

# Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure Grant Info Session

October 29, 2025

NC Department of Environmental Quality



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

# DEQ receives \$61 Million in federal funding for Hurricane Helene recovery and resiliency

Supplemental federal funding will support hazardous waste, recycling and solid waste management recovery in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

[Learn more on DEQ's webpage](#)



## DEQ Funding Opportunities



Recycling Infrastructure  
\$25 million



Debris Recovery & Disposal  
\$20 million



Brownfields Redevelopment  
\$5 million



Emergency Response & Cleanup  
\$2 million

## Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services



Pesticide Collection & Disposal  
\$4 million

# Recycling Infrastructure Funding

Grant opportunity for local governments launched October 16<sup>th</sup>:

## Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure (HRRI) Grant

Managed by Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS)



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## Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure Grants

NCDEQ has received [grant funding from EPA](#) to provide grants to local governments in Western North Carolina to improve recycling infrastructure impacted by Hurricane Helene.

North Carolina local governments can apply for funding through the Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure Grant. NCDEQ is currently accepting viable, well-planned proposals for projects that will expand, rebuild, or improve waste reduction, composting, and recycling programs to improve the resiliency of the region's waste reduction infrastructure.

Download the request for proposals (RFP) for the Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure Grant using either link below. Proposals are being accepted now through **January 30, 2026** for the first phase of this grant opportunity.

For more information, please contact [Matt James](#) at 919-707-8142 and [register for an informational webinar](#) on October 29 at 9:30am (recording will be posted here).

Download the RFP

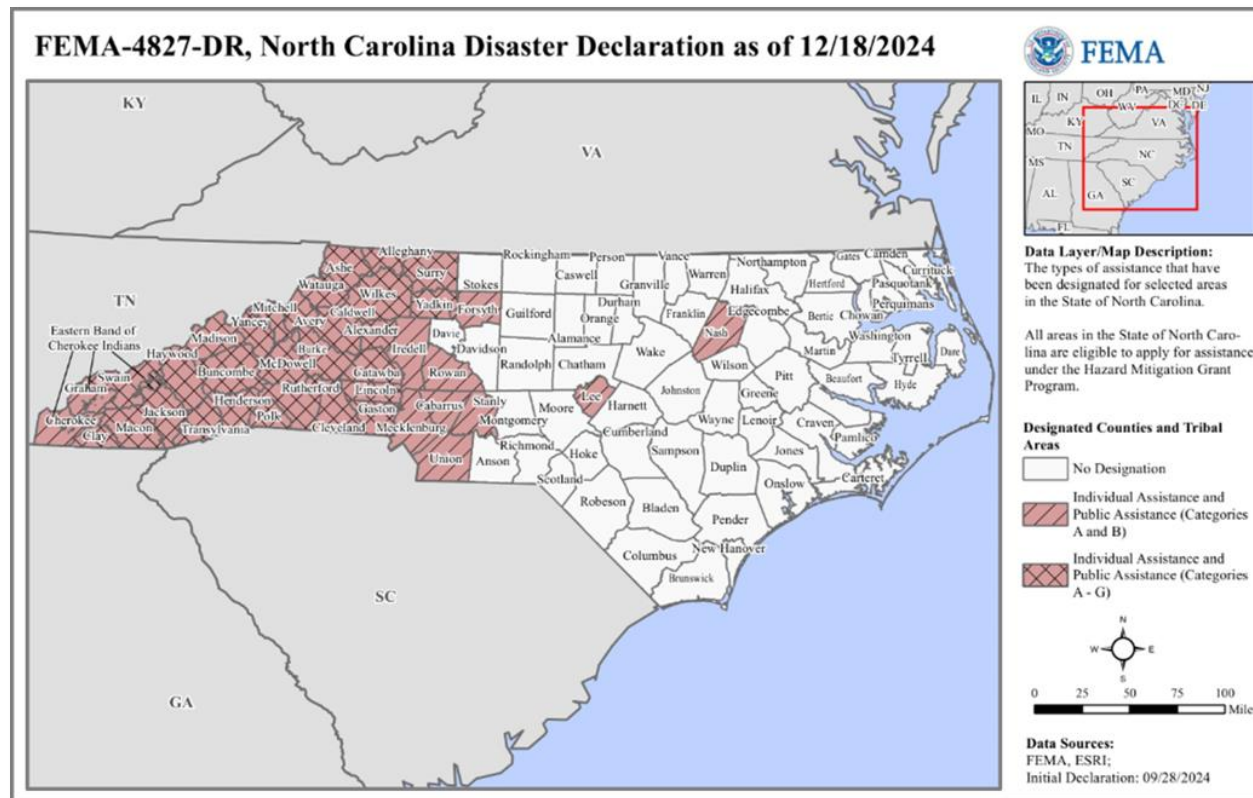
PDF version

Download the RFP

Microsoft Word version

# Eligible Applicants

Local governments (counties, municipalities, councils of governments and solid waste authorities) with a Tropical Storm Helene FEMA disaster declaration ([D-4827](#))



