



Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Guidelines

**Indiana Department of Environmental
Management**



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Program Overview

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) received \$572,065 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling \(SWIFR\) Grants for States and Territories](#) to advance statewide efforts that support the National Recycling Goal and the Food Loss and Waste Reduction Goal.

SWIFR funding helps local waste authorities and municipal recycling programs by improving post-consumer material handling, strengthening recycling systems, and enhancing local waste management systems.

Through this program, IDEM will support Solid Waste Management Districts, counties, and municipalities in developing local materials management plans that align with state guidance and address district-specific priorities.

Materials Management Plan

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management has developed [statewide guidance](#) to support counties and local governments in planning how they handle and manage solid materials. This guidance recognizes that Solid Waste Management Districts (SWMDs) and local governments play a crucial role in turning statewide goals into on-the-ground action.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible Applicants

- Solid waste management districts (SWMDs)
- Counties
- Municipalities

Repeated Grant Applicants

Applicants who have previously received funding from IDEM's Recycling Market Development Program or Community Recycling Grant Program must not have:

- any unresolved compliance issues at the time of application, including overdue grant reports, outstanding close-out documentation, or refunds or reversions owed to the state.
- more than two open grants under either program when applying.

Maximum Grant Award

Applicants are eligible to receive up to \$20,000 to support the development of a materials management plan. Local funds are not required but IDEM strongly recommends leveraging additional funds.

Eligible Projects

The following project types are eligible for SWIFR funding.

Project Type	Description
Planning Grant for Developing a Local Materials Management Plan For the full Scope of the Local Materials Management Plan requirements reference Appendix A.	A Local Materials Management Plan is a community-level roadmap that outlines how a Solid Waste Management District (SWMD) or local government will reduce waste, expand recycling and diversion opportunities, and support more sustainable use of materials. It translates statewide goals into practical, locally tailored strategies by assessing current conditions, identifying needs, and planning improvements in infrastructure, programs, and public engagement. The purpose of a local plan is grounded in Indiana's statutory requirements for district planning under IC 13-21-5, which direct each district to establish a solid waste management policy, promote source reduction, and encourage alternatives to landfill disposal such as recycling, composting, and reuse. Local plans must also include goals, strategies, financing mechanisms, and oversight responsibilities to ensure that programs are both actionable and accountable.

Successful projects will produce a locally tailored plan, developed by a contractor, that follows the guidelines established in the State Materials Management Plan.

Eligible and Ineligible Funding Cost

Eligible Funding Cost

Funding is available for expenses related to the development of local materials management plan. Eligible planning projects consist of all costs associated with professional fees, data gathering, study, analysis, supplies and preparation of plans and the identification of actions to implement such plans including public outreach and community engagement materials.

Ineligible Costs

The following items' expenses will not be funded through the 2027 SWIFR Program funding:

- Equipment Costs
- Construction Costs
- Ongoing program costs such as salaries, recycling contracts, and vehicle

maintenance.

- Personnel expenses, except where contracted as professional fees.
- Computer hardware and software.
- Contractor labor, set-up, and preparation charges.
- Food, beverages, and party supplies.
- Cash payments such as gift cards.
- Grant administration.
- Recycling collection vehicles, such as a curbside recycling truck.

Key Dates

Date	Activity
August 3rd, 2026	FY 2027 SWIFR Grant Program Opening Announcement
September 14th, 2026	Deadline for Submission of Application Proposal. Technical Assistance will be available until 4:00 pm EST.
December 15th, 2026	Award Announcement

Deadline and Submission

Proposals must be submitted online through [Access.gov](https://www.access.gov) no later than Monday, September 14th, 2026. Technical Assistance will be available until 4:00 p.m. ET on the deadline day. Incomplete proposals or proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered for funding.

All applicants should review this guidance closely and may contact the Program Manager at SWIFR@idem.IN.gov with questions before submitting a proposal.

How to Submit Your Online Application: A Step-by-Step Guide

1. Go to [Access.gov](https://www.access.gov)
2. Log in through the Access Indiana portal so you can save your progress.
3. Locate the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Program Application.
4. Compose all narrative questions outlined in this guide before starting the online application.
5. Gather all required documents outlined in this guide before starting the online application.
6. Name each file according to its document type using the required format (e.g., OrganizationName_Budget.pdf) in the correct section.
7. Complete Section 1 through Section 9 of the online application,
8. Review your entries carefully to ensure nothing is missing.
9. Submit the online application before the deadline.
10. Save a copy of your submission confirmation for your record.

Technical Assistance

For questions regarding project eligibility, applicants may contact the SWIFR Grant Manager between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday, at SWIFR@idem.IN.gov. Please note that any informal guidance provided is based solely on the applicant's description of the proposed project and is not binding.

A program webinar will also be offered, providing information on program requirements and application questions and a Q&A session. Please [RSVP](#) to register.

