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**2024-25 Defensible Space Fuel
Reduction Project Funding**

Program Description

Cost-share assistance of up to \$5,000 per project is available to groups or groups of individuals to hire a contractor to reduce fuel loads and create defensible space on your property!

The Diablo Fire Safe Council (DFSC) is sponsoring defensible space fuel reduction projects for 2022 – 2023. Emphasis will be on areas prioritized in the Alameda County and Contra Costa County Community Wildfire Protection Plans or where homeowner associations, civic organizations and other groups of individuals are organized and available to promote fire safe efforts. Projects can include:

- Chipping or green waste removal of homeowner cut material,
- Mowing or “weed whacking” (as a part of a larger project)
- Tree thinning (cutting of small trees) or “limbing-up” or removal of small dead trees
- Brush cutting (including juniper removal or use of mechanical equipment)
- Grazing

Immediate funding will be available for chipping or removal of homeowner cut materials. Projects that have possible environmental concerns or the potential to disturb protected species will be reviewed for impacts prior to funding. Best management practices will need to be incorporated into all ground disturbing fuel reduction work.

APPLICATION SUBMITTAL SCHEDULE

Applications will be reviewed for funding on a rolling basis once every quarter.

February 10, 2023	I QTR 2023 applications due
May 12, 2023	2QTR 2023 application due
August 11, 2023	3QTR 2023 application due
November 10, 2023	4QTR 2023 application due
February 9, 2024	I QTR 2024 applications due

IF NEEDED (if not all funds dispersed)

May 18, 2024 Final applications due

See Diablo Fire Safe Council web site www.diablofiresafe.org for more information on selection criteria and an application. Or contact Joelle Fraser Project Coordinator DFSC
email: joelle@diablofiresafe.org Phone: (510) 750-5108



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2023 – 2024 Defensible Space Fuel Reduction Project Funding

Selection Criteria For Project Funding

OVERALL GOALS

Project reduces hazardous fuels that, if left untreated, would generate high intensity burning adjacent to structures or communities at risk, or produce large quantities of airborne burning embers that could carry into communities or other important resources.

Project reduces hazards along strategic emergency access and evacuation routes, or other critical infrastructure.

Project includes vegetation modification treatments that will reduce the threat of unacceptable impacts of high intensity fire to high value ecosystems, sensitive watersheds and high concentration recreation areas, including regional parklands and state or federal lands.

ELIGIBILITY

Funds are targeted for fuel reduction projects that result in a group of homes that meet the defensible space requirements set forth by local fire codes or Public Resource Code 4291. To be eligible for funding a project must be:

1. Located within Alameda County or Contra Costa County within a local fire hazard area, CALFIRE identified *Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone*, or Federal listed *Community at Risk*.
2. Focus fuels reduction in the 100' defensible space radius that surrounds homes, or clear vegetation from along access/ evacuation routes or other critical facility.
3. Obtain the support of local fire department (e.g. site visit, inspection notice, letter of support, email). DFSC can help you obtain support if your project is selected.

SELECTION CRITERIA.

Projects will be ranked by DFSC's selection committee according to the following criteria:

1. Application is clear as to what the project entails and supports DFSC's Overall Goals and funders' specifications.
2. Well defined project tasks and timeframe
3. Realistic budget that maximizes fuel reduction for minimal investment
4. Measurable goals that provide more than a single growing season hazardous fuel reduction
5. Sustainable effectiveness that includes a plan for maintenance into the future
6. Strong commitment from multiple neighbors to participate
7. Designated organizer and support person who will keep records of participation, provide a final report within 2 weeks of project completion and before/ after photos.
8. Project will lead to further neighborhood fire safe activities

Extra Points for: 1. Recognized NFPA Firewise Community 2. Matching funds. 3. Projects that have considered means for re-use of woody biomass. 4. Project assists underserved senior or disabled community members. 5. Project continues or extends work that was previously done by neighborhood. 6. Attendance of organizers at a DFSC workshop or event.

For further information contact

Joelle Fraser, DFSC Project Coordinator at joelle@diablofiresafe.org or (510) 750-5108



Matching Contribution Eligibility and Documentation

Be a partner in wildfire prevention

Contributions are critical to expand our effectiveness in wildfire prevention. Our Federal and State grants require us to have matching contributions from our local partners in wildfire prevention. To continue to receive these grants DFSC must be able to document your community's matching contribution.

Help us track your project efforts & improve the chance of future funding in your community!

Match contributions for DFSC Grants can come in two forms:

1. Cash (paid to project contractor or donated to DFSC and spent on project)
2. In-kind contributions (goods, services, volunteer time / sweat equity, etc)

Matching contributions must meet **ALL four** eligibility criteria:

✓ 1. Contributions are **verifiable**

Documented with time sheets, volunteer sign-in sheets, receipts, cancelled checks or paid invoices. Documented with photographs from before, during and after work.

