

Solid Waste Trust Fund Grant Program
Tire Products (Tire) Grant Guidance
FY 2026

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Tire Products Grant

Introduction

The Solid Waste Trust Fund (SWTF) Grant Program furthers the goals of the SWTF by providing financial support for projects that meet the requirements described in O.C.G.A. § 12-8-27.1 and O.C.G.A. § 12-8-37.1 of the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act (Act), and Rule 391-3-21.17 of Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia (Rules).

The Tire Products (Tire) Grant created as a part of the SWTF Grant Program, will reduce solid waste in Georgia, support manufacturing and market development for scrap tires, and encourage innovation.

The Tire Grant is separate from the Recycling and Waste Diversion (RWD) and the Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement (STAR) Grants. The Tire Grant is restricted to projects that utilize tire-derived products (TDP) or identify innovative uses for scrap tires or new products derived from scrap tires through research.

Grant Description and Project Tracks

Grants will be awarded subject to the amount of funds available. Eligible applicants may apply up to the established cap of \$250,000.

Projects at various stages will be considered. The timeline for the portion of the project funded by this grant may not exceed 24 months in length.

There are two project tracks eligible for funding within the Tire Grant. Applicants must choose the project track and may not apply for more than one in the same grant cycle.

1. Tire-derived Products

These are projects that utilize TDP.

An example of a TDP is ground tire rubber (GTR) which is recycled tire rubber that has been ground into very small particles to use as an asphalt cement or asphaltic concrete modifier (GDOT Standard Specifications 2021).

Awarded grant funds will only pay for the direct costs related to the incorporation of TDP and associated services into projects which would normally utilize conventional or virgin materials. Direct costs may include material costs or services, such as hauling and mixing of the TDP.

In the application, applicants must demonstrate what the cost of the project would be using TDP vs. the cost of conventional materials. The amount eligible for reimbursement (the grant award) is the direct costs related to the incorporation of TDP minus the cost of using conventional materials.

TDP may be used in projects including, but not limited to:

- a. Paving
- b. Poured playgrounds or trails
- c. Mats, pavers, and tiles
- d. Courts for schools or parks
- e. Traffic related products

No matching is required for this track.

Recent studies have raised concerns with the environmental and public health impacts of some TDP. As a result, EPD will not be funding projects utilizing loose tire-derived mulch or tire-derived beads for artificial turf.

2. Research of New and/or Innovative Uses for Scrap Tires

These are projects that seek to identify innovative uses, conduct research/tests, and/or develop beneficial uses or products derived from scrap tires. Awarded grant funds may be used for all costs related to research, such as salaries and material testing.

For the Research of New and/or Innovative Uses of Scrap Tires track, the applicant must provide a minimum 20% match of the total project cost. Awarded grant funds will pay up to 80% of the total project cost.

A match is a cash or in-kind resource commitment beyond the grant dollar amount requested. Match items must be documented through letters of commitment, copies of checks, payroll records, etc. Common sources of matches include:

Cash	In-Kind
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering • Construction • Materials • Equipment Rental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donations • Volunteers • Staff time • Materials • Office Space

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible awardees of competitive grants are those described as eligible in O.C.G.A. § 12-8-37.1.

Eligible applicants and awardees for the Tire Grant include:

1. Counties, municipalities, or any combination of the same, hereafter referred to as local governments;
2. Public authorities, agencies, commissions, or institutions.

Local government applicants must have Qualified Local Government status as of the date of their application, as determined by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The Georgia Department

of Community Affairs maintains an active listing of local governments who are ineligible to receive state funding, including grants: <https://apps.dca.ga.gov/LocalGovStatus/planning.asp>

Public authorities should also review this site: <https://dca.georgia.gov/community-assistance/government-authority-reporting/local-government-authorities>

Nonprofit or private organizations are not eligible to apply for funding, however, they may partner with eligible applicants on projects.

In addition to those baseline eligibility requirements:

1. Applicants who are subject to an open EPD consent order or other EPD enforcement action are not eligible to receive grants.
2. Applicants who have received grant funds in past years but have NOT demonstrated successful administration of those grant funds may be deemed ineligible by EPD. Successful administration includes but is not limited to completing all project activities during the contract period, meeting all required deadlines, completing the project on time and on budget, expending all grant funds requested on project activities, and providing adequate documentation as requested by EPD.

Schedule

The Tire Grant FY26 cycle will be administered according to the following schedule:

August 4	SWTF Grant Program FY26 Informational Webinar
August 11	Application period open
September 30	Application submission deadline
October – December	Application review
January - February	Grant award notification period

EPD will host an informational webinar on August 4, 2025, at 1:00 PM to review the application schedule, project examples, and eligibility for the FY26 Tire Grant.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://gaepd.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DU1KXg1JRh2iLRx-JAqO5g

SWTF Grant Program Administration Portal

Prospective applicants will use the SWTF Grant Program Administration Portal to submit applications.

