

2026 GRANT PROJECT REQUEST

Demonstration of Innovative Technologies to Manage Animal Waste

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (“MDA” or the “Department”) is accepting **Letters of Intent** from eligible persons interested in seeking a grant to partially fund the development, implementation, or market development of economically feasible animal waste technology projects in Maryland. The Animal Waste Technology Fund’s (AWTF) purpose is to encourage the development and implementation of proven and innovative technologies that manage animal waste in a manner that: (1) reduces the amount of nutrients in the waste; (2) changes the product’s form or function for alternative uses; or (3) produces energy or other marketable products from the waste. For purposes of AWTF, animal waste is defined as “any waste stream generated by an on-farm animal or waste generated through an animal production process involving Maryland livestock.” Examples of the latter could include, but is not limited to, dairy wastewater, poultry processing waste, or livestock carcasses. To be eligible for financial assistance, the Project must have strong potential to:

- improve the public health and the environment (e.g., resulting in the reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus transport to the waters of the State);
- preserve the viability of the agricultural industry; and
- have a positive economic development impact in the State.

Additional consideration will be given to projects that also address climate and community benefits from the project scope, as defined in Section II.

Upon receipt of Letters of Intent, the Department, in consultation with the Animal Waste Technology Evaluation Committee, will employ a ranking system to evaluate Projects as described in Section 2. **Highest ranking pre-proposals will be invited to submit a detailed full proposal according to the timeline in Section 1.**

I. General Information

Financial assistance in the form of a grant is being made available through the Animal Waste Technology Fund, which has **up to \$750,000** that may go toward the demonstration of economically feasible animal waste management technology projects that are proven and innovative and may be utilized in Maryland. Funding in State Fiscal Year 2026 is supported by the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund. There are no minimum or maximum amounts for requests.

The Grantee is expected to perform all necessary work under the Grant Agreement within two years. The Grantee is expected to: (1) Implement/install the proposed animal waste technology project within one year (Year One), and (2) Operate the project and monitor its performance for at least a one-year period (Year Two). Additional time may be included in the Grant Agreement to undertake community engagement, depending on the site and scope of the proposed project.

The applicant’s proposed technology must have been previously implemented. Technologies must be either commercially available or proven to function as described in the proposal. Technologies in the research and development stage are not eligible.

Timeline:

Request issued: September 8, 2025

Letters of Intent due: October 17, 2025

Invitation for Full Proposals issued: November 7, 2025

Final proposals due: December 23, 2025

Grant awards announced: May 15, 2026

II. Evaluation Criteria

Letters of Intent will be reviewed by an Evaluation Committee established for that purpose. The Committee shall evaluate each Project to discern whether it meets the goal of the Animal Waste Technology Program — that being, to develop and implement an economically feasible technology that will:

- Help protect the public health and the environment by reducing the amount of nutrients from animal waste to enable farmers to meet nutrient management requirements; and
- Provide alternative waste management strategies for farmers.

To this end, the Committee, in evaluating each Letter of Intent, shall utilize the five criteria listed immediately below (Note: The importance of each criterion is listed in descending order; and unless stated otherwise, any sub-criteria within a criterion has equal weight.):

1. The extent to which the Project could demonstrate the following:
 - a. The Project will improve the public health and the environment resulting in the reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus transport to the waters of the State; and
 - b. The Project will help preserve the viability of the agricultural industry by improving animal waste management strategies; and
 - c. The Project will have a positive economic development impact in the State.
2. The particulars of the animal waste technology project and whether, in descending order of importance, the technology:
 - a. Treats/addresses a majority (by weight or volume) of on-farm generated manures;
 - b. Treats/addresses combined on-farm generated manures and other animal wastes;
 - c. Treats/addresses a majority (by weight or volume) of animal wastes other than on-farm generated manures; or
 - d. Provides innovative designs and demonstrations of farm equipment that promote improved nutrient application and nutrient efficiency of animal wastes.
3. The investment that others, including the Grantee, have in the proposed technology, including its development and implementation.
4. The Grantee's readiness to begin implementing the Project and ability to complete it in a timely manner, including the expertise of key personnel associated with the Project.
5. The Project would have both a positive economic development impact in the State and demonstrate economic feasibility. Economic impact and feasibility may be demonstrated by one of the following: producing higher value end-products that may offset animal waste disposal costs, improving management of animal wastes, or resulting in on-farm savings (time, utilities, etc.) from the operation and maintenance of the technology

