



---

**DATE:** July 9, 2020

**TO:** Programs and Administration Committee  
Planning Committee/Recycling Board

**FROM:** Meri Soll, Senior Program Manager  
Cassie Bartholomew, Program Manager

**SUBJECT:** Grants Supporting Upstream Projects

---

## **SUMMARY**

The Agency's guiding principles identify upstream (waste prevention) activities as an area of emphasis. Staff has been working on a number of programs that offer grant funding for projects that focus on upstream activities including waste prevention, recovery for reuse, redistribution, deconstruction, and repair. This memo provides an overview of Agency grants awarded throughout fiscal year 2019-20.

## **DISCUSSION**

StopWaste takes several approaches to support and improve recovery, salvage, reuse, repair, and redistribution infrastructure in Alameda County. We have been providing grant funding specifically for entities implementing these types of activities for several years to ensure upstream infrastructure and services are available to Alameda County residents and businesses. StopWaste funding provides an opportunity to both for-profit and nonprofit organizations to jump start an idea or advance concepts that encourage source reduction measures over recycling/composting/landfill.

For the first time this year, multiple grant projects—Reuse and Repair, Food Waste Reduction, Reusable Transport Packaging, and Food Recovery Equipment—combined solicitation efforts to broaden reach and improve marketing efficiency. Additional grants awarded this fiscal year include Community Outreach grants, Mini Grants, and COVID Emergency Food Rescue grants.

At the start of Shelter in Place, staff identified a need for support within our existing food recovery community. Up to \$5,000 in supplemental grant funding was offered to 13 previously funded Food Waste Reduction and Food Recovery Equipment grantees to help cover increased costs due to COVID-19 and growing food insecurity in the county. Nine grantees from FY 18-19 were awarded additional funding from FY 19-20 totaling \$45,000.

A summary of grant categories funded in FY 19-20 can be found in the following table, and a complete list of projects is provided in Attachment A. Staff will provide additional information and selected grantee highlights at the July 9 meeting.

<b>Grant Category</b>	<b>19-20 Funds Awarded</b>
Reuse and Repair	\$245,000
Food Waste Reduction	\$165,000
Community Outreach	\$50,000
COVID Emergency Food Rescue	\$45,000
Reusable Transport Packaging Equipment	\$39,820
Food Recovery Equipment	\$22,970
Mini Grants	\$15,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$582,790</b>

**RECOMMENDATION**

This item is for information only.

