



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS-ADS-093

**NOTICE OF GRANT AND AGREEMENT AWARD**

1. Award Identifying Number NR233A750005C007	2. Amendment Number 0002	3. Award /Project Period 05/03/2023 - 05/08/2025	4. Type of award instrument: Cooperative Agreement
5. Agency (Name and Address)  USDA NRCS, Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production c/o FPAC-BC Grants and Agreements Division 1400 Independence Ave SW, Room 3236 Washington, DC 20250 Direct all correspondence to FPAC.BC.GAD@usda.gov		6. Recipient Organization (Name and Address)  COUNTY OF HERNANDO 15470 FLIGHT PATH DR BROOKSVILLE FL 34604-6823  UEI Number / DUNS Number: MWKKBKNTZ9SW7 / 073212920 EIN:	
7. NRCS Program Contact  Name: SHARONTE WILLIAMS Phone: (202) 981-1653 Email: Sharonte.williams@usda.gov	8. NRCS Administrative Contact  Name: DALON HARDGRAVES Phone: (913) 253-6040 Email: Dalon.Hardgraves@usda.gov	9. Recipient Program Contact  Name: JEFFERY HOWLEY Phone: (352) 754-4906 Email: jhowley@co.hernando.fl.us	10. Recipient Administrative Contact  Name: Brooks Ahrens Phone: (352)-754-4792 Email: brooksa@co.hernando.fl.us
11. CFDA 10.935	12. Authority 7 USC 6923, CFWR ARPA 7 U.S.C 6923	13. Type of Action Amendment/Revision	14. Program Director  Name: Scott Harper Phone: (352)-754-4791 Email: sharper@co.hernando.fl.us
15. Project Title/ Description: The primary goals of this project are to generate 10,000 cubic yards of finished compost annually, increase access to compost, and increase amount of water and nutrient holding capacity in the soils.			
16. Entity Type:			
17. Select Funding Type			
Select funding type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Federal	
Original funds total	\$299,965.00	\$100,917.00	
Additional funds total	\$0.00	\$25925.75-	
Grand total	\$299,965.00	\$74,991.25	
18. Approved Budget			

Personnel	\$0.00	Fringe Benefits	\$0.00
Travel	\$0.00	Equipment	\$0.00
Supplies	\$0.00	Contractual	\$0.00
Construction	\$0.00	Other	\$299,965.00
Total Direct Cost	\$299,965.00	Total Indirect Cost	\$0.00
		Total Non-Federal Funds	\$74,991.25
		Total Federal Funds Awarded	\$299,965.00
		Total Approved Budget	\$374,956.25

This agreement is subject to applicable USDA NRCS statutory provisions and Financial Assistance Regulations. In accepting this award or amendment and any payments made pursuant thereto, the undersigned represents that he or she is duly authorized to act on behalf of the awardee organization, agrees that the award is subject to the applicable provisions of this agreement (and all attachments), and agrees that acceptance of any payments constitutes an agreement by the payee that the amounts, if any, found by NRCS to have been overpaid, will be refunded or credited in full to NRCS.

Name and Title of Authorized Government Representative	Signature	Date
Name and Title of Authorized Recipient Representative	Signature	Date

**NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT**

The above statements are made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. Section 522a).

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY  
BY   
County Attorney's Office

## Statement of Work

Please note that any narrative below should be considered in addition to the original Statement of Work, as well as any prior amendments.

### Purpose

Budget reallocation and SOW revisions for FY22 CFWR in FL. Budget reallocations to ensure successful completion of project deliverable and deliverable measurement. Please see revised SOW attached as well as revised SF424A

The purpose of this agreement, between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and County of Hernando (Recipient), is a Composting and Food Waste Reduction Pilot Project entitled Hernando County's Think Outside the Can: Consider Compost Pilot Project. The details of the project are as follows:

- 1) Hernando County, Florida is a geographically diverse county located on the central-west coast of Florida. The county is comprised of mostly unincorporated areas and has one municipality. Western Portions of Hernando County are located on the Gulf of Mexico; the more urbanized central part of the county is home to most county residents and Eastern portions, where most agricultural businesses are located, are more rural in nature. Hernando County is a growing, rural county and approximately 23% of land in the County is agriculturally classified as Greenbelt.
- 2) Hernando County landfills nearly 20% more waste than the state overall. Based on the waste composition study conducted in 2016, organic waste landfilled in the Class I landfill comprised 24.5% of the total waste stream. Put differently, Hernando County landfill manages 34,366 tons of waste per year that could be converted to compost. Hernando County's Think Outside the Can: Consider Compost Pilot Project proposes the composting of 4,500 tons of currently landfilled waste per year. Hernando County recognizes organic waste as a valuable resource. Recycling organic waste will reduce the amount of landfilled waste thus saving landfill airspace and giving value to waste by developing products and markets for green waste. As a result of the 2016 study, Hernando County has elected to first implement composting as the recycling option to divert green waste from the landfill.
- 3) The overarching goal is to reduce waste and create compost.
- 4) Compost produced by the Recipient's project will aid the local soil's ability to retain moisture and increase its nutrient levels; thereby, reducing the need for the application of harmful fertilizers providing economic benefit to producers and environmental benefit to the community.

