

# EVENT WASTE REDUCTION GRANT



## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible, events MUST:

- Occur within Franklin County
- Occur within the grant's calendar year
- Be open to the public
- Have a projected attendance of 2,000 people or more



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Franklin County is proud to be home to hundreds of public events and festivals each year. We welcome thousands of event goers who contribute to our local economy and help to keep more than 75,000 people employed. As a result, in recent years, Columbus, OH has been ranked a top Midwest destination for visitors by J.D. Power.

Beyond the economic benefits these events and visitors generate, a lot of waste is created too. In fact, our community sends over a million tons of material to the landfill every year. SWACO is on a mission to improve central Ohio's landfill diversion and has set a goal of reaching 75% diversion by 2032. These efforts include increasing waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting. Local events play an important part in advancing these efforts.

To that end, SWACO offers an Event Waste Reduction (EWR) grant to local events to assist with waste reduction and diversion. Grant applications are accepted annually between January and March. This competitive grant program also assists event organizers build the infrastructure needed to sustain their efforts and contribute to a safe and healthy community for many years to come.

Highly visible and effective waste reduction and diversion efforts at large public events also create wonderful opportunities to raise public awareness about the impacts and importance of waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting. Furthermore, these

*Grant awards range from **\$2,000 to \$6,000** depending on the size of the event.*



## GRANT FUNDING

The Event Waste Reduction grant is a reimbursement grant.

Funding will be evaluated based upon an event's proposed establishment of new waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting programs, and/or the significant expansion or improvement of existing diversion and outreach activities.

## PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

Since 2016, twenty Franklin County events have received grant funding totaling almost \$64,000.

Previous grant recipients have included the Greater Columbus Convention Center for the Women's Final Four event, Franklinton Farms, the Upper Arlington Labor Day Arts Festival, Columbus Italian Festival, Old Hilliard's Halloween Haunt, Columbus CoffeeFest, Festival for Good, Columbus Food Truck Festival, Dublin Arts Council BREAD Festival, ComFest and The Ohio State University to conduct a study of tailgate recycling.

Collectively, these events have diverted more than 136,000 pounds of material from the Franklin County Sanitary Landfill.



*Additional details available at:  
[SWACO.org/EventGrants](http://SWACO.org/EventGrants)*



### ROCK ON THE RANGE

Columbus Crew used SWACO grant funds to purchase reusable, durable recycling bins which were used at Rock on the Range and additional events at MAPFRE Stadium.



### DUBLIN IRISH FESTIVAL

More than 100,000 people attend the Dublin Irish Festival each year. With a \$6,000 grant from SWACO, the festival was able to double the amount of recyclable materials collected. The city of Dublin used SWACO grant funds to assist with the purchase of more reusable, durable recycling containers and to hire Zero Waste Event Productions to sort materials to ensure a cleaner stream of materials was captured.



### OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP SUMMER FESTIVAL

Our Lady of Perpetual Help used SWACO grant dollars to implement zero waste activities at their annual parish festival. Activities focused on source reduction with vendors, pre- and post-consumer recycling, and pre- and post-consumer food waste composting.