#

**CIRCULAR ECONOMY MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**

**GUIDELINES**

**2020-21**

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# Submission of Expression of Interest

In order to better identify suitable projects to support under the Circular Economy Market Development Grant program, we invite eligible applicants to submit a project summary using our Expression of Interest (EoI) form. If your project is suitable, you will be invited to proceed to full application process, subject to funding availability. The EoI form is available at <https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/funding>

Eligible applicants can submit an EoI at any time, until the round closes, or until program funds are exhausted, whichever occurs first.

The submission of an EoI does not guarantee your project will be invited to proceed to full application process and/or funded. The decision to invite to proceed to full application process is at the sole discretion of Green Industries SA.

Please ensure that you have read the guidelines in full prior to submitting an Expression of Interest.

**Further information**

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Manager Policy and Projects

Green Industries SA

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# About Green Industries SA

Green Industries SA is an enabler and driver of change, supporting the development of the circular economy through diverse collaborations which improve productivity, resilience, resource efficiency and the environment.

It aims to transform how South Australians use and value resources. Its objectives under the *Green Industries SA Act 2004* are to:

* promote waste management practices that, as far as possible, eliminate waste or its consignment to landfill; and
* promote innovation and business activity in the waste management, resource recovery and green industry sectors, recognising these areas present valuable opportunities to contribute to the state’s economic growth.

For more information visit [www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au](http://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au)

# Adapting to a circular economy business model

This funding will support the South Australian recycling industry and Local Government to respond to the challenges presented by China’s National Sword Policy and prepare for the Council of Australian Governments Waste Export Ban, by supporting responses to assist the sector’s structural adjustment to a more sustainable circular economy business model via stimulating an increase in the quality, performance and market demand for recycled materials and recycled-content products.

# South Australia’s Waste Strategy

The Circular Economy Market Development Grant program supports the goals of South Australia’s Waste Strategy 2015-2020. The strategy is available from Green Industries SA website at <http://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/publications-waste-strategy-2015-2020>

The Strategy has three objectives:

* a resource efficient economy where the best or full value is secured from products and materials produced, consumed and recovered across the State
* a stable and efficient market for investors through a clear policy framework providing a solid platform for investment decisions
* a culture enabling the South Australian community, businesses and institutions to continue and strengthen their role in implementing zero waste strategies and programs locally, nationally and internationally.

# This grant program aims to assist projects that support the objectives of the Strategy.

# South Australia’s Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan

*South Australia's Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan* complements the *30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide 2017*. It has been developed to provide a clear guide for future waste and resource recovery infrastructure needs across the State and support a resource efficient economy in South Australia.

This is the first time such a plan has been prepared for South Australia and its regions. The Plan and the Companion Report provide intelligence for industry that will assist in informing investment decisions, identifies potential infrastructure needs for specialised and problematic waste streams and considers soft infrastructure supporting the waste and resource recovery industry development.

The Plan is available from Green Industries SA website at:

<http://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/sa-waste-resource-recovery-infrastructure-plan>

# Objectives of the Circular Economy Market Development Grant Program

The Circular Economy Market Development Grant program will assist South Australian companies, local authorities, organisations and research institutes to further their market development efforts associated with recycled materials and recycled-content products within the current challenging environment and transition to a more circular economy business model.

The Circular Economy Market Development Grants Program objectives are intended to:

* facilitate an ongoing increase in the quality, performance and market demand for recycled materials and recycled content products
* create market opportunities for new, sustainable products made from recycled materials
* expand market-related activities for existing recycled-content products
* improve the quality and supply of waste feedstock for use in manufacturing recycled-content products, and improve market confidence/acceptance in the recycled materials and recycled-content products
* connect buyers with suppliers for recycled materials and recycled-content products.

The program encourages applications for circular economy market development projects that will contribute to achieving these objectives and provide economic, environmental and social benefits to South Australia.

# Available funding

Total funding of $300,000 is available for the program in 2020-21. Applications for Circular Economy Market Development Grants program up to a maximum of **$100,000** (GST exclusive) per applicant are invited.

# Matching the Circular Economy Market Development Grant

Private sector businesses – the program will contribute a maximum of 50% of eligible project costs which must be matched by the applicant and cannot include “in-kind” contributions.

Industry associations, councils, not-for-profit organisations and research institutes – the program will contribute a minimum of 50% and up to 100% of eligible project costs if sufficient justification is provided which can include, but not be limited to “in-kind” contributions.

