City of Asheville Staff Report

City Council Meeting Date: July 28, 2026

Staff Resources: Amy Deyton, Public Works Director; Jes Foster, Sanitation Division Manager; and Ashley Lavender, Waste Reduction Program Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Multifamily Recycling Grant as co-applicant in partnership with Buncombe County for up to $71,500; and authorizing the City Manager to enter into an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County and any other related grant documents for grant administration.

Background:

- Buncombe County will be applying for up to $71,500 for the Multifamily Recycling Grant. The City will serve as the co-applicant and will supply a 5% cash match, or up to $3,575.
- The grant proposal includes recycling enhancement projects at two multi-unit properties within the City limits and two properties within unincorporated Buncombe County. Property locations are still being determined.
- The NC Department of Environmental Quality's (NCDEQ) Multifamily Recycling Grant offers the City the opportunity to collect data to inform Solid Waste Master Plan recommendations.
- The Solid Waste Master Planning Process is identified as Activity #17 of Goal #2 in the Municipal Climate Action Plan (MCAP).
- This funding opportunity would support the Public Works Department goal of establishing a Solid Waste Master Plan specifically to:
    1.) Evaluate the City of Asheville's existing solid waste management system and provide short- and long-term recommendations to improve and enhance the efficiency and quality of the system and increase waste reduction and diversion; and
    2.) Improve and expand core services; and
    3.) Implement waste reduction programs to meet Council's goal of reducing municipal solid waste by 50% by 2035 (Resolution 14-27).
- The grant application is due on August 31, 2026.
- If awarded, the projected start date is December 1, 2026. NC DEQ Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS) suggested an earlier start date is possible.
- The fund distribution deadline is December 31, 2027. This grant is eligible for an extension, if needed.

Vendor Outreach: n/a

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- A Clean, Safe and Healthy Environment

- Thriving Local Economy
- Connected and Engaged Community
- A Diverse Community

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- Economic Recovery
- Infrastructure & Environment
- People

Committee(s): n/a

Fiscal Impact:

- The City of Asheville's financial contribution would be a 5% cash match up to $3,575 and will come from the Public Works Sanitation Division waste reduction programming budget in the General Fund.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Multifamily Recycling Grant as co-applicant in partnership with Buncombe County for up to $71,500; and authorizing the City Manager to enter into an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County and any other related grant documents for grant administration.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for the Multifamily Recycling Grant administered by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service as the co-applicant with Buncombe County; and authorizes the City Manager to enter into an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County for grant administration

Whereas, the City has authority, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Section 160A-17.1, to accept grants-in-aid from governmental entities for performing any function which the city is authorized by general law to provide or perform; and

Whereas, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Section 160A-461, the City may enter into contracts or agreements with other local governments in order to execute an undertaking; and

Whereas, City Council passed Resolution No. 14-27, establishing the City's Waste Reduction Goal and Benchmarks; and

Whereas, the Multifamily Recycling Grant aligns with the 2036 Council Vision and City Council annual priorities; and

Whereas, the proposed pilot project associated with this funding will generate data applicable to the Municipal Climate Action Plan (MCAP) Goal 2 - Activity 17 "Conduct Solid Waste Master Planning Process"; and

Whereas, the Multifamily Recycling Grant, if awarded, would contribute to the Recovery priorities of "Economic Recovery" (Solid Waste Master Plan), "Infrastructure and Environment", and "People"; and

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that:

1. The City of Asheville will apply for the Multifamily Recycling Grant as the co-applicant.
2. The City Manager is authorized to enter into an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County for administration of the grant, if awarded.
3. The City of Asheville recognizes that Buncombe County will receive the grant funds, if awarded, and all grant-eligible purchases will be made by Buncombe County.
4. The City of Asheville will submit a letter of commitment with the grant application.
5. The City of Asheville will obtain approval from Buncombe County to facilitate the reimbursement of the required 5% cash match (up to $3,575) by establishing an interlocal agreement.

Read, approved and adopted this 28th day of July, 2026.

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Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk