

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program

Funding Report for Fiscal Years 2022/2023



**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 was 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 2022 and 2023.

This report also includes a brief overview of some of the challenges and successes the regions have had, including illegal dumping enforcement, recycling improvements, and household hazardous waste collections.

Additional information requests or inquiries may be directed to:

Ginny Lewis Ford

Executive Director

Texas Association of Regional Councils

1210 San Antonio Street, Suite 201

Austin, TX 78701

512-478-4715

glewisford@txregionalcouncil.org



Special thanks are provided to the Regional Council of Governments Solid Waste Planners and the TCEQ Waste Permits Division for their hard work in developing this report.

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:

Brenda Britt, Anju Chalise, and Jessica Uramkin

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Kimberly Lile Dowty

Texas Association of Regional Councils

Falen Bohannon

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Erin Livingston, Cheryl Mergo, Andrea Tantillo

Houston-Galveston Area Council

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Grant Program	
Why the Program is Important	4
Why Use COGs to Oversee Grants	
COGs Provide Regional Services	5
Topic of Interest Illegal Dumping	6
How the Program is Funded / Who Benefits from the Grants	7
Table 1 Funding by Entity	
Topic of Interest Household Hazardous Waste	8
Topic of Interest Recycling	9
Table 2 Funding by Category	
Topic of Interest Tires	10
Councils of Governments Map	11
Councils of Governments Highlights: Find Your COG	12-59

There is a great need for the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program. During Fiscal Years 2022/2023, COGs had over \$6.3 million to distribute but received an additional \$2.26 million in requests that they were unable to fund. Included in these unfunded requests were projects to expand efforts to fight illegal dumping; provide Texans with options to dispose of household hazardous waste, tires, and used electronics safely; and build new recycling programs to divert waste from landfills.

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 on page 9 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
- Helps diversify the Texas economy
- Keeps Texas competitive in attracting companies and residents

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 collectively received, administered, and awarded \$1.02 billion in public funds across all programs in Fiscal Year 2020, with legislatively required methods of accountability according to the most current available data
- **PARTNERSHIP** - COGs work with local 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 and recycling facilities, cross-jurisdictional environmental enforcement task forces, and regional education campaigns
- **EFFICIENCY** - COGs know what activities are underway in their areas, thus decreasing the chance for duplication of efforts



COGS PROVIDE REGIONAL 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 361, Health and Safety Code, 361.064 – 363.066) and help local governments better deliver services to their constituents.

CONDUCTS 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 and/or developing property
- Review municipal solid waste permit applications for conformance with the COG's regional solid waste management plan and ensure all affected 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

ASSISTS 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



PEOPLE IMPACTED

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding allows COGs to offer services and education impacting a large portion of Texans.

Almost
2.6 million
people participated
in an event, attended
a training, or used a
facility.

"Cowboy" icon by Artem Kovyazin from thenounproject.com

Illegal dumping is a problem throughout Texas. Materials 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. Items dumped can range from construction and demolition materials and other bulky items to regular household trash. These items can lead to a multitude of issues. They can be physically dangerous if children play

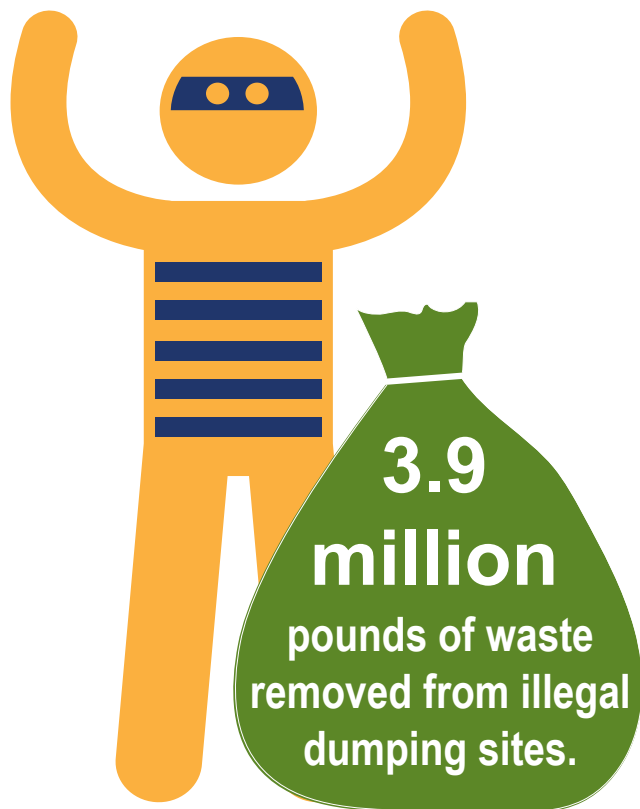
nearby, cause flooding problems if they are dumped in drainage channels or waterways, contaminate surface and groundwater if the materials are hazardous, become breeding grounds for rodents and mosquitos, decrease property values in the surrounding area, and act as a magnet for additional illegal dumping and other crimes.

