

**REQUEST FOR GRANT PROPOSALS:
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITY PROJECTS
(REPP)
EPA-R4-OPM-07-01**

OVERVIEW

FEDERAL AGENCY: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) REGION 4
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TITLE: Regional Environmental Priority Projects (REPP)
ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE/ACTION: Request for Proposals (RFP)
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: EPA-R4-OPM-07-01

**CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NUMBERS, TITLES,
AND STATUTORY AUTHORITIES*:**

- 66.034 -- Air Quality: Surveys, studies, investigations, demonstrations and special purpose activities, *Section 103, Clean Air Act*
- 66.424 -- Source Water Protection: Surveys, Studies, Demonstrations and Special Purpose, *Section 1442, Safe Drinking Water Act*
- 66.436 -- Water Quality and Watershed Management: Surveys, studies and investigation Grants & Cooperative Agreements, *Section 104(b)(3), Clean Water Act*
- 66.609 -- Children's Health Protection, *multiple statutory authorities*
- 66.611 -- Environmental Policy and Innovation Grants, *multiple statutory authorities*
- 66.717 -- Source Reduction Assistance, *multiple statutory authorities*

*See chart on pages 28-29 for more information on each CFDA and Statutory Authorities.

CLOSING DATE: September 10, 2007, 4:00 p.m. EDT. Proposals may be submitted electronically through <https://www.grants.gov> or by hardcopy via U.S. Postal Service or commercial delivery to Betty Winter, REPP Coordinator, EPA Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, 9th floor mail room, Atlanta, GA 30303. No late proposals will be accepted. Selected recipients will be given a time table and instructions for submission of complete applications when proposals are selected for further consideration for final awards. Detailed proposal submission requirements are found in Section IV of this announcement.

PROJECT SELECTION DATE: Tentative expected selection date is December 31, 2007.

AWARD DATE: Tentative expected award date is March 1, 2008.

ANNOUNCEMENT MODIFICATIONS: EPA reserves the right to amend this solicitation as deemed necessary. Amendments could be administrative in nature (*e.g.*, change of dates or location), technical, (*e.g.*, change in requirements) or changes which affect the anticipated funding. If this solicitation is amended, EPA will post the amended solicitation at the same location as this announcement.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits proposals for financial assistance to eligible entities through EPA Region 4's focus on Regional Environmental Priority

Projects (REPP). This funding opportunity provides monies to external organizations to help States, Tribes, local governments, and communities address priority areas and multi-media issues, as identified in this solicitation, because of the complexity, extent, threat to human health or ecosystems, and/or the significant need to protect, improve or restore specific environments. EPA will not fund routine implementation projects under this solicitation, but will fund demonstrations of new or innovative technologies, tools, or approaches to accomplish Agency goals. Region 4 strongly encourages applicants to identify opportunities for collaboration, leveraging of non-federal funding/in-kind services, stewardship, sustainability and source reduction.

FUNDING/AWARDS: The total estimated funding expected to be available under this competitive opportunity is approximately \$500,000. EPA anticipates award of approximately 7 to 10 grants or cooperative agreements resulting from this announcement, subject to availability of funds and the quality of applications received. The average range of awards will be between \$15,000 and \$75,000, depending on the selected projects. This solicitation is intended to fund projects to be performed in as many of the eight regional states and priority areas as possible.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS*: Assistance under this announcement is accessible to a wide range of applicants as shown below:

- States and territories and possessions of the United States
- Federally-recognized Indian Tribes
- State, tribal, local, county, city or township government agencies
- Interstate government agencies
- Public and private universities and colleges; and
- Non-profit organizations

**See chart on pages 28-29 for more information on eligibility for each CFDA.*

EPA REGION 4 CONTACT INFORMATION: Betty Winter, REPP Coordinator, EPA Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303, Phone 1-800-241-1754, 404-562-8279, TTY 404-562-8339, and Fax 404-562-8269, or e-mail winter.betty@epa.gov.

CONTENTS BY SECTION

- I. Funding Opportunity Description
- II. Award Information
- III. Eligibility Information
- IV. Application and Submission Information
- V. Application Review Information
- VI. Award Administration Information
- VII. Agency Contacts
- VIII. Other Information
- IX. Appendices

Chart on CFDA's, Statutory Authority, Eligible Activities and Recipients pp.28-29
Instructions for Proposal Submittal through www.grants.gov pp.30-32

Section I - Funding Opportunity Description.

A. Background.

For 2007-2008 Regional Environmental Priority Projects (REPP) funding, EPA Region 4 is soliciting proposals for projects that will address the regional and state strategic environmental priorities, as identified in this solicitation. Region 4 will provide financial assistance for projects selected under this solicitation through grants or cooperative agreements. These projects will protect human health or protect, improve, or restore community or ecosystem health, or improve environmental management across the Southeast. The projects should bridge gaps between national program funding and regional environmental and health needs and allow for demonstration of innovative tools, technologies, or approaches to environmental concerns and challenges. The Region's long term goal in directing this funding to external groups is to help the Region, states, tribes, local governments, and communities address priority areas and issues that are complex and widespread across the Region; present a significant threat to ecosystems and communities; and/or improve environmental management.

Region 4 strongly encourages applicants to request funding for projects that identify opportunities for collaboration and leveraging of additional funding and resources (in-kind services). All selected projects must focus on specific, measurable environmental or human health protection outcomes. The performance measures should be specific, quantitative and/or qualitative related to project goals and objectives and outputs and outcomes. This funding cannot be used for routine implementation. Region 4 will fund demonstrations or pilots of innovative technologies, tools, or approaches to restoring community health or improving the environment.

For 2007-2008 funding, the Region is seeking projects that address the following environmental priorities: 1) sustainable agricultural practices; 2) children's health protection; 3) environmental excellence models and approaches, including source reduction; 4) reduced exposures to PM2.5 and air toxics, 5) improved water quality on a watershed basis; and/or 6) Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC) demonstrations and pilots, particularly in the areas of municipal solid waste recycling, industrial materials recycling, and priority and toxic chemical reduction. Proposals submitted under this solicitation must relate directly to one or more of these priorities and focus on pilots, demonstrations, studies, and/or investigations rather than routine implementation. See Section III D 3 on requirements for more information on the kind of projects Region 4 seeks to fund under each priority.

Proposed projects must incorporate two or more of the following approaches: 1) place- or sector-based, 2) multi-media, 3) collaborative problem solving with appropriate partners or leveraging of additional resources or funds to sustain project, and/or 4) fostering stewardship. EPA's definition of stewardship is: "Environmental stewardship is the responsibility for environmental quality shared by all those whose actions affect the environment." See Section III D 4 for additional details on these strategic approaches.

This is the third REPP funding opportunity. For the 2005 solicitation, the Region received 75 proposals totaling \$4,955,314. Region 4 selected six projects with total funding of \$355,502.

The Region received 43 proposals in response to the 2006 request for proposals totaling \$2,890,100 and selected eight projects totaling \$565,128. Therefore, Region 4 expects the 2007 solicitation to be highly competitive also. Past EPA or Region 4 funding is not a guarantee of future funding. Funds for each fiscal year will be competed separately. Projects funded in the past can be found on the EPA Region 4 website at

http://r4web1.r04.epa.gov:9876/internet/testsite/programs/RGI_R4_Highlights.pdf. The Region selected the following projects under the 2006-2007 solicitation:

- Simplified EMS for Swine Farms (NC P2 Environmental Assistance)
- Compliance Assessment and EMS Assistance (GA Tech Research Corporation)
- Break the Cycle of Environmental Health Disparities in Vulnerable Children (Emory University Southeast Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit)
- Enhancement of Watershed Protection Measures in Karst Region of Pleasant Grove Creek, Kentucky (Austin Peay State University)
- Advancing Environmental Performance through Integrated Stewardship of Local Officials and Development Community (Cumberland River Compact)
- Healthy Energy Efficient Homes (Southface Energy Institute)
- Green Vacation Green Home Model Demonstration Project (TN DEC)
- Enhance Water Quality and Farm Profits Demonstration Project for Site-Specific Nematicide Placement (Clemson University)

