Recycling Infrastructure & Economics Study
Request for Grant Proposals

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Office of Program Support on behalf of the Recycling Market Development Board (RMDB) is requesting proposals to conduct a state-wide municipal solid waste (MSW) and recycling infrastructure and economic impact study in the State of Indiana. Funding for one project will be awarded on a competitive basis.

PURPOSE

According to IC 4-23-5.5-9(4), the board may provide funding for studies, research projects, and other activities required to assess the nature and extent of recycling markets in Indiana and the nature and extent of recycling resources to meet the needs of the state.

The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate Indiana’s recycling infrastructure in the context of the state’s needs, and include an analysis of Indiana’s recycled materials and markets so that the state can evaluate investment needs and recycling economic development opportunities within the circular economy.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must have experience in surveys, research projects, and data analysis.
- Applicants must be in good standing with any other IDEM-funded projects.
- Applicant must demonstrate a basic level of understanding of the kinds of infrastructure and activities associated with managing solid waste, recycling, and organics, including food waste.
- Applicant should be willing to attend the quarterly Recycling Market Development Board meetings to provide updates on the progress of the study.

PROJECT GOALS AND SCOPE OF SERVICES

Task 1: Determine Indiana’s MSW waste and recycling infrastructure. Support results with reference data from Re-TRAC, IDEM’s Solid Waste and Recycling Data Reporting program as posted on IDEM’s webpage: https://www.in.gov/idem/recycle/2448.htm.

- Identify and map-out the waste and recycling infrastructure in the state. Include MSW landfills, transfer stations, material recovery facilities (MRFs), commercial organic recycler facilities, and other recycler facilities.
- Assess MSW waste disposal and recycling amounts.
- Identify recycled commodities produced in Indiana from single stream and source separated collection for materials including glass, metals, paper, plastic, and organics.
- Trace the flow of recyclables from single stream and source separated collection to processing and ultimately to markets.

Task 2: Assess the collection infrastructure needs and development opportunities associated with recycling.

- Evaluate the type of recycling access available in Indiana, including:
  - Number and location of curbside programs
  - Number of households served by curbside programs
- Number and location of drop-off recycling programs
- Number and location of organics recycling facilities
- The management of recyclables from commercial/institutional/industrial sectors
- The services provided by solid waste management districts, cities and towns, and waste haulers
  - Evaluate the cost of service
  - Evaluate participation
  - Assess capture behavior
  - Identify areas with limited access

**Task 3:** Study the economic impact of recycling on the state’s economy and how it relates to collection and sorting.

- Assess and identify Indiana businesses in the recycling industry in the glass, metals, paper, and plastics sectors that reprocess or use recyclables. Include glass container mills, foundries, steel mini-mills, smelting and refining operations, paper mills, and plastic reclaimers. Also, address recyclables in the organic sector.
- Assess the economic impact (employees, wages, total receipts) of the recycling industry by sector and type of operation (collection, sorting, and end users of recyclables).
- List current types and number of jobs associated with recycling and potential additional opportunities for job creation that may result from increased recycling. Identify the number of people directly employed by the recycling industry and their associated wages.
- Identify the tax revenue generated from the recycling economy.
- Assess the in-state demand for recyclable materials.
- Address adequacy of supply to feed recycling business demand with in-state material & opportunities to increase material supply after shipments from MRFs
- Compare to Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. (ISRI), Recycling Economic Information (REI) studies.

**Task 4:** Analyze and summarize the findings involved with the first three tasks and provide recommendations.

- Estimate current MRF capacity for processing single stream and source-separated recyclables.
- Estimate current organics recycling capacity
- Identify barriers to expanding the recycling economy
- Identify the current economic investment (capital) in recycling for collection and sorting and the needed or prospective investment needed for collection and sorting.
- Identify sustainable state & local funding mechanisms

**MATCH REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants are required to provide at least 25% cost share of total project costs (professors’/faculty members and staff, and students’ work may count as in-kind matches).
**TIMELINE**

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Approve request for grant proposals</td>
<td>November 7, 2019 (Board Meeting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post request for grant proposals</td>
<td>November 15, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant proposals due</td>
<td>January 10, 2020, 5 p.m. EST</td>
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<td>Award funding for grant proposal</td>
<td>Early March</td>
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**PROPOSAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

Applicants should submit a proposal outlining their approach to the project, a brief biography of individuals who will perform the tasks noted above, total cost estimate, and length of time required to complete the study.

The RMDB will award the project based on a combination of these factors. Applicants must acknowledge any potential conflicts of interest with IDEM and the RMDB within their submittal. Proposals must include:

- Name of the applicant
- Contact Information: address, email, and phone number of contact person(s)
- Project approach
- Personnel biographies and qualifications
- Work plan and timeline
- Projected budget

Proposals must be sent in PDF format not to exceed 5 pages in length. Applications must be emailed by January 10, 2020 no later than 5 p.m. EST to Deanna Garner at rmdpGrants@idem.IN.gov.