

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program

Funding Report for Fiscal Years 2016/2017



**IMPACTS
&
RESULTS**
IN YOUR REGION

FOREWORD

Regional planning commissions, also known as Councils of Governments (COGs), are required by statute to issue a biennial report to the legislature detailing how revenue received for the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program is spent (Solid Waste Disposal Act, Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, 361.014 (b)).

This report is respectfully submitted in fulfillment of this statutory requirement.

A compilation of data received from the 24 COGs through the Waste Permits Division of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is included, summarizing projects funded by each of the planning regions during the State Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017.

This report also includes a brief overview of some of the challenges and successes the regions have had, including illegal dumping, recycling, economics, partnerships, and the effects of Hurricane Harvey.



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Special appreciation is given to the following individuals for their donation of time and resources to produce this report providing a snapshot of the important work being done across Texas:

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THE GRANT PROGRAM

The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program is important to communities across Texas because it provides crucial funding for projects that protect the environment and safeguard health, general welfare, and physical property.

Thanks to the appropriation of these grant funds, communities are able to establish programs that likely become self-sustaining over time and produce long-term health and safety benefits for all Texans.

(See Table 2 for a list of the Types of Projects Funded.)

WHY THE PROGRAM IS IMPORTANT

- Provides start-up or implementation funds for needed programs
- Safeguards health, general welfare, and physical property
- Protects the environment
- Provides residents with opportunities to properly dispose of or recycle items that can be challenging to get rid of safely

WHY USE COGS TO OVERSEE GRANTS

COGs are successful administrators of these grant funds because of the following:

- **LOCAL FAMILIARITY**
Grant proposals are evaluated by public and private experts from each region who are familiar with the region's needs and issues.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY**
COGs administer a wide range of grants, from \$324 to \$370,032 in Fiscal Years 2016/2017, with legislatively set-forth methods of accountability.
- **PARTNERSHIP**
COGs work with governments to develop and update Regional Solid Waste Management Plans.
- **REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**
COGs can help facilitate projects that benefit the region as a whole, including developing regional household hazardous waste facilities, cross-jurisdictional environmental enforcement task forces, and regional recycling facilities.
- **EFFICIENCY**
COGs know what activities are under way in their areas, thus decreasing the chance for duplication of efforts.

“Regional Solid Waste Grant-funded equipment has helped the city divert 6,117 tons of material by encouraging more recycling and increasing capacity to accept a wider variety of materials at our facility. Much of what has been accomplished would not be possible without this funding.”

Fiscal Years 2016/2017 recipient

When the rubber hits the road, the result is worn out tires. Nearly 300 million used tires are discarded every year in the United States. According to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), more than 43.7 million are disposed of properly in Texas. There is no way to estimate the number not recovered statewide. However, the City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department cleans up about 70,000 illegally dumped tires per year.

Tires of all types (automobile, truck, and agricultural equipment) are illegally dumped in vacant lots, along isolated roads, behind culverts, in drainage ditches and other waterways,

and in the bays along the Texas coast. Illegally dumped or improperly stored scrap tires take years to decompose, causing navigational and aquatic habitat hazards in waterways and facilitating breeding grounds for mosquitoes that carry West Nile and Zika viruses and rodents.

Discarding old tires in landfills is not a perfect solution either. Tires can cause difficult-to-extinguish fires that release toxic gases into the air and oily residue into soil and waterways.

Despite increases in collection events and drop-off locations, most cities and counties still have a significant problem with illegally dumped tires.

During Fiscal Years 2016/2017 almost \$357,895 of Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds was spent on collecting and disposing of tires. COGs identified the need for more tire collections, more accessible markets for tire recycling, more education about illegal tire dumping, more enforcement, and more funding to meet the demand and address the problem.

Grantees collected over 775,500 tires.

When stacked together, that's about the height of

1,857 Texas Capitol Buildings.



HOW THE PROGRAM IS FUNDED

Communities have a great demand for these grant funds and programs.

During Fiscal Years 2016/2017, the 24 regional COGs funded 238 projects totaling \$6,226,775.99.

The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program is funded by revenues collected through municipal solid waste fees, or tipping fees, paid at landfills and appropriated by the legislature during each regularly scheduled session.

Statutorily, the TCEQ receives a portion of these funds, and a portion is allocated to the COGs for local and regional projects.

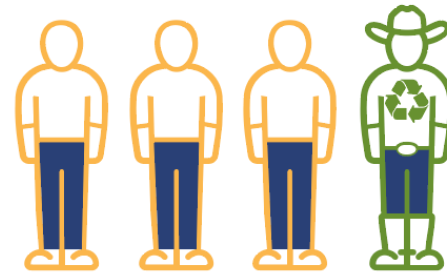
Allocations to COGs are based on a formula that considers population, area, solid waste fee generation, and public health needs (Solid Waste Disposal Act, Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, 361.014(b)).

Communities have a great demand for these grant funds and programs. During Fiscal Years 2016/2017, the 24 regional COGs funded 238 projects totaling \$6,226,775.99.



PEOPLE IMPACTED

Regional Solid Waste grants allow COGs to offer services and education impacting a large portion of Texans.



1 in 4

Texans were reached through mass-media activities.

"Cowboy" icon by Artem Kovyazin from thenounproject.com



339,100

Texas students attend a school district with a grant-funded recycling program.

"School" icon by Hea Poh Lin from thenounproject.com

TOPIC OF INTEREST ECONOMICS OF RECYCLING

For many people, what first comes to mind when considering recycling are the environmental benefits such as reducing demand for raw materials and diverting material from landfills. Another aspect of recycling that deserves more attention is the extraordinary economic value of the industry. The recycling industry creates jobs, generates revenue, and provides an alternative source of materials for manufacturers.

In 2017, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) released the *Study on the Economic Impacts of Recycling*, as required by House Bill 2763, 84th Legislature. This study documents the results of a thorough examination of the economics of both residential and commercial recycling in Texas. According to the study, as of 2015, the Texas recycling industry either directly or indirectly supported 17,000 jobs, about 8,000 of which were directly involved in collection, processing, or transporting recycled materials. The 17,000 jobs amounted to \$857 million in wages while the industry accounted for \$1.6 billion in value added to the Texas economy and about \$3.4 billion of economic output.

Recycling is already an important economic activity in the state of Texas and has the potential to become even more valuable in the coming decades. The study outlined three possible scenarios, based on a 20 percent, 40 percent, or 60 percent increase in recycling, showing a potential increase in economic output to \$4.1 billion, \$4.7 billion, and \$5.4 billion, respectively, from the 2015 baseline amount of \$3.3 billion.

The full economic potential of recycling is impacted by high rates of contamination, influencing which materials are recycled and causing costly equipment damage to the material recovery facilities. Additionally, the average recycling participation rate in Texas at the time of the study was 22.7 percent, which results in a high opportunity cost, considering the amount of materials that could be recycled and are not. If the issues of low participation and high contamination are

addressed, the economic benefits of recycling in Texas are expected to grow significantly. The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program can help.

Overall, recycling has a significant positive impact on the Texas economy and has the potential to contribute even more to economic growth and prosperity. In addition to positive environmental outcomes, continued industry growth will provide future economic benefits in jobs, manufacturing, and preservation of landfill space.



Bales of cardboard waiting for transport to mills.

WHO BENEFITS FROM THE GRANTS

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds are awarded through a competitive process in each of the 24 regions.

Table 1 Fiscal Years 2016/2017 **Funding by Entity**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	PROJECT FUNDING
Cities	130	\$3,170,655.43
Counties	55	\$1,216,758.87
COGs	41	\$1,469,102.83
School Districts	8	\$326,606.64
Other Districts/Authorities	4	\$43,652.22
TOTAL	238	\$6,226,775.99

IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships have the power to stretch dollars and take advantage of efficiencies, improve effectiveness, and grow programs more quickly. Regional Solid Waste Grants Program partnerships can come in many forms. Partnerships are forged between counties, cities, school districts, nonprofits, and local businesses.

Partnerships were key to the success of an illegal dumping enforcement grant in the City of Nacogdoches in the Deep East Texas Council of Governments region. The city partnered with Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful to implement an outreach campaign to educate residents about illegal dumping and proper disposal methods for waste. Together they designed and distributed printed materials to approximately 7,500 residents at local festivals and events and put up 40 No Dumping signs in known illegal dumping areas. The combined efforts of the enforcement of existing illegal disposal laws and outreach programs are making a difference in the city in its fight against illegal dumping. The city has experienced a 29 percent decrease in the number of illegal dumping sites in the city.

A grant project utilizing a partnership to improve implementation and effectiveness is the partnership in the South Plains Association of Governments region between the City of Meadow and Meadow Independent School District (ISD) to allow recycling to take place in the schools. The ISD did not have resources to implement and operate a recycling program on their own, but by partnering with the city and utilizing various school groups to assist in the collection of recycling containers from each classroom, they began a recycling program and have maintained it for more than two years. Over the life of the program about 150 students have helped with the program and 11,506 pounds of recyclables have been collected.

An example of an entity with a strong partnership with businesses is the City of Bellville recycling center in the Houston-Galveston Area Council region. In addition to functioning as a drop-off recycling location for both city and county residents, the recycling center formed partnerships with area businesses, providing them with an easy way to recycle their cardboard. About 75 participating businesses save money by reducing the amount of waste they must pay to have cardboard hauled away each week. The city benefits by increasing the amount of cardboard collected and captures the resulting larger revenue when the cardboard is sold instead of landfilled. In a little more than two years, the recycling center brought in more than 1 million pounds of cardboard for recycling.

By forming regional partnerships, grant recipients can leverage funding and garner other support they need to increase the effectiveness and capacity of projects for their residents.

COGS PROVIDE SERVICES

In addition to grant administration and management, the COGs perform many functions to ensure coordination and implementation of regional projects and plans (Solid Waste Disposal Act, Chapter 363, Health and Safety Code, 361.064 – 363.066) and help local governments better deliver services to their constituents.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Facilitate solid waste advisory committees who determine which grants to fund and direct the activities of the solid waste staff as needed
- Maintain an inventory of closed landfills and associated records for the region for use by consultants and individuals purchasing property
- Review municipal solid waste permit applications for consistency with the COG's regional solid waste management plan and ensure all local governments have the opportunity to provide comments
- Conduct data collection and analysis and keep current regional planning data, reference materials, and studies on topics of interest to local governments
- Maintain and promote a catalog of solid waste education and outreach materials for distribution at public events, presentations at schools, and presentations to community groups

ASSIST LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- Provide technical assistance to local governments in the implementation and evaluation of solid waste management plans
- Develop education and outreach activities, programs, and printed materials that provide a unified message, but can also be customized for local government use
- Ensure implementation of locally-prioritized solid waste programs by providing funding

ASSISTS STATE GOVERNMENT

- Conduct regional training, such as environmental enforcement for peace officers and disaster debris management for emergency managers
- Recommend special studies and projects to further the effectiveness of municipal solid waste management and resource recovery
- Increase efficiency and reach of the TCEQ Solid Waste Management program by acting as regional liaisons for the program



TOPIC OF INTEREST HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Most people do not realize the dangers presented by common items stored in their own homes.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is any product commonly found in homes that is explosive, reactive, corrosive, flammable, toxic, or poisonous. Examples include oil, gasoline, herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, pool supplies, paint, painting supplies, batteries, and general cleaning products. The average household generates about 20 pounds of HHW each year, accumulating up to 100 pounds in some homes.