B. Linkage of Anticipated REPP Projects to Strategic Plan and Expected Outputs and Environmental Outcomes*

EPA Region 4's environmental priorities directly support goals and objectives identified in EPA's Strategic Plan's (<http://www.epa.gov/ocfopage/plan/plan.htm>). Projects funded under this announcement support Clean Air (Goal 1), particularly Objective 1 on Healthier Outdoor Air and Objective 2 on Healthier Indoor Air; Clean and Safe Water (Goal 2), Sub-Objectives 2.2.1 Improve Water Quality on a Watershed Basis; Objectives 1 and 2 to Preserve Land and Restore Land under Land Preservation and Restoration (Goal 3); Healthy Communities and Ecosystems (Goal 4), particularly Objective 4.2, Restore Community Health; Compliance and Environmental Stewardship (Goal 5), particularly Objective 5.2, Improve Environmental Performance Through Pollution Prevention and Innovation; and several cross-goal strategies. In addition, REPP funding is intended to encourage the cross-cutting initiatives of collaboration and stewardship. The strategic goal and objective supported by each award will be determined based on the project. **The chart on pages 28-29 provides additional information on specific goals related to each CFDA.*

C. Examples of Project Outputs and Environmental Outcomes

In compliance with EPA Order 5700.7 on environmental results, all selected projects must address outputs and outcomes and how these will be tracked and measured. "Outputs" refers to environmental activities and work products that contribute to producing environmental outcomes. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during the funding period. "Outcomes" refer to the results, effects, or consequences that will occur from carrying out environmental activities. Outcomes may be environmental, health-related, behavioral, or programmatic in nature but must be quantitative. All outcomes may not be achieved during the project period because some are intermediate and others are longer term. Intermediate outcomes are those that aid the accomplishment of end outcomes, which are the desired end or ultimate

results of a project or program. Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation must identify and describe outputs and both intermediate and end outcomes, to the extent applicable to the project. Examples of expected appropriate outputs and outcomes are provided below for each regional environmental priority for which an award might be made. *Note: EPA recognizes that for many REPP projects, measurable outcomes may take longer than the projected two-year project period.*

Examples of outputs for sustainable agriculture projects to be awarded under this announcement include, but are not limited to:

- educational training or outreach materials for growers or producers
- demonstration or pilot of low-cost technologies
- development of a technique, technology or tool and/or assessment of its effectiveness
- templates or start-up kits for environmental management systems
- final project report outlining methods, tools, techniques, strategies, and/or pilot results
- seminars or on-site field training

Anticipated outcomes for sustainable agriculture include, but are not limited to:

- increased number of growers or producers using methods, tools, techniques, strategies,
- quantitative and qualitative benefits to human health or the environment
- partnerships formed to transfer technologies or implement programs or to leverage funds from other sources for such transfer or implementation
- pounds of waste reduced and water and energy conserved

Examples of outputs for projects focusing on children's health awarded under this announcement include, but are not limited to:

- final project report that documents activities and quantifies results
- educational, training, or outreach materials
- promotion and establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships/collaborations
- identification of areas and sources posing highest risks and action plan for reducing risk

Anticipated outcomes for projects focusing on children's health include, but are not limited to:

- reduction in chronic health disorders, illness, learning disabilities, or mortality
- improvements in physical, behavioral, or social functioning
- reduction in environmental health or safety risks affecting children
- reduction in children's exposure to environmental contaminants

Examples of outputs environmental excellence projects include, but are not limited to:

- identification and development of beyond-compliance strategies or approaches
- beyond-compliance strategies or approaches
- templates or start-up kits for environmental management systems
- seminars or sector-based meetings focusing on improving environmental performance
- sustainable partnerships and collaborations for improving environmental performance

Anticipated outcomes for environmental excellence projects awarded under this announcement include, but are not limited to:

- reductions in water and/or energy use, waste generated or disposed, or air emissions
- increases in waste material recycled or reclaimed

- increases in use of reclaimed materials
- increases in acres of land protected or conserved

Examples of outputs for projects focusing on reducing exposure to particulate matter and air toxics awarded under this announcement include, but are not limited to:

- promotion and establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships/collaborations
- identification of local areas and sources posing the highest risk for affected populations
- educational, training, or outreach materials for affected populations
- development of state or local capacities to address issues associated with exposure
- development of methods to measure results

Anticipated outcomes for projects reducing exposure to particulate matter and air toxics include, but are not limited to:

- quantification of risks reduced through collaborative action at the local level
- development of a comprehensive understanding of sources of risk and priority setting

Examples of outputs for water quality projects to be awarded under this announcement include, but are not limited to:

- stormwater abatement or treatment techniques demonstrations
- land development or buffer ordinances
- procedures for on-the-ground pathogen source identification
- procedures for inclusion of source water protection measures in state or local government comprehensive plans
- incorporation of volunteer monitoring results into state data
- tools kits for septic tank maintenance and replacement programs
- monitoring procedures and BMPs to document measurable results

Examples of anticipated outcomes for water quality projects include, but are not limited to:

- removal of an impairment cause on a 303(d) listed stream
- changes in land use policy and/or building codes
- achieving specific natural resource goals of the area's watershed plan
- adoption of piloted techniques or procedures by appropriate local entities
- replication of piloted techniques or procedures in other watersheds

Examples of anticipated outputs for Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC) projects awarded under this announcement include, but are not limited to:

- educational training or outreach materials
- demonstration or pilot of an innovative approach
- methods, tools, techniques, strategies, and/or results of demonstration projects
- sustainable partnerships and collaborations for improving environmental performance
- analysis of barriers and recommended solutions

Examples of anticipated outcomes for RCC projects include, but are not limited to:

- increase in tons/pounds of municipal solid waste recycling, diversion from landfills, and an increase in the rate of participation

- quantitative and qualitative environmental and human health benefits, including the impact on public perception and behavior
- dollars saved through technology and/or tools, creation of jobs or other economic development
- reductions in priority chemicals and BTUs of energy conserved
- amount of materials conserved

D. Applicable Statutory Authority and Corresponding Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers.*

The REPP assistance agreements will use multiple statutory authorities depending on the nature of the selected projects. EPA will determine the appropriate CFDA number and statutory authority for each successful proposal. Successful applicants will ensure that the final application is consistent with the appropriate statutory authority and CFDA. The statutory authorities and CFDA numbers that may apply are listed below. Additional information on CFDAs can be found online by searching the EPA portion at www.gsa.gov/fdac. **The chart on pages 28-29 of this announcement contains relevant information on CFDAs and related authorities.*

1. Clean Air Act, Section 103: CFDA 66.034 for related studies, investigations, and demonstration projects on air quality or community air toxics; CFDA 66.609 for protection of health in children and older adults; CFDA 66.611 for innovation and environmental policy; and CFDA 66.717 for source reduction assistance.
2. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3): CFDA 66.436 for related surveys, studies, investigations, demonstrations, and training; CFDA 66.609 for protection of health in children and older adults; CFDA 66.611 for innovation and environmental policy; and CFDA 66.717 for source reduction assistance.
3. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442: CFDA 66.424 for related studies and demonstration projects; CFDA 66.609 for protection of health in children and older adults; CFDA 66.611 for innovation and environmental policy; and CFDA 66.717 for source reduction assistance and Section 1443 (???)
4. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001: CFDA 66.609 for protection of health in children and older adults; CFDA 66.611 for innovation and environmental policy; and CFDA 66.717 for source reduction assistance.
5. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a): CFDA 66.609 for protection of health in children and older adults; CFDA 66.611 for innovation and environmental policy; and CFDA 66.717 for source reduction assistance.
6. Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Action, Section 20: CFDA 66.609 for protection of health in children and older adults; CFDA 66.611 for innovation and environmental policy; and CFDA 66.717 for source reduction assistance.
7. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, Sections 104 and 311: CFDA 66.609 for protection of health in children and older adults.

Section II - Award Information.