Office hours are held via Microsoft Teams on Thursdays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. EST. Email SWIFR@idem.IN.gov during the application cycle to receive the meeting link.

Application Questions

Applications will be evaluated on the criteria listed below. Applicants must provide complete responses to all applicable questions. Incomplete responses may result in a determination that the application is incomplete and, therefore, not eligible for funding. All application material must be submitted online. The agency will accept hand-written forms in special circumstances only, such as undue burden for the applicant.

A. Describe your organization's mission and its role within the state and/or local community and explain how this project aligns with your organizational strategy and vision. To determine completeness the prompts below must be addressed in this section.

- Describe your organization's mission and the core values or priorities that guide its work within the state or local community.
- Explain the role your organization currently plays in supporting environmental stewardship, waste reduction, recycling, or broader community sustainability efforts.
- Identify how this project aligns with your long-term organizational strategy, goals, or vision for community impact.
- Describe how the project advances or strengthens your organization's role in the community and supports the mission you outlined.

B. Describe your organization's current waste and materials management infrastructure conditions and outline any planned future expansions or improvements. To determine completeness the prompts below must be addressed in this section.

- Describe the types of waste and recyclable materials your organization currently manages and how each stream is handled
- Explain the existing infrastructure used for collection, sorting, storage, or processing (e.g., equipment, facilities, vehicles, drop off sites).
- Provide details on the current condition, capacity, and efficiency of this infrastructure, noting any limitations or aging components.

- Identify operational challenges your organization faces in managing waste and materials (e.g., contamination, insufficient space, outdated equipment).
- Outline how well the current system meets community needs and where gaps or constraints exist.
- Describe staffing, training, and operational procedures related to waste and materials management.
- Highlight any recent upgrades, repairs, or improvements to your infrastructure.
- Discuss how current infrastructure performance impacts overall waste diversion and recycling outcomes.
- Identify how improved infrastructure, equipment, or collection systems will raise the volume and quality of recyclables recovered.

C. Describe how the project will promote collaboration among producers, businesses, and consumers to reduce waste at the source and divert materials from final disposal. To determine completeness the prompts below must be addressed in this section.

- Explain how the project will engage producers and businesses to adopt practices that minimize waste generation and support reuse, recycling, or responsible material design.
- Describe the strategies used to involve consumers to encourage waste reduction and proper participation in diversion programs.
- Outline how partnerships among producers, businesses, and consumers will be created or strengthened, and how these collaborations will lead to measurable reductions in waste and increased material recovery.

D. Describe how the project will promote circular economic growth in Indiana through materials management practices and waste diversion. To determine completeness the prompts below must be addressed in this section.

- Explain how the project will keep materials in use longer through reuse, repair, recycling, or remanufacturing, and how this supports Indiana's circular economy.
- Describe how waste diversion activities will create or strengthen local markets for recovered materials, contributing to economic growth within the state.
- Identify the ways the project will support Indiana businesses or industries by providing reliable streams of secondary materials.
- Highlight how partnerships, education, or operational improvements will encourage both residents and businesses to adopt circular practices that reduce waste and increase economic value

E. Describe how the project will support the statewide 50% recycling goal. To determine completeness the prompts below must be addressed in this section.

- Explain how the project will capture additional recyclable materials that are currently being landfilled.

- Provide projected increases in tonnage or participation that directly contribute to the statewide recycling rate.
- Highlight collaborations with local governments, residents, and businesses that will expand recycling engagement and reporting accuracy.
- Describe how education and outreach will reduce contamination and encourage consistent recycling behavior that improves overall recovery

F. Describe your current data collection methodologies and the performance benchmarks you use to track materials movement within your jurisdiction. Explain how updating your Materials Management Plan will enhance your organization's ability to measure and report local waste diversion and circular economy progress. To determine completeness the prompts below must be addressed in this section.

- Describe the tools, systems, and methods your organization currently uses to collect, track, and analyze data on waste generation, recycling, and materials movement.
- Explain the key performance benchmarks or metrics you rely on to evaluate diversion rates, program efficiency, and material flow within your jurisdiction.
- Identify the current limitations or gaps in your data collection processes or reporting capabilities.
- If funded, describe how updating this project will strengthen your ability to measure, verify, and report progress on local waste diversion and circular economy goals.

G. Describe how the project will strengthen education, outreach, and engagement efforts to build public understanding of recycling, waste reduction, and responsible materials management. To determine completeness the prompts below must be addressed in this section.

- Describe how the project will simplify complex environmental information so the public can easily understand it and take meaningful action.
- Identify the communication tools, materials, or outreach methods that will be used to effectively reach and engage different audiences.
- Explain what partnerships or community collaborations will support and expand the project's education and outreach efforts.
- Describe how the project will track and evaluate the success of its education, outreach, and engagement activities.

H. Describe the specific issues residents are facing and explain how the project will address these problems. To determine completeness the prompts below must be addressed in this section.