HHW products can accidentally poison children, pets, or wildlife if stored indefinitely in garages and sheds, or put out with the garbage for regular collection. During natural disasters or house fires, HHW may be released into the environment, contaminating air and stormwater runoff and endangering first responders.

Unfortunately, much of Texas lacks adequate disposal options for HHW. Many communities, especially in rural areas, do not have permanent facilities available, and collection events are not held on regular schedules. That means the 218 million pounds of HHW stored in 10.9 million



households in Texas are creating the potential for significant health and safety hazards.

The lack of options and education about disposal leaves residents with three choices: store HHW indefinitely, send it to a landfill, or dispose of it improperly. Whether poured down the sink or a storm drain or dumped on a vacant lot, HHW poses an environmental risk. For example, a single quart of oil can contaminate two million gallons of drinking water, or create an oil slick that covers eight acres.

Landfill disposal creates the possibility of HHW inadvertently mixing either en route or at the landfill, causing a chemical reaction, fire, or explosion. Sanitation workers can also be injured by fires or explosions resulting from mixing of hazardous materials during residential pickups.

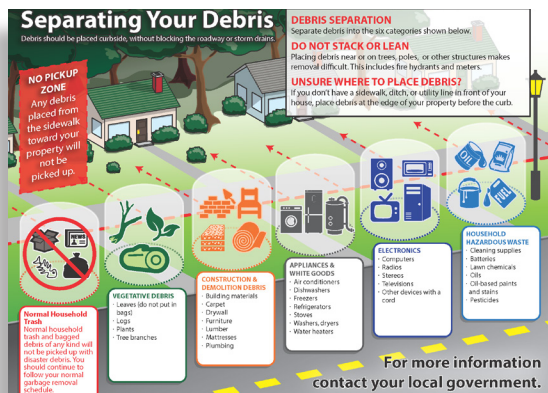
During Fiscal Years 2016/2017, local governments spent more than \$1.2 million in Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds hosting collection events and building permanent disposal facilities to help Texas residents address the issue of stockpiled HHW and create opportunities to educate the general public on the importance of proper use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials.



FUNDING CATEGORIES

Table 2 Fiscal Years 2016/2017 **Funding by Category**

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	37	\$1,120,936.02
General Solid Waste Management	71	\$1,019,338.89
Household Hazardous Waste Management	30	\$1,263,920.65
Local Enforcement	24	\$488,026.43
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$21,409.09
Organic Waste Management	12	\$233,423.44
Recycling	61	\$2,070,302.47
Used Oil Management	2	\$9,419.00
TOTAL	238	\$6,226,775.99



IMPACT OF HURRICANE HARVEY

On August 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey made landfall on the Texas Gulf Coast as a category 4 hurricane, bringing incredible devastation to the entire region. COGs impacted by the initial destructive winds and the ensuing record-breaking rain included Alamo Area Council of Governments, Brazos Valley Council of Governments, Central Texas Council of Governments, Coastal Bend Council of Governments, Deep East Texas Council of Governments, Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission, Houston-Galveston Area Council, and Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission. Because of their regional nature, COGs are able to coordinate efforts and enhance efficiency when providing aid and information following a disaster. Solid waste planners at these COGs responded in a variety of ways.

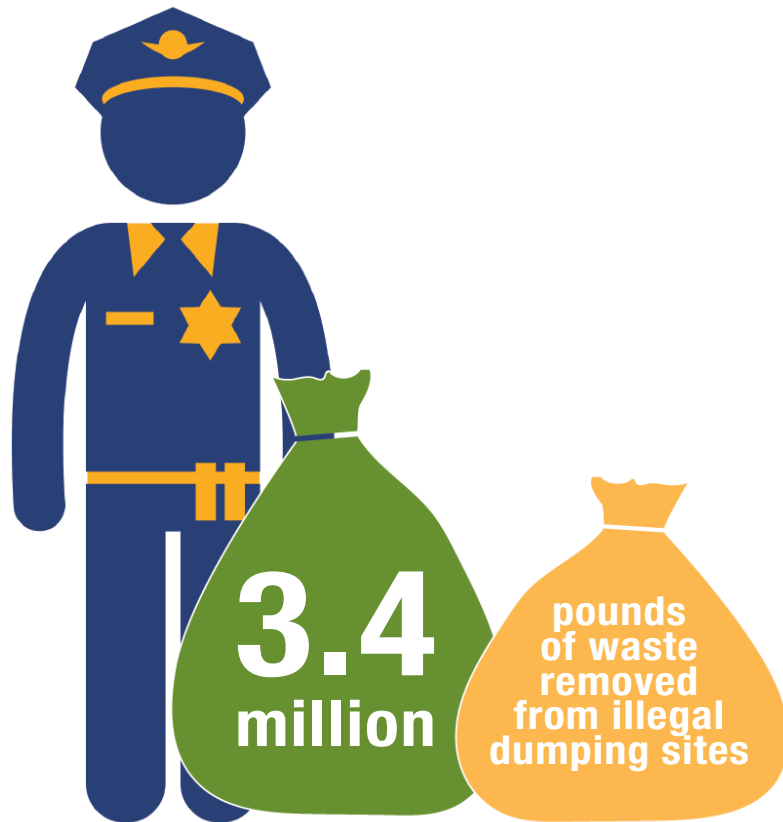
The Coastal Bend Council of Governments distributed more than 100 No Dumping signs to affected local governments. Regions impacted by hurricanes and other natural disasters often experience an increase in illegal dumping when residents begin the long process of rebuilding their lives. Installing signage made a noticeable difference in the frequency of illegal dumping.

The Houston-Galveston Area Council assisted governmental entities and community associations by making available and promoting the use of a Separating Your Debris flyer. About 20 governments and agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, used the flyer to instruct their residents about placing debris at the curb for pickup. Separating debris into the categories indicated on the flyer allows communities to more easily manage disposal with methods appropriate for each type of material (i.e. safe disposal of household hazardous waste, recycling for appliances, mulching of vegetative materials, etc.) and increases safety for crews working in debris removal.



ILLEGAL DUMPING

Grant-funded programs kept Texas clean by investigating **5,421 illegal dumping sites** and enforcing solid waste laws. Partners collected nearly **\$308,000 in fines**.



"Criminal" icon by Gan Khoon Lay and "Trash" icon by Marianna Marozzi from thenounproject.com

RECYCLABLES

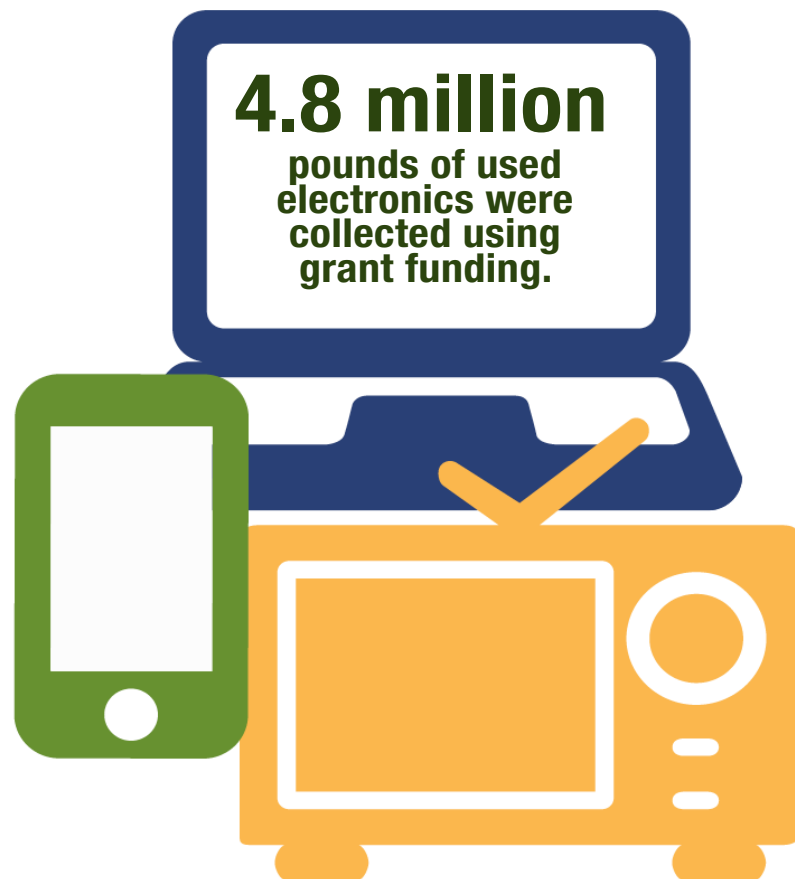
Recyclables collected by grant-funded programs create jobs.



"Palm Tree" icon by Jacqueline Fernandes from thenounproject.com

ELECTRONICS

Used electronics are collected at grant-funded permanent facilities and single-day events.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

More than **24,500 Texans** dropped off an average of **53 pounds of household hazardous waste**, including paint, at permanent facilities and **48 one-time events**.



"Paint Brush" icon by Eden Clairicia and "Texas" icon by Leonardo Schneider from thenounproject.com

TOPIC OF INTEREST USED ELECTRONICS

Technology changes rapidly, increasing the demand for electronics disposal as users frequently upgrade to the newest model of television, computer, or cellular phone.

Since the TCEQ began the Texas Recycles Computers (2009) and Texas Recycles TVs (2013) initiatives, 239.8 million pounds of televisions and computer equipment have been recycled and 8.3 million pounds have been reused. According to the 2017 TCEQ Program Report on Texas Recycles Computers and Texas Recycles Televisions, computer manufacturers collected an additional 44 million pounds of electronics not covered by the program, during the same time frame.

While these numbers seem robust, many areas of the state, especially rural regions, do not have recycling services for commonly recycled materials, such as metals or paper, much less used electronic equipment.

While Texas law requires television and computer equipment manufacturers to offer recycling opportunities for their own brands, retail sellers of these products are not required to accept them or may not have stores in areas outside large urban centers.

