



Request For Proposals

Regional Solid Waste and Organics Infrastructure Assessment

Deadline: October 9th, 2026 – 5:00 p.m. EST

Contact Information

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RFP Release Date:

RFP Submission Deadline: All applications must be submitted electronically to Hschuette@centralpinesnc.gov and lwhitson@centralpinesnc.gov no later than October 9th, 2026 at 5pm EST.

I. Introduction

Central Pines Regional Council (CPRC) is soliciting proposals from qualified consulting firms to conduct a Regional Solid Waste and Organics Infrastructure Assessment for participating members of the Central Pines Solid Waste Consortium.

The assessment will provide a high-level understanding of the region's existing solid waste infrastructure, capacity, disposal pathways, costs, vulnerabilities, and opportunities for regional collaboration. Within this broader assessment, the consultant will conduct a more detailed feasibility analysis of regional yard waste and composting opportunities, which Consortium members identified as a leading priority.

The yard waste and composting component will examine shared processing, composting capacity, end-market development, cost efficiency, governance, public-private partnerships, and implementation. The work will also identify greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction benefits consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program while addressing the Consortium's broader operational, financial, and regional planning goals.

The Solid Waste Consortium includes local governments throughout the Central Pines region that collaborate on shared solid waste challenges, including landfill capacity, organics management, recycling infrastructure, disposal costs, and long-term regional planning.

For the purposes of this RFP, the region includes the participating jurisdictions of Apex, Carrboro, Cary, Chapel Hill, Chatham County, Durham, Durham County, Hillsborough, Holly Springs, Orange County, Raleigh, and Wake County.

II. Project Purpose

The purpose of this assessment is to establish a regional understanding of the solid waste system and identify opportunities for future coordination and infrastructure planning, with an in-depth focus on yard waste and composting. The assessment should:

- Develop a regional inventory of major solid waste infrastructure, including landfills, transfer stations, material recovery facilities, recycling infrastructure, yard waste facilities, composting sites, and other relevant public and private facilities;
- Establish a more detailed baseline of yard waste and related organics facilities, service models, costs, and management pathways;
- Evaluate shared infrastructure, processing, procurement, partnership, and governance opportunities, with regional yard waste and composting feasibility as the primary focus; including opportunities to expand, optimize, or coordinate the use of existing public facilities before considering new construction;
- Identify suitable processing approaches, compost products, applications, and end markets based on the region's feedstocks and contamination conditions;
- Compare the financial, operational, regulatory, environmental, and GHG implications of regional and local processing alternatives, including the expansion or optimization of existing facilities and the construction of new infrastructure; and
- Provide recommendations and a phased implementation roadmap that local governments can use to pursue partnerships, funding, procurement, and future infrastructure decisions.

III. Project Approach

Respondents should provide separate scopes, deliverables, schedules, and costs for each task listed below. Consultants may propose modifications or additional services where appropriate. CPRC reserves the right to select all, some, or portions of the proposed tasks based on available funding, consortium priorities, and proposal evaluations.

Consultants should rely on existing information where appropriate, including relevant North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service data and ongoing or recently completed local studies, such as Wake County's Beyond the South Wake Landfill Study. The general solid waste infrastructure analysis should primarily use existing reports, datasets, and targeted interviews, while the yard waste and composting component should provide a more detailed feasibility analysis. The assessment should not assume that regional coordination

requires new construction and should evaluate existing public facilities as potential regional assets.

IV. Scope of Services

Task A: Regional Solid Waste Infrastructure Overview – Provide a high-level overview of the major solid waste infrastructure serving participating jurisdictions. This task is intended to provide regional context for the yard waste and composting analysis rather than a detailed engineering, operational, or financial assessment of each facility.

Objectives	Deliverables
• Compile an inventory and map or GIS-ready dataset of solid waste infrastructure in the region in coordination with CPRC. The data should include disposal and processing pathways, landfills, transfer stations, material recovery facilities, recycling infrastructure, yard waste facilities, and composting sites. • Identify significant regional infrastructure dependencies, capacity concerns, vulnerabilities, and anticipated needs that may affect future solid waste planning. • For existing public yard waste and composting facilities, document available information regarding capacity, utilization, expandable capacity, available land, supporting infrastructure, permitting, and equipment.	• Regional solid waste infrastructure inventory and map or GIS-ready dataset; • High-level summary of disposal and processing pathways; and • Brief memorandum identifying major capacity concerns, infrastructure dependencies, data gaps, and opportunities for future regional coordination. • Summary of existing public facilities with potential for expanded or shared regional use.

Task B: Yard Waste and Organics Baseline and GHG Assessment – Establish a focused baseline of the yard waste and organic materials needed to evaluate the regional strategies developed under Task C. The analysis should use available data and reasonable estimates where complete jurisdiction-level information is unavailable.

