



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2025 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2025-120

Proposal Title: Reuse for the Future: Youth Education and Engagement

Project Manager Information

Name: Emily Barker

Organization: Reuse Minnesota

Office Telephone: (612) 314-6872

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: To offer curriculum-based opportunities for students to learn about reuse and engage in hands-on activities to cultivate excitement for adopting reuse behaviors into their lives, now and in the future.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$225,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2027

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (H)

Secondary Category: Environmental Education (C)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Classroom learning activities related to solid waste are often focused on recycling and composting. While important, Reuse Minnesota strives to create more opportunities for students to learn about reuse including repair, resale, and rental. Reuse is critical to building a regenerative economy in Minnesota, combating the climate impacts caused by the production of goods (including overconsumption of water and drought), and reducing waste. As we know from our impact study (funded through ENRTF), reuse creates 45,000 jobs in Minnesota and generates approximately \$5 billion in economic activity per year, all while avoiding carbon emissions equivalent to 100,000 gas-powered vehicles. Exciting young people about reuse ensures these positive impacts will continue into the future.

Through two Hennepin County grants, Reuse Minnesota developed a reuse-focused curriculum for high school students and brought the program to four schools in 2023 and 2024. Students learned about benefits of reuse, how to understand the life cycle impacts of products, and ways to implement reuse in their lives. They heard from guest speakers on topics such as textile repair, electronics refurbishment, building material reuse, and unique car restorations, and had hands-on opportunities to practice visible mending, disassemble electronics, and create artwork from reused materials.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

We will align our curriculum with state educational standards, so educators can use the materials to best meet their class needs and know they are meeting state requirements. We also know that multilingual materials are needed to ensure equitable learning opportunities. We translated some materials through our second Hennepin grant, but have additional materials to translate, so we will hire contractors to do this work. For curriculum implementation, utilizing our county and other partner connections, we will select 10 schools; 5 will be in-person with Reuse Minnesota staff presenting content and 5 will be supported remotely with teachers presenting content. Teachers who present curriculum content will be trained by Reuse Minnesota staff prior to implementation and a back-end handbook will be provided. Students will have the opportunity to hear from reuse professionals and engage in hands-on activities. Reuse Minnesota staff will present the curriculum at educator conferences and to any district interested in learning more. Schools and students will be guided in creating a plan for how they can continue and expand the work after the grant, such as starting a reuse club, establishing a student-led thrift store, hosting swap or fix-it events, or switching to reusables in the cafeteria.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

Students will be engaged on topics of reuse so they have the resources needed to reduce waste and adopt other sustainable lifestyle practices. Reuse Minnesota's reuse curriculum will be aligned with state standards to ensure it can be used by educators across the state to meet educational requirements. Translation of curriculum materials will provide the opportunity for more meaningful engagement for students (and their families) who will benefit from materials in their first language. At least 10 schools will implement the curriculum during the grant, further expanding knowledge about reuse and the related environmental benefits throughout Minnesota.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Curriculum alignment with Minnesota state standards

Activity Budget: \$35,000

Activity Description:

Using an RFP process, Reuse Minnesota will hire a contractor to align our curriculum with Minnesota state educational standards. We seek to maximize the number of educational disciplines that can utilize the curriculum, so standards will be matched in STEAM, family and consumer sciences (FACS), trades, and more. Utilizing a contractor that is well versed in Minnesota standards will ensure we meet this goal. The alignment will be provided to school districts for review prior to finalization.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Hire contractor to complete alignment with state standards	September 30, 2025
Share curriculum (with standards) with school districts for review	November 30, 2025
Finalize alignment	February 28, 2026

Activity 2: Curriculum translation

Activity Budget: \$40,000

Activity Description:

To ensure our curriculum is accessible and usable for a wide number of educators and students, we will use an RFP process to hire one or more contractors to translate materials from English to 3 or 4 additional languages. We are flexible on which languages, but the most likely are Spanish, Hmong, Somali, and Oromo. All curriculum materials will be translated and then provided to school districts for review prior to finalization.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Hire contractor(s) to translate all curriculum materials	January 31, 2026
Share curriculum translations with school districts for review	April 30, 2026
Finalize translations	June 30, 2026

Activity 3: Curriculum implementation and dissemination

Activity Budget: \$150,000

Activity Description:

