

Environmental Product Declaration Assistance Fund FAQs

1. What is the Environmental Product Declaration Assistance Fund?

- A. The Environmental Product Declaration Assistance Fund (EPDAF) is a financing resource operated by the Department of Commerce (Commerce) to provide grants to producers of cement or concrete mixes to support the development, standardization and transparency of Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs).

2. How was the EPDAF established?

- A. The EPDAF was established under Chapter 202 of the 2023 session of the Maryland General Assembly. Click on the link below: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/legislation/details/hb0261/?ys=2023rs>

3. Who is eligible for a grant from the EPDAF?

- A. To qualify for a grant from the EPDAF, an applicant must submit proof of documented expenditures related to the creation of EPDs for cement or concrete mixes. EPDs may be required for cement or concrete mixes used in the construction of a capital project that is funded solely with State funds or community college projects that receive State funds. Additionally, EPDs may help cement or concrete mix producers demonstrate the carbon footprint of their product when bidding on projects that have sustainability requirements.

4. What is an EPD?

- A. An EPD is a document that quantifies environmental impact data from manufacturing a product. Simply stated, an EPD is a nutrition label for a specific product much like a nutrition label found on food. One difference from food nutrition labels is that an EPD describes emissions that are no longer IN the product, but that have been released to the environment.

Product Impacts	
Declared Unit: 1 m ³ of 10,000 psi concrete at 28 days	
Amount Per Declared Unit	
Global Warming Potential	445 kgCO ₂ eq
Emitted	460 kgCO ₂ eq
Sequestered	-15 kgCO ₂ eq
Ozone Depletion	0.000 kgCFC11eq
Acidification	2.96 kgSO ₂ eq
Eutrophication	0.09 kgNeq
Smog Formation	0.61 kgO ₃ eq
Primary Energy Demand	3017 MJ
Non-renewable	3000 MJ
Renewable	17 MJ

5. How is an EPD generated?

- A. The creation of EPDs involves a complex life cycle assessment (LCA) of each unique concrete mix. The LCA is a comprehensive analysis that documents many factors that impact a product's carbon footprint. The LCA starts with a Product Category Rule (PCR). The PCR is an instruction manual for creating an EPD that defines the unit to be analyzed, the scope and boundaries of the LCA, environmental impacts to be reported in the EPD, etc. Once the PCR is determined and the LCA is complete, the LCA has to be verified by a third-party consultant. Once the LCA is verified the EPD is created using the results of the LCA, the concrete's performance and other sustainability attributes spelled out in the PCR. The EPD is then verified by a third party and can be registered and published.

6. How will funding be prioritized?

- A. Commerce will prioritize awarding grants on a first come, first served basis.

7. How much is the grant for?

- A. The first round of grants will be for \$20,000 per company. The grant is reimbursable and the applicant must submit receipts for the full amount requested in the grant application. Subsequent rounds may occur if needed based on funding availability so another plant within a company that received a grant can apply.

8. What can a grant from the EPDAF be used for?

- A. A grant from the EPDAF can be used for the following:
- ☐ Conducting a Life Cycle Assessment
 - ☐ Producing a Life Cycle Assessment Report
 - ☐ Producing a Draft Environmental Product Declaration
 - ☐ Reviewing of Life Cycle Assessment Report
 - ☐ Verifying Environmental Product Declaration

9. How does one apply for a grant from the EPDAF?

- A. One may apply using the application provided by the Department of Commerce ([Link](#))

10. Are there any fees or costs to apply?

- A. There is no cost to apply for the grant. Please be advised that grants are taxable so you may wish to consult your tax advisor prior to applying.

11. What information is required for applying for the grant?

A. The following documents are required:

- [W9](#)
- Evidence of Good Standing with the State - Good Standing can be determined on the [Maryland Business Express website](#). A screenshot of the results will suffice - a formal certificate of good standing is not required.
- Receipts for all reimbursable expenditures related to obtaining an EPD after July 1, 2023, including a copy of each EPD obtained after this date.
- Copy of check or credit card statement used to make payment for receipts submitted (account numbers redacted).

12. When does the application period open?

A. The application period opens on May 28, 2024 and closes on June 14, 2024.

13. Where can I learn more about this program?

A. More information is available here ([Link to application](#))

14. Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

A. You may contact Robin Bailey via email at robin.bailey1@maryland.gov.