



FY 2026- 2027 SCRAP TIRE RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

N.C. Recycling Business Assistance Center

Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS)

Department of Environmental Quality

The N.C. Recycling Business Assistance Center (RBAC) seeks viable, well-planned proposals from North Carolina-based businesses for projects that increase private-sector capacity to incorporate scrap tire materials into products and other end uses. For the purposes of this grant program, a qualifying business is defined as a private-sector organization that processes tires for end-use recycled product manufacturing and/or creates value-added products using processed scrap tire material.

This document is a Request for Proposals for fundable projects to meet the goals of the grant cycle. Applicants should review this RFP in its entirety and, if needed, discuss their proposed projects with the grant program manager prior to submitting a proposal.

Contact:

Emily Weaver

919-707-8913

Emily.Weaver@deq.nc.gov

Deadline:

5:00pm, August 4, 2026

Grant funding:

Any amount up to **\$1,000,000**

Cash Match:

10% of grant award

What kinds of projects will be funded?

RBAC seeks viable, well-planned proposals from North Carolina-based businesses for projects that increase private-sector capacity to process and incorporate processed scrap tire materials into products and other end uses, in alignment with [State Senate Bill 706](#). This grant program supports the goals of the [2024-2034 Statewide Solid Waste and Materials Management Plan](#), which prioritizes expansions of recycling infrastructure, market development, and circular-economy outcomes.

Grant money is intended to expand market opportunities for tire-derived fuel, crumb rubber, carbon black, and other tire components used in manufactured goods or building materials, thereby reducing the amount of scrap tires disposed in monofills. Grants are limited to capital expenditures needed to establish, expand, or enhance the use of scrap tire materials in manufacturing, recycling, or other value-added end uses.

Examples include **equipment** or **facility upgrades** to increase the use of processed scrap tire materials in products such as fuel, tires, mats, auto parts, gaskets, flooring materials, or other applications. Eligible applicants include manufacturers creating products using scrap tire materials or intermediate processors creating scrap tire materials (e.g., tire-derived fuel, crumb rubber, carbon black) for specific product use(s).

Ineligible Project Costs

Grant funds may not be used for routine operating expenses or costs not directly tied to capital equipment or permanent facility improvements. Examples include:

- a) **Operating expenses**, such as salaries, rent/lease payments, utilities, fuel, routine maintenance, tipping or processing fees, and other recurring operational or production labor costs; and
- a) **Non-capital/indirect costs**, including land acquisition, marking, and general administrative costs.

To discuss your project ideas, contact Emily Weaver at emily.weaver@deq.nc.gov or 919-707-8913.

Available funding and cash match required

Eligible applicants may request any amount of grant funding up to a maximum of \$1,000,000. Grant requests for lower funding amounts will not impact a project's competitiveness. All applications will be reviewed based on the pre-established award scoring criteria outlined on page 3.

Applicants must provide at least a **10% cash match** of the requested grant amount. For example, an applicant requesting a \$100,000 grant would have to match the grant award with at least \$10,000 in cash or direct expenditures.

Upon consideration of the proposals received, RBAC reserves the right to award grant amounts that are lower than the amount requested by an applicant. Contract execution and disbursement of grant funds are contingent upon the availability of funds to RBAC for this purpose.

Funding period

After the grant is awarded, it is anticipated that the grant contract period will begin in September 2026 and continue through June 30, 2027. Specific contract dates will be provided upon award. Only eligible purchases incurred during the contract period and included in the approved project budget may be reimbursed. All reimbursement requests must be supported by itemized receipts/invoices and proof of payment. All purchases must be completed, installed, and operational before the contract end date specified in the grant agreement, unless the time is extended by written agreement between the applicant and the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Extensions are possible but not guaranteed.

How will grant funds be disbursed to award recipients?

All funds for RBAC grants are distributed on a reimbursement basis. This grant program is funded through the Scrap Tire Disposal Account in accordance with [N.C. General Statute §105-187.19\(b\)](#). DEQ receives quarterly distributions from the N.C. Department of Revenue. Based on the balance of the Scrap Tire Disposal Account, grantee may receive a partial reimbursement upon submitting a request for payment, with the remainder paid in future quarter(s).

