

Small Business Grants

An important goal of the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) is to encourage Massachusetts small businesses to reduce their use of toxic chemicals. TURI offers grants to qualified small businesses to change their processes or replace their toxic chemicals with safer alternatives that may not otherwise be economically feasible.

Grants are available for a small business wishing to reduce or eliminate its use of toxic chemicals by researching the technical and economic feasibility of TUR options and then using an alternative material or changing its process.

Small business grants of up to \$10,000 are available.

Grant funding is limited, and awards are contingent on the funding received by TURI in FY2022 (beginning July 1, 2021). TURI will make every effort to award grants as in past years; however, it is uncertain whether our budget and the timing of the grants will be impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Small Business Sector Eligibility

Massachusetts small businesses that may be eligible for this grant, and are of particular interest to TURI, include but are not limited to:

- Food or beverage processors (including microbreweries)
- Dry cleaners
- Auto repair, body or tire shops
- Car or truck washes
- Mortuaries
- Bathtub or furniture refinishers
- Restaurants
- Janitorial/house cleaning groups
- Gymnasiums
- Child care facilities

Who's Eligible?

Both for-profit businesses and not-for-profit entities based in Massachusetts that:

- Are small (typically less than 10 employees)
- Provide services directly to the community and consumers
- Are interested in researching TUR options or are prepared to purchase and install new equipment or materials to reduce their use of toxic chemicals
- Will allow TURI to collect data on their materials usage or processes

Past small business grant projects include:

- Converting solvent-based dry cleaning to dedicated wet cleaning
- Replacing solvent-based paint gun washers with water-based alternatives
- Reducing caustic cleaners and acid rinses in clean-in-place processes
- Using green-certified cleaners at child care facilities to replace conventional cleaners



Microbrewery equipment cleaned with safer chemicals and processes

Small business grants are NOT appropriate for projects focused on controlling exposure or emissions (such as ventilation) from a process that uses toxic chemicals, or recycling of waste once generated.

Applying for a Small Business Grant

Applying for a small business grant is intended to be a competitive yet simple process for Massachusetts small businesses. The application process begins with the submission of the application form. Following receipt of the application, TURI will contact the applicant directly to gather additional information needed to make a decision. This typically includes an on-site visit to better understand the proposed project and its potential benefits, however an on-site visit in summer 2021 will depend on accessibility related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Program funding is limited, and submitting an application is no guarantee that a grant will be awarded. Each grantee will sign a services contract with TURI.

Successful Small Business Grants:

- Have specific benefits that can be measured and demonstrated
- Are related to process or material changes that are relevant to other Massachusetts small businesses
- Are designed to enhance the competitive advantage of the facility

Sharing Results with Other Massachusetts Businesses

Case studies are a valuable resource for other small businesses considering similar process or material changes in their facilities. As part of the small business grant, grantees are required to provide adequate information and insights from which TURI can craft case studies about the grant projects. TURI will work collaboratively with grantees to create final documents. The case studies will be made publicly available via TURI's website (www.turi.org). Some grantees may also be asked to host demonstration events, organized in conjunction with TURI, to allow other small business owners to tour grantee facilities and see firsthand the results of TUR projects.



Demonstration of a paint gun cleaner in an auto body shop

To apply for a small business grant, go to www.turi.org/grants

Deadline for submittal: June 25, 2021

For more information, please contact:

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