



Program Year 2021-22 4Rs Grants Program: List of Grant Recipients and Projects

The County of San Mateo Office of Sustainability (OOS) opened the 4Rs Grants Program cycle for the 2021-22 Program Year in early 2021. The program offers two tiers of funding: (1) Mini Grant (\$2,000 to \$5,000) and (2) Mega Grant (up to \$25,000). A total of 34 applications were received: 13 applications for the Mega Grant and 21 applications for the Mini Grant. An evaluation committee reviewed and scored the applications. Based on the results of the evaluation, the OOS has awarded 20 grantees – 8 grantees for the Mega Grant and 12 grantees for the Mini Grant – for a combined total grant amount of \$245,236 to be disbursed starting in Fall 2020 into Fall 2021. Below is a summary of the new 4Rs Grants recipients.

Total Program Year 2021-22 Grant Funding Allocation \$245,236

4Rs Mega Grant (Up to \$25,000)

#	Grantee	Project Name	Project Summary	Grant Funding
1	The HEAL Project	San Mateo County School Farm Compost Education Program	The Mega Grant will support The HEAL Project's compost education program. The program aims to teach San Mateo County (SMC) students about the importance of composting, its place in the life cycle, why reducing food waste and diverting it from the landfill is important to the environment and climate change, and engaging students to become active stewards of the environment. Grant funds are used for program supplies and to fund staff for refining compost education curriculum, delivering lessons directly to students in person and virtually, and assisting teachers with installing school or classroom worm composting bins. The HEAL Project's goal is to reach out and work with at least 25 classrooms during this grant cycle.	\$25,000

2	San Mateo Resource Conservation District	Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program and Assessment	The San Mateo Resource Conservation District (RCD) will use the Mega Grant funding to reduce plastics entering the waste stream by: (1) offering a pilot program focused on collecting and recycling the irrigation drip tape used by many farmers and (2) assessing the current options, opportunities, and challenges to recycling agricultural plastics in SMC. RCD will coordinate drip tape aggregation and hauling from multiple operations to a recycling facility, and also research opportunities to recycle other agricultural plastics, such as nursery pots or sheeting, and ways to extend those recycling streams to SMC. For any readily available recycling opportunities, the RCD will create a handout for farms describing how they can more easily recycle this waste. Project outreach will reach at least 100 farmers.	\$24,144
3	San Mateo County Office of Education	Zero Waste Solutionary Project Based Learning (PBL) Teacher Fellowship	The Mega Grant funds support the facilitation of a semester-long professional learning teacher program referred to as the Zero Waste Solutionary Project Based Learning (PBL) Teacher Fellowship by the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE). The purpose of this program is to support teachers at each grade band level (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12) to develop and implement comprehensive, standards-aligned, PBL units that focus on the environmental, social and economic impacts of waste. Each unit is grounded in developing student awareness of the problems and issues associated with current waste systems and culminates with students engaging in solutionary actions and advocacy. Teachers are provided with a \$750 stipend for full participation in this program that includes providing case study write-ups and presentations at the completion of the semester. Funds from the grant also partially fund the instructional coach who provides support to participating teachers.	\$17,500
4	Strategic Energy Innovations	Climate Corps Education Outside	Strategic Energy Innovations (SEI) is continuing the Climate Corps Education Outside program in five elementary schools in SMC. The program offers instructional resources, training, and professional support to Climate Corps members (recent college graduates), enabling them to become effective instructors of eco-literacy and composting/waste curriculum. Along with	\$25,000

			<p>deepening their support at the five schools, SEI is significantly broadening their impact by providing waste resources and curriculum to at least 20 additional teachers and administrators at schools across the county. SEI aims to increase teacher’s knowledge and comfort with waste topics, while empowering students across the county to be informed zero waste leaders at school and at home.</p>	
5	Fresh Approach	Expanding Community Composting Hubs and Piloting a Cafeteria to Compost Program in SMC	<p>The Mega Grant funds will support the continuation and expansion of three existing Community Composting Hubs in East Palo Alto (EPA) where Fresh Approach (FA) composts food scraps collected from SMC residents. FA will work with two elementary schools, The Primary School and Los Robles, in EPA to include food waste for composting from school cafeterias. FA will continue to implement a replicable model for a Community Composting Hub to be maintained by a group of volunteers through its Community Compost Volunteer Program. This project educates, equips, and empowers underserved communities in SMC to create new habits around food waste reduction by expanding access to high-quality compost for local food growing as well as opportunity for active involvement. The grant will also support updates to FA’s Best Practices Guide incorporating results of the project to include collaborative work with schools. The guide will be shared with community gardens at schools and/or community-based organizations countywide in an effort to provide technical assistance to interested community garden operators.</p>	\$25,000
6	San Mateo County Community College District	Advancing Sustainable Procurement and Circularity	<p>The Mega Grant funds are being used to hire a new AmeriCorps fellow to further develop the 4Rs education and outreach programs to reach a diversion rate of 80% for the San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD). This project is also focusing on updating the SMCCCD Zero Waste Program Guide and sharing the updated plan with other community colleges, educational organizations and community partners. Additionally, this project will implement the SMCCCD Sustainable Procurement Policy and continue the development of the Sustainable Procurement Program. While</p>	\$25,000

