



DATE: June 2, 2021

ISSUE: 2022 Gulf Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) Grant Program Application for recycling stations at Gulf Shores City Schools.

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize staff to pursue grant funding in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 from RC&D for the purchase of recycling stations to be placed in City Schools as part of an effort to promote environmental awareness and increase sustainability efforts in our community.

BACKGROUND: The Vision for 2025 Plan for Sustainability identifies environmental stewardship as a key strategy for a sustainable future. Since the BP Oil Spill in 2010, the City has pursued funding for many projects to protect and enhance the environment, including the Gulf Coast Center for Ecotourism & Sustainability, the Little Lagoon Restoration Project, the Oyster Bay/Bon Secour Wetland Project, and the Laguna Cove conservation project. The City fully understands the importance of a clean, healthy environment to our economy and quality of life, and has taken many steps make our community more sustainable including the establishment of a City Recycling Center and the Leave Only Footprints Program.

City Staff would therefore like to begin developing a more robust recycling program in partnership with Gulf Shores City Schools. The Gulf Coast RC&D Council is actively involved in the management of high-impact projects that address the focus areas of Conservation Education, Community Development, and Resource Conservation opportunities within Baldwin, Escambia, and Mobile counties. RC&D encourages projects that involve partnerships between local businesses, government agencies, school systems, and citizen volunteers.

For the FY2022 RC&D grant cycle, staff proposes to apply for funding to purchase standard recycling stations that will allow students to more efficiently sort recyclable materials. This material would be collected and transported to the City's Recycling Center for processing. The stations will be placed in prominent locations around all three school campuses, and will be combined with educational messaging to encourage recycling and promote environmental awareness.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: Vision 2025 Plan for Sustainability, Strategic Plan 2015-2019, Leave Only Footprints, City Recycling Center

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: Grant funds not to exceed \$10,000 are 100% reimbursable, and will be included in the 2022 budget.

RELATED ISSUES: None



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ATTACHMENTS: None

DEPARTMENT: Executive

STAFF CONTACT: Dan Bond