



RHODE  
ISLAND

# Get The Foam Out!

Information Session February 6, 2024

Please use the Q&A function to submit your questions

Meeting now

00:36 LIVE 21

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Some people in this chat are outside your org. It's possible they have message-related policies that will apply to the chat. Learn more

Meeting chat

Last read

1:31 PM Recording has started

Farahat, Amna 1:31 PM

yes

1:31 PM

can here you loud and clear and slides look great!

Farahat, Amna 1:32 PM

yes

Type a message

Patrolia, Jessica



# It's Time to Get the Foam Out!

**EVERY DAY**, students across the state eat lunch on Styrofoam trays before tossing them into the trash. This fills up our landfills, pumps more carbon in the air and teaches our kids the wrong lesson.



*Local education agencies (LEAs) are invited to apply for Get the Foam Out! grants by April 1, 2024.*

## TRAY WASTEFUL!

RI schools use **11.5 million** single use trays every year.

Lined up end to end, that's almost 2,400 miles, enough to reach from **Rhode Island to Disney World** and back!



**RIDE'S** School Building Authority is dedicating **\$5 million to support schools** that eliminate Styrofoam from cafeterias. This support will help schools comply with the new

Styrofoam ban, which goes into effect on January 1, 2025.



## THE DETAILS

- **RIDE will award up to \$75,000** to schools that invest in reusable service ware and \$10,000 to schools that switch to composting.
- **LEAs need to match awards** with existing funds from their non-profit school foodservice account or other source to maximize effects for schools, students and the environment.
- **Awards will be announced in April** to align with Earth Day celebrations and the Green Ribbon Schools announcement.

Reach out to [SBACapitalFund@ride.ri.gov](mailto:SBACapitalFund@ride.ri.gov) with any questions... and do your part to "get the foam out!"



**RIDE** Rhode Island  
Department  
of Education



**RIDE** Rhode Island  
Department  
of Education



“Away”





# Our Facility (Johnston)



# Central Landfill

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**2,300 Tons**



# That's a LOT!



- Weighs **5 tons**
- Takes **460** monster trucks to equal **2,300** tons of trash thrown away



# 3 R's

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**Reduce**



**Reuse**



**Recycle**





# Reduce, Reuse and Recycle



Source: U.S. EPA



# Foam

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- Foam can't be recycled in your bin/cart
- Dispose of as regular trash
- Switch to reusables or reduce consumption as much as possible

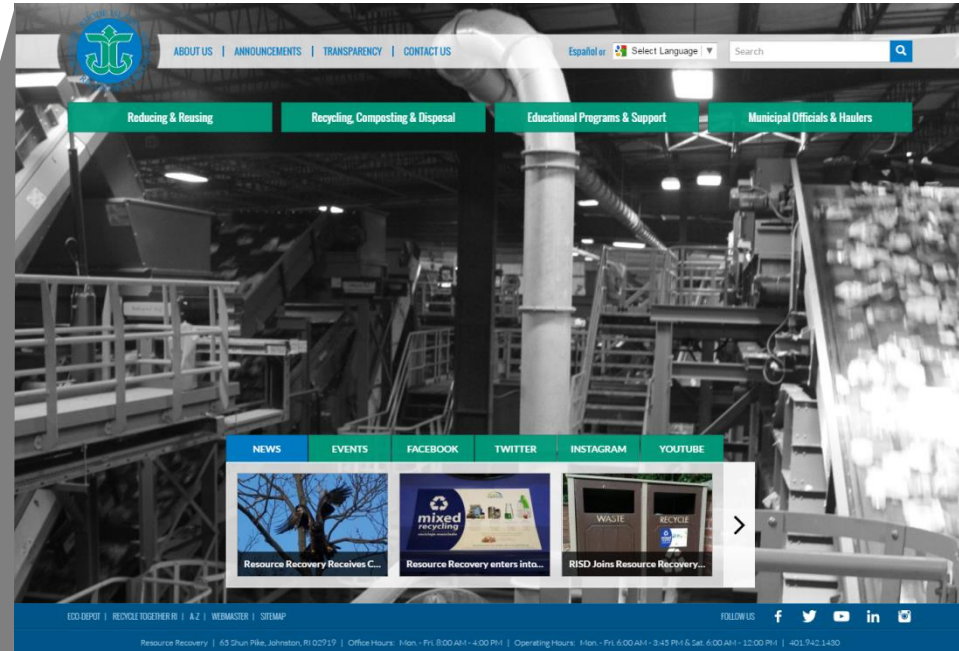




# Free Programs, Tours and Waste Assessments



# Connect With Us





# Thank you!

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**Madison Hindle**

**Education and Outreach Manager**

**[mhindle@rirrc.org](mailto:mhindle@rirrc.org)**





RHODE  
ISLAND

—  
Get the Foam Out!