A. Available Funding.

The total estimated funding expected to be available for awards under this competitive opportunity is approximately \$500,000. EPA Region 4 reserves the right to reject all proposals, if none meet the criteria satisfactorily, and make no awards under this solicitation. The Agency reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement, consistent with Agency policy, if additional funding becomes available after the original selections are made. Any additional selections for awards made without further notice or competition will be no later than six (6) months after the date of the original selection decisions.

B. Type of Awards.

Assistance may be available through a grant or a cooperative agreement. A cooperative agreement will be used only if a selected project requires substantial involvement, participation, or collaboration between EPA Region 4 and the recipient during the performance of the project work plan. The substantial involvement required might be joint participation in conferences or other events, collaboration on specific activities under the award as requested by the recipient, or provision of specific EPA technical assistance, as requested by the recipient. If applicable, EPA involvement will be formally documented in the work plan and a condition will be added in the award agreement. EPA Region 4 will monitor the recipient's performance on both grants and cooperative agreements to ensure accountability of Federal funding, outcomes, and environmental results.

C. Number of Assistance Agreements and Funding Range Anticipated.

The number of awards expected to be made under this solicitation will depend on individual project costs, but it is estimated that between approximately six and nine awards will be made under this announcement, with an estimated average award range between \$15,000 and \$75,000. All awards are subject to the availability of funds and the quality and nature of the proposals submitted.

D. Project Period for Awards Resulting from this Solicitation.

The estimated project period for awards resulting from this solicitation is March 1, 2008 through February 28, 2010, as appropriate to the project, with the possibility of no more than a one-year no-cost time extension.

E. Pre-Proposal Assistance and Subsequent Communication.

- In accordance with EPA's Assistance Agreement Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1), EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants to discuss draft proposals, provide informal comments on draft proposals, or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to ranking criteria. However, EPA will respond to questions **via e-mail** at winter.betty@epa.gov **or fax** at (404) 562-8269 regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the proposal, and requests for clarification about the announcement prior to September 10, 2007.

- EPA will post responses on the EPA Region 4 website on the Grants webpage with the original announcement at <http://www.epa.gov/region4/financial/grants.html> when responses are provided to individuals.

- EPA reserves the right to amend this solicitation as deemed necessary. Amendments could be administrative in nature (e.g., change of dates), technical (e.g., change in requirements) or changes which affect the anticipated funding. If this solicitation is amended, EPA will post the amendment at <http://www.grants.gov> and at <http://www.epa.gov/region4/financial/grants.html>.

F. Partial Funding.

EPA Region 4 reserves the right to partially fund proposals by funding discrete activities, portions, or phases of a proposed project. If the Region partially funds a proposal, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the proposal, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected for award, and that maintains the integrity of the competition and the evaluation/selection process.

Section III - Eligibility Information.

A. Eligible Applicants.*

Entities eligible to receive EPA funding under this announcement vary according to the requirements of each grant program and CFDA number. **The chart on pages 28-29 specifies eligible applicants for each CFDA number included in this solicitation.*

Non-profit organizations that have a 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code or meet the definition in OMB Circular A-122 are eligible under this funding opportunity. That Circular defines a non-profit as “any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other organization which:

- (1) is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest;
- (2) is not organized primarily for profit; and
- (3) uses its net proceeds to maintain, improve, and/or expand its operations.

Non-profit organizations having status under 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and/or that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply for this funding opportunity.

Other federal agencies, private individuals, and for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply for federal assistance under this announcement.

B. Projects and Activities Eligible for Funding.

Proposed projects submitted for consideration under this announcement must address at least one environmental priority discussed under Section III.D below. Proposed projects that do not address at least one 2007 Region 4 environmental priority and at least two strategic approaches listed in Section III.D will not be considered for funding under this announcement. The proposal

narrative must explain how the proposal meets these criteria for the proposal to be eligible for consideration. EPA will notify submitters within 15 days of a determination of ineligibility.

Routine implementation projects that lack innovative or demonstration elements will not be funded under this announcement.* A demonstration must involve new or experimental technologies, methods, or approaches and include transferability and dissemination of the results of the project so others can benefit from the knowledge gained in the demonstration project. A project that is accomplished through the performance of routine, traditional, or established practices or is simply intended to carry out a task rather than transfer information or advance the state of knowledge, however worthwhile the project might be, will not be funded under this solicitation.

Projects must also meet relevant statutory authority or authorities. Proposed projects that cannot be funded under at least one relevant statutory authority will not be considered for award under this announcement. **The general types of projects eligible for funding are shown below and a complete list of eligible activities can be found on the chart on pages 28-29.*

1. Surveys, studies, investigations, demonstrations, and special purpose activities under *Section 103, Clean Air Act; Sections 1442 or 1443, Safe Drinking Water Act; Section 104(b)(3), Clean Water Act; Section 8001, Solid Waste Disposal Act; Section 10, Toxic Substances Control Act; Section 20, Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; and Sections 104(k)(6) and 311, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).*
2. Water quality management and/or source water protection planning
3. Training or technical assistance on innovative techniques, tools, approaches, or models
4. Analyses, studies, evaluations, and conferences leading to reduced pollutants generated and conservation of natural resources
5. Economic information and analytic methods to support studies, surveys, analyses, evaluations, conferences, or demonstration projects on the benefits, costs, and impacts of environmental programs
6. Innovative activities which assist in reducing hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants entering waste streams or otherwise released into the environment

In general, EPA funds may be used to pay for personnel, fringe benefits, travel expenses, outreach materials, supplies, and equipment (under \$5,000 within applicable limitations). Awardees cannot use federal funds to purchase land, vehicles or other capital equipment and cannot use federal funds to lobby or to complete work which was to have been done under a prior assistance agreement. Funding may be used to contract for services provided the recipient follows procurement and sub-award or sub-grant procedures contained in 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as applicable. Other federal assistance agreement funding cannot be used to provide required matching funds for this project nor can funding under this project be used for match for any other federal assistance.

Note: Routine project implementation (routine restoration or mitigation measures, regulatory compliance, land acquisition, recreational features, or completion of work begun or designed under a prior assistance agreement) cannot be funded under this funding opportunity. Projects with a source reduction focus will be given preference

over abatement and control. Demonstration projects which also achieve geographic implementation goals are not prohibited, and are in fact, encouraged.

C. Matching fund Requirements.

Applicants must provide matching funds of 5 percent of the total project costs for projects funded under CFDA 66.717, Source Reduction. However, voluntary match and leveraging of funds and in-kind services is encouraged. Leveraging is one of the proposal evaluation ranking criteria listed in Section V of this solicitation. Please note that applicants are not required to match leveraged funds and resources and are not required to be included in total project costs on application budget forms.

D. Eligibility Requirements.

Threshold Eligibility Criteria: To be eligible for funding consideration under this announcement, applicant proposals must meet all of the following threshold criteria by the time of proposal submission. Failure to meet such criteria will result in the disqualification of the proposal for funding consideration. Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration as a result of the threshold eligibility review will be notified within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination. The Threshold Eligibility Criteria for this solicitation are:

1. Proposals must substantially comply with the submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV of this announcement. Proposals seeking funding for routine implementation will not be funded under this opportunity.
2. Proposed projects must provide measurable results in protecting human health or the environment in at least one of states in the Region 4 geographic area which includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee or on Tribal lands in Region 4.
3. Proposed projects must include measurable results in protecting human health or the environment in at least one of the following 2007-2008 regional environmental priority areas. Preference shall be given to approaches that prevent or reduce pollution, whenever feasible. Projects in the priority areas based on source reduction will receive priority over those based on abatement or control.
 - **Pilot, demonstrate, and/or study Sustainable Agriculture Practices** – Sustainable agriculture projects should focus on: 1) Using animal waste or by-products to produce energy for use locally, 2) demonstrating economically feasible technology to reduce the nitrogen or phosphorus content of the animal waste stream, 3) demonstrating technology that provides a closed-loop system and reduces dependence on liquid waste structures and/or spray fields, 4) demonstrating technologies that reduce odors or particulates from livestock operations, 5) developing an environmental management system for an agricultural operation; or 6) demonstrating how greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural operations can be reduced.

