

How to Secure Funding for your Sustainability Project

Created by Andrea Folsom, Education & Grants Manager for the Northeast Resource Recovery Association. Have a question? Email Andrea: afolsom@nrrarecycles.org

1. **Start local!** Local charities, non-profits, and companies may have funding to donate – you just have to ask! Here are a few ideas:
 - a. Your school's PTA/PTO
 - b. School Foundation (if you have one)
 - c. Rotary Club
 - d. Lions Club
 - e. Other local charitable clubs
 - f. Local for-profit companies often have a set amount of money to donate. You would need to submit a letter to them explaining your project and the donation you are looking for just after the 1st of the year.

2. **Seed or Grow Grants** - Grants from the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund.
 - a. **The Seed grant program** is geared towards groups launching new projects or starting to significantly change the direction of an existing project. Most often, groups have been working on the project for less than a year and usually don't yet have much direct experience with implementing the idea.
 - b. **The Grow grant program** is geared towards groups who have some experience implementing a project in their community. Grow grants support groups to deepen their work by further developing a community vision, lowering barriers to participation, identifying new stakeholders and working to bring more voices and lived experiences into core decision-making processes.
 - c. <https://grassrootsfund.org/grant-programs>

3. **Youth Service America** – this organization has several awards and grants they give out each year. You will need to check the website for details.
 - a. <https://ysa.org/grants/>

4. **DonorsChoose** – you can set up a DonorsChoose school project and ask your community to help fund it! (Be sure to check with your school beforehand, some schools do not allow for this type of funding model).
 - a. <https://www.donorschoose.org/about>

5. **Throw a fundraiser!** You can sell plants, compost bins, or other unique goods to help raise money for your cause.
 - a. Here is a list of suggestions with links: <https://www.nrrarecycles.org/school-resources>