

EXHIBIT A ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicant accepts the following eligibility requirements and, through submission of this Screening Application, represents and warrants that it satisfies such requirements:

- Applicant hereby certifies that it is in compliance with all laws, regulations, zoning requirements, or other federal, state, and local governmental rules, and has no unpaid taxes, penalties or judgments outstanding. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Applicant hereby certifies that it has all necessary permits to conduct its business operations as presently conducted and has provided its applicable permit number(s), expiration date(s), and permitted steady state live weight on Table B-1 attached hereto.
- Applicant may be an individual, a public or private for-profit, charitable, or tax-exempt entity, including, without limitation, a sole proprietor, a single member limited liability company, a multi-member limited liability company taxed as a partnership or an S Corporation, a corporation taxed as a C Corporation or an S Corporation, a partnership (including a general partnership, a limited partnership, a limited liability partnership, or other partnership form), a trust or estate, or another type of entity.
- Applicant must own or operate an anaerobic lagoon or other liquid animal waste management system treating animal waste from livestock operations, which operations consist of cattle, bison, sheep, swine, goats, farmed cervids, or a combination thereof, that generate sludge suitable for conversion into fertilizer products.
- Applicant, the applicable livestock operations, and Applicant's proposed fertilizer conversion equipment must be located within the State of North Carolina.
- If Applicant leases the premises on which the Fertilizer Equipment (as hereinafter defined) or feedstock source farm(s) is/are situated (the "**Premises**"), there is a minimum of five (5) years remaining in the term of the lease.
- Applicant must be prepared to either itself (if Applicant is a contractor duly licensed and insured to operate in North Carolina) or through its own third-party vendors, engineer, permit, acquire, and install the sludge collection and processing equipment needed for the production of fertilizers and other soil additives meeting applicable State and Federal requirements for use in agricultural operations (the "**Fertilizer Equipment**").
- Applicant must be able to meet a direct one to one match for any Cost Share Program grant funds, meaning Applicant must provide a match in cash or in-kind equivalents equal to One Dollar (\$1.00) for every One Dollar (\$1.00) in Cost Share Program grant funds distributed to Applicant by the Grantor upon substantial completion of the Fertilizer Equipment.
- The maximum amount of cost-share that Applicant may ultimately receive (subject to the sole and absolute discretion of Grantor) is the lesser of (a) Nine Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$960,000.00) or (b) fifty percent (50.00%) of the portion of actual site engineering, permitting, acquisition, and installation costs of the Fertilizer Equipment. Applicant will be fully responsible for the remaining costs and acknowledges and agrees that Applicant will cause such costs to be paid by cash or through in-kind tangible property. Applicant acknowledges that Grantor may alter the maximum cap above the amount set forth herein in its sole discretion and as allowed by applicable law.
- Applicant, if accepted and funded, will covenant and agree, and cause Applicant's officers, employees, agents, and representatives, as applicable, to comply with all rules and regulations applicable to Applicant's facilities and the Fertilizer Equipment whether established by North Carolina law or other applicable law.
- Applicant acknowledges and agrees that the Grantor may give priority approval to applicants and projects that will receive the greatest benefit or where traditional land application methods are difficult or prohibitive.

- Applicant represents and warrants to Grantor that Applicant, and Applicant’s (i) shareholders, members, or partners, directors, managers, officers, employees, or any of the foregoing’s immediate family members must not be in a position to exercise substantial influence over the affairs of (a) the Grantor, (b) any person or entity who may purchase or serve as an aggregator, secondary processor, affiliated processors, or any other person or entity other than Applicant who stores, processes, or upgrades animal waste sludge from the feedstock source or produces fertilizer products using Fertilizer Equipment (a “**Fertilizer Processor**”), or (c) any person or entity other than Applicant engaged in the business of designing, engineering, constructing, installing, selling, or operating Fertilizer Equipment in the state of North Carolina (an “**Equipment Producer**”), including, without limitation, by serving as a director or officer (or family member of either) of Grantor, a Fertilizer Processor, or an Equipment Producer, except as set forth on Table B-5.