• **Protect Children’s Health** – projects that build state, tribal, and local capacity to address children’s environmental health concerns and demonstrate, pilot and/or study methods and approaches to prevent and reduce environmental health and safety threats faced by children. This includes demonstrating ways to to implement the Healthy School Environmental Assessment Tool (SEAT), developing, piloting and/or making available a free software tool developed by EPA to help school districts voluntarily evaluate and manage their school facilities to address environmental, health and safety issues. For more information and to download Healthy SEAT, visit <http://www.epa.gov/schools>. Children’s environmental health hazards may include: 1) air pollutants, both indoor and ambient; 2) toxic chemicals, such as lead, mercury, arsenic, organochlorines such as polychlorinated biphenyls, and dioxins; 3) endocrine disruptors; 4) environmental tobacco smoke; 5) ultraviolet radiation; 6) water pollution; 7) brominated flame retardants; 8) radon; 9) carbon monoxide; 10) asbestos; and 11) improperly managed school laboratory chemicals. Proposals must include at least one education, outreach and specific intervention activity that achieves measurable environmental and public health results. Funding is not available for waste management costs or routine implementation.

• **Promote Environmental Excellence in Private and Public Sectors** – projects that focus on 1) identification and development of beyond-compliance strategies or approaches, including, but not limited to, construction and demolition debris reuse area, green building and sustainable building practices, and organic material reduction or reuse; 2) transfer of beyond-compliance strategies or approaches to facilities within the same or similar sectors; 3) creation of templates or start-up kits for sector-based environmental management systems; or 4) improving environmental management processes used by state or local environmental regulatory agencies.

• **Reducing Exposure to PM2.5 and Air Toxics** – projects that contribute to reducing exposures to PM2.5 and air toxics should focus on: 1) developing and testing communication and outreach strategies on health issues resulting from, and risk avoidance of, PM2.5 and air toxics exposures (e.g., creation and testing of education kits for schools, health care providers, and local governments, or developing for broadcast public service announcements); 2) developing and testing area-source sector-based education packages that demonstrate to business owners the economic, environmental, and worker health benefits of PM2.5 and air toxics pollution prevention activities; 3) demonstration of innovative activities to promote reducing exposures to indoor air toxics in public or commercial buildings or private residences; 4) evaluating activities to reduce PM2.5 emissions from area sources; and 5) demonstration of methods to promote activities to reduce diesel emissions from existing engines and equipment from the both on-road and off-road sources in the agriculture, construction, freight, ports, airports, and school bus sectors (activities eligible for funding under EPA’s clean diesel program or related programs are not eligible for funding under this solicitation).

- **Improve Water Quality on a Watershed Basis** – projects that demonstrate, pilot, or investigate methods and approaches for improving water quality should focus on one or more of the following activities in Region 4 “Priority Watersheds:” 1) piloting, demonstrating, or investigating innovative land use techniques, green development, and/or water quality trading; or 2) demonstrating or piloting established, inclusively-derived, scientifically credible restoration plans to complement on-going regional and state efforts.

- **Focus on the Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC)** – projects that demonstrate ways to implement the following RCC pillars: municipal solid waste recycling, industrial materials recycling, and priority and toxic chemical reduction through pilots, demonstrations, or investigations. As of May 23, 2007, over 500 mayors representing over 65 million Americans accepted the challenge U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection agreement and commitments. Waste management has a significant role in addition to energy and transportation in meeting this challenge and commitment. Priority for RCC projects will be given to proposals that fit into one or more of the below targeted categories:

- 1) Schools: outreach, training and technical assistance to elementary/secondary systems and/or college/university systems to establish new or expand existing recycling and/or school chemical management programs;

- 2) Municipal officials: toolkit and outreach, workshops, training and/or technical assistance for municipal officials in establishing new or expanding existing recycling programs focused on increasing collections and participation that promote the key messages of recycling: recycling strengthens the environment through resource conservation, energy savings and greenhouse gas reduction and strengthens the economy by creating jobs, using vendors and manufacturing products, and strengthens communities quality of life. Identifies solutions to contractual and institutional barriers to recycling (agreement duration, local contract procedures, legal language or relationship, etc.) and how to craft win-win solutions for all parties (haulers/municipal recycling facilities/operators, etc.).

- 3) Various Venues: sustainable food waste collection or diversion pilot or demonstration projects [Possible venues might be schools, restaurants, hospitals, or entertainment events];

- 4) Small-to-Medium Businesses: demonstration of effective and integrated sustainable environmental management approach that provides for the identification and development of sustainable practices and measurements that will result in increased recycling participation and collection;

- 5) Municipalities: develop a tool or calculator to evaluate various scenarios baselined on current households served, participation rates, materials collected,

program costs (and revenues), garbage tipping fee, and cost per ton and provides for modeled analysis of changes such as participation rates or materials and collection practices. Tool will require common factors, such as how much more tonnage (or lbs per household) can a community expect if they add mixed paper, commingled versus separation program collections, cart programs versus bins, weekly versus bi-weekly, and etc. The outputs should include the change in cost (revenue) per ton, lbs per household, greenhouse gas reductions and energy saved. One outcome of this tool would be to start standardizing the methodologies the broader recycling community is using;

6) Yard Waste: pilot a sustainable yard waste recycling or composting program

7) Green Building Initiatives: reliable education program(s), outreach initiatives and workshops that promote material conservation and support encouraging Green Building initiatives, use and encourage recycling of construction and demolition material and reuse of industrial materials;

8) Economic or Regulatory Barriers: evaluate or demonstrate utilization of coal combustion products and/or foundry sand, in lieu of virgin materials, in construction, transportation or other beneficial reuse applications based on solving economic and/or regulatory barrier(s);

9) Secondary Material Handling: examine and/or evaluate current secondary material handling practices and recommend best management practices (BMPs) in the fields of automobile disassembly, scrap metal handling, with an emphasis on cleaning the scrap metal supply to the iron & steel sector.

10) CFL: pilot a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) collection program in a retail environment or in a municipal collection program for the recycling of mercury and metals from CFLs for the consumer marketplace

11) Biosolids and Organic Materials: pilot or demonstrate the sustainable use of biosolids and organic (compost) material for beneficial use in highway and transportation projects consistent with the proposed Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG).

4. Proposed projects must use two or more of the following approaches, and the proposal must clearly explain how the approach is relevant to or integrated into the project.

• **Place- or sector-based Approach:** Projects may use a place- or a sector-based approach to address a regional environmental priority. The place can be urban or rural, a watershed or airshed, coasts or highlands, river corridors or transportation corridors, or any other geographic unit/area. The issue and approach can be local (neighborhoods to watersheds) or state-wide, interstate, ecosystem-wide, or on a regional scale. The proposal should clearly define the place or sector to be

addressed by the project and how this focus will promote environmental improvement. *Please note: For place-based projects, proposals must include a map of the project area.*

• **Multi-media Approach:** Projects may address contamination or pollution by using a joint approach to several environmental media (e.g., air, water, and land).

• **Collaborative Problem Solving and/or Leveraging Approach:** Participation of stakeholders and partners is encouraged at all stages of project development and implementation. Proposal should discuss the likelihood of the proposed project being adopted or continued after EPA funds are no longer available. Leveraging of additional resources (non-federal funding or in-kind services) is strongly encouraged. Applicants may use their own funds or in-kind resources for match, if the standards of 40 CFR 30.23 or 40 CFR 31.24, as applicable, are met. Only eligible and allowable costs may be used for match. Other Federal grants may not be used as match or cost share without specific statutory authority (e.g. HUD's Community Development Block Grants may be used for match.)

• **Stewardship Approach:** Project emphasis may encourage and develop partnerships, market incentives, recognition and leadership awards, pollution prevention, environmental education, technical assistance, information, and collaborative problem solving resulting in environmental stewardship – where multiple sectors and groups in a community actively take responsibility to improve environmental quality and achieve sustainable results. EPA's definition of stewardship is: "Environmental stewardship is the responsibility for environmental quality shared by all those whose actions affect the environment."

Section IV - Proposal Submission and Application Information.