**ATTACHMENT A:**

Fiscal Year 2019-20 Funded Grant Projects

Attachment A – Fiscal Year 2019-20 Funded Grant Projects

**A. Reuse and Repair Grants: \$245,000**

Grantee	Location	Amount	Description
<a href="#">African People's Education and Defense Fund, Inc.</a>	Oakland	\$10,000	The African People's Education & Defense Fund (APEDF) develops and institutionalizes programs to defend the human and civil rights of the African (black) community. Funds will be used to sponsor workshops to train volunteers to transform reclaimed furniture into beautiful redesigned items to be sold at the Uhuru furniture store in Oakland.
<a href="#">Alameda Natural Grocery / East Bay Natural Grocers</a>	Alameda	\$10,000	East Bay Natural Grocers, Inc. is comprised of three locally owned, independently operated and certified green food retailers, including two natural foods stores and one food service operation. Funds support a pilot project to implement reusable food containers for the transportation of hot and cold foods from their eatery Tomato, as well as for bulk and baked goods. Project will commence when County Health Order allows bulk food and buffet service.
<a href="#">California Product Stewardship Council</a>	Countywide	\$5,000	The California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) is a nonprofit organization working to create a shift in California's product waste management system to one that relies on producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design. Grant funds will be used to conduct research relating to potential opportunities and infrastructure for the reuse of solar panels in Alameda County and the Bay Area.
<a href="#">Civicorps</a>	Oakland	\$20,000	Civicorps is a West Oakland based nonprofit whose mission is to re-engage young adults, ages 18-26, to earn a high school diploma, gain job skills, and pursue college. They offer training in Environmental Management and Recycling as well as operate East Bay's only charter school designed to serve the needs of young adults. Grant award will provide funds to pay 50% of internship wages for two Civic Corps members to learn computer refurbishment skills. Internships are through their Conservation Career Pathways project at the Tech Exchange computer refurbishment center.
<a href="#">Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda and CASA Youth</a>	Alameda	\$10,000	CASA is a community-wide coalition dedicated to raising awareness, mobilizing community action, and facilitating the implementation of programs to achieve the goals of the City of Alameda's Climate Action and Resiliency Plan and to increase community sustainability and well-being. Funds will support CASA and CASA Youth to develop and pilot a Reusables To-Go Pilot Program to dramatically reduce disposable food ware waste in Alameda's downtown Park Street district.
<a href="#">Corporate eWaste Solutions</a>	Countywide	\$15,000	Corporate eWaste Solutions is a Hayward based certified electronics reuse and recycling provider. Reuse and Repair grant funds will allow the repair and refurbishment of lightly damaged laptops which would normally be recycled. These laptops will be donated to Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay to distribute to low income families in Alameda County.
<a href="#">East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse</a>	Countywide	\$10,000	The mission of The East Bay Depot is to divert waste materials from landfills by collecting and redistributing discarded goods as low-cost supplies for art, education, and social services at the Oakland based Depot Store. Grant funds will provide operating support to collect, store, and redistribute materials for the Depot Store.

<a href="#">Ecology Center</a>	Berkeley	\$15,000	The Ecology Center’s mission is to inspire and build a sustainable, healthy, and just future for the East Bay, California, and beyond. They transform the ideals of sustainability into everyday practice. Grant funds for expansion and continuation of the Reusable Cup Pilot, implementing the Vessel Reusable Cup system into additional cafes and eating establishments in Alameda County. Project will commence when County and City Health orders allow project activities.
<a href="#">Fixit Clinic</a>	Countywide	\$10,000	Fixit Clinic organizes community repair event in Alameda County and throughout the United States. Funding will allow Fixit Clinic to respond to the rapidly evolving social and economic changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic disruption by migrating to online community virtual repair events. Fixit Clinic will also provide their “Rapid Response Repair” program to Alameda County municipalities, medical facilities, and schools to support repair and maintenance of large scale equipment and property.
<a href="#">Hively</a>	Countywide	\$10,000	Hively believes that every family should have the resources and support to ensure that children get the best start possible including counseling and other resources they need to thrive. Grant funds will be used to expand and improve their Oakland and Pleasanton based program that collects big box store returns as well as gently used household items and clothing donations for redistribution to families in need.
<a href="#">Kala Art Institute</a>	Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland	\$10,000	Kala Art Institute’s mission is to help artists sustain their creative work over time through artist residencies and to engage the community through exhibitions, public programs, and education. Funds will be used to repair large scale printmaking and digital equipment to prevent the items from being recycled and/or landfilled, as well as purchase an industrial washer/dryer so they can switch to reusable rags.
<a href="#">Oakland First Fridays</a>	Oakland	\$10,000	Oakland First Fridays is an immersive art and community experience on the first Friday of each month. This event includes artist collectives, street artists, local culinary artisans and beverages as well as food trucks. Funds encumbered to support reusable infrastructure at First Friday events when County Health Order allows for large group activities to resume.
<a href="#">Loved Twice</a>	Countywide	\$10,000	Loved Twice believes every newborn baby deserves to have clothes for their first year of life—one of life’s basic necessities. Loved Twice provides clothing for newborns in need with quality reused baby clothing. Grant funds will be used to collect gently-used baby clothes, sort the garments into boy and girl wardrobes-in-a-box, and distribute them exclusively through social workers in hospitals, shelters, and clinics.
<a href="#">MedShare</a>	Countywide	\$20,000	MedShare is a nonprofit humanitarian aid organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of people, communities and our planet by sourcing and directly delivering surplus medical supplies and equipment to communities in need around the world. Grant funds will support their Biomedical Equipment Lab which will prevent functioning medical equipment from ending up in landfill by testing, refurbishing, and repairing equipment to be distributed locally and internationally to those in need to save lives.