To combat illegal dumping, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality promotes a four-part approach: available disposal options, public awareness of the hazards and disposal options, cleanup of existing illegal dumping sites, and enforcement.

Prevention and cleanup of illegal dumpsites makes a community more resilient by reducing the risk of flooding, more attractive to investors or companies by providing clean and safe locations for doing business, and more welcoming for residents and visitors by improving and sustaining daily quality of life. Having

strong environmental enforcement programs is critical to addressing the illegal dumping problem across Texas. Strong programs need access to the latest information on methods and strategies for identifying responsible parties, access to quality equipment, such as high-resolution surveillance cameras for known dumpsites, and sufficient staff to manage the caseload.

Over the more than two decades of the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, funds have enabled new enforcement programs to form and existing programs to expand their capacity and effectiveness. During Fiscal Years 2022/2023, the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funded 15 local enforcement grants at just over \$322,000. Through these grants, law enforcement investigated 4,106 illegal dumping sites, identified 887 violators, and caused the removal of almost 3.9 million pounds of waste.



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

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

During Fiscal Years 2022/2023, the 24 regional COGs funded 254 projects totaling \$6,344,586.43.

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. Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds are awarded through a competitive process in each of the 24 regions. During Fiscal Years 2022/2023, the 24 regional COGs funded 254 projects totaling \$6,344,586.43 and ranging in size from \$514 to \$357,977.

Regional Solid Waste grantees diverted **13.6 million** pounds of traditional recyclables*, enough to cover over **23 football fields** with one foot of recyclables.

Table 1 Fiscal Years 2022/2023 Funding by Entity

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Cities	133	\$3,027,162.44
Counties	62	\$1,162,461.27
COGs	50	\$1,976,600.28
School Districts	3	\$61,645.00
Other Districts	6	\$116,717.44
TOTAL	254	\$6,344,586.43



*includes cardboard, glass, paper, plastic, and metal

"Football Helmet" icon by Edward Boatman, "Trash" icon by Marianna Marozzi, "Trash" icon by Chiccabubble, and "Goal Post" icon by Valentina Velcro from thenounproject.com

Proper management of household hazardous waste (HHW) is essential for safeguarding both the environment and public health, yet many people do not realize the dangers presented by these common items stored in their own homes.

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.

With just 37 permanent facilities spread over 21 counties, much of Texas lacks adequate disposal options for HHW, something that many moving to Texas have come to expect as a standard service. Rural communities are particularly impacted by a lack of permanent facilities, and collection events are not always held on regular schedules, if at all. That means the estimated 226 million pounds of HHW stored in 11.3 million households in Texas is 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 be injured by fires or explosions resulting from mixing of hazardous materials during residential



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

pickups. Lithium batteries are of particular concern for waste and recycling haulers as they result in a large number of fires nationwide when not recycled properly once they have reached their end of life.

During Fiscal Years 2022/2023, local governments spent more than \$1.2 million in Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds hosting collection events and upgrading 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.

Through these programs they were able to collect more than 1.7 million pounds of HHW.



Texas is one of the fastest growing states in the United States. With that increase in population comes an increase in the amount of solid waste that must be managed by cities, counties, businesses, and individuals. There are just a few ways waste can be managed in Texas. It can be landfilled, composted, or recycled. Many view landfilling waste as the least desirable option for several reasons:

- people often don't want to live, work, or play near a landfill;
- permitting a landfill can take over a decade and cost millions before the first load of garbage is ever accepted for disposal; and
- landfilling waste creates fewer jobs, generates less revenue, and provides manufacturers less options for sourcing materials.

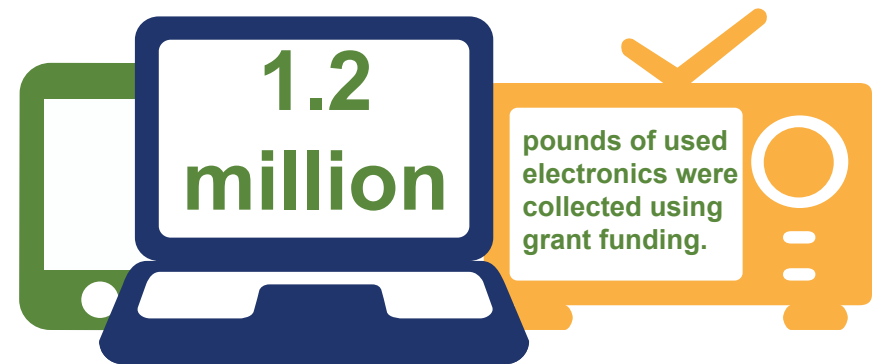
Table 2 Fiscal Years 2022/2023 Funding by Category