A. Announcement Dates and Deadlines

1. Solicitation Announcement Posted: July 23, 2007
2. Proposal Submission Deadline: Complete proposals must be received by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on September 10, 2007 via U.S. Postal Service or commercial delivery or submitted electronically at <http://www.grants.gov>.
3. Tentative estimated date for Notification of Award Selection or Non-Selection: December 31, 2007
Tentative estimated date for Final Awards: March 1, 2008.

B. Submission Requirements.

1. Submission Options

Please note that you may choose to apply under this announcement in one of two ways. If you wish to apply with a hard copy submission, please follow the instructions outlined in paragraph a below. If you wish to apply electronically via Grants.gov, please follow the appropriate instructions under “Electronic Submission” in paragraph b below. EPA encourages applicants to submit proposal materials electronically through <http://www.grants.gov>.

a. Hard Copy

The address for the submittal of hard copy proposals and/or Letters of Commitment and/or Support is:

Betty Winter, REPP Coordinator
Environmental Protection Agency Region 4
Mail Room – 9th Floor Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

b. Electronic Submission

To apply electronically via Grants.gov, the submission of must be made by an official representative of the submitting institution/organization who is registered with Grants.gov and authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. For more information, go to <http://www.grants.gov>, and click on “Get Registered” on the left side of the page. Note that the registration process may take a week or longer to complete. To meet the submission deadline, an organization not currently registered with Grants.gov should designate an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) immediately and have that individual to begin the registration process immediately.

To begin the proposal submittal process under this announcement, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Apply for Grants” tab on the left side of the page. Then click on “Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Instructions” to download the PureEdge viewer and obtain the application package and instructions for submitting your proposal under this announcement using grants.gov. Retrieve the application package and instructions by entering the Funding Opportunity Number, EPA-R4-OPM-07-01, in the space provided. Then complete and submit the application package as indicated. Access to the application package can also be obtained by clicking on the button “How To Apply” at the top right of the synopsis page for this announcement on <http://www.grants.gov> (to find the synopsis page, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Find Grant Opportunities” button on the left side of the page and then go to Search Opportunities and use the Browse by Agency feature and select Environmental Protection Agency). Proposal materials submitted electronically will be time/date stamped electronically. Please be sure to view the additional instructions for submitting proposals or applications electronically for federal

grants at www.grants.gov and in Attachment A to this announcement. Please refer to <http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp> for further help when submitting proposals on line at www.grants.gov.

2. **Proposal Format and Content Requirements.**

The proposal shall include a typewritten narrative containing the elements described below. Typewritten pages shall have one-inch margins on all sides and use a 12-point font. In the narrative, applicants must provide appropriate documentation and address each evaluation criteria found in section V of this announcement.

a. **Cover Page/Signature** (not in 10-page limit and not numbered)

ORGANIZATION: *Must include the following:*

- Name of Organization
- Complete Mailing Address
- Telephone & Telefax Numbers & E-mail Address
- Type of Organization (from Section III A),
- Tax Status and ID (if applicable)
- Project Manager

PROJECT TITLE: Descriptive Title (recommended ten words or less)

PROJECT FOCUS:

- State or States (Section III D 2)
- Regional Environmental Priority (Section III D 3)
- Strategic Approach (Section III D 4) -- *Please note: For place-based projects, proposals must include a map of the project area.*
- Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) for watershed place-based projects (can be found at Surf Your Watershed on the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/surf> .

TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING:

- Federal Funds Requested
- Recipient Match (cash or in-kind) and/or
- Leveraged Funds (cash or in-kind)

ABSTRACT/PROJECT SUMMARY: 50 words or less

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: (original or electronic signature by the submitter's Executive Director or equivalent or Authorized Organization Representative (AOR))

I certify that all information included in this proposal is true and accurate.

Signature

Date

Typed or Printed Name and Title

b. **Narrative (10-page limit in 12-point font)** – Applicants must include documentation on each evaluation criteria in section V of this announcement.

(1) Project Description

- (a) brief description of environmental or human health issue(s) being addressed (need for project);
- (b) Explanation of how at least one regional priority is to be addressed by proposed project as required in Section III D 3 and at least two approaches required in III D 4 will be used in accomplishing project goal(s)
- (c) explanation of the transferability of the project and/or approach to similar situations or areas
- (d) explanation of how project promotes source reduction, if applicable EPA Region 4 will give preference to approaches that prevent or reduce pollution, rather than abatement and control, whenever feasible.
- (e) clear statement of project goal or goals and the specific strategies and specific activities for accomplishing each
- (f) environmental or health results to be achieved by the proposed project

NOTE: Children's health proposals as required in III D 5 above must include an explanation of at least one education, outreach, and specific intervention activity to achieve environmental or health results.

(2) Capability Documentation

(a) Environmental Results Past Performance: Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than 5, and preferably EPA agreements), and describe how you documented and/or reported on whether you were making progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements. If you were not making progress, please indicate whether, and how, you documented why not. In evaluating applicants under this factor in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If your organization does not have any relevant or available environmental results past performance information, please indicate this in the proposal and the proposal will receive a neutral score for this factor under Section V.

(b) Programmatic Capability: Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than five, and preferably EPA agreements) and describe (i) whether, and how, you were able to successfully complete and manage those agreements and (ii) your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including submitting acceptable final technical reports. In evaluating applicants under these factors in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and

from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If your organization does not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and the proposal will receive a neutral score for these factors under Section V.

(c) In addition, provide information on organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.

- (3) Performance Evaluation – Each proposal must include an explanation of the evaluation methodology to be used to track and measure the effectiveness of the project and the environmental or health results to be achieved by the project. The methodology should include quantitative and qualitative measures, such as survey results, attitude or behavior change, environmental data, observation, or other methods for evaluating how well the activities conducted met the project objectives.
- (4) Leveraging – Leveraging of additional funds and/or resources (cash or in-kind services) is strongly encouraged, but is not required. Discuss (i) how the applicant will coordinate the use of EPA funding with other Federal and/or non-Federal funding or resources (in-kind) to leverage additional resources to sustain or complete the project, and/or (ii) that EPA funding will compliment activities relevant to the proposed project to be carried out by the applicant with other sources of funds or resources (in-kind). Attach letters of support with specific commitments (funds or in-kind services) from sources other than the recipient; (iii) where appropriate, EPA will also consider the likelihood of the project being implemented or continuing after EPA funds are gone.

Note: Applicants may use their own fund or in-kind resources from other sources for match, if required, if the standards of 40 CFR 30.23 or 40 CFR 31.24, as applicable, are met. Only eligible and allowable costs may be used for match or cost shares. Other Federal grants may not be used as match or cost share without specific statutory authority (e.g. HUD's Community Development Block Grants.) Also note that leveraged funds may be used to sustain or complete the overall geographic environmental objectives and may not be a part of the total project funding.

- (5) Schedule – List of milestones to accomplish goal or goals with start and complete dates or estimates, major tasks, outputs, including Progress Reports (semi-annual and project end) -- can use actual dates or just Month 1, 2, 3 in chart or table
- (6) Budget – Include table shown on page 20 to explain how Federal funds will be used effectively to achieve goals and environmental outcomes with

PROPOSED PROJECT BUDGET TABLE – REQUIRED				
Budget Category	Federal Funds Requested	Matching Funds or In-Kind (non-Federal, if any)	Total Funds and In-Kind Resources	Explanation of how expenditure contributes to achieving the project goal
Salaries and Benefits				
Travel				
Equipment (under \$5000)				
Supplies and Materials				
Contractual Services				
Other (e.g. printing or distribution)				
Indirect Cost Rate (___ %)				
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS	\$	\$	\$	

sufficient detail on appropriateness of expenses to project goal or goals and what other funds and/or resources (in-kind) will be available to accomplish project goal or goals. Leveraged funds should be noted under the Comment Section by the Total Project Funding but should not be included in total project costs.

