



Program Year 2022-23 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 2022-23 Program Year in early 2022. 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 31 applications were received: 18 applications for the Mega Grant and 13 applications for the Mini Grant. An evaluation committee reviewed and scored the applications. Based on the results of the evaluation, the OOS has awarded 16 grantees – 6 grantees for the Mega Grant and 10 grantees for the Mini Grant – for a combined total grant amount of \$194,066 to be disbursed starting in Fall 2022 into Fall 2023. Below is a summary of the new 4Rs Grants recipients.

Total Program Year 2022-23 Grant Funding Allocation \$194,066

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

| # | Grantee | Project Name | Project Summary | Grant Funding |
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| 1 | Fresh Approach | Expanding Community Composting Hubs and Piloting a Cafeteria to Compost Program in SMC | Fresh Approach (FA) will work to transition established compost hubs in three schools to “the Compost Co-ops” that allows Community Ambassadors to engage with the full life cycle of the compost and take ownership of the entire process. Compost Ambassadors will be trained on how to run and manage the compost hubs, including collecting food scraps, processing the compost pile into the high-quality soil, and teaching composting workshops. They will also take on additional tasks, from outreach and community engagement, to data tracking and seeking funding opportunities. FA will provide on-going support and training in leadership development, anti-racist business practices, fundraising and basics of grant writing. They will receive stipends to support the management of the compost hubs and advocate for the program. The Compost Hubs Best Practices Guide will be updated to include how to successfully transfer Composting Hubs ownership to community members and create sustainable “Compost Co-ops”. | \$25,000 |
| | | | Plastic Free Future (PFF) will use the 4Rs Mega Grant to improve its newly | |

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| 2 | Plastic Free Future | Reuse Incentive Program | <p>launched and successful Reuse Incentive Program (Program) at farmers' markets in Half Moon Bay, East Palo Alto, Pacifica, and Daly City. The objective of this program is to phase out single-use plastic bags at farmers' markets, while educating underserved communities on reusable alternatives to single-use plastic. Reusable bags, sewn by volunteers using 100% upcycled fabrics donated to the Program, will be distributed to farmers' market participants. Every week patrons can stop by PFF's table at a participating farmers' market to receive points when they remember to bring their own reusable bags. After patrons collect enough points, they can receive prizes (e.g., reusable - jars, straws, utensils, snack bags, tote bags, cups and more) that help encourage participants to reduce their use of single-use plastic beyond the farmers' market. PFF will also develop and implement a Plastic Free July campaign, and host three public webinars with the goal to educate San Mateo County residents on subjects related to plastic pollution and reusable alternatives. PFF will also develop and distribute a guide on best practices that target other farmers' markets within San Mateo County who may be interested in setting up the Reuse Incentive Program.</p> | \$25,000 |
| 3 | Strategic Energy Innovations | Climate Corps Education Outside | <p>Strategic Energy Innovations (SEI) will use the 4Rs Mega Grant funds to ensure the Climate Corps Education Outside program continues at six elementary schools across four districts in San Mateo County. SEI will offer instructional resources and waste curriculum, 4Rs-focused trainings, supplies and materials, and professional support to Climate Corps Fellows. Lessons include the principles of composting, how to set up a compost system, the science behind composting, and why composting is preferable to sending material to landfills. SEI staff will provide Climate Corps Fellows with an orientation and ongoing training days, as well as individual coaching. One-on-one mentorship will include garden consultations and lesson observations. Climate Corps Fellows will build, maintain, and operate composting systems at their school sites and support students' education of and participation in composting systems.</p> | \$25,000 |
| 4 | The Heal Project | San Mateo County School Farm Compost Education Program | <p>The 4Rs Mega Grant will support The HEAL Project's compost education program. The program aims to teach San Mateo County students and visitors to the San Mateo County Farm 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 people to become active stewards of the environment. Grant funds will be used towards staff refining compost education curriculum and delivering</p> | \$25,000 |

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| | | | hybrid lessons directly to students. The HEAL Project’s goal is to reach out and work with at least fifteen classrooms virtually and fifteen classrooms in-person during the year. Additionally, grant funds will be used to install a greenhouse at SMC Farm to expand compost collection for students and to provide a space for students and staff to reuse pots and trays for planting starters. | |
| 5 | Street Life Ministries | Kitchen Manager to Help Food Go to Underserved Instead of Landfill | Through the 4Rs Grants Program funding, Street Life Ministries (SLM) will hire a kitchen manager to help with running the operation of its kitchen and the preparation of recovered edible food to be distributed to communities with food insecurity. The kitchen manager will ensure all health standards are up to date, making sure all food is safely handled and properly cooked. The kitchen manager will also help SLM manage its stockpile of donated rescued food that will be used in the preparation of meals, combining various items into specific dishes, or adding sides to ensure balanced nutritional content. In addition to supporting the retention of SLM volunteers the kitchen manager will also decide how to distribute SLM’s cooked leftovers to shelters or camps for the unhoused. Hiring a full-time kitchen manager will help SLM improve the quality of its prepared meals, allow the intake of a greater variety of food donations, and support SLM with expanding their sustainability goals. | \$24,012 |
| 6 | San Mateo County Community College District | Mission Circularity; Redesigning Policy, Process, and Practice | San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD) will use the 4Rs Mega Grant funds to continue engaging students, faculty, and staff in their existing Zero Waste Program, and maintain the program’s focus on the principles of circularity, waste reduction, and reuse. The grant funds will be used to hire an AmeriCorps Fellow to further develop these efforts with 4Rs education and outreach programs at SMCCCD. The overall goal of SMCCCD is to reach a diversion rate of 80% district wide. Additionally, this grant project will implement the SMCCCD Sustainable Procurement Policy and continue the development of the Sustainable Procurement Program. | \$25,000 |
| Mega Grant Total: | | | | \$149,012 |

4Rs Mini Grant (\$2,000 to \$5,000)

| # | Grantee | Project Name | Project Summary | Grant Funding |
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| | | | Loved Twice will utilize the 4Rs Mini Grant funding to provide a minimum of | |

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| 1 | Loved Twice | 7,500 Reused Baby Clothes for San Mateo Newborns-in-need | 100 wardrobes-in-a-box to babies in San Mateo County, which will bring 7,500 essential garments with a retail value of \$26,250 into underserved communities. Loved Twice provides newborns with a “wardrobe-in-a-box,” a year’s worth of gently used baby clothing. Loved Twice promotes reuse and diverts waste from being sent to the landfill by having people donate baby clothes to the organization and facilitating drop-off sites in offices, churches, schools, and businesses. This way, Loved Twice extends to the greater community with more accessible options to donate baby clothes for newborns in need. | \$5,000 |
| 2 | City of Daly City | City of Daly City Community Container Modernization and Standardization | The 4Rs Mini Grant funding will be used by the City of Daly City to further expand the procurement and standardization of tri-bin (recycling/compost/landfill) systems within City facilities. Specifically, two sets of tri-bin systems will be purchased and placed at Edgewood Park and one three-stream receptacle will be placed at Doelger Art Center. Training will be provided to custodial, parks, and recreation staff on proper waste sorting and servicing, and usage of bin bags. City staff will also train applicable recreation staff on effective waste management practices so that program attendees and members of the public can also be educated accordingly. | \$5,000 |
| 3 | The Heal Project [THP] | El Granada Compost Education Program | The 4Rs Mini Grant funds will be used to bring hands-on experiential education on composting to students at Farallone View and Kings Mountain elementary schools. Specifically, grant funds will be used by The Heal Project educators to facilitate composting lessons to approximately 116 students. Grant funds will also support the maintenance of two tri-bin compost systems at each of the school gardens located at Farallone View Elementary and Kings Mountain Elementary. As a result, students will experience direct engagement with the composting system in their school gardens. | \$2,800 |
| 4 | Redwood City School District Child Nutrition Department | Reducing Disposable Carton Waste Within Redwood City Schools | Redwood City School District (RCSD) Child Nutrition Department will use the 4Rs Mini Grant funding to support a program that trains staff to purchase and distribute reusable water bottles to all students within the school district who do not have their own water bottle, with the overall goal of reducing the amount of beverage carton waste in schools. The central focus of this project will address two of the 4Rs: reducing waste from disposable beverage containers and increase reuse by providing reusable water bottles to students who do not have their own. | \$5,000 |
| | | | California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) will use the 4Rs Mini Grant funding to conduct educational outreach on safe marine flare management | |

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| 5 | California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) | Reusable Marine Flares in San Mateo County | in San Mateo County. The project will include a customized educational campaign, which includes one in-person educational outreach event and two educational webinars. The campaign will use multiple channels of communication to educate residents of San Mateo County on proper flare handling and opportunities for reusable LED flares as a method for reducing single-use flares in the waterways and waste stream. | \$5,000 |
| 6 | Burlingame School District (Burlingame Intermediate School) | BIS Stop Think Sort! | Burlingame Elementary School District's 4Rs Mini Grant funding will focus on improving the waste reduction education and waste sorting efforts at Burlingame Intermediate School (BIS). Grant funds will be used for purchasing bin signage and two tri-bin sorting systems to match with other tri-bins currently on the BIS campus. Using these new tri-bins with the addition of waste sorting signage and campus-wide educational outreach, BIS will have a positive impact on the environment by helping to divert waste headed to our local landfill. | \$5,000 |
| 7 | Resource Area For Teaching (RAFT) | Environmental Literacy STEAM Project Kits for Afterschool Programs | The 4Rs Mini Grant funding will support the Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT)'s Environmental Literacy Kit Distribution Program by increasing the collection of reuse materials destined for landfill from local companies and processing them into hands-on STEAM Project Kits for youth. To support this goal, RAFT will increase their intake of donated materials from San Mateo County businesses. RAFT will then process these materials for use in our STEAM Project Kits and distribute them to the schools and students in most need of enrichment activities. RAFT encourages additional reuse by limiting the number of adhesives used in their STEAM Project Kits and provides extension activities that educators can utilize with the creative reuse materials to extend the usable life of the STEAM Project Kits. | \$5,000 |
| 8 | City of South San Francisco | Martin REAL Program Garden | The City of South San Francisco (City) will use the 4Rs Mini Grant funding to rejuvenate the existing garden at Martin Elementary School. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the garden has not received any care or implemented any educational programs over the last two years. The City will use Martin Elementary School's Garden as an outdoor classroom for the 4Rs curriculum, as well as a space for teaching healthy eating and active living for students during school and in the after-school program. The goal is to use the garden to teach students about the 4Rs with the hope that they can become active stewards in their school community. From there, students can share their knowledge with their families and community about the importance of composting, reducing waste, recycling materials, and reusing materials from | \$2,254 |

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| | | | their experience in the Martin Elementary School Garden. | |
| 9 | Cabrillo Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) | 4Rs Lunchtime Learning Program | With the support of a 4Rs Mini Grant, Cabrillo School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) will launch the 4Rs Lunchtime Learning Program. This program uses lunchtime—the time of day when the most waste is created at the school—to educate students and reinforce behaviors that support diversion of waste from landfills. Cabrillo PTO will also hire an on-site Sustainability Coordinator who will conduct presentations to educate the entire school community on the importance of the 4Rs and how to properly sort waste at lunchtime. Under this new system, each table will be set with three clearly labeled/colored bowls: compost, recycling, and landfill. The Sustainability Coordinator will also purchase three large bins for each waste stream to be placed on the schoolyard, as well as compost bins for every classroom. Each bin will be properly labeled to ensure consistency across the school. | \$5,000 |
| 10 | City of Burlingame | Renewable Foodware Pilot | The City of Burlingame’s (City's) will use the 4Rs Mini Grant funding for a Reusable Foodware Pilot where participating food businesses will package take-out food in reusable containers in place of single-use containers. The City will work with Reusable San Mateo County, a local coalition, to sign on three to four local food businesses to participate in the pilot. The City will partner with a reusable foodware service provider, such as Dispatch Goods or a similar company, to distribute reusable foodware containers to the food businesses and coordinate collecting, washing, and returning the containers for reuse. | \$5,000 |
| Mini Grant Total: | | | | \$45,054 |