<a href="#">Orta Kitchen Garden</a>	Alameda	\$10,000	Orta's mission is to help people grow their own plants from seeds and cuttings which reduces plastic waste from nursery pots and provides a successful, satisfying zero-waste experience. Grant funding will allow Orta Kitchen to build a trimming machine that will reduce waste and increase labor productivity by streamlining production and operations, reducing labor costs, and creating greater organizational capacity.
<a href="#">Resource Area For Teachers (RAFT) -</a>	Countywide	\$10,000	RAFT provides materials, kits, and curriculum for students and teachers using salvaged and reusable materials donated by companies and manufacturers. Grant funds will provide 2,500 activity kits and online education curriculum to support remote learning for Title 1 schools. In addition, funds will help secure and collect material donations from Alameda County manufacturers for reuse in their large warehouse and educational kits.
<a href="#">Re-Up Refill Shop</a>	Alameda, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont	\$15,000	The ReUp Refill shop in Oakland allows customers to get bath, body, kitchen, and cleaning products in refillable containers, reducing waste from single-use plastics. Funds will allow the shop to purchase a pre-owned electric bike for sustainable deliveries and refurbish a used shipping container to provide storage of large scale inventory items such as 55 gallon drums.
<a href="#">Surplus Service</a>	Countywide	\$15,000	Surplus Service provides the highest and best end of life solutions for e-waste, via refurbishment and reuse of electronics rather than recycling or sending them to the landfill. Funds will be used to expand their BioMed group to refurbish medical equipment that may have otherwise been landfilled or recycled. Adding the capability of refurbishing medical equipment to their existing operation will divert thousands of pounds from landfill and recycling streams.
<a href="#">The Crucible</a>	Alameda	\$5,000	The Crucible inspires creative exploration with hands-on arts education and experiences for people of diverse ages and backgrounds. Grant funds will be used to purchase an industrial washing machine and dryer which will allow them to clean welding jackets, rags, tablecloths, and ceramics class textiles onsite, instead of sending them to landfill.
<a href="#">The Plant Exchange</a>	Countywide	\$5,000	The Plant Exchange's mission is to divert large amounts of usable plants from the landfill or organics stream by developing partnerships with retail/wholesale distributors and contractors who provide The Plant Exchange with donations of unused plants. Funds will be used to support ongoing operations for donated plant pickups.
<a href="#">Transition Berkeley</a>	Berkeley	\$10,000	Transition Berkeley's mission is to bring community together to build a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient future for Berkeley. Funds will be used to work with Cal Berkeley's Engineers for a Sustainable World Students to develop curriculum focused on repair for Cal students, including waste stream education, product design, circular economy, and repair. Class will provide practical hands-on learning about how to diagnosis and repair electronics, small appliances, bicycles, clothing, and furniture.
<a href="#">Waterside Workshop</a>	Countywide	\$10,000	Waterside Workshop's 'Street Level Cycles' program is a youth job-training program that repairs and sells discarded bicycles, and provides a free do-it-yourself public bike repair shop. Rebuilt bicycles provide green transportation for low-income youth and adults, and bicycle sales help support their free education programs. Funds will support staff for operations and youth instruction.