*Notes: 1) Leveraged funds do not require matching and do not need to be shown in the budget table.
2) Foreign travel, land, construction, and vehicle purchases are not allowable expenses under this funding opportunity.*

C. Application Package (for successful proposals moving forward to the next level of consideration).

Proposals selected for award will require submission of a complete application package, which is available on line at www.grants.gov or for downloading from EPA Region 4's Grants website at http://www.epa.gov/region4/grants/application_forms_and_attachments.htm or may be submitted electronically through www.grants.gov. Successful applicants who submitted proposals via www.grants.gov and already submitted the SF 424 must submit another SF 424 along with all other required forms and the work plan. EPA Region 4 will also provide instructions for hardcopy or electronic submission to applicants selected for this next level of consideration. The tentative date for receipt of complete application packages from applicants whose proposals are selected for the next level of review will be approximately February 1, 2008. See Section VII for Agency Contact for further information on application submissions.

D. Additional Submission Information

Multiple Proposals from a Single Applicant

A submitter may submit more than one proposal under this announcement.

Confidential Business Information

In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of a proposal/application as confidential business information by clearly marking them. EPA will evaluate confidentiality claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c)(2) prior to disclosure.

Section V - Proposal Review Information.

A. Evaluation Criteria.

EPA Region 4 staff will evaluate each eligible proposal (determined by the threshold eligibility review described in Section III D) according to the criteria set forth below. **Submitters should directly and explicitly address these criteria as part of the proposal submittal.** Each proposal will be rated under a points system, with a total of 100 points possible.

Note: EPA Region 4 will give preference to approaches that prevent or reduce pollution, rather than abatement and control, and projects that are transferable, whenever feasible.

Note: In evaluating applicants under Evaluation Criteria 2 on page 2, reviewers may consider the information provided by the applicant and also relevant information from other sources including agency files and from prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance reporting history or programmatic capability history will receive a neutral score for this factor.

<u>Proposal Criteria</u>	<u>Weight</u>
<p>1. <u>Project Description</u></p> <p>The extent and quality to which the proposal clearly demonstrates the need for the project, addressing at least one environmental or health issue(s); how the project will address at least one Region 4 priority; which strategic approaches will be used to meet project goals (and map of the project area for place-based projects); the transferability of project or approach to other similar situations or other areas; explanation of how project promotes source reduction, if applicable; project goals and the strategies to meet the goals and specific activities to be conducted; and the outputs and environmental results to be achieved by the project</p>	25 points
<p>2. <u>Capability</u></p> <p><i>Environmental Results Past Performance:</i> Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they adequately documented and/or reported on progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outcomes and outputs) under Federal agency assistance agreements performed within the last three years, and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately documented and/or reported why not. <i>(See note on p. 21)</i></p> <p><i>Programmatic Capability:</i> Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on their ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project taking into account the following factors: (i) its past performance in successfully completing and managing federally funded assistance agreements similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last 3 years, (ii) its history of meeting reporting requirements under federally funded assistance agreements similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last 3 years and submitting acceptable final technical reports under those agreements, (iii) organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and (iv) its staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project. <i>(See note on p. 21)</i></p>	20 points

Proposal Criteria

Weight

3. Performance Evaluation

20 points

The extent and quality to which the proposal describes a clear method and plan for measuring progress toward achieving expected project outputs and environmental or health results. The plan will be evaluated on the effectiveness

for tracking and measuring progress toward achieving expected outputs and results. Performance measures should be qualitative as well as quantitative to the extent possible.

4. Leveraging

10 points

The extent and quality to which the proposal explains (i) how the applicant will coordinate the use of EPA funding with other Federal and/or non-Federal funding sources to leverage additional funding and/or resources (in-kind) to sustain and/or complete the project or to sustain or complete the overall geographic environmental objectives, and/or (ii) that EPA funding will compliment activities relevant to the proposed project(s) carried out by the applicant with other sources of funds or resources (in-kind) (iii) where appropriate, EPA will also consider the likelihood of the project being implemented or continuing after EPA funds are no longer available.

Note: Leveraging of additional funds is strongly encourage, but not required. Applicants may use their own funds or resources (in-kind) or those from non-federal organizations for matching funds if the standards of 40 CFR 30.23 or 40 CFR 31.24, as applicable are met. Only eligible and allowable costs may be used for required matches. Other Federal grants may not be used as match or cost share without specific statutory authority (e.g. HUD's Community Development Block Grants.)

5. Schedule, Outputs, and Outcomes

10 points

The extent and quality to which the proposal defines milestones and schedule for achieving measurable outputs and outcomes for project tasks specified in the project description

6. Budget

15 points

The extent and quality to which the proposal explains how federal funds will be used effectively to achieve project goal or goals and environmental outcomes and the reasonableness and cost effectiveness of estimated expenditures. Appropriateness of expenses to accomplishing project goal(s) and eligibility of expenses with sufficient detail to determine if EPA Region 4 will receive good return on the funding it is to provide to the project. Detail on how match and/or leveraged funds or resources (in-kind) will contribute to the project must be included and how well schedule indicates a well-thought-out plan for achieving project goals. The total costs

should include the federal and matching (non-federal) shares. Leveraged funds do not require match and are not required to be included in total project costs.

Total Evaluation Points 100 points

B. Review and Selection Process.

All proposals will first be reviewed for eligibility based on the threshold criteria listed in Section III of this announcement. The REPP Coordinator will make the threshold eligibility determination based on the Section III threshold factors.

Eligible proposals will then be evaluated by an EPA Region 4 review team consisting of managers and/or staff from a cross section of EPA programs (e.g., air, water, waste, compliance, Tribal/State partnerships, voluntary programs, children's health, pollution prevention, etc.). Proposals will be evaluated on each applicant's ability to meet the stated evaluation criteria in Section V.A of this announcement. Based on the results of the evaluation process, the review team will make funding recommendations to the Approving Official on the proposed projects, and the Approving Official will make the final selection decisions on award amounts and the number of awards. The Approval Official will make final selection decisions based on the scores and rankings each applicant received under the criteria in Section V.A, the review panel recommendations, and may also consider other factors such as geographical distribution, project diversity, programmatic diversity, and past funding decisions in final project selection. The selection process is expected to be competitive, so all quality proposals may not be funded.

Reviewers are required to sign a disclosure of conflict of interest form, and those with any unresolved conflicts will not be permitted to serve as reviewers.

The Region 4 REPP Coordinator with input from the review team will make the final determination regarding statutory authority and the appropriate CFDA listed in this solicitation under which funding will be awarded to the selected projects.

Section VI - Award Administration Information.

A. Award Notices.

1. EPA Region 4 anticipates that the proposal selection process may take from 90 to 120 days. The Agency will then notify successful proposal submitters to submit full applications and work plans. **That notification is not authorization to begin work on the project.** The award process can take up to 60 days from the date of submission of an approved application. Successful applicants should not begin work on projects until the grant award is signed by the applicant and returned to the Agency **because pre-award costs will not be approved.** The award notice signed by the EPA Regional Administrator is the only authorizing document and will be provided to the recipient through postal mail.

2. EPA anticipates notice to those deemed ineligible will be made within 15 days of the determination of ineligibility; notice to those not selected, within 15 days of final selection decisions. The notification will be sent to the original signer of the proposal.
3. The EPA Grant Award Officer is the only official that can bind the Agency to the expenditure of funds for selected projects resulting from this announcement.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

1. Projects selected for funding under this solicitation will require submission of detailed EPA Assistance Agreement Applications (Standard Form 424) before funding can be awarded.
2. A listing and description of general EPA Regulations applicable to the award of assistance agreements may be viewed at:
http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/applicable_epa_regulations_and_description.htm
3. **Intergovernmental Review.** All applications for this funding opportunity are subject to Executive Order (EO) 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.” Applicants must contact the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to find out how to comply with the State’s process for Intergovernmental Review. Names and addresses of SPOCs in each state are listed in the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB’s) home page at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html .
4. **Dun and Bradstreet Number.** Successful applicants must provide a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number when applying for federal assistance. Applicants can receive a DUNS number, at no cost, by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711, or visiting the D&B website at: www.dnb.com.
5. **Applicable OMB Circulars.** Assistance agreements with institutions of higher education are subject to 40 CFR Part 30 and 2 CFR Part 220 (formerly OMB Circular A-21). Assistance agreements with other non-profit organizations must comply with 40 CFR Part 30 and 2 CFR Part 230 (formerly A-122).
6. **Pre-Award Administrative Capability Review.** Non-profit applicants that are recommended for funding under this announcement are subject to pre-award administrative capability reviews consistent with Section 8b, 8c, and 9d of EPA Order 5700.8, Policy on Assessing Capabilities of Non-Profit Applicants for Managing Assistance Awards (www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700_8.pdf).
7. **Data Quality Requirements.** In projects involving environmental data generation or measurements, EPA assistance agreement recipients must implement or have implemented a quality system conforming to the American

National Standard ANSI/ASQC E4-1994, Specifications and Guidelines for Quality Systems for Environmental Data Collection and Environmental Technology Programs, which can be found on EPA's website at www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/assurance.htm. Recipients must submit Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) to EPA for approval before undertaking any work involving environmental measurements or data generation. QAPPs must be prepared using EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans (QA/R-5) (EPA 2001). QAPP requirements can be found on the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/quality1/qs-docs/r5-final.pdf>.

