



Columbus, Georgia
Georgia's First Consolidated Government
 Post Office Box 1340 / Columbus, Georgia 31902-1340



Project Title	Columbus Georgia Recycling Distribution		
Local Government/Entity	Columbus Consolidated Government		
Federal Tax ID			
Mailing Address	1011 Cusseta Rd.		
City	Columbus		
ZIP	31901		
County	Muscogee		
Primary Contact Name	Matthew Dolan	Secondary Contact Name	Drale Short
Title	Integrated Waste Manager	Title	Public Works Director
Organization	Columbus Consolidated Government	Organization	Columbus Consolidated Government
Phone	706-326-5347	Phone	706-225-4675
E-Mail	Mdolan@columbusga.org	Email	Dshort@columbusga.org
Brief Project Description <i>(2-3 sentences)</i>	Currently the City of Columbus has roughly thirty percent participation in our recycling curbside collection program. Our goal by 2025 is to reach fifty percent participation to help extend the life of our landfill.		
Project Start Date	January 2023		
Project End Date	June 2024		
Grant Amount Requested	\$195,184.00		
Match Amount	\$0		

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I, the undersigned authorized representative of the applicant, certify that to that to the best of my knowledge, the information contained herein is true and correct, the document and project has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant, and, if funded, the applicant will carry out the implementation steps in the manner described in this application. I also certify that the applicant shall maintain accounting records in accordance with generally accepted government accounting principles and that the funds awarded will be included in those audits or financial statements that cover all or part of the project duration period noted above.

Official Signature	<i>Aundrahlia L. Short</i>
Name (print)	Aundrahlia L Short
Title	Director of Public Works
Date of Signature	September 30, 2022

Project Need and Purpose

Columbus Consolidated Government currently collects roughly forty-five hundred tons of single stream curbside recycling per year with thirty percent participation. We are requesting funding for four truckloads of recycling carts which amounts to 3,456 65 gallon carts. Currently due to budget constraints and the recent containerization of household garbage the Department of Public Works often finds itself struggling to fulfill the large amount of cart request placed by our citizens. These carts if awarded will increase public participation and reduce the amount of waste entering our landfill for years to come. These carts will provide an opportunity for citizens to reduce their waste that they place curbside and divert material from our landfill. We feel with the recent containerization of waste citizens are starting to gravitate towards recycling which is resulting in an influx in request for carts.

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Columbus Consolidated Government's Public Works Department services 56,500 households within both Muscogee County and Columbus. According to the United States Census Bureau Columbus, Georgia has an estimated population of 205,617 people living within the city limits. Columbus's Public Works Department currently operates a regional recycling facility that is the centerpiece of Columbus's recycling programs. The facility opened in 2013 is a 54,000 square foot, LEED certified building that houses our processing facility. Along with the processing equipment and area the center also houses an education center that is used for tours and field trips. The center is owned by the city and is staffed by both Public Works employees and state prison inmates. Pratt Industries Inc. installed and maintains the sorting equipment which they currently own. Pratt markets all of the recyclables coming out of the facility and uses most of the fiber for their mills and markets everything else for Columbus. The Recycling Center currently accepts single stream and source separated material including plastic (#1-#7), mixed paper, cardboard, aluminum, and steel cans. These materials are collected from residents and businesses in Columbus and throughout the region including from the cities of Auburn, Auburn University and Opelika, Alabama as well as Lagrange and Fort Benning, GA.

Columbus Department of Public Works offers weekly curbside collection of recyclables which is collected on the same day as their solid waste. Columbus collects and recycles all materials that the center accepts curbside to include mixed paper, cardboard, plastics (#1-#7), aluminum, and steel cans. A total of 4775 tons of recyclables were collected curbside in FY22. Columbus operates four mobile recycling sites that accepts the same items as collected curbside. These recycling containers are located at the following locations Georgia Welcome Center 1751 Williams Road, Cooper Creek Park 4816 Milgen Road, Recycling Center 9001 Pine Grove Way, Victory Drive Site #25 22nd Ave. A total of 419 tons of recyclables were collected at these drop off recycling sites in FY22.

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Columbus Department of Public works collects garbage, recyclables, bulky items, and tree limbs at the curb weekly from 56, 500 households. The city utilizes 26 garbage trucks, 10 recycling trucks, and 10 graballs to collect all the waste from the curbside for a total of blank tons. Currently the city subcontracts out their yard waste collection to Amwaste. Residents pay \$18 dollars monthly which is put onto their water bill.