			continuing to engage students, staff, and faculty through campus as a Living Lab, SMCCCD's program is shifting toward a focus on circularity with a strong emphasis on reducing and reusing materials.	
7	Street Life Ministries	Mobile Clothing Closet and Additional Night of Service	The Mega Grant is being used to help Street Life Ministries (SLM) expand and open another night of SLM's services where food and clothing are distributed to community members on Fridays in Redwood City. Another night of service in SLM's Redwood City location will enable SLM to collect more rescued/donated food and clothes that would otherwise be discarded and redistribute them to those in need. Funding from the Mega Grant will also help SLM staff with the operational cost of the mobile clothing closet for one full year. The mobile clothing closet gives SLM the ability to collect, store, and distribute more clothes donations than previously done in the past.	\$25,000
8	San Mateo Union High School District	SMUHSD Waste Initiative	<p>The Mega Grant will fund the purchase of consistent and uniform three-stream waste bins with the goal of reducing contamination, promoting district-wide green teams, and educating all school stakeholders on waste diversion. Additionally, the project will unite all seven campuses in San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHSD) by advancing sustainability and serving as a catalyst to promote campus environmental literacy.</p> <p>An integral part of this zero-waste initiative will be bringing all school stakeholders together. Site-Level Sustainability Facilitators (a certified or classified SMUHSD employee) on each campus will work with student representatives from environmental clubs and site facilities to establish a Tri-bin Implementation Team to oversee the implementation of the standardized three-stream waste system. A district-level coordinator will provide instruction and guidance to The Tri-bin Implementation Team, as well as lead the purchasing of tri-bin waste receptacles. This united effort between students, site-level teachers and staff, and district-level</p>	\$25,000

			administrators will help ensure that each campus follows a similar waste sorting training program, data collection process, and educational campaign.	
Total 4Rs Mega Grant				\$191,641

Mini Grant (\$2,000-\$5,000)

#	Grantee	Project Name	Project Summary	Grant Funding
1	Sea Hugger	Sea Hugger Virtual Field Trip	Sea Hugger plans on developing a series of seven videos, each highlighting different aspects (and threats) to the SMC coast side, including tidepools, plastic pollution and the marine ecosystem, sandy beach, harbor, open ocean and fishing, watershed, and the Año Nuevo preserve. Sea Hugger is using the Mini Grant funding to develop the Plastic Pollution and the Marine Environment episode as part of the video series. It will be uploaded on Sea Hugger’s YouTube channel for free viewing by the public and promoted through its social media, email list, and its partnering organizations.	\$5,000
2	Loved Twice	15,000 Reused Baby Clothes to Homeless Babies in San Mateo County	Loved Twice will provide a minimum of 200 wardrobes-in-a-box to babies in SMC, which will bring 15,000 essential garments with a retail value of \$52,500 into underserved communities. Loved Twice collects gently used baby clothing by partnering with local businesses, schools, churches, and parenting groups to host clothing drives. Additional clothing is donated through drop-off sites at businesses around the Bay Area and from the excess inventory of children’s consignment stores. Loved Twice promotes environmental conservation locally by encouraging people to reuse and recycle baby clothing and supplies. All of the items distributed by Loved Twice are “gently used” items donated by members of the local community, and 100% of the donated items go directly back to disadvantaged populations within the community. Loved Twice also makes it easy for	\$5,000

			people to donate clothing for reuse by facilitating drop-off sites in offices, churches, schools, and businesses. In this way, Loved Twice reaches people that might not have otherwise gone to the effort of donating clothing.	
3	Environmental Volunteers	Educate for Action: Human Impact Curriculum	<p>Environmental Volunteers will expand its Human Impact Curriculum in the area of 4Rs education with the aim of inspiring students toward environmental stewardship and taking meaningful action to protect the environment. EV will deliver eight (8) Education for Action: Human Impact classroom programs to approximately 200 fifth grade students in four (4) elementary schools in SMC during the 2021-2022 academic year.</p> <p>The Human Impact curriculum is focused on teaching students the foundations of why we want to divert waste from landfills and how the 4Rs - reduce, reuse, recycle, and rot - can help achieve that goal.</p>	\$4,320
4	City of Daly City	City of Daly City Community Container Modernization and Standardization	Mini Grant funding will be used by the City of Daly City (City) to further expand the procurement and standardization of 3-bin recycling/compost/landfill systems in City facilities. Specifically, four sets of 3-bin systems will be purchased and placed in an underserved neighborhood at Bayshore Heights Park and a neighboring high traffic recreational use area at Lincoln Park.	\$5,000
5	Sunset Ridge Elementary School	Compost Bins for All Classrooms	Mini Grant funding will go toward purchasing a compost bin to place in all classrooms TK to fifth grade as well as special classes at Sunset Ridge Elementary School. Having a compost bin in every classroom will help the school divert food waste and compostable materials from being sent to the landfill and allowing the school to do its part in reducing climate change and its environmental footprint. Additionally, this will help prevent contamination of recyclables.	\$4,791
6	Friends of Redwood	Redwood High School Circular Waste	The Mini Grant will fund composting infrastructure in the school's community garden to redirect a portion of the school's organic waste back to the garden through composting. Student design will be integral	\$4,983

		Management in the Garden Project	throughout the planning, implementation and maintenance process. Students in the Construction Technology (CTE) program will construct compost bins, a chicken coop and chicken run over a 3-month period. Students in the Redwood Environmental Academy of Leadership (REAL) program will design a system to collect food waste from brunch and lunch in the school's cafeteria. Students in the Environmental Science courses will study the composting process from the perspective of soil science, as well as through the lens of social justice and manage the composting process on-site. And students in the school's Culinary Arts program will use vegetables and eggs from the school's garden for their culinary projects and will explore the cyclical process of collecting kitchen waste, composting, planting, harvesting, and preparing food.	
7	Design Tech High School	Spirited D.signers	Design Tech High School (d.tech) is using the Mini Grant to develop and implement the Spirited d.signers project. This project works to increase school activity and awareness regarding the 4Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot-Compost) as well as other pressing environmental issues at d.tech. The Spirited d.signers project incorporates two different features: the Environmental Spirit Week as well as an environmental art installation dedicated to the 4Rs. Funds from the grant are used for the materials and equipment to make this student-led project happen.	\$2,000
8	Djerassi Resident Artists Program	Djerassi Compost and Food Waste Reduction Program	With Mini Grant funding, Djerassi is re-fitting its two Earth Cube in-vessel composting units with improved insulation. Djerassi is also adapting its composting program to its new, COVID-safe activities to promote composting and recycling to increased audiences. During Djerassi's outdoor programming hikes and events, staff and hike docents are encouraging participants to compost the food waste they create while on the property. Hike docent training will include transmitting information about the composting system so that hikers, primarily SMC residents, will receive an overview of Djerassi's composting system. Composting demonstrations during Djerassi's public events, as well as signage and printed and electronic	\$5,000

			materials promoting the program, will further enhance Djerassi's commitment to the 4Rs, composting in particular. The finished compost will be offered to the La Honda Elementary School Community Garden.	
9	Senior Coastsiders	Senior Coastsiders – 4R's Ambassador Program	With Mini Grant funds, Senior Coastsiders staff will organize four educational field trips focused on the 4Rs. Senior Coastsiders will provide transportation and lunch to participants and will facilitate follow-up discussions. In addition to providing education and information about the 4Rs, these field trips will be used in part to inform the development of Senior Coastsiders' community garden, which will focus on sustainable urban agriculture and composting. The Senior Coastsiders hopes to empower SMC coastside's older adult community so that they can further build capacity among other seniors living on Senior Coastsiders' campus through ongoing education.	\$2,500
10	Casa Círculo Cultural	We Make Our Future: Visual Art Action Against Waste	Casa Círculo Cultural (CCC) will use funding from the Mini Grant to offer six different engagement activities to CCC participants. CCC staff will receive training and consultation from Sustainable San Mateo County for background information regarding the 4Rs, current environmental issues and local advocacy opportunities so that CCC staff may deliver quality background content and information to raise awareness along with the actions aimed at the prevention of waste and the education about the 4Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot). As a result of these activities, CCC participants will learn how to reduce, reuse and recycle more effectively with the goal of continuing to be active participants of waste reduction and diversion practices at home and/or to be a part of the design and implementation of strategies that lead to greater community-wide change. As part of its efforts to examine and reduce its own waste footprint, CCC is using its established community platform to bring greater environmental awareness and calls to action through the 4Rs pilot program and its Día de Los Muertos events as the vehicle to reach and engage as many community members as possible.	\$5,000

11	The HEAL Project	El Granada Compost Education Program	The Mini Grant will fund will be used to bring hands-on experiential compost education to El Granada Elementary School students. Specifically, grant funds are used for the facilitation of compost education lessons to approximately 160 3 rd , 4 th , and 5 th grade students by The HEAL Project educators. Grant funds also support the installation and maintenance of a 3-bin compost system in the school garden. As a result, students have the opportunity to gain direct experience with backyard composting.	\$5,000
12	City of Brisbane	Brisbane Police Department Water Bottle Filler	The City of Brisbane (City) will use Mini Grant funding to install a water bottle filling station in the Police Department to enable officers and staff to move away from single-use plastic water bottles. The City will purchase custom-branded Hydro Flask (or similar) bottles for each staff member, with a few extras for future staff members. Educational signage will be placed on wall adjacent to water filling station. Bottles will also come with an insert card/flyer that provides more information about the project, environmental benefits, and cost savings from the bottles' usage. Officers estimate using at least 25 bottles of water per day, meaning this project has the potential to eliminate nearly 10,000 single-use plastic water bottles annually.	\$5,000
Total Mini Grant				\$53,596