

City of Fort Lauderdale Green Your Routine Sustainability Incentive Grant Program FAQ



Our Purpose

The Green Your Routine Recycling Incentive Grant Program consists of City of Fort Lauderdale Homeowner Association (HOA) representatives willing to liaison between their HOA and the City of Fort Lauderdale's Recycling Coordinator to promote waste reduction, recycling and sustainable initiatives at home, school, work and play, all while earning funds for their HOA through the Sustainability Incentive Grant (SIG) Program.

What is a Green Your Routine Volunteer?

"Green Your Routine" Volunteers are homeowners' association (HOA) members that earn grant funds for their neighborhood associations. They work directly with the City Recycling Program Coordinator to promote waste reduction and recycling at home, school, work and play.

Neighborhood associations may appoint one resident or a group of residents to represent the neighborhood to earn dollars for the HOA under the Sustainability Incentive Grant (SIG).

If you are environmentally conscientious, live in the City of Fort Lauderdale, and can offer at least four hours a month, the Recycling Office encourages you to become a "Green Your Routine" volunteer!

What does a Green Your Routine volunteer do?

There are many opportunities to share recycling information with other City of Fort Lauderdale residents and visitors, and you can choose the activities that best suit you based on your time schedule, comfort level and style. Recruiting others to participate with you is an important aspect of this role.

You might assist City staff at festivals and special events by manning information tables or assisting with recycling operations. Or, you might sign up to generate awareness and educate residents about recycling in your own neighborhood. You may volunteer to serve as a recycling captain for your condominium building, or if you enjoy writing, you may want to consider developing articles for neighborhood association newsletters.

There are numerous opportunities to get involved, from hanging door hangers to working behind the scenes at City events, that will positively impact recycling in the City of Fort Lauderdale, and whatever you choose, you can count on making a difference in your neighborhood, your City and your world.

Who is eligible to participate and apply for the Recycling Incentive Grant?

Homeowner Associations officially recognized by the City of Fort Lauderdale.

How does the HOA earn money?

The City's Recycling Program Coordinator develops specific activities for each year's Sustainability Incentive Grant (SIG). Activities are worth a set amount of points. At the end of each fiscal year, Green Works representatives submit an award application for their HOA documenting points earned over the course of that year. The SIG award is presented to each participating community at a City Commission meeting.

In addition, volunteers receive a thank you gift from the City for their participation and support of the sustainability program.

Submitting your grant application

To qualify for grant awards, HOAs must complete a grant application and attach all required documentation. All program guidelines must have been followed and the application must be completed with accurate information to ensure proper processing of the grant request.

Do HOAs have to spend the funds they receive a certain way?

The grant requires a minimum of 20% of the funding be utilized to promote environmental sustainability and report how their SIG funds received the previous year were allocated. Good examples that have been used by HOAs are:

- NCIP cash match for maintenance or projects with a sustainability component
- Urban canopy (shade trees, not palms) for private property.
 - The City provides free trees for public property.
 - City contract pricing for purchases can be used.
 - Contact Gene Dempsey, City Urban Forester, with questions at 954-828-5785.
- Park amenities made of recyclable materials
- Newsletters printed on recycled paper and/or with soy ink
- HOA website costs (encourages paperless technology)
- School supplies made of recyclable materials for local school children
- Scholarships for Environmental Studies students
- Community yard sales
- Welcome packages for new residents that contain how to recycle information
- Clean-up items, such as gloves, rakes, trash pickers and garbage bags
- Recycled material tote bags
- Neighborhood event recycling containers
- Energy-efficient light bulbs
- Development or maintenance of Community Gardens
- Other similar programs and projects that promote sustainability

When do volunteers meet?

Under the direction of the City's Recycling Coordinator, registered volunteers meet the SECOND Monday of EVERY OTHER month. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the City of Fort Lauderdale Sanitation Administration Building, located at 220 SW 14th Avenue, Bldg 4B, Fort Lauderdale, FL. For exact meeting dates, check the website at <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/gyr/volunteer.html>.

How do I sign up?

To become a volunteer, please contact your neighborhood homeowners' association and let someone know you are interested in participating on behalf of your HOA. Contact the City's Recycling Program Aide at 954-828-5812. Download and submit the Green Your Routine Volunteer Application to the City's Recycling Program Aide by email to EPardo@fortlauderdale.gov. You will be invited to attend the next meeting and begin earning points for your HOA.

What if my HOA Green Your Routine representative can no longer participate?

Most volunteers are very active in the community and find time valuable. Should the need arise to resign at any time, volunteers are asked to meet with the Recycling Coordinator for an exit interview before leaving and inform their Homeowners Association. Volunteers will be dismissed if their behavior is detrimental to the City, patrons, staff members or does not meet the requirements of the program, such as:

- Imposing personal, religious or political views on others.
- Abusing alcohol or drugs.
- Smoking when/where prohibited.
- Failing to observe volunteer program regulations.
- Stealing.
- Possessing a weapon.
- Sexual harassment.