## B. Food Waste Reduction Grants: \$165,000

Grantee	Location	Amount	Description
<a href="#">Abode Services</a>	Countywide	\$20,000	Abode's mission is to end homelessness by assisting low-income, un-housed people, including those with special needs, to secure stable, supportive housing, and to be advocates for the removal of the causes of homelessness. Funds will support the food delivery program that recovers surplus food from local partner grocery stores and redistributes to homeless and very low-income residents in Alameda County through Abode's owned and operated housing sites.
<a href="#">Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League (DSAL)</a>	Countywide	\$20,000	The Alameda County Deputy Sheriff's Activities League's (DSAL) mission is to build on natural, human, social, economic, built, political, and cultural capital to create safer, healthier communities. Funds will support DSAL's social enterprise, Dig Deep Farms, and their Food Hub distribution facility to operate efficient aggregation, sorting, processing and packaging of recovered food for distribution to food-insecure residents.
<a href="#">Daily Bowl</a>	Fremont, Hayward, Newark, San Leandro, Union City	\$17,000	Daily Bowl's mission is to recover blemished and excess produce destined for waste and rapidly redistribute to local agencies catering to our less fortunate and hungry community members. Funds will be used to glean produce and prepared food from commercial establishments, grocery stores, and eating establishments and distribute to local non-profit food pantries.
<a href="#">Hope 4 the Heart</a>	Countywide	\$20,000	Hope 4 the Heart serves over 14,000 local low-income families per month by providing food, produce, diapers, and household items. Funds will be used to purchase a new box truck to support an increase of over 60,000 lbs per month of donated food from local stores, as well as the increased need for food delivery to low-income housing.
<a href="#">McGee Avenue Baptist Church Center for Food, Faith &amp; Justice</a>	Berkeley, Oakland	\$18,000	The McGee Center for Food, Faith & Justice (CFFJ) provides an innovative, community-centered network of food sourcing and distribution to alleviate the problems of hunger and poor nutrition in Berkeley. Funds will support CFFJ's Food Recovery Program that recovers food that would otherwise have gone to waste from food retailers, distributors, and producers in Berkeley and nearby municipalities, and redistribute through an on-site pantry and meal program serving residents experiencing food insecurity.
<a href="#">Chefs to End Hunger</a>	Countywide	\$20,000	Chefs to End Hunger facilitates the recovery and redistribution of surplus food from food service operators and wholesale distributors to local organizations that serve the food insecure. Funds will be used to grow the list of foodservice operator partners with substantial surplus food in Alameda County, as well as another non-profit agency that can support food distribution.
<a href="#">Replate</a>	Alameda, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland	\$10,000	Replate's technology platform enables businesses to schedule on-demand pickups for their surplus food and activates the community to reliably redistribute surplus food to those experiencing food insecurity. Funds will be used to increase Replate's presence in Alameda County through automated dispatching that will improve efficiency, optimize routes, and free up staff time for building partnerships.

<a href="#">The Berkeley Food Network</a>	Albany, Berkeley	\$20,000	The Berkeley Food Network aims to provide an innovative, community-centered network of food sourcing and distribution to alleviate the problems of hunger and poor nutrition in Berkeley. Funds will be used to further develop the Food Recovery Program, which recovers food that would otherwise have gone into the waste stream from food retailers, distributors, and producers in Berkeley and nearby municipalities. Increased food recovered will be used in the pantry program as well as grow the Hub Kitchen Program to provide at least 1,500 meals a week.
<a href="#">Tri-Valley Haven</a>	Countywide	\$20,000	Tri-Valley Haven serves as a vital community resource serving adults and children who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, or homelessness. Funds will support on-site food pantry operations as well as expand the Mobile Food Pantry efforts from monthly to bi-monthly, as need increases due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

