

2019 Dane County Departmental SMART Fund

Funding Opportunity Description

The Sustainability Subcommittee of the Public Works and Transportation Committee is responsible for distributing grant money to county departments from a dedicated fund in the county's capital budget. This fund supports the county's goal of becoming more sustainable by, for example, investing in initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions by implementing systems that result in more efficient energy use and investments in renewable energy production at county facilities. The fund is a foundational part of the county's continued efforts to ensure that important natural resources and ecosystem services are maintained for current and future generations while working to increase equity and inclusion in all that we do. The fund can be used by your department to help you implement strategies identified in the [Dane County Government Sustainable Operations Plan](#), to supplement current budget items that do not have enough funds to incorporate additional sustainable measures, or to fully fund projects that are not in the current budget, but that will improve the sustainability of county operations and reduce long-term costs.

The subcommittee will select projects to fund based on their consistency with the sustainability principles adopted by the Dane County Board (on October 18, 2012) to guide county government management, operations, and policy making, as well as based on their ability to further implement the [Dane County Government Sustainable Operations Plan](#). The subcommittee will consider applications that might not provide a large financial return on investment but that can be demonstrated by the applicant department to incorporate strong sustainability education benefits for county staff and the public. The subcommittee will also look favorably at innovative pilot projects that test new sustainability technologies in county operations and that can be demonstrated by the applicant department to hold promise for additional future benefits for county facilities.

Benefits of this fund:

- Alignment of departments and staff toward a common understanding of sustainability
- Clarity and consistency in assessing and organizing actions and programs for sustainable government operations
- Enhanced policies and programs incorporating a sustainability perspective
- Enhanced reputation as a proactive contributor to a more sustainable community
- Education of county staff and public on sustainability issues
- Reduced operating costs

Dane County's Sustainability Principles:

Dane County strives to operate in a sustainable way that will:

- Reduce and eventually eliminate county government's contribution to fossil fuel dependence and to wasteful use of scarce metals and minerals;
- Reduce and eventually eliminate county government's contribution to dependence upon persistent chemicals and wasteful use of synthetic substances;
- Reduce and eventually eliminate county government's contribution to encroachment upon nature and harm to life-sustaining ecosystems (e.g., land, water, wildlife, forest, soil, ecosystems); and
- Reduce and eventually eliminate county government's contribution to conditions that undermine people's ability to meet their basic human needs.

Eligible Applicants:

Dane County Departments

Award Information:

Application Deadlines: There are 3 application deadlines for 3 rounds of funding. Solicitations for applications will go out via email about 1 month before each deadline.

1. **February 6, 2019** — At this time up to 50% of the funds will be awarded.
2. **June 3, 2019** — At this time up to an additional 25% of the funds will be awarded.
3. **October 4, 2019** — At this time the remainder of the funds will be awarded.

The subcommittee generally makes award decisions within a couple of weeks of the application deadline depending on complexity of the proposals and the subcommittee meeting schedule.

Examples of types of projects that would be eligible:

- Renewable energy or energy efficiency improvement investments for county facilities, such as solar lighting, LED lighting upgrades, energy efficient boilers, etc.
- Purchase of new or upgraded equipment that will improve the overall efficiency of facilities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the use and disposal of toxic products, reduce maintenance costs and/or staff time using the equipment, and/or facilitate better tracking, measurement, and verification of sustainable outcomes in county operations
- Water conservation improvements

Application and Submission Information:

Apply electronically to Lisa MacKinnon at Mackinnon@countyofdane.com and Greg Brockmeyer at Brockmeyer@countyofdane.com.

Please include the following in your application:

- 1) A detailed description of your proposed project
 - 2) How the project, if carried out, will meet the county's sustainability principles
 - 3) How the project, if carried out, will implement specific goals, objectives, and strategies identified in the [Dane County Sustainable Operations Plan](#). Indicate which goals, etc.
 - 4) How the county might build upon the sustainability outcomes of the proposed project
 - 5) How your department intends to track and measure the outcomes of the project, if funded, such as cost savings, energy reductions, maintenance reductions, etc., who will be responsible for measurement and verification, and an estimated timeline for delivery of measurement and verification of outcomes.
 - 6) Budget Sheet: Include all costs of achieving the objectives of the project.
 - 7) Estimated cost savings to the county due to implementation of the project and the payback period.
- NOTE: Include here information on estimated Focus on Energy incentive savings if your project is eligible for FOE incentives (see <https://focusonenergy.com/business> or contact Lisa MacKinnon for assistance in getting this information) or other financial incentives that will offset the cost to the county

Questions are to be directed to Lisa MacKinnon at 267-1529 or Greg Brockmeyer at 266-4519.

