

JOSH STEIN
Governor
D. REID WILSON
Secretary
JAMIE RAGAN
Director



March 10, 2026

Bonnie Ware
Guilford County
400 W. Market St
Greensboro, NC 27401

Dear Bonnie,

We are pleased to announce our decision to preliminarily award your 2026 Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant proposal for a total of \$5,900 in state funding. We are now initiating an approval process within our Department to make final awards, including checking on the regulatory status of your organization.

As soon as that process is complete, we will proceed with establishing a grant contract between the Department of Environmental Quality and Guilford County with a target start-date of July 1, 2026 and an end-date of June 30, 2027. ***Please note that we cannot reimburse any grant expenditure incurred before the grant contract start date.***

Actions needed by April 2, 2026:

- Accept award as offered.
- Submit additional information and forms as requested in the accompanying email.

If additional time is needed prior to accepting award (e.g., approval from Town Council or County Commissioners), please let us know as soon as possible and provide an estimated timeframe. Applicants who fail to respond by April 2 risk forfeiting grant funds.

Congratulations on your successful grant proposal. Please respond to Madeline Joslin at 919-707-8341 or madeline.joslin@deq.nc.gov.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex M." followed by a horizontal line.

Alex Miller
Community Recycling Team Lead
Recycling and Materials Management Section
Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service
217 West Jones Street | 1639 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1639
877.623.6748

Required Proposal Format:

The following outline indicates what applicants must include in their proposal for it to be considered complete. Proposals that fail to provide all the required information or that fail to follow this format may not compete well and may not be considered for funding.

- **Project Title**
Guilford County Lithium Ion Battery Safe Storage and Recycling
- **Applicant Contact Information:** to include:
 - ✓ Name and title of main contact
 - Bonnie S. Ware, P.G., Community Environmental Services Program Manager
 - ✓ Organization
 - Guilford County
 - ✓ Address
 - 400 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27402
 - ✓ Phone number
 - 336-641-3792
 - ✓ Email address
 - bware@guilfordcountync.gov
- **Date of Proposal Submittal**
 - 2/13/2026
- **General Requirements:** see General Requirements section below for more information
 - ✓ Written statement certifying that Solid Waste Disposal Tax Proceeds are used only for solid waste management purposes and a description of how proceeds are used.
 - ✓ Written statement indicating that the applicant has recycling services for cans, bottles and paper available at key government buildings and a list of the materials collected.
 - ✓ Written statement indicating that the applicant has established a program for the collection and recycling of fluorescent lights and mercury containing thermostats from public buildings owned by the applicant.
- **Project Description:** Provide responses to each of the following prompts below. Applicants are encouraged to provide a clear project description and consider the award criteria as they describe the project elements.
 1. Describe the proposed project and identify specifically what items (and how many) you intend to purchase with grant funds. If the project will implement a new recycling program or improve an existing recycling program, provide a list of the recyclable materials that will be accepted and indicate where will they be taken for processing or marketing.

The proposed project will entail purchasing a fireproof metal cabinet for on-site, safe storage of lithium batteries that have been turned into the Guilford County White Goods and scrap Tire collection station (which also accepts electronics) for recycling. The lithium batteries accepted include laptops, tablets, cell phones, button batteries, etc., except car batteries. A lithium battery storage box will also be purchased for storage of smaller items, including, but not limited to, button batteries, cell phones, and rechargeable tool batteries. ~~In conjunction with these two purchases, the American Fire Association's online curriculum will be taught by Guilford County Staff during live, in-classroom programs concerning the proper disposal of lithium batteries.~~
 2. What is the anticipated service life for the items or materials to be purchased with grant funds? Estimate how long the project will continue to serve the community and how you will financially and operationally sustain the project after the grant ends.

Once purchased, the fireproof cabinet and container do not need to be replaced unless a fire occurs that requires their use. The educational program will be used during the fiscal year

2026-2027, at which time it will be re-evaluated for its effectiveness and continued need in future fiscal years.

3. How does the proposed project address a specific recycling need for the community? Will the grant project create a new service, enhance or expand an existing service, or support an existing recycling service without expanding that service?

Due to changes in legislation and the forthcoming requirement that no lithium batteries be accepted into landfills, the purchase of the cabinet and fire box will support a culture of safety when handling lithium batteries at the Guilford County recycling collection facility. The educational program will align with the new legislation by promoting proper disposal of lithium batteries from the public schools.

4. How many households or businesses will be impacted by or have access to the recycling services associated with the proposed project? 39,340
5. Estimate the number of tons of waste expected to be reduced annually as a result of the proposed project. Explain how you came up with the estimate.

No tonnage of waste reduction will be affected by this proposal.

6. Describe any partnerships associated with the proposed project. Please include documentation of support from any partner entities.