Requests for reimbursement must include: (1) proof that funds were spent for the budgeted items in the grant contract, including an original receipt marked paid for the purchased equipment or work completed under the grant project; (2) contact information of equipment vendor; and, (3) documentation demonstrating installation and operational readiness of the equipment or completion of the approved project scope, which may include electronic photographs and other supporting verification. Approval of reimbursement requests is subject to independent DEQ verification of purchases with the vendors of the equipment or item.

RBAC will continue to reimburse grantees until 90% of the award amount has been expended, withholding 10% of funds until receipt of an approved final report.

Who is eligible?

Eligible applicants include manufacturers creating products using scrap tire materials or intermediate processors creating scrap tire materials (e.g., tire-derived fuel, crumb rubber, carbon black) for specific product use(s). Examples of products include rubber mats, auto parts, flooring, gaskets, tire-derived fuel, or tire-derived aggregate applications.

One funding request per applicant will be accepted. Former applicants are eligible to apply for grant funding under this program. Former Scrap Tire Recycling Market Development grantees, including current grantees, are eligible to apply under the following conditions: (1) the project has been completed, and the contract is closed; or (2) the grantee has requested reimbursement and received approval for at least 90% of their grant award by August 4, 2026.

Notice: Any applicant that is considered a scrap tire collection site (i.e. processes or disposes scrap tires) must be permitted by the N.C. Division of Waste Management Solid Waste Section in compliance with state law (15A N.C.A.C. 13B.110). Any such applicant not permitted by the State will NOT be eligible for grant funds.

Companies on the [N.C. Office of State Budget and Management's Suspension of Funding List](#) due to failure to complete applicable financial reports for any previous North Carolina state agency grant are ineligible to compete unless removed from the list prior to the proposal deadline. If selected for grant funding, business will be required to certify that they are not debarred from doing business with any Federal or State department or agency.

All applicants are responsible for ensuring they meet all applicable federal, state, and local regulatory requirements, including obtaining any necessary permits. All applicants selected for funding are subject to a compliance review to ensure they are meeting applicable permitting and regulatory requirements. Prospective grantees found to be out of compliance must resolve all compliance issues and submit proof of compliance before receiving a grant contract.

Applicants are also responsible for contacting the appropriate state and local regulatory agencies to obtain information about permitting requirements for the proposed grant project. All permitting requirements must be satisfied prior to receiving any grant funding.

For information pertaining to the permitting of new solid waste facilities or altering existing permits, contact DEQ's Division of Waste Management, Solid Waste Section, [Permitting Branch](#), at 919-707-8235. For general permitting information, please contact the NC DEQ hotline at 1-877-623-6748.

How do you apply?

A complete **Proposal Checklist** is provided on page six of this RFP. This checklist describes what applicants must submit for their proposal to be considered complete. Existing businesses must complete the Business Status Report. Start-up businesses must complete the Business Plan Form and submit a formal business plan. A business is considered a start-up until it is in operation and can show financials for at least three years. *All necessary application forms are provided below. **Proposals that fail to provide all the required information and forms will be deemed inadequate and will not be considered for funding.***

Grant selection process

The selection committee will use the pre-established criteria below to rank proposals and make award decisions. Applicants are encouraged to consider the award scoring criteria as they develop their grant proposals. A total of 100 points is available. The RBAC grant application review process should be completed and preliminary award announcements made in August 2026.

- | <u>Award Scoring Criteria</u> | <u>Available points</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Business Planning | (0 - 25 points) |
| Does the proposal indicate sufficient business planning and experience to ensure the success of the proposed project? How well does the proposal and/or business plan address the essential elements of feedstock supply, recycling market development, financing, material handling and other key issues? | |
| 2. Project Planning | (0 – 30 points) |
| Did the Project Description include all necessary elements as outlined in the Required Proposal Format? Is the proposal well thought out, well researched and backed by valid facts and assumptions? Is the project consistent with recycling industry best management practices? | |
| 3. Cost-effectiveness | (0 - 25 points) |
| Is it clear that the proposed project will have economic merit (i.e., through reductions in operating cost, potential capital cost savings, stimulation of higher prices for recycled materials, or through development of new markets)? Is it clear that the project will be sustainable after the grant is complete? Are the cost elements of the proposal appropriate for the successful completion of the project? | |
| 4. Impact on Waste Stream Size or Toxicity | (0 - 20 points) |

Will the proposed project lead to a clear, definitive impact on wastes being disposed of in landfills? Will the proposed project increase private-sector capacity to incorporate scrap tire materials into products and other end uses?