8. **Partnerships.** EPA awards funds to one eligible applicant as the “recipient” even if other eligible applicants are named as “partners” or “co-applicants” or members of a “coalition” or “consortium”. The recipient is accountable to EPA for the proper expenditure of funds.

Funding may be used to provide subgrants or subawards of financial assistance to fund partnerships provided the recipient complies with applicable requirements for subawards or subgrants including those contained in 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as appropriate. Successful applicants must compete contracts for services and products and conduct cost and price analyses to the extent required by the procurement provisions of these regulations. The regulations also contain limitations on consultant compensation. Applicants are not required to identify contractors or consultants in their proposal. Moreover, the fact that a successful applicant has named a specific contractor or consultant in the proposal EPA approves does not relieve it of its obligations to comply with competitive procurement requirements. Please note that applicants may not award sole source contracts to consulting, engineering or other firms assisting applicants with the proposal solely based on the firm's role in preparing the proposal.

Successful applicants cannot use subgrants or subawards to avoid requirements in EPA grant regulations for competitive procurement by using these instruments to acquire commercial services or products from for-profit organizations to carry out its assistance agreement. The nature of the transaction between the recipient and the subawardee or subgrantee must be consistent with the standards for distinguishing between vendor transactions and subrecipient assistance under Subpart B Section .210 of OMB Circular A-133, and the definitions of “subaward” at 40 CFR 30.2(ff) or “subgrant” at 40 CFR 31.3, as applicable. EPA will not be a party to these transactions.

9. Assistance agreements with states, tribes, and local governments must comply with 40 CFR Parts 31 and 35 and 2 CFR Part 225 (formerly OMB Circular A-87).
10. Programmatic terms and conditions will be negotiated with selected recipients.

C. Reporting Requirements.

Semi-annual progress reports and a detailed final report will be required. Reports summarizing technical progress, planned activities for the next period and summary of expenditures are required. Grantees must also submit a compact disc (CD) containing the final report in Microsoft Word® and Adobe Acrobat® (pdf) formats and copies of all education, outreach or training materials produced under this grant. The final report and CD shall be submitted within 90 calendar days of the completion of the period of performance.

While the Agency will negotiate precise terms and conditions relating to substantial involvement as part of the award process, EPA expects to closely monitor the successful applicant's performance. EPA will not select employees or contractors employed by the recipient(s) and the final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient(s).

D. Disputes.

Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005) which can be found at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-1371.htm>. The point of contact for requesting copies of the dispute procedures is the EPA Region 4 contact identified in Section VII of this announcement.

Section VII - Agency Contact.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Betty Winter, REPP Coordinator, EPA Region 4, 61 Forsyth ST, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303, Phone 1-800-241-1754 or 404-562-8279 or TTY 404-562-8339, Fax 404-562-8269, e-mail – winter.betty@epa.gov .

Section VIII - Other Information.

Data Access and Information Release: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-110 provides public access to research data through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) under some circumstances. Data that are (1) first produced in a project that is supported in whole or in part with Federal funds and (2) cited publicly and officially by a Federal agency in support of an action that has the force and effect of law (i.e., a regulation) may be accessed through FOIA. If such data are requested by the public, the EPA must ask for it, and the grantee must submit it, in accordance with OMB Circular A-110 and EPA regulations at 40 CFR 30.36.

CHART: INFORMATION ON RELEVANT CODES OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE AND STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

CFDA #	Statutory Authority	Eligible Applicants	Eligible Projects/Activities	Match Requirement	Strategic Goal
66.034	Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 103	State, territories, Tribes, and possessions, local gov't., possessions incl. District of Columbia, international organizations, public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, and other public or private non-profit institutions	Surveys, studies, investigations, demonstrations & special purpose activities	Optional	Objective 1.1 Healthier Outdoor Air Objectives 4.1.1 & 4.1.3 Reduce Pesticide, Chemical, and Biological Risk Objective 4.3.1 Restore and Protect Ecosystems Objective 5.1 Compliance Assistance Objective 5-2 Pollution Prevention and Innovation
66.424	Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Section 1442	State, territories, Indian Tribes and possessions, public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, and public or private non-profit institutions and individuals	Studies, pilots, and demonstrations associated with source water and drinking water and to develop and expand capabilities to carry out the purposes of the act	Optional	Goal 2.1.1 Protect Drinking Water Objective 2.2 Protect Water Quality Objective 4.1.1 & 4.1.3 Reduce Pesticide, Chemical, and Biological Risk Objective 5.1 Compliance Assistance Objective 5-2 Pollution Prevention and Innovation
66.436	Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 104(b) (3)	State, territories, Indian Tribes, Local governments, possessions of the US, including the District of Columbia and intertribal consortia, public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, public or private non-profit institutions and individuals	Water quality and watershed management surveys, studies, and investigations	Optional	Objective 2.2 Protect Water Quality Objective 2.2.1 Improve Water Quality on a Watershed Mgmt. Basis Objective 4.1.1 & 4.1.3 Reduce Pesticide, Chemical, and Biological Risk Objective 4.3.1 Restore and Protect Ecosystems Objective 5.1 Compliance Assistance Objective 5.2 Pollution Prevention and Innovation
66.609	Children's Environmental Health and Aging Initiative -- CWA Section 104; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act	States or state agencies, territories, Indian Tribes, possessions, public and	Investigations, studies, outreach, training, surveys, experiments, and demonstrations to establish	Optional	Objective 1.1 Healthy Outdoor Air Objective 2.1 Protect Drinking Water Goal 3.1.1 Reduce Waste Generation

Note: Nonprofit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply. For profit organizations are generally not eligible for funding. Some of EPA's statutes may limit assistance to specific types of interested applicants.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) can be viewed at <http://www.cfda.gov> .

The EPA 2003-2008 Strategic Plan can be viewed at <http://www.epa.gov/ocfopage/plan/2003sp.pdf> .