- Identify the main waste related challenges residents experience.
- Describe any issues with participation rates that affect the organization's ability to recycle effectively.
- Explain how these problems impact residents, local services, or the community as a whole.

- Describe how the project's strategies, improvements, or interventions will directly solve these resident level issues and lead to measurable benefits.

I. Provide a detailed description of the budget. To determine completeness the prompts below must be addressed in this section.

- Correlate the scope of work with the detailed budget.
- Include per item costs in the detailed budget.
- Include specific information about soft costs in the detailed budget.
- If applicable, identify any matching funds, in kind contributions, or other financial resources that complement the project budget.

J. Provide a detailed breakdown of the budget by task, including the cost associated with each task.

#	Item	Quantity	Grant Amount	Local Amount	Total Amount

K. Describe any alternative funding options your organization has considered or plans to use. If local match sources are available, identify the funding source and specify the amount. To determine completeness the prompts below must be addressed in this section.

- State the amount of match funding or supplementary financial support and explain how it will complement the requested funding.
- Explain why SWIFR funding is the most suitable option for this project and why alternative financial options are less effective or not appropriate.

L. Describe the boundaries of the project area, including whether it covers a municipality, county or solid waste management district. To determine completeness the prompts below must be addressed in this section.

- Identify the specific communities, neighborhoods, or jurisdictions located within the project boundaries.
- Explain why this particular project area was selected and how it aligns with local or regional needs.
- Outline any relevant characteristics

M. Describe how the organization will implement the completed local materials management plan, including the most actionable next steps. Explain how often the organization intends to update the local materials management plan. To determine completeness the prompts below must be addressed in this section.

- Describe the specific steps your organization will take to put the local management plan into action. What tasks will be prioritized first, and how will responsibilities be assigned?

- Outline the most actionable next steps your organization plans to complete within the first year of implementation. What milestones or benchmarks will you use to measure progress?
- Explain how your organization will maintain, monitor, and evaluate the plan after implementation. How often will updates be made, and what triggers or indicators will prompt plan revision?
- Describe how your organization will coordinate with stakeholders, partners or community members during implementation. How will feedback be incorporated into ongoing updates of the local materials management plan?

Application Documents

The following documents must be included with this application for it to be considered complete.

- ☐ Copies of quotes for all applicable professional services to be procured for completion of the project.
- ☐ Copy of organization's most recent financial statement demonstrating fiscal responsibility.
- ☐ Clerk or Financial Officer Letter outlining the match funding or supplementary financial support to be used, if applicable.
- ☐ Letter of support from the Executive Director confirming commitment to plan implementation and outlining the timeline for future updates.
- ☐ Clearly labeled, color maps of the project area, including map markers, labels, legends, and other necessary elements identifying key locations and features
- ☐ Detailed Budget Narrative
- ☐ Budget Sheet

Evaluation Criteria

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management's SWIFR Program evaluates applications based on the responses submitted in the application questionnaire and the completeness of all required documents.

Review factors include:

- Adherence to all application guidelines, deadlines, and formatting requirements
- Sustainability of the project without future grant funding
- Potential to increase waste diversion
- Applicant's past performance in grant administration, project management, and environmental compliance, where applicable
- Alignment with requirements in the Materials Management Plan Guidance
- Demonstrated financial need

- Ability of the project to meet its stated goals and serve as a model for similar efforts
- Positive economic and environmental impacts at the local, regional, or statewide level
- Overall availability of program funds
- Confirmation that the project can begin upon grant execution and be completed within 18 months

IDEM awards funding on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to solid waste management districts.

Grant Agreement

Grant agreements will be issued for a 18-month term, with defined start and end dates and required project milestones, including submission of the initial draft of the local materials management plan to IDEM and submission of the final draft needed for successful project closeout. No grantee may enter into a contract with a selected contractor until the IDEM SWIFR Program Manager has authorized the grantee to proceed.

Reimbursement Process

Reimbursement may begin once the grantee has successfully completed the procurement process and submitted the bid documentation, evaluation criteria, and final executed contract for the selected vendor to the IDEM SWIFR Program Manager. Reimbursements will be issued in up to four installments as grantees submit expenditure reports and require supporting documentation throughout the grant term.

Procurement Requirements

IDEM must verify that the grantee's procurement process complies with all applicable federal procurement standards under 2 CFR 200.317–200.327 and Indiana's Public Purchasing Laws under IC 5-22. Grantees must conduct procurement in a manner that ensures full and open competition, uses sound business judgment, and results in reasonable, necessary, and allowable costs. Written procurement procedures including conflict of interest standards must be maintained, and grantees must verify that all contractors are eligible to receive federal funds through the federal debarment and suspension system (SAM.gov).

All procurement methods including micro-purchases, small purchases, sealed bids, and competitive proposals must follow federal thresholds and documentation requirements. Grantees must retain all supporting procurement documentation, including bids, quotes, contractor selection materials, and cost-reasonableness justifications, and provide this documentation to the IDEM SWIFR Program Manager prior to final contract execution with the selected vendor.

Selected county solid waste management districts and local government grantees must use a Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) or Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process and follow any internal purchasing procedures established by their designated purchasing authority, when procuring the qualified vendor responsible for completing the local materials management plan.

Requirements for Grantees

Grantees must ensure contractors:

- Meet relevant Federal regulations and terms & conditions per 2 CFR 200.332(b)
- Undergo appropriate financial and performance monitoring (2 CFR 200.332(e))
- Allow audits and agencies to access records (2 CFR 200.332(b)(5), 200.337)

SAM.gov Requirements

Prior to making subawards, IDEM must ensure that each applicant has a “Unique Entity Identifier” (UEI). Applicants are not required to complete full System for Award Management (SAM.gov) registration to obtain a UEI. Information regarding obtaining a UEI is available at the System for Award Management <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/>.

All grantees and contractors must be active in SAM.gov before receiving funds. Grantees and Contractors must document verification of:

- A valid Unique Entity ID (UEI)
- Active SAM.gov registration
- No suspension or debarment findings

SAM.gov registration must be renewed annually and maintained throughout the entire grant period. Grantees or contractors not active in SAM.gov or found ineligible may not receive federal funds until the issue is resolved. Grantees must keep screenshots or confirmation records of their SAM.gov checks and provide a copy to the SWIFR Program Manager.

SAM.gov Registration Tips for Applicants

- Registration is free—avoid third-party “registration services.”
- Ensure your organization’s legal name, address, and banking information match IRS and DUNS/UEI records to prevent delays.
- Update your entity administrator email and contact information regularly to avoid accidental lapses.
- Begin registration early; processing can take several days if validation is required.
- Save a PDF or screenshot of your “Active” status for documentation and audits.

Other Considerations

[IC 13-21-5](#), directs solid waste district to establish a solid waste management policy, promote source reduction, and encourage alternatives to landfill disposal such as recycling, composting, and reuse.

[IC 13-21-3-14.5](#) requires that a solid waste district may only provide or contract for waste management services if the district's board determines that no private provider can deliver the service at a reasonable cost and that the district doing so will benefit public health and safety.

[329 IAC](#) establishes requirements for recycling and organics management programs to ensure they meet the same standards applied across different solid waste facilities.

APPENDIX A: Guidelines for Local Planning

Local and regional planning is central to achieving Indiana's long-term materials management vision. SWMDs and local governments play a pivotal role in translating statewide goals into local action by developing or updating their own materials management plans to reflect district-level needs and priorities.

Local planning efforts should build upon the state's three overarching goals – (1) Advancing recycling and waste diversion, (2) Supporting source reduction, and (3) Strengthening education and outreach – while considering infrastructure as the enabling factor that supports them. By aligning local objectives and initiatives with these overarching goals, SWMDs and counties can ensure consistency with the statewide framework while tailoring strategies to local conditions, opportunities, and resources. Districts are also encouraged to establish additional goals that reflect their priorities or ambitions. This flexibility allows each county to draw on its local strengths, innovate, and lead in ways that advance Indiana's collective progress toward a more sustainable materials management system.



10.1 Components of a Local Materials Management Plan

This section outlines the components that a completed local plan should include and considerations for how to align a local plan with this statewide MMP.

Recommended Elements in a Local Materials Management Plan

Completed plans should:

- Detail the county's/municipality's waste and materials management infrastructure (existing and new).
- Define county/municipality or regional needs, goals, and identify possible areas of growth.
- Provide methodology for data collection and reporting.
- Encourage collaboration through partnerships to manage materials that are generated.
- Help the state work towards its 50% recycling goal.
- Promote economic growth in Indiana through waste management practices.

Additionally, each district must comply with the requirements set out in [IC13-21-5](#) for Solid Waste Management District Plans. Under [IC 13-21-5-12](#), each district plan must:

- **Establish a solid waste management policy** that includes source reduction, alternatives to final disposal (such as recycling, composting, and reuse), and final disposal facilities; and
- **Include a strategy to promote and educate the public** on managing vegetative matter through composting, mulching, and other beneficial uses rather than landfill disposal.



Considerations for Aligning Local Plans with the State MMP

To stay aligned with the statewide framework while meeting the needs of the district, the following approaches may be considered when developing or updating local plans:

- **Map local objectives to the three overarching statewide goals:** Consider how local objectives align with state goals to expand recycling and waste diversion, support source reduction, and strengthen education and outreach. Recognize that infrastructure is an enabling factor that supports these efforts.
- **Describe outreach and education initiatives:** Discuss initiatives and how they contribute to managing vegetative matter, reducing contamination, and improving participation in waste diversion programs.
- **Build on local strengths and partnerships:** Plans may describe how the district's governance structure, board priorities, and partnerships with municipalities, haulers, processors, and other community organizations can contribute to progress. Collaboration across neighboring districts or regions can help share infrastructure, align messaging, and improve efficiency.
- **Identify any district-specific goals or targets:** Set any additional goals or targets that reflect local ambition or emerging priorities (e.g., food waste prevention, reuse programs, or composting initiatives), noting how these may complement the state's broader materials management vision and circular economy principles.
- **Implementation and resourcing:** Outline potential implementation approaches such as phased timelines, partnerships, or funding mechanisms to demonstrate how proposed programs and initiatives can be sustained over time.