### Objectives

Objective 1: Divert 4,500 tons of waste annually from the landfill and receive FDEP approval of compost product.

Objective 2: Provide at least one educational event per month to agricultural producers and interested compost users and provide 85% of compost created to end users by end of grant program.

Objective 3: Perform soil tests measuring water and nutrient levels in soil (pre/post application).

The primary goals of this project are to generate 10,000 cubic yards of finished compost annually, increase access to compost, and increase amount of water and nutrient holding capacity in the soils.

Collaborator Roles:

The Recipient's Think Outside the Can: Consider Compost Pilot Project will require regional collaboration across several sectors. In order to achieve the Goals and Deliverables of the project, the Recipient will collaborate with the University of Florida's Office of Extension, Local Agricultural Producers, Hernando County Parks & Recreation, Hillsborough County Waste Management Services, Hernando County Utilities, and more. Importantly, these collaborations build on existing relationships and open the door for new and deepened collaborative relationships.

Presently, the Recipient offers residents interested in backyard composting classes in person and/or online typically once per month. The classes explain the compost process and the benefits of a home compost pile. The class details acceptable materials for cold composting available in all households. The classes are done in partnership with UF/IFAS and HCUD Water Conservation. Once the resident finishes the class, they receive a free compost bin and a one-page composting information and data tracking sheet. To date over 500 composters have been distributed in Hernando County. With the new pilot project, the education partners will be able to develop new curriculum targeting agricultural producers and will be able to expand compost education directly addressing the composting needs of this important

group.

UF/IFAS is an important partner for the education goal and objectives of the project. They also offer soil testing that would enable the project to measure if the compost produced improves soil quality. By working with another partner, Hernando County Parks and Recreation, the project will have access to sites across the geographically diverse county to determine and communicate the benefits of the locally produced compost to potential end users.

As the Recipient works towards producing a compost that delivers on the promise of improved soil quality, increased collaboration with Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management and other technical consultants will boost the Recipient's ability to generate useable compost quickly. These relationships will provide technical expertise that will reduce errors while the Recipient is beginning its work. Importantly, the Recipient has also received the support of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and local Agricultural Producers in the pursuit of the Recipient's Think Outside the Can: Consider Compost Pilot Project.

### **Budget Narrative**

The official budget described in this Budget Narrative will be considered the total budget as last approved by the Federal awarding agency for this award.

Amounts included in this budget narrative are estimates. Reimbursement or advance liquidations will be based on actual expenditures, not to exceed the amount obligated.

TOTAL BUDGET \$ 374,956.25

TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS \$299,965.00

PERSONNEL \$0.00

Recipient does not anticipate incurring costs for this item.

FRINGE BENEFITS \$0.00

Recipient does not anticipate incurring costs for this item.

TRAVEL \$0.00

Recipient does not anticipate incurring costs for this item.

SUPPLIES \$32,990.00

To complete goal 1 and goal 2, composting materials and educational events are required. To complete goal 3 soil testing is required. Compost temperature probes are needed to accurately measure and monitor the temperatures deep into the windrows, in order to, create quality compost efficiently. To distribute the compost to customers without a truck or trailer, compost bags are needed for the Rotochopper Go-Bagger.

Composting Demonstration – Qty 50, Backyard Compost Thermometers = \$1050.00

Soil Tests 6 units @ \$82/unit=\$492.00

Compost Bags for the Rotochopper Go-Bagger – Qty 5000 bags, delivered = \$2398.00

Reotemp CompostWatch Cloud – 25 Wireless Temperature Probe Monitoring System = \$29050.00

EQUIPMENT \$266,975.00

To complete goal 2, composting bagging is required. The equipment will be stored at the main landfill and maintenance will be performed by the Recipient's fleet department who will also inventory the equipment in the county's fleet inventory management system Assetworks.

Federal: Purchase of Rotochopper go-bagger 250 @ \$20,600.00 or 26% of total unit cost.

