



Recycling Modernisation Fund

Regional and remote local government authority guidelines

The Western Australian Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF) is a joint Australian Government and Government of Western Australia initiative designed to improve recycling infrastructure and capabilities across the state. The RMF aims to build the capacity, capability and resilience of WA's resource recovery system and support organisations to respond to the national export ban on waste materials.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation administers the program for WA projects.

The RMF grant round for regional and remote local government authorities provides funding for infrastructure and equipment projects that recover or recycle material that is subject to waste export bans including:

- plastics
- mixed and unsorted paper and cardboard
- whole used tyres.

Grants from \$50,000 up to \$1 million (excl GST) per project will be available to local government authorities in regional or remote communities to improve the viability of sorting, processing and recycling waste.

Projects must be completed and operational by 1 June 2027 at the latest.

Applications for this competitive funding process must be submitted via the department's [SmartyGrants](#) online grants administration system.

Why is the government providing this funding?

The RMF aims to improve recycling outcomes by addressing critical infrastructure gaps in WA's waste management and resource recovery system.

The program outcomes will facilitate greater resource recovery by:

- increasing the supply of quality recycled materials available for use
- increasing the capacity for domestic sorting, processing and manufacturing of materials affected by the national waste export ban.



Regional and remote solutions are a key deliverable of the draft Beyond WASTE 2030 Strategy. This funding round supports the need for infrastructure to help resolve the identified gaps in the provision of waste and recycling services in remote and regional locations.

Who can apply?

Local government authorities in remote or regional WA are eligible for funding. They must also:

- have no outstanding levy payments as required under the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Regulations 2008
- have satisfactory environmental, safety and financial compliance
- provide evidence to satisfy the department that risks, hazards and the health and safety of workers and sub-contractors have been considered
- enter into a funding agreement with the department within 60 days of award or the offer of funding will expire
- complete the project by 1 June 2027 at the latest.

Eligible projects

Projects that provide local solutions to local problems, seek to increase local employment, provide economic benefit and solve transport logistic complexities will be highly regarded. The State Government will consider proposals for economically viable projects that best address regional pressures. Projects that support connections between local organisations in remote and regional areas and major companies in urban areas of WA are encouraged to close the loop between waste generation, sorting, processing, remanufacturing and input back into the economy.

Eligible projects will be able to demonstrate solutions to increase collection, sorting, storage, reprocessing and recycling capacity for:

- plastics
- tyres
- paper and cardboard.

Consideration will be given to long-term logistics solutions such as investments that improve resource recovery or more economical material collection and separation. Proposals must:

- seek to deliver a project to build new, or increase existing, capacity in a regional or remote location through:
 - new or expansion of existing fixed or mobile facilities for processing recovered unprocessed mixed or single resin/polymer plastics, tyres and/or paper and cardboard
 - new or upgraded equipment to increase local domestic processing capacity for recyclable materials, including from point of collection to point of remanufacturing
- demonstrate how the project is expected to be economically viable over its operational life post-RMF
- support employment and long-term economic growth and development in regional and/or remote locations. Projects may rely on further infrastructure located in major city areas but funding must primarily address recycling challenges and create economic benefit in regional and/or remote locations
- be completed and operational by 1 June 2027 at the latest.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- transfer station upgrades including installation of new equipment such as sorting lines, AI or scanning technology, baling equipment, pulping machinery, hydraulic lift carts to process waste etc
- recycling bays at waste management facilities to increase sorting capacity
- community sorting stations

- fixed or mobile collection points
- transportation from regional areas
- expansion of existing drop-off points to achieve separation of waste and increased recycling
- construction of an integrated facility to sort, clean, decontaminate, compact and store materials ready for transport
- projects (including multi-location projects) that include improved collection of feedstock, preparing it for collection near main routes for further processing, recycling and re-manufacturing at a major location.

Projects and costs ineligible for funding

Proposed projects are not eligible for funding if:

- applications do not meet the eligibility criteria identified in these guidelines
- projects are located outside Western Australia
- construction and/or installation of infrastructure has started before signing a funding agreement with the department
- applicants (including related entities and other project participants) are currently in breach of environmental or occupational health and safety standards or have failed to satisfactorily meet environment or safety legislation and cannot demonstrate steps they are taking to effectively resolve any breaches
- applicants are unable to demonstrate the financial capability to implement the project
- they are focused on opportunity identification, concept screening, product development research, marketing concept development and feasibility studies
- they are focused on funding travel, participation in conferences, and other educational activities
- they are focused on funding advertising, signage and related communications activities
- applicants have failed to satisfactorily complete projects funded by any government agency, in the absence of reasonable explanation
- they do not demonstrate value for money
- applications are submitted after the closing date.

