

YOUTH RECYCLING CHALLENGE: INNOVATION IN THE INDUSTRY

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Overview

Recycling provides a reliable stream of high-quality materials and gives us a way to renew scarce resources we would otherwise run out of. Recycled materials make a positive environmental impact by protecting natural resources through sustainable alternatives, creating less dependence on scarce resources, reducing carbon emissions, and reducing waste. The industry involves all types of groups from collection to processing to remanufacturing.

And now, KAB and ReMA invite you to get involved with the process!

Learn about how the recycling sector works in your community, especially the current challenges facing the industry. Then offer a solution or innovation that can help address that challenge in your community and beyond!

How to Participate

- Connect with a ReMA recycler near you or do research online to understand the state of recycling today and in your community (use our resource sheet for guidance!).
- Develop an innovative approach to solve or improve the issues you identified.
- Start submitting your pitches on October 15, 2026 by emailing your research and solution to us at education@kab.org. Submissions will be accepted until November 15, 2026.



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Requirements

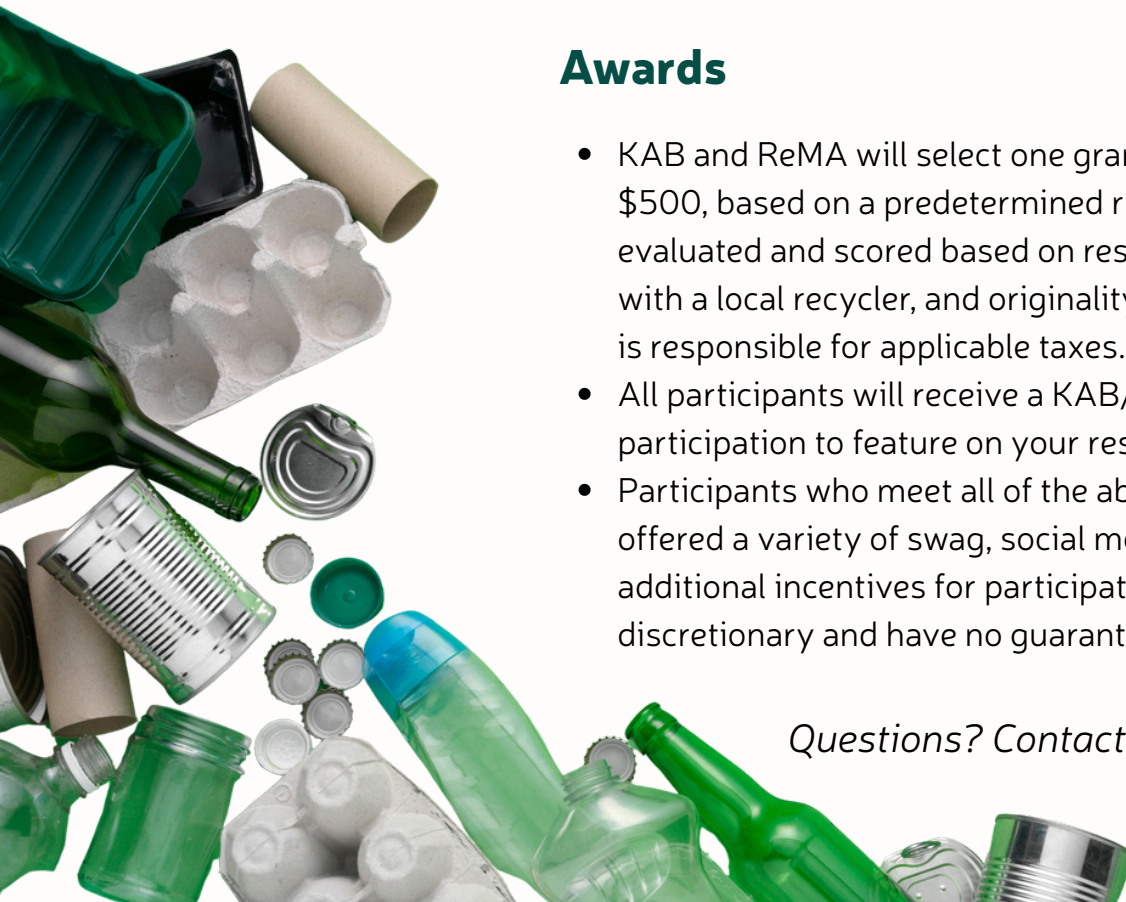
- Your pitch must be created or co-created by an individual or group (13 - 19 years old).
- While your pitch can be sent via a video, PSA, or other creative format, you must include a short accompanying write-up (max 1000 words), along with our signed waiver.
- Your pitch does not need to be a completely brand-new idea, but it should include a tie-in to your local community. We encourage you to use your own original thoughts, rather than simply relying on AI.
- Entrants retain ownership of their pitch materials, while granting KAB/ReMA permission to review and promote submissions.
- Submissions are currently limited to US residents.



Awards

- KAB and ReMA will select one grand winner/team to receive \$500, based on a predetermined rubric. Submissions will be evaluated and scored based on research, effort to connect with a local recycler, and originality/innovation. The recipient is responsible for applicable taxes.
- All participants will receive a KAB/ReMA certificate of participation to feature on your resume or portfolio.
- Participants who meet all of the above requirements may get offered a variety of swag, social media features, and additional incentives for participation. These are discretionary and have no guaranteed value.

Questions? Contact us at education@kab.org.



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Recycled Materials
Association