

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1034

To authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants for municipal solid waste prevention, reuse, and recycling program development, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2017

Mr. ELLISON (for himself, Ms. LEE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants for municipal solid waste prevention, reuse, and recycling program development, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Zero Waste Develop-  
5 ment and Expansion Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 The Administrator of the Environmental Protection  
8 Agency (in this Act referred to as the “Administrator”)

1 shall award grants to local governments or consortia of  
2 local governments, which may be acting in coordination  
3 with one or more nongovernmental entities. The grants  
4 shall be used to develop solid waste prevention, reuse, and  
5 recycling tactics and operations, which may include—

6           (1) development or deployment of technologies  
7           or practices to increase rates of waste prevention,  
8           reuse, recycling, or composting;

9           (2) capital investment in infrastructure to start  
10          or expand waste prevention, reuse, recycling,  
11          composting, or product reuse programs;

12          (3) partnerships with local businesses interested  
13          in incorporating new technologies or processes to re-  
14          duce or prevent waste in production or packaging; or

15          (4) community outreach and public education  
16          programming, including programming to—

17                (A) increase community knowledge of ef-  
18                fective waste prevention, reuse, recycling, or  
19                composting; and

20                (B) increase behavior that will reduce over-  
21                all household waste generation.

22 **SEC. 3. GRANT REVIEW.**

23          (a) GRANT AWARDEES.—Grants shall be awarded  
24          under this Act to applicants that collectively represent a  
25          range of existing waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and

1 composting rates. In order to be considered for this award,  
2 applicants must—

3 (1) set specific waste prevention, reuse, recy-  
4 cling, composting, or public education goals that will  
5 bring communities closer to zero waste;

6 (2) have a clearly established plan to use grant  
7 funds for one or more of the purposes described in  
8 section 2; and

9 (3) meet other criteria as determined by the  
10 Administrator.

11 (b) ADDITIONAL FACTORS.—Additional weight may  
12 be given to the applications of local governments or con-  
13 sortia that—

14 (1) have statutorily committed to zero waste  
15 principles;

16 (2) demonstrate job creation;

17 (3) have partnerships with domestic manufac-  
18 turers who will use locally recycled materials to spur  
19 the growth of domestic manufacturing businesses  
20 and the creation of domestic manufacturing jobs;

21 (4) address the disproportionate environmental,  
22 health, and economic burden of waste disposal that  
23 is borne by communities of color and low income;

24 (5) propose to use funds for waste prevention,  
25 reuse, or recycling programs in schools;

1           (6) employ adaptive management practices to  
2 identify and address unintended consequences as  
3 they arise, including potential contamination of land,  
4 water, air, or food;

5           (7) have a demonstrated need for additional in-  
6 vestment in infrastructure and programs to achieve  
7 waste prevention, reuse, or recycling;

8           (8) will drive technologies for product reuse, re-  
9 cycling, composting, or waste prevention;

10          (9) demonstrate ways in which the grant will  
11 encourage further investment in waste prevention,  
12 reuse, recycling, or composting projects; or

13          (10) incorporate multistakeholder involvement,  
14 including nonprofit, commercial, and public sector  
15 partners.

16 **SEC. 4. REPORTING.**

17          Grant awardees shall report to the Administrator the  
18 results of their project and relevant data requested by the  
19 Administrator to track the grant program's impact.

20 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL CONFERENCE.**

21          The Administrator shall convene or co-convene an an-  
22 nual conference for current, past, and potential grantees,  
23 and other stakeholders, to learn from each other's experi-  
24 ences in moving toward a zero waste goal.

1 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) RECYCLING.—The term “recycling” means  
4 processing material that has reached the end of its  
5 current use into material utilized in the production  
6 of new products. The term does not include inciner-  
7 ation.

8 (2) REUSE.—The term “reuse” means extend-  
9 ing the life of a product, packaging, or resources by  
10 either using it more than once for the same or a new  
11 function with little to no processing, or repairing it  
12 so it can be used longer, sharing or renting it, or  
13 selling or donating it to another party. The term  
14 does not include incineration.

15 (3) WASTE PREVENTION.—The term “waste  
16 prevention” includes—

17 (A) measures or techniques that reduce the  
18 amount of wastes generated during industrial  
19 production processes; and

20 (B) reuse, recycling, and other efforts to  
21 reduce the amount of waste going into the  
22 waste stream.

23 (4) ZERO WASTE.—The term “zero waste” is a  
24 goal that is ethical, economical, efficient, and vision-  
25 ary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and  
26 practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles,

1 where all discarded materials are designed to become  
2 resources for others to use. Zero waste means de-  
3 signing and managing products and processes to sys-  
4 tematically avoid and eliminate the volume and tox-  
5 icity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all  
6 resources, and not burn or bury them. Implementing  
7 zero waste will eliminate all discharges to land,  
8 water, or air that are a threat to planetary, human,  
9 animal, or plant health.

10 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-  
12 ministrator \$100,000,000 for the period encompassing fis-  
13 cal years 2018 through 2023 for carrying out this Act.

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