To complete goal 1, screening equipment, Doppstadt SM-620, is required. The equipment will be stored at the main landfill and maintenance will be performed by the Recipient's fleet department who will also inventory the equipment in the county's fleet inventory management system Assetworks.

Federal: Purchase of Doppstadt SM620 = \$246,375.00

CONTRACTUAL: \$0.00

Recipient does not anticipate incurring costs for this item.

CONSTRUCTION \$0.00

Recipient does not anticipate incurring costs for this item.

OTHER \$0.00

Recipient does not anticipate incurring costs for this item.

TOTAL DIRECT COSTS \$299,965.00

INDIRECT COSTS \$0.00

Recipient has elected to voluntarily waive indirect costs.

TOTAL NON-FEDERAL FUNDS \$ 74991.25

PERSONNEL \$0

FRINGE BENEFITS \$0.00

Recipient does not anticipate incurring costs for this item.

TRAVEL \$0.00

Recipient does not anticipate incurring costs for this item.

SUPPLIES \$0.00

EQUIPMENT \$74991.25

Non-Federal Match: Purchase of Doppstadt SM620 = \$128,796.00

Non-Federal Match: Purchase of Rotochopper go-bagger 250 = \$61,740

Match is in excess of 25% requirement: only 74991.25 will be counted towards the agreement.

CONSTRUCTION \$0.00

Recipient does not anticipate incurring costs for this item.

OTHER \$0.00

Recipient does not anticipate incurring costs for this item.

TOTAL DIRECT COSTS \$74991.25

INDIRECT COSTS \$0.00

Recipient has elected to voluntarily waive indirect costs.

When equipment is purchased with Federal funds it must be used until no longer needed as described in the General Terms and Conditions and 2 CFR 200. If the residual value of the equipment is \$5,000 or more at the time it is no longer needed, the recipient must request disposition instructions. The disposition instructions may direct the recipient to: 1) sell the equipment and return a proportionate share of the proceeds to the Federal agency; 2) transfer title to another eligible entity identified by the Federal agency; or 3) keep the equipment if desired and compensate the Federal agency for its proportionate share of the value.

## Responsibility of the Parties

If inconsistencies arise between the language in this Statement of Work (SOW) and the General Terms and Conditions attached to the agreement, the language in this SOW takes precedence.

### NRCS RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) Connect the CFWR pilot project team(s) with other USDA agencies such as, and not limited to, the Economic Research Service (ERS), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), the Office of the Chief Economist (OCE), and Federal partners like the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to collaborate on project activities and outcomes that contribute to the U.S. Food Loss and Waste 2030 goal.
- 2) Coordinate and convene the CFWR pilot project team(s) and other Federal government, regional, institution, state, and local experts to share information and strategies related to CFWR with the goal of enhancing the locally driven process to better address nationally and regionally important composting and food waste reduction goals that transcend localities.
- 3) Gather the methods, results, and benefits derived from the project to evaluate and disseminate different solutions for increasing access to compost and reducing municipal food waste across the United States.
- 4) Provide advisory and administrative support during the project and maintain constant communication with partner, review progress and financial report and provide feedback to ensure the product follows USDA standards.
- 5) Provide guidance and procedures related to NRCS Conservation and Business Programs.
- 6) Review and editing rights on all material produced under this agreement to ensure it complies with USDA standards and regulations before publishing.
- 7) Participate in project committee meetings to aid and guidance for the purpose of the workshops, educational activities, and other activities identified in this agreement.
- 8) Conduct ad-hoc meetings (via electronic, phone or in-person field visit) to discuss the progress of the agreement.
- 9) OUAIP reserves the right to make site visits to review and evaluate Awardee records, activities, organizational procedures, and financial control systems; to conduct interviews; to request additional information; and to provide technical assistance as necessary

### RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 10) Follow methodology in the project narrative and inform the Program Manager any changes.
- 11) Collaborate with multiple partners, such as public or private, nonprofit or for-profit entities, academic institutions (including minority-serving colleges and universities), and/or other appropriate professionals, community-based organizations, and local government entities.
- 12) Perform the work and produce the deliverables as outlined in this Statement of Work.
- 13) Conduct all activities and program provision under this agreement in compliance with all applicable federal civil right laws, rules, regulations, and policies.
- 14) Ensure no member of or delegate to Congress or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement or to any benefit that may arise there from.
- 15) Nothing contained may be construed to require establishment of a system of records to render in good faith the assurances and certifications required. Your knowledge and information are not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
- 16) Comply with the applicable version of the General Terms and Conditions.
- 17) Submit reports and payment requests to the ezFedGrants system or the Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Grants and Agreements Division via email to FPAC.BC.GAD@usda.gov as outlined in the applicable version of the General Terms and Conditions. Limit advance payment requests to immediate cash needs (generally 30-60 days). Reporting frequency is as follows:

Performance reports: Annual

SF425 Financial Reports: Annual. If advance payments are requested, the financial report frequency is quarterly.