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Citizens' Collection Station and Small Registered Transfer Stations	3	\$184,180.00
Education and Training	22	\$813,515.46
General Solid Waste Management	111	\$1,762,575.80
HHW Management	34	\$1,218,591.52
Local Enforcement	15	\$322,024.04
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	14	\$585,463.10
Organic Waste Management	11	\$287,477.14
Recycling	44	\$1,170,759.37
TOTAL	254	\$6,344,586.43

For many people, what first comes to mind when considering recycling and composting is not the economic benefits but rather the environmental benefits, such as reducing demand for raw materials and diverting material from landfills. But the economic aspect of recycling deserves more attention. 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 is low compared to many other states. This 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.

Over the 31 years of the grants program funds have been used to start new recycling programs bringing recycling to communities previously without this service; expand or improve existing programs to reach additional people or materials, or provide greater education to reduce contamination; or collect materials that are more challenging and important to manage for various reasons such as electronics or tires.

During Fiscal Years 2022/2023, using the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds, local governments collected 16.5 million pounds of materials for recycling. This includes 1.2 million pounds of used electronics; 347,000 pounds of white goods; 13.6 million pounds of typical single-stream recycling materials of paper, cardboard, metal, glass, and plastic; and another 1.26 million pounds of uncategorized materials. The results are impressive, but more could have been recycled if additional grant applicants could have received funding for their proposed recycling projects.



According to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), 57.1 million scrap tires were properly managed in Texas in 2023. However, there is no way to estimate the number improperly managed and not recovered statewide. Despite increases in collection events and drop-off locations, cities and counties across the state are still often struggling to adequately address the situation. Councils of Governments 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.

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 cause navigational and aquatic habitat hazards in waterways and facilitate breeding grounds for mosquitoes 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.

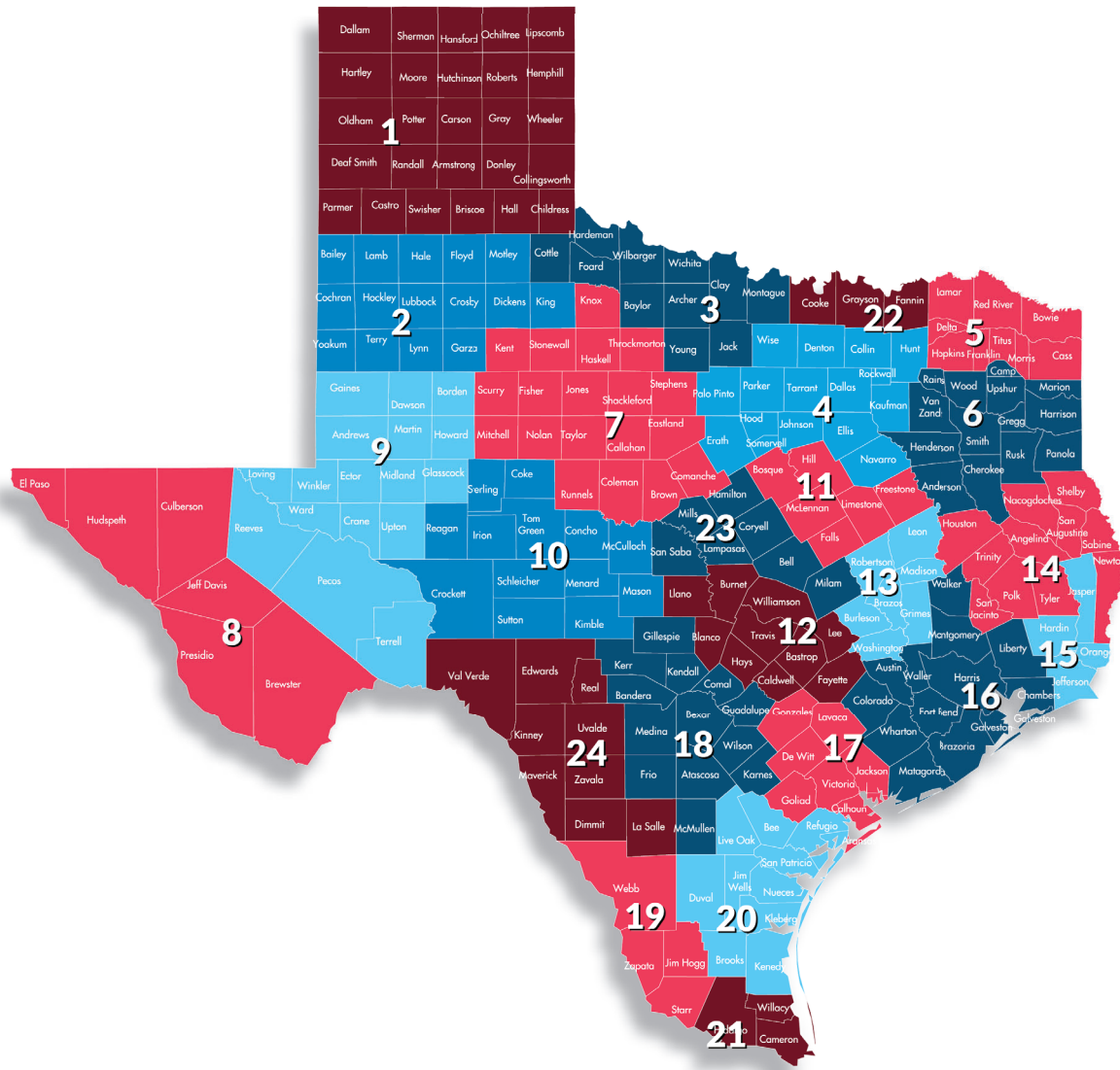
According to the TCEQ's *2023 Scrap Tire Annual Report Summary* there are over 11,300 generators of scrap tires, meaning companies that generate scrap tires such as tire retailers and retreaders, but there are only 150

