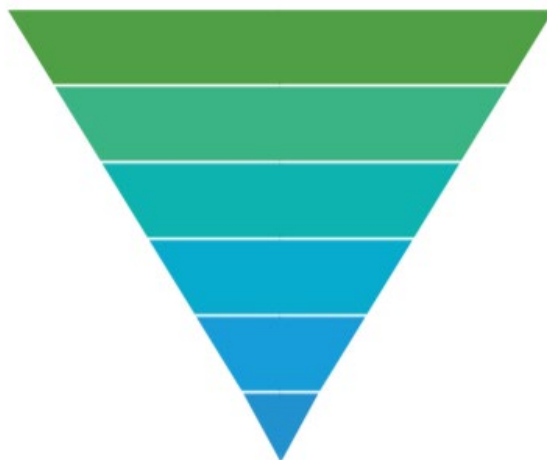


RDN Now Accepting Zero Waste Grant Applications

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is pleased to announce that applications for the Zero Waste Recycling Funding (ZWRP) program are being accepted until September 23, 2024, at 3 p.m. Up to \$300,000 in grants will be available in 2025. The grants foster creativity and growth in the waste industry by reducing the financial risks that come with exploring new ideas. Non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for project funding that focuses on sustainable waste diversion and related activities that support the development of a circular economy in our region.

The focus of the ZWRP program, which is an initiative of the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP), is to fund projects that fall within the higher tiers of the zero-waste hierarchy and support the RDN's goal of 90 per cent diversion of waste from the landfill by 2030.

ZW Hierarchy of Highest & Best Uses



- Reduce, reuse & return
- End subsidies for wasting
- Product & packaging redesign
- Clean production & takebacks
- Reuse, repair, remanufacture
- Recycle, compost & digest
- Regulate (bans, biological energy recover, landfills with re-processing)
- Not ok: incineration, bioreactor landfills

Figure 1. Zero Waste Hierarchy for highest and best uses

The vision of the ZWRP program is to fund a wide variety of innovative initiatives that increase waste diversion and support the development of a circular economy including, but not limited to:

- Acting as a research and recycling hub for items that are hard to recycle
- Conducting programs that include reduction and redesign of materials
- Reusing, repairing and reprocessing materials
- Investigating barriers to recycling

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Grant applications will be evaluated using several criteria aligned with the SWMP with preference given to projects proposed by non-profit organizations operating in the RDN that meet the following objectives:

- Waste diversion is maximized
- Projects are sustainable and do not rely on ongoing funding
- Improved convenience for repurposing and recycling of end-of-life materials
- Innovation in developing markets or processes
- Collaboration and partnerships to maximize community benefit

Applications will be accepted until September 23, 2024, at 3 p.m. Questions and applications can be submitted by email to:

Sonam Bajwa at sbajwa@rdn.bc.ca
Subject line: Zero Waste Recycling Funding Proposal

An application guide with a sample proposal outline is available on the RDN website at rdn.bc.ca/current-bid-opportunities. For more information on the Solid Waste Management Plan, visit rdn.bc.ca/solid-waste-management-plan.

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For media inquiries, please contact:

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