



TENNESSEE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Improving Tennessee's environment, communities & public health since 1970.

February 8, 2019

ATTN: Ms. Talia Lomax-O'dneal
Director of Finance
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

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Dear Director Lomax-O'dneal,

I am writing to apply for a FY20 Direct Appropriation. Tennessee Environmental Council offers the following services to the residents of Davidson County: 1) low-cost, or free trees for residents to plant on their properties, supporting the Root Nashville initiative of planting 500,000 trees in Davidson County by 2050, 2) free educational workshops and materials on improving residential recycling practices, and, 3) free educational workshops and materials to enable residents to compost at their homes. The latter two support Nashville's Zero-Waste-To-Landfill vision.

Currently, our programs directly engage and serve over 2,500 Davidson County residents, and reach an additional 250,000 through social media educational content. Residents benefit by participating in hands-on volunteer activities as well as lifestyle practices that improve our local environment and communities. The planting of trees we provide increases residential property values, and improves the aesthetics within of our neighborhoods. Participants in our tree-planting, composting, recycling and other local ecological restoration projects typically express a sense of well-being derived from being involved in meaningful family-friendly activities that improve our local environment.

We are requesting \$12,500 from Metro. This funding would enable us to serve an additional 2,500 residents in 2020, adding some 12,000 additional trees to Nashville/Davidson County, providing the benefits described above. In addition, funding from Metro would yield community benefits such as reduced storm-water runoff, improved water quality in our local rivers and streams, improved air quality, and reduced urban heat-island effect. These are just a few of the well-documented benefits of increased urban tree canopy. In regards to residential recycling and composting, these activities benefit our community-at-large, as our local landfills are reaching capacity within the next decade, necessitating a significant increase in clean, recyclable materials being diverted from our waste stream.

Some ways we will use Metro funding to help create a more equitable Nashville include: doubling the number of local tree-pickup locations in Nashville neighborhoods (giving more people access to this opportunity), increasing our outreach with audiences that we currently may not be reaching through our social media marketing, hosting more workshops in neighborhoods we have not historically served, and engaging more community groups in our programs. These approaches will make our services more accessible to residents who would not otherwise benefit from their value.

Thank you for this opportunity to request funding from Metro Appropriations. If you have any questions about this request, or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

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