

Grants for environmental projects

January 2025

Hennepin County offers a variety of funding opportunities to assist residents and partners in implementing projects that protect the environment. Grants are available to improve recycling and prevent waste, salvage and reuse building materials, protect and restore land and water, and educate and engage audiences in taking action to protect the environment. Grant projects must occur in Hennepin County.

Grants for recycling and waste prevention

Business waste prevention



Implement programs and actions to prevent waste in the commercial sector. Areas of focus can include reuse and recovery of goods and materials, food waste prevention, and packaging waste prevention.

- **Who can apply:** For-profit and nonprofit businesses, organizations, and institutions
- **Grant amount:** Up to \$50,000; 25% cash match required for grants of more than \$10,000
- **When to apply:** Applications accepted once per year from January to April
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/businesswasteprevention

Business recycling containers and compostable bags



Get containers and compostable bags to start or improve recycling and/or organics recycling at small businesses and nonprofit organizations.

- **Who can apply:** For-profit and nonprofit businesses, organizations, and institutions
- **Grant amount:** Select up to \$3,000 worth of bins and compostable bags from the county's product list
- **When to apply:** Apply any time beginning January or February through November or until funds are depleted
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/businessrecycling

Multifamily recycling



Start or improve recycling or organics recycling, reduce contamination, and prevent waste at multifamily properties. Areas of focus can include adding recycling bins, starting organics hauling service, constructing waste enclosures or chutes, managing or preventing the waste of bulky items and other items, and educating residents and distributing supplies.

- **Who can apply:** Property managers and associations for apartments, condos, and townhouses
- **Grant amount:** Up to \$20,000
- **When to apply:** Apply any time from February through November or until funds are depleted
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/apartmentrecycling

School waste reduction and recycling



Start or improve recycling and organics recycling and reduce waste at schools. Grant funding can be used for staff time and supplies such as recycling and organics recycling containers, sorting stations, reusable foodservice ware, and bulk condiment dispensers.

- **Who can apply:** Preschools, K-12 schools, and higher education institutions
- **Grant amount:** Varies depending on school size and project; minimum award is \$1,000; maximum award of \$15,000 to \$20,000, depending on applicant qualifications
- **When to apply:** Applications accepted in January and February from Head Start programs, two-year colleges, and preschools and K-12 schools with at least 50% of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch; applications accepted from about mid-March to mid-October or until funds are depleted from all K-12 schools, preschools, colleges, and universities
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/schoolrecycling

Community zero waste grants



Develop community-based waste prevention and diversion projects. Areas of focus can include community-led swaps, repair clinics, special material collections, and recycling or organics drop-off sites that address waste programming gaps or culturally specific needs.

- **Who can apply:** Community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, religious institutions
- **Grant amount:** Up to \$100,000
- **When to apply:** The first round of grantees are being awarded in early 2025; we do not anticipate accepting applications in 2025
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/community-zero-waste-grants

Organics recycling drop-offs



Make organics recycling more widely available by establishing organics recycling drop-off sites. Priority given to drop-off sites that increase access to organics recycling for residents in multifamily properties without access to city service.

- **Who can apply:** Cities, multifamily properties, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and institutions
- **Grant amount:** Up to \$15,000 per site
- **When to apply:** Applications typically accepted in the spring
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/organics

Grants for environmental projects

Grants to salvage and reuse building materials

Residential deconstruction



Use deconstruction techniques instead of standard demolition to remove materials during the destruction, alteration, or renovation of a residential building. Projects must be on residential property up to four units, built prior to 1970, and at least 500 square feet.

- **Who can apply:** Property owners and developers or residential buildings
- **Grant amount:** \$2 per square foot, up to \$5,000
- **When to apply:** Apply any time
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/building-reuse

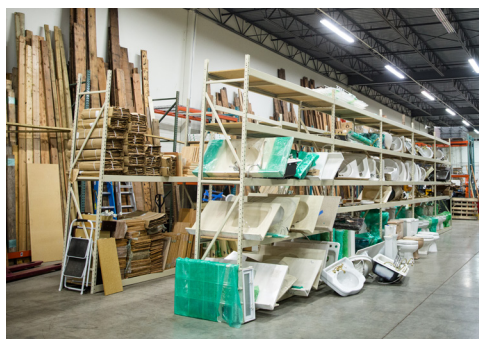
Commercial deconstruction



Use deconstruction techniques instead of standard demolition to remove materials from the destruction, alteration, or renovation of a commercial building. Projects must be at least 500 square feet.