Project Information:

Please provide the following information (take as much space as you need to provide details):

Department: Administration – Facilities Management Address: 210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. Madison, Wisconsin 53703	Total project costs: \$17,000
	Funding amount in current budget: \$0
	Funding amount requested: \$17,000
Project Title: Water Bottle Filling Station Installations	
Project Location(s): Badger Prairie Health Care Center – 1100 E Verona Avenue, Verona, WI 53593 Neighborhood Intervention Program – 1227 N Sherman Avenue, Madison, WI 53704	
Project Description: Purchase, install and extend plumbing for (1) Elkay ELZSTL8WSLK bi-level drinking fountain with bottle filler at the Neighborhood Intervention Program Building. Purchase, install and extend plumbing for (1) Elkay ELZSTL8WSLK bi-level drinking fountain with bottle filler on the main level at Badger Prairie Health Care Center. Purchase, install and extend plumbing for (1) EZWSM8K in-wall bottle filling station on the lower level of Badger Prairie Health Care Center.	

Describe how the proposed project moves the county toward meeting the following Sustainability Principles. (See the guiding questions in the box below.) Responses to this section will be used to determine the relative level of sustainability for each project.

- Reduce and eventually eliminate county government's contribution to fossil fuel dependence and to wasteful use of scarce metals and minerals;
- Reduce and eventually eliminate county government's contribution to dependence upon persistent chemicals and wasteful use of synthetic substances;
- Reduce and eventually eliminate county government's contribution to encroachment upon nature and harm to life-sustaining ecosystems (e.g., land, water, wildlife, forest, soil, ecosystems); and
- Reduce and eventually eliminate county government's contribution to conditions that undermine people's ability to meet their basic human needs.

Include in your description any estimated reductions of GHGs / CO2 equivalent emissions related to your proposal. Please use the following calculator to do this: <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/calculator.html>

Although marketing campaigns have driven increased consumption of bottled water throughout the US in recent years, tap water remains the purist choice. Nationally, tap water is subjected to more rigorous testing and purity standards than bottled water. (Santa Clara County, September 2007) Additionally, tap water is more sustainable and costs a fraction of the price of bottled water. (Pacific Institute, February 2017)

One of the most obvious impacts associated with packaged and bottled water is what happens to the plastic bottles after the water is consumed. Despite expanded recycling outreach and infrastructure in the United States, the Container Recycling Institute claims that 86 percent of plastic water bottles consumed in the US end up in landfills nation-wide. It is estimated that 60 million plastic water bottles are consumed daily in the US, contributing to nearly 18,824,000,000 bottles ending up in landfills annually. (Ellsbury, Hannah, August 2012) Once disposed of, the average time for a plastic bottle to completely degrade is estimated to be at least 450 years. (Postconsumers.com, February 2017)

Bottled water also has serious environmental problems associated with its manufacture. According to a Beverage Marketing Association estimate, 31.2 billion liters of bottled water were consumed in 2006, most of which was sold in polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles. PET is produced from fossil fuels and according to Pacific Institute calculations, more than 17 million barrels of oil were used to package the US bottled water demand of 2006 – enough energy to fuel more than 1 million American cars and light trucks for a year. Additionally, the manufacture of every ton of PET produces around 3 tons of carbon dioxide (CO2). According to this estimate, bottled water was responsible for creating more than 2.5 million tons of CO2 in 2006. (Pacific Institute, February 2017)

Bottled water can also be associated with harmful chemicals. Many studies have shown that polycarbonate plastic, a type of plastic used to package many water cooler bottles, gradually leaches a chemical called bisphenol-A (BPA) into the liquids that are stored in them. (Ellsbury, Hannah, August 2012) Evidence now suggests that PET, which is used to package most individual-sized water bottles, may pose human health hazards as well. PET was also found to break down over time and leach into the beverages contained inside. (Sohn, Emily, April 2009)

Describe how the proposal furthers implementation of the Dane County Government Sustainable Operations Plan goals, objectives, and strategies in your department and/or countywide. Please identify specific plan goals, objectives, and strategies accomplished.

The installation of water bottle filling stations furthers the implementation of the Dane County Government Sustainable Operations Plan by supporting the County Buildings and Facilities goal of using sustainable materials and placing an emphasis on occupant and user health and well-being.

