



# Metro

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Metro  
Property and Environmental Services  
**2018-19 Investment and Innovation Grants**  
7/13/2018 deadline

## Grimm's Fuel Company, Inc Grimm's Fuel ASP Project

**\$ 500,000.00** Requested  
\$ 500,000 Estimated Match

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## Proposal Questions

Some answers will not be presented because they are not part of the selected group of questions based on the answer to #1.

Please answer Question #1 first before proceeding below, as some questions will disappear that are not relevant to your application.

### 1. Which type of Investment and Innovation grant are you seeking?

IT IS IMPORTANT TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION BEFORE PROCEEDING BELOW. The answer you choose below will determine which questions show or hide.

- ☐ Smaller Grant (\$10,000-\$50,000)
- ☐ Capital Grant (\$50,000-\$500,000)
- ☒ Both Capital and Smaller Grant (for same project)

### 2. Project Summary

Provide a brief high-level summary of your project, including the wastes targeted.

Grimm's Fuel must modernize our composting process to reduce odors and simultaneously increase yard debris recycling capacity by 50-60%. With the new process and regulatory acceptance our facility could also accept food waste.

### Investment and Innovation Grant Objectives (non-capital grants only)

#### 3. Check the box(es) that most directly relate to the I&I Grant Program Objectives that your project will address.

-answer not presented because of the answer to #1-

#### 4. For each Objective identified above, briefly summarize how your project will meet those objectives.

-answer not presented because of the answer to #1-

## Infrastructure or Market Need

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**5. Describe how the project will address a specific waste prevention, reuse, recycling, composting or energy recovery infrastructure or market need. Include who in the Metro region will benefit from the project and why it is important.**

Grimm's Fuel is currently one of the major yard debris composting facilities in the Metro area with a current capacity of approximately 66,000 tons per year. Our location is within a 10 mile radius of Hillsboro, Portland and Oregon City. Located on Highway 99 in Tualatin we are easily reached by commercial haulers, municipalities, large and small landscaping corporations, individual landscapers and residential customers. There are no other sites in the metro area with the ability to accept our volume of yard debris and process in a cost effective manner. The direct benefit is a reduced waste stream, reduced disposal fees, reduced transportation costs, reduced diesel emissions and lower costs to the public at large.

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

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**6. Describe how the project will impact or benefit communities of color or other historically underrepresented groups. Please be as specific as possible.**

*Your answer may include demographic information about community(ies) this projects seeks to target, including race and ethnicity and socio-economic status.*

Grimm's Fuel is in the enviable position of supporting an industry that is largely staffed by communities of color and Latinos represent a large percentage of our customer base. There is a low barrier of entry for minority individuals to become self-employed in the landscaping industry which is important for this group with a historically low per capita income. Our customers can build a history with Grimm's using cash or credit cards and for qualifying customers, Grimm's Fuel offers credit accounts.

**7. Describe how your business or organization is actively working to recruit, develop and retain a diverse workforce at all levels, or otherwise working to advance Diversity, Equity and Inclusion objectives.**

Grimm's Fuel is an equal opportunity employer with all positions paying above minimum wage at the composting operation. We currently have a 43% Latino workforce and have historically promoted from within. Grimm's Fuel is divided into four divisions: Sales, Plant Operations, Blower Truck, and Delivery. Our Plant Operations group is 100% Latino and that includes the skilled operations control center personnel. Two of the three Latinas in the yard debris drop off area were trained internally to operate our track hoes and wheel loaders. Sadly we recently lost a valuable Latina in our Sales group as she couldn't find adequate child care. 50% of the drivers in the Blower truck group are Latino and both were internally trained to pass their Class B commercial driver test.

## Methods and Cost-Effectiveness

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**8. Describe the specific work that will be accomplished, the methods that will be used, and the time frame for completing this work.**

*-answer not presented because of the answer to #1-*

**9. Describe the work that will be accomplished, the methods that will be used, and the time frame for completing this work.**

Grimm's will need to re-configure our large static pile composting method into a modern automated aerated static pile system. The proposed implementation timeline is 12-18 months to complete the transition from the current system to the proposed system when required permits and approvals from regulating agencies are in hand. A possible transition procedure is to relocate pile 3 and the north bit of pile 4 into the sunken area immediately to the North and then add the biofilter, blowers and a back push wall for the nine new northern aeration zones. Then, as materials are removed from the east side of pile 2 into pile 4 to be screened, new materials can be added with pipes placed underneath in the area under pile 2, and the new aeration system can begin to be filled as new materials are ground, continuing westward until all 9 northern zones are filled with active compost. Finally, the south aeration system can be installed behind a push wall, and the materials removed from pile one, and the older compost from the north piles turned, re-watered into the new southern ASP system. Then materials from pile 3 can be screened. Asphalt in the active processing area can be laid after the piles are removed to pile 4. The finished pile area will also need to be expanded to accommodate the accelerated method of composting. This will require larger amounts of asphalt surface area for product waiting for the peak sales season.

**10. Explain the key factors that will influence whether this project is successful and how you intend to address them. This could include feedstock supply, market development, financing, staff or contractor availability, etc.**

Grimm's Fuel is very experienced in composting. We already have a steady feedstock supply and customer base for sales. Substantial odor reduction will be the primary measure of the success of this project as the surrounding neighborhoods are mostly affected. The increase in recycling capacity will benefit the tri-county area as residential development will continue in the area.

## Potential for Ongoing Benefit

### 11. Explain how the benefits achieved through the project will continue beyond the grant period. How will project outcomes be sustained on an ongoing basis?

The change of process from large static pile composting to aerated static bins will substantially reduce the offsite odors and has the potential of increasing the recycling capacity of our facility by 50-60%.

## Business Planning and Experience (Capital Grants only)

### 12. Explain how your business or organization has the experience, management systems, and capacity to complete the project. Explain how your business/organization has demonstrated previous success with projects that utilized external funding, if any.

Grimm's Fuel has been in business since 1929 and has demonstrated the ability to innovate our products and systems to new opportunities. Starting with the delivery of firewood and then coal for heating, Grimm's diversified into delivery of sawdust for soil amendments. In the 1970's as the forest products industry was changing, Grimm's began the process of early composting by aging sawdust and bark dust for use in landscaping. In the early 1980's as the logging industry was slowing down and the backyard burn ban was implemented, Grimm's reconfigured again to grind yard debris and process through composting to a soil amendment and landscaping product. In the past, nearly every existing system and process has been developed with employees on staff. We will need substantial external engineering services for this re-configuration.

## Budget

### 13. Identify the amount of the Metro grant requested (restate amount from top of proposal)

Smaller Grant: \$50,000 and Capital Grant: \$500,000

### 14. List the anticipated matching funds (both sources and dollar amounts).

*Include only secured or pledged (committed) matching contributions.*

Our matching funds will come from owner's equity.

### 15. Identify the total project cost.

• Design and Engineering \$80,000 • Blowers and pipes for the north bins: \$800,000 • Concrete blocks for new processing bins: \$47,000 • Asphalt pavement for 100,000 ft: \$400,000 • Area water misters: \$45,000

## Documents

### Documents Requested \*

Your/your fiscal sponsor's 501(c) IRS determination letter or tax-exempt status statement, if applicable.

Your Employer Identification Number, if applicable.

### Required? Attached Documents \*

Company EIN

\* ZoomGrants™ is not responsible for the content of uploaded documents.

Application ID: 119171

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