- **Who can apply:** Property owners and developers of commercial buildings
- **Grant amount:** \$2 per square foot, up to \$10,000
- **When to apply:** Apply any time
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/building-reuse

Installing used building materials



Incorporate used building materials into project designs for additions, renovations, remodels, and new construction of commercial or residential properties. Projects must be at least 300 square feet.

- **Who can apply:** Property owners and developers of commercial or residential properties
- **Grant amount:** \$2 per square foot, up to \$5,000
- **When to apply:** Apply any time
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/building-reuse

Structural move of a building



Physically relocate a residential or commercial building to another lot as an alternative to mechanical demolition. Projects must be at least 500 square feet.

- **Who can apply:** Property owners and developers of commercial or residential properties
- **Grant amount:** Up to \$5 per square foot, up to \$15,000
- **When to apply:** Apply any time
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/building-reuse

Grants for environmental projects

Grants to protect and restore land and water

Aquatic invasive species prevention



Implement projects that prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Areas of focus can include early detection, pathway analysis, education, decontamination, water access redesign, research, management, and pursuing other ideas that prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

- **Who can apply:** Local government agencies such as cities, watershed organizations, and park districts, nonprofit organizations, institutions, and businesses
- **Grant amount:** Maximum project award of \$50,000; typical project awards range from \$5,000 to \$25,000
- **When to apply:** Applications are accepted once per year from November to January
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/aisprevention

Contaminated land cleanup



Assess and clean up contaminated sites, or brownfields. Areas of focus can include asbestos and lead-based paint abatement, vapor mitigation, and contaminated soil assessment and cleanup.

- **Who can apply:** Cities, economic development agencies, housing and redevelopment authorities, other local public entities, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit businesses
- **Grant amount:** Awards vary depending on the project; approximately \$1 to \$1.2 million is distributed every grant round
- **When to apply:** Applications are typically accepted twice per year in May and November
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/brownfields

Well sealing



Seal wells that are no longer in use. Funding priority is based on characteristics like well depth, well diameter, proximity to municipal wellhead protection areas, and other environmental factors that may increase the potential for contamination of municipal groundwater resources.

- **Who can apply:** Property owners with existing wells that are no longer in use but have not yet been sealed
- **Grant amount:** Up to 75% of the well sealing cost, not to exceed \$2,000 per well.
- **When to apply:** Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed quarterly
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/conservation-funding

Cost-share for conservation



Address erosion, soil health, and sources of water pollution on rural and agricultural properties. Areas of focus can include grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, alternative tile intakes, grade and channel stabilization, manure bunkers, livestock exclusion fencing and rotational grazing, cover crops, alternative, conservation, and no-till practices, perennial crops, and extended crop rotations.

- **Who can apply:** Rural and agricultural property owners and renters (with landowner permission).
- **Grant amount:**
 - **Cost-share:** 75% to 90% of the project cost; preference and increased 90% cost-share rate given to properties located in priority areas for water quality improvement (priority watersheds)
 - **Soil health practices:** Up to \$7,250 per year for three years; incentives based on acreage, type of soil health practice, and duration
- **When to apply:** Apply anytime
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/residents/conservation/rural-agricultural-land

Good Steward grants



Implement projects that improve water quality, enhance natural areas and promote environmental stewardship to the community. Ideal for smaller, community-based or single applicant projects. Areas of focus include constructing rain gardens, stabilizing stream banks, restoring native vegetation, installing vegetated filter strips, and other best management projects.

- **Who can apply:** All landowners, including individuals, nonprofit and non-governmental organizations, local government agencies, and businesses
- **Grant amount:** Typical award is \$10,000 to \$20,000; maximum funding amount of \$25,000; grants cover up to 75% of total eligible project costs; 25% landowner contribution can be cash or in-kind.
- **When to apply:** Applications accepted once per year starting in November
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/conservation-funding#good-steward-grants

Opportunity grants



Implement large projects that improve water quality or preserve, establish or restore natural areas. Grants are intended to help partners leverage multiple funding sources and capitalize on opportunities to protect and improve natural resources.

- **Who can apply:** All landowners, including individuals, nonprofit organizations, local government agencies, and businesses
- **Grant amount:** A typical grant is \$25,000, with maximum award of \$50,000; applicants are encouraged to use these funds as required match for other funding sources
- **When to apply:** Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed periodically as funding allows.
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/conservation-funding#opportunity-grants

Healthy Tree Canopy grants for cities



Two types of grants available. Step 1 grants are for cities with no or incomplete tree inventories to complete tree inventories. Step 2 grants are for cities with a completed tree inventory and certified tree inspector or arborist on staff or under contract to develop tree management plans, conduct tree plantings, maintain newly planted trees, replace ash trees, conduct outreach, install gravel-bed nurseries, and remove or treat ash trees.

- **Who can apply:** Cities
- **Grant amount:** Step 1 grants are \$1,000 to \$5,000, 25% match required; Step 2 grants are \$10,000 to \$50,000, 25% match is required.
- **When to apply:** Applications accepted once per year, typically in February and March
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/trees

Healthy Tree Canopy grants for affordable housing properties



Remove ash trees and plant trees on affordable housing properties.

- **Who can apply:** Owners and managers of existing affordable multifamily housing, developers of new affordable multifamily housing, and affordable housing land trusts
- **Grant amount:** Minimum of \$5,000 up to a maximum of \$20,000; 25% match required
- **When to apply:** Applications accepted once per year, typically in February and March
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/trees

Healthy Tree Canopy grants for schools and nonprofit organizations



Areas of focus can include planting trees on school and community properties, conducting tree-related education, completing tree inventories, removing ash trees, and holding Arbor Day celebrations.

- **Who can apply:** Administrators, teachers, principals, and facility managers of existing charter, private, and public schools and nonprofit organizations
- **Grant amount:** Minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum of \$10,000
- **When to apply:** Applications accepted once per year, typically in February and March
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/trees

Grants for environmental projects

Grants to educate and engage audiences in taking action to protect the environment

Green Partners environmental action grants



Motivate adult audiences to do more to protect the environment by focusing on one or two environmentally friendly actions using behavior change strategies.

- **Who can apply:** Nonprofit organizations, community groups, schools, park districts, congregations
- **Grant amount:** Up to \$25,000 for a one-year project for organizations that have received a Green Partners grant before, or up to \$50,000 for a two-year project for projects that meet the criteria; up to \$12,000 for a one-year project for organizations who have never received a Green Partners grant before
- **When to apply:** Applications are accepted once per year in the spring
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/greenpartners

Green Partners youth environmental education grants



Engage youth in learning about the environment and becoming environmental stewards using youth environmental education best practices.

- **Who can apply:** Nonprofit organizations, community groups, schools, park districts, congregations
- **Grant amount:** Up to \$25,000 for a one-year project for organizations that have received a Green Partners grant before, or up to \$50,000 for a two-year project for projects that meet the criteria; up to \$12,000 for a one-year project for organizations who have never received a Green Partners grant before
- **When to apply:** Applications are accepted once per year in the spring
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/greenpartners

Green Partners youth green jobs grants



Engage young people in activities, training, and paid opportunities to gain experience and receive support to secure green jobs. Priority projects include those that provide green jobs education and training programs for youth, especially those geared toward youth that face disparities, and that support youth in moving along effective pathways to achieve employment in green jobs.

- **Who can apply:** Nonprofit organizations, community groups, schools, park districts, congregations
- **Grant amount:** Up to \$30,000 for a one-year project
- **When to apply:** Applications are accepted once per year in the spring
- **Learn more:** hennepin.us/greenpartners