



[Questions & Answers – Version 2](#)

[Updated 12/28/15](#)

Capital Improvements Grant (Cycle 1A) Questions and Answers

Question: How much post-consumer carpet (PCC) is CARE hoping that projects recycle and/or remanufacture per dollar spent?

Answer: CARE does not have a specific target number of pounds recycled and/or remanufactured per dollar spent. However, projects will be evaluated based on criteria outlined within the grant proposal. Projects with greatest potential to impact and cost effectiveness will score well in these criteria areas. Applicants should provide sufficient evidence to support impact and cost effectiveness claims and ability to achieve results within the grant term.

Question: Does Cycle 1A funding support creating partnerships with Tier 2 manufacturers?

Answer: Yes. The grant encourages partnerships aimed at establishing or increasing the use of recycled output fiber, calcium carbonate, carpet carcass, commercial broadloom, or other material or component of the post-consumer carpet waste stream with potential benefit to the broad carpet recycling marketplace.

Question: Do Tier 2 products include pellets sold to manufacturers for saleable products to consumers? If the Capital Improvements grant requires the grantee to spend a large amount of money producing one saleable product for consumers who are not manufacturers, this could increase liability should this market decline or fail.

Answer: Yes. Pellets sold to manufacturers are considered a Tier 2 product because they are a finished product sold to an end-user.

Question: If incineration can be done within the constraints of California air regulations, why does the grant prohibit it?

Answer: Incineration is not supported under the California waste hierarchy and CalRecycle does not consider incinerated PCC as recycled output.

Question: What is the difference between incineration and waste-to-energy via incineration?

Answer: Incinerated PCC that is landfilled is considered incineration, while PCC combustion that produces electrical output is considered waste-to-energy. Applicants should refer to CalRecycle Glossary

of terms and/or the California Public Resource Code 40201 for additional information on standard terms and definitions related to *Transformation* <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/facit/Glossary.htm>

Question: Can you change the scoring criteria to reflect the need to choose projects that fill an infrastructure gap, do their best to reduce particulate emissions, and increase the percentage of recycled output?

Answer: We have changed the scoring criteria to include these points within the Proposed Effectiveness and Project Impact scoring criteria section. Projects should provide evidence to support claims of reductions in particulate emissions, increased recycled output and filling unmet infrastructure gaps.

Question: Shouldn't any money given to collection efforts be for creating or improving collection technology?

Answer: Yes, collection is a much lower priority for grant funding, and CARE will give preference to collection operations that create or improve collection technology as reflected in the revised solicitation. Collection plans must also adhere to timeline and quantity thresholds for recycling or remanufacturing PCC.

Question: Shouldn't one of the grant goals also be to increase the percentage of recycled output?

Answer: Yes projects should contribute toward increased percentage of recycled output in California. We have added this point to the grant solicitation.

Question: On permitting, permitting requirements are called out in the scoring criteria but not in the project requirements. Also, are all grantees required to abide by California operational standards to level the playing field?

Answer: We have added the permitting requirements to the project requirements, however, we cannot ask applicants from other states to comply with California operational standards. Grantees must comply with all applicable federal, state and local regulations for the location in which the facility operates. Facilities/Projects that have adopted additional practices and procedures may wish to include reference to these to support Conservation criteria outlined within the Proposed Effectiveness and Project Impact criteria. At least 50 percent of fund awarded must be awarded to project operations located in California. Projects located in California will receive points under CA Job Creation, CA Business criteria.

Product Testing Grant (Cycle 1B) Questions and Answers

Question: Can multiple product testing projects be under one funding umbrella?

Answer: Yes. Related product testing and product development activities may be proposed under a single grant.

Question: Can Cycle 1B funds be used to test a manufacturing technique and/or conduct feasibility studies for carpet-derived aggregate?

Answer: Yes, both concepts would be eligible projects under Cycle 1B.

Question: Will Cycle 1B reserve some funding for other secondary products if all applications submitted propose to make secondary products out of one PCC material, such as calcium carbonate?

Answer: CARE will make award decisions based on the quality of proposals received and scoring in line with overall criteria. CARE may consider PCC material as one of the elements of consideration in an effort to avoid all grant funds going into the creation of only one type of secondary product, thereby increasing potential product diversity in the marketplace.