6. The Grantee's consideration of one or more of the following climate and community benefits of the proposal:
 - a. Greenhouse gas reductions and/or soil carbon sequestration potential (*NOTE - quantification of reductions are not required in the Letter or Intent phase, but the narrative should speak to methods or tools that could be appropriate for quantifying these project benefits*);
 - b. Job creation and/or local employment opportunities; and
 - c. Project impacts on "overburdened" and "underserved" communities as defined by Maryland state law are absent or minimized. Applicants may use the [MDEnviroScreen](#) to inform their community outreach (occurring or planned) or equitable siting considerations. Equitable siting is defined as "ensuring that communities with historically high pollution burdens or environmental injustice concerns are not disproportionately burdened with additional impacts when selecting a location for the technology".
 - d. Community engagement with local decision makers and neighbors to increase understanding of the proposed technology.

III. Letter of Intent Format

The Letter of Intent package shall include the following documents and information in the order specified. All pages shall be consecutively numbered from beginning (Page 1) to end (Page "x").

1. Transmittal Letter

The Transmittal letter should be brief and signed by an individual who is authorized to commit the Applicant to the services and requirements as stated in this request. The Transmittal Letter should include the following:

- Name and address of the Applicant;
- Name, title, e-mail address, and telephone number of primary contact for the Applicant;
- Request Title;
- Title of the Project;
- Signature, typed name, and title of an individual authorized to commit the Applicant to its Letter of Intent;
- Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) of the Applicant, or if a single individual, that individual's Social Security Number (SSN)

2. Project Narrative (no more than 2000 words)

Applicant should provide a project description that includes the following information:

- Technology type being proposed;
- Animal waste type and volume to be treated by the technology;
- Project location, including the physical address and farm name (if applicable) of the project site. See item 4 for additional requirements if the project site is not owned by the applicant;
- A summary work plan that describes the tasks that will be required to achieve the Project's goals and objectives;
- How the proposed technology will 1) protect the public health and the environment by reducing and mitigating the amount of nutrients from animal waste to address environmental impacts and to meet Maryland's nutrient management laws and

- regulations; and 2) provide alternative waste management strategies for the industry;
- How the proposed technology would provide climate and community benefits as defined in Section II;
 - Readiness to begin implementing the Project and ability to complete it in a timely manner, including names of key personnel to be associated with the Project;
 - The expected Project timeline; and
 - Assurance applicant will cooperatively work with individuals or institutions, approved by MDA, with recognized expertise, to establish protocols and collect data to conduct performance monitoring for a minimum of one year after commencing operation of the technology

3. Budget

Please provide best available information to-date on the Project.

Item	MDA Grant Request	Other Fund Sources
Labor Cost \$ (include estimated man hours)		
Fringe/Benefits \$		
Materials \$		
Direct Expenses \$		
Subcontractor \$ (include sub-contractor name and value of service)		
Travel \$ (itemize by mileage, meals, lodging, etc.)		
Other Expenses \$		
TOTAL		

4. Letter(s) of Support

For project sites not owned by the applicant, a Letter of Support must be provided from each owner/operator confirming the owner's/operator's intent to participate in the project and the manner in which each owner/operator will be participating in the project, including addressing feedstock supply as applicable.

Additional Letters of Support are recommended from significant partners, especially those providing matching contributions.

Please submit your Letter of Intent package as an email attachment (in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format) to alisha.mulkey@maryland.gov. All proposals must be received by MDA no later than 5 P.M. on October 17, 2025.