



City of Greensboro

Melvin Municipal
Office Building
300 W. Washington Street
Greensboro, NC 27401

Agenda Report

File Number: 2024-302

Agenda Item# G.3.

Agenda Date: 5/21/2024. **Department:** Field Operations

Meeting Type: Council Meeting **Category:** Consent Agenda

Title: 2024 -302 Resolution Authorizing Acceptance Of North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Grant Funds In An Amount Up To \$50,000 For An AI Guided Recycling Outreach Program

Council Priority: Place an 'x' in the box.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safest City | <input type="checkbox"/> Most Skilled Workforce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easiest Place to Do Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Most Connected City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Sports Capital | <input type="checkbox"/> Hub of Recreation and Entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abundance of Attainable Housing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other/Admin <u>Sustainability</u> |

Council District: All

Public Hearing: No

Advertising Date/By: N/A

Contact 1 and Phone: Chris Marriott, Ext.7612

Contact 2 and Phone: Griffin Hatchell, Ext. 4379

PURPOSE:

Solid Waste & Recycling is requesting approval from City Council to accept a \$50,000 reimbursement grant from the NCDEQ 2024 Community Waste Reduction and Recycling (CWRAR) Grant Program in support of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guided Recycling Outreach Program. The grant requires a 20% cash match. The total estimated cost of the program is \$60,005. The project and funding period runs July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

BACKGROUND:

The Solid Waste & Recycling Department applied for this grant with the NC Department of Environmental Quality for the purpose of assisting local governments with the implementation, expansion, and improvement of waste reduction and recycling programs in North Carolina. The Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS) administers the CWRAR grant program through their Solid Waste Management Outreach Program.

The City's AI-Guided Recycling Outreach Program was selected for the grant. The program involves installing AI software and hardware on three of the City's recycling trucks to automatically identify non-recyclable materials when carts are dumped. The equipment will enable the City to mail education information directly to residents to help them recycle properly.

Vision Statement: "A Community with Endless Economic Opportunities and Exceptional Quality of Life."

Contamination reduction outreach programs play a crucial role in informing residents about the consequences of contamination and promoting behavioral change. Up to 36% of material in recycling containers is not recyclable. Contamination in the recycling cart not only causes the load to be disposed of as garbage, but it also reduces the potential revenue.

This new AI tool will increase the number of inspections completed across the city with the goal of further reducing the contamination of recycled materials.

The Solid Waste & Recycling grant application can be found at this link: <https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/home/showdocument?id=58869>

The 2024 Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant Program RFP can be found at this link: [open \(nc.gov\)](https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/home/showdocument?id=58869)

BUDGET IMPACT:

The total cost of the program is estimated at \$60,005: \$50,000 will be supported by the grant reimbursement and \$10,005 for the match and any additional program support will come from the Solid Waste & Recycling Department's FY24-25 budget.

ACCOUNT NUMBER:

101-43-4302006 / 220-43-4398013

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED:

It is recommended that City Council approve the resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with NCDEQ for the acceptance of the CWRAR grant funds and fulfill the requirements of the grant.