - Legislation in place that mandates a solid waste management plan or a waste characterization report
 - Depth and breadth of a state’s data collection efforts
 - When a state’s solid waste management plan or waste characterization report was last updated
 - Available resources for implementing a solid waste management program
 - Additional programmatic factors such as the level of environmental justice incorporated into a program, extent of focus on source reduction efforts, climate considerations, or the existence of other grant programs
- WDNR awarded \$551,877

Project Focus: Food Waste Reduction

Why?

- 2020-2021 Waste Characterization Study identified wasted food as largest category of material being disposed of in WI landfills- over 20%
- State's "Blueprint for DNR Climate Action 2021-2025" includes goal to reduce per-capita food waste disposed by half by 2030 (from 2020 levels)
- In 2015, US EPA and USDA announced national goal to reduce food loss and waste by 50% by 2030
- Food waste is responsible for 58% of landfill methane emissions released to the atmosphere

3 Primary Activities

1. Hiring a minimum 2-year position to focus on regulatory assistance related to the National Food Loss and Waste Reduction Goal
2. Contracting to conduct research and develop a statewide food waste management plan related to the National Food Loss and Waste Reduction Goal
3. Contracting with a non-regulatory entity to provide statewide technical assistance and services to local governments, businesses, institutions, and farms on projects that prevent or divert food waste

Organics Waste Management Specialist

- Primary Duties
 - Assist with developing public education and outreach efforts that inform people and businesses about ways to prevent and reduce organic waste generation
 - Assist with developing guidance and trainings and to provide technical assistance to entities wishing to manage organic waste materials
 - Make contacts within the department and partner with other Wisconsin agencies and universities on advancing food waste reduction and composting project
 - Assist with preparing and managing contracts
- Deadline to apply was Feb. 12

RFP for WI Food Waste Management Evaluation

- Issued Jan. 30
- Deadline for clarifying questions: Feb. 22 at 4:30 p.m.
- Responses due Mar. 4 at 2:00 p.m.
- Identified budget: \$188,000

RFP for WI Food Waste Management Evaluation

Goals of study:

- Identify geographic and structural areas of organics waste generation and gaps in current organics waste management infrastructure relating to food.
- Assess statutes and administrative code for opportunities to promote food waste prevention activities (source reduction, feed people, feed animals, composting/anaerobic digestion, landspreading).
- Evaluate food waste management options in Wisconsin, including options throughout the food waste reduction hierarchy/scale.
- Develop a plan that incorporates strategies and policy options for sustainably managing food and food-related organics and meeting the DNR Climate Action goal.
- Analyze the economic costs and benefits of implementing the food waste management plan.
- Design data collection, measurement and analysis methods to track progress towards the state's food waste reduction and diversion goal.

Contract with a Non-Regulatory Entity

- Provide technical assistance to interested local governments, businesses, institutions and farms
- Assistance may include
 - One-on-one consultations and customized recommendations
 - Information on project funding opportunities
 - Information and solutions for food waste reduction, food donation, and food scraps recycling
- Efforts will be made to connect with and offer services to disadvantaged communities
- Expected timeframe: summer 2025

Questions?

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