Verification includes:

- Contributor's name and title/ organization (if applicable)
- Date of contribution or match. Time sheets or volunteer sign-in sheets should include date, time in, time out and task description.
- Description of contribution and value. Explanation of how valuation was made and who made the value determination.
- Contributor Signature

✓ 2. Contributions are **in scope** and **reasonable** for the project

- Contributions must relate to the project objectives outlined by DFSC and play an essential role in the completion of the project
- Value is consistent with the value of similar goods and/or services.
- Value must be reasonable for the project type and location. Value to be what objective individuals would reasonably agree is the value.
- Volunteer hourly rates follow DFSC standards for calculations.

✓ 3. Contributions are **allowable** under grant guidelines.

- Your match must conform to any limitations in the grant agreement.

✓ 4. Federal Government funds can't be used as a match for another Federal Grant. Also, State funds can't be used as a match for another State Grant.

Questions? Contact Joelle Fraser Project Coordinator at joelle@diablofiresafe.org or (510) 750-5108.

For your match to count, your efforts must be documented.

Diablo Fire Safe Council Cost Share Program

DFSC will match \$ for \$ up to \$5,000

DFSC amount = homeowner group \$ to pay contractor + value of sweat equity

DFSC to pay a maximum of \$5,000

DFSC to only pay contractor directly (no reimbursements to homeowners).

Cost Share Examples

	<i>Total \$ available to pay contractor</i>	<i>DFSC \$ to contractor</i>	<i>Homeowner group's \$ to pay contractor</i>	<i>Homeowner group "sweat equity (1 hr = \$37.32)</i>
All sweat equity from homeowner's group	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00		134 hours = \$ 5,000.88
Max \$ with no sweat equity	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$0
Less sweat equity from group w/ no homeowner \$ to pay contractor	\$ 3,685.50	\$ 3,685.50		99 hours = \$ 3,694.68
Mix of sweat equity from group and cash (with max \$5,000 from DFSC)	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	94 hours = \$ 3,508.08



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2023 – 2024 Defensible Space Fuel Reduction Project Funding

Request to Participate

The Diablo FireSafe Council (DFSC) is sponsoring defensible space fuel reduction projects for 2023 – 2024. Cost-share assistance of up to \$5,000 per project is available to groups or groups of individuals to hire contractors to reduce fuel loads and create defensible space.

DFSC may assist Alameda County or Contra Costa County property owners with vegetation management projects that will lead to compliance with their local fire department’s defensible space requirements in areas designated as Priority Hazard Zones.

Contractors will be hired directly by property owners with DFSC funds augmenting private property owner contributions.

Contractors and homeowners will not contract directly with the Diablo FireSafe Council. DFSC will pay directly to the contractors a portion of project costs up to \$5,000 per project.

To have your project considered for funding please complete the following information:

1. Designated Project Coordinator: _____

Phone: (Daytime) _____ (Evening) _____ (Cell) _____

Email: _____

2. Neighborhood/ Street Names: _____

Project Address: _____ APN (if no address): _____

3. Number of households or volunteers involved (minimum 5): _____

Names and address of household or volunteers involved (attach an additional sheet if necessary):

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

How did you hear about our program? _____ Fire Department _____ Word of mouth

Other: _____

Are you a part of a recognized NFPA Firewise Community Yes _____ No _____ In progress _____

Diablo Fire Safe Council is not obligated to provide services and is not liable for its failure to provide services, nor for the performances of services under this program.

4. Describe your project and what you plan to do to achieve Defensible Space within 100 feet of your homes, anticipated tasks and timeframe (attach an additional sheet if necessary):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chipping of homeowner cut material | <input type="checkbox"/> Green waste removal of homeowner cut material |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weed whacking/ mowing (as part of a larger project)* | <input type="checkbox"/> Needle/ leaf removal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree thinning (cutting of small trees)* | <input type="checkbox"/> Brush cutting* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree "limbing up"* | <input type="checkbox"/> Grazing* |

**Note: Your project may be located where there are federally protected species or other environmental concerns. Ground disturbing projects as indicated by * will require environmental review by DFSC and the funding agency. Best management practices will need to be incorporated into all ground disturbing fuel reduction work.*

5. Briefly describe the services or funding your neighborhood can provide. Services may include: time spent organizing your neighbors for a work-day, follow-up weed control, tools or supplies needed for the project. If you are providing matching funds, indicate amount.

6. Briefly describe how your project will help protect your neighborhood from wildfire.

I certify this information to be true and correct and that the information provided is subject to verification. If my group is selected, we agree to work with Diablo Fire Safe Council to further define the scope of the project. We understand that we will be responsible for hiring a contractor for the work.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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