

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1034

To authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants for municipal solid waste prevention, reuse, and recycling program development, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2017

Mr. ELLISON (for himself, Ms. LEE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants for municipal solid waste prevention, reuse, and recycling program development, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Zero Waste Develop-
5 ment and Expansion Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 The Administrator of the Environmental Protection
8 Agency (in this Act referred to as the “Administrator”)

1 shall award grants to local governments or consortia of
2 local governments, which may be acting in coordination
3 with one or more nongovernmental entities. The grants
4 shall be used to develop solid waste prevention, reuse, and
5 recycling tactics and operations, which may include—

6 (1) development or deployment of technologies
7 or practices to increase rates of waste prevention,
8 reuse, recycling, or composting;

9 (2) capital investment in infrastructure to start
10 or expand waste prevention, reuse, recycling,
11 composting, or product reuse programs;

12 (3) partnerships with local businesses interested
13 in incorporating new technologies or processes to re-
14 duce or prevent waste in production or packaging; or

15 (4) community outreach and public education
16 programming, including programming to—

17 (A) increase community knowledge of ef-
18 fective waste prevention, reuse, recycling, or
19 composting; and

20 (B) increase behavior that will reduce over-
21 all household waste generation.

22 **SEC. 3. GRANT REVIEW.**

23 (a) GRANT AWARDEES.—Grants shall be awarded
24 under this Act to applicants that collectively represent a
25 range of existing waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and

1 composting rates. In order to be considered for this award,
2 applicants must—

3 (1) set specific waste prevention, reuse, recy-
4 cling, composting, or public education goals that will
5 bring communities closer to zero waste;

6 (2) have a clearly established plan to use grant
7 funds for one or more of the purposes described in
8 section 2; and

9 (3) meet other criteria as determined by the
10 Administrator.

11 (b) ADDITIONAL FACTORS.—Additional weight may
12 be given to the applications of local governments or con-
13 sortia that—

14 (1) have statutorily committed to zero waste
15 principles;

16 (2) demonstrate job creation;

17 (3) have partnerships with domestic manufac-
18 turers who will use locally recycled materials to spur
19 the growth of domestic manufacturing businesses
20 and the creation of domestic manufacturing jobs;

21 (4) address the disproportionate environmental,
22 health, and economic burden of waste disposal that
23 is borne by communities of color and low income;

24 (5) propose to use funds for waste prevention,
25 reuse, or recycling programs in schools;

1 (6) employ adaptive management practices to
2 identify and address unintended consequences as
3 they arise, including potential contamination of land,
4 water, air, or food;

5 (7) have a demonstrated need for additional in-
6 vestment in infrastructure and programs to achieve
7 waste prevention, reuse, or recycling;

8 (8) will drive technologies for product reuse, re-
9 cycling, composting, or waste prevention;

10 (9) demonstrate ways in which the grant will
11 encourage further investment in waste prevention,
12 reuse, recycling, or composting projects; or

13 (10) incorporate multistakeholder involvement,
14 including nonprofit, commercial, and public sector
15 partners.

16 **SEC. 4. REPORTING.**

17 Grant awardees shall report to the Administrator the
18 results of their project and relevant data requested by the
19 Administrator to track the grant program's impact.

20 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL CONFERENCE.**

21 The Administrator shall convene or co-convene an an-
22 nual conference for current, past, and potential grantees,
23 and other stakeholders, to learn from each other's experi-
24 ences in moving toward a zero waste goal.

1 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **RECYCLING.**—The term “recycling” means
4 processing material that has reached the end of its
5 current use into material utilized in the production
6 of new products. The term does not include inciner-
7 ation.

8 (2) **REUSE.**—The term “reuse” means extend-
9 ing the life of a product, packaging, or resources by
10 either using it more than once for the same or a new
11 function with little to no processing, or repairing it
12 so it can be used longer, sharing or renting it, or
13 selling or donating it to another party. The term
14 does not include incineration.

15 (3) **WASTE PREVENTION.**—The term “waste
16 prevention” includes—

17 (A) measures or techniques that reduce the
18 amount of wastes generated during industrial
19 production processes; and

20 (B) reuse, recycling, and other efforts to
21 reduce the amount of waste going into the
22 waste stream.

23 (4) **ZERO WASTE.**—The term “zero waste” is a
24 goal that is ethical, economical, efficient, and vision-
25 ary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and
26 practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles,

1 where all discarded materials are designed to become
2 resources for others to use. Zero waste means de-
3 signing and managing products and processes to sys-
4 tematically avoid and eliminate the volume and tox-
5 icity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all
6 resources, and not burn or bury them. Implementing
7 zero waste will eliminate all discharges to land,
8 water, or air that are a threat to planetary, human,
9 animal, or plant health.

10 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Ad-
12 ministrator \$100,000,000 for the period encompassing fis-
13 cal years 2018 through 2023 for carrying out this Act.

○

Rep. Ellison Reintroduces Zero Waste Development and Expansion Act

Feb 15, 2017

Press Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) introduced the *Zero Waste Development and Expansion Act* (H.R. 1034) yesterday, which will support communities striving towards zero waste by establishing a grant program that funds the infrastructure, technology, and community outreach needed to achieve it.

“Preventing waste and diverting it from our landfills means a healthier environment and a more sustainable economy,” Rep. Ellison said. “Zero Waste is about preventing waste at the source and reusing the rest. It’s also about creating local jobs, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and using our limited resources wisely.”

“Growing local economies, while cleaning up the environment makes great business sense. We’re happy to lend our support to Congressman Ellison’s ‘Zero Waste Development and Expansion Act’ as it accomplishes both goals,” Richard Eidlin, Vice President of the American Sustainable Business Council said. “The bill encourages not only the recycling of materials in products, but also a re-design of the product itself so that it uses less raw materials. We applaud the proposed federal grant program that would provide funds to local governments and businesses to invest in waste reduction, prevention, reuse, and recycling initiatives. Zero waste, as practiced by cities across America, is a smart, low-cost solution for businesses and communities concerned about the financial impact waste has on the environment.”

“The National Recycling Coalition (NRC) is pleased to endorse the *Zero Waste Development and Expansion Act*,” the National Recycling Coalition said in a letter. “In conjunction with source reduction, reuse, and composting, the recycling of valuable materials is essential to a sustainable environmental, energy, and economic future. We believe that recycling is a shared responsibility which requires citizen engagement.”

“Zero Waste USA applauds Congressman Ellison’s leadership on this bill. We particularly appreciate that the bill includes the only peer-reviewed, internationally supported definition of Zero Waste. This will ensure the integrity of Zero Waste in the implementation of this bill,” said Ruth Abbe, President of Zero Waste USA.

· *Provide critical investment in infrastructure, technologies, and practices to prevent waste and reuse, recycle and compost more*

· *Support local businesses interested in eliminating wasteful practices and packaging*

· *Develop outreach and education programs to help people to reuse, recycle and compost*

Rep. Ellison also released an [episode of We the Podcast](#) on zero waste featuring Minnesota State Representative Frank Hornstein, Eureka Recycling and Liz Bergquist from Edina Grill.

###