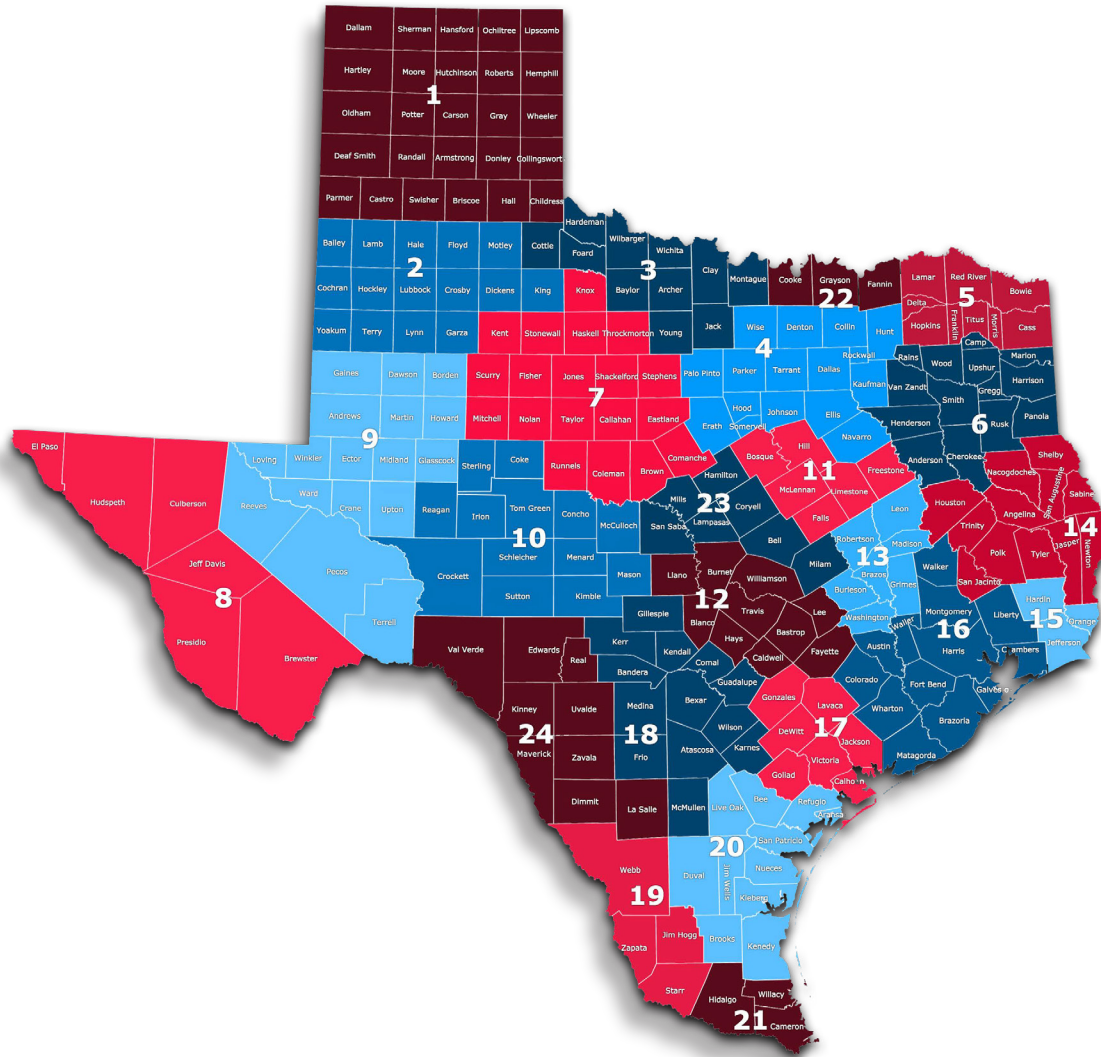
Used electronics contain various amounts of lead, cadmium, mercury, and other metals that can, over time, leach out of a typical landfill into waterways. The dangers presented by

hazardous materials, combined with the potential to capture valuable materials by recycling electronics, make it imperative that the State's response to the increasing call for electronics recycling be addressed by trained and qualified professionals with programs accessible to all segments of the population.

The appropriation of grant funds and additional regional collection events or permanent local electronics recycling facilities would likely increase the recycling numbers. During Fiscal Years 2016/2017, with Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds, local governments collected 4.8 million pounds of used electronics.



TEXAS REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS



COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS

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The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funded a variety of programs in the diverse and rapidly growing Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) region.

The Alamo Region has seen both population growth from other parts of the United States and an increase in new households as millennials begin to purchase homes and start families. More people once meant more trash sent to the landfills; however, the region has seen a greater demand for better opportunities to recycle, compost, and properly dispose of household hazardous waste (HHW).

Even though not everyone has easy access to recycling, composting, or household hazardous waste disposal options, the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) region has seen slight decreases in landfill poundage per person per day in the past four years (2014-1017)¹. This achievement can be attributed to the ability to offer more solid waste management opportunities and continual education on best practices with the assistance of the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the AACOG. With continued funding from the state, additional communities will initiate and/or expand their participation and help both AACOG and the State of Texas reach their diversion goals.

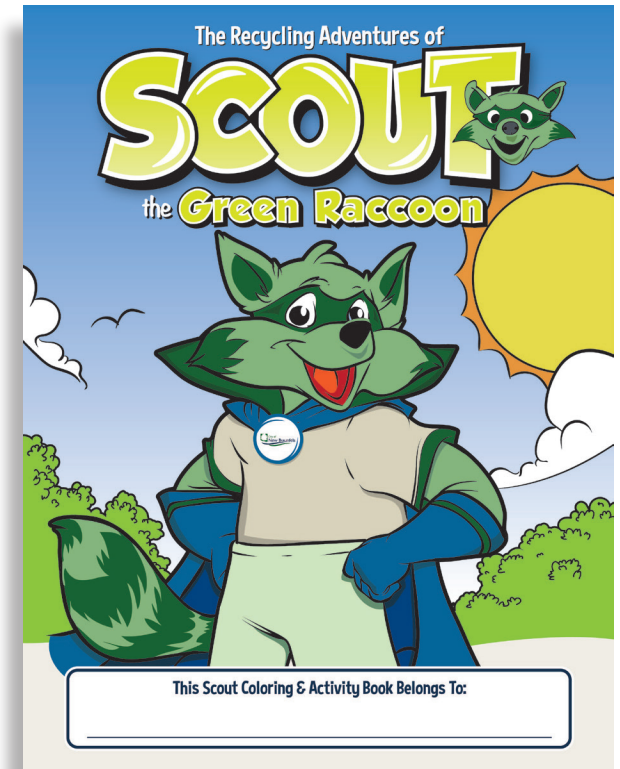
AACOG's Resource Recovery Committee funded 16 grants developed to meet the diverse needs of a wide variety of local governments including counties, small cities, larger cities, and a river authority.

Bandera County increased the size and product flow of its recycling program by consolidating its baling and storage operation at the central recycling yard in the city of Bandera.

With a grant of \$24,185.87, the County constructed a covered space for its balers and covered storage space that keeps the bales of recycled materials out of the weather until pickup by Cooperative Teamwork & Recycling Assistance (CTRA). Some of the grant funds were used to refurbish and install four balers received from another program to handle the expanded supply of recycling collected.

Medina County used a grant (\$18,843.12) to start a new program for tire and used electronics collections in each precinct. The City of Devine sponsored a one-day used electronics collection event. A resident unloading their automobile for the second time through the line of vehicles said "Thank you. I just gained back my hall closet." The City of Leon Valley had a significant increase in the collection of brush and tree limbs generated by the City's efforts to increase its green cover, reduce its carbon footprint, and conserve water. A larger chipper was needed to process this increase and the resulting mulch was used in the City's parks, a community garden, and residential lawns.

HHW collections were among the most popular requests for assistance. Comal County and Kerr County in partnership with their respective largest cities (New Braunfels and Kerrville) held county-wide HHW collections. Hosting the county-wide collection was a first-time experience for Kerr County in 2016. The county officer recently said he gets calls from residents asking for the next opportunity to dispose of their HHW. The cities of Seguin and Boerne offered curbside HHW pick-up



City of New Braunfels' Recycling Activity Book

programs for their residents. HHW collections, whether one-day collections or curbside pickup by appointment, are costly, and many communities cannot provide this service without some financial assistance.

The city of New Braunfels offers both curbside recycling and a central drop-off center for materials that are not collected

¹ *Municipal Solid Waste in Texas: A Year in Review –FY2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 Data Summary and Analysis

by the curbside program. The drop-off is also available to residents in multi-family residences. Over the years, the City has expanded the recyclable materials processed at the center, and the center has fit in whatever space was available. Realizing the need for additional planning for the expansion of the recycling services, the City used a grant to complete a *Feasibility Study: Multi-Stream Waste Collection Center*. The study explored the possibility of a permanent collection center and the different streams of materials that could be added and thus diverted from the landfill. Based on the study, the City selected this project as a potential bond program for 2018.

The city of New Braunfels produced an activity book specific to their solid waste management program for children. Many adults who helped their children with the activity book commented on how much they also learned about their City's unique program. With the need to inform new arrivals and remind others about proper recycling and avoidance of illegal dumping, three cities requested grant funds to develop educational tools. The City of Kerrville developed a guidebook detailing the major changes in their recycling program. The guidebook was distributed to all Kerrville residents.

The city of San Antonio placed 100 billboards at the eye level of drivers throughout the City at locations with illegal dumping problems, posted several larger billboards along major highways, and distributed to all its households (360,000) a "Don't Get Caught Dumping on a Vacant Lot" refrigerator magnet with a map of the City's four collection centers where residents can drop bulky waste and other hard to recycle material for free. While San Antonio's educational messages are meant for its residents, the messages along the roads and throughout the City served as reminders to folks throughout the AACOG region, as many of them drive into San Antonio for work, services, shopping, and recreation.



One of the City of San Antonio's billboards warning against illegal dumping.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

AACOG	City of San Antonio
Bandera County	City of Seguin
City of Boerne	Comal County
City of Devine	Kerr County
City of Kerrville	Medina County
City of Leon Valley	San Antonio River Authority
City of New Braunfels	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	5	\$136,573.05
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$1,792.00
Household Hazardous Waste Management	6	\$111,286.04
Local Enforcement	1	\$14,160.00
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$21,409.09
Organic Waste Management	1	\$30,285.00
Recycling	2	\$54,185.87
TOTAL	17	\$369,691.05

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) Environmental Resources Program is committed to improving the quality of life for all residents by reducing the amount of illegal dumping and educating residents about the hazards associated with improper waste disposal.