# Eligible applicants

Applications will be accepted from local councils, industry associations, not-for-profit organisations, research institutes and businesses that produce, manufacture, sell or promote South Australian recycled materials and/or recycled-content products. All applicants must be legally constituted entities.

Collaborative applications that demonstrate a strong partnership approach between industry organisations, associations, research institutes and/or representatives from targeted market segments or connecting potential customers through the supply chain, are encouraged.

It is preferable that a significant component of the project to be undertaken in South Australia.

To be eligible for funding the applicant must:

* undertake/implement a project whereby the primary focus and benefits must be for South Australia
* be solvent and able to enter into a legally binding funding agreement with the South Australian Government
* hold a current Australian Business Number (ABN) and be registered for GST; not-for-profit organisations must be registered with an appropriate Australian and/or State-based authority as a legal entity comply with all federal and state laws, regulations and any applicable Environment Protection Authority requirements.

Businesses that provide independent, specialist advisory services (consultants) are not eligible to apply for grant funding[[1]](#footnote-1). If you’re a consultant with a project that aligns with the Circular Economy Market Development guidelines, you need to partner with an eligible business/organisation to apply for funding. Please direct the partner business/organisation to contact Green Industries SA and apply.

Funds may be made available to previous recipients of a State Government grant at the absolute discretion of GISA. In these cases, consideration will be given to previously funded projects, and the level of satisfaction with associated project outputs and outcomes before making a decision on any new funding applications.

# Eligible projects

Eligible projects are ones that:

* validate and improve the quality and performance of local recycled materials and/or recycled-content products, and include (but are not limited to) the following activities:
* product quality testing with accredited testing organisations
* development of new or amended product technical specifications
* development of new or amended product standards
* the associated certification or accreditation processes linked to the product standards or specifications
* development of environmental declarations (e.g. EPDs) or labels based on Australian (preferred) / international standards and independent verification
* laboratory testing and field trials for product mixes and/or performance etc that validate products, ensuring that they meet market requirements
* the associated education, training and awareness raising activities.

and /or

* develop new markets or expand existing markets for local recycled materials and/or recycled-content products, such as projects that include (but are not limited to) the following activities:
* communication and promotional activities that increase awareness and knowledge / understanding of the performance and benefits of the recycled-content products
* market analysis, market development and implementation plans
* engagement activities that will connect suppliers with potential markets
* development of sustainable procurement strategies, policies, targets, specifications, model practices, reporting and systems that increases and improve market demand for the use of recycled materials and/or recycled-content products, including across supply chains
* Market research identifying specific industry and/or market development barriers and opportunities for emerging and priority waste streams (as listed below).

To be eligible for funding the project and/or its outcomes must also cover all of the following:

* target the following priority waste materials (noting that other materials may also be considered):
* plastics
* paper and cardboard
* glass
* scrap metals
* textiles
* e-waste, and
* tyres.
* meet and contribute to the objectives of the *South Australia’s Waste Strategy 2015-2020* and the Circular Economy Market Development Grants Program
* provide a measurable economic benefit to South Australia
* have a clear implementation timeframe and project milestones
* be new - activities have not commenced.

# What will not be funded

Grant funds will **not** be available for the following:

* projects that are not consistent with the objectives of the *South Australia’s Waste Strategy 2015-2020* and the Circular Economy Market Development Grants Program
* retrospective activities i.e. projects which have been completed in the past or are already taking place without the grant
* general organisational administration or operation costs
* staff wages/salaries and on-costs that are not directly related to the project
* travel expenses
* equipment purchase or leasing
* infrastructure projects
* early-stage research prior to product development
* standards testing for packaging including alternatives to single-use plastics.

Applicants unsure about the eligibility of their projects are encouraged to contact Ms Serena Yang at Green Industries SA on 0409 725 793 or serena.yang@sa.gov.au to discuss the matter further.

# Assessment criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed against the criteria below:

Weighted criteria – projects will be scored out of 100 points for each individual criterion (1, 2 and 3). An eligible project must score at least 50 points for each criterion.

1. **Increase markets for local recycled materials or recycled-content products (50% weighting**): identifying market gaps and barriers that the project would overcome and explain the extent to which the project will lead to an increase in the value, size and/or diversity of markets for local recycled materials or recycled-content products
2. **Sustainability and local benefits (30% weighting):** the extent to which the project will benefit South Australia’s economy and environment, such as increased local employment, fostering stronger local recycling markets and increased use of local recycled materials and/or recycled content products.
3. **Value for money (20% weighting):** the extent that grant monies are leveraged with other funding and/or consideration to outcomes (environmental, economic and social) expected from grant funding investment.

Non-weighted criteria – must be assessed as sufficient in order for the application to be regarded as eligible for potential grant funding (also dependent upon meeting weighted criteria requirements).

1. **A clear and credible description of the proposed project activities:** a succinct and clear description of each major tasks to be performed. Applications must demonstrate a clear link between project activities and the achievement of project goals/outcomes in alignment with the aims of the Circular Economy Market Development Grant program.
2. **Capacity and capability to manage the project:** demonstrating applicant’s capacity and capability to manage and deliver the project successfully with sufficient commitment and experience (financial, organisational and industry support) and an understanding the relevant regulatory requirements.
3. **Project risk management, measurement and evaluation:** the main risks that the project may entail and the proposed mitigation measures, project key performance indicators, their measurement, evaluation and data capture.

The Assessment Panel may take into account other aspects of the application it regards as relevant, such as a focus on an industry need. Providing a benefit to an industry as compared to only the grant applicant will improve applicants’ chances of receiving a grant.

# Access to intellectual property

Applicants must be able to demonstrate they have access to any intellectual property necessary to carry out the project. It is expected that in most cases there would be dual ownership (shared with Green Industries SA) of any intellectual property resulting from the project.

# Privacy and commercial-in-confidence considerations

All applications will be treated as commercial-in-confidence. Green Industries SA reserves the right to include third party evaluations as part of the assessment process and has the ultimate discretion in relation to publicity for successful applications. Applicants are not permitted to publicise their projects without the approval in the first instance of Green Industries SA.

# Insurance

For the duration of the project, the applicant must maintain public liability insurance for a minimum of $10 million. The applicant must have a professional indemnity insurance for a minimum of $1 million per claim, if applicable.

Applicants are encouraged to ensure their chosen sub-contractor(s) or service provider(s) has and maintains public liability insurance for a minimum of $10 million, and professional indemnity insurance for a minimum of $1 million per claim for the duration of the project.

# Application and assessment process

* Eligible applicants can submit EoI at any time, until the round closes, or until program funds are exhausted, whichever occurs first.
* If the proposed project is found suitable, applicants will be invited to proceed to full application process within a GISA specified timeframe.
* All applications will be assessed against assessment criteria as these are received.
* Applications will be assessed by a Panel convened by Green Industries SA. The Panel will assess applications based on the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation provided by the applicant with their application. The Panel may be comprised of Green Industries SA staff and/or external specialists. The Panel will assess applications against the eligibility and assessment criteria included in this guideline.
* If required, additional written information and data may be requested from the applicant or others to assist with the assessment, including financial information as required.
* A site visit and/or interview with eligible applicants may also be required as part of the evaluation.

Applicants should note that irrespective of eligibility and merit, there is no guarantee that an offer of funding will be made.

# Funding agreement

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with Green Industries SA. This agreement will set out the terms of the grant, conditions, payment schedules, project timing, key performance indicators, reporting requirements and other matters.

A copy of a standard funding agreement can be provided on request.

The funding agreement must be signed within 30 days of receipt to guarantee the grant acceptance.

# Duration

Grants may be provided for eligible project costs incurred over a maximum of 12 months from the date of execution of the funding agreement, or as otherwise negotiated and agreed by Green Industries SA.

# Promotion and case studies

The applicant is not permitted to publicise their project without gaining prior written approval from Green Industries SA. Green Industries SA must be acknowledged in all media and promotional activities relating to the project and has ultimate discretion about publicity of successful applications.

All successful applicants must be willing to cooperate and participate in the development of case study materials based on funded projects (using information of a non-sensitive nature) if requested by Green Industries SA. Case study materials are usually made publicly available and may be used by successful applicants for their own promotional and/or educative purposes.

All successful applicants must, if requested, supply a high-resolution logo and authorise its use on the Green Industries SA website.

# Reporting

Green Industries SA requires successful applicants to provide reporting on the project progress and outcomes. Requirements of reporting will be specified in funding agreements, and may vary on a case by case basis in accordance with project type and deliverables.

Where “in-kind” contributions are included as matching funding, the final report will need to demonstrate the budgeted “in-kind” has actually been contributed.

1. For eligible Circular Economy Market Development projects, the organisation that is the subject of the project (i.e. a client of a consultant) may apply for grant funding to cover the fees charged by the consultant. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)