## Expected Accomplishments and Deliverables

The first major milestone to be completed will be the creation of compost education modules that can be used by the educational team to educate local agricultural producers. Content will be developed by subject matter experts and useable in both virtual and face-to-face education settings. Learning outcomes will include participants knowledge on the cost benefits of using compost, local availability of compost, environmental benefits of compost over fertilizer, soil

benefits of using compost, recycling organic materials, and more. Once the modules are developed they will be used by the educational team to deliver education to agricultural producers throughout the duration of the grant. Participants in educational events will participate in surveys determining the quality of educational delivery and their perceptions of their learning gains towards the intended learning outcomes. Results from these surveys will be used by the educational team to improve and refine compost education.

The next major milestone to be achieved will be the receipt and mixing of compostable materials. The weight of green waste will be captured when received by the landfill and prior to mixing. Measuring the weight of material will help frontline staff ensure the appropriate mix of materials and enable measurement of achievement of the project objective to reduce by 4,500 tons annually the amount of landfilled material.

Another major milestone will be the receipt of FDEP approval to distribute the compost generated during the pilot. Throughout the composting project temperatures of the piles will be monitored and samples will be submitted to FDEP as required to determine when the compost is ready for distribution. Reports from FDEP will be disseminated to frontline staff and leadership for monitoring and quality improvement. Once a distributable product is produced results of the FDEP report will be shared with agricultural producers for education and discussion.

The Recipient has identified Hernando County Parks and Recreation Department as the collaborator to provide the sites for data collection for goal 3: increase amount of water and nutrient holding capacity in the soils. Hernando County Parks and Recreation has multiple sites throughout the county where the compost can be applied. The University of Florida offers local soil testing as a fee-based service provided by the office of extension and they will serve as the collaborator responsible for data collection. At this time, the project is planning for pre and post compost application soil quality testing at three sites. Facilitators of educational events will share the results of soil tests with participants, educating them on how locally available compost has improved the soil in their environment; thereby, reducing the need for the application of fertilizer and large quantities of water.

Milestone: Complete Education Compost Modules

Timeline: By February 2024

Indicator of Progress: Delivery of Education to Agricultural Producers

Data Collection/Dissemination Plan: Completed Module, Surveys will be distributed to training attendees evaluating the content of module, what was learned, and training delivery

Related Deliverable: Quarterly Rosters of Sign-in Sheets from Educational Events

Milestone: Mix Compost Materials

Timeline: By October 2024

Indicator of Progress: Weight of Material Diverted from Landfill

Data Collection/Dissemination Plan: Tonnage of material added to aerated pile, Disseminated to frontline staff and leadership for monitoring and quality improvement.

Related Deliverable: Quarterly Report on Tonnage of Waste Diverted from Landfill, Amount and Quality of Compost Generated.

Milestone: Receive FDEP report on quality of compost

Timeline: By December 2024

Indicator of Progress: Approval to Distribute Compost

Data Collection/Dissemination Plan: Report from FDEP stating quality of compost generated, Disseminated to frontline staff and leadership for quality improvement and disseminated to end users to verify quality/usability of product

Related Deliverable: Quarterly Compost Distribution Reports

Milestone: Measurement of Soil Quality

Timeline: By January 2025

Indicator of Progress: Increase in soils Water Holding Capacity (WHC)

Data Collection/Dissemination Plan: Soil Tests measuring WHC/OM Disseminated to frontline staff and leadership for monitoring and quality improvement. Disseminated to Agricultural Producers for Education and Discussion.

Related Deliverable: Soil Quality Test Reports

## Resources Required

This section is no longer required. If necessary, add any elements to the Responsibilities of the Parties section.

See the Responsibilities of the Parties section for required resources, if applicable.

**Milestone**

This section is no longer required. Milestones should be listed in the Expected Accomplishments and Deliverables section.

See the Expected Accomplishments and Deliverables section for milestones.



## **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Please reference the below link(s) for the General Terms and Conditions pertaining to this award:  
<https://www.fpacbc.usda.gov/about/grants-and-agreements/award-terms-and-conditions/index.html>