During the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding period for Fiscal Years 2016/2017, the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) conducted a council of governments-managed project focusing on litter/illegal dumping cleanups and community collection events. ATCOG formed partnerships with all nine counties in the region, provided equal funding to each county, totaling \$54,000, and encouraged each participant to divert recyclable materials to material recovery facilities (MRF) in the area.

Fifty-four cleanup events were conducted during this funding period with 595 volunteers participating in the planning and implementation of these events targeting a 144,000-acre area. Volunteers included county precinct road commissioners, mayors, city managers, students from various independent school districts, and adult probationers.

As a result, Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus counties collected 900,000 pounds of waste for disposal at municipal solid waste landfills. Additionally, 144,000 pounds of materials were collected for recycling/reuse, including:

- 90,000 pounds of white goods
- 9,000 pounds of brush/yard waste
- 45,000 pounds of construction and demolition debris
- 2,250 scrap tires

The ATCOG Environmental Resources Program is committed to improving the quality of life for all residents by reducing the amount of illegal dumping and educating residents about the hazards associated with improper waste disposal, which can be detrimental to human health and the environment.

By providing this service, which is available for all residents in the region, ATCOG continues to encourage communities to work together for the benefit of all residents so that future generations may learn the importance of growing up and living in a cleaner, safer environment.



Nearly 600 volunteers participated in 54 cleanup events in the ATCOG region, diverting 1,342,000 pounds of materials from landfills.



GRANT RECIPIENT

ATCOG

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$32,650.90
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$52,864.40
TOTAL	2	\$85,515.30

Volunteers in Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus counties collected white goods, construction and demolition debris, and scrap tires that would have been illegally dumped.



The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program cycle for Fiscal Years 2016/2017, administered by the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG), witnessed the majority of the grant funds used to address cleanup events in the Brazos Valley.

The regionalization of solid waste management reduces environmental pollution and develops comprehensive waste management practices for urban and rural communities. However, major gaps in waste collection coverage and the enforcement of illegal dumping continue between these two communities.

The Brazos Valley region is largely rural and sparsely populated. The challenge of maintaining sustainable solid waste management programs in rural communities persists. Solid waste management activities in rural communities are challenged by an unsystematic approach with the added burdens of poverty, geographic isolation, limited local government staff resources, financial limitations, and other constraints. Though the local residents wish to sustain their communities by protecting human health and improving the quality of life for their families and their environment, the expenses associated with maintaining integrated solid waste management activities in rural communities are exacerbated by limited environmental enforcement. This leads to vulnerabilities throughout rural communities, usually with increased illegal dumping problems and the continued necessity for the implementation of comprehensive solid waste management programs.

In the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program cycle for Fiscal Years 2016/2017 administered by the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG), the majority of the grant funds were used to address cleanup events in the Brazos Valley. Approximately 67 percent of the funding was used for litter

and illegal dumping cleanups and community collection events. This concentration of funds used for this funding category demonstrates the heavy emphasis that the residents of the Brazos Valley region place on eliminating illegal dumping and the importance of providing other options for disposal of unused or unwanted materials.

Burleson County hosted its 6th Annual Big Spring Cleanup Event using Fiscal Year 2017 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds. Burleson County is committed and concerned about its residents and their welfare and quality of life. The County demonstrated compliance with the BVCOG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan by ensuring the availability of

disposal in the Brazos Valley, which includes source reduction and recycling. As a result, they have chosen to use the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds for countywide cleanup events. These events allow the county to expand and improve their current means of managing solid waste throughout the local communities. As the counties and cities have stepped up enforcement activities to reduce illegal dumping and reduce the number of abandoned and overgrown properties being used as illegal dumping grounds, the issue of legal disposal has become more critical. The programs supported by the cities and county demonstrate that when residents are empowered and provided a means to legally dispose of rubbish and debris, the response is generally very enthusiastic.



Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding helps communities offer options for residents to dispose of unused or unwanted materials, such as the Burleson County 6th Annual Big Spring Cleanup Event.

Litter and illegal dumping cleanup and community collection events continue to supply the components necessary to ensure the quality of life of the residents is not compromised. Illegal dumping crimes create unsafe and hazardous living conditions for the community. These types of projects alleviate the concerns that residents have concerning proper disposal options. It provides more opportunities for them to safely dispose of waste in a legal and environmentally safe manner.

The residents in the Brazos Valley have become more aware and are more concerned about increased problems of litter and illegal dumping crimes within their communities over the years. Engaging the local residents, schools, nonprofits, and volunteers in the litter and illegal dumping cleanups and community collection events assists in sustainable disposal practices that can ultimately improve disposal and recycling practices.

Educating and empowering residents to properly dispose of waste and implement recycling programs throughout the Brazos Valley is the key component for controlling solid waste management activities. These activities can subsequently evolve into positive and measurable results that improve the surrounding aesthetics of the communities, as well as providing a beautiful, clean, and safe environment for the future.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Burleson County
 BVCOG
 City of Buffalo
 City of Navasota

Grimes County
 Leon County
 Washington County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$2,713.00
General Solid Waste Management	8	\$62,300.64
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$8,800.34
Recycling	1	\$11,532.35
TOTAL	11	\$85,346.33



Since inception of the Zero Waste Program, the Austin Independent School District (AISD) has diverted more than 12,900 tons of waste from the landfill through recycling and composting.

During Fiscal Years 2016/2017, the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) administered Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding for 15 local projects. One project involved a partnership among state government, a private solid waste services provider and an independent school district.

To promote their Zero Waste Program through recycling and composting, Austin Independent School District (AISD) partnered with CAPCOG and the AISD solid waste services provider, Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) and their Eco Academy Program, to install 315 wheeled recycling bins and 456 wheeled compost bins in hallways and lunchrooms on AISD campuses. Signs attached to the bins were used as educational tools providing the students with information on recycling and composting while also teaching them about environmental sustainability.

CAPCOG administered \$34,052.92 in Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding for the bins. This seed money leveraged a \$20,000 grant from TDS for an AISD part-time zero waste specialist. AISD contributed \$10,000 to assist in hiring the zero waste specialist to establish the program and teach the students and staff at each campus how to run the program. AISD's sustainability manager designed the program and oversaw the grant and partnership coordination, the rollout of the bins, training of AISD personnel and students, and logistics of composting and recycling on each campus.

To roll this program out, AISD hosted demonstrations and lunch meetings; sent targeted emails; and used social media via news features, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. AISD reached more than 7,700 students and 560 staff, and hosted 55 trainings and presentations. Food waste diversion now exists on all 125 AISD campuses, either onsite or collected by TDS. AISD continues to provide support to teachers and staff, assess progress, gain feedback regarding the Zero Waste and the Eco Academy Programs, and facilitate communications and support between teachers and the trainers. AISD ensured signs and posters created by students were placed where they best addressed recycling, composting, and zero waste.

In one year, TDS added cafeteria-composting services to 17 schools, diverting 102 cubic yards per week of organic wastes for composting. AISD diverted more than 246,360 pounds of food waste in a six-month period. The AISD schools that compost garden waste and some food waste on campus, like Garza Independent High School in East Austin or Small Middle School in Southwest Austin, provide students hands-on lessons in sustainability with student-led composting and gardening. AISD hopes to divert more than 90 percent of its waste from the landfill by 2040. Since inception of the Zero Waste Program, AISD has diverted more than 12,900 tons of waste from the landfill through recycling and composting.



AISD diverted more than 246,360 pounds of food waste in a six-month period.



More than 300 wheeled recycling bins and 456 wheeled compost bins were placed in hallways and lunchrooms on AISD campuses.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Austin ISD	City of Georgetown
Bastrop County	City of Granite Shoals
Burnet County	City of Llano
Caldwell County	City of Lockhart
CAPCOG	City of San Marcos
City of Blanco	Hays County
City of Cedar Park	Llano County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$26,399.11
General Solid Waste Management	4	\$35,496.07
Household Hazardous Waste Management	7	\$151,555.41
Local Enforcement	2	\$25,655.87
Organic Waste Management	1	\$19,492.22
Recycling	1	\$14,560.70
TOTAL	16	\$273,156.38

The Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) solid waste program participated in local events that help to promote recycling, litter prevention, and other ways to prevent pollution.

During Fiscal Years 2016/2017, the Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) funded seven household hazardous waste (HHW) events throughout the CTCOG region. During these events, approximately 2,000 participants dropped off HHW, including paints, oil, batteries, household cleaners, and other harmful chemicals. Through coordination with the host entities, tire recycling, electronic collections, trash/bulk items, and recyclables could be dropped off by residents during these events.

The CTCOG solid waste program participated in local events that help to promote recycling, litter prevention, and other ways to prevent pollution. For these events, CTCOG staff purchased 10,000 pencils and 5,000 recycling coloring books to distribute to elementary school children to educate them on solid waste topics.

During Fiscal Years 2016/2017, CTCOG purchased 20 recycling bins for local entities. Items accepted at each location include paper, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, cardboard, and other appropriate items. By the end of Fiscal Year 2018, approximately 2,200 pounds of recyclables had been collected since the bins were installed.

The following table highlights the estimated number of pounds of household hazardous waste items collected during Fiscal Years 2016/2017 events.

ITEMS	PAINT	PESTICIDES	ACIDS/ BASES	FUELS	BATTERIES	FLUORESCENT BULBS	OTHER HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
Total	52,000	7,950	6,800	21,300	5,250	220	20,200



More than 2,000 residents of the CTCOG region participated in Fiscal Years 2016/2017 HHW events.



CTCOG collected more than 100,000 pounds of household hazardous waste during Fiscal Years 2016/2017 events.

GRANT RECIPIENT

CTCOG

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$5,202.41
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$123,000.00
Recycling	1	\$6,493.00
TOTAL	3	\$134,695.41

There are 16 MedSafe pharmaceutical waste collection units throughout the Coastal Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG) region that residents can use for safe disposal. In the first year of operation for the units, nearly 500 pounds of pharmaceuticals was collected.

The Coastal Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG) administered Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds for two council of government-managed projects in Fiscal Years 2016/2017 to conduct regional local enforcement training programs and provide pharmaceutical waste collection locations in the region. \$35,425.96 was awarded for the purchase of MedSafe pharmaceutical collection units for the CBCOG region.

The United States is facing an epidemic of abuse when it comes to unused, unsecured, unwanted, and expired prescription medications. These medications can fall into the wrong hands,

resulting in accidental overdose or drug abuse, and can cause serious irrevocable damage to the environment.

Both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration say that the safest way to dispose of unwanted pharmaceuticals in the home is to use a medicine take-back program. A less desirable option is putting them in a container with coffee grounds or kitty litter and disposing of them in the trash. This method takes the waste to a landfill where it can still enter the environment.