The following project or operational costs are ineligible for funding. These costs may, however, be declared and count towards an applicant's co-contribution:

- land acquisition
- staff, resourcing, salaries
- security and/or surveillance equipment
- costs to establish and connect utilities to the site including electricity, water and sewerage
- costs of equipment not dedicated to the project purpose (for example, vehicles)
- project management costs



- certification, permit, licence or related fees
- compliance monitoring and management costs
- contingency costs
- ongoing operational costs such as, but not limited to, salaries, electricity, water, rates, other utilities, overheads, engineering, design or insurance costs.

How to apply

Applicants must submit their application via the department's grant portal, SmartyGrants.

- SmartyGrants allows users to save, progress and return to their application before submitting.
- No changes can be made after an application is submitted. This includes adding attachments or extra information.
- Applications must be authorised by the CEO or an authorised officer of the applicant's organisation.
- Applications must be submitted before the closing date and time.
- All submitted applications will receive SmartyGrants on-screen and email confirmation.

Key dates

Applications open	19 January 2026
Applications close	4pm, 27 February 2026
Assessment process	26 March 2026
Applicants advised of outcome	29 May 2026

Notification of grant decisions

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in writing.

Co-contribution requirements

The WA Government and the Australian Government will jointly contribute a maximum of two thirds of project costs, with applicants required to fund at least one third. Applicants that provide more than the minimum proportion of project funding may be considered more competitive.

Project period

Projects must be complete and operational by 1 June 2027 at the latest.

Assessment of applications

The selection of projects for funding is a merit-based process. An assessment panel will evaluate eligible applications against the criteria set out below. The panel will comprise officers from the department and other relevant Australian Government and State Government agencies and key organisations with appropriate skills and experience. Subject-matter experts may be called on to participate in the panel. These members will have technical knowledge and experience in one or more of the priority areas which will be used to assess the merit of the application.

The application form asks questions that relate to the assessment criteria. The amount of detail and supporting evidence provided in the application should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount being requested.

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed against the criteria as outlined below.

Criterion	Score
<p>1. Proposed project must demonstrate that it will address regional and/or remote resource recovery challenges.</p> <p>Proposed project should demonstrate that it is part of a solution for sorting, processing, re-manufacturing or selling, and/or transport of recovered plastics, tyres, and/or paper and cardboard in regional and remote locations.</p> <p>Proposed project addresses critical gaps in capacity. This includes whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the project is expected to absorb plastics, tyres or paper/cardboard from regional or remote locations that would typically be exported from Australia or end up in landfill the project's location has access to transportation and distribution networks in the relevant regional and/or remote location. 	30 points
<p>2. Proposed project is supported by an overall business case, with value for money and project viability demonstrated over its operational life.</p> <p>Applicants must demonstrate how the proposed project will achieve value for money. The opportunity for, and type of, value for money will be different according to factors that impact project implementation. Requests for funding must be commensurate with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the population and needs of the local community the waste issue being addressed location that may impact cost factors. 	20 points
<p>3. Proposed project will support employment and long-term economic growth and development in regional and/or remote location/s.</p> <p>Project connects local businesses, builds partnerships and supports local supplier hubs.</p>	15 points
<p>4. Demonstrated experience and capacity to deliver the project including management, financial and technical capacity.</p> <p>Planning and regulatory requirements to proceed to construction are identified, evidence is provided on the process for gaining approvals.</p>	15 points
<p>5. Project is in regional or remote Western Australia in accordance with the <i>Local Government Directory</i> produced by WALGA</p>	5 points
<p>6. Proposed project is unlikely to proceed without assistance from the Australian and Western Australian governments or will only proceed at a much later date or much lower scale.</p>	5 points
<p>7. Proposed project has a clear and credible plan to fully engage and consult affected stakeholders, traditional custodians and communities.</p>	5 points
<p>8. Projects will be completed and operational by 1 June 2027.</p>	5 points

Funding agreement

Funding recipients will be required to enter into a funding agreement (Deed of Grant) with the State Government. This agreement will set out the terms of the grant, conditions, payment schedules, project timing, key performance indicators, reporting requirements and other matters.

- The Deed of Grant must be signed within 60 days of award or the offer of funding will expire.
- No amendments to the general terms and conditions of the Deed of Grant will be considered. Only negotiation of milestones will be accepted.
- Significant or substantive variations will not be accepted.
- Projects will be required to commit to a commencement date in the Deed of Grant with milestones closely monitored to ensure timely delivery.
- Projects must be completed and operational by 1 June 2027 at the latest.

Funding recipients must:

- deliver the project as outlined in their application
- comply with the funding agreement terms and conditions
- provide update reports at agreed milestones with evidence of expenditure
- provide data and reports as stipulated in the Deed of Grant
- facilitate site visits where required.