How do I submit a proposal?

One electronic copy of the proposal must be submitted to Emily Weaver at emily.weaver@deq.nc.gov. Submit electronic applications as Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF attachments. Please refrain from using shareable links (e.g., Google Docs, Dropbox) to send documents. If you are unable to submit an application electronically, please contact Emily Weaver at 919-707-8913 for alternative arrangements. Please note that the application deadline still applies.

Deadline for proposals

Proposals must be received by 5:00 p.m. on August 4, 2026.

Proposals received after the deadline will NOT be considered. Receipt of all proposals will be acknowledged by email. It is the responsibility of anyone submitting a proposal to contact our office if they do not receive a confirmation acknowledgement. No arrangements will be made for lost applications after the due date. ***If you do not receive a confirmation, contact Emily Weaver at emily.weaver@deq.nc.gov or 919-707-8913 as soon as possible.***

If Selected for Funding

RBAC anticipates that applicants selected for funding will be notified by August 31, 2026. RBAC will notify the applicant with a formal offer by email.

- **Within 5 business days of notification:**
 - Successful applicants must accept or decline the offer.
 - Successful applicants must provide their federal tax ID number.
 - If the grant award is different than the requested grant amount, successful applicants must submit a revised budget and project description reflecting the accepted offer. Any changes to initial proposals must be approved by RBAC and the applicant, and the resultant final proposal will become an attachment to a grant contract.

Failure to respond with the above information will result in the grant award being rescinded.

- RBAC will complete a compliance review with the N.C. Division of Waste Management (which may occur before offer is accepted). Prospective grantees will not be awarded a contract unless and until all regulatory and compliance issues are resolved, as independently verified by the Division of Waste Management.
- Once the offer is accepted, RBAC will submit a request through the DEQ contract processing system for a grant contract. Grantees must sign and return the grant contract per the written instructions provided within 5 business days of receipt. RBAC anticipates contracts being prepared and signed in September 2026. This timeline is subject to change.

Other general terms and conditions

Terms and conditions will be outlined in the grant contract. In addition, all grantees are subject to the following terms and conditions:

- **Quarterly Check-ins** – RBAC staff will schedule quarterly check-ins with grantees for project updates and technical assistance.
- **Site Visits** – RBAC staff will perform at least one site visit to verify grant-related purchases after reimbursement is requested.
- **Reimbursement** – All funds for RBAC grants are distributed on a reimbursement basis. Requests for reimbursement must include proof that funds were spent for the budgeted items and include an original receipt marked paid (or paid invoice) for the purchased equipment or work completed under the grant project.

Vendor contact information must also be provided. Approval of reimbursement requests are subject to independent DEQ verification of purchases with the vendor(s).

- **Final Report** – When the grant project is complete, grantees must submit a final report to the RBAC grant manager. A final report template will be provided by the assigned RBAC grant project manager.
- **Final 10% of Grant Funds** – The final 10% of grant funds will be held until an approved final report has been received by RBAC. *The report must be received and approved prior to the end date of the contract.* All final requests for reimbursement must be received within 30 days of the contract end-date or all remaining grant funds will be forfeited.
- **Extensions** – No-cost time extensions are possible but not guaranteed for grant contracts. Grantees seeking no-cost time extensions must request an extension 60 days prior to the contract end date; extension requests received less than 60 days prior to the end date may be denied. The request for extension must indicate the reason that the extension is being requested (i.e., why the project cannot be completed on time). Any request for an extension must include a new timeline of project milestones and a new budget. Extensions request templates are available through the assigned RBAC grant project manager.



FY 2026-2027 SCRAP TIRE RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROPOSAL CHECKLIST

*Before submitting your grant application packet, use the checklist below to make sure you have included all the necessary documents. **Incomplete proposals will not be considered.***

_____ A completed **Contact Form** below.

_____ Register for NC e-procurement through the electronic Vendor Portal (eVP) at <https://evp.nc.gov/>. If you are already registered, please check that the address used in eVP matches the facility location in which you want grant reimbursement payments sent. Check the appropriate “yes” box on the Contact Form to indicate that you have done so.