Medications should never be flushed unless the instructions specifically say to. This method results in leftover medications

entering waterways because wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove these pollutants. Studies have found antibiotics, anti-seizure medicines, mood stabilizers and sex hormones in the nation's drinking water supply. Serious harmful effects have been recorded on wildlife across the country as well as some human populations.

The CBCOG wanted to provide an alternative method for safe disposal. There are now 16 MedSafe pharmaceutical waste collection units throughout the CBCOG region that residents can use for safe disposal. In the first year of operation for the units, nearly 500 pounds of pharmaceuticals was collected.



In the first year of operation, nearly 500 pounds of pharmaceuticals was collected in 16 MedSafe pharmaceutical waste collection units throughout the CBCOG.



GRANT RECIPIENT

CBCOG

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	2	\$9,295.40
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$36,383.96
TOTAL	3	\$45,679.36



As an alternative to flushing medications down the toilet or disposing of them in the trash, the CBCOG provided 16 MedSafe pharmaceutical waste collection units throughout the region.

The City of Big Lake is committed to protecting the environment by making a concerted effort of reducing the amount of waste disposed at the landfill.

In 2016, the City of Big Lake was awarded a grant through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the Concho Valley Council of Governments (CVCOG), to purchase tree chipping equipment. With the help of this grant, the City of Big Lake purchased a 15" Drum Style Brush Bandit, Model 1390XP for \$49,281.50. The Brush Bandit replaced the 12-year-old equipment the city had been using.

The City of Big Lake chips tree limbs, stumps, and vegetation weekly. As a result, a yearly reduction of approximately 53 tons of space has been seen in the city landfill, thus extending the life of the Type IV landfill pit.

These savings are passed on to the residents of Big Lake through prolonged use of the existing landfill pit.

The City of Big Lake works with businesses, such as American Electric Power (AEP), when they are clearing utility lines of tree limbs. By having the equipment available at the location,

the tree limbs are chipped and hauled to the landfill in a timely manner.

Residents are encouraged to use the chipping service by calling the city to be placed on the chipping list. This service is provided free of charge. The only requirement is to cut the limbs or vegetation to size, which is four-feet long and no larger than 15 inches in diameter. This service also helps residents stay in compliance with the city ordinance pertaining to overgrown vegetation and tree limbs obstructing the view of traffic signs.

Tree clippings are used by the City of Big Lake for mulching, covering landfill pits, and covering landfill roads. Residents can request the clippings for their use for mulching and gardening.

The City of Big Lake is committed to protecting the environment by making a concerted effort of reducing the amount of waste disposed at the landfill.





Using a 15-inch Drum Style Brush Bandit (Model 1390XP), the City of Big Lake chips tree limbs, stumps, and vegetation weekly. As a result, a yearly reduction of approximately 53 tons of space has been seen in the city landfill.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Big Lake

CVCOG

City of Brady

Menard County

City of Eldorado

Schleicher County

City of Menard

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	6	\$83,321.02
Organic Waste Management	1	\$49,818.73
TOTAL	7	\$133,139.75

Combatting illegal dumping is a battle that's not easily won. However, through continued education and enforcement, the City of Nacogdoches is slowly making a difference.

In 2017 the City of Nacogdoches received a grant from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG) to fight the increasing problem of illegal dumping within the City of Nacogdoches and the surrounding areas.

The goal for the illegal dumping campaign was to educate residents about the problems associated with illegal dumping. At the same time, the City prosecuted and fined individuals who were intentionally circumventing laws associated with the proper disposal of waste.

Combatting illegal dumping is a battle that's not easily won. However, through continued education and enforcement, the City of Nacogdoches is slowly making a difference.

Since the inception of the program, the City has seen a reduction of illegal dumping in targeted areas. Residents are more aware of the issue and that problem areas are being monitored.

The City of Nacogdoches and Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful (KNB) partnered to combat the growing issue of illegal dumping within Nacogdoches. They designed, printed, and distributed approximately 7,500 flyers at local festivals and other events to educate residents on illegal dumping and proper disposal methods for their waste.

Public Works crews installed illegal dumping signs in areas with a history of illegal dumping activities, such as city parks, Lake Nacogdoches, and isolated roadways. To reduce the environmental impact and cost associated with cleanup efforts, Public Works implemented surveillance cameras in problem areas to identify individuals associated with illegal dumping activity.

City staff has identified and resolved over 40 cases of illegal dumping either through education or fines associated with repeated illegal dumping activity.

Illegal Dumping is a problem across the United States and unfortunately the cost associated with the cleanup of these sites falls on taxpayer dollars no matter what town you call home.

—Cary Walker, Public Works Manager, City of Nacogdoches



City of Nacogdoches Public Works installed surveillance cameras in problem areas to identify individuals associated with illegal dumping activity, including Lake Nacogdoches Park. (Actual time-lapse photos shown above)

GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Grapeland	Jasper County
City of Nacogdoches	Newton County
City of San Augustine	San Jacinto County
DETCOG	Trinity County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$1,005.00
General Solid Waste Management	2	\$25,092.36
Local Enforcement	1	\$15,964.55
Recycling	5	\$82,814.42
TOTAL	9	\$124,876.33

The City of Tyler and Keep Tyler Beautiful have a long history of collaborating to establish and continue the most modern and relevant litter and illegal dumping practices. Together they have been responsible for establishing practices in use throughout East Texas Council of Government (ETCOG) member agencies.

The City of Tyler and Keep Tyler Beautiful are diligent in their efforts to control litter in their city. In 2017 they were awarded a grant from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the East Texas Council of Governments, for \$8,187.70 to install two Bigbelly trash containers in their downtown area to collect and control litter. Before this project, they used traditional 35-gallon open-top litter containers in the area. These containers allowed litter to be blown out, and for animals to scavenge in the container leaving litter outside. As a result, the downtown area became very unsightly.

The Bigbelly containers use a solar-powered compacting element to extend the capacity of the container from 35 gallons to 150 gallons.

The containers come with a wireless link that notifies the City of Tyler's solid waste department when the containers need to be emptied. These elements reduce the number of times the container is emptied and save the cost of checking empty containers or collecting from partially full ones. The containers have a message panel on each side that allows for litter and illegal dumping educational messages to be displayed.

The City of Tyler and Keep Tyler Beautiful have a long history of collaborating to establish and continue the most modern and relevant litter and illegal dumping practices. Together they have been responsible for establishing practices in use throughout ETCOG member agencies.



The City of Tyler installed two Bigbelly trash containers in their downtown area to collect and control litter. The Bigbelly containers use a solar-powered compacting element with a wireless link that notifies the City of Tyler's solid waste department when the containers need to be emptied.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Alto	City of Tyler
City of Athens	City of Waskom
City of East Tawakoni	City of Wills Point
City of Emory	City of Winnsboro
City of Gladewater	ETCOG
City of Grand Saline	Gregg County
City of Henderson	Henderson County
City of Jacksonville	Rains County
City of Kilgore	Smith County
City of Longview	Upper Sabine Valley SWM District
City of Murchison	Upshur County
City of Pittsburg	Van Zandt County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	5	\$40,165.77
General Solid Waste Management	16	\$73,034.85
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$12,000.00
Local Enforcement	8	\$96,316.24
Organic Waste Management	1	\$6,325.00
Recycling	2	\$12,199.60
TOTAL	33	\$240,041.46

The Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission's (GCRPC) regional advisory committee continues to listen to the needs of its regional partners concerning recycling.

The Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission's (GCRPC) regional advisory committee continues to listen to the needs of its regional partners concerning recycling. The region is increasingly diligent in tire collection and disposal, cardboard collection and disposal, and yard waste collections, disposal, and reuse, and used Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds, administered by the GCRPC, to provide these programs.

The City of Cuero received \$56,000 to purchase a backhoe for their continued cardboard recycling efforts. More than 149 tons of cardboard were collected over the past two years

from the public and businesses in the City. This continues to be a very successful campaign.

The City of Hallettsville received \$33,918 for yard waste mulching services. The yard waste collection, mulching, and repurposing campaign was so popular that the City found it difficult to keep up with the demand and requested funding to pay for additional assistance. The City recycled and or disposed of 2,041 tons of collected yard waste.

The GCRPC continued its COG-managed tire recycling campaign. The \$53,905 in regional funds were used by regional partners for ongoing tire recycling and disposal.

More than 52 tons of tires were collected and disposed of.

Other areas where funds were used in the region were the cost of relocating existing recycling dumpsters in Yoakum (\$20,000), wiring of a donated recycling compactor in Port Lavaca (\$5,000), and local enforcement surveillance cameras in Edna (\$2,350).



During Fiscal Years 2016/2017, 52 tons of tires were collected and disposed of in the GCRPC region.



More than 149 tons of cardboard were collected in the past two years as part of the City of Cuero's recycling program. The City used funding from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program to purchase a backhoe for their continued cardboard recycling efforts.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Cuero

City of Port Lavaca

City of Edna

City of Yoakum

City of Hallettsville

GCRPC

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$53,905.52
Local Enforcement	1	\$1,966.90
Organic Waste Management	2	\$33,918.88
Recycling	3	\$97,828.50
TOTAL	7	\$187,619.80



Whether it is community collection events or funding the purchase of equipment to get projects completed, Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG) continues its efforts to support the local communities to achieve their goals.

In 2015, 41.9 percent of beer and soft drink bottles were recovered for recycling, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Another 27.5 percent of wine and liquor bottles and 15.1 percent of food and other glass jars were recycled. In total, 33.2 percent of all glass containers were recycled.

Glass containers are 100 percent recyclable and can be recycled endlessly. Recovered glass is used as an ingredient in new glass containers. The Bosque County Commissioners received a \$30,000 grant from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG), to purchase a glass tumbling machine to produce landscape glass.