Applications submitted via email or through other means will not be accepted.

Resources can be accessed at:

<https://epd.georgia.gov/swtf-grant-program-administration-portal>

Access the Tire Grant Portal at:

https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/georgia_epd_tp_grants

Special Requirements

Grant funds are paid out on a reimbursement basis. If you require advance funds to achieve grant objectives, please contact program staff **before** submitting your application. This is permissible; however, justification is required.

Contractual costs for one-time only services are allowed, provided the project itself is approved. The first year of project with a recurring cost may be allowed if future non-EPD funding is available and described in the application.

Eligible grant award amounts will be determined by EPD. Grant awards may be less than amounts requested.

All purchases of goods and services shall be made according to the awardee's procurement (bid) requirements and policy.

Awardees may also be asked to provide documentation to be used by EPD as a case study illustrating the approach to supporting market development activities from scrap tires.

EPD staff may perform site inspections during the term of the grant.

EPD shall have the right to terminate a grant award and demand refund of grant funds for non-compliance with federal, state, or local regulations, the terms of the grant award, or these guidelines.

EPD may declare the awardee ineligible for further participation in the program until the awardee complies with the regulations, the terms of the grant award, or these guidelines.

Application Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

Tire Grant funds are limited and are contingent upon available funding. Applications will be evaluated by EPD to determine if the applicant and proposed project are eligible (see Eligibility Requirements).

Eligible projects will be scored according to the criteria described below. EPD will fund projects starting with the highest-ranking score first and will continue awarding funds to those qualifying applications until EPD has exhausted available funds for that grant cycle.

Awardees from previous Tire Grant cycles are eligible to apply if they have completed the terms of their previously awarded agreement.

EPD reserves the right to coordinate with applicants as needed to modify project scopes and budgets.

Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted via the SWTF Grant portal:

https://webportalapp.com/sp/georgia_epd_tp_grants

The following elements must be included in all applications. An application will not be considered for a grant award if the minimum project requirements are not met.

Tire-derived Products

1. The application must feature a complete project narrative that addresses the following:
 - a. Description of the overall project, including location.
 - b. Description of the need and purpose of the project.
 - c. Description of how the project benefits the community.
 - d. Description of the TDP(s) utilized in the project.
 - e. Description of the total project cost utilizing conventional or virgin materials vs. the total project cost utilizing TDP(s).
 - i. In the application, applicants must demonstrate what the cost of the project would be using TDP vs. the cost of conventional materials. The amount eligible for reimbursement (the grant award) is the direct cost related to the incorporation of TDP and associated services minus the cost of using conventional materials.
 - ii. For example, an applicant is seeking funding for a roadway paving project using TDP. The roadway project costs \$100,000 utilizing conventional materials and services. To utilize TDP it will cost an additional \$50,000 (\$30,000 for the material itself and \$20,000 for the associated labor). In this scenario, the total project cost utilizing conventional materials is \$100,000 vs. \$150,000 utilizing TDP. The difference in cost and the amount eligible for the grant award funding is \$50,000.
 - iii. If the applicant is seeking to replace or repair an existing surface that is already made with TDP, the applicant should state this in the narrative. Explain that the current surface is already made with TDP and why it needs replacement or repair. In this scenario, the applicant will not need to demonstrate the cost

difference. The amount eligible for grant award funding would be the total cost of the project directly relating to TDP and associated services.

- iv. If the cost of using conventional materials is higher than utilizing TDP, applicants should state this in the narrative. In this scenario, the applicant should describe why utilizing TPD is less than conventional. The amount eligible for grant award funding would be the total cost of the project directly relating to TDP and associated services.
 - f. Description of the number of lbs. of TDP(s) used in the project.
 - g. Description of how the TDP(s) will be incorporated into the project.
 - h. Description of the sourcing of the TDP(s).
 - i. Description of how information will be shared about the project with the community.
2. The application must include a timeline that describes the project's start and end dates, and milestones.
 3. The application must include a budget detailing the amount and intended use of funds requested. This includes but is not limited to a line-item estimate of all expenses associated with TDP and associated services. Documentation for expenses must be provided. Examples include quotes for TDP material costs or associated services.