_____ A completed **Grant Proposal** using the form below to describe the proposed grant project. The grant proposal should be no longer than four pages (i.e., two double-sided pages).

_____ A preliminary **Grant Budget and Timeline** on the form below.

_____ An **Official Quote** from a vendor for proposed equipment or work to be completed as part of the project.

_____ A completed **Business Form**. Choose from **one of the following** based on whether you are a start-up or existing recycling business. A business or nonprofit is considered a start-up until it has been in operation and can show financials for at least three years.

- **Business Plan Form AND a Formal Business Plan for Start-Up Businesses Only.**
- OR -**
- **Business Status Form for Existing Businesses Only.**

_____ The following three forms (**REQUIRED**):

- _____ (1) **No Overdue Taxes Certification** (with notarized signature)
- _____ (2) **Conflict of Interest Policy**
- _____ (3) **Statement of Non-Debarment**

Templates for these forms can be downloaded at: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/environmental-assistance-and-customer-service/recycling-and-materials-management/programs-offered/grant-opportunities#GrantApplicationForms-19960>.

_____ **Optional: Supporting Documents** which may include letters of endorsement, copies of resolutions, documentation of partnerships, etc.

Email Grant Application to emily.weaver@deq.nc.gov

Deadline: Monday, August 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.



FY 2026-2027 SCRAP TIRE RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANT CONTACT FORM

IMPORTANT: Use the *Proposal Checklist* on **page 6** of this RFP to be sure that all necessary documents are completed and included in your submission.

Company or Organization Name:		Applicant: Please choose one: ☐ Existing Recycling Business ☐ Start-up Recycling Business	
Registered in NC e-procurement through the electronic Vendor Portal (eVP) (https://evp.nc.gov/): ☐ YES <i>Be sure that the address used in e-procurement matches the facility location in which you want grant reimbursement payments sent.</i>		Contact Name & Title:	
		Website:	
		Phone Number:	
Mailing Address, Zip Code:		Email Address:	
Facility Address (if different):		County:	
Grant Amount Requested:		Company Cash Match Amount:	
Expected Annual Tons Diverted by Grant Project:			
Total Current Jobs:		Expected New Jobs Created by Grant Project:	

I certify that all of the included statements in this proposal are, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

Signature of Applicant

Date



FY 2026-2027 SCRAP TIRE RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANT GRANT PROPOSAL

Proposals often receive low scores because applicants fail to follow instructions, leading to uncertainty about the project goals and intended results of the proposed project. The clearer the project description is, the fewer questions a reviewer will have about the validity and/or feasibility of a proposal. Applicants also stand a better chance of success if they complete all required proposal forms and carefully review the grant award selection criteria as they prepare their proposal.

Use the following form to write your grant proposal. You may expand the space below to address each point. Please ensure the completed grant proposal does not exceed four pages (two double-sided printed pages).

1. Describe the proposed project, indicating specifically what you are requesting funding for, and how the project will increase the use of scrap tire materials into value-added products. Discuss the economic merit of the proposed project (i.e. through development or expansion of new markets, reductions in operating costs, potential cost savings, or stimulation of higher prices for recycled materials). *A brief description of your organization is okay; later sections of the grant application will allow you to expand on your organization. For this section, please focus on describing the **proposed project**.*
(Project Planning: 0-30 points, Cost-Effectiveness: 0-25 points)
2. How will you sustain the project after the grant ends? Address how you will ensure continued success of the project both economically and operationally.
(Project Planning: 0-30 points, Cost-Effectiveness: 0-25 points)
3. How many additional tons of scrap tires will be processed or recycled into products annually as a result of the proposed project? Please explain.
(Waste Diversion: 0-20 points)
4. Is the project expected to create new jobs? If so, how many full-time equivalent (FTE) positions do you expect will be created?
5. Describe any public or private partnerships you have developed to pursue this proposed project. If applicable, please include documentation of support from partnership entity.
6. If selected for grant funding this proposal will become part of the contract document. If any portions should be redacted from the contract for proprietary reasons, please state as such below.



FY 2026-2027 SCRAP TIRE RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANT

GRANT BUDGET AND TIMELINE

REQUIRED: Attach vendor quotes for proposed items and/or itemized invoices/receipts for eligible items already purchased.

