



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 3

Agenda Date: May 19, 2025

In Control: Community Health Committee

DEPARTMENT: Solid Waste Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Josephine Valencia

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Eco Scholars Program Update

SUMMARY:

A briefing on the Eco Scholars Grant Program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2023, the Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) and the Office of Sustainability announced that \$1M in grant funds would be available to local schools, in support of the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) goals. Funds for these grants were made available through the City's Resiliency, Energy Efficiency, & Sustainability (REES) Fund.

All public, private and charter schools within the San Antonio city limits were eligible for the grant, from first to twelfth grade. Successful projects would align with one or more of the CAAP goals:

- Increase Carbon-Free Energy
- Reduce Building Energy Consumption
- Reduce Transportation Energy Consumption
- Advance the Circular Economy
- Promote Biodiversity and Healthy Ecosystems
- Educate and Empower

A total of 145 projects were approved for funding in three project tiers. Tier One projects received \$3,000, Tier Two projects received \$5,000, and Tier Three projects received \$10,000. Projects included food gardens, CO2 sensors, and composting programs. The projects were required to be completed during the 2023-2024 school year.

The deadline to qualify and receive any remaining funds was December 31, 2024. Projects were required to document being substantially complete to receive any remaining funds. The program closed with 109 projects achieving the completion requirement. \$907,631 of the grant funds were distributed, a 91% fulfillment.

Twenty of the more representative sustainability projects were on display at the Culture Commons Gallery at Plaza de Armas, April 23 through April 25. City leadership is invited to view the creativity, ingenuity and innovation of San Antonio's next generation of sustainability leaders.

ISSUE:

This is a briefing item, and no action is required.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff does not recommend any action.