Insurance/supporting evidence

At the time of entering into a funding agreement and for the duration of the project, funding recipients must maintain adequate insurance to cover potential liabilities in conducting the project.

These may include but are not limited to:

- workers' compensation insurance
- public liability insurance
- personal accident insurance for volunteers
- content/mobile plant and equipment insurance.

Funding acknowledgement

The State Government and Australian Government must be acknowledged in all media and promotional activities relating to the project. All publicity must be approved in the first instance by

the department, who will liaise with the Australian Government accordingly.



Payment

Grants cannot be used to cover any purchases until the funding agreement is signed by both the applicant and the department.

Payment conditions will be detailed in the Deed of Grant.

Payment will only be made on milestone achievement and for actual, evidenced project expenditure.

If actual project costs are less than the approved funding for the project or if the project is not completed in the approved period, only incurred costs will be paid for and any unspent funding must be reimbursed to the department.

Reporting

Funding recipients will be required to complete milestone and quarterly reports in a format provided by the department on specified dates agreed in the Deed of Grant. Reports will be submitted via the SmartyGrants portal.

The milestone and financial review reports could include, but are not limited to, evidence that the milestone has been achieved such as details of income and expenditure and copies of paid invoices, receipts and/or financial statements.

Funding recipients must submit a final project report and expenditure statement which will include but is not limited to a summary of activities undertaken, outputs delivered and outcomes achieved as well as a description of all income and expenditure for the project and evidence of grant funds expenditure signed by their chief financial officer.

Performance monitoring is a key project deliverable. It is essential to a successful project that reports are submitted in a timely manner.

Confidentiality

The department will use the information supplied to assess each project for funding. Information on funded projects may be used for promotional purposes. We will endeavour to treat sensitive personal and commercial information provided with confidentiality. Please note that all documents held by the department are subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1992. To ensure fairness and equity, the department requests participation by evaluators from outside the department. By applying, you confirm your understanding and acceptance of this aspect of the evaluation process.

False or misleading information

Applicants must confirm that all the information in the application is true and correct. Please note that if applicants supply false or misleading information the application will not be considered. If the grant has been awarded and it is subsequently discovered that information supplied was false or misleading, the grant may be revoked and funds, plus interest, may be required to be repaid.

Additional items

- The application process does not create any legal relationship and is not a recommendation, offer or invitation to enter into a legal relationship, contract, agreement or other arrangement.
- The department reserves the right to vary the application process (including the variation of any dates or timeframes referred to) by issuing an addendum to applicants. It is the responsibility of applicants to verify whether any addendum has been issued.

- The pricing and proposed terms set out in a proposal will be deemed to remain valid and open to acceptance for at least 120 days and may be extended by mutual agreement between the department and the applicant.
- The department may ask applicants to submit additional information or clarify proposals during the application process and seek revised proposals from applicants at any time after the closing date and time.
- Selection of a successful applicant does not give rise to a contract (express or implied) between the successful applicant and the department.
- The department is under no obligation to appoint a successful applicant to this application process.
- Applicants should clearly identify any confidential information they have provided as part of their proposal. Such information will not be confidential if it is public knowledge or if the department has already obtained the information on a non-confidential basis.
- Applicants must not mark the whole or substantially the whole of their proposal as confidential. Applicants must not claim confidentiality for any part of proposal which is not genuinely confidential.
- The department shall in good faith appropriately secure and safeguard all applicants' provided documentation and shall keep all declared confidential information confidential. Applicants agree that the department may disclose any information in their proposals (including applicant confidential information) to the department's employees, agents, contractors or advisors on a need-to-know basis and for the purpose of evaluating or clarifying a proposal and subsequent dealings.
- In preparing a proposal, applicants must not engage in practices that might be regarded as collusive or anti-competitive.
- Applicants must declare and provide details within the application form of any conflict of interest (actual, perceived or potential) in relation to the application or the project.
- If the department believes any applicant has made any false or misleading statements, the department may in its absolute discretion exclude the relevant proposal from the evaluation process at any time.
- The department may exclude a proposal from consideration where the department believes it has been compiled using information improperly or unlawfully obtained from the department or with the improper assistance of any person currently or previously associated with the department.
- Applications for funding will be assessed by the assessment panel against eligibility and assessment criteria. The assessment panel may seek advice from government agencies and independent technical experts, as required, to assist in determining which applications best meet the criteria.
- Applicants will be advised in writing of the outcome of the assessment of their application at the conclusion of the assessment process.
- All communications relating to this application process must be in writing by email to the Program Manager.

Contact details

For application queries, please contact the Program Manager on 08 6364 7162 or 0481 061 311 during business hours or email wastegrants@dwer.wa.gov.au