scrap tire processing facilities, eight scrap tire recycling facilities, and eight energy recovery facilities that use scrap tires as feedstock. There are regions of the state where tires must be transported a great distance. One community in the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council was given a quote of approximately \$900,000 to haul tires to a facility in Houston. With those types of costs, it simply isn't feasible for many communities to send tires off for recycling or energy recovery and they are finding other solutions, such as purchasing their own tire cutters to allow for processing of tires internally once collected. Once tires are processed, they can then be sent for disposal to nearby landfills.

During Fiscal Years 2022/2023 over \$900,000 of Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds was spent on tire contractors, a scrap tire study for a region plagued with a lot of tires and not a lot of facilities for managing those tires, and four tire cutter projects. There were 60 grants where tires were collected as at least a part of the grant with 275,551 tires having been collected at a cost of \$723,380.



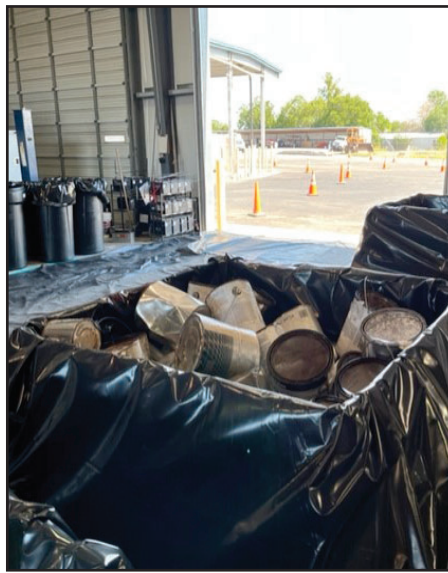
TEXAS REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS



COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS	PAGE
Alamo Area Council of Governments (18)	12
Ark-Tex Council of Governments (5)	14
Brazos Valley Council of Governments (13)	16
Capital Area Council of Governments (12)	18
Central Texas Council of Governments (23)	20
Coastal Bend Council of Governments (20)	22
Concho Valley Council of Governments (10)	24
Deep East Texas Council of Governments (14)	26
East Texas Council of Governments (6)	28
Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (17)	30
Heart of Texas Council of Governments (11)	32
Houston-Galveston Area Council (16)	34
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (21)	36
Middle Rio Grande Development Council (24)	38
Nortex Regional Planning Commission (3)	40
North Central Texas Council of Governments (4)	42
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (1)	44
Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission (9)	46
Rio Grande Council of Governments (8)	48
South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (15)	50
South Plains Association of Governments (2)	52
South Texas Development Council (19)	54
Texoma Council of Governments (22)	56
West Central Texas Council of Governments (7)	58

Illegal dumping is a growing concern in the AACOG region. The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program has helped several communities develop watch programs for areas popular for unlawful dumping.

The Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) is the state-designated planning agency for solid waste management issues in the San Antonio region. AACOG Environmental Conservation Program provides technical assistance to local governments on solid waste issues and continuing education opportunities for local governments and solid waste professionals. AACOG reviews applications for landfill permits and solid waste grants. Each biennium, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by AACOG provides funding for local government projects, including source reduction, recycling, local illegal dumping enforcement, solid waste studies, household hazardous waste (HHW) collections, and public education efforts. AACOG works to develop awareness and adoption of environmentally conscious best practices on these same topics.



Seven communities were awarded funds to implement 14 projects in Fiscal Years 2022/2023. The total grant money available to communities in the region was \$448,370.59.

FY22

- City of Grey Forest – Brush Chipper – \$51,776.00
- City of Shavano Park – HHW Event – \$25,000.00
- Kendall County – HHW Event – \$15,000.00
- City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation – Supplies and Equipment for Deconstruction Program – \$29,001.76
- City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation – Deconstruction Program – \$25,224.00

FY23

- City of Castroville – Large Brush Incinerator – \$33,200.00
- Kendall County – HHW Event – \$20,000.00
- City of Kerrville – Outreach and Education – \$11,398.68
- AACOG COG-Managed – Rebuild Closed Landfill Inventory – \$17,380.00
- AACOG COG-Managed – Education and Training – \$18,020.71
- City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation – \$80,950.00
- AACOG COG-Managed – Local Enforcement Cameras Program – \$42,735.75
- AACOG COG-Managed – Illegal Dumping Education Program – \$22,500.00
- AACOG COG-Managed – HHW Events – \$50,183.69

All projects were funded in the 13 counties in the AACOG region. These projects were selected by the Resource Recovery Committee (RRC) at AACOG. A community’s commitment to a cleaner environment often reflects its commitment to a higher quality of life.

Landfills are designed to handle waste; however, if we throw away everything that could be recycled, the landfill would fill up and be unable to cope with this large load. It would also create unpleasant smells and become toxic from all the harmful chemicals that arise from plastics, batteries, microwaves, cleaning supplies, and other household products. Making just small recycling efforts helps substantially in keeping landfill sites under control.

Illegal dumping is a growing concern in the AACOG region. The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program has helped several communities develop watch programs for areas popular for unlawful dumping.

To help combat illegal dumping and relieve some landfill capacity, Kendall County hosted two HHW collection events. The HHW events consisted of collecting, transporting, and either recycling or disposing of collected materials. Over the last several years, Kendall County received many inquiries from the public about where and how they could dispose of HHW and wanted to provide the public with an appropriate means to dispose of HHW. Consumers are often unsure how to properly manage and dispose of the many hazardous wastes found in most homes. Without viable alternatives for HHW disposal, the public will likely introduce HHW into the solid waste stream destined for a sanitary landfill or illegally dump the HHW in the environment.



Grey Forest, as the name implies, is an area abounding with a forest of grey-green live oaks and meandering creeks. The City also proudly owns a 42-acre park, Senator Frank L. Madla Natural Area, with approximately 11,000 visitors annually. The City of Grey Forest purchased a chipper to chip/mulch trees approximately 12 inches or less. The purchase of the chipper for the City of Grey Forest has enabled the community to make significant strides in managing green waste and promoting a cleaner, more sustainable environment. With the addition of the chipper, the City is able to efficiently process large volumes of green waste generated by the abundant trees in the area and then distribute the product back to the residents upon request. This equipment has proven essential in helping residents maintain their properties and dispose of organic debris in an eco-friendly way, reducing fire hazards and contributing to local composting efforts. The demand for these services highlights the ongoing need for such resources, ensuring Grey Forest remains a beautiful and safe place for all. With over 200 participants utilizing the chipper service, Grey Forest has successfully processed more than 50,000 pounds of green waste from the abundant trees in the area.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Alamo Area Council of Governments	City of San Antonio Historic Preservation
City of Castroville	City of Shavano Park
City of Grey Forest	Kendall County
City of Kerrville	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	3	\$51,919.39
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$17,380.00
HHW Management	4	\$110,183.69
Local Enforcement	1	\$42,735.75
Organic Waste Management	2	\$90,976.00
Recycling	3	\$135,175.76
TOTAL	14	\$448,370.59

This funding provided critical support to cleanup efforts that otherwise would not have been possible. Cass County collected and properly disposed of thousands of tires, addressing a long-term health and environmental problem.

—Cass County Judge Travis Ransom

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, which can be detrimental to human health and the environment.

During Fiscal Years 2022/2023 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding period, ATCOG conducted COG-Managed Projects focusing on Litter/Illegal Dumping Cleanups and Community Collection Events. ATCOG formed partnerships with seven counties in the region, administered \$6,775.92 to each county, totaling \$60,983.25, and encouraged each participant to divert recyclable materials to material recovery facilities (MRF) located within the area.