CFDA #	Statutory Authority	Eligible Applicants	Eligible Projects/Activities	Match Requirement	Strategic Goal
66.609	(FIFRA) Section 20; CAA Section 103; Solid Waste Disposal Act (SWDA) Section 8001; SDWA Section 1442; Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Section 10, Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 203; and CERCLA (Superfund), Section 311	private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, other public and private nonprofit organizations	and enhance ability to reduce risks to the health of children or the aging population, including creating healthy school environments and a national agenda for the Environment and Aging	Optional	Goal 3.2.2 Reuse Contaminated Land Objectives 4.1.1 & 4.1.3 Reduce Pesticide, Chemical, and Bio. Risk Objective 5.2 Pollution Prevention and Innovation
66.611	Environmental Policy and Innovation Grants -- Clean Air Act, Section 103; Clean Water Act, Section 104; Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001; Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442; Toxics Substances Control Act, Section 10; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 20; and CERCLA, Section 104(k)(6) and 311, as amended.	States, territories, Tribes, interstate groups, intrastate organizations, and U.S. possessions, incl. District of Columbia, public/private colleges and universities, hospitals, laboratories, other public or private nonprofits & individuals	Analyses, studies, evaluations, conferences, and demonstrations leading to reduced pollutants generated and natural resource conservation; economic information and analytic methods to support such projects on the benefits, costs, and impacts of programs	Optional	Goal 4.2: Communities Sustain, clean up, and restore communities and the ecological systems that support then Goal 5.2 Pollution Prevention and Innovation
66.717	Source Reduction Assistance -- Clean Air Act, Section 103 (b) and (g), as amended; Clean Water Act, Section 104 (b) (3), as amended; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 20, as amended; Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442 (b) (3) (c), as amended; Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a), as amended; Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10, as amended; Executive Order 13148 - Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management, April 21, 2000; Executive Order 13101- Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition, September 14, 1998; and Executive Order 12873 - Federal Acquisition, Recycling and Waste Prevention, October 20, 1993	States and U.S. territories or possessions or Tribal governments, local governments, city or township governments, independent school district governments, state controlled institutions of higher education, Federally-recognized tribal governments, non-profits other than institutions of higher education private institutions of higher education, and community-based grassroots organizations	Projects which assist in reducing hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants entering waste streams or otherwise released into the environment (including fugitive emissions) prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal with activities such as equipment or technology modifications, process or procedure modifications, reformulation or redesign of products, substitution of raw materials, and improvements in housekeeping, maintenance, training, or inventory control	5%	Goal 5.2 Pollution Prevention and Innovation <i>Pollution prevention means source reduction and is defined as any practice which reduces or eliminates the creation of pollutants through: increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water, or other resources, or protection of natural resources by conservation.</i>

Note: *Nonprofit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply. For profit organizations are generally not eligible for funding. Some of EPA's statutes may limit assistance to specific types of interested applicants.*

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) can be viewed at <http://www.cfda.gov> .

The EPA 2003-2008 Strategic Plan ca be viewed at <http://www.epa.gov/ocfopage/plan/2003sp.pdf> .

Grants.gov Proposal Instructions For Announcement Number EPA-R4-OPM-07-01

General Submittal Instructions

The electronic submission of your application must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. For more information, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on “Get Registered” on the left side of the page. *Note that the registration process may take a week or longer to complete.* If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage your office to designate an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible.

To begin the application process under this grant announcement, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Apply for Grants” tab on the left side of the page. Then click on “Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Instructions” to download the PureEdge viewer and obtain the application package for the announcement.. To download the PureEdge viewer click on the “PureEdge Viewer” link. Once you have downloaded the viewer, you may retrieve the application package by entering the Funding Opportunity Number, EPA-R4-OPM-07-01, in the appropriate field. You may also be able to access the application package by clicking on the button “How To Apply” at the top right of the synopsis page for this announcement on <http://www.grants.gov> (to find the synopsis page, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Find Grant Opportunities” button on the left side of the page and then go to Search Opportunities and use the Browse by Agency feature to find EPA opportunities).

Proposal Submission Deadline: Your organization’s AOR must submit your complete application electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) no later than September 10, 2007.

Please submit *all* of the proposal/application materials described below. To view the full funding announcement, go to <http://www.epa.gov/region4/financial/grants.html>, or go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on “Find Grant Opportunities” on the left side of the page and then click on Search Opportunities/Browse by Agency and select Environmental Protection Agency.

Proposal/Application Materials

The following forms and documents are required to be submitted under this announcement:

- I. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- II. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)

III. Narrative Proposal/Work Plan/Project Proposal, Letters of Support and/or Commitment. For Proposal Requirements see **Section IV B 2** of the Regional Environmental Priorities.

The proposal package *must* include all of the following materials:

I. Standard Form (SF) 424, Application for Federal Assistance

Complete the form. There are no attachments. Please be sure to include organization fax number and email address in Block 5 of the Standard Form SF 424.

Please note that the organizational Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number must be included on the SF-424. Organizations may obtain a DUNS number at no cost by calling the toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711.

II. Standard Form SF 424A – Budget Information:

Complete the form. There are no attachments.

The total amount of federal funding requested for the project period should be shown on line 5(e) and on line 6(k) of SF-424A. If indirect costs are included, the amount of indirect costs should be entered on line 6(j). The indirect cost rate (i.e., a percentage), the base (e.g., personnel costs and fringe benefits), and the amount should also be indicated on line 22.

III. Narrative Proposal

The document should be readable in PDF or MS Word for Windows and consolidated into a single file. The format should be for standard 8 ½ by 11-inch paper with 12-point font and minimum vertical and horizontal one-inch margins printed double- or single-sided. Double-sided is preferable. Pages should be numbered in order starting after the cover page with the first page of the narrative and continuing through the Schedule and Budget. See Section 4 B of the announcement (at www.grants.gov or <http://www.epa.gov/region4/financial/grants.html>) for specific content requirements. Resumes and Letters of Support and/or Commitment can be attached in a separate attachment or combined with the proposal.

Application Preparation and Submission Instructions

Documents I through III listed under Application Materials above should appear in the “Mandatory Documents” box on the Grants.gov Grant Application Package page.

For documents I and II, click on the appropriate form and then click “Open Form” below the box. The fields that must be completed will be highlighted in yellow. Optional fields and completed fields will be displayed in white. If you enter an invalid response or incomplete information in a field, you will receive an error message. When you have finished filling out each form, click “Save.” When you return to the electronic Grant Application Package page, click on the form you just completed, and then click on the box that says, “Move Form to

Submission List.” This action will move the document over to the box that says, “Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission.”

For document III, you will need to attach electronic files. Prepare your narrative proposal as described above in Section IV B 2 b and save the document to your computer as an MS Word, PDF file. When you are ready to attach your proposal to the application package, click on “Project Narrative Attachment Form,” and open the form. Click “Add Mandatory Project Narrative File,” and then attach your proposal (previously saved to your computer) using the browse window that appears. You may then click “View Mandatory Project Narrative File” to view it. Enter a brief descriptive title of your project in the space beside “Mandatory Project Narrative File Filename;” the filename should be no more than 40 characters long. If there other attachments that you would like to submit to accompany your proposal, you may click “Add Optional Project Narrative File” and proceed as before. When you have finished attaching the necessary documents, click “Close Form.” When you return to the “Grant Application Package” page, select the “Project Narrative Attachment Form” and click “Move Form to Submission List.” The form should now appear in the box that says, “Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission.”

Once you have finished filling out all of the forms/attachments and they appear in one of the “Completed Documents for Submission” boxes, click the “Save” button that appears at the top of the Web page. It is suggested that you save the document a second time, using a different name, since this will make it easier to submit an amended package later if necessary. Please use the following format when saving your file: “Applicant Name – FY08 – Assoc Prog Supp – 1st Submission” or “Applicant Name – FY 08 Assoc Prog Supp – Back-up Submission.” If it becomes necessary to submit an amended package at a later date, then the name of the 2nd submission should be changed to “Applicant Name – FY08 Assoc Prog Supp – 2nd Submission.”

Once your application package has been completed and saved, send it to your AOR for submission to U.S. EPA through Grants.gov. Please advise your AOR to close all other software programs before attempting to submit the application package through Grants.gov.

In the “Application Filing Name” box, your AOR should enter your organization’s name (abbreviate where possible), the fiscal year (e.g., FY08), and the grant category (e.g., Assoc Prog Supp). The filing name should not exceed 40 characters. From the “Grant Application Package” page, your AOR may submit the application package by clicking the “Submit” button that appears at the top of the page. The AOR will then be asked to verify the agency and funding opportunity number for which the application package is being submitted. If problems are encountered during the submission process, the AOR should reboot his/her computer before trying to submit the application package again. [It may be necessary to turn off the computer (not just restart it) before attempting to submit the package again.] If the AOR continues to experience submission problems, he/she may contact Grants.gov for assistance by phone at 1-800-518-4726 or email at <http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp> or contact Betty Winter at EPA Region 4, (404) 562-8279 or winter.betty@epa.gov. Application packages submitted thru www.grants.gov will be time/date stamped electronically.

If you have not received a confirmation of receipt from EPA (*not from grants.gov*) within 30 days of the application deadline, please contact Betty Winter, EPA Region 4 REPP Coordinator, at winter.betty@epa.gov or (404) 562-8279. Failure to do so may result in your application not being reviewed.