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## **ADEM Awards Nearly \$2.5 Million in Recycling Grants** *Cities, counties, solid waste authorities among 2027 recipients*

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.** – The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) announced today it is awarding nearly \$2.5 million in grants from the Alabama Recycling Fund (ARF) to 20 cities, counties, solid waste authorities and other groups across the state to boost recycling efforts.

The grants, which are for fiscal year 2027, were awarded during the Alabama Recycling Coalition’s Annual Conference and Expo, being held at the Embassy Suites in Gulf Shores. The coalition is a statewide nonprofit organization that promotes waste reduction, material reuse, recycling and composting activities.

Totaling \$2,497,602, the grants are made possible by the Solid Wastes and Recyclable Materials Management Act (SWRMMA) passed by the Alabama Legislature in 2008.

“ADEM is proud to announce the recipients of recycling grants for next year,” ADEM Director Edward Poolos said. “They range from small cities, such as Moundville, to one of the largest cities, Birmingham, as well large countywide operations such as the Solid Waste Disposal Authority of Baldwin County.

“What they have in common is they are taking materials that would otherwise go in landfills, or littered along roads, city streets and even our waterways, and making those materials available for productive reuse. That is preserving our land and water and protecting our environment.”

This is the 18<sup>th</sup> year of the recycling grant program. After its passage, SWRMMA set a statewide solid waste reduction goal of 25%. The act also established a statewide solid waste disposal fee of \$1 per ton, or \$0.25 per cubic yard, for all solid wastes disposed in Alabama landfills. The revenue generated funds the recycling grant program, ADEM’s waste management and recycling programs, and resources to clean up illegal dump sites.

Since 2008, ADEM has awarded 339 grants totaling more than \$39 million to bolster recycling efforts in Alabama.

The Alabama Recycling Coalition (ALRecycles.org) is one of the recipients of the 2027 recycling grants. It will receive \$102,500 to assist its work in promoting recycling.

“Working with and assisting the coalition, as well as working with individual cities, counties and waste management authorities, is how we build and sustain recycling programs throughout the state,” Poolos said. “These grants are absolutely essential, especially for smaller communities that don’t have large budgets. It

would be easy for them to skip recycling and just dispose of all the garbage they collect in landfills, which wastes resources. This program incentivizes them to take that extra step toward the reuse.”

In addition to the Alabama Recycling Coalition, 2027 grant recipients are:

- City of Alexander City: \$30,844
- City of Auburn: \$214,957
- City of Birmingham: \$198,000
- City of Florence Recycle Center: \$85,003
- City of Gadsden: \$45,000
- City of Guntersville: \$66,050
- City of Hartselle: \$12,490
- City of Moundville: \$113,387
- City of Northport: \$243,911
- City of Rainbow City: \$117,740
- City of Southside: \$38,950
- City of Troy: \$24,583
- Calhoun County Commission: \$136,500
- Limestone County Commission: \$71,590
- Jefferson County Commission: \$169,080
- Shelby County Commission: \$55,279
- Shoals Solid Waste Disposal Authority: \$89,500
- Solid Waste Disposal Authority of Baldwin County: \$350,580
- West Alabama Recycling Partnership: \$331,658

More information about the grant program and recycling in Alabama is available on ADEM’s [website](#).

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