Tumbled, recycled glass is the newest trend in unique, environmentally-friendly, green landscaping. Besides reducing the amount of glass filling the landfill, the Bosque County Recycle facility will generate more revenue. About 628,000 pounds of glass is generated in Bosque County from wine

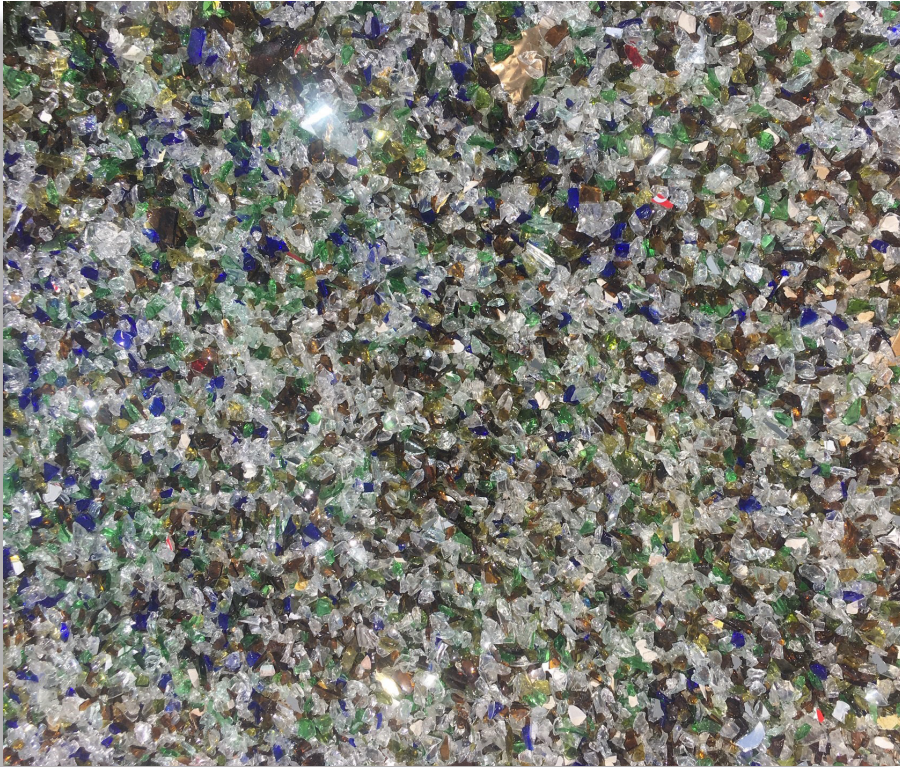
and beer bottles. This glass would normally go to the landfill, but with this program it can be drastically reduced. Bosque County expects most of the glass being recycled will come from Red Caboose Winery, the Bosque Arts Center, and several other restaurant facilities.

Because landscape glass is tumbled, the glass has no sharp edges. It is permanent landscaping mulch that never fades or needs replacing, and it is a natural deterrent to some garden pests. It can also be used as dust-suppressant on county roads. If buyers want just clear, green or brown glass, bottles need to be sorted before collection. Bosque County is looking into setting up a satellite collection point in the City of Clifton for glass, cardboard, and paper in the future.

The HOTCOG region takes necessary steps to ensure there are numerous options in the area for recycling. Whether it is community collection events or funding the purchase of equipment to get projects completed, HOTCOG continues its efforts to support the local communities to achieve their goals.



Using a \$30,000 grant from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the Heart of Texas Council of Governments, Bosque County purchased a glass tumbling machine to produce landscape glass.



Tumbled, recycled glass is the newest trend in unique, environmentally-friendly, green landscaping.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Bosque County	City of Waco
City of Clifton	Falls County
City of Groesbeck	HOTCOG
City of Hubbard	McLennan County
City of Moody	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	2	\$2,765.99
General Solid Waste Management	7	\$38,399.62
Household Hazardous Waste Management	2	\$42,109.58
Local Enforcement	1	\$324.17
Recycling	1	\$30,000.00
TOTAL	13	\$113,599.36

Regardless of population size, geography, or program length, the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program has been instrumental in supplementing and reinforcing illegal dumping efforts across the Houston-Galveston region.

The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds many types of projects, including illegal dumping enforcement activities, throughout the Houston-Galveston region. These projects improve the quality of life for residents and protect property values.

As with most rural counties, manpower and financial resources for illegal dumping were limited in Chambers County. To address this, the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program provided the county with a \$149,286 grant in 2016 to supplement resource costs and establish a dedicated illegal dumping program. These funds alleviated the investigative burden from the sheriff's office and funded a permanent, dedicated enforcement officer position. Funding paid for the officer's salary and benefits, a truck with video equipment, and training for the officer. The Chambers County officer investigated 80 criminal illegal dumping cases and identified 42 violators. Thanks to these efforts, 302,161 pounds of trash was cleaned up, a large portion of which was scrap tires. One case involved the discovery of more than 7,000 illegally dumped tires in Turtle Bayou. The bayou was a commercial tire dumping site that had gone undetected for years. After a yearlong investigation, the responsible party was identified and the bayou cleaned up.

Unlike Chambers County, the City of Houston has maintained a robust illegal dumping program for many years. The City began illegal dumping enforcement in a small way with an initiative in 1993. The City's Environmental Investigations Unit, which handles the illegal dumping cases, was officially formed in 1997. However, the density of its population and demand on officers required additional support to maximize its existing efforts.

After being awarded Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding in 2017, the City purchased computer equipment, additional surveillance cameras, and supplemental monitoring equipment to better monitor frequent dumping sites and identify responsible parties. Officers investigated 1,468 illegal dumping sites, identified 610 violators, and facilitated the removal of 521,873 pounds of waste that had been illegally dumped.

Regardless of population size, geography, or program length, the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program has been instrumental in supplementing and reinforcing illegal dumping efforts across the Houston-Galveston region.



Illegal dumping continues to be a problem in the Houston-Galveston region, including in Chambers County. Investigative techniques included installing surveillance cameras. (Photo below shows the camouflaged camera.)





More than 245,000 pounds of tires were removed from an illegal commercial dumping site in Chambers County. These tires were recycled and will be used for playgrounds and football fields.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Chambers County	City of Pearland
City of Bellaire	Colorado County
City of Bellville	Galveston County
City of Houston	Harris County
City of League City	H-GAC
City of Missouri City	Houston ISD
City of Pasadena	Montgomery County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	4	\$315,515.75
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$10,516.00
Household Hazardous Waste Management	5	\$211,814.25
Local Enforcement	4	\$258,064.11
Recycling	5	\$610,586.75
TOTAL	19	\$1,406,496.86

The Road to Recycling program was launched in 2017 with three designated collection days in June, July, and October. Through combined efforts of regional resources, more than 42,000 used tires were collected and properly disposed of.

Illegally dumped tires are a primary concern to all entities within the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) region. Tires are a growing problem that present serious environmental and public health concerns for the residents. The illegal dumping of tires and tire piles across the region are a severe epidemic causing hazardous conditions in waterways, threatening economic development, impacting tourism areas, and serving as breeding grounds for

rodents and mosquitoes that carry harmful viruses.

LRGVDC staff used funding from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program to initiate the Road to Recycling Rio Grande Valley Regional Tire Collection Project to further explore more regional, sustainable projects to encourage long-term positive impact and support responsible tire waste disposal and capacity concerns.

To maximize impact, this project incorporated a partnership between LRGVDC and Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy counties. Amnesty drop-off sites were created across the Valley. All interested public and private entities were invited to participate in this project. LRGVDC staff presented the project to their Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC), and all committee members, including private sector entities, expressed interest and willingness to participate.

The project was launched in 2017 with three designated collection days in June, July, and October. Through combined efforts of regional resources, more than 42,000 used tires were collected and properly disposed of.

The Road to Recycling Rio Grande Valley Regional Tire Collection Project created awareness in the communities in the region, established a coordinated effort with many communities in the region, and included private sector participation. A resource webpage, and a public service announcement and educational brochures in English and Spanish supported this effort.

Regional leaders will continue to explore and implement strategies and resources to create sustainable, efficient tire disposal practices. The community expressed their appreciation for creating these drop-off sites to better the region.



The Road to Recycling Rio Grande Valley Regional Tire Collection Project was a joint effort of LRGVDC and Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy counties.



More than 42,000 used tires were collected and properly disposed of through the Road to Recycling Rio Grande Valley Regional Tire Collection Project.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Alamo	City of San Juan
City of Alton	City of South Padre Island
City of Los Indios	Hidalgo County
City of Pharr	LRGVDC

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$10,967.39
General Solid Waste Management	2	\$43,394.71
Local Enforcement	1	\$16,266.57
Recycling	6	\$157,667.03
TOTAL	10	\$228,295.70

In Fiscal Years 2016/2017, with the help of the school district's grant writer, Brackett ISD applied for their first grant through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the Middle Rio Grande Development Council (MRGDC), to expand their recycling program.

Brackett ISD's recycling program began many years ago with paper recycling. The Green Project consisted of students picking up paper from each classroom and storing it in a room until it could be taken to Fort Clark Springs.

Mrs. Hibbits, an earth science teacher involved with the recycling efforts, eventually took over the project as Project Green manager. In Fiscal Years 2016/2017, with the help of the school district's grant writer, the school district applied for their first grant through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the Middle Rio Grande Development

Council (MRGDC). Some of the items that the school district applied for were scales, different sizes and types of recycle bins, and motivational posters promoting recycling.

The school district also applied for a recycling trailer to place behind the school to be accessible for the community to drop off their recyclables. The school district accepts milk cartons, plastic, cardboard, aluminum, and paper.

Members of Project Green, Brackett ISD students, take part in sorting paper, plastic, and metal; crushing cans; flattening milk cartons; and placing them in the appropriate bins. Once

that process is complete, they weigh and record the data for analysis.

Brackett ISD involves all students from kindergarten to 12th grade and has taken the initiative to involve their entire community. The members of Project Green recently recorded a short video about the importance of recycling. They hope to publish it soon so that everyone has a chance to see exactly how involved Brackett ISD is with recycling.



Students in Brackett ISD are responsible for sorting the recyclable materials for transport to the recycling center.





Uniquely-designed recycling containers were placed in Brackett ISD schools.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Brackett ISD	Eagle Pass ISD
City of Asherton	Kinney County
City of Carrizo Springs	Maverick County
City of Eagle Pass	MRGDC
City of Encinal	Real County
City of Sabinal	Uvalde County
City of Uvalde	Zavala County
Dimmit County	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	3	\$18,830.80
General Solid Waste Management	8	\$52,542.32
Local Enforcement	1	\$6,499.93
Recycling	9	\$56,083.69
TOTAL	21	\$133,956.74

The use and creation of Citizens' Convenience Centers continue to grow in the NORTEX Regional Planning Commission region as more communities identify these centers as a great way to promote recycling and encourage their residents to participate in cleanups in their areas.

The NORTEX region has only two Type IV landfills in the 11-county region. Both are in Wichita County, which has the largest population (131,664) of any county in the region. Outlying areas have their municipal solid waste (MSW) transferred to these two landfills or to landfills located outside the NORTEX region. Wichita County is home to most of the metal and cardboard recycling entities in the region. To better serve the population in the small outlying cities, these communities have started setting up Citizens' Convenience Centers (CCC). These centers allow residents to drop off materials that, with the closing of local landfills, would have resulted in increased amounts of materials winding up in illegal dump sites or in bar-ditches along county roads.

The use and creation of CCCs continue to grow in the NORTEX Region as more communities identify these centers as a great

way to promote recycling and encourage their residents to participate in cleanups in their areas. The NORTEX region has 14 CCCs in operation in all corners of the region. These facilities garner support and use as more areas respond to the residents' needs to facilitate recycling and handle MSW other than household trash.

