

Black Hills Area Community Foundation Awards \$50,000 to eWaste Recycling and Student Education

20 September 2019 | by [BHACF](#)



September 20, 2019 – Rapid City, SD – This year marked the 2nd year that the Black Hills Area Community Foundation (BHACF) awarded the \$50,000 Community Action Grant. This year's recipient is Black Hills Works (BHW) to support their Echo Works Project.

The grants were announced at a grant celebration on September 18, 2019 at the home of BHACF Board member, Haven and Terry Stuck. This year, we had 20 organizations indicate an interest in applying for the grant and we invited 6 organizations to apply. All finalists submitted requests for innovative projects with the potential for great impact, which made the final selection process difficult. Ultimately, the Black Hills Works: Echo Works Project was selected based on the partnerships formed, the multiple areas of impact from environment to employment and student education, and the gap in services to our community that Echo Works will address. BHACF is honored to announce Black Hills Works: Echo Works Project as the 2019 recipient of the Community Action Grant.

Echo Works, a division of BHW, is a member of CyclePoint with SourceAmerica. CyclePoint is an eRecycling network that offers communities convenient, safe and secure electronics disposal. Its mission is to create sustainable jobs for people with significant disabilities and to contribute to environmental health. Currently, there are limited recycling facilities in or around Rapid City for processing of recyclable materials from electronic waste. Echo Works is collaborating with

Western Dakota Tech (WDT) to establish a physical location for an on-campus and community-accessible e-recycling facility and to develop new policies regarding responsible recycling practices that reduce the disposal of dangerous electronics in local landfills. As part of this partnership, WDT will provide facilities for Eco Works operations as well as transportation of commodities. Students and instructors from the WDT Professional Truck Driving program will transport deconstructed materials to regional commodities exchange facilities. Additionally, the Program Instructor and students from the WDT Environmental Engineering Technology Department, will provide support to the project through development of policy, educational materials, outreach, and future partnerships, particularly with the City of Rapid City.

Over the last year BHACF has partnered with Feeding South Dakota, the 2018 recipient of the Community Action Grant, to distribute food via mobile food pantries to 21,694 family members; distribute 247,170 pounds of food in neighborhoods located in food desert areas of Rapid City; foster ongoing partnerships with 13 nonprofits and 35 sustained volunteers who support the mobile distributions; and implement new mobile data management software to help better track community impact.

To learn more about BHACF and our grant opportunities, visit the [website](#) or contact Liz Hamburg at Liz@bhacf.org

About Black Hills Foundation

The Black Hills Area Community Foundation maximizes the impact of your charitable giving. We mobilize philanthropic resources to advance quality of life, increase social impact and champion civic engagement. The Foundation and our donors have granted more than \$1.1 billion to grow a vibrant Black Hills region. Learn more on our [website](#), and consider a donation to One of our [Field of Interest Funds](#) which support Black Hills community needs for good, forever.

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