

2023 Known & Grown STL Microgrants

Missouri Coalition for the Environment developed the Known & Grown STL program to build a resilient, equitable food community by supporting and promoting farmers within 150 miles of St. Louis that demonstrate environmental stewardship through humane and chemical-free farming practices.

Historically underserved farmers are integral to a resilient and equitable food community. However they face many barriers to success in adopting good environmental practices and running a farming business in general. Known & Grown STL is awarding 3 microgrants of up to \$1000 each to historically underserved farmers in north St Louis for projects that develop or improve environmental stewardship practices on their farm. Environmental stewardship includes practices that protect and preserve the quality of our soil, air, and water, promote biodiversity, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. The goal of these grants is to improve our food system by supporting sustainable farming practices that provide healthy, nutrient-dense food to the local, north St Louis community. See the Sample Project page for a more detailed description of environment stewardship practices and examples of potential projects. Technical assistance is available in addition to the financial award.

We hope this will be the first of many years that we are able to distribute microgrants into the hands of farmers in our community. We are actively seeking more funding to expand the footprint of our microgrants and be able to offer them to more farmers.

Who can Apply:

Nonprofit and for-profit farmers who reside and/or farm within north St Louis or north county.

How to Apply:

Email proposals to rmiller@moenvironment.org by Friday, June 9th.

What to Include in your Proposal:

- Contact info
- Physical farm address
- Brief description of your farm
- Where do you sell your products and who are your customers?
- Description of proposed project, including an estimated timeline
- Proposed budget (labor to complete the project may be included)
- Explain the following: How will your project benefit the environment and your community?

Financial awards are given prior to the start of the project but are dependent on the completion of the project. Awardees must provide an estimated date of completion. One or more check-ins will occur during the project period. If a project will not be completed by the estimated date, a written letter must be provided explaining the delay and must include a new estimated completion date.

Failure to complete the project may result in a partial or complete revocation of the amount awarded.

Timeline:

Grant proposals due: Fri, Jun 9th

Grant awardees selected: Mon, June 19th

Awards distributed: Funds made available 21-28 days after awardees are notified

Project check-in: 3 months or at the halfway point of the project period

Projects must be completed by: The end of this year, however extensions can be available on a case-by-case basis

These microgrants are funded by Building Resilient Inclusive Communities (BRIC). BRIC is a program of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) Center for Advancing Healthy Communities. NACDD and its more than 7,000 Members seek to improve the health of the public by strengthening leadership and expertise for chronic disease prevention and control in states, territories, and at the national level. The BRIC program is engaging communities to address food and nutrition security, safe physical activity access, and social connectedness through policy, systems, and environmental change strategies.

SAMPLE PROJECTS

Examples of environmental stewardship practices:

Soil: no-till; using compost or mulch; cover crops to increase organic matter; planting perennials, transitioning from the use of synthetic herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers; producing on-farm compost

Air: Using eclectic-powered tools rather than gas- powered

Water: water catchment system, berms and swales to control rainwater and prevent runoff, using drip irrigation to reduce water usage and increase infiltration, install new fencing to keep animals out of sensitive areas

Biodiversity: establishing wildlife and beneficial insect habitat, using beneficial insects for pest management

Energy: using alternative energy sources reducing fossil fuel use

Examples of possible projects (suggestions only):

Rainwater Catchment

1. Install a rain barrel or IBC tote under the existing gutter system of a home or farm building to catch and distribute rainwater.

Cost:	
IBC tote- 275 gallons	\$200
Lumber, fasteners and post bases	\$135
Total	\$335

A 330 gallon IBC tote is available for \$340

2. Install gutters, rain barrels and a pump to an existing high tunnel (example is for 100' tunnel).

Cost:	
Vinyl gutters and parts	\$300
IBC totes (2-330 gallon)	\$680
Solar water pump (many options)	\$300
Total	\$1,280

3. Direct water that may be running off your land or eroding your land to a more productive use. Either by hand or with the help of machinery, dig swales and berms to make water behave. Make water slow down and sink in rather than runoff and erode. This project can be whatever you or your land requires: key lines, Hugelkultur beds, wetlands, water gardens etc. The size and slope of the project will determine cost.

Farm Resource Management

1. Purchase an electric lawn mower with bagging attachment to collect leaves, grass clippings and weeds to be used as compost ingredients or mulch.

Cost:

21" push mower with bagger \$275-500

38" riding mower with bagger \$2,800*

42" riding mower with bagger \$4,500*

* These prices are for Ryobi products available at Home Depot

2. Build compost bins to turn grass clippings, animal bedding, leaves, garden debris and other waste into the best soil amendment available, home-made compost. The numbers below are for new materials including wire mesh, wood posts and fasteners. You can get creative and make compost bins out of any manner of materials you have on hand or can salvage. The grant can cover your labor to assemble whatever type of bin you wish to construct. The materials below will make 2 - 4x4x4 bins that will produce 2.5 cubic yards of compost at a time.

Cost:

6 - 4x4x4 cedar posts \$150

3 - 2x4x8 cedar \$ 20

4' x 50' 1"x2" welded wire \$ 70

6 - concrete post bases \$ 60

Total \$300

3. Establish a field border, permanent wildlife and insect habitat or food forest. All of these features include having more living roots in the soil for longer periods of time, and having more green plants photosynthesizing. The benefits are many: carbon sequestration, soil improvement, insect control and the list goes on. This project could be as cheap as a few packets of seed and an afternoon of sowing, or could be much larger in scope and include planting of mature trees and earth moving equipment. You could add bird houses, bat houses and structure for cliff and barn swallows to really add some insect control.