During Fiscal Years 2012 to 2017, slightly more than 50 percent of the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds administered by NORTEX benefitted either setup or enhancement of CCCs. It typically takes an entity two to three funding cycles to get their CCC set up to provide the service the residents need.

In Fiscal Years 2016/2017, the NORTEX region had only three types of projects: setup and/or enhancement of CCCs, cleanups (dilapidated structures and/or community cleanups), and recycling trailers. Thirty-five percent of the implementation

project budget was for equipment (trailers), and the other 65 percent was for CCCs and cleanups. This funding trend has held steady for the past six years. The Solid Waste Advisory Committee has stated that for the foreseeable future these types of projects will again be the most in demand for the NORTEX region.

Funding shortfalls resulted in six unfunded projects during the last grant cycle. Recycling trailers have been the most in-demand equipment requested. The only other equipment entities have requested funding for has been woodchippers. Spring storms in the NORTEX region always result in numerous weather-related tree and brush accumulations in the cities, placing high demand on entities' existing capabilities. The Regional Solid Waste Grants program has helped cities either acquire their first woodchipper or replace existing units that have exceeded their useful life.



To better serve the population in small outlying cities, 14 Citizens' Convenience Centers allow residents to drop off materials.





Woodchippers are often requested through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Burkburnett	City of Nocona
City of Chillicothe	City of Quanah
City of Crowell	City of Vernon
City of Holliday	NRPC
City of Newcastle	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$1,146.73
General Solid Waste Management	4	\$46,727.40
Recycling	4	\$48,798.00
TOTAL	9	\$96,672.13

In addition to collecting over 45,000 pounds of HHW to date, using the HHW trailer, the City of Cedar Hill has engaged and educated residents and will continue to do so for many years to come.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines household hazardous waste (HHW) as “a waste with properties that make it dangerous or capable of having a harmful effect on human health or the environment.” HHW, including paint, cleaners, oils, batteries, pesticides, and more, requires special care when disposed. The average household produces 20 pounds or more of HHW each year.

In 2017, the City of Cedar Hill, in southern Dallas County with a population of 47,480, purchased a HHW trailer along with materials for HHW collection with \$65,823.62 in grant funding received from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the North Central Texas Council of Governments(NCTCOG). In addition to becoming an integral part of Cedar Hill’s Environmental Collection Days, the HHW trailer has become a staple at public outreach events, such as Country Day on the Hill and Cedar Hill Earth Fest.

The trailer is used at quarterly Environmental Collection Day events, where HHW collection, used electronics recycling, and paper shredding services are provided to residents. The City offers online registration and check-in via iPads and live-streams the event to encourage residents to arrive at different times to improve traffic flow. Fire Department Explorers, high school students who are mentored by and work with the City of Cedar Hill Fire Department, help the contractor’s staff with paper shredding and collecting electronics.

During Fiscal Years 2016/2017, the City of Cedar Hill held two collection events at a local high school. At these events, they collected over 20,000 pounds of HHW from 243 residents, including 1,800 gallons of used oil collected for reuse and recycling, and 13,500 gallons of paint. In Fiscal Year 2018, more than 26,000 pounds of HHW was collected from 646 residents during four collection events. At the six events held between Fiscal Years 2016 and 2018, the City of Cedar Hill collected an average of approximately 52 pounds of HHW per individual.

Since the purchase of the HHW trailer in 2017, the City of Cedar Hill has partnered with the City of Fort Worth’s Environmental Collection Center to provide services for HHW processing and disposal. In addition to the quarterly events, the City of Cedar Hill residents can bring HHW to the Fort Worth Environmental Collection Center during operating hours at no cost.

In addition to collecting HHW, the City of Cedar Hill uses the trailer for education at public outreach events. Since the acquisition of the trailer, the City of Cedar Hill has attended seven public outreach events, reaching approximately 37,000 individuals. At these events, volunteers set up the trailer with empty drums labeled as common household hazardous waste items, such as flammable liquids, oxidizers, motor oil, poisons, and others. On top of the empty drums, volunteers place empty containers of common examples of HHW that many residents would find in their homes. The residents walk through the trailer and see items that are categorized as hazardous materials that must be disposed of properly. The City of Cedar Hill uses this opportunity to explain the hazards of common household chemicals, the importance of chemical segregation, and the benefits of waste diversion from the landfill. The City also highlights the environmental services the city provides to its residents.

In addition to collecting over 45,000 pounds of HHW to date, using the HHW trailer, the City of Cedar Hill has engaged and educated residents and will continue to do so for many years to come.



The City of Cedar Hill’s HHW trailer is used at quarterly Environmental Collection Day events.



The City of Cedar Hill held two collection events at a local high school and collected over 20,000 pounds of HHW.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

Birdville ISD	City of Lancaster
City of Allen	City of Mesquite
City of Cedar Hill	City of Richardson
City of Cleburne	Collin County
City of Denton	NCTCOG
City of Fort Worth	Trinity Environmental Academy
City of Hawk Cove	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	4	\$448,139.28
General Solid Waste Management	4	\$233,302.99
Household Hazardous Waste Management	2	\$252,392.29
Local Enforcement	1	\$12,698.44
Recycling	4	\$510,353.90
TOTAL	15	\$1,456,886.90



The City took the trailer to seven events, reaching approximately 37,000 individuals.

During Fiscal Years 2016/2017, the region diverted more than 4.948 million pounds of waste from the landfills.

The Panhandle Environmental Partnership (PEP) covers just under 26,000 square miles with members from all over the Texas Panhandle. Members work to recycle the materials that best suit the needs of their residents and work with neighboring members. Because of the partnerships that have been built since the inception of the PEP in 1994 by the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC), the types of materials recycled has expanded. The PEP works with all the region's rural communities to divert materials and further aid the region in meeting recycling goals. Helping PEP members leverage the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program resources against local resources maintains cost-effective recycling and waste diversion programs. The materials targeted would have otherwise gone into the local landfills. Thanks to the efforts of the PEP members, those materials are repurposed or recycled into new products. This is quite the feat considering the long distances from the Texas Panhandle to the recycling markets. The PEP members take pride in their recycling facilities and work to ensure the material is not contaminated. This attention has fostered good relationships with mills searching for quality materials.

During Fiscal Years 2016/2017, the region diverted more than 4.948 million pounds of waste from the landfills. Aided by grant funding and investing in local resources, the PEP continues to see interest in and use of the local recycling centers grow. The residents are seeing the value in taking the time to sort materials for recycling and in turn benefit from not having their city or county raise fees and permits to build a new landfill. These projects serve to assist rural communities in multiple ways: jobs developed, education delivered, taxes

averted, teamwork forged, and community pride built.

Donley County faced the aftermath of trash dumped illegally on county roads. As county staff worked to ensure thoroughfares were passable and well maintained, they began reporting an alarmingly high amount of trash in two locations: County Road S in the southeastern part of the county and County Road X in the south part of the county. The County held a cleanup event for this illegal dumping. While PRPC has seen cleanup events for specific materials, this was the first for an illegal dump site. Donley County worked to ensure the materials collected were not placed in the landfill unless there were no other options. The City of Clarendon is the county seat and has had a recycling center for many years, accepting scrap tires, scrap metal, cardboard, mixed paper for recycling, and collecting yard waste and small tree limbs for composting. While determining what equipment would be needed for the cleanup, the County also determined what the City of Clarendon accepted for recycling at the center.

Donley County placed articles in the local newspaper advising that all trash/waste needs to be properly disposed of at the landfill, and anyone caught illegally dumping could be fined and/or jailed. Cleanup efforts are made possible from funding through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the PRPC. The locations cleaned up now have No Dumping signs placed on the fence. The project allowed the County to rent an excavator and roll-off containers to remove the materials for sorting. The County cleaned up 19,140 pounds of waste. Most of the waste was scrap metal and scrap tires, items that are easily recycled by the City of Clarendon.



Litter and illegal dumping is a persistent issue in Donley County.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Booker ISD
- City of Amarillo
- City of Bovina
- City of Dalhart
- City of Dimmitt
- City of Dumas
- City of Pampa
- City of Panhandle
- City of Perryton
- City of Stinnett
- City of Texhoma
- Donley County
- PRPC

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	3	\$32,420.96
Organic Waste Management	3	\$31,653.98
Recycling	8	\$158,608.64
Used Oil Management	1	\$4,528.00
TOTAL	15	\$227,211.58



The project allowed the County to rent an excavator and roll-off containers to remove the materials for sorting. The County cleaned up 19,140 pounds of waste.

The Ector County Environmental Enforcement Office investigated 105 illegal dump sites, identified 105 violators, and removed 443,720 pounds of waste.

In the Permian Basin region, illegal dumping and preserving landfill space present continued challenges for the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission's (PBRPC) Solid Waste program. The Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) is committed to partnering with local programs that enforce illegal dumping laws, as well as developing waste diversion initiatives. An example is Ector County, a leader in Texas oil production that lies at the heart of the Permian Basin. As the population continues to grow, concern is growing over public health issues related to increased illegal dumping activity. Much of the illegal dumping activity occurs in the unincorporated areas of the county.

Since 2008, the Ector County Environmental Enforcement Office investigates environmental crimes, including illegal dumping. The County received \$3,675 in Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds for Fiscal Years 2016/2017.

The Ector County Environmental Enforcement Office investigated 105 illegal dump sites, identified 105 violators, and removed 443,720 pounds of waste. The Ector County Environmental Enforcement Office provides ongoing assistance to neighboring communities in their efforts to investigate and cite offenders. The Environmental Enforcement Office provides training and planning for establishing procedures for environmental enforcement when needed.

The other two grantees of the biennium, the City of Big Spring and the City of Monahans, received a total of \$44,325 in grant funds to grind tree limbs and other brush items. The ground material was later offered to local residents as free mulch. The cities were able to divert approximately 1,217,432 pounds of brush/yard waste from the landfills.



Illegal dumping in unincorporated areas of Ector County was addressed through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program.



The City of Big Spring and the City of Monahans received grant funds to grind tree limbs and other brush items, which were later offered to local residents as free mulch. The cities were able to divert approximately 1,217,432 pounds of brush/yard waste from the landfills.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Big Springs

Ector County

City of Monahans

PBRPC

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$9,425.00
Local Enforcement	1	\$3,476.90
Organic Waste Management	2	\$44,325.00
TOTAL	4	\$57,226.90

El Paso County serves as an example in the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program in their efforts and commitment to a safer and healthier community.

The Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGGCOG) oversees various community programs. One program is the Solid Waste Program which strives to provide a safe and healthy environment as it relates to the reduction of solid waste into landfills.