The correlating objective of identifying opportunities to reduce the use of natural resources and impact on the environment is supported through encouraging building users and employees to re-fill and re-use their water vessels as opposed to consuming bottled water and disposing of its packaging. The objective of promoting the health and well-being of occupants and users of county facilities and buildings is supported by providing high-quality tap water, an amenity that enhances the work experience and provides an opportunity for improving wellness among building users and employees.

The installation of water bottle filling stations furthers the implementation of the Dane County Government Sustainable Operations Plan by supporting the Employee Experience goal of providing a sustainable, safe, equitable, and healthy work environment that promotes and enhances the health, wellbeing, and engagement of employees.

The correlating objective of increasing employee satisfaction and engagement is supported through the provision of a "water hole", which can act as a meeting point and form a hub of office productivity. The objective of increasing and maintaining employee wellness is supported through encouraging hydration, which is positively associated with many widely-recognized health benefits.

Describe how the county might build upon the outcomes of the proposed project to work toward greater sustainability.

By installing this additional filtered water bottle filling station, Dane County will continue to provide equitable access to filtered water throughout the majority of its county-wide facilities and to discourage the wasteful spending, packaging, energy-use, and water-use associated with bottled water. As many municipalities across the US and Canada have similarly done, Dane County can continue to encourage building users and employees to consume water eco-consciously.

Does the proposed project include a strong sustainability education component? If yes, describe the educational component, who it will reach, and how it will be communicated.

N/A

Does the proposed project pilot an innovative new sustainability-advancing technology in county operations and can it be demonstrated by the applicant department to hold promise for additional future applications in county facilities? If yes, describe the elements of the innovative technology being proposed.

N/A

[Questions continued on next page]

Describe how your department will track and measure outcomes of the proposed project (i.e., annual cost savings, annual energy savings, resource use reductions, maintenance reductions, etc.). Include a timeline for measurement and reporting outcomes, and the staff member contact who is responsible for conducting the tracking and measurement and reporting back.

The Elkay hydration station rewards its users while measuring the resource use reductions with a “Green Ticker” that shows the number of plastic bottles in the community that have been saved from potentially ending up on the ground or in the landfill.

Contact person: Amanda DePagter

Phone: 608-283-1235

E-mail: DePagter.Amanda@countyofdane.com

Guiding questions for the project description. Applicants should include a detailed discussion of the work planned and/or the technical approach used that illustrates what the project will achieve and how it will comply with and implement the county's four sustainability principles and the Dane County Government Sustainable Operations Plan. The following questions provide a guideline to help your department frame and describe the project. Please feel free to address additional issues.

- Will this project reduce wasteful dependence upon fossil fuels, underground metals, and minerals?
- Will this project ensure that the smallest possible amount of resources is used?
- Has the proposal included green procurement standards for required goods, materials, and services?
- Will this project lead to a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions?
- Will this project reduce the need for fossil fuel-dependent transport, increase public transit use, or increase walking and bicycling?
- Will this project support businesses that emit less polluting or hazardous substances to air, water, soil and ecosystem services?
- Will this project raise awareness about waste prevention and recycling and will it help reduce the amount of waste going into the landfill?
- Will this project still be relevant when looking at the demographic changes ahead?
- Will this project consider the most up-to-date technology for recycling and waste reduction?
- Will this project use products that are non-polluting or come from an environmentally friendly source that will reduce negative impacts of the project on the environment, e.g., FSC wood, non-toxic, and non bio-accumulative chemicals?
- Will this project avoid the risks of water, air, and soil contamination?
- Will this project support the provision of environmental and social services in a certain area (e.g., flood prevention, water purification, air cleaning)?
- Will this project be beneficial in helping the county to adapt to the effects of climate change (e.g., changes in precipitation, flood and drought risks, heat emergencies, etc.)?
- Is this project avoiding negative impacts on water bodies, wetlands, etc., and is this project supporting the establishment and management of protected areas in water bodies, wetlands, etc.?
- Is this project proposing activities to raise awareness about water scarcity, water conservation, or water recycling and will this lead to an improvement of the water quality of a certain water body?
- Will this project still be beneficial once the funding is used and what, if any, public funding will need to be used for ongoing maintenance?
- Will this project support jobs in the eco-technology field and/or does this project include training for relevant stakeholders in renewable energy and other clean and sustainable technology?
- Has this project developed a strategy for measuring anticipated outcomes of the project?
- Has this project developed a strategy for how to disseminate results or best practices?
- Will this project improve equity outcomes for everyone?
- Will this project improve access to community services and facilities for all people of the community?