



LOS ANGELES'

RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT ZONE

TURNING WASTE INTO WEALTH

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE



Background



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
**RECYCLING MARKET
DEVELOPMENT ZONE**

Funded By
CalRecycle

The **Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ)** program, administered by **CalRecycle**, has the goal to help businesses that divert waste from landfill and create green jobs.

LASAN administers the local **City of Los Angeles RMDZ** program and provides assistance to local businesses to incorporate recycled or reused materials into their manufacturing processes.

The Problem

- Significant demand among businesses for **technical and financial support** to innovate and adopt sustainable practices.
- Businesses face challenges **accessing** CalRecycle loans and grants.
- **No RMDZ loans have been awarded to an LA business in 20 years.**
- Led to a Council Motion (19-0522) requesting LASAN to expand and improve its RMDZ program.

The Solution

LASAN's **Innovative** Microfunding Initiative

- Utilized small amount of CalRecycle funding to help small businesses businesses to **test new, innovative approaches** to creating products from recycled and reused materials.
- **Expands markets** for recycled/reused products made locally.
- **Streamlined and easily accessible** application allows for easier targeting toward key constituencies (e.g. small businesses, JEDI Zone / EJ businesses).

Microfunding Projects

Accomplishments

- Reinvigorated State interest in the RMDZ Program.
- Other RMDZ jurisdictions have shown interest in establishing a similar programs & CalRecycle has been interested enough to feature us over the last 2 years of their RMDZ conferences.
- Completed **2 phases** of Microfunding Projects over 2 years, comprised of 7 innovative projects, and a total of **\$14,000** in funds distributed.

Current Limitations of the Microfunding Projects

- Need to demonstrate this program's ability to scale up to a variety of funding amounts.
- Funding is sourced from CalRecycle which has limitations; some include no equipment purchases, no metal recycling, etc.

Completed Microfunding Projects

PHASE 1 - \$6,000

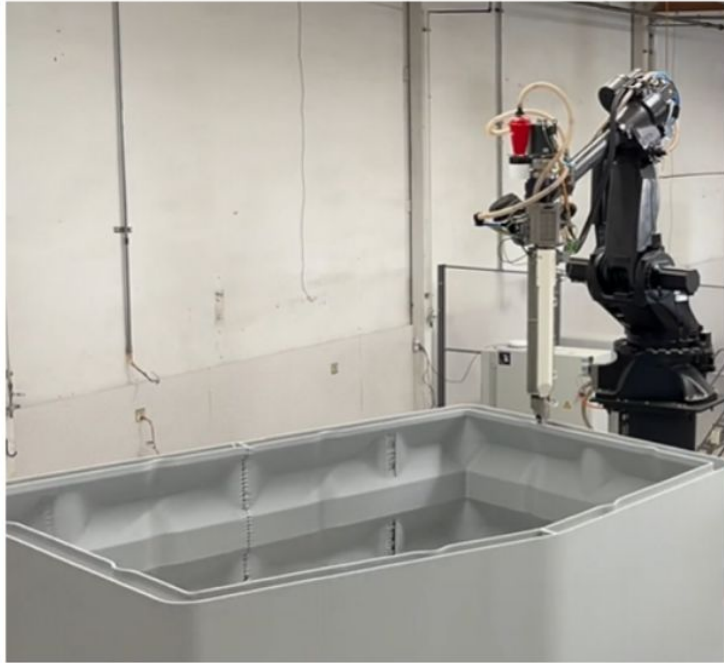
<p>East West Shop Workshop on natural dye from onion skins</p> 	<p>CIRCULAR LA FASH NOHS Pilot a new Mobile ReDesign Lab</p> 	<p>roBoro Zero- water, CO2 clothing cleaning system</p> 	<p>ANOTHER NOTHER All-natural plant-based liquid dyes.</p> 
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Completed Microfunding Projects

PHASE 2 - \$8,000



3-D printed tiny home from recycler materials



Piloted a middle-school curriculum to combat plastic pollution



STAAAY

Tested a coffee ground/clay-feedstock for a 3D Printer



Goals of Microfunding Initiative

Short Term

- Divert waste from the landfill and helps the City comply with SB 1383 (Short-Lived Climate Pollutants) and AB 939 recycling mandates.
- Support local jobs in green industries including textiles, food waste, solar, etc.
- Fund local businesses to reduce risks of adopting sustainable practices.
- Connect businesses and collaborators to incentivize them to utilize **innovative green solutions**.
- Bring attention to the CalRecycle RMDZ loan and other valuable resources.

Goals of Microfunding Initiative

Long Term

- Build a GIS database to connect businesses that generate recycled/reused materials with businesses who process those materials.
- Transition from pilot funding to permanent funding.
- Expand the reuse, repair, and recycling capacity in the City.
- Build the City's reputation as a hub for **green innovation and manufacturing**.

Expansion with the Innovation Fund

Total Request

Projects (min. 5 small (\$15k) & 3 medium (\$30k) projects): \$165,000

Labor (administration and outreach): \$35,000

Total: \$200,000

Timeline

2-Year Pilot

Expand LASAN's Microfunding Initiative

*LA businesses need avenues to **test new innovative approaches** to create recycled products and establish the City of LA as a **leader** of green innovation.*



Photos (above): (top) 1PlasticLife interview with KCAL News on their plastic pollution project at El Sereno Middle School; (bottom-left) Circular Fashion LA's Mobile ReDye Station sketch; (bottom-right) LASAN's special RMDZ window cling to promote the Microfunding Initiative projects.

Contacts



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