

Summaries of the FY 24-25 Source Reduction Assistance Grant Selections

Selectees of the \$1.5 Million [Source Reduction Assistance Grant](#)

[State University of New York \(SUNY\) at Binghamton](#)

[Perpetual Use, Inc](#)

[University of Illinois – Prairie Research Institute](#)

[City of Ann Arbor](#)

[Kansas State University](#)

[High Country Conservation](#)

[Inquiring Systems Inc.](#)

[BRING Recycling](#)

Region 2 Selectees:

\$242,000 to the State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton

SUNY Binghamton will build upon their research in low-lead perovskite solar technology to reduce hazardous lead pollution in the manufacturing, deployment, operation, and end-of-life management of solar panels. The applicant will optimize and test its perovskite technology which uses 85% less lead content than traditional solar technology. The applicant will then provide technical assistance, education, and outreach to its partners which include solar panel manufacturers, energy delivery companies, nonprofit organizations, local planning agencies, and disadvantaged communities. A workshop will be held at SUNY Binghamton for its partners and a case study will be generated to widely share the results of the project.

Region 4 Selectees:

\$191,801 to Perpetual Use, Inc

This project will use funding from EPA to support an existing development to design and implement a city-scale reusable foodware system in Savannah, Georgia to help alleviate the waste generation crisis stemming from single-use foodware. The system would provide “foodware as a service” to foodservice establishments to replace single use foodware, such as cups and takeout containers. Customers will be able to return reusable products to collection bins, where they will be cleaned, inspected, and repacked before being redistributed. Perpetual will continue providing technical guidance and expertise throughout this final phase of this project to ensure system success.

Region 5 Selectees:

\$60,000 to the University of Illinois – Prairie Research Institute

This applicant would provide direct technical assistance to 10 food-focused establishments (i.e., primarily small businesses like restaurants, breweries) within DuPage and Kane County to assist them with identifying and implementing pollution prevention opportunities, including energy efficiencies, water reduction opportunities, chemical substitution focusing on Safer Choice products, and alternative sanitation systems (i.e., aqueous ozone, dry steam). Waste reduction opportunities will also be identified.

\$124,000 to the City of Ann Arbor

This applicant would provide technical and financial assistance to small (less than 100 employees) food retailers, including liquor stores, grocery stores, and convenience stores in Ann Arbor to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with high global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants.

Region 7 Selectees:

\$151,022 to Kansas State University

Kansas State University, with assistance from Wichita State University- Environmental Finance Center through a sub-award, will provide source reduction technical assistance and workforce training for up to 60 businesses using painting and coating processes located in up to 15 census tracts in the Wichita metro area identified as having environmental justice impacts due to toxics emissions to the air. Additionally, community forums will be held in the areas shown to have these impacts, and businesses using painting and coating processes, citizens, and workers will have the opportunity to discuss efforts to reduce air toxics impacts locally. Documents will be published and presentations hosted at various local, state and national events to promote replication of investigation and reduction activities.

Region 8 Selectees:

\$132,800 to High Country Conservation

This project recognizes the link between greenhouse gas pollution, climate change, and Summit County, Colorado's most vulnerable residents. By providing funding to hire a Bilingual Clean Energy Coordinator, develop a culturally relevant Spanish clean energy and energy efficiency marketing campaign, and host bilingual clean energy educational events, a Regional Source Reduction Assistance grant from EPA will support local environmental justice efforts by engaging disproportionately impacted community members in programs that prevent greenhouse gas emissions. Priority outcomes include increasing access to home energy efficiency programs and providing needed education and outreach about renewable energy and electric vehicles. Through this work, they will empower underserved community members to participate in these pollution prevention activities, resulting in decreased greenhouse gas emissions. The scope includes providing clean energy and energy efficiency education and technical assistance to residents of Summit County, CO, with a focus on residents who live in communities that are defined as Disproportionately Impacted (DI) by the state of Colorado's environmental justice mapping tool, EnviroScreen.

Region 9 Selectees:

\$150,000 to Inquiring Systems Inc.

This project will advance source reduction practices by engaging East Hawai'i schools to reduce waste, hazardous materials, and greenhouse gas emissions. It combines a culture based educational program for students with technical assistance for school staff to promote the widespread adoption of the Hilo reusable foodware system. The project seeks to shift perspectives on disposable items, support local food initiatives, and bridge the gap between the modern-day concepts of source reduction and traditional practices that resonate with Hawai'i communities. This holistic approach focuses on fostering environmental stewardship among students, schools, and the broader community, leading to improved source reduction practices in East Hawai'i and a long-term shift in behavior at both the institutional and individual levels. This initiative honors and enhances Hawaiian traditions of land stewardship and agriculture, aligning with the current movement toward native land use practices.

Region 10 Selectees:

\$152,520 to BRING Recycling

BRING Recycling in Oregon was selected to receive P2 source reduction assistance funding to create a statewide network of member agencies that share knowledge on P2 methods and best practices. They will establish a shared online platform through the Greenbiz Tracker to measure and report on environmental impact, develop a network that can innovate and share knowledge of best practices with rural communities, and incentivize business participation through the program.