The Guilford County Fire Marshal has collaborated with the Guilford County Community Environmental Services to research and select the appropriate equipment to ensure the safe storage and handling of recycled lithium batteries.

- **Special Requirements:** Proposals for recycling education, school recycling, electronics recycling or away-from-home recycling must include additional information as stipulated in the Special Requirements section below. (See answers below)
- **Project Timeline:** A simple bulleted list showing approximate dates for major project milestones. Timeline must begin on or after July 1, 2026, and project must be complete by June 30, 2027. Please follow the example below:
 - ✓ November 1, 2026: Cabinet and Fire Box purchased.
 - ✓ October 2026, launch in classroom curriculum.
 - ✓ May 31, 2027: Submit all invoices and draft Final Report to DEACS *(required)*
 - ✓ June 30, 2027: Submit Final Report to DEACS *(required)*
- **Project Budget:** Please submit a table following the example below. Table should include an itemized list of intended expenditures and estimated costs. Total row should reflect the total project cost with breakdown of grant funds requested from the state and amount of matching funds to be provided by the applicant. Applicant Cash Match must be at least 20% of State Grant Award.

Project Elements	Estimated Cost		
Lithium Battery Safe Storage Cabinet & Container	\$ 7,375.00		
	Total Cost	State Grant Award	Applicant Cash Match
Total Project Budget	\$7,375.00	\$ 5,900.00	\$ 1,475.00

* State and local sales taxes are not reimbursable expenditures and should not be included as part of grant budgets.

General Requirements – *for all applicants*

- **Solid Waste Disposal Tax proceeds:** Solid Waste Disposal Tax proceeds are distributed to eligible local governments on a quarterly basis by the Department of Revenue. According to G.S. § 105-187.63, these funds must be used by a city or county solely for solid waste management programs and services. CWRAR grant applicants must certify in writing that all disposal tax proceeds are used only for the purpose of providing solid waste and recycling services. In addition to this written certification, applicants should describe how disposal tax funds are utilized and whether proceeds will be used to supply matching funds.

Funds collected from Solid Waste Disposal Tax proceeds are spent on salaries, facility expenses, tools and equipment, special collection events, and promotional and educational materials. Proceeds from the Solid Waste Disposal Tax proceeds will NOT be used to provide matching funds.

- **Public Building Recycling Services:** CWRAR grants will not be awarded to applicants who do not have recycling services for cans, bottles, and paper available at their government buildings. As part of the grant proposal, all applicants must indicate that employees in the key government buildings operated by the applicant have reasonable access to recycling services and are able and encouraged to recycle materials generated in the course of government business. Please include a list of the materials collected for recycling at these facilities.

All Guilford County business offices and park areas have access to recycling services, including paper, plastic, and metal/cans. All Guilford County employees are encouraged to recycle both at work and at home through fliers and online education. Guilford County not only owns and operates a public recycling facility that is open during the week but also hosts four weekend events each year, during which County staff collect recycled materials.

- **Mercury Product Recycling:** G.S. § 130A-310.60 requires that any public agency using state funds for the construction or operation of public buildings shall establish a program for the collection and recycling of all spent fluorescent lights and thermostats that contain mercury generated in public buildings. As part of the grant proposal, all applicants must indicate that they have a program in place for the collection of fluorescent lights and mercury thermostats from their public buildings. If the applicant does not have a program in place for the collection of these materials, then as a precondition of any grant award the applicant must initiate such services.

Guilford County has a collaborative business agreement with the City of Greensboro for the collection and recycling of household hazardous waste, including fluorescent bulbs. The City of Greensboro contracts with EcoFlo, located in Greensboro, to collect, manage, and recycle these materials. Guilford County pays the City of Greensboro 25% of the monthly costs incurred for these recycling efforts. This service is available to all Guilford County staff and residents.

Special Requirements – *only for applicants seeking funding for recycling education, school recycling, electronics recycling, or away-from-home recycling projects*

Special Requirements for Recycling Education/Outreach Projects

1. Provide a list of the recyclable materials accepted by the program and indicate how the materials are to be collected (single stream, dual stream, source separated). If the grant proposal is for regional outreach materials, all local governments or entities participating must agree on a common list of materials for recycling and provide that common accepted list with the grant proposal.

This proposal is limited to Guilford County only. The recyclables that the program receives are scrap tires, electronics (including batteries associated with the electronics), white goods, and household hazardous waste.

2. If the grant proposal is for regional outreach materials, a letter of agreement and support must be provided by each participating local government or entity. Each participating entity should establish and provide a designated recycling contact for project coordination. The educational program will be conducted by the staff.

This proposal is limited to Guilford County only.

3. If the grant involves adding recyclable materials to the accepted list, confirm that the item(s) have been approved by your material recovery facility and are reflected in your recycling contract, if applicable.

No additional recycling materials are being added to the Guilford County list.

4. Identify the primary message of the outreach effort.

Lithium battery education, including proper handling and disposal (recycling) of lithium batteries.

5. Indicate whether you will be using your own design or if you will be using DEACS customizable design services. <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/environmental-assistance-and-customer-service/recycling/general-recycling-information/customized-outreach-materials>

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has a well-thought-out, well-supported program for educating the proper handling and disposal of lithium batteries. All materials will be downloaded and printed by Guilford County from their online curriculum. Classroom handouts will also be purchased.

6. Supply mock-ups or example graphics for the educational materials proposed in the grant. Are your materials dependent on words or images?

Please see attached

7. Acknowledge that you will adhere to the following if the grant is awarded:
 - Discuss the material design with your assigned DEACS grant manager as soon as possible to ensure clear communication about the project content and timing. Yes
 - Documents must be submitted for review prior to printing or execution. Reviews may take up to two weeks, so plan accordingly and submit well in advance of printing. It is often helpful to submit an initial draft for early feedback. Yes
 - Post your community's accepted recyclables list online. Yes
 - Program changes can affect the grant and messaging. Inform DEACS immediately if program changes occur to determine if a contract amendment is needed.

Yes

Special Requirements for Public School Recycling Projects

1. Describe the existing school recycling program (if any) that is available in the school system associated with the grant project.

Several schools in Guilford County recycle through their own efforts.

2. List all the public agencies and/or departments that collaborate to assist with or operate the school recycling program and list the role of each entity.

Guilford County Community Environmental Services (GCCES). The GCCES Department provides educational programs to educate how to recycle and the benefits.

3. A designated recycling contact should be established for each school facility participating in the recycling program. Examples of designated contacts might include school facility manager, head custodian, the faculty coordinator or leader of a group or club, the principal, or school administrator. Please provide a list of schools to be served by this project and the name and title of a designated recycling contact for each. N/A

4. Indicate the locations where recycling containers are or will be placed at the school facilities (e.g., classrooms, cafeterias, hallways, athletic fields, administrative offices, library, copy rooms, etc.).

N/A

5. Indicate who will be responsible for emptying the recycling containers (e.g., custodian / cleaning staff, teachers, students, student groups, etc.).

N/A

6. Provide a plan for promoting recycling within the schools impacted by the grant project as well as a plan for educating staff and students about the program.

N/A

Special Requirements for Electronics Recycling Projects

Any community seeking grant funds to support an electronics recycling program must use an R2 or e-Stewards certified recycler and make themselves eligible to receive funds distributed from the state's Electronics Management Program. More information available at:

<https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/waste-management/solid-waste-section/special-wastes-and-alternative-handling/electronics-management/electronics-information-nc-local-governments>.

Applicants should indicate if they are already eligible and have received Electronics Management Fund distributions in the past.

If so, explain how those funds have been used and how the community intends to use the funds that will be distributed in February 2026 and February 2027.

Funds collected from Electronics recycling proceeds are spent on salaries, facility expenses, tools and equipment, special collection events, and promotional and educational materials.

- If not, explain how the community will make themselves eligible to receive funds and how they intend to use funds that will be distributed in February 2026 (if applicable) and February 2027.

Note: municipal applicants may decide whether or not to request Electronics Management Funds directly or

allow the county to receive funds. If the county will be receiving funds, please explain the electronics recycling partnership with the county government.

Special Requirements for Away-From-Home Recycling Projects:

Grant funds for away-from-home recycling projects can only be used for recycling related purchases and cannot be used to pay for the purchase of away-from-home receptacles for the collection of waste (garbage). If a proposal includes the purchase of away-from-home receptacles that collect BOTH waste and recyclables, grant funding may be applied only to the recycling portion and the grantee will be responsible for covering the full cost of the waste portion. For example, if a community purchases a combo waste / recycling station that has one slot for garbage and one for recyclables and the receptacle costs \$1,200, only the recycling portion (\$600) may be included as an eligible grant expenditure. Grant funds would cover \$500 and the grantee would cover \$100 to meet the 20% match. If seeking funding for an away-from-home recycling project, please indicate whether any of the containers will be used to collect waste (garbage) that will be disposed in a landfill.

Applicants for away-from-home related grant projects are strongly encouraged to specify which particular recycling receptacles are being considered for purchase as a part of their proposal.

How are Proposals Evaluated?

A selection committee will use the pre-established Award Criteria identified below to rank proposals and make award decisions. The review process is expected to be completed, and preliminary award announcements should be made by April 2026.

Award Criteria:

Applicants are encouraged to consider the following Award Criteria as they develop their grant proposals. For Standard Projects, a maximum score of 90 is possible.

1. **Demonstration of Need (0-20 points):** Does the proposed project address a specific equipment, educational, or infrastructure need for the community?
2. **Planning (0-20 points):** Did the Project Description include all necessary elements as outlined in the Required Proposal Format? Is the proposal well thought out, well researched and backed by valid facts and assumptions? Is the project consistent with recycling industry best management practices?
3. **Waste Reduction Impact (0-25 points):** Will the project contribute substantially toward reduction of the local waste stream, or will it substantially increase tonnage recovered through recycling services? Will the project improve the material quality in the recycling stream by reducing contaminants?
4. **Efficiency / Cost-effectiveness (0-20 points):** Will the project improve the efficiency or cost-effectiveness of the local waste reduction program? Does the project increase the efficiency or effectiveness of an existing recycling service? Does the project reduce the operating cost of a current recycling service, or does it adopt practices proven to be cost effective in other communities? Does the project make investments that will continue to serve the community for years to come?
5. **Joint Effort (0 or 5 points):** One-party proposals will receive zero (0) points; multi-party proposals (involving cash match from all participants) will receive five (5) points.
6. **Priority Project (0-10 points):** Is the project seeking funding for a Priority Project Grant? To what extent does the project support investments in one of the Priority Project Grant categories?

If a Proposal is Selected for Funding

DEACS anticipates that applicants selected to receive grant funding will be notified by the end of April 2026. Upon consideration of the proposals received, DEACS reserves the right to award grant amounts that are lower than the amount requested by an applicant.

DEACS will notify the applicant with a formal offer by e-mail. The applicant must accept or decline the offer. The following will occur once the offer of grant funding is accepted:

- DEACS may work with applicants to revise initially submitted proposals before entering into a grant contract. Any changes to initial proposals must be approved by DEACS and the applicant and the resultant Final CWRAR Proposal will become an attachment to the grant contract.
- Successful applicants will be required to:
 - Provide their federal tax ID number.
 - Register with the state's e-procurement system using the same address provided in the applicant's proposal. To register in the state's e-procurement system or confirm/update your existing registration, please visit the following link: <http://eprocurement.nc.gov/>.
 - Submit a Conflict of Interest Policy using the template available at the following link or submitting a copy of your organization's existing policy:
<https://www.deq.nc.gov/divisions/environmental-assistance-and-customer-service/recycling/programs-offered/grants-local-governments>.
 - Submit a No Overdue Taxes Certification with notarized signature using the form available at: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/divisions/environmental-assistance-and-customer-service/recycling/programs-offered/grants-local-governments>.

- All applicants selected for funding will undergo a compliance review to ensure that they do not have an outstanding Notice of Violation (NOV) related to North Carolina solid waste statutes and rules. Any outstanding NOV must be corrected to the satisfaction of the N.C. Division of Waste Management (DWM) prior to any grant being awarded. Applicants with outstanding NOV are responsible for providing DEACS with information from DWM indicating that the community is in compliance and that the NOV has been corrected before a grant contract can be initiated.
- DEACS will submit a request through the NCDEQ contract processing system for a grant contract. Grantees must act to execute the resultant grant contract without excessive delay.

Other General Terms and Conditions:

All grantees are subject to the following terms and conditions. Most of these terms and conditions will be outlined in the grant contract.

- **Publications:** all documents and publications associated with a grant contract should be printed on recycled paper containing at least 30 percent post-consumer content.
- **Quarterly Check-ins:** your assigned DEACS grant manager will schedule quarterly check-ins with grantees for project updates and technical assistance.
- **Final reports:** a draft final report is required to be submitted to DEACS at least 30 days prior to the contract end date and a final report is required to be submitted by the contract end date. Final reports and drafts should be submitted electronically. Final report guidelines are available at: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/divisions/environmental-assistance-and-customer-service/recycling/programs-offered/grants-local-governments>.
- **Reimbursement:** distribution of DEACS grant funds is on a reimbursement basis. Reimbursement requests must be submitted on letterhead, must include copies of invoices, and must include proof that the grantee has made payment. Proof of payment may include copies of canceled checks or other financial reports showing that funds were spent. State and local sales taxes are not reimbursable, may not be counted towards expenditure requirements, and should be excluded from reimbursement requests. The amount of actual grant payments may be prorated for projects and / or project elements that come in under budget. Purchases made before a grant contract is signed by both NCDEQ and the grant recipient will not be reimbursed.
- **Final 10 Percent of Funds:** DEACS will continue to reimburse grantees until 90 percent of the grant award amount has been expended, withholding 10 percent of grant funds until receipt of an approved final report. The final report must be received and approved prior to the end date of the contract.
- **Extensions / Amendments:** no-cost time extensions are possible but not guaranteed for grant contracts. Grantees seeking no-cost time extensions should submit a request for a time extension at least sixty (60) days prior to the contract end date.