The bulk of this project will be implementation and dissemination of the curriculum. We will identify at least 10 schools (or districts, depending on size) that wish to adopt the curriculum. Our equity platform (<https://reusemn.org/mission>) will guide our selection to ensure we work with a diverse set of educational institutions. We will consider school location and select at least 3 schools in Greater Minnesota. We will also prioritize schools in communities that are disproportionately impacted by waste and environmental degradation. For schools selected for in-person implementation, Reuse Minnesota staff will travel to the schools to give presentations and work directly with students. For schools selected for remote implementation, our staff will work with educators via Zoom to do "train the trainer" sessions, so teachers are prepared to use the curriculum. In all cases, Reuse Minnesota staff will identify and recruit guest speakers to present on topics such as deconstruction, electronics refurbishment, fix-it clinics, and more.

Reuse Minnesota staff will present overviews of the curriculum at events such as FACS to the Max and the MN Association for Environmental Education conference. We will create dedicated space on our website for teachers to obtain curriculum resources into the future.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Select schools for implementation of curriculum (5 in-person, 5 remote)	February 28, 2026
Train the trainer for remote implementation schools	April 30, 2026
Curriculum implementation (fall 2026/spring 2027)	May 31, 2027
Presentations at educator workshops and conferences	June 30, 2027
Upload all materials to Reuse Minnesota website	June 30, 2027

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Annika Bergen	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Reuse Minnesota Board President, expertise, guidance	No
Emily Noyes	Rethos	Reuse Minnesota Board member, educational/9-12 curriculum expertise	No
Nick Reishus	Scott County	Environmentalist, works with schools, liaison to schools in Scott County	No

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

Reuse Minnesota's curriculum and all associated materials will be available for use by educators, free of charge. The curriculum, once matched to state standards and including all translated materials, will be available on our website. These materials will be shared with teaching professionals through a variety of teachers associations throughout the state, through our government partners who often work with schools, and through school districts. Reuse Minnesota staff will continue to be a resource to answer questions, suggest guest speakers, and provide other support to educators implementing the curriculum.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Expanding the State's Reuse Economy to Conserve Natural Resources	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 05j	\$275,000
Strengthening Minnesota's Reuse Economy To Conserve Natural Resources	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 07f	\$334,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Emily Barker

Job Title: Executive Director

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

Emily Barker has a lifetime of personal commitment to and over a decade of professional experience working on waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting. As the Executive Director of Reuse Minnesota, her role is to lead the organization, build partnerships, and support the reuse sector throughout Minnesota. Previously Emily was a solid waste specialist for the City of St. Louis Park where she established a series of swap events, championed the deconstruction of city-owned properties, and created a directory of reuse businesses. She also spent two and a half years at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency where she worked on commercial and state agency recycling and composting. Emily has experience managing several grants, including through LCCMR/ENRTF, Hennepin County, and MPCA.

Emily has significant experience creating educational and training programs. Through Hennepin County's Green Partners grant program, she created Reuse Minnesota's youth reuse curriculum for high school students, which has been implemented at four Minnesota high schools. Through LCCMR funding, Emily hired and worked in collaboration with the project contractor to create Reuse Minnesota's Resale Business Development Training. Emily established Reuse Minnesota's Mend-it Clinics, which are funded through MPCA's Environmental Assistance grant. These events not only

help individuals repair their clothing, but aim to teach them basic mending skills whenever possible. While with the City of St. Louis Park, Emily co-created the Recycling Champions program which engages citizen ambassadors in peer-to-peer learning and sharing about waste prevention, reuse, and recycling. Emily is a frequent presenter at events and meetings for the general public, county recycling ambassadors, government staff, reuse professionals, and more.

Outside of work, Emily serves as a board member and volunteer for Old School thrift store in Minneapolis. Emily has a biology degree from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington.

Organization: Reuse Minnesota

Organization Description:

Reuse Minnesota was founded in 2012 and is a member-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to leading a movement grounded in the principles of reuse. Our membership includes small and large reuse businesses, government entities, academic institutions, and individuals who support reuse. We build partnerships and support this vibrant network of reuse practitioners through education, advocacy, promotion. We envision regenerative, reuse-centered communities that protect the environment and value the well-being of future generations. Reuse Minnesota believes in the value of all people and chooses to be an organization that not only welcomes diverse voices and perspectives, but actively seeks to incorporate them. We are committed to building the next generation of reusers and ensuring that the majority of Minnesotans understand the environmental, social, and economic benefits of reuse.

