

Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling  
FY 2017 Food Recovery Grant

**Application Requirements**

Requests must be received by the Office no later than **5:00 p.m. (EDT) on Friday, April 8, 2016**. Responses to the items below will be used to assign point values to all applications. Grant recommendations will be made based on a ranking by point value. Responses must be numbered 1 through 8 and addressed in numerical order. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

- 1. Local Government name.** Greenville County Solid Waste Division, Greenville SC
- 2. Names, addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers and email addresses for the project manager, finance director, and authorized representative (i.e. City/County Manager or Administrator).**

Wendy McNatt, Recycling Coordinator, 11075 Augusta Rd, Honea Path SC 29654. 864-243-9672, fax 864-243-5276. [wmcnatt@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:wmcnatt@greenvillecounty.org)

Ruth Parris, Budget Director, 301 University Ridge, Suite 200, Greenville, SC 29601. 864-467-7037, fax 864-467-7340 [rparris@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:rparris@greenvillecounty.org)

Joseph Kernell, County Administrator. 301 University Ridge, Suite 2400, Greenville, SC 29601. 864-467-7105, fax 864-467-7151 [jkernell@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:jkernell@greenvillecounty.org)

- 3. Overview of current project:**

The Food Waste Diversion project will serve to educate the general public to the municipal solid waste reduction goal and will primarily focus on education to waste generators of their disposal options, while recruiting generators to work with Loaves & Fishes to save the usable food for donation and then to further capture any unusable product to Atlas Organics for delivery to the Twin Chimneys landfill for composting.

- a. Is this project in the planning, implementation or assessment stage?**

The composting portion of the project (at Twin Chimneys?) has been initiated and is set to begin May, 2016. The collaboration of Atlas with Loaves & Fishes to close the gap between donations and unusable waste is in the planning stages.

- b. What is the service area(s) in which the program is/will be offered?**

The service area for the project will be Greenville County.

- c. Describe how food materials are currently being collected.**

In Greenville County, food materials are collected primarily by Waste Management.

Loaves & Fishes has been operating in Greenville County for 25 years and has been collecting some waste to reuse to feed people. They pick up from grocers, industrial feeders, restaurants and corporate events. In 2015, Loaves & Fishes picked up and delivered 1.9 million pounds of food that would have been wasted and likely deposited in the landfill.

Atlas Organics collects source separated food waste in the grocery, hospitality, healthcare, corporate, and educational markets. They collect approximately 225,000 pounds of food waste monthly for composting. The product is collected in 64 gallon containers.

Greenville County source reduction will be further enhanced by the promotion of this project for both usable product by Loaves & Fishes and compostable product by Atlas Organics.

**d. Describe where materials are coming from, i.e., restaurants, bars, institutional facilities, etc.**

Food waste is generated from restaurants, grocers, consumers and institutional facilities.

**4. Description of grant project**

Greenville County Solid Waste Division/Twin Chimneys Landfill, Atlas Organics and Loaves & Fishes are proposing a collaborative project to aid Greenville County to capture more food waste by educating the waste generators to the food waste reduction goal. By educating generators on the opportunities available to diminish their waste, through a public relations planned effort and community outreach, both Loaves & Fishes food rescue and Atlas Organics can capture more food product.

The project will highlight the waste reduction goal through an aggressive public relations campaign. We plan to create marketing materials to include an informational sales piece, flyers and eblast templates to communicate the message to potential stakeholders. We plan to utilize the newly developed DHEC no food waste logo in all communications efforts. The materials will outline the opportunities food waste generators have to ensure the food recovery goal is met. Materials will focus on education to the public and waste generators as to the reduction goal. The materials will outline two opportunities to decrease their waste, first through collection of the usable waste for donation to people and secondly, for collection of the material for composting, highlighting the ease of composting at the Twin Chimneys Landfill facility.

The project will require contract costs for collection and hauling of the material for both the reusable food and the compostable materials. We expect both Loaves & Fishes and Atlas Organics to show an increase their volume of prepared food from restaurants and industrial feeders due to the increased visibility generated by the public relations campaign.

**a. Describe how generators will be selected for participation.**

Loaves & Fishes currently works with about 100 food waste generators and they will all be invited to participate with Atlas Organics once the usable product has been collected. In addition, the expected outcome for the project is to generate new waste generator leads and capture that food product as well. We will utilize our local media to promote the project, further generating new leads to donors.

**b. Describe how the food materials will be collected and transported upon implementation of the project. Include the collection frequency, and a description of the methods and equipment used to collect and transport the materials.**

Loaves & Fishes collects daily, 364 days per year and the food product is collected in stackable, vented totes and banana boxes from grocers. Loaves & Fishes operates a fleet of four refrigerated box trucks.

Atlas Organics collects food waste in 64 gallon roll carts. Collections occurs 3 to 6 times per week depending on customer. Box trucks are used to collect food waste and food waste will be transported to the composting facility at Twin Chimneys Landfill.

**c. Describe how the food materials will be collected and stored.**

The materials will be collected by Loaves & Fishes and Atlas Organics' staff drivers in box trucks. Usable food product that Loaves & Fishes collects will be delivered the same day to their partner agencies who feed the hungry. Loaves & Fishes operates a fleet of 3 refrigerated box trucks. Atlas Organics will collect the unusable food product and deliver to the Twin Chimneys Landfill the same day.

**d. Describe who will handle the collection of the food materials.**

Food collection will be handled by both Loaves & Fishes utilizing their fleet of refrigerated box trucks and Atlas Organics' fleet of box trucks.

**e. Describe how the material will be processed, i.e., sent to a food bank, sent to a compost facility, etc.**

The materials will be collected by Loaves & Fishes and Atlas Organics' staff drivers in our box trucks. Usable food product that Loaves & Fishes collects will be delivered the same day to their partner agencies who feed the hungry for their use. Atlas Organics will collect unusable food product and deliver to the Twin Chimneys Landfill the same day.

**f. Describe in detail all items for which grant funding is being requested. Include photos or descriptive literature as available.**

Requested grant funding will be allocated to do the following:

- Contract a graphic designer to create the marketing materials for the public relations campaign and the sales materials.
- Printing for the materials produced.
- Postage for mailing flyers/information to prospects
- Collection and hauling of product created by new generators by Loaves & Fishes
- Hauling costs for newly recruited generators to the Twin Chimneys facility by Atlas
- Purchase of 50 Flexcon vented stack & nest harvest totes for Loaves & Fishes product pick up (see attachment A)
- Cross training for Atlas Organics and Loaves & Fishes staff and drivers

**g. Describe all partners involved in this project, their role in the project and an identification of which are public and which are private entities.**

Atlas Organics is a privately owned company that collects and composts food waste in the Upstate and Columbia area of South Carolina. They operate several box trucks and a semi truck, and will begin operating a composting facility in May of 2016 at the Twin Chimneys Landfill, 11075 Augusta Road, Honea Path South Carolina. Atlas' role in the project will be to collect any unusable product Loaves & Fishes cannot use and deliver it the composting facility at Twin Chimneys Landfill.

Twin Chimneys Landfill is the public site of the composting facility which Atlas Organics will use to haul the unusable food product they collect. Twin Chimneys landfills' role in the project will be to not only accept the compostable materials, but also to distribute information about the Food Waste Reduction project to customers.

Loaves & Fishes is a 501(c)3 non-profit food rescue organization operating in Greenville County. They rescue food daily and deliver it free of charge to their 94 partner agencies on a rotating basis. Their partner agencies include soup kitchens, rehabilitation shelters, domestic violence shelters, emergency food pantries, after school programs and low income senior feeding programs. Loaves & Fishes' role in

the project will be to share resources with Atlas for customer/product, to pick up additional poundage for feeding people.

All three entities will support the project with identification of designer for marketing products, social media marketing, distribution and / or consumption of the collected products and new business development.

## **5. Outreach**

**a. Describe all outreach activities, i.e. visits, social media, recognition programs that will be undertaken to promote the food recovery program to restaurants, bars, institutional facilities, etc.**

Outreach activities will include sales visits to potential new generators, visits to current generators to add new service, whether it be composting or donation of product for reuse, social media engagement to include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, website promotion, and press releases to local media. We will also engage the South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association to assist in promotion of the food diversion project to their stakeholders.

**b. Describe which activities will require grant funding.**

Of the outreach activities, grant funding will be required for the production of the marketing materials only.

## **6. Budget and costs**

**a. Provide a detailed budget including cost estimates for each item for which grant funding is being requested.** Please see detailed budget attached.

**b. Describe any shortfalls for which grant funding will not be adequate, and explain how you anticipate securing any additional funding needed. Include matching funds, in-kind contributions and sponsored contributions/grants from other sources.**

We do not anticipate any shortfalls for piloting the collaboration and promotions of the project. Twin Chimneys, Atlas Organics and Loaves & Fishes will each continue to support the project through their individual operations budgets. Atlas has already made the investment into the Twin Chimneys facility and Loaves & Fishes currently has the capacity to expand as they have recently purchased 2 new trucks from other grant funding. Loaves & Fishes does not charge for their services and they will continue to seek local and regional grant funding. They are currently funded by Greenville County United Way, individual donors, two fundraising events, the Graham Foundation, FW Symmes Foundation, the Community Foundation, Sisters of Charity and numerous others.

## **7. Benefits**

**a. Describe how the program will provide potential cost savings or other benefits to local governments or to participating partners (i.e., weekly collections, every other week collections, etc.).**

The project provides potential cost savings in tipping fees for those products donated to Loaves & Fishes as there are no fees charged for their services. The benefit to the environment are immeasurable. Atlas Organics final composted product will provide benefits to the Twin Chimney customers who want a high quality compost for their personal use.

**b. Describe how the proposed project makes use of existing infrastructure and complements or improves existing programs.**

Loaves & Fishes currently is working to rescue food from more restaurants and institutional feeders using a fleet of 3 and they seek new food resources on an ongoing basis. This project will create opportunities for development of new food related contacts in which they can align to feed more people.

Both Atlas Organics and Loaves and Fishes currently possess infrastructure to collect and divert food waste. This project will increase each organization's' capacity for diversion as well as increase the overall food waste diversion rate in Greenville County.

Additionally, the organics recycling facilities at Twin Chimneys Landfill are being expanded to accept food waste. This will bring the new composting facility closer to its operational capacity and assist Greenville county in achieving state set recycling goals.

Overall, the project will promote the waste reduction goal and will assist to gain momentum for food recovery in a more comprehensive way. It will allow generators numerous options for their waste that may not have been considered in the past.

**c. Describe the tonnage currently being collected in the grant service area and explain the anticipated increased recycling or other improvement expected as a result of the grant. If this is a regional or joint project, please identify the expected generation from each local government.**

Currently, Atlas Organics is collecting 225,000 - 250,000 pounds monthly. In 2015, Loaves & Fishes collected over 1.9 million pounds of potentially wasted food in Greenville County.

It is difficult to anticipate the increase in tonnage, but we expect that by partnering on this project we will increase current and potential new generators' ability to consider donation and composting where they were potentially only doing one or the other. We expect to bring the issue of food waste to the top of mind consciousness of generators that may have been considering donating product or developing a model for their waste, but have not had an opportunity.

**8. If this is a regional application, please describe all parties and explain the activities for which each party will be responsible.**

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All three entities will support the project with identification of designer for marketing products, social media marketing, distribution and/or consumption of the collected products and new business development.

**Grant Guidelines**  
**FY2017 Food Recovery Grant**

1. The Office must receive one electronic copy no later than **5:00 p.m. (EDT) on Friday, April 8, 2016**. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Faxed or incomplete grant applications will not be considered.
2. Food Recovery Grants are made available to any local government in the State of South Carolina that provides solid waste services; any region that has submitted to DHEC a regional solid waste management plan; or a local government applying on behalf of a group of eligible local governments, provided they include a signed Memorandum of Agreement designating them as the recipient of the funding.
3. Grants shall not be provided to any local government or region that has not demonstrated a good faith effort to meet the requirements of both the S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 and the South Carolina Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Information Technology Equipment Collection and Recovery Act.
4. Local governments and regions must have submitted the appropriate reports as required by the S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991, to include a complete Solid Waste Management Plan, an annual solid waste management progress report, and full-cost disclosure documentation.
5. Priority for funding will be given to Regional grant requests.
6. Grant requests will be reviewed by DHEC staff and solid waste professionals. Points will be assigned to each grant request based on responses to questions. Grant requests will be ranked and recommendations presented to the SWAC for final approval.
7. Within 30 days of notification by the SWAC as to the disposition of a party's grant application, the party may submit a written request to the SWAC for a review of the original grant decision. Within 45 days of the original grant decision, the Office will inform the appealing party of the hearing date, place and time. Within 60 days of the original grant decision, the SWAC shall render a final decision.
8. All Food Recovery Grants will have an ending date of June 30, 2017.
9. The applicant must be able to provide documentation of ownership or present a signed lease agreement for any land that may be used in conjunction with the project proposed.
10. Activities undertaken to fulfill the requirements of the grant must be performed in compliance with federal, state and local regulations.
11. The Grantee shall not provide any DHEC grant funds to private sector recycling programs unless specifically contracting for goods or services.
12. All grants shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of South Carolina.
13. No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in relation to activities carried out under this grant program on the grounds of race, age, health status, handicap, color, sex, religion, or national origin.
14. DHEC reserves the right to offer funding in the grant instrument for goods or services that differ from the description provided in the grant request.

# DHEC Food recovery grant

## PROJECT BUDGET

<b>Organization Name:</b>	<b>Greenville County Solid Waste Division /Loaves &amp; Fishes Atlas Organics</b>		
<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Food Waste Diversion Project</b>		
<b>SOURCES OF REVENUE</b>		<b>Revenue</b>	<b>In-Kind</b>
Requested from DHEC		\$7,500.00	
Food donation from L&F 2015 generators* fair mkt value			\$1,461,442.00
*based on Loaves & Fishes donations 2015 (not all donors reporting)			
<b>Total Revenues</b>		<b>\$7,500.00</b>	<b>\$1,461,442.00</b>
<b>PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>			
Marketing materials development			
Design / concept development		\$400.00	
Printing			
600 8 1/2" x 11" flyers / (300 L&F/300 Atlas)		\$100.00	
300 pocket folders		\$2,000.00	
Hauling containers			
50 Flexcon stack & nest containers		\$450.00	
Cross training for Atlas / Loaves & Fishes		\$500.00	
Contract Costs			
Hauling costs for new generators to Atlas		\$2,000.00	
Hauling / distribution costs for Loaves & Fishes		\$2,050.00	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>		<b>\$7,500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>