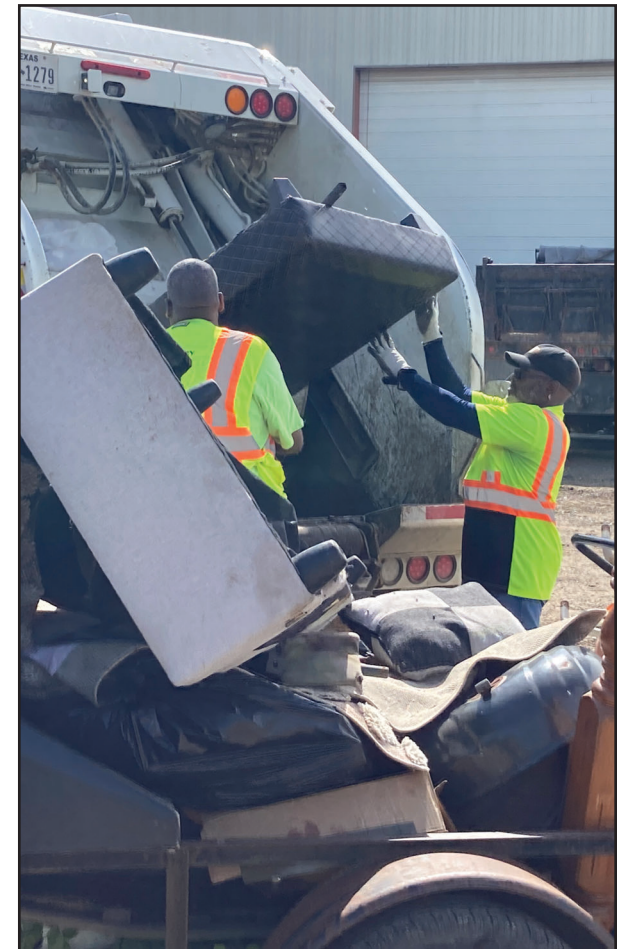
Seven separate events were conducted during this funding period with 271 volunteers participating in the planning and implementation of these events covering 102,000 acres. Volunteers included: county precinct road commissioners, city mayors, city managers, students from various independent school districts, and adult probationers. Materials were collected along roadsides and from illegal dumpsites, as well as being brought in by residents from their own properties.

Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, and Red River counties collected 750,000 pounds of waste for

disposal. Additionally, 315,000 pounds of materials were collected for recycling/reuse, including:

- 123,600 pounds of white goods
- 6,400 pounds of brush/yard waste
- 13,700 pounds of construction and demolition (C&D) debris
- 5,200 scrap tires

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





GRANT RECIPIENT
Ark-Tex Council of Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$60,811.91
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$20,000.00
TOTAL	2	\$80,811.91



Our Solid Waste funding is important to us because we can have a place for residents to bring their old tires, instead of these tires being dumped on our county roads. It keeps our county roads beautiful.

—Leon County Assistant Auditor Morgan Driskill

The Fiscal Years 2022/2023 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG) witnessed the majority of the grant funds used to address community collection events, source reduction, and recycling in the Brazos Valley. There were eight projects funded during this grant cycle totaling \$58,799.29. The projects were in the city of Buffalo; a regional project; and Burleson, Grimes, Leon, and Washington counties.

In 2023 BVCOG held two new events, the Brazos Valley Community Shred Day and the Brazos Valley Community Cleanup Challenge. During the Community Shred Day, 3,000 pounds of paper was collected. The event was available for residents in all seven counties in the Brazos Valley and each participant received a recycling bin with outreach and education materials about Earth

Day, recycling, and illegal dumping prevention. The Community Cleanup Challenge resulted in 580 bags of trash collected. Burleson County accepted the challenge and took home the prize and the bragging rights for their community-wide collaborating efforts that resulted in their collecting the most waste in their communities. The Community Cleanup Challenge helps support the local efforts of Keep Texas Beautiful affiliates, non-profits, volunteers, corporations, scout groups, and other community groups as they collaborate with their cities and counties throughout the region.

The large concentration of funds used to fund community collection events and recycling grants demonstrates the importance that the residents of the Brazos Valley region continue to place on cleaning up their communities and implementing recycling programs for unwanted materials. The grants collected 4,908 scrap tires, 400 large white goods, 17,900 pounds of materials collected for recycling/reuse, and 25,220 pounds of waste collected for disposal.

Burleson County conducted a pilot recycling program to divert waste from the landfill using grant funds. This generated community involvement and support to establish recycling services as a more permanent option in the county.

The pilot recycling program helped to keep materials circulating in the broader economy and out of the landfill,



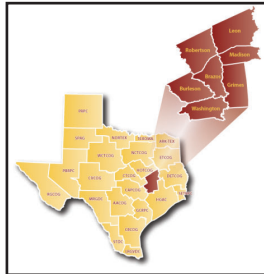
providing the triple benefit of:

- helping to protect the environment by reducing the fill rate of the landfill and reducing raw material inputs needed;
- reducing related costs to the county and ultimately the taxpayers; and
- empowering residents to proactively care for the community, thereby increasing local pride and commitment to beautification and environmental health.

As part of the program, Burleson County placed 30-yard roll-off dumpsters at four county precincts’ citizens’ collection stations to accept co-mingled cardboard, paper, aluminum, glass, and #1 and #2 plastics.



