# Specifications for Sustainable Vibrant Places Bonus Grant

To be eligible for the Sustainable Vibrant Places Bonus Grant, projects must meet certain performance specifications. Detailed specification eligibility for select materials or products is provided below. Other projects consistent with the goal of investing in sustainable, energy-efficient, low-carbon improvements and climate change mitigation will also be considered.

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| Project | Description and Benefits | Specifications | Estimated Cost\*\* | Links to More Information |
| Energy Star-rated windows | Average energy savings when updating single pane glass is $270 per year. Energy Star is a government program that certifies minimum energy performance criteria are met. | All Energy Star labeled windows have a U-factor of 0.30 or lower, and with SHGC = .40 or lower. | $5-40 per sq ft ([Source 1](https://www.homeadvisor.com/cost/doors-and-windows/install-triple-pane-windows/#triple-pane-window-cost-per-square-foot)) | [Link 1](https://www.energystar.gov/products/building_products/residential_windows_doors_and_skylights/benefits)  [Link 2](https://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/manuf_res/windows/ES_Windows_Cost_Energy_Savings.pdf) |
| New energy efficient doors | Doors are responsible for 11 percent of air leaks in most homes. More insulated doors can reduce heating and cooling costs. | For doors with glass, they must have U-factor of 0.27 or lower  For solid doors (without glass), U-factor must be 0.17 or lower | $750-2500 | [Link 1](https://www.remodelingexpense.com/costs/cost-of-energy-efficient-doors/) |
| Pervious surface or permeable pavers | When we replace natural ground with hard, impermeable surfaces, water is unable to absorb back into the earth. Instead, rainwater sheet flows to gutters, overwhelms our systems, and causes flooding. Installing permeable surfaces allows water to absorb into the ground, reducing risk of flooding, and recharging our natural water aquifers. | Permeable Pavers  Must have a base layer of 6-8” of ¾” open aggregate below the pavers. Joints between pavers filled with 1-1½” of ¼” #10 aggregate. Permeable pavers may be solid or open ‘turf stone’ style.  Other Permeable Surfaces  Pervious concrete and other surfaces with open cavities in a minimum of 15%, to allow water to soak through | $7-30 ([source 1](https://homeguide.com/costs/permeable-pavers-cost#:~:text=Permeable%20pavement%20cost,to%20%2416%20per%20square%20foot.)) | [Link 1](https://westerninterlock.com/permeable-pavers-vs-non-permeable-pavers-whats-the-difference/)  [Link 2](https://www.perviouspavement.org/benefits/leed.html) |
| 30% recycled-content material | A variety of products can be purchased with recycled content. Purchasing recycled content diverts waste from landfills, reduces the carbon footprint, and contributes to a circular economy. | Any product labeled or certified with a minimum of 30% recycled content qualifies. | Varies | [Link 1](https://sustainablepackaging.org/101-recycled-content-vs-recyclability/)  [Link 2](https://www.stopwaste.org/faq/when-looking-recycled-content-products-what-do-terms-%E2%80%9Cpostconsumer%E2%80%9D-%E2%80%9Cpre-consumer%E2%80%9D-and-%E2%80%9Ctotal#:~:text=%E2%80%9CRecycled%20Content%E2%80%9D%20means%20the%20total,pre%2Dconsumer%20and%20postconsumer%20materials.) |
| Xeriscaping (drought-tolerant landscaping) | Xeriscaping includes a combination of specific drought-tolerant plants, and natural groundcover like stones or mulch. Once established, it does not require irrigation, reducing water costs. | Removal of grassy areas and replacement with drought-tolerant plants and hardscaping, to reduce need for watering once established. | $5-20 per sq ft ([source 1](https://www.fixr.com/costs/xeriscaping#:~:text=The%20average%20homeowner%20spends%20between,areas%20to%20promote%20water%20conservation.)) | [Link 1](https://indianhousedesign.com/xeriscaping-the-sustainable-landscaping-method-to-incorporate-into-your-garden.html)  [Link 2](https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/xeriscaping) |
| Rain garden | Rain gardens help to capture rainwater and allow water to be absorbed into the ground. This recharges our aquifers and reduces street flooding. | Must contain native plants appropriate for rain garden applications. | $5-15 per sq ft ([source 1](http://raingardenalliance.org/what/faqs)) | [Link 1](https://www.in.gov/dnr/lake-michigan-coastal-program/files/lm-RainGardenManual.pdf) |
| No-VOC paint | Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are present in a number of manufactured products, like paint, upholstery, carpet, etc. VOCs are emitted into the air, negatively impacting air quality, and contributing to smog and climate change. | Any certified no-VOC paint qualifies | $18-40 per gallon ([source 1](https://www.buildwithrise.com/stories/our-top-8-picks-sustainable-interior-paint#:~:text=Safecoat%20zero%2DVOC%20paint%20can,for%20just%20%2433%20per%20gallon.)) | [Link 1](https://modernize.com/homeowner-resources/other/does-no-voc-exterior-paint-matter) |

\*\* Please note that estimated costs are subject to change.