Columbus Department of Public Works operates Pine Grove MSW which is located at 7900 Pine Grove Way. This facility is the only Subtitle D landfill located in Columbus. The site is permitted to receive MSW and C&D waste. The site was permitted to operate as of July 23, 1996. The tipping fee for MSW and C&D is 42.50 per ton. The site currently only accepts solid waste that is generated in Columbus. Most of the waste accepted into the facility is collected by city vehicles which is roughly 70 percent. Pine Grove Currently has a grinding and class one composting operation which is a key contributor to our waste diversion program. The composting operation contributes to slope stabilization and erosion and sedimentation efforts at all our closed and open landfills. The grinding operation sends out tons yearly to the paper mill which is used in their boilers for steam production. Pine Grove also recycles mattresses, metal, pallets, and tires currently.

Project Objectives

The main objective of this project is to increase public participation and divert material from our landfill by delivering new recycling carts to citizens who do not currently have one. Our goal is to reach fifty percent participation by 2025 and with these four loads of carts we feel that this is an obtainable goal. Currently we are at thirty percent participation and to reach fifty percent we need to deliver and purchase roughly three thousand carts per year until the end

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of 2025. This goal is obtainable but will require additional funds that the city currently has not budgeted for in years past. This grant opportunity can help alleviate some of the funding issues we have with purchasing carts while also generating revenue for the recycling program.

Our main goal is ultimately to increase recycling tonnage and divert material from Pine Grove Landfill. This goal aligns with our SWMP which states the city's goal of diverting 40% of material from its landfills over the next ten years (see attached sheet from SWMP). Another goal is to provide recycling carts to citizens who currently do not have carts. We plan to have all the carts delivered within sixteen months of funds being awarded. The request and deliveries will be tracked using our Qalert work order system (see attached work order). Tonnage will be tracked with monthly reports provided by Pratt Industries and through our participation in the MMP program which we have participated in since 2020. We will use both reporting systems to provide EPD with reports whenever they are requested. The cart delivery timeline is estimated by using recent data obtained from our records. These records show that we receive roughly three thousand carts requested yearly. These carts are delivered as they are requested and when carts are available. The division will use employees who are a part of our cart delivery team to distribute the carts along with an information packet (see attached brochure).

The Recycling center uses two scales at the entrance of the facility to measure trucks incoming and outgoing using scale software which tracks the tonnage of all incoming material. We also partner with Pratt Industries which sends detailed reports monthly of all incoming and outgoing recovered materials process by the facility. We plan to use the tonnage data we have obtained prior to the roll out of the carts and compare it to the tonnage data after the carts are delivered. We will do this by tracking monthly reports and quarterly audits to obtain this data. We will also input this data into the Municipal Measurement Program which will allow for the state to help track impacts these carts have on our recycling program which we have participated in since 2020.

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Project implementation and timeline

If we are awarded funds from the Recycling, Waste Reduction, and Diversion Grant we will immediately place our order for the carts. Once delivered we plan to start delivering the carts city employees who are a part of our cart team. Once we begin this process, we plan to have all the granted carts delivered within sixteen months. We will use the current vendor we have to supply the carts which is Toter by Wastequip who will use 20% recycle resin in the production process. We anticipate a twelve-to-sixteen-week lead time on the delivery of the carts. Once carts are delivered our teams will begin the process of delivering carts to citizens who have requested carts through our work order system. The Qalert work order system that we utilize will allow us to track the number of carts delivered. We have will believe this process from the point carts are delivered will take sixteen months to complete. Once the project is complete the city will be able to provide EPD with work orders to show compliance with the grant.

Project Metrics and Evaluation

The metrics that we will use to track and demonstrate compliance and increased recycling through the delivery of new carts to our citizens will be through our work order system and monthly reporting. The reporting metrics will be monthly reports from Pratt Industries and MMP. This report which is attached as supporting documents will show monthly single stream tonnage that is collected by the city's garbage trucks. Another metric we will use to demonstrate how the project will specifically divert recycled materials from the landfills is the quarterly audit performed by Pratt Industries. This audit is performed by the city but is monitored by an employee of Pratt where we sort only material that is collected by our trucks from our citizens. This report shows the percentage of what material we are diverting from our disposal facility.

Budget Amount

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Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting \$195,184.00 dollars for the purchase of 3,456 carts with educational sticker on the lid along with freight. At the current moment Columbus can't obligate to matching any funds awarded but if budgets allow, we will purchase additional carts at that time.