Burleson County diverted 41,760 pounds of material from the landfill, including 2,520 pounds of metal, 11,280 pounds of plastic, 26,600 pounds of cardboard, and 1,360 pounds of paper. Burleson County held four educational and training events for this project.



As a separate project, Burleson County paired Girl Scout cookie season with their cardboard recycling program to foster a deeper understanding of sustainability and environmental stewardship among young participants. Girl Scout Troops 32300 and 1136 enjoyed a pizza party at the Burleson County Cardboard Recycling Center in spring 2024, where they recycled all of the cardboard that contained cookies from their Annual Girl Scout Cookie Sale. This type of activity, reinforces the importance of recycling and reducing waste while encouraging community involvement, promoting teamwork, and celebrating collaboration as the Girl Scouts work together with residents. Troops 970 from the City of Snook and 879 from the City of Somerville also recycled cardboard boxes, but it was done after cookie season ended.

Without funding for community cleanup and recycling events, we could see an increase in negative environmental impacts in our communities throughout the region. We would see the accumulation of litter, which would lead to unsightly neighborhoods and potential environmental hazards. There is an impending risk to health and safety without funding for this program. Increased waste and pollution can lead to health issues, including respiratory problems and pest infestations. Increased litter can have a negative impact on local wildlife, as animals may ingest plastic or become entangled in debris.

Less funding means less community engagement and less community pride, as people may feel less connected to their communities.

A lack of funding could lead to fewer recycling programs, causing more waste to go into the landfills rather than being recycled. It's expensive to deposit materials into the landfill. There is also the potential for negative economic impact. A decline in community aesthetics can deter tourism and business investment, negatively impacting the local economy.

Continued funding for these initiatives will have far-reaching effects on environmental health, future quality of life, and local economic development. The funding for these initiatives makes our lives and the lives of future Texans better.

Based on the successful results with previous solid waste management programs, we estimate that future litter and illegal dumping/scrap tire cleanups and community collection events in Brazos Valley would also be successful if more funding is made available.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Brazos Valley Council of Governments	Grimes County
Burleson County	Leon County
City of Buffalo	Washington County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$514.55
General Solid Waste Management	4	\$33,931.66
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$11,897.10
Recycling	2	\$12,455.98
TOTAL	8	\$58,799.29



The Regional Environmental Task Force, the state’s only regional, COG-facilitated, multi-jurisdictional, multi-government level law enforcement effort addressing environmental crimes demonstrates an innovative approach to environmental law enforcement, including regional coordination, a toll-free hotline to report crimes, access to shared resources, general guidance, and environmental law training.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is the lead state regulatory entity responsible for environmental permitting, compliance monitoring, and enforcement, however, not all environmental issues fall under the jurisdiction of the TCEQ. Responding to environmental crimes has been a local government responsibility since 1996 per TCEQ’s directive at the time, and today, local governments are increasingly the lead agency to respond to most environmental crimes, allowing the TCEQ to concentrate on seriously severe environmental crimes and local agencies to address local needs.

In support of the TCEQ’s efforts and to assist in a more effective environmental compliance program, the Capital Area Council of Government (CAPCOG) Executive Committee formed a Regional Environmental Task Force (RETF) in 1996. Funded by the TCEQ’s Waste Permits Division’s Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, the RETF is the State of Texas’ only regional COG-facilitated multi-jurisdictional, multi-government level law enforcement effort which addresses environmental crimes, including illegal dumping. Operating under a memorandum of agreement signed by CAPCOG’s 10 counties, the City of Austin, and the City of Cedar Park, this innovative

approach to environmental law enforcement includes regional coordination, a toll-free hotline to report crimes, access to shared resources, general guidance, and environmental law training thereby increasing the effectiveness of participating environmental investigators, law enforcement, code enforcement, and State agencies with natural resource management responsibilities. Members of the RETF also coordinate on investigations with members of the State level TCEQ-led Texas Environmental Enforcement Task Force. CAPCOG provides centralized coordination and administration and serves as fiduciary managers for the Task Force.

The RETF also hosts Basic and Intermediate Environmental Law Training Courses for law enforcement officers, public health and sanitation workers, and code enforcement officials from around the state to



learn about environmental laws. This focus on regulations in Texas Health and Safety Code, Texas Water Code, and Texas Transportation Code helps enforce public nuisance violations, illegal dumping, and water pollution issues. During Fiscal Years 2022/2023, the RETF hosted five Basic and one Intermediate Environmental Law Trainings, graduating 236 students.