Question: Is the total amount or aggregate total for grants under this program \$250,000 with a limit of \$50,000 per grant request or is the total for each grant request \$250,000?

Answer: The product testing Grant Cycle 1B allocated a total of \$250,000 available for grant recipients. Awards will be based on the outcome of the evaluation process in line with the criteria set forth in the funding solicitation, including but not limited to cost effectiveness and project impact. Applicants may apply for up to the total amount available, however CARE anticipates funding several project proposals at, below or above \$50,000. All project proposals should address evaluation criteria demonstrating how the requested grant funds are appropriate and in line with the goals of the grant solicitation.

Questions and Answers Covering Cycle 1A and Cycle 1B

Question: By when should grantees make meaningful progress?

Answer: The deadline for the first progress report will likely be early summer 2016, therefore you would want to show some progress toward program goals by the end of the first reporting period. Grantees must show meaningful progress toward program goals by the end of 2016.

Question: What existing markets are already using post-consumer carpet (PCC) fiber, PET and calcium carbonate in California?

Answer: Currently the only product being manufactured from PCC in California is carpet cushion by Reliance Carpet Cushion. These new grant funds are designed to support the creation of new markets. A more complete list is available at: https://carpetrecovery.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/CARE_07-22-15.pdf

Question: Per the grant application, what could “other documentation” include?

Answer: Anything that further proves your concept and supports your project, such as purchase orders from Tier 2 manufacturing partners for plastic pellets and quotes for desired capital. Confer with Brennen.

Question: Can one entity apply for both grants, capital improvements and product testing?

Answer: CARE will not approve more than one Capital Improvements and/or one Product Testing grant to any one company.

Question: When should grantees be expected to complete their work plan?

Answer: Grantees should show meaningful improvement toward increasing PCC recycling and complete all expenditures by the end of 2016. Beyond 2016, projects will be required to continue to track and periodically report progress to demonstrate continued impact for a period of at least 2 years.

Question: Is there a standard grant application we could fill out?

Answer: A standard grant application is not available at this time. Applicants should carefully adhere to the project application requirements and criteria outlined in the grant guidelines to prepare their proposals. Proposals that effectively communicate their ability to meet the grant requirements in line with criteria will score well in each criteria area.

Question: What are you looking for in the work plan?

Answer: Work plans should demonstrate understanding and ability to successfully execute the project within the proposed timeline. A work plan might include these types of components: each objective, activities associated with that objective, a timeline to accomplish the objective, the person responsible for the objective, and how each objective's success would be evaluated.

Question: What should be included in the budget?

Answer: Budget should demonstrate understanding of actual project costs necessary to execute the proposed project. Grant funds being requested should be clearly identified. Projects providing matching funds should clearly identify the amount and source of additional contributions necessary to execute the project. A budget might include these types of components: a spreadsheet to include expenses broken down by personnel, any consultant expenses, and non-personnel (such as equipment). Show your budget for each and funds requested from CARE as well as any funds coming from other sources, for each expense. On the income side, it would be important to see any income already committed to the project or pending, and the source it is coming from.

Question: Should the grants give more weight to the recycling and remanufacturing of non-nylon products?

Answer: The recycling and remanufacturing of nylon and non-nylon components will be weighted the same due to the recent collapse of the nylon market.

Question: Shouldn't the scoring criteria give more weight to the creation of California jobs?

Answer: CARE has decided to double the scoring criteria's original weight given to California jobs. It now has a 20 percent weighting. We have taken the 10 percent from "Project Impact and Budget Effectiveness" and combined "Budget Effectiveness" into the "Budget" category. "Project Impact" has been combined with "Project Effectiveness". "Conservation" and "Sustainability", at 5 percent weighting each, have also been combined with "Project Effectiveness" and the weighting for this category has doubled to 20 percent.

Question: Can recycled output include fiber and calcium carbonate?

Answer: Yes to both materials qualify as recycled output.

Question: Can you make it clear that potential grantees cannot serve on the grant evaluation technical committee?

Answer: Yes, grantees will be disqualified from participating on the grant evaluation technical committee. This has been made clear in the grant solicitations.

Question: Why is the word "diversion" included in program goals? Recycling and remanufacturing of PCC are already included as program goals so any other process that might be considered "diversion," such as waste-to-energy, does not qualify for grant funding.

Answer: CARE has struck the word "diversion" among program goals, from both grant solicitations.