

HOW TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM THE ALA-TOM RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (RC&D) COUNCIL

The ALA-TOM RC&D Council, headquartered in Thomasville, Alabama, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization sponsored by the County Commissions and Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Washington, and Wilcox counties. The mission of the ALA-TOM RC&D Council is to conserve and develop all resources to enhance the quality of life in the area.

The ALA-TOM RC&D Council receives assistance from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, which provides the Executive Director, Norman Burton, to develop plans, programs, and provide assistance to groups in the nine county area. The RC&D Council operates on dues, grants, and other sources to carry out its long-range plan.

To request assistance for a project, the following procedure should be followed:

- Complete the attached Project Application form
- Meet with the RC&D representative from your county (list attached) to present your proposed project
- You may mail the application directly to the RC&D office if you cannot meet with your local RC&D representative.

Mail to:

ALA-TOM RC&D Office
16 W Front Street South
Post Office Box 355
Thomasville, AL 36784
FAX: 334-636-0122
Phone: 334-636-0120

All projects must meet basic criteria set by the ALA-TOM RC&D Council. These are:

1. A local organization, committee, or task force must be in place to plan, implement, and maintain the project.
2. Must address one of the goals identified in the Long Range Plan (see attached list).
3. Must have public benefits (can not benefit individuals).
4. Should benefit the entire region or demonstrate an activity that could be duplicated throughout the area.

5. If you are requesting grant funds, should be able to provide a minimum of 50% in matching funds or in-kind assistance to help complete the project. You must prepare a budget showing how you will use grant funds, and the types and amounts of matching funds.
6. The applicant must show how the project can be sustained. You must show how the operation and maintenance will be done using local resources.
7. If there is development planned on some property, you must have a deed to the property or a long-term lease.
8. Projects that will create jobs and economic development will receive a higher priority.

If the ALA-TOM RC&D Council adopts your project, you will be notified. Once a project is adopted, it must then be prioritized against other projects. Once a priority is set, it will be placed in the Council's Annual Plan of Work in the year that it can be addressed. Once in the Annual Plan of Work, we will then start working on the project.

If you have questions, need assistance in completing the application, or need help in determining if your proposed project is eligible, contact your local RC&D representative or call the ALA-TOM RC&D office in Grove Hill.

The RC&D program is a program of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250 -9410, or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ALA-TOM RC&D COUNCIL GOALS AND PRIORITIES

The ALA-TOM RC&D Council has identified 12 goals that are needed to address the problems and needs of the area, and that fall within the scope and ability of the Council to address. Because of the limited amount of technical assistance available, priorities must be set in order to maximize the effort and to be able to make real changes. The following priority list was developed by the Council to guide their efforts over the next ten years. By identifying high priorities, the Council does not preclude any work being done in medium and low priority goals. It simply means that wherever and whenever possible, high priority items will take precedence.

HIGH PRIORITY

- GOAL b - Provide agricultural opportunities to small landowners to generate new or additional income.
- GOAL c - Eliminate the improper disposal of farm and household wastes.
- GOAL 1 - Promote economic development in the area.
- GOAL g - Increase tourism in the area for economic development.

MEDIUM PRIORITY

- GOAL a - Create an awareness among the public and elected officials on environmental issues and their impact.
- GOAL d - Reduce soil erosion from all sources to acceptable levels.
- GOAL e - Educate area landowners in the multiple use management of forestland.

LOW PRIORITY

- GOAL i Assist organizations in acquiring adequate public services.
- GOAL j - Assist organizations in refining, improving, and expanding infrastructure.
- GOAL k - Promote community development in the area.
- GOAL f - Provide adequate public fishing in the area.
- GOAL h - Improve the quantity, quality, and access to recreation facilities.

PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

ALA-TOM RC&D COUNCIL

Post Office Box 355

Thomasville, AL 36784

Phone: 334-636-0120

Name of Project	
Name of Sponsoring Group	
Contact Person	
Address	
Phone Number (day)	
Problem or need being addressed	
Goal of Project	
Total Estimated Cost of Project	
Matching Funds Available (list source and amount)	
Assistance Needed	
Yearly Operation and Maintenance Cost	
List Source of Operation and Maintenance Funds	
Other Information	

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date