117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4444

To provide grants to reduce the amount of food waste, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2021

Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself, Ms. Pingree, and Ms. Kuster) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To provide grants to reduce the amount of food waste, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Zero Food Waste Act”.

SEC. 2. FOOD WASTE REDUCTION GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish and carry out a program to award competitive grants as provided in paragraph (3).

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program established under paragraph (1) is to help reduce the
amount of food waste by 50 percent by 2030, relative to such amount in 2010.

(3) GRANTS.—

(A) Study on food waste generation and food waste management planning.—

Under the program established under paragraph (1), the Administrator may award a grant to an eligible entity, excluding any eligible entity that is a nonprofit organization, to—

(i) study—

(I) the generation of food waste in the State or area in which the eligible entity is located or otherwise serves; and

(II) policies and programs that significantly reduce the amount of food waste, including policies and programs to carry out food waste reduction activities; and

(ii) develop a plan under which such eligible entity will carry out at least one food waste reduction activity, prioritizing prevention to the extent practicable.

(B) Food waste data and reports.—

Under the program established under para-
graph (1), the Administrator may award a grant to an eligible entity, excluding any eligible entity that is a nonprofit organization, to—

(i) collect data on the amount of food waste generated in the State or area in which the eligible entity is located or otherwise serves; and

(ii) publish, on any publicly available website (which may include the website of a nongovernmental organization), a monthly or quarterly report on the data collected under clause (i).

(C) FOOD WASTE REDUCTION PROJECTS.—Under the program established under paragraph (1), the Administrator may award a grant to an eligible entity to—

(i)(I) carry out or otherwise support a food waste reduction activity;

(II) implement a differential pricing policy on the disposal of food waste to—

(aa) disincentivize disposing of food waste by incineration or deposit in a landfill; and

(bb) incentivize carrying out food waste reduction activities;
(III) pay for or provide technical assistance to carry out a food waste reduction activity;

(IV) implement restrictions on disposing of food waste by incineration or deposit in a landfill;

(V) implement food waste reduction activity requirements;

(VI) implement demand-stimulating policies for recycling end-markets; or

(VII) carry out any other activity the Administrator determines will reduce the amount of food waste in the applicable area; and

(ii) collect data and publish reports as described in subparagraph (B).

(b) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To apply for a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the Administrator an application at such time and in such form as the Administrator may require, which such application shall demonstrate how the eligible entity will use the grant in accordance with sub-section (a)(3).
(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—In the case of an application from an eligible entity that is a nonprofit organization, the application shall include—

(A) a letter of support for the proposed use of the grant from—

(i) the relevant local government, territorial government, Tribal government, or State; or

(ii) another nonprofit organization that—

(I) has a demonstrated history of undertaking work in the geographic region where the proposed use of the grant is to take place, as determined by the Administrator; and

(II) would not be involved in the proposed use of the grant; and

(B) any other information the Administrator may require.

(3) PRIORITIZATION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Administrator shall—

(A) seek to award grants for use in diverse locations and for diverse uses; and

(B) prioritize awarding grants to—
(i) any eligible entity, excluding any eligible entity that is a nonprofit organization, that—

(I) implements a program to carry out food waste reduction activities; or

(II) has a demonstrated need, as determined by the Administrator, for additional investment in infrastructure or other resources to be able to implement a program to carry out food waste reduction activities; or

(ii) an eligible entity that will use such grant as provided in subsection (a)(3)(C)(i) in a community of color, low-income community, or Tribal community that has been disproportionately affected by adverse human health or environmental effects.

(4) Anaerobic Digestion Projects.—With respect to any grant awarded under subsection (a)(3)(C) to carry out an anaerobic digestion project, the Administrator shall—

(A) require that the applicant submit a plan for end-product recycling that, in accord-
ance with guidelines the Administrator shall es-
semble—

(i) provides for the use of the material
resulting from the project as a soil amend-
ment; and

(ii) ensures that the use of the mate-
rial resulting from the project does not cre-
ate an environmental hazard; and

(B) require the eligible entity that is car-
rying out the project—

(i) to limit its use of animal waste to
not more than 20% of the total feedstock
of the project; and

(ii) to only use source separated
organics as the portion of the total feed-
stock that is not animal waste.

(c) REPORTING.—

(1) EFFECT OF USE OF GRANT.—Each eligible
entity that receives a grant under this section shall
submit to the Administrator a report, at such time
and in such form as the Administrator may require,
on the results of the use of the grant, which such
report shall include any relevant data requested by
the Administrator for purposes of tracking the effec-
tiveness of the program established under subsection (a)(1).

(2) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Administrator shall submit to Congress and make publicly available on the website of the Environmental Protection Agency an annual report describing—

(A) the effectiveness of the program established under subsection (a)(1) at reducing the amount of food waste by 50 percent by 2030, relative to such amount in 2010, including information on the progress of such reduction; and

(B) how the Administrator is promoting learning among grantees and other stakeholders to better achieve results.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $650,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2031, to remain available until expended.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this Act:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible entity” means—
(A) a State, a local government, a territorial government, or a Tribal government;

(B) a nonprofit organization; or

(C) a partnership of two or more of any of the entities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(3) FOOD WASTE.—The term “food waste” means any uneaten food and inedible parts of food.

(4) FOOD WASTE REDUCTION ACTIVITY.—The term “food waste reduction activity” means any method or activity that reduces the amount of food waste disposed of in landfills or incinerated, including through prevention, rescue, upcycling, and recycling.

(5) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term “nonprofit organization” means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3)) and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(6) PREVENT.—The term “prevent” means to forestall the generation of food waste.

(7) RECYCLE.—The term “recycle” means to reuse food waste as a feedstock for a non-food product.
(8) RESCUE.—The term “rescue” means to redirect surplus food for consumption.

(9) SOURCE SEPARATED ORGANICS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “source separated organics” means organic waste that is separated from other waste by the waste generator.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term “source separated organics” includes materials that are certified to meet ASTM standard D6400 or D6868.

(C) EXCLUSION.—The term “source separated organics” excludes mixed solid waste.

(10) UPCYCLE.—The term “upcycle” means to make new food from ingredients that otherwise would become food waste.