Please note that in addition to the above considerations, district plans must also meet the requirements of [IC 13-21-5](#), which outlines the statutory requirements for local materials management plans.

10.1 Promotion of Regional Planning

Passed in 1990, Public Law 10-1990 provided for the creation of the state's solid waste management districts. IDEM was tasked with providing districts with guidance on source reduction and alternatives to dependence on final disposal facilities; this resulted in Indiana's 20-year Solid Waste Management Plan. The roles and responsibilities of solid waste management districts were recodified in 1996 and are now laid out in [IC 13-21-3](#). No provisions were made for future updates to district or state-wide plans. Therefore, this guidance serves to help regional planning with a unified approach to materials management across the state.

SWMDs are a key source of information for local recycling services. About one-third of the recyclables sorted by single-stream MRFs originate from SWMDs. Cities and towns operate independently, and their impact as a group is not recognized but gets reported on a regional basis through the MRFshed.



Regional materials management planning is crucial to take the vision and strategies outlined at state level into reality. A regional plan requires community engagement, a dedicated planning team, and a detailed, realistic assessment of the local community's specific needs, opportunities, and challenges to maximize waste reduction and promote economic sustainability. Regional Solid Waste Management Plans will identify the key waste sources, challenges, and potential solutions unique to their communities.

10.2 Baseline

Establishing a clear and consistent baseline is the first step in developing or updating a local plan. A baseline helps districts and local governments understand current conditions, identify service and infrastructure gaps, and track progress over time.

When developing a baseline, SWMDs and local governments are encouraged to:

- **Compile available data** on waste generation, recycling, and diversion, using IDEM's Re-TRAC Connect system where applicable, and capture trends over time if possible.
- **Map existing infrastructure** such as landfills, transfer stations, MRFs, compost facilities, and drop-off sites to understand service coverage and accessibility.
- **Identify key programs and services** already offered, including curbside collection, HHW programs, organics diversion, and education initiatives.
- **Engage local partners** such as haulers, processors, municipalities, and community organizations to collect supplemental data and insights.
- **Assess participation and access**, where possible, to evaluate how households, businesses, and institutions use available services.
- **Discuss qualitative context** such as local policies, partnerships, or challenges that shape the district's performance.

A well-defined baseline enables SWMDs and counties to measure future progress, compare local data to statewide metrics, and align regional planning with the MMP's overarching goals.

10.3 Challenges and Considerations

Local and regional planning efforts often face challenges related to governance, data availability, and coordination. Recognizing these early in the planning process can help SWMDs and local governments develop realistic and adaptable plans.

Governance and Decision-Making

Each SWMD is governed by a local board of directors composed of representatives from county and municipal governing bodies, typically including elected officials or their designees. These boards establish district priorities, budgets, and policies that guide local waste and recycling programs. Local planning may consider reflecting this governance context and cadence.

Data Availability and Reporting

Reliable local data is essential but can be incomplete. Some municipal contracts do not require reporting data, and some private or non-registered haulers may not share it. Certain direct-to-market shipments are also outside IDEM's mandatory reporting.

Service and Infrastructure Variation

Differences in geography, population density, and proximity to processing or composting facilities influence both program costs and feasibility. Districts may choose to implement improvements gradually – for example, enhancing drop-off services before expanding curbside collection. If possible, it would be helpful for districts to document existing service coverage and access as part of their baseline assessment.

SWMD Capacity

Levels of staff, technical, and financial capacity may vary across SWMDs. Some districts may have more dedicated planning and outreach personnel compared to others. Recognizing these differences is important when setting the scope and pace of local planning. Districts may benefit from collaborating regionally or sharing resources and learnings to make the most of available capacity.

Market and Cost Volatility

Fluctuations in commodity prices and processing costs can influence the financial stability of recycling and composting programs. Recognizing that these changes often occur outside local control, districts may consider how to build flexibility into program design or contracting, such as by exploring regional partnerships to buffer market shifts. Continued coordination with IDEM and other districts can also help share lessons and identify opportunities to strengthen local market resilience over time.

10.4 Aligning Local Plans with Statewide Goals

Indiana's SWMDs play a vital role in advancing the state's materials management vision and shifting toward more circular practices. SWMDs across the state are already delivering effective recycling, education, and diversion programs that demonstrate the impact of local action. Maintaining and building on this momentum is essential, as local leadership and collaboration will ultimately drive statewide progress toward Indiana's overarching goals.

