



## 2020 Business Pollution Prevention (BPP) Program

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### 1) What is the goal of the program?

- a. To reduce the use of harmful chemicals and related technologies in Ramsey County businesses to protect the health of workers and neighboring communities while also reducing environmental impacts. Key pollutants this program seeks to reduce or eliminate include volatile organic compounds (VOCs), Perchloroethylene (PERC), trichloroethylene (TCE), ground level ozone precursors, and fine particulate matter (PM2.5).
- b. The first stage of this program targets businesses that use PERC and/or emit VOCs.

#### 2) What types of businesses are eligible to participate?

- a. Private sector (non-governmental) business operations located in Ramsey County
- b. Businesses that use or emit targeted chemicals/pollutants (see above), such as dry cleaners, auto body shops, industrial painters, and printers.
- c. Businesses substantially in compliance with local, state and federal hazardous waste and other environmental regulations as determined by Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy (R&E). (Businesses that may be brought into compliance by this program may be considered on a case-by-case basis.)

#### 3) What are the benefits to participating businesses?

- a. Financial support for up to 75% of project costs, up to \$50,000
- b. Free assistance in identifying additional funding sources for projects
- c. Free training and technical assistance to assess and implement alternative equipment and processes
- d. Potential to improve indoor air quality, and reduce potential health risks to employees and customers
- e. Potential to reduce harmful emissions and negative impact on the environment and on neighboring residents particularly vulnerable to the impacts of pollution
- f. Option to switch to more advanced and cost-effective technology that is more energy and water efficient, and more reliable. Potential for reduced fees for hazardous waste disposal
- g. Promotional and community relationship advantages for using greener practices

#### 4) What types of projects can be funded?

- a. BPP will provide funding for projects that greatly reduce or eliminate the presence of the targeted pollutant(s). Eligible expenses for the program include:
  - i. Testing and analysis
  - ii. Equipment costs

- iii. Installation, including contractor materials and labor
- iv. Essential staff training on new equipment/processes
- v. Commissioning of new equipment
- vi. Decommissioning of old equipment
- vii. Other R&E-approved expenses required for project success
- b. Only costs incurred after signing a grant award contract are eligible for reimbursement.

**5) What are the award amounts for projects?**

- a. R&E funds will generally cover up to 75% of eligible project costs.
- b. Businesses are responsible for covering the remaining percentage of project costs, however additional grant funds and/or loans can be used to cover some or all of these expenses.
- c. Maximum R&E grant amount for one project will be capped at \$50,000.
- d. Funding amounts may be awarded on a sliding scale to incentivize the most preferable adaptations.
- e. R&E reserves the right to adjust project funding levels and business match requirements, based on individual project situations.

**6) How do I apply?**

- a. Express interest in the program by emailing Christina Vang at [cvang@environmental-initiative.org](mailto:cvang@environmental-initiative.org). Christina will assist businesses with getting set up for the program.

**7) What is the application process?**

- a. A staff member from Environmental Initiative (EI) will discuss the proposed project(s) with an interested business and assist in completing an application.
- b. Applications will be reviewed by a review panel, and award decisions will be communicated by email and phone.

**8) What happens once my project is approved?**

- a. Upon application approval, the business will sign a grant award contract and begin work with Environmental Initiative (EI) on the project.
- b. Upon completion of the project, the business will work with EI to submit final documents to R&E.
- c. Reimbursement for project costs will be provided upon documented, successful completion of the project.
- d. EI will conduct a follow-up visit to the business about 6 months after project completion to make sure new equipment/processes are running smoothly.

**9) What factors will be considered for participation in the program?**

- a. Projects must greatly reduce or eliminate the presence of the target pollutant(s).
- b. Priority consideration is given to businesses located in areas identified by R&E and Ramsey County where a relatively high share of residents and workers are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of pollution or where multiple burdens are disproportionately affecting community health.
- c. Funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

- d. Funding amounts will be based on the following:
  - i. Estimated cost of eligible project activities
  - ii. Transitioning to the most preferred chemicals and/or technologies

**10) When are applications due?**

- a. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.
- b. Funds are available on a calendar-year basis. To secure funding, applications must be approved by 12/31 of that calendar year.

**11) How do I get more information about the program?**

- a. Contact [programs@recyclingandenergy.org](mailto:programs@recyclingandenergy.org)
- b. [Visit our website](#)