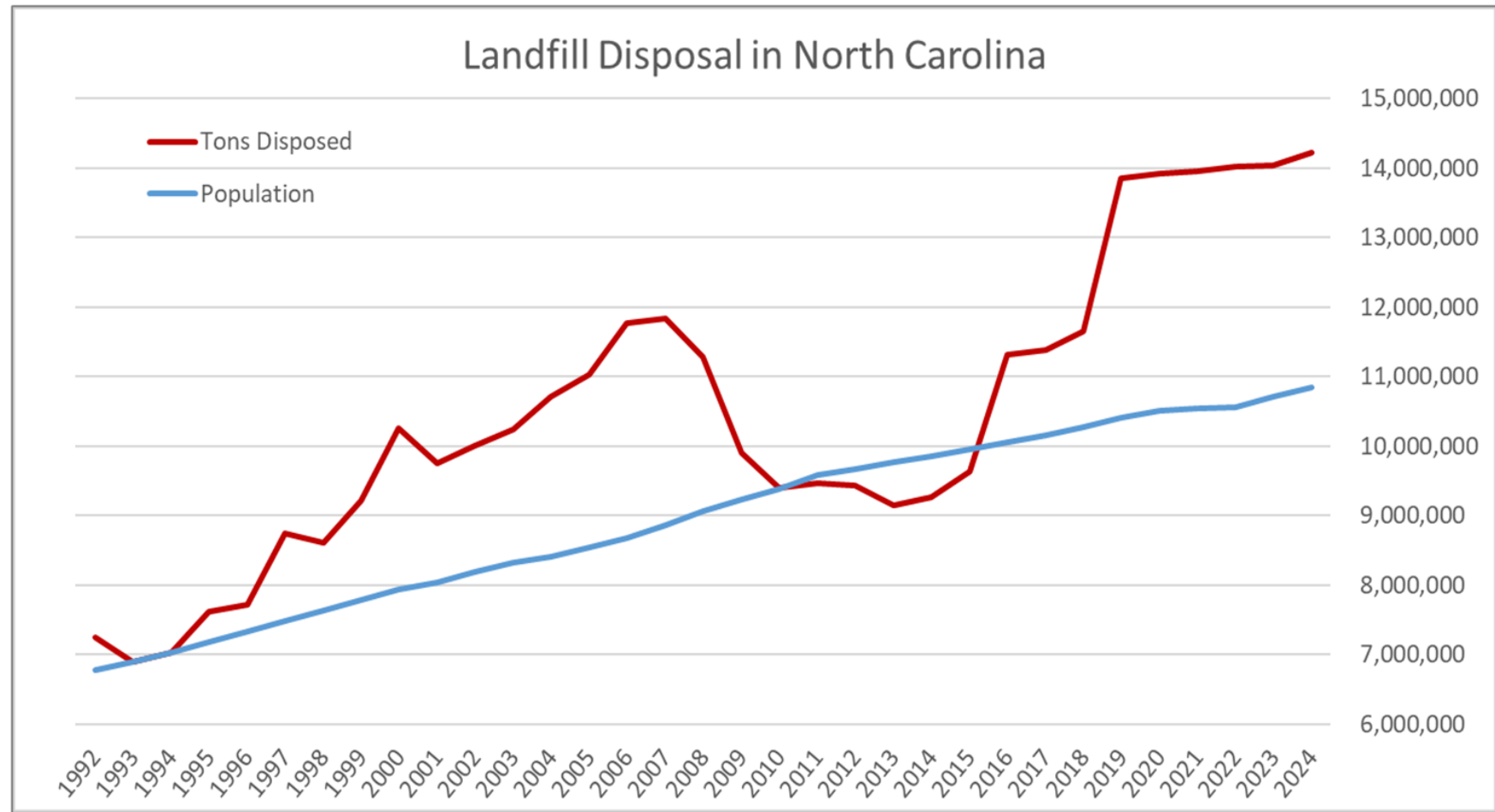
## Disaster Declaration Counties

|           |             |              |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| Alexander | Gaston      | Nash         |
| Alleghany | Graham      | Polk         |
| Ashe      | Haywood     | Rowan        |
| Avery     | Henderson   | Rutherford   |
| Buncombe  | Iredell     | Stanly       |
| Burke     | Jackson     | Surry        |
| Cabarrus  | Lee         | Swain        |
| Caldwell  | Lincoln     | Transylvania |
| Catawba   | Macon       | Union        |
| Cherokee  | Madison     | Watauga      |
| Clay      | McDowell    | Wilkes       |
| Cleveland | Mecklenburg | Yadkin       |
| Forsyth   | Mitchell    | Yancey       |

# HRRI Grant Purpose

Enhance waste  
reduction resiliency

Divert tonnage from  
landfills



# HRRI Grant Overview

- \$5 million max award per project
- No match required
- Infrastructure and equipment
- Phase 1: due January 30, 2026
- Reimbursement-based
- Expenditures must be during grant contract period



# Example projects

- Purchase collection infrastructure such as trucks, containers, and carts to improve residential or commercial recycling programs
- Build an aerated static pile, windrow, or other composting system to enhance food waste diversion efforts
- Build a new or enhance an existing HHW program
- Construct, improve, or repair a transfer station or material recovery facility for the handling, sortation, and marketing of recyclable materials
- Improve an existing or build a new convenience center
- Replace carts lost during Helene

# Example Reimbursable Expenses

- Trucks
- Carts
- Roll-off containers
- Concrete at a transfer station
- Composting facility
- Site development costs
- Engineering designs
- Equipment installation
- Compactors



## North Carolina Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure Grant

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

N.C. Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service

The purpose of this grant program is to assist Hurricane Helene-impacted local governments with the implementation, expansion, recovery, and improvement of waste reduction infrastructure. The Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service is seeking proposals for the Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure (HRRRI) grant program through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Grant D1-05D52025, Hazardous Waste Response Program Support (66.801) through the American Relief Act of 2023. The Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure grant program will enter into contract with eligible local government entities to become subrecipients of the EPA grant. This Request for Proposal includes applicable federal requirements that pass down to the grantee for funding, as outlined at <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-subaward-c>.