Reuse Minnesota currently has two staff including a full-time Executive Director and part-time Communications Assistant. The organization is overseen by a volunteer board of directors. Board members are actively engaged in member recruitment, fundraising, financial oversight, governance, and strategic planning.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Executive Director		Project oversight, reporting, reimbursement submittals; contractor management; curriculum implementation, teacher training for curriculum use			20%	1.2		\$115,000
Communications Assistant		Support for curriculum implementation and teacher trainings including scheduling and promotion; graphics creation for additional class materials and translated materials; phone and email support related to grant activities.			17%	0.6		\$35,000
							Sub Total	\$150,000
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Contractor will translate Reuse Minnesota's curriculum to additional languages (e.g. Spanish, Hmong, Somali) to ensure learning is available to many students across the state. Hiring of person or contractor will adhere to state contracting guidelines and a competitive bid process.				0.25		\$20,000
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Contractor will align Reuse Minnesota's curriculum to Minnesota educational standards to ensure ease of implementation and use by teaching professionals. Hiring of person or contractor will adhere to state contracting guidelines and a competitive bid process.				0.1		\$18,000
Three Rivers Consulting, LLC	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Accountant: Grant financial management. To satisfy grant accountability and fiscal management, an accountant is necessary for this ENRTF grant period. Three Rivers is our current accountant.				0.08		\$8,000
							Sub Total	\$46,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Equipment	Zoom videoconferencing	Virtual meetings and webinars to provide remote support to schools					\$1,500

			implementing the curriculum in Greater Minnesota, and for training educators in areas where in-person travel is not possible					
	Tools and Supplies	Class supplies: Mending/sewing materials, glue, reusable utensil kits	Student learning is amplified by hands on activities, materials will be obtained used when possible. \$750 per school/district partner					\$7,500
							Sub Total	\$9,000
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	7500 miles X \$0.67 = \$5025 + \$3475 food and lodging	Travel for in-person training and implementation of reuse curriculum at schools in Greater Minnesota.					\$8,500
							Sub Total	\$8,500
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
	Printing	Curriculum information and handouts	Printed copies of curriculum information for promotion to educators, such as at conference presentations. Handouts for students in schools implementing the curriculum. Reuse Minnesota limits printing as much as possible, using electronic communication whenever possible, however some physical handouts will help enrich student experience of the curriculum.					\$3,000

							Sub Total	\$3,000
Other Expenses								
		Speaker honorariums	Honorariums of \$150 each for individuals, nonprofits, and small business guest speakers in schools where curriculum is implemented. Allows for up to 5 per school. Providing an honorarium ensures that a wider variety of individuals can be invited to share their reuse knowledge and skills, and honors the wisdom and time that goes into preparing materials and giving a presentation.					\$7,500
		Background checks for speakers	Background checks for guest speakers in schools to comply with LCCMR requirements. In our experience, checks have not been required for our staff or one-time guest speakers.					\$1,000
							Sub Total	\$8,500
							Grand Total	\$225,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	Membership revenue	General operating	Pending	\$20,000
Cash	Hennepin County Green Partners grant	Phase 2 (2023-2024) - Curriculum refinement, adding modules, creating video content, additional school implementation	Secured	\$23,500
			Non State Sub Total	\$43,500
			Funds Total	\$43,500

Total Project Cost: \$268,500

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [5594cbde-4ff.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Lecture slides that accompany the first class of the curriculum....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
990 Reuse Minnesota (2022)	172db39b-9a5.pdf
SOS - Evidence of good standing	a8437862-e75.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Board letter	687b27e3-22e.docx

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Tutorial: How to create a mending kit (created as a curriculum resource based on kits provided to students for project funded by Hennepin County)	93fdd6fe-f94.pdf
Reuse Minnesota impact study (2022)	ce3ed3ad-876.pdf
LOS - Scott County	9a9133d7-834.pdf
LOS - Shannon Nordby	8fe0beee-a08.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

Yes

Do you certify that background checks are performed for background check crimes, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 299C.61, Subd. 2, on all employees, contractors, and volunteers who have or may have access to a child to whom children's services are provided by your organization?

Yes

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

Emily Noyes, Reuse Minnesota board member