### C. Community Outreach Grants: \$50,000

<a href="#">18 Reasons</a>	Berkeley, Hayward, Oakland, San Leandro	\$10,000	18 Reasons empowers community with the confidence and creativity to buy, cook, and eat good food every day. Their Cooking Matters program, which provides training to neighborhood leaders to teach cooking/nutrition to East Bay families, will engage their board, staff, and peer educators (Health Promoters) in a one-week Stop Food Waste Challenge and share those educational tips at their cooking workshops.
<a href="#">A-1 Community Housing Services</a>	Hayward	\$5,000	A-1 Community Housing Services provides programs targeting the issues of homelessness; financial education, first-time home buyer education, relocation assistance, foreclosure prevention, and credit management. Enlisted 20 clients to do their own Fridge Reality Check and shared six educational tips. Working with grantee to provide presentation in Spanish.
<a href="#">All Saints Catholic Church</a>	Castro Valley, Hayward, San Leandro, Union City	\$5,000	Church in Hayward serving neighboring communities. Educating parish committees who serve food on site about food waste prevention tools. Funds to support food and reusables for daily meals for homeless people at the Church.
<a href="#">Berkeley Student Food Collective</a>	Berkeley	\$10,000	Student run collective works to provide groceries and prepared meals for the UC Berkeley community. Project to engage student volunteers in a one-week Stop Food Waste Challenge and ongoing promotion of educational tips. Funds will support prepared meal pop-ups at various campus locations.
<a href="#">Eden Garden</a>	Livermore	\$10,000	Eden Garden provides fresh, organic food for those in need and gives people a hands on opportunity to learn about growing their own food. Engaged 25 Eden Garden, Crosswinds Church, and community members in the first one-week Stop Food Waste Challenge. Plan to hold culminating event with how-to tip stations at harvest celebration. Funds will be used to improve garden infrastructure and grow more food.
<a href="#">Fremont LEAF</a>	Fremont	\$5,000	Local Ecology and Agriculture Fremont brings people together to grow healthy, pesticide-free food and to learn about environmentally sustainable gardening and urban farming practices. SWEET graduates initiated this grant with two food waste reduction workshops, reaching over 70 people. Enlisted 20 attendees to do their own Fridge Reality Check and continue to

			post educational tips on food waste. Funds used to support multi-media tools for LEAF.
<a href="#">McGee Ave. Baptist Church</a>	Berkeley	\$5,000	Engaged 20 members of the church and community to do their own Fridge Reality Check and share 6 educational tips throughout the year. Funds to support the church's ongoing meal program - serving 300 people weekly and expanding their edible garden.

#### D. COVID Emergency Food Rescue Grants: \$45,000

The following nine organizations were funded in the previous fiscal year, 18-19, to support food recovery efforts in Alameda County. They were each awarded \$5,000 of additional grant funding in FY 19-20 to help cover increased costs due to COVID-19 and growing food insecurity. Additional information about these grantees and the grant-funded projects can be found on the [Previously Funded Grants](#) page at StopWaste.org.

*Arsola's Distribution Center and Community Services, Daily Bowl, East Bay Food Justice Project, Faces of the East Bay, Food of God, Replate, Tri-City Volunteers, Tri-Valley Haven, and Viola Blythe Community Services Center*

#### E. Reusable Transport Packaging Equipment: \$39,820

Grantee	Location	Amount	Description
<a href="#">Biologic Environmental Services &amp; Waste Solutions</a>	Countywide	\$9,320	Biologic Environmental Services & Waste Solutions is an in-County medical waste service provider. Funds will be used to replace cardboard boxes and wooden pallets with 36 reusable plastic totes for transporting medical waste from approximately 700 medical facilities located throughout California, 130 of which are located in Alameda County. The medical waste will be transported in the reusable containers to an incinerator where they are unloaded, then the totes are returned to Biologic to be sanitized for reuse. It is estimated that the reusable totes will prevent the purchase, use, and incineration of 19,440 lbs of cardboard boxes and wooden pallets annually.
<a href="#">Commex Corporation</a>	Hayward, Union City	\$10,000	Commex Corporation provides food grade plastic film for packaging. Grant funds will be used to replace single-use wooden pallets with 138 reusable pallets to transport shipments of film plastic to Emerald Packaging in Union City. The reusable pallets will prevent the purchase, use, and disposal of approximately 16.5 tons of wooden pallets annually.
<a href="#">Corporate eWaste Solutions</a>	Countywide	\$3,500	Corporate eWaste Solutions is a Hayward based certified electronics reuse and recycling provider. Equipment grant funds will be used to replace limited-use cardboard gaylords, wooden pallets, and plastic wrap with reusable moving carts and pallet wrap to transport electronics from Alameda County clients and e-waste collection events to their Hayward warehouse. The 15 reusable office carts and pallet wraps will prevent the purchase, use, and disposal of roughly 18,180 lbs of cardboard gaylords, wooden pallets, and plastic wrap annually.
<a href="#">Philz Coffee</a>	Alameda	\$7,000	Philz Coffee is a coffee roaster retailer with over 50 coffee shops, as well as wholesale and online roasted coffee sales. Funds will be used to replace single-use plastic pallet wrap with 48 reusable pallet wraps for weekly shipments of coffee beans from their third-party warehouse in San Leandro to the Philz Coffee Roasting Plant in Oakland. It is estimated that the reusable pallet wraps