To ensure alignment with the state's goals, SWMDs and local governments are encouraged to consider how their strategies contribute to statewide outcomes. Districts may also establish additional goals that reflect their community's priorities, capacities, or ambitions.

In accordance with [IC 13-21-5-13](#), each district plan must:

- Set forth goals and objectives for the district.
- Identify alternative means of achieving these goals and objectives, based on the problems and needs of the district.
- Set forth a description of the operational and capital costs of implementing the district plan, along with the proposed means of financing its implementation.
- Set forth the basis for setting fees, rates, and charges for use of any facility.
- Designate a person to supervise the implementation of the district plan and describe the responsibilities and authority of that person.



- Describe the surveillance and enforcement procedures to be implemented to ensure compliance with the district plan.

These requirements ensure that each district plan remains both action-oriented and fiscally grounded, while allowing flexibility to tailor programs to local needs.

Districts may also refer to the additional strategies provided in the Appendix, which may be considered to expand recycling and waste diversion. These strategies are intended as a menu of potential options to inform local planning and inspire continued progress, rather than prescriptive recommendations.

The table below summarizes how Indiana's three overarching goals can be translated into local planning focus areas and actions.

Table 10-1. Translating Statewide Goals into Local Planning Actions

Overarching Goal	Local Planning Focus	Examples of Local Actions
Expand Recycling and Waste Diversion	Increase access to recycling, organics diversion, and reuse opportunities	• Expand drop-off and curbside recycling options where possible • Assess local composting capacity • Support partnerships with processing facilities (e.g., MRFs), haulers, and end markets to improve material recovery
Support Source Reduction	Reduce waste generation through education, incentives, and partnerships	• Promote waste prevention programs such as food waste rescue, repair and reuse initiatives, and purchasing policies that minimize single-use materials • Choose service contracts that can support source reduction
Strengthen Education and Outreach	Build public understanding and participation in materials management programs	• Develop consistent messaging campaigns • Coordinate school and community education programs • Share data on local recycling outcomes

10.5 Measuring Progress Locally

Tracking and evaluating progress helps districts and local governments understand how their programs are performing and identify where improvements or adjustments may be needed over time. Establishing clear and achievable metrics allows SWMDs to demonstrate program outcomes and contribute to a more complete understanding of materials management across Indiana.

Local plans are encouraged to use available data sources, such as IDEM's Re-TRACT Connect reporting system, hauler or processor reports (if available), and any local tracking or data collection mechanisms, to assess:

- **Recycling and diversion rates** by county or program to monitor trends over time,

- **Participation and access metrics**, including the number of households that subscribe to curbside recycling or use drop-off sites.
- **Education and outreach outcomes**, such as event participation or contamination reduction.
- **Programs offered and their outcomes**, such as participation levels, tons of materials collected or diverted, contamination reduction, or other measurable community benefits.

Collectively, these metrics can help districts track local progress, support transparent communication, and inform future upgrades to both district and statewide materials management plans.

10.6 Funding Mechanisms for Materials Management

To achieve Indiana's recycling targets, it is essential to strengthen the collection infrastructure that supports solid waste management; this will require identifying sustainable and reliable funding mechanisms.

Tipping fees are one source of funding that can support SWMDs and maintain recycling and waste diversion programs. Revenues generated through tipping fees and surcharges are often reinvested into local and regional economies to support the operations, infrastructure, and employment associated with recycling and waste management systems. Indiana's landfill tipping fees are among the lowest in the U.S., ranging from \$38 - \$45 per ton with a surcharge ranging from \$0.50 - \$0.60/ton depending on facility type.²⁸ In other states, adjustments to tipping fees or surcharges have been used to generate additional funding for waste management and recycling infrastructure. Increasing the surcharge could encourage waste generators to explore and adopt waste reduction, recycling, and composting options. Under IC 13-21-13-1, SWMDs may impose fees on the disposal of solid waste in a final disposal facility (e.g., landfill) located within the district, which can provide supplemental revenue to support local waste management activities.

Federal funding is another key resource for recycling development in Indiana. From FY22-26, the US EPA offered funding for recycling programs through grant programs authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This included the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grants, which improve collection and processing, and the Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program (REO), which focuses on public awareness and reducing contamination.

It is also important to note that, while some districts benefit from local fees or other local funding sources, there is no uniform, dedicated funding mechanism applied statewide to all SWMDs. As a result, districts may need to explore a mix of funding sources, service contracts, or partnerships to support plan implementation.

SWMDs and municipalities may fund materials management programs through a combination of disposal fees, service fees, and grants. Disposal-related revenues, such as landfill tipping fees and district-imposed surcharges, are commonly used to support district operations, education, outreach, and certain materials management programs and collection events. In unincorporated areas, waste and recycling services are typically provided through private waste haulers operating in a competitive market. Since recycling services may involve additional fees beyond trash collection, participation rates can be lower in areas where recycling is optional or priced separately.