Objectives	Deliverables
• Identify current and reasonably anticipated yard waste and food waste quantities separately by type, quantity, seasonality, contamination level, collection method, and jurisdiction, to the extent supported by available data. • Document the public and private systems that receive, transfer, process, compost, reuse, land-apply, or dispose of these materials.	• Regional yard waste and organics profile based on available data; • Summary of current management pathways, facilities, capacity, and constraints; • GIS-ready data showing major material sources and destinations; • GHG baseline and reduction estimates for priority Task C

• Map major sources of yard waste and organic materials and their corresponding processing or disposal destinations. • Assess whether and how existing yard waste infrastructure could provide a foundation for phased expansion into broader regional organics management, including food waste where feasible • Identify key constraints, including contamination, commingled materials, transportation, facility capacity, market access, permitting, staffing, and PFAS considerations where relevant. • Estimate the GHG emissions and potential reductions associated with current practices and the priority alternatives evaluated under Task C. • Identify a limited set of common metrics that participating jurisdictions could use for future regional benchmarking.	alternatives, with methodology and assumptions documented; and • Concise data-collection template and recommended regional metrics.
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Task C: Regional Yard Waste and Composting Coordination and Shared Infrastructure

Feasibility – This is the primary task of this assessment. The consultant shall use the regional infrastructure baseline to identify, compare, and recommend implementable regional yard waste and composting strategies

Objectives	Deliverables
• Evaluate feasible regional models such as shared composting or yard waste processing facilities, expansion or coordinated use of existing facilities, transfer or consolidation arrangements, cooperative procurement, and public-private partnerships. The analysis should not presume that new construction is necessary and should rigorously compare the use, expansion, or optimization of existing facilities with new infrastructure. • Match identified feedstocks to appropriate processing methods and determine the compost or other end products and applications most suitable for those materials. • Assess end-market demand, product-quality requirements, contamination controls, and potential users or purchasers of finished products. • Evaluate source-reduction and education strategies, including grasscycling and approaches to reduce grass clippings, contamination, and other avoidable material entering local collection programs.	• Regional alternatives and feasibility matrix comparing feedstocks, processing requirements, facility needs, costs, markets, GHG benefits, regulatory considerations, governance, and implementation risks; • Recommended regional yard waste and composting strategy, including preferred end products and processing approaches; • Regional collaboration and governance framework with potential roles for participating jurisdictions and private partners; • Stakeholder engagement findings and documentation of major assumptions or unresolved data needs; and

• Compare governance and management structures, including lead-agency, interlocal agreement, contracted-service, shared-facility, and solid waste authority models. Address ownership, operations, decision-making, cost sharing, liability, and performance management. • Gather general information from relevant private haulers, processors, facility operators, community organizations, and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to identify key participants in current or potential regional efforts and understand the processing models currently in use. Engagement should be limited to high-level conversations and necessary data collection and should not include testing assumptions, negotiating potential arrangements, or determining implementation feasibility. • Recommend one or more preferred regional strategies, including near-term actions that can proceed through better use or coordination of existing facilities, as well as longer-term infrastructure options when warranted. Recommendations should note that additional work by the Consortium will be needed following the assessment to narrow potential options and test assumptions and feasibility through further stakeholder engagement.	• Phased implementation roadmap identifying near-, medium-, and long-term actions, responsible parties, decision points, preliminary funding approaches, and next steps.
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Task D: Financial and Cost Analysis – Provide a detailed cost analysis of the yard waste and composting alternatives evaluated under Task C.

Objectives	Deliverables
• Summarize available information regarding regional disposal costs, transportation costs, facility dependencies, and other significant solid waste cost drivers. • Document current yard waste collection, hauling, transfer, processing, contamination, and disposal costs using available information. • Estimate lifecycle and order-of-magnitude costs for the regional yard waste and composting alternatives evaluated under Task C, including capital, operating, transportation, staffing, land, permitting, and contract costs where applicable. The comparison should clearly distinguish between expanding or optimizing existing facilities and constructing new infrastructure. • Compare regional and local approaches and identify potential economies of scale, avoided costs, revenue opportunities, cost-allocation methods, and key financial risks. For each priority alternative, clearly present capital	• Comparative cost and financial feasibility model for priority yard waste and composting alternatives; • Order-of-magnitude capital and operating cost ranges; • Sensitivity analysis for major cost and feedstock assumptions; and • Funding, revenue, procurement, and regional cost-sharing considerations. • Transparent, side-by-side financial comparison of expanding or optimizing existing facilities and constructing new infrastructure, using consistent assumptions and cost categories.

and operating costs, transportation costs, GHG impacts, potential product revenue, avoided disposal costs, and anticipated implementation timelines. • Identify potential funding sources and procurement or partnership approaches that could support implementation.	
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V. Confidentiality Requirement

The consultant shall treat data, facility details, operational information, and other nonpublic information provided by Consortium members as confidential and shall not share such information with individuals or organizations outside the Consortium without prior authorization from Central Pines Regional Council and the applicable Consortium member. Findings included in the assessment should be presented at an appropriate level of aggregation when necessary to protect member-specific information.

VI. Proposal Requirements

Proposals shall include the following and should not be more than 20 pages, single-spaced in a standard 12 pt font. The page limit does not include resumes. *CPRC reserves the right to negotiate a final scope based on selected tasks.*

1. Firm Qualifications – Should include resumes or short bios, relevant credentials, education, and work experiences.
2. Relevant Project Experience – providing a minimum of two relevant examples but no more than four.
3. Proposed Project Team
4. Technical Approach
5. Timeline – CPRC requests final deliverables to be complete no later than June 1, 2027.
6. Deliverables
7. Cost Proposal – To facilitate selection based on consortium priorities and available funding, respondents shall provide:
 - Total project cost
 - Individual cost for each task outlined in Section IV
 - Optional services pricing
 - Hourly rates for relevant staff members and/or subcontractors
 - Estimated time allocated to project

VII. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed by a review committee. CPRC will select the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. Proposals will be evaluated on:

Evaluation Criteria	Percentage of Score
Technical approach, methodology, and ability to meet proposed timeline	25%
Experience and past performance conducting regional solid waste infrastructure assessments, particularly those focused on yard waste, organics, and composting.	20%
Qualifications and workload of the project team	20%
Cost-effectiveness and value of proposed services	20%
Experience with GHG inventories and climate planning	10%
Quality and completeness of the response	5%

VIII. Anticipated Schedule

A complete proposal must be submitted to hschuette@centralpinesnc.gov and lwhitson@centralpinesnc.gov no later than October 9th, 2026. Questions must be submitted in writing to the same email addresses above and must be received by September 25th, 2026. All questions will be answered through an addendum and posted on CPRC's website [here](#). It is the bidders' responsibility to thoroughly review all addendums. Questions will not be answered verbally. Incomplete application packages will not be considered. CPRC may interview vendors throughout the proposal review and vendor selection process.

Item	Anticipated Date
RFP Issued	September 11th
Questions Due	September 25th
Responses to Questions Posted	September 30th
Proposals Due	October 9th
Proposal Review and Vendor Selection	October 12 - November 6
Contract Development and Execution	November 9 – December 4
Project Kickoff	Early December
Task A Full Draft Complete; given to Consortium for review and feedback	Mid-February
Consortium feedback to Task A due	March 1
Meetings with CPRC Staff and Local Government Representatives as Available	Monthly or as needed throughout the project
Preliminary Findings for Tasks B-D/Progress Update to Consortium	March 19, 2027
Complete Draft Assessment Submitted for Consortium Review	End of April
Final Consortium Feedback Due	Mid May
Assessment Finalized, Formatted, and Submitted to Consortium and EPA	June 1, 2027

IX. Funding Requirements

This project is funded through the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program. Respondents must demonstrate how proposed tasks support greenhouse gas emissions reductions, methane mitigation, climate pollution reduction, or implementation of lower-emission waste management strategies. All work products shall clearly identify GHG reduction opportunities and, where feasible, quantify anticipated emissions impacts.

X. Conditions, clarifications, and reservations

- CPRC expects to select one firm or team but reserves the right to select more than one firm or request substitutions of subconsultants.
- CPRC reserves the sole discretion and right to reject any and all responses received with respect to the RFP and to cancel the RFP process at any time prior to entering into a formal agreement. CPRC reserves the right to request additional information or clarification of information provided in any response. CPRC also reserves the right, but is under no obligation, to waive technicalities and informalities. CPRC shall make the award as deemed in its best interest.
- A response to this RFP should not be construed as a contract, nor indicate a commitment of any kind. The RFP does not commit CPRC to pay for costs incurred in the submission of a response to this RFP or for any cost incurred prior to the execution of a final contract. No recommendations or conclusions from this RFP process concerning an individual firm shall constitute a right (property or otherwise) under the Constitution of the United States or under the Constitution, case law or statutory law of North Carolina. Neither binding contract, obligation to negotiate, nor any other obligation shall be created on the part of CPRC unless CPRC and your firm execute a contract.
- All responses to this RFP shall be the property of CPRC.
- Contractor(s) for this project are procured in a manner that conforms with all applicable federal laws, policies, and standards, including those under Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. Part 200).