# Get the Foam Out! Overview

This initiative will support schools in complying with the newly enacted Styrofoam ban (RIGL 21-27.3-2), which will go into effect January 1, 2025.

## Examples of Eligible Projects

- Purchase and installation of new ware washing facilities
- Facility remediation to support ware washing facilities
- Transition to compostable service ware
- Purchase of reusable service ware

## Project Prioritization

- **Type of Project:** preference for projects that transition to reusable service ware
- **Environmental Impact:** priority for projects with the highest level of waste diversion from the RI landfill
- **Building Needs:** building capacity to support proposed project

## Project Reach & Sustainability

- Student and staff training
- Replenishment of reusable or compostable service ware
- Tie-ins to other cafeteria sustainability initiatives in place
- Continuation of established programming beyond the life of funding



# Funding Details

LEAs seeking Get the Foam Out! support must have matching funds available in their non-profit school food service account or from an alternate funding source.

## Option 1

### Infrastructure Improvements

- Supports the transition to fully reusable service ware
- Up to \$75,000 per school
- 50% local match required

## Option 2

### Compostable Service Ware

- Supports transition to compostable service ware with an active composting agreement and waste separation process in place
- Up to \$10,000 per school
- 100% local match required

# Project Example – Infrastructure Improvements

## Project:

Purchase and install a service ware collection and ware washing station that will allow for the transition to fully reusable service ware in the school meals program.

## Request to SBA:

\$75,000 to support cafeteria renovation, plumbing, electrical, and venting install for new dish machine

## Local Contribution:

\$20,000 to purchase a commercial dishwasher

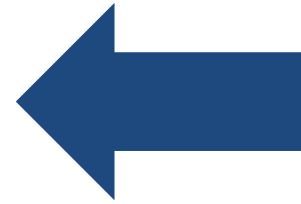
\$8,000 to purchase reusable service ware

\$5,000 for dishwasher accessories

\$2,500 for staff training

\$2,000 for cleaning solutions

\$5,000 to support the set up of a composting agreement & food waste diversion system



Local contributions from the non-profit school food service account can only be used to support allowable expenses under that program

**Total Project Cost:** \$117,500

**SBA Request:** \$75,000

**Local Match Required:** \$37,500 (50% x \$75,000)

**Actual Local Contribution:** \$42,500





# Project Example – Compostable Service Ware

## Project:

Transition to compostable service materials.

**Total Project Cost:** \$15,000

**SBA Request:** \$7,500

**Local Match Required:** \$7,500 (50% x \$15,000)

## Project Budget:

\$750 to implement cafeteria sorting stations

\$3,500 to support the 1<sup>st</sup> year cost of a compost hauling agreement

\$750 to support community partners assisting in implementation

\$10,000 to support the 1<sup>st</sup> year cost of compostable cafeteria trays

Within their application, the LEA will need to justify why they chose this type of project and how it will be sustained beyond the life of grant funding



# Application Timeline & Scoring

Scoring Criteria	
Project Type	20 Points
Impact	40 Points
Minority Business Enterprise Commitment	5 points
Project Schedule	5 points
Sustainability Plan	25 points
# of Students Impacted	5 points

Timeline	
Applications Open	Now!
Applications Due	April 1, 2024
Winners Announced	April/May 2024
Substantial Completion Date	September 30, 2025



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- **Get the Foam Out Webpage**

- <https://ride.ri.gov/child-nutrition/get-foam-out>

- **Other Sustainability in School Meals Resources**

- <https://ride.ri.gov/child-nutrition/nutrition-programs/national-school-lunch-program>

- **Application Demo**

- **Partner Resources**





# Reminders

## Get the Foam Out! Application

LEAs will complete 1 application tab for each school within the LEA that is applying for funds

Each tab in the application workbook should be renamed to reflect the name of the school applying for funding

LEAs can delete unnecessary tabs OR create duplicate tabs in order to create a project narrative and budget for each school applying

Completed application files should be saved with the LEAs Name as follows: “<LEA Name> - GTFO Application FY24

You must print, sign, and scan a copy of the application tab labeled “Assurances & Certification

Completed applications, including 1 application workbook (Excel) and one copy of the signed assurance & certification statement per LEA must be submitted to [SBACapitalFund@ride.ri.gov](mailto:SBACapitalFund@ride.ri.gov) on or before April 1, 2024



# ReThink Disposable

STOP WASTE BEFORE IT STARTS

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RIDE Rhode Island  
Department  
of Education



## OVERVIEW

Started in CA 12 years ago and has helped over 570 businesses and 40 institutions prevent 28 million pieces of single-use disposable food-ware and collectively save around \$1 million dollars

