

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3237

To authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants for municipal solid waste prevention and recycling program development, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2015

Mr. ELLISON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants for municipal solid waste prevention and recycling program development, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Zero Waste Develop-
5 ment and Expansion Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 The Administrator of the Environmental Protection
8 Agency (in this Act referred to as the “Administrator”)

1 shall award grants to local governments or consortia of
2 local governments, which may be acting in coordination
3 with one or more nongovernmental entities. The grants
4 shall be used to develop solid waste prevention and recycling
5 tactics and operations, which may include—

6 (1) development or deployment of technologies
7 or practices to increase rates of waste prevention, recycling,
8 composting, or product reuse;

9 (2) capital investment in infrastructure to start
10 or expand waste prevention, recycling, composting,
11 or product reuse programs;

12 (3) partnerships with local businesses interested
13 in incorporating new technologies or processes to reduce
14 or prevent waste in production or packaging; or

15 (4) community outreach and public education
16 programming, including programming to—

17 (A) increase community knowledge of effective
18 waste prevention, recycling, composting,
19 or product reuse practices; and

20 (B) increase behavior that will reduce overall
21 household waste generation.

22 **SEC. 3. GRANT REVIEW.**

23 (a) GRANT AWARDEES.—Grants shall be awarded
24 under this Act to applicants that collectively represent a
25 range of existing waste prevention, recycling, composting,

1 and product reuse rates. In order to be considered for this
2 award, applicants must—

3 (1) set specific waste prevention, recycling,
4 composting, product reuse, or public education goals
5 that will bring communities closer to zero waste;

6 (2) have a clearly established plan to use grant
7 funds for one or more of the purposes described in
8 section 2; and

9 (3) meet other criteria as determined by the
10 Administrator.

11 (b) ADDITIONAL FACTORS.—Additional weight may
12 be given to the applications of local governments or con-
13 sortia that—

14 (1) have statutorily committed to zero waste
15 principles;

16 (2) demonstrate job creation;

17 (3) address the disproportionate environmental,
18 health, and economic burden of waste disposal that
19 is borne by communities of color and low income;

20 (4) propose to use funds for waste prevention
21 or recycling programs in schools;

22 (5) employ adaptive management practices to
23 identify and address unintended consequences as
24 they arise, including potential contamination of land,
25 water, air, or food;

1 (6) have a demonstrated need for additional in-
2 vestment in infrastructure and programs to achieve
3 waste prevention or recycling;

4 (7) will drive technologies for product reuse, re-
5 cycling, composting, or waste prevention;

6 (8) demonstrate ways in which the grant will
7 encourage further investment in waste prevention,
8 recycling, composting, or product reuse projects; or

9 (9) incorporate multistakeholder involvement,
10 including nonprofit, commercial, and public sector
11 partners.

12 **SEC. 4. REPORTING.**

13 Grant awardees shall report to the Administrator the
14 results of their project and relevant data requested by the
15 Administrator to track the grant program’s impact.

16 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL CONFERENCE.**

17 The Administrator shall convene or co-convene an an-
18 nual conference for current, past, and potential grantees,
19 and other stakeholders, to learn from each other’s experi-
20 ences in moving toward a zero waste goal.

21 **SEC. 6. DEFINITION.**

22 In this Act, the term “recycling” means a series of
23 activities by which material that has reached the end of
24 its current use is processed into material utilized in the
25 production of new products.

1 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-
3 ministrator \$100,000,000 for the period encompassing fis-
4 cal years 2016 through 2021 for carrying out this Act.

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