Research of New and/or Innovative Uses for Scrap Tires

1. The application must feature a complete project narrative that addresses the following:
 - a. Description of the overall research project, including the need and purpose.
 - b. Description of the objective(s) of the research project.
 - c. Description of the methodology of the research project.
 - d. Description of the evaluation process that will be used to evaluate the project's impact on recycling and material recovery for scrap tires.
 - e. Description of how the results of the research project will be shared with the scrap tire industry and other decision makers.
 - f. Description of how the research project will benefit markets for scrap tires and the usage of TDP.
 - g. Description of how the research project is innovative.
2. The application must include a timeline with clearly identifiable steps for project implementation that are likely to result in the achievement of identified objectives.
3. The application must include a budget detailing the amount and intended use of funds requested. This includes but is not limited to a line-item of all expenses associated with the research project. Documentation for expenses must be provided. An example includes salary information for staff.

Supporting Materials

Applicants should include quotes and/or other cost estimate documentation to support each line-item request in the budget. If utilizing a Georgia business for any products or services, documentation should also be submitted that clearly indicates the business name and address to receive bonus points.

Applicants are also required to complete and submit a W9 form (example below). The W9 form lists your organization's federal employer identification number, which is required as part of EPD's vendor management process to issue reimbursement. Please note that the address listed on this form must be

a physical address and cannot be a PO Box. However, if a PO box address is used for payment remittances, contact SWTF Grant Program staff to complete a supplier change request form to supplement the W9.

Form W-9
(Rev. October 2015)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

► Go to www.irs.gov/FormW9 for instructions and the latest information.

Give Form to the requester. Do not send to the IRS.

1 Name (as shown on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank.

2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above

3 Check appropriate box for federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check only one of the following seven boxes.

☐ Individual sole proprietor or single-member LLC

☐ C Corporation

☐ S Corporation

☐ Partnership

☐ Trust/estate

☐ Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C-C corporation, S-S corporation, P-Partnership) ►

4 Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3).

Exempt payee code (if any) _____

Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any) _____

5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) See instructions.

Requester's name and address (optional)

6 City, state, and ZIP code

7 List account number(s) here (optional)

Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN*, later.

Social security number

____ - ____ - ____

OR

Employer identification number

____ - ____ - ____

Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

1. The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and

2. I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and

3. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and

4. The FATCA codes entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.

Sign Here _____

Signature of U.S. person ►

Date ► _____

Applicants may download the W9 from EPD's website at:

<https://epd.georgia.gov/document/form-w-9pdf/download>

Applicants are also required to complete and submit a state contractor affidavit form (example below). This form must be dated within the last 12 months.

The contractor affidavit is required per O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91. On this form, "contractor" refers to the applicant. Do not list any proposed vendors as the "contractor". The Georgia Department of Natural Resources should be listed as the "name of public employer".

The "Federal Work Authorization User Identification Number" is your organization's E-Verify number, and the "Date of Authorization" is when your organization received the E-Verify number. Do not list the current date on the "Date of Authorization" line. For "Name of Project", you may list FY26 RWD Grant.

Contractor Affidavit under O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91(h)(3)

The undersigned contractor ("Contractor") executes this Affidavit to comply with O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91 related to any contract to which Contractor is a party that is subject to O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91 and hereby verifies its compliance with O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91, attesting as follows:

- The Contractor has registered with, is authorized to use and uses the federal work authorization program commonly known as E-Verify, or any subsequent replacement program;
- The Contractor will continue to use the federal work authorization program throughout the contract period, including any renewal or extension thereof;
- The Contractor will notify the public employer in the event the Contractor ceases to utilize the federal work authorization program during the contract period, including renewals or extensions thereof;
- The Contractor understands that ceasing to utilize the federal work authorization program constitutes a material breach of Contract;
- The Contractor will contract for the performance of services in satisfaction of such contract only with subcontractors who present an affidavit to the Contractor with the information required by O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91(a), (b), and (c);
- The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that this Affidavit shall be incorporated into any contract(s) subject to the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91 for the project listed below to which Contractor is a party after the date hereof without further action or consent by Contractor; and
- Contractor acknowledges its responsibility to submit copies of any affidavits, drivers' licenses, and identification cards required pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91 to the public employer within five business days of receipt.

Federal Work Authorization User Identification Number _____ Date of Authorization _____

Name of Contractor _____ Name of Project _____
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Name of Public Employee _____

I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on _____, 20____, in _____ (city), _____ (state).

Signature of Authorized Officer or Agent _____

Printed Name and Title of Authorized Officer or Agent _____

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME
ON THIS THE _____ DAY OF _____, 20____.

NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires: _____

Applicants may download the contractor affidavit from EPD's website at:

<https://epd.georgia.gov/document/document/contractor-affidavitpdf/download>

Application Assistance

Applicants may reach out to SWTF Grant Program staff if they need assistance or would like to discuss their projects. To reach out to SWTF Grant Program staff or ask questions, applicants should email swtf.grant@dnr.ga.gov.