10.6.1 State and Federal Grant Programs Supporting Implementation

With the same funds from the SWIFR EPA grant for this project, IDEM will be providing pass-through funding opportunities to assist local planning. The SWIFR grant funding is provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure



Law, which delivers the largest EPA investment in recycling in 30 years to support the National Recycling Strategy implementation and build a circular economy. As part of the Investing in America agenda, it can be used to develop or update plans to advance post-consumer materials management, implement those plans, and improve data collection efforts.

A portion of the fee charged for solid waste disposal or incineration is channeled into grant funding for recycling initiatives in the state. Currently, IDEM offers two grant options with these funds:

1. **Recycling Market Development Program (RMDP):** A grant opportunity for projects that promote waste reduction, reuse, and recycling in Indiana. The program funds initiatives that demonstrate an understanding of current recycling market conditions and show how resources can be used effectively by Indiana businesses and communities to advance the state's goal of recycling or diverting 50% of municipal waste and align with the state's priorities of reuse, waste reduction, recycling, and diverting key materials including plastics, mixed glass, organics, and electronics from landfills.
 - Municipalities, solid waste management districts, non-profit organizations, higher education institutions, and public and private businesses located and doing business in the state of Indiana are eligible to apply.
 - Funding rounds generally occur in the spring; additional information can be found on the [Indiana Recycling Market Develop Program website](#).
2. **Community Recycling Grant Program (CRGP):** Provides smaller grants for local recycling initiatives focused on recycling education, processing, waste reduction, or HHW and organics management.
 - Municipalities, solid waste management districts, higher education, non-profit organizations, schools, and counties in the state of Indiana are eligible to apply.
 - Funding rounds generally occur in the summer; additional information can be found on the [Indiana Community Recycling Grant Program website](#).

As of 2025, 232 grants have been awarded, with a value of \$24 million, across both grant programs. A full list of past grant awardees can be found on the [IDEM website](#).

Community Recycling Grant Success Story: Improving Recycling at Newfields

Newfields is a 152-acre cultural campus located in Indianapolis. In December 2023, Newfields received a Community Recycling Grant to improve recycling access across its campus by upgrading to new receptacles and educational signage.



New receptacles and signage improved contamination rate by 4% for both recycling and landfill.



New receptacles in the Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park provide easier access to proper disposal and recycling.

Recycling Market Development Program Success Story: Innovative Plastics Recycling

Republic Services, Inc. and Blue Polymers, LLC received funding through IDEM's Recycling Market Development Program and opened North America's first Polymer Center-Blue Polymers complex in March 2025.

This Indianapolis-based Polymer Center-Blue Polymers complex is expected to produce over 175 million pounds annually of recycled plastics and will ultimately advance circularity in plastic packaging across Indiana.



Recycling Market Development Program Success Story: Encouraging Composting

GardenQuest is a non-profit organization that aims to provide place-based, sustainable urban gardening education.

In 2024, GardenQuest was awarded a Community Recycling Grant to provide composting bins, supplies, and hands-on educational training to residents of Monroe County, helping to reduce local food waste.



In the FY2025 round of the RMDP, six organizations were awarded grant funding totaling \$2 million to support recycling and waste management in Indiana.³⁰ These funded efforts are expected to increase material recovery and diversion across multiple material streams, as summarized in [Table 10-2](#).

Similarly, in the FY2024 round of the RMDP, eight organizations were awarded grant funding totaling \$2 million. These projects are summarized in [Table 10-3](#).

Table 10-2. Recycling Market Development Program (RMDP) Grant Awards, FY2025

Organization Awarded	County	Amount Awarded	Funded Efforts	Anticipated Impact
Frankfort Plastics, Inc.	Clinton County	\$500,000	Grant was used to purchase equipment to increase processing capacity of low-grade plastic film for chemical recycling.	Divert estimated 3,300 additional tons of material from landfills per year.
Indianapolis Airport Authority (IAA)	Marion County	\$181,538	Grant was used to purchase dual-stream recycling and waste receptacles to improve recycling at the airport.	Divert estimated 273 tons of recycled materials from landfills per year, achieving 15% recycling rate.
Waste Management of Indiana, LLC	Marion County	\$500,000	Grant was used to purchase glass recycling equipment.	Recover, clean, and divert 23,400 tons of glass per year.
Purdue University	Tippecanoe County	\$69,080	Grant was used to purchase a tractor and windrow turner to expand its composting operation capacity.	Divert an estimated additional 90 tons of organic waste from landfills per year.
Richmond Sanitary District	Wayne County	\$249,382	Grant was used to purchase a compactor and baler to expand the recyclable materials accepted, extend recycling services to neighboring communities, and support education and outreach.	Divert an estimated additional 120 tons of recyclables from landfills per year.
Smith Creek, Inc.	Clark County	\$500,000	Grant was used for site improvements and depackaging equipment to process packaged grocery food waste for composting.	Divert an estimated 15,600 tons of food waste from landfills per year while improving compost and soil amendment quality.