			will prevent the purchase, use, and disposal of disposal of 1,822 lbs of plastic pallet wrap each year.
<a href="#">Riverdog Farm</a>	Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Oakland	\$10,000	Riverdog Farm is a 450 acre certified organic farm located in Capay Valley. Funds will be used to replace waxed cardboard boxes with 1,060 reusable plastic totes to transport produce to Alameda County farm box customers. The reusable totes will prevent the purchase, use, and disposal of approximately 8,750 lbs of waxed cardboard boxes and 52 rolls of butcher paper annually.

#### F. Food Recovery Equipment: \$22,970

Grantee	Location	Amount	Description
<a href="#">San Leandro Community Food Pantry</a>	Castro Valley, Hayward, Oakland, San Leandro	\$8,500	San Leandro Community Food Pantry is a volunteer run organization that provides food for the marginalized members of their community. Grantee will purchase a commercial freezer, refrigerator, and shelving to increase capacity of recovered surplus food.
<a href="#">Bay Area Community Health</a>	Fremont, Hayward, Oakland, San Leandro, Union City	\$3,800	Bay Area Community Health's mission is to work with community churches, neighbors, and volunteers to end hunger. Grantee will purchase reusable pallets and thermal blankets to reduce their waste footprint while also increasing safety and efficiency in food storage and distribution.
<a href="#">Tri-City Health Center</a>	Fremont, Newark, Union City	\$6,300	Tri-City Health Center's (TCHC) mission is to deliver excellent health services in a caring, nurturing, and respectful atmosphere while improving the quality of life for every patient. Grantee will purchase a new refrigerator, reusable coolers, and reusable plastic bins to reduce the use of disposable transport packaging and also support the safe and efficient collection of surplus edible food for their Food Farmacy program.
<a href="#">Tri-City Volunteers, Inc.</a>	Fremont	\$4,370	Tri-City Volunteers' (TCV) mission is to eliminate hunger and promote self-sufficiency in Alameda County by distributing food and providing volunteer opportunities to improve the quality of life for all. Grantee will purchase reusable totes to be used in three Mobile Food Pantry vans. These totes will allow TCV to reduce their waste footprint and create a more efficient storage and distribution system.

#### G. Mini Grants: \$15,000

Grantee	Location	Amount	Description
<a href="#">Maker Nexus</a>	Countywide	\$5,000	Maker Nexus is a nonprofit organization with 3D printers, a wood shop, tools, and sewing machines that, pre-COVID, was a maker space for the Silicon Valley community. When COVID-19 began, the maker space was closed and pivoted to organizing 3D printing of personal protective equipment. Funds will be used to purchase 2,300 pounds of recycled content PET plastic sheeting from Alameda County manufacturer to make 3,000 face shields and 2 replacement lenses. Face shields will be donated to healthcare and other essential workers in Alameda County.
<a href="#">Metro Lighting</a>	Berkeley	\$5,000	Metro Lighting is a retail lighting store located in Berkeley. Funds will be used to procure and install a press-molding glass production table and equipment to expand Metro lighting's

			capability to create and sell lamp shades produced from recycled glass cullet.
<a href="#">Museum of Tomorrow</a>	Berkeley	\$5,000	Inspired by the current trend of popular pop-up museums, Museum of Tomorrow portrays climate change via an innovative approach. Funds to support pop-up museum at the David Brower Center, which includes an interactive display to educate and inspire people to change their daily behaviors to a more sustainable approach.