Scoring

Applications will be scored based on how successfully the application demonstrates the following:

Tire-Derived Products:

Category Weight	Evaluation Criteria for Tire-Derived Products	Score 0 = incomplete 1 = Poor 2 = Good 3 = Excellent	Weighted Score
3.00	Does the application provide a clear description of the overall project, including location?	0	0
3.00	Does the application demonstrate the need and purpose for the project?	0	0
2.00	Does the application demonstrate how the project benefits the community?	0	0
2.00	Does the application describe the TDP(s) that will be utilized in the project, and was manufacturer documentation provided?	0	0
1.00	Does the application describe the total project cost utilizing conventional or virgin materials vs. the total project cost utilizing TDP(s)?	0	0
1.00	Does the application include a description of the number of lbs. of TDP(s) used in the project?	0	0
1.00	Does the application describe how the TDP(s) will be incorporated into the project?	0	0
1.00	Does the application describe where the TDP(s) and/or related service(s) are sourced?	0	0
3.00	Does the application describe how information about the project will be shared with the community?	0	0
1.00	Does the application provide a timeline?	0	0
3.00	Does the application provide a clear and coherent budget?	0	0
4.00	Does the application demonstrate the percentage by cost of the project that utilizes TDP and associated services in relation to the total project cost? 1 point If yes, what is the percentage by cost of the project that utilizes TDP and associated services in relation to the total project cost? <50% = 1 point; 51%-100% = 2 points	0	0
Total			0

Research of New and/or Innovative Uses for Scrap Tires:

Category Weight	Evaluation Criteria for Research of New and/or Innovative Uses for Scrap Tires	Score 0 = incomplete 1 = Poor 2 = Good 3 = Excellent	Weighted Score
3.00	Does the application provide a clear description of the overall research project, including the need and purpose?	0	0
2.00	Does the application describe the objective(s) of the research project?	0	0
3.00	Does the application describe the methodology?	0	0
4.00	Does the application describe how the project's impact on recycling and material recovery for scrap tires will be evaluated?	0	0
3.00	Does the application demonstrate how the results of the research project will be shared with the scrap tire industry and other decision makers?	0	0
2.00	Does the application demonstrate how the research project will benefit markets for scrap tires and the usage of TDP?	0	0
4.00	Does the application demonstrate how the research project is innovative?	0	0
1.00	Does the application provide a robust timeline with clearly identifiable steps for project implementation?	0	0
3.00	Does the application provide a clear and coherent budget?	0	0
Total			0

Applications for both project types may be assigned bonus points for:

- a. Projects that use Georgia-based suppliers for products and services (5 points).
- b. Project proposals jointly submitted by two or more eligible applicants (5 points).

Tire Grant Award Procedures

Grant applications will be scored according to the criteria described in the Evaluation Criteria section. If a grant application is approved for award, EPD will notify the applicant and provide an agreement for signature.

The applicant must then return the signed agreement within 30 days of receiving the agreement through the portal.

Any electronic signatures constitute original, valid signatures pursuant to the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, O.C.G.A. § 10-12-1 et seq.

Upon receiving the signed agreement, EPD will route the agreement for signature to the EPD Director. EPD will then send the fully executed agreement to the awardee. Awardees may begin work *upon receipt of the fully executed agreement and must commence work within 30 days*.

Purchases or work related to the project as described in the application performed prior to the execution of the agreement will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Reporting Requirements

Quarterly Reports: Awardees are required to submit Quarterly Reports throughout the duration of the project to document implementation progress. Reports are to be submitted via the grant portal by the end of each quarter of the calendar year (Q1: March 31, Q2: June 31, Q3: September 31, Q4: December 31).

Reimbursement Requests: Awardees must submit a Reimbursement Request Form to EPD along with invoices and proof of payment for grant expenditures. Reimbursement Requests may be submitted as needed, but no more than once every 30 days. Reimbursement Request forms can be found on the grant portal, and invoices and proofs of payment are uploaded as supporting documents.

Note: An invoice and proof of payment must be submitted for each line item listed in the reimbursement request form. A single invoice or proof of payment may cover multiple line items, but each line in the reimbursement request must clearly correlate to an invoice and proof of payment. Reimbursement Requests must also provide documentation of the use of tire-derived products.

Final Report: A final report must be submitted at the end of the project that includes:

- A summary of the project
- Total tonnage of TDPs used (or other metrics quantifying the project's success, for research projects)
- Project photos

Training will be provided to awardees on the quarterly and final reports, and reimbursement requests upon award.