This program allows jurisdictions to target illegal dumping, recycling, household hazardous waste (HHW) removal, and scrap tire removal. The Solid Waste Program officers prioritize regional applications and recommend funding for the collection and disposal of scrap tires, litter and illegal dumping cleanups, community collections, recycling programs, purchase of equipment such as roll-off containers or cargo trailers, and educational outreach.

One stakeholder, El Paso County, is committed to developing and fostering innovative environmental health prevention projects for the safety of its residents and their environment. With limited financial resources, the County's mission is to provide a safe and healthy quality of life which enables people to thrive and reach their potential through the efficient, effective, and equitable operation of government. To meet this task, El Paso County actively pursues solutions to the major and most urgent needs of residents and is committed to be part of the problem-solving initiatives.

One of these initiatives is seeking funding from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program. This program provides crucial funding for projects that protect the environment and safeguard health, general welfare, and physical property in communities across the region.

With the use of Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding administered by RGGCOG, El Paso County implemented four illegal dumping cleanups and community collections to include HHW collection. The sites included East Montana, Fabens, Westway, and Upper Valley.

As a result of these events, El Paso County disposed of 6,192 passenger tires, 77,340 pounds of bulk waste, 10,000 pounds of used electronics, and 11,995 pounds of HHW.

El Paso County serves as an example in the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding for their efforts and commitment to a safer and healthier community. The County has effectively promoted solid waste reduction by reducing illegal dump sites and providing recycling services to limit solid waste into landfills nearing capacity.



Using Regional Solid Waste Management Grants Program funds, El Paso County implemented four illegal dumping cleanups and community collections to include household hazardous waste (HHW) collection.



El Paso County disposed of 6,192 passenger tires, 77,340 pounds of bulk waste, 10,000 pounds of used electronics, and 11,995 pounds of household hazardous waste.

GRANT RECIPIENT

RGCOG

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$7,912.22
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$134,920.85
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$25,155.64
Recycling	1	\$18,004.87
TOTAL	4	\$185,993.58



The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) conducted two HHW and scrap tire collection events and collected more than 197,352 pounds of HHW and more than 4,751 tires.

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) received funding from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program to conduct two household hazardous waste (HHW) and scrap tire collection events in southeast Texas during Fiscal Years 2016/2017.

During these collection events, the SETRPC collected items that could pose health and environmental risks if disposed of improperly. The collection events were open to all southeast Texas residents, and the SETRPC collected items at no cost to participants. The events were held in Hardin and Orange counties.

More than 1,261 southeast Texas residents participated in the collection events. The SETRPC collected more than 197,352 pounds of HHW and more than 1,100 gallons of used oil during the events. If the SETRPC had not conducted these collection events, the hazardous waste may have potentially been discarded in the landfill, the environment, or in the water system. Disposal of these types of hazardous items in the environment or landfill could result in polluted soil or water, harm to wildlife, or be mixed unintentionally in a garbage truck while on route to the landfill and react, ignite, or explode, potentially injuring the waste collector.

During the events, the SETRPC also collected more than 4,751 scrap tires, including passenger, truck, and large machine tires. In southeast Texas, discarded tires are a breeding ground for mosquitoes which carry disease-causing viruses. Abandoned tires also have the potential to harbor rodents and snakes. If these tires catch on fire they release harmful chemicals and are difficult to extinguish.



SETRPC collection events were open to all southeast Texas residents, and items were collected at no cost to participants.

GRANT RECIPIENT

SETRPC

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$214,875.08
TOTAL	1	\$214,875.08



More than 1,261 southeast Texans participated in SETRPC HHW and scrap tire collection events.

Thanks to the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program and continued recycling efforts from the City of Meadow and Meadow ISD, more than 55,000 pounds of recyclable materials and debris have been collected and diverted from the landfill.

The City of Meadow was awarded \$27,504.37 in grant funds from the Fiscal Years 2016/2017 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG), to continue their 2014/2015 Recycling Project, a partnership between the City of Meadow and Meadow ISD.

The City provided \$16,951.85 in matching cash funds and \$12,740.16 in in-kind work (met through purchase and construction of a weather protected covered area for recycling drop-offs and personnel and equipment costs to run the program). Grant funds were used to purchase a forklift, plastic recycling bins for Meadow ISD, and a utility vehicle and trailer for transport to and from the school and throughout the city.

The City distributes and picks up recycling containers from each classroom for copy paper and for cans/bottles across the campus. The containers are picked up weekly (or as needed) by the City with the assistance of different school groups, such as Student Council and the Family Career and Community Leaders of America.

The City holds an annual city-wide garage sale in the summer and a spring cleanup with an emphasis on “Clean, Green, and Beautify” and “Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.”

Thanks to the grant funding and continued recycling efforts from the City and School, the following has been diverted from the landfill over the past two years:

- 13,220 pounds of brush/yard waste
- 286 pounds of metal
- 320 pounds of plastic
- 10,900 pounds of cardboard
- 30,280 pounds of construction and demolition debris



Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds were used to purchase a trailer for Meadow ISD.



The City of Meadow purchased a utility vehicle and trailer to transport recycling to and from Meadow ISD and throughout the city.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Abernathy

City of Amherst

City of Levelland

City of Meadow

City of Plainview

City of Tahoka

SPAG

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$12,000.00
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$35,000.00
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$2,794.05
Organic Waste Management	1	\$17,604.63
Recycling	2	\$47,504.37
Used Oil Management	1	\$4,891.00
TOTAL	7	\$119,794.05

Starr County's goal is to alleviate illegal tire dumping and encourage proper tire disposal for a cleaner and safer environment.

During Fiscal Years 2016/2017 Starr County opened the new Starr County Tire Facility in Rio Grande City. Supported by Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding administered by the South Texas Development Council (STDC). The new facility is the only one of its kind in the county.

Thanks to a \$42,534 grant, the County was able to purchase the facility and a tire cutter. They moved another tire cutter from the existing transfer station to better process and dispose of tires that come into the station. Starr County provides and promotes various methods of proper tire disposal, serving more than 70,000 residents and surrounding counties. Residents can drop off tires for a fee, and the four county precincts can bring in tires following rights-of-way cleanups. In Fiscal Years 2016/2017, the facility took in and processed 26,457 tires.

Starr County's goal is to alleviate illegal tire dumping and encourage proper tire disposal for a cleaner and safer environment.



The Starr County Tire Facility is the only one of its kind in the county, serving more than 70,000 residents and surrounding counties.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Laredo
City of Rio Grande City

Starr County
Zapata County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Local Enforcement	1	\$34,971.00
Recycling	3	\$101,204.78
TOTAL	4	\$136,175.78

Overall, more than 49 tons of hazardous materials were diverted from Texoma area landfills, creeks, and streams in 2017.

Since 2010, Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG) makes it easier for residents in rural areas of the tri-county region to dispose of hard-to-recycle items. The organization has accomplished this by holding biennial household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events. Although reduced funding has made it challenging to host drop-offs in all three counties, TCOG is making an effort to reach out to local communities and offer education to discourage illegal dumping and promote proper waste disposal.

The most recent HHW collection was April 22, 2017, in Grayson, Fannin and Cooke counties. Wearing bright orange

vests, staff and volunteers at each site counted cars, directed participants and made sure everything ran smoothly.

The amount of hazardous materials brought in, including paint, tires, used electronics and pesticides, continues to grow at each successive event. The largest increase was tires, with over 2,833 collected in 2017, compared to the previous event's 558. Used electronics collection also increased from 13,996 pounds in 2015 to 44,161 pounds in 2017. Hazardous waste increased 84 percent from 52,683 pounds in 2015 to 97,002 pounds in 2017. Overall, more than 49 tons of hazardous materials were diverted from Texoma area landfills, creeks, and streams in 2017.

The total amount of funding received from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by TCOG, in Fiscal Years 2016/2017 was \$71,130. TCOG receives frequent calls, many from older residents, asking what to do with excess paint and insecticides.

The TCEQ funding program ensures elderly residents living on fixed incomes have access to free disposal. It is the only way many local residents have to properly dispose of HHW. The HHW collections are held every other year. In alternate years, the public is encouraged to use the interactive map on TCOG's website highlighting waste and recycling options.



Residents in Grayson, Fannin and Cooke counties participated in HHW collections as staff at each site counted cars and directed participants to ensure the process ran smoothly.

GRANT RECIPIENT

TCOG

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$25,142.88
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$71,754.01
TOTAL	2	\$96,896.89



All three counties in the TCOG region hosted household hazardous waste collection events during Fiscal Years 2016/2017.

The success of the West Central Texas Environmental Partnership (WCTEP) program indicates residents living within the region are actively participating in recycling activities benefitting the entire region, both environmentally and economically.

During Fiscal Years 2016/2017 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding period, the West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG) conducted a COG-managed project to expand the West Central Texas Environmental Partnership (WCTEP) program and educate residents.

WCTCOG formed partnerships with 13 eligible entities throughout the 19-county region to develop new and enhance existing recycling programs. WCTCOG used \$26,483 in funding to assist rural communities with the transportation costs incurred by taking their recycling to market. As a result, they collectively recycled:

- 27,022,000 pounds of used electronics;
- 147,640 pounds of paper;
- 2,788,920 pounds of cardboard;
- 9,480 pounds of plastics;
- 415,100 pounds of metals;
- 58,560 pounds of glass; and
- 8,233,600 pounds of brush/tree limbs.

The COG-managed project participants are Aspermont IDC, City of Baird, City of Colorado City, Hamlin ISD, Jayton ISD, City of Snyder, and the City of Sweetwater. The following communities

hosted tire recycling events: City of Cisco, City of Coleman, Eastland County, City of Merkel, City of Sweetwater, and the City of Throckmorton, recycling more than 156,000 pounds of tires. Approximately 15 percent of the 318,000 residents in eligible areas of the WCTCOG region have participated in the WCTEP program recycling opportunities.

The success of the WCTEP program indicates residents living within the WCTCOG region are actively participating in recycling activities benefitting the entire region, both environmentally and economically.



Approximately 15 percent of the 318,000 residents in eligible areas of the WCTCOG region have participated in the West Central Texas Environmental Partnership program recycling opportunities.



The City of Cisco, City of Coleman, Eastland County, City of Merkel, City of Sweetwater, and the City of Throckmorton hosted tire recycling events and recycled more than 156,000 pounds of tires.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Baird

City of Snyder

City of Blanket

WCTCOG

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$15,085.34
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$4,307.18
Local Enforcement	1	\$1,661.75
Recycling	3	\$51,876.00
TOTAL	6	\$72,930.27

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program Funding Report
Fiscal Years 2016 /2017

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS