



NEBRASKA

DEPT. OF WATER, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT



2027 Litter Reduction & Recycling and Waste Reduction & Recycling Grants

Q&A Session

Grant Application Process

- Application period: June 24th– August 5th at 4:00 PM CDT
- Application Reviews begin late August
- Reviewing and scoring of applications
- Notification of grants awarded will be in December
- Agreements **MUST** be signed by BOTH parties prior to January 1st
 - Agreements signed after January 1st will have a **Grant start date** of when the agreement was signed by both parties
 - Expenses incurred before the agreement was signed will NOT be eligible for reimbursement

Grant Application Technical Guidance



Step-by-step Application Instructions can be found at:

DWEE Website

Form Type	Applications and Forms
Form	WAS066
Revised Date	2026-06-04
Files	
Attachment	Size
WAS066 Waste and Litter Grants Application Portal Technical Guidance 	1.74 MB
Citizenship Attestation Form.pdf 	29.97 KB

General Information on the Application

- Applications must be submitted using the online process.
- Maximum request limit: Each **entity** is limited to a maximum of \$500,000.
- Scrap Tire applications: Only one project per application is allowed
- Applications will be reviewed and scored based on the submitted application. Please review your application carefully prior to submitting. You will also receive an email with a complete copy, including all uploaded documentation of your after submitting.
- Please use the drop-down lists when the option is available.
- All dollar amounts should be rounded to the nearest whole dollar. Dollar signs, commas and decimals are not necessary and should not be used. Once an application is saved, dollar signs will appear with the numbers you entered.
- Attachments – the application will check for the necessary attachments. Please use the appropriate button for attaching required documents. Documents attached with the supporting documents button are not evaluated as part of the submission but are accepted as part of the submission. Missing attachments will not be accepted after the application period closes.
- Final check: Before submitting, verify that the "Total Grant Amount Requested" field correctly reflects your full request amount.

General Application Requirements

- Must be in compliance with the Department's laws, regulations, and permits.
- Must be able to conduct business in Nebraska
- If applying as an individual, you must be a Citizen of the United States or qualified alien under the federal immigration and Nationality Act and provide your social security number on the application
- You can apply for more than one grant in the same year. The applications can be under both programs and in different categories
 - *Must include combined budget summary*
- Grant funds are to be used for the projects that were proposed in your approved application
- **REMINDER:** Applicant will be the one receiving notifications and a DocuSign email with the aid agreement if awarded a grant

New in 2026

- Personnel pay rate has increased to \$30/hr. (previously \$25/hr.)
- Volunteer time will not be accepted for non-cash match
- All quarterly reported non-cash match must include proper documentation
 - *Best practice would be to obtain all non-cash match documentation (letters of donated space, advertising, payroll services, tax/accounting services, etc.) prior to submitting your application.*
 - *If awarded a 2026 grant and you have donated services, supplies, etc. that are reported on a quarterly basis, you would include this documentation with each quarterly report.*
 - **Note:** *Cash or non-cash matching funds are not required when applying for a Waste or Litter grant but will be considered as scoring criteria on the application.*

New in 2027

- Non cash match will no longer be accepted
- Maximum request limit: Each **entity** is limited to a maximum of \$500,000.
- Wages and FICA are the only personnel expenses that can be reimbursed. Personnel benefits (health insurance, vision insurance, dental insurance, life insurance, retirement, etc.) can only be reported for cash match.
- If your application includes any equipment costing \$25,000 or more OR contractual services and/or supply purchases (including promotional items) where the cost of a single item or bundled purchase totals \$10,000 or more, you are required to submit three (3) comparable, written cost estimates or bids from different vendors.
- 50% cost share for all equipment
- New match (cash match only) ranking points:
 - Between 75% and 100% cash match – 15 points
 - Between 50% and 74% cash match – 10 points
 - Between 25% and 49% cash match – 5 points
 - Between 1% and 24% cash match – 1 point

New in 2027 Continued

Scrap Tire Priority rankings:

1. Collections (100% reimbursement)
2. Mulch (50% reimbursement)
3. Playground PIP/tiles (25% reimbursement)
4. Equipment (50% reimbursement)
5. Tracks (25% reimbursement)
6. Fields (25% reimbursement)

Cost Estimates/Bids for Equipment, Contractual Services, and Supplies

- Three comparable, dated (no older than one year from the date of grant application submission), written cost estimates/bids from different vendors for equipment costing \$25,000 or more OR contractual and/or supply purchases (including promotional items) where the cost of a single item or bundled purchase totals \$10,000 or more, must be submitted with the grant application.
- Three cost estimates/bids from one vendor for different equipment models do not meet this requirement.
- Copies of individual items for sale online will count as a cost estimate. The vendor's name, item description, price, and date must be captured.
 - *A screen shot is acceptable.*
- If three bids could not be acquired, you must provide adequate documentation along with your application to explain.
- Documentation explaining a sole source bid is required.
- If the application is approved, the grant award amount will be based on the lowest cost estimate/bid submitted.

Cost Estimates/Bids for Equipment, Contractual Services, and Supplies

- If the lowest cost estimate/bid is not acceptable, you may submit justification on the application, requesting that the Department approve the reimbursement of a higher cost estimate/bid.
- If you are applying for grant funds for contractual services, and you have already signed a contract for those services when you submit the grant application, you need to submit a copy of the signed contract and documentation demonstrating compliance with the conditions of section VI.
 - Required documentation
 - The original contract for services.
 - The three comparable dated bids or written cost estimates from different vendors.
 - Supporting documentation for the justification if the low bid was not accepted.
- If your organization has accepted proposals in response to an RFP, but a contract has not been issued at the time of the Department's grant application deadline, and your organization requires that the proposals remain confidential, a bid/proposal-submittal time extension will be allowed.
- The complete RFP must be submitted with the application, rather than a statement that the RFP is available upon request.

Non-Reimbursable Costs

The following can't be reported for grant funds or match (not limited to this list):

- Property Tax
- Employee Bonus/Recognition Expenses
- Health Insurance Stipends
- Food & Beverage Costs unrelated to Travel
- Beautification Expenses
- Decorating services/decorating costs
- Late Fees on Invoices
- Trash Bins
- Landfill closure assessment, closure, monitoring and remediation
- Prizes & Gift Cards (including gift baskets, raffle items, etc)
- Guest/non staff Travel Expenses
- Clothing (can be used as cash match)
- Grant Writing Fees
- Loan Fees

Required Form 25% Scrap Tire Projects

25% Scrap Tire Eligible Reimbursements

The turf installer MUST complete and sign this form for the Department to consider the grant reimbursement request

Grant Number: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Company Installing: _____

Description and amount(s) of eligible item(s):

1.	_____	\$ _____
2.	_____	\$ _____
3.	_____	\$ _____
4.	_____	\$ _____
5.	_____	\$ _____
TOTAL		\$ _____

Do you have a Nebraska tire certification letter? If yes, make sure you have included it with this reimbursement request.

☐ YES ☐ NO

Has the entire invoice(s) for this project been paid in full?

☐ YES ☐ NO

**By signing this form, you agree that the itemized costs are true and accurate.*

Applicant's Name (please print)

Applicant's Signature

Date

Installer's Name (please print)

Installer's Signature

Date

Required Forms Combined - Budget Summary

(For multiple grants only)

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Helpful Links:

[Application Portal Link](#)

[Application Guidance Document Link](#)

*Program priority points for scoring both Litter and Waste applications are now included in the application guidance document, but you can also find them toward the bottom of the page [here](#).

[Application/Portal Technical Guidance Link](#)

Who to contact for more information:

- Call Main Line: **402-471-2186**
 - *Please have Main Grant Contact Name & 4-digit Grant Number(s) available*
- Or email us at: DWEE.wastegrants@nebraska.gov
 - *Please include in subject line:*
 - 4-digit Grant Number(s)
 - Grant Category(Recycling, Cleanup, Disposal Fee, etc)
 - Grantee Name



ATTENDEE QUESTIONS?