Recently expanded to New England where we are currently working with 20 schools on various levels of reuse in cafeterias

We have a proven record of reducing waste and helping institutions save money



# Working with ReThink Disposable

Free technical assistance

Cost-savings and waste reduction audits

Materials testing for safety

In-person education for faculty and students

Ongoing support for reuse and reduction efforts

Assistance with funding procurement

- Each school is uniquely different
- Our approach is to find the right solution for each individual school
- Savings from switching to reusables can be used to increase other programs like composting or farm to school
- Palo Alto Unified District Schools are seeing \$25k/year saving by switching to a centralized kitchen dishwashing model
- Middletown Connecticut District Schools will see a \$100k/year savings after implementation – all 10 schools have their own mechanized dishwasher

**ReThink Disposable**  
STOP WASTE BEFORE IT STARTS  
[www.rethinkdisposable.org](http://www.rethinkdisposable.org)

## REUSABLE FOODWARE Cost Comparison for Schools\*

 Switching from a Styrofoam tray to a reusable stainless-steel tray = **\$9 per student savings per year**

 Switching from a plastic cutlery set to a stainless-steel fork and spoon = **\$6 per student savings per year**

 Switching from a plastic cutlery set to a stainless-steel spork = **\$5 per student savings per year**

\*These numbers are based on industry averages for purchasing prices and switching to stainless-steel reusables that have undergone rigorous testing for chemical leaching safety.

Amber Schmidt

New England Zero Waste Organizer

ReThink Disposable

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**Reduce**

**Reuse**

**Recycle**



**RHODE ISLAND SCHOOLS  
RECYCLING PROJECT**



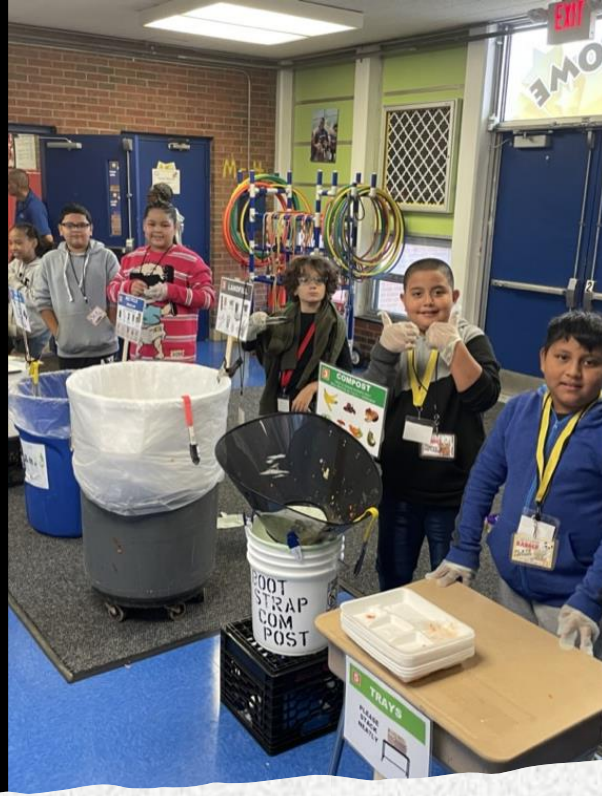
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ISLAND**

February 2024



We have a Styrofoam problem in some of our schools





And we have solutions too...

11 schools have joined the Get Food Smart program led by the RI School Recycling Project. Next year there will be 24 schools doing it.



The RI School Recycling Project is in Providence, Smithfield, Cumberland, Pawtucket, Cranston and North Providence. We are a project-based learning experience teaching students and other members of the school community how to compost food waste, recycle properly and divert healthy, edible food to food insecure students and their families The RIDE grants will cover 50% of the cost of establishing a composting and healthy food diversion program in your school.



THIS  
OR  
THIS?







We capture healthy, edible food that's diverted to food insecure students, and we compost the food waste, so it doesn't go to the Landfill and produce methane. We can also handle compostable trays....

**Reduce**

**Reuse**

**Recycle**



**RHODE ISLAND SCHOOLS  
RECYCLING PROJECT**

**FIND OUT MORE:**

- Call us if you want more information;
- **Warren Heyman,**  
401-486-9139 or
- **Jim Corwin,**  
401-641-6814 or
- **Renee Chicoine** at  
[renee.chicoine@gmail.com](mailto:renee.chicoine@gmail.com)
- Our Website is at  
[www.rirecyclingclub.org](http://www.rirecyclingclub.org)



RHODE  
ISLAND

February 2024





 BRIG AID

- Who we are
- What we do
  - Program Assessments
  - Chef Placement
  - Custom Training
- Where we work





# Questions?

