

# Industrial Innovation Implementation Grant questions and answers

## May 5, 2026

**Q1. Would a livestock truck wash wastewater pond that receives organic/manure-related washout wastewater qualify as a food system organic waste processor for the CSFS Industrial Innovation Implementation grant, if the proposed project is aeration/oxygenation equipment to reduce anaerobic conditions, odor, and treatment impacts?**

**A1.** To be considered as an eligible food system organic waste processor, the applicant's processing site/facility must primarily process organic waste/wastewater produced by the food system, and this volume must be 50% or greater of the total processing.

## May 13, 2026

**Q2. Implementation grant states that you can't use funds from the IRS Advanced Energy Credit Program (section 48C). Could applicants claim the Section 48 Investment Tax Credit and also receive funding through this grant?**

**A2.** The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) cannot provide tax advice. Applicants should consult a tax professional to determine compatibility.

## May 14, 2026 (Webinar Q&A)

**Q3. Are there prevailing wage requirements for contractual labor expenses?**

**A3.** For grant-funded projects that include construction work and have a total project cost of \$25,000 or more, prevailing wage rules apply, per Minnesota statute. You can find more information on the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's website: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/prevailing-wage>

**Q4. Could an applicant receive an award through the TAP track and then apply for a grant through the implementation track?**

**A4.** Yes, an awardee of a technical assistance and planning (TAP) grant may also apply and be considered for an Implementation award.

**Q5. Will the slides be available after the webinar?**

**A5.** We will not provide the slideshow itself, but you can review the [recording of the webinar](#) to view the slides.

**Q6. Can projects at multiple Minnesota facilities owned by the same company be bundled into one grant application?**

**A6.** No, a company with multiple locations must submit a separate application for each location, which will be treated as separate projects.

**Q7. Clarification on Wastewater Infrastructure. Seems like [eligible projects] will not include any outdated pipes that are leaking into ground water?**

**A7.** Eligible projects can include updating broken or outdated infrastructure as an eligible cost if that infrastructure is an integral component of the project.

**Q8. We're talking specifically about the Industrial Innovation in Food Systems portion today, but a slide mentioned a prevention of wasted food program. Can you elaborate on the overlap and the pathways?**

**A8.** There are other Minnesota climate smart food system programs which may overlap in their scope for projects. Only one program award may be used per specific project, as double-dipping is not allowed. For a list of grant programs available, please visit the [Minnesota climate smart food systems webpage](#).

**Q9. Question on the three tiers, small medium, and large. What would classify a project in a category, small, medium, or large?**

**A9.** Classification is based solely on dollar amount of the project.

**Q10. Each site would need to put a grant application together, if there are multiple sites within the state of Minnesota (if owned by a single entity)?**

**A10.** Yes, correct.

**Q11. If I have a project that is already in process and I want to add a heat recovery system or a variable frequency drive to that project, would that be allowable or eligible?**

**A11.** Yes. However, the MPCA cannot reimburse any costs incurred prior to the signing of the grant contract agreement, nor can costs incurred prior to grant signing be used as match by the grantee.

**Q12. There is a mention of upcycling in Attachment D but not in the RFP itself. Is it [upcycling] just included as a definition, or is there more to that as a project idea?**

**A12.** Projects involving upcycling food waste are considered eligible projects.

**Q13. I'm looking at the recycling grant for plastics as well. For example, if a warehouse is full of hams that aren't good, could the plastics be recycled under a different grant, and then the hams, the remaining organic material, be eligible as an expense under this funding? Would de-packaging equipment be eligible as an expense under Industrial Innovation?**

**A13.** Industrial Innovation projects must reduce greenhouse gases and meet eligible applicant criteria to be considered. If a project involving food waste reduces greenhouse gases and requires a de-packaging component as critical to project implementation, it would be considered an eligible expense.

## **May 15, 2026**

**Q14. We treat our wastewater through anaerobic digesters and an activated sludge system. The methane/biogas emissions produced in the anaerobic portion (which are actually lagoons) are not captured, and so per EPA calculations they emit roughly 1,175 metric tons of CH4 annually (about 33,000 mt/yr of GHG). We have considered installing impermeable covers over the anaerobic lagoons, which would allow us to capture the GHG emissions and route them to a flare to destroy roughly 31,000 tons per year. This project would be roughly \$3.5 million, which presents a significant financial hurdle. Would projects involving flaring as a greenhouse gas mitigation measure using impermeable covers over anaerobic lagoons be considered an eligible project?**

**A14.** Yes, projects involving pollution control technologies are eligible projects.

## **May 26, 2026**

**Q15. Would a pet food manufacturing facility qualify to apply for a TAP or implementation grant?**

**A15.** Yes.

**Q16. If we are currently working on a project that fits this description for this grant very well and is thoroughly planned, can we still fill out an application after some work has been done? The project will not be completed until August to September 2026, but I am curious when the cut off date is for something that has technically started but is nowhere near finished yet.**

**A16.** Yes. However, the MPCA cannot reimburse any costs incurred prior to the signing of the grant contract agreement, nor can costs incurred prior to grant signing be used as match by the grantee.

## **May 27, 2026**

**Q17. Are solar arrays qualified?**

**A17.** Solar power generation technologies are considered an eligible project. Please refer to the Implementation Request for Proposal (RFP) for more details on eligible projects and technologies.

**Q18. Would equipment solutions that allow us to reduce use/disposal of FIBC supersack/totes be qualified?**

**A18.** Industrial Innovation projects must reduce greenhouse gases. If a project involves the reduction of use or disposal of Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container (FIBC) supersack totes as a required component and critical to project implementation, it would be considered an eligible expense. Please refer to the Implementation RFP for more details on eligible projects and technologies.

**Q19. What are some other common things in dry food grade processing environments that might benefit from this program?**

**A19.** Please refer to the Implementation RFP for more details on eligible projects and technologies.