Q. The concrete grant that I am working on is for four Counties and seven towns. Should each entity send in an application under the recycling grant?

A. Is one entity wanting to purchase a crusher to crush concrete for all the towns? If so, that would be one application. If each individual town is wanting to hire someone to come in and do concrete crushing, that would need to be separate applications.

Q. Would similar models for a piece of equipment be comparable?

A. Yes, if it is the same type of equipment from different vendors, understanding that not all model numbers will be the same.

Q. If we have 8 communities with dilapidated buildings, should they all apply together or separately?

A. Each building should be a separate application. Please refer to our website regarding the requirements for a deconstruction grant. These grants are not for demolition and disposal.

Q. Should other insurance (workman's comp, liability, etc.) be requested and reported in operating?

A. Yes, it is preferred that it is in operating rather than personnel.

Q. If I have 2 recycling grants and a scrap tire grant do I need to include the scrap tire grant on the combined budget summary?

A. No, scrap tire grants do not need to be included on the combined budget summary.

Q. Is non-cash match completely gone for 2027?

A. Yes

Q. Given that office furniture and classroom recycling kits are provided as examples of reimbursable purchases in the Supplies category, would office & classroom-sized recycling bins also be categorized as Supplies rather than Equipment?

A. Yes

Q. Is only one scrap tire grant is allowed per entity? In the case of a school district, does the school district count as one entity or can each school apply?

A. No, an entity can apply for more than one scrap tire project. Only one field/turf/project is allowed per application. For example, if you have a sports complex with 8 fields and want to apply for 25% reimbursement for all, you would need to do 8 applications.

Q. Should we write grants to last for a single year or more than one?

A. One year. Our grants are only for one calendar year.

Q. Can you give an example of what counts as a “bundled purchase” of supplies totaling \$10k+ for the purpose of needing 3 bids or not?

A. Examples could include public education supplies, promotional items, office/shop supplies, hazardous waste collection supplies, bailing wire, etc.

Q. Do we now need cash match for litter clean-up grants?

A. No, there is no cash match for cleanup grants.

Q. Combined Budget Summary Form- you said this is NOT required for the scrap tire grants even if applying for more than one scrap tire grant?

A. Yes, that is correct

Q. In regard to the 3 bid requirement: We have a vendor that has a negotiated contract with E&I Cooperative Services that runs through 2027 (<https://www.eandi.org/contracts/fieldturf/>). While not a government agency, E&I is a non-profit purchasing consortium that does competitive solicitations on behalf of its higher education members. In that respect, E&I functions much like the MHEC compact does for procurement and contracts and is in the same category as other public sector affiliated procurement organizations like NASPO/Valuepoint, NJPA, etc. Wayne State has been an E&I member for years and has used their contracts previously to obtain better pricing than we could independently. In this case, we do not get 3 bids. Is this permissible? What documentation would you need?

A. This explanation you gave in the question would be great to include for sole source justification along with the agreement.

Q. We have employer provided health, dental, and vision insurance. How do you figure the amount you can use toward cash match if they don't work 40hrs/week for that program?

A. Personnel benefits are no longer eligible for reimbursement but may be used as cash match. For employees who only spend a portion of their time on grant-related activities, benefits and employer-paid payroll taxes should be allocated based on the amount of time the employee works on the recycling program. For example, if an employee spends 25% of their total work hours on eligible recycling program activities during the grant period, then up to 25% of the employer-paid health, dental, vision, and FICA costs associated with that employee may be included as cash match. The allocation should be supported by documentation such as timesheets, payroll records, or other records that demonstrate the employee's time spent on grant-related activities. Because the employee's hours vary from week to week and month to month, I would recommend calculating the allocation based on actual documented hours worked on the recycling program rather than using a fixed percentage estimate. The key is that any personnel benefits or employer-paid payroll taxes claimed as cash match must be directly attributable to eligible grant activities and supported by adequate documentation.

THANK YOU!