With the release of this RFP, DEACS is seeking proposals that help build lasting capacity to divert materials from the waste stream and waste reduction infrastructure. Applicants should carefully read this proposal.

**Grant Funding:** Up to \$5,000,000

**Match:** None required

**Phase 1 Application Period:** Open through January 30, 2026

**Project Period:** Up to 3 years

**Contact:** Matt James at [matt.james@deq.nc.gov](mailto:matt.james@deq.nc.gov)  
Sandy Skolochenko at [sandy.skolochenko@deq.nc.gov](mailto:sandy.skolochenko@deq.nc.gov)

### What Types of Projects are Eligible?

DEACS seeks viable, well-planned proposals from North Carolina Helene (eligible counties found on page 3) for projects that will expand recycling, composting, and recycling programs. Grant money may be used to purchase equipment, and conduct related feasibility studies or engineering for the waste stream.

# How to Apply

See page 4 of the RFP

### 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
- Applicant Contact Information to include:
  - ✓ Name and title of main contact
  - ✓ Organization
  - ✓ Address
  - ✓ Phone number
  - ✓ Email address
- Date of Proposal Submittal
- 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.

*(Relevant award criteria listed below; see page 8 for award criteria description and point values)*

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/composting program or improve an existing recycling/composting program, provide a list of the materials that will be accepted and indicate where they will be taken for processing or marketing. If the proposed project will replace or repair equipment and/or infrastructure lost or damaged during Hurricane Helene, describe how the new equipment and/or infrastructure will improve the community's waste reduction system.  
*(Planning)*
2. Describe how the project will ensure the long-term resiliency of the region's waste diversion system. 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.  
*(Planning; Efficiency/Cost Effectiveness)*
3. How was the community's recycling or compost-related infrastructure impacted by Hurricane Helene? How does the proposed project address a specific recycling or waste reduction need for the community? Will the grant project create a new service or enhance or expand an existing service?  
*(Demonstration of Need)*

# Award Process

- Phase 1 deadline **JANUARY 30, 2026, at 5:00 pm**
- Submitted proposals scored based on RFP criteria
- Contacts signed in the spring
- Contract term depends on project – up to 3 years

# Project Implementation



- Written quarterly reports
- 90/10 Reimbursement
- Final reports



# Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure Grant

Matt James

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