Cost Effectiveness and Project longevity

Columbus plans to spend all the funds awarded through the RWD Grant on recycling carts to provide recycling to citizens who currently do not have access to curbside recycling. Through comparing tonnage reports and cart deliveries we estimate that we collect twelve pounds of single stream weekly from our citizens. If we multiplied that number by the number of carts, we are requesting we believe that this grant will introduce 192 tons yearly. This material would be new single stream material that would be diverted from our disposal facility for years to come. The purchase of carts to provide infrastructure to our system will continue to contribute material to our single stream system for the minimum of ten years. We estimate ten years minimum due to the carts having a ten year warranty. This material will also generate revenue for our recycling program, which is hard to put a value on, but we estimate a yearly revenue of \$30,000.00 will be added with the purchase with these new carts.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Columbus has seven overarching goals for solid waste reduction and management for the ten-year planning period covered by this Solid Waste Management Plan. Each goal is described in this Section along with the strategies selected to meet them.

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4.2 INCREASE DIVERSION

Goal 1 **Divert 40 percent of the solid waste collected by**

Columbus' first goal is to divert 40 percent of the solid waste that it manages. The City has two opportunities to divert materials directly, at collection and at its processing and disposal facilities. Without significant changes in policy, Columbus has limited ability to divert material that it does not either collect or manage at its facilities except by encouraging businesses and private haulers to do so. Thus, for the ten-year planning period, Columbus' goal is to *divert 40 percent of what it collects from its curbside collection customers* and to *divert 40 percent of the total amount of material delivered to its facilities*, including the Recycling and Sustainability Center, Pine Grove Landfill and Granite Bluff Inert Landfill.

Table 4-1 shows the current diversion rate for materials collected by Columbus. DPW collected 54,737 tons of MSW and 4,587 tons of recyclables from curbside customers in FY18 which results in a 7.7 percent diversion rate.² In addition, Columbus reportedly diverted 20,000 tons of the 27,325 tons of yard trimmings it collected, a 73.2 percent diversion rate. In sum, this results in a 28.4 percent diversion rate of what they City collects from its curbside customers. To achieve its diversion goal of 40 percent of what it collects, Columbus will increase the diversion of material collected by Columbus DPW by 11.6 percent over the next ten years, both by reducing the amount of collected material that is disposed and increasing the amount of collected material that is diverted.

Table 4-1 Diversion of Material/MSW Collected by Columbus DPW, FY18

Table 4-2 shows that an estimated 24.5 percent of all materials and solid waste delivered to Columbus' facilities was diverted in FY18. This includes the materials and solid waste collected by Columbus at the curb (included in Table 4-1) plus all other materials and solid waste delivered by citizens, contractors, private haulers, and other City departments to Columbus facilities. Some of this material was generated in Columbus while some comes from outside the city limits.

² Columbus also collected bulky items such as mattresses and tires at the curb that were recycled. However, the tons of these items collected at the curb are aggregated with the tons delivered to the landfill for recycling and so are not included in the curbside diversion rate.



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FY2022	21-Jul	21-Aug	21-Sep	21-Oct	21-Nov	21-Dec	22-Jan	22-Feb	22-Mar	22-Apr	22-May	22-Jun	Totals
CCG Recycling Center Tons	400.51	400.22	382.84	391.45	341.00	352.17	349.76	402.87	436.54	443.91	436.23	437.86	4775.36
Pratt Single Stream	223.73	251.64	204.87	180.95	202.01	258.40	197.58	201.06	224.38	234.73	221.73	215.91	2616.99
Pratt Transload	263.72	270.76	187.59	218.68	50.75	53.70	354.85	222.95	243.68	181.4	227.11	207.38	2482.57
Pratt Source Separated	27.12	49.61	65.51	44.06	37.68	38.40	226.43	36.88	41.04	35.89	32.9	35.98	671.50
Total Tons	915.08	982.87	827.77	835.30	692.53	791.57	1247.48	1035.73	1151.28	1108.94	1123.3	1104.09	11,815.94
Gross Revenue	\$54,450.85	\$78,706.58	\$77,805.59	\$66,073.34	\$86,521.80	\$43,722.00	\$33,763.37	\$33,715.20	\$37,031.85	\$63,996.42	\$65,621.86	\$57,347.86	\$698,756.72

Budget						
Item #	Description	Grant Funds Requested	Match Contribution		Anticipated Expenditure Date	Subtotal
			In-Kind	Cash		
1	3,456 65 Gallon Recycling Carts	\$195,184			January 2023	195,184.0
2		\$				
2		\$				
4		\$				
5		\$				
Total						\$195,184.0

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