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ADEM Awards \$2.5 Million in Recycling Grants

Recycling coalition, cities, counties, solid waste authorities among 2025 recipients

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) announced Monday it is awarding more than \$2.5 million in grants from the Alabama Recycling Fund (ARF) to cities, counties, agencies and nonprofits across the state to boost recycling efforts.

The grants, which are for fiscal year 2025, were awarded at the first day of the Alabama Recycling Coalition’s Annual Conference and Expo, Aug. 26-28, at the Lodge at Gulf State Park. The coalition, a statewide nonprofit organization that promotes waste reduction, material reuse, recycling and composting activities, is one of the grant recipients.

“These grants will have a tremendous impact on recycling in Alabama,” ADEM Director Lance LeFleur said in a statement. “ADEM has emphasized working with our local communities, including those with less means, to develop a robust recycling infrastructure. This will increase the reuse of discarded materials, decrease the amount of waste entering our landfills, and contribute to a more sustainable future.”

The grants, totaling \$2,581,070, are made possible by the Solid Wastes and Recyclable Materials Management Act, passed by the Alabama Legislature in 2008. It imposes a \$1-per-ton fee on all solid wastes disposed of in state landfills. A quarter of the proceeds generated by the fee goes to the Alabama Recycling Fund, which provides the foundation for ADEM to award the recycling grants on an annual basis.

ADEM awarded \$164,500 to the Alabama Recycling Coalition to help increase recycling in the state through education. The money will be used to design and build a statewide recycling website, create and implement a multimedia awareness campaign and host ADEM grant workshops.

The coalition is one of 18 entities awarded recycling grants. Recipients include county and city governments, solid waste authorities and a recycling partnership.

In presenting the grants Monday at the ARC conference, LeFleur praised the cooperation of multiple entities that worked to boost recycling in their communities.

“We’ll be recognizing a lot of folks in here for the work they’ve done, but I do want to give a shoutout to Baldwin County and their MRF (materials recovery facility),” LeFleur said. “That is a wonderful example of how partnerships can stretch these dollars; partnerships that make the economy more realistic.”

The cities of Gulf Shores, Orange Beach and Foley are partnering with Baldwin County in support of the county’s facility.

In addition to the Alabama Recycling Coalition, recipients are:

- City of Birmingham – \$438,105
- Baldwin County – \$419,977
- City of Irondale – \$300,4476
- Shoals Solid Waste Authority – \$158,593
- City of Gulf Shores -- \$148,135
- City of Guntersville – \$137,779
- Mobile County Commission – \$126,872
- City of Alexander City – \$104,110
- City of Troy – \$104,070
- City of Florence – \$95,797
- Calhoun County Commission – \$93,410
- West Alabama Recycling Partnership (City of Tuscaloosa, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa County Parks and Recreation Authority and Shelton State Community College) – \$72,683
- City of Gadsden – \$67,323
- City of Southside – \$52,578
- City of Northport – \$47,780
- City of Fort Payne – \$43,329
- Lawrence County Solid Waste – \$5,582

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