

ECOLOOP SCREENING CRITERIA

Eligible technologies will provide innovative management practices for one, or a combination of several, of the following materials from Alachua County and the surrounding region, as applicable:

- A. Municipal Solid Waste
- B. Yard Waste
- C. Bulky Waste
- D. Construction & Demolition
- E. Hazardous Waste
- F. Medical Waste
- G. Industrial Waste
- H. Salvage Materials
- I. Textiles
- J. E-Waste
- K. Organics
- L. Plastic and glass

The County will be the sole arbiter of whether a project is eligible under this RFI.

Submittals will be evaluated based on overall compatibility with the selection criteria. Staff will review applications and make recommendations to the BoCC for final approval. Applications will be evaluated for compatibility in the following areas:

1. Zero Waste Strategies Report and Implementation Plan
2. Economic Development Benchmarks
3. Comprehensive Plan
4. Planned Development Master Plan

Zero Waste Strategies Report and Implementation Plan

Zero Waste Definition: *“The conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse and recovery of products, packaging, and materials by minimizing discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.”*

Project is listed as one of the recommendations in the **Zero Waste Strategies Report and Implementation Plan** and/or it meets the County’s Zero Waste Definition, including the guiding principles outlined below.

Guiding Principles	Examples
Keep Resources Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project results in measurable reductions in amount of solid waste disposed at landfills• Project demonstrated synergy with existing facilities at Leveda Brown Environmental Park• Project targets portions of solid waste stream not currently addressed in a significant way by County’s solid waste system
Foster Job Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See Economic Development Benchmarks
Emphasize and Support Upstream Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project prioritizes waste reduction or reuse over recycling and disposal
Mitigate Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project minimizes adverse Environmental Impacts including, but not limited to discharges to land, water or air• Energy Use• Water Consumption• Greenhouse gas emission and carbon footprint
Address Environmental Justice and Create Equity of Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Embedded in other criteria

Economic Development Benchmarks

The following benchmarks will be used to assess the desirability of proposals based on the Board's community-wide economic benefit expectations. Projects that can meet in quality and quantity a higher number of the benchmarks will be more favorably considered for inclusion.

Benchmark	Examples
Meets FS125.045 (2 & 3) Standards	<p>The project meets at least one of the statutory criteria:</p> <p>(1) Facilitating the growth and creation of business enterprises in the county;</p> <p>(2) Attracting and retaining business enterprises; and / or</p> <p>(3) The expansion of businesses existing in the community or the attraction of new companies to the community</p>
Equity and Economic Development	The company is majority-owned by a person of color or woman-owned.
Clear Business Model and Pro Forma	<p>The project has a business plan and pro forma demonstrating a clear understanding of development costs, sources of revenue and business expenses, material and labor needs over a ten-year projection.</p> <p>The project has established relationships/contracts with material sources and providers.</p> <p>The project does not depend upon local government subsidies for viability.</p>
Ability to Finance Vertical Construction	The project can demonstrate the ability to finance its vertical construction covering all structures and equipment.
Employment Quantity	The project falls within a range of industry average jobs per acre. Acceptable job quantity should fall within a range of a minimum of 7.6 jobs per acre to 12.7 jobs acre. Job production at more significant levels will be preferred.

	<p>The company has hiring provisions for communities impacted by inequities such as but not limited to African Americans, low-income, women, and LGBTQ.</p>
<p>Salary Quality</p>	<p>Project’s lowest-paid full-time workers meet Alachua County’s minimum wage requirement.</p> <p>The majority of wages are above Alachua County’s median household income.</p> <p>The project offers healthcare, retirement, and other benefits that support workers affected by inequities.</p>
<p>A mix of Skilled, Technical Trades</p>	<p>There is a mix of skilled and technical trade jobs offered, and the project provides explicit opportunities for workers from communities of color and low-income communities that allow for:</p> <p>Apprenticeship opportunities.</p> <p>Vocational advancement.</p> <p>And develop along skilled, technical, and vocational pathways.</p>
<p>Local Employment Opportunities</p>	<p>The company will actively engage with the local workforce board, Santa Fe College, University of Florida, Chamber of Commerce, and other community-based advocacy groups to recruit and train qualified candidates from the Alachua County area.</p>
<p>Research and Development of Products and Processes</p>	<p>The project is actively engaged or will engage in the research and development of circular economy products and processes.</p> <p>Project demonstrable a relationship with the University of Florida faculty, Innovate UF, sponsored research, Historically Black College and University, or Minority-Serving Institution.</p>

