

Investing in America through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants Tribes and Intertribal Consortia Fact Sheet

Kawerak, Inc.

Selected Grant Recipient

Name: Kawerak, Inc.

Project Location: Nome, AK

Project Title: Developing Regional Materials Management Infrastructure in the Arctic

Highlights

- Establishes a regional recycling hub.
- Serves 20 Tribes in the Bering Strait region, located within 16 different communities.

EPA Information

Region: EPA Region 10

Grant Funding: \$1,497,988

Kawerak, Inc. will strengthen infrastructure for post-consumer materials management. They will achieve this objective by developing a regional recycling center, which will divert materials from 16 local, unlined community landfills in rural Alaska. The new recycling center will house equipment, such as a baler, forklift, as well as sorting and storing equipment, and provide a safe working environment for staff and volunteers engaged in the processing of recyclable materials for backhaul. The project will expand current recycling efforts, design an appropriate system for collection of recyclables, collaborate with the City of Nome to develop ordinances, engage with current waste management collectors, and include an educational campaign to teach the public about the new recycling system. The recycling center will benefit multiple Tribes in the region by addressing the immediate need for better materials management and prepare the region for the expected impacts of upcoming growth and development in the Arctic.

SWIFR Grants to Tribes and Intertribal Consortia

The 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides the largest EPA investment in recycling in 30 years to support National Recycling Strategy implementation and build a circular economy for all. As part of the Investing in America agenda, this funding supports improvements to waste management systems and programs, allowing resources to be used more efficiently and reducing the impact on the climate. SWIFR Tribal grant funding can be used to develop or update post-consumer materials management plans; establish or optimize collection and management of materials; fund infrastructure, technology, or other improvements to reduce contamination; enhance markets for recycled commodities; and increase the diversion, recycling rate, and quality of materials collected. These grants also advance the Justice40 Initiative, which aims to ensure that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to communities that have historically been underserved and overburdened by pollution.

EPA will make the award to Kawerak, Inc., once all legal and administrative requirements are satisfied.

