

EVENT WASTE REDUCTION GRANT



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Events in Franklin County
- Open to the Public
- 2,000 + attendees expected
- Future sustainability
- No funds available for landfilling materials



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Franklin County is home to hundreds of public events and festivals each year that contribute to the local \$9.7 billion travel and tourism economy which employs more than 75,000 people. As a result, Columbus recently was ranked top Midwest destination for visitors according to a new study by J.D. Power.

To assist local event organizers reduce event-generated waste and divert as much as possible from the landfill, SWACO launched the Event Waste Reduction (EWR) Grant Program for local events in 2016. This competitive program also assists event organizers build the infrastructure needed to sustain these efforts and contribute to a safe and healthy community for all Franklin County residents for many years.

Highly visible and effective waste reduction and diversion efforts at large public events provide great opportunities to raise public awareness about the impacts and importance of waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting. Furthermore, these activities help to position Central Ohio as an innovative leader in managing our local resources and solid waste materials.

*Grant awards range from \$2,000 to \$6,000,
depending on the size of the event.*

TIMELINE

Funding will be evaluated based on an events proposed establishment of new waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting programs, and/or the significant expansion or improvement of existing diversion and outreach activities.

Applications will be accepted in Winter and awarded in early Spring. Reimbursement funding provided for eligible purchases according to contractual agreement.

PAST PARTNERSHIPS

The 2016 – 2017 EWR Grant Program provided a total of nearly \$17,000 in funding for diversion programs at five local events: Rock on the Range, Columbus Arts Festival, BREAD Festival, Dublin Arts Festival, and the Columbus Food Truck and Cart Festival. Events ranged from 7,000 to 450,000 attendees and were hosted by cities, non-profits, and businesses.

In 2017, SWACO awarded approximately \$25,000 to local events and festivals resulting in 27 tons of diverted recyclables. The following examples highlight achievements for 2016-2017 events.



Additional details available online at
www.swaco.org



Columbus Crew used SWACO funds to purchase ClearStream recycling bins used at Rock on the Range and future events at MAPFRE Stadium, home of Columbus Crew. At this event, 120,000 attendees helped divert 17 tons of recyclables over 3 days.



MGCK Food, LLC. purchased signage and waste reduction equipment with SWACO funds for the annual Food Truck & Cart Festival. Their ClearStream containers and recycling flag will also be used at future events. At this event 1.12 tons of recyclables and 181 lbs of pre-consumer composted foodwaste was diverted from the landfill.



Greater Columbus
Arts Council

At the Columbus Arts Festival hosted by GCAC, 8.47 tons of material was recycled. In addition, GCAC suggested future events create a living sculpture shaped by a local artist from bottles deposited by attendees. This creative example shows how grant recipients share innovative ideas for the benefit of the community.

QUESTIONS?

SWACO is available to assist applicants in discussing opportunities for potential funding under this grant program. Please email staff at grants@swaco.org or by phone at 614-801-6413 to discuss ideas, questions or concerns relating to the Event Waste Reduction Grant Program.