If needed, please add/remove lines to the table below.

Scrap Tire Recycling Market Development Grant Budget			
Item(s)	Cost	Grant Amount	Cash Match*
	\$		
	\$		
	\$		
	\$		
Total Project Cost	\$	\$	\$

Please indicate below if you have loan, grant, or other funding from a bank, company, or agency to support the proposed grant purchases.

Describe loans, grants, or other funding sources:

PROJECT MILESTONES

Please approximate dates for major project milestones. For example, “order equipment,” “install equipment,” “submit draft report to RBAC,” and “submit final report to RBAC.”

Project Task	Approximate Implementation Date
•	
•	
•	
•	
• Submit <i>draft</i> Final Report to RBAC for review	No later than May 15, 2027
• Submit Final Report to RBAC to close contract	No later than June 31, 2027



**FY 2026-2027 SCRAP TIRE RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT
GRANT
BUSINESS PLAN FORM (for Start-up Recycling Businesses only)**

*If you are a start-up business or nonprofit organization (defined as having been in operation for fewer than three years and unable to show three years of financials), please **submit a formal business plan AND answer the following questions**. Please expand the space as needed to address each point below. Information provided on this form is **NOT** included in the four-page limit for the grant proposal.*

(Business Planning: 0-25 points)

1. Describe the services/products you will offer.
2. What scrap-tire-derived materials will your project use or recover (e.g., crumb rubber, tire-derived fuel, carbon black, tire-derived aggregate)? Where will these materials come from (sources, locations, and how you'll secure supply)? Describe how the materials will be handled and prepared for their intended end use. Where and to whom will you sell or distribute the resulting products/materials (end markets/customers)?
3. Who is your competition? What are the advantages of your product or services?
4. Describe your anticipated expenses and income. Please also include any financing plans, specifying how much money you can put toward the project, how much grant money is requested, and how much additional money you will need to borrow to complete the project. (All financial information provided below will remain confidential.)
5. Please disclose information related to any of the following instances that have involved the company or its principals within the past 3 years:
 - a. Pending or threatened litigation impacting the company's financial condition;
 - b. Bankruptcy, creditor's right or receivership proceedings;
 - c. Leases or judgments filed.
6. Does your business operation require a scrap tire collection site permit from DEQ? If so, please provide your permit number. If no, please explain.
7. Include any additional comments on separate pages.



**FY 2026-2027 SCRAP TIRE RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT
GRANT
BUSINESS STATUS FORM (for Existing Recycling Businesses only)**

If you are an existing business, please answer the following questions that address your business status. Please expand the space as needed to address each point below. Information provided on this form is NOT included in the four page limit for the grant proposal.

(Business Planning: 0-25 points)

1. Briefly describe your company's history.

2. What scrap-tire-derived materials will your project use or recover (e.g., crumb rubber, tire-derived fuel, carbon black, tire-derived aggregate)? Where will these materials come from (sources, locations, and how you'll secure supply)? Describe how the materials will be handled and prepared for their intended end use. Where and to whom will you sell or distribute the resulting products/materials (end markets/customers)?

3. Describe your competition. What are the advantages of your product or services?

4. Describe your recent financial history. Fill out the chart below and provide any necessary additional description or clarification. *All financial information provided will remain confidential.*

THREE-YEAR EXPENSE AND INCOME CHART

YEAR	2023	2024	2025
EXPENSES			
Cost of feedstock			
Equipment/supplies			
Business rent/lease			
Salaries			
Loan payments			
Other			
<i>Total Expenses</i>			
INCOME			
Sales			
Other revenue			
<i>Total Income</i>			
PROFIT OR LOSS			

5. Please describe your company's financial projections for 2026, summarizing expected expenses and income, profit or losses.
6. Explain any losses and how your company plans to become profitable in the short term (1-3 years). Please explain how your company's finances are sustainable and not dependent on grant funds.
7. Please disclose information related to any of the following instances that have involved the company or its principals within the past 3 years:
 - Pending or threatened litigation impacting the company's financial condition;
 - Bankruptcy, creditor's right or receivership proceedings;
 - Leins or judgements filed.
8. Does your business operation require a [scrap tire collection site permit](#) from DEQ? If so, please provide your permit number. If no, please explain.
9. Include any additional comments on separate pages.