Alachua County Comprehensive Plan

Solid Waste Element	
Objective 1.2	Provide for safe operation and maintenance of publicly owned solid waste management facilities, in compliance with all stipulations and conditions of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) permits; and other applicable local, state or federal regulations; provide for protection of water, soil and air resources, in compliance with local, state, and federal permit requirements including monitoring of groundwater at all public landfill sites.
Policy 1.2.5	Incinerator and mass burn facilities, no such facility will be included in the County solid waste system. The use of tires, plastics or plastic derived materials as a fuel source or as feedstock for a waste to energy facility is prohibited in the County solid waste system. This policy does not prohibit the combustion of vegetative yard trash, vegetative biomass and vegetative storm debris. Hazardous waste or other material for which there is no alternative method of disposal shall be disposed of as mandated by Federal law. Exceptions to this policy may be allowed for research and development activities by special exception when approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Additional standards including limitations on scale and environmental and safety standards shall be included in the Unified Land Development Code for such research and development activities.
Objective 1.4	Develop and maintain a long term solid waste management system. Utilize the Leveda Brown Environmental Park as a locale for centralized solid waste management facilities with the capacity for processing various components of the solid waste stream for the next 20 years. The core of the Park is a solid waste transfer station with disposal at properly permitted facilities elsewhere. Continue to expand the capacity and function of the Park to meet changing needs for processing solid waste.
Objective 1.5	The County shall develop and implement a waste reduction strategy that includes waste prevention, source reduction, reuse, recycling and biological disposition, resulting in a reduction of solid waste disposed per capita.
Policy 1.5.9	The County shall improve the yard trash management program and shall encourage the public to increase efforts to utilize landscape and yard waste at home through backyard mulching and composting programs.
Policy 1.5.11	The County shall continue to investigate other methods of waste management and alternatives to landfill disposal of solid waste, including source reduction.
Objective 1.7	The County will continue to provide safe and economic disposal and recycling of household hazardous waste (HHW).
Energy Element	
Objective 7.1	Reduce the solid waste stream generated by Alachua County.
Policy 7.1.1	To help achieve the 75% waste recycling goal mandated by the state by 2020 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the transport of municipal solid waste, promote a cluster of waste to wealth industries at the

	Resource Recovery Park to make useful products from recycled materials. As a component of this, work to direct municipal solid waste to the Leveda Brown Environmental Park.
Policy 7.1.3	The County shall explore the feasibility of a program that requires source separated organic waste collection and processing.
Policy 7.1.4	The County shall use a portion of the waste stream, such as food waste and brush cuttings, for composting and work with other local groups to make it available for use by community gardens and local farms.
Policy 7.15	The County shall seek ways to reduce the amount of yard waste collected and transported to the Leveda Brown Environmental Park, including encouraging composting, mulching, and other onsite methods of yard waste disposal.
Economic Element	
Objective 1.1	Diversify the County’s economy. Achieve a diversified and sustainable economic base in Alachua County to minimize the vulnerability of the local economy and to provide economic opportunity for all segments of the population that shall include strategies to achieve the elimination of disparities identified in the “Understanding Racial Inequity In Alachua County” Report (2018) and attract and retain high-quality employers and employees within the workforce.
Policy 1.1.1	Alachua County shall promote the recruitment and expansion of targeted industries that are either growing, high-skill, high wage areas of desired growth, or contribute to regional economic diversification. These targeted industries include, but are not limited to: logistics, and distribution; building component design and manufacturing; aviation services and products, bio-fuels and energy; healthcare services and projects business services; communication services; medical and pharmaceuticals, including biotech; technology driven manufacturing; electronics and other electrical equipment; regional or corporate headquarters; information technology; research and development; eco-tourism; multimedia productions.
Policy 1.1.6	Consistent with Energy Element Objective 2.2 and Future Land Use Element Objectives 6.1 and 6.2, Alachua County shall encourage the location and development of energy conservation, alternative energy, reuse/recycling based industry and sustainable food production and processing businesses and industry clusters in order to achieve a higher level of sustainable economic development.

EcoLoop Planned Development Master Plan

Objective: To develop and maintain a long-term solid waste management system, the Leveda Brown Environmental Park shall be utilized as a locale for centralized solid waste management facilities with the capacity for processing various components of the solid waste stream.

- The Waste-Related Services land uses shall include, but are not limited to, those uses permitted in the MS and MP zoning districts. In addition, a solid waste transfer station, salvage or recycled metal or tire yard, storage yard, material recovery, recycling and composting, and storage/ transfer or treatment of household hazardous waste are permitted by right.
- Additional uses such as solar energy technologies, wood waste processing, repair center, manufacturing, reused material artisans, educational and research facilities, bio-diesel processing, low-impact development technologies (i.e. green roofs, cisterns, solar power), broadcasting or wireless communication towers, textile / carpet remanufacturing, emerging waste technologies, distribution, and sale of goods associated with the reuse / reclaimed materials.
- All other uses not specifically defined herein, and consistent with the intent of the Alachua County Fairgrounds & Resource Recovery Park PD, may be permitted by the Alachua County Manager's Office upon receipt of a formal request and review for consistency.