Table 10-3. Recycling Market Development Program (RMDP) Grant Awards, FY2024

Organization Awarded	County	Amount Awarded	Funded Efforts	Anticipated Impact
CT Polymers, LLC	Marshall County	\$300,000	Grant was used to purchase plastic recycling equipment to process scrap plastic into plastic pellets for reuse in consumer products.	Process additional 10,000 tons of recyclable plastic.



Organization Awarded	County	Amount Awarded	Funded Efforts	Anticipated Impact
CW Recycling, LLC	Marion County	\$500,000	Grant was used to purchase new equipment for an automated waste sorting system for recycling drywall, corrugated cardboard, and vinyl.	• Divert an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 tons of gypsum per year from landfills. • Divert up to 3,000 tons of old corrugated cardboard per year from landfills. • Divert estimated 100 tons of vinyl per year from landfills.
Exeon Processors, LLC	Grant County	\$288,343	Grant was used to purchase separation equipment to create sellable recycled polyvinyl chloride (PVC) from mixed plastics insulation.	Divert an estimated 15,000 tons per year from landfills.
Floyd County Solid Waste Management District	Floyd County	\$52,255	Grant was used to purchase community drop-off recycling trailers and to develop a marketing, outreach, and education plan to expand recycling access.	Increase the volume of collected recyclables by 20%.
GDC, Inc.	Elkhart County	\$98,992	Grant was used to purchase a baler and collection containers to help	Divert an estimated 5,000 tons of plastic ² and used corrugated cardboard from their operations to recycling.
Indiana Shingle Recycling, LLC.	Marion County	\$360,213	Grant was used to purchase recycling equipment.	Recycle 75,000 tons of asphalt shingles per year.
SER North America, LLC. (Subsidiary of Sirmax North America, Inc.)	Madison County	\$296,654	Grant was used to purchase recycling equipment to double their recycling capacity.	Capacity to recycle polypropylene-based flexible packaging and other "hard-to-be-recycled" post-industrial scraps will be increased to 6,500 tons per year.
Strategic Materials, Inc.	Marion County	\$103,543	Grant was used to purchase drop-off collection containers to expand glass recycling to sixteen (16) new locations in rural areas of Indiana.	Divert an estimated additional 2,100 tons of glass per year from landfills.

² For this project, the types of plastic that GDC, Inc. aims to divert include melt blown polypropylene and low-density polyethylene.



10.7 Other Useful Resources

This section provides links to external resources (such as websites and documents) that local planners may find useful when developing or implementing a regional material management plan. The resources have been divided into two tables. **Table 10-4** focuses on Indiana-specific resources, while **Table 10-5** focuses on national resources.

Table 10-4. Indiana Specific Resources

Organization	Detail	Example Resources
 IDEM Indiana Recycling Roundtables	IDEM's quarterly virtual recycling roundtable discussions. They provide a chance for stakeholders to discuss issues, share resources, and find solutions to current challenges facing recyclers and Indiana's recycling industry.	✓ Recordings of past Recycling Roundtable Discussions on topics such as public private partnerships, funding mechanisms, education, and outreach.
 CIRCULAR INDIANA	Indiana-based education and advocacy organization that is focused on eliminating waste, creating jobs, and strengthening supply chains.	✓ Information on recycling by county in Indiana, recycling best practices, and historical data. ✓ Information on ways to reduce and reuse. ✓ Annual Circular Economy conference in Indiana.
 HOOSIER SWANA	Indiana-based association of solid waste facility operators, private sector service providers, solid waste management districts, consultants, and equipment vendors.	✓ Local events, site tours, training, and conferences.
 AISWMD Association of Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts	The Association of Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts (AISWMDs) aims to provide leadership to support SWMDs in promotion of waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and safe disposal of problem waste.	✓ Virtual board meetings, roundtables, workshops, ✓ Member-only resources



Table 10-5. National Resources

Organization	Description	Example Resources
 EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency	EPA Region 5 is the EPA jurisdiction that covers the six states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, along with 37 federally recognized Tribes.	✓ National, regional, and state level news, events, and public notices. ✓ Environmental data maps for Indiana. EPA's ECHO website allows users to search for facilities in their communities to understand their compliance with environmental regulations.
 The Recycling Partnership Building a Better Recycling System	Nonprofit organization established by The Aluminum Association as a partnership with other material industries to encourage curbside recycling.	✓ Guide to community Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) contracts. ✓ Educational material templates (e.g., social media kits, online campaign builder, and signage).
 National Waste & Recycling Association®	DC-based trade association that represents private waste and recycling companies, as well as manufacturers and distributors of equipment that processes the material.	✓ Information on safety in waste collection and processing operations. ✓ Events (e.g., webinars, meetings, outings) for members.
 SWANA SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA	North American member-based association of professionals from the waste and resource management industry.	✓ Events (e.g., conferences, training sessions and courses, and meetings) for members. ✓ Offers training and certification opportunities