For the biennium, CAPCOG awarded \$420,644.84 in funding for 17 county and city solid waste projects in the region. The RETF reported the investigation of over 77 illegal dump sites, 39 Class C misdemeanor sites (5 pounds or less), 14 Class B sites (5 to 500 pounds), 4 Class A site (500 to 1000 pounds), and 20 felony

sites (1,000 pounds or more). The RETF members utilized 70 game cameras to help oversee chronic dumps sites, for a cumulative surveillance period of over 113,324 days, and to prevent pollution for years to come.

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$9,147.45
General Solid Waste Management	7	\$189,052.09
HHW Management	3	\$93,563.55
Local Enforcement	2	\$57,834.71
Organic Waste Management	2	\$36,047.04
Recycling	2	\$35,000.00
TOTAL	17	\$420,644.84

GRANT RECIPIENTS

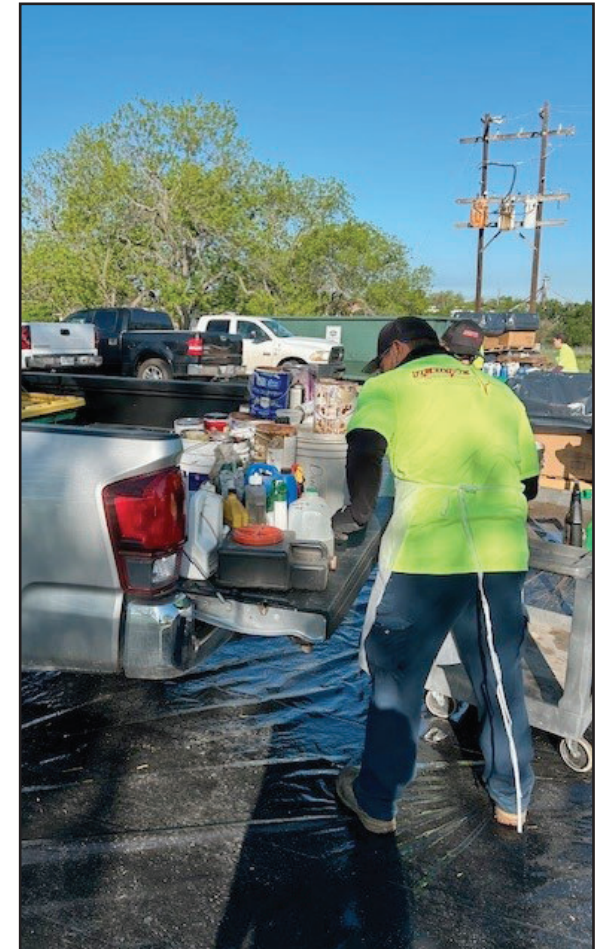
- Blanco County
- Burnet County
- Caldwell County
- Capital Area Council of Governments
- City of Creedmoor
- City of Granite Shoals
- City of Leander
- City of Lockhart
- City of Pflugerville
- City of Rollingwood
- City of San Marcos
- Fayette County
- Hays County
- Lee County
- Llano County

Many residents have reached out saying how grateful they are that CTCOG and our local cities offer these events since there are no other options for them to dispose of waste properly.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) disposal services remain one of the greatest needs within the Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) region. The region does not support any permanent HHW facilities, and collection events are typically too expensive for most communities to host on a regular or irregular basis. Recognizing this need, the CTCOG's Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) began an HHW program 11 years ago to provide the opportunity for local cities and counties to host HHW events to regularly provide collection and disposal services. These events are open to all residents in the region and have only grown in necessity as the population in the CTCOG region has grown.

During Fiscal Years 2022/2023 the Texas Commission

on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by CTCOG funded 12 HHW events in the region. Through this program, nearly 3,000 residents were able to drop off hazardous waste materials such as paints, oil, antifreeze, batteries, household cleaners, fluorescent bulbs, and other harmful chemicals for proper disposal. CTCOG also coordinated with each host entity to include additional services for tire recycling, electronic collections, and other recyclables at the events. While not every event offered all collection options, residents still had the opportunity to offload special waste and recycling at some events. Many residents have reached out saying how grateful they are that CTCOG and our local cities offer these events since there are no other options for them to dispose of waste properly.



Highlights of HHW Items and Scrap Tires Collected during Fiscal Years 2022/2023 Events

Paint	Fuels	Batteries	Electronics	Other Hazardous Materials	Scrap Tires
86,391 lbs.	29,065 gallons	564	106 lbs.	54,747 lbs.	2,812



GRANT RECIPIENT
Central Texas Council of Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$2,409.97
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$136,983.45
TOTAL	2	\$139,393.42

Being able to provide local enforcement training and equipment is instrumental to the sustained efforts to eliminate the issue of illegal dumping in the Coastal Bend region.

Scrap tires and illegal dumping are problems across all parts of Texas and the Coastal Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG) region is no exception. Cities and counties continue to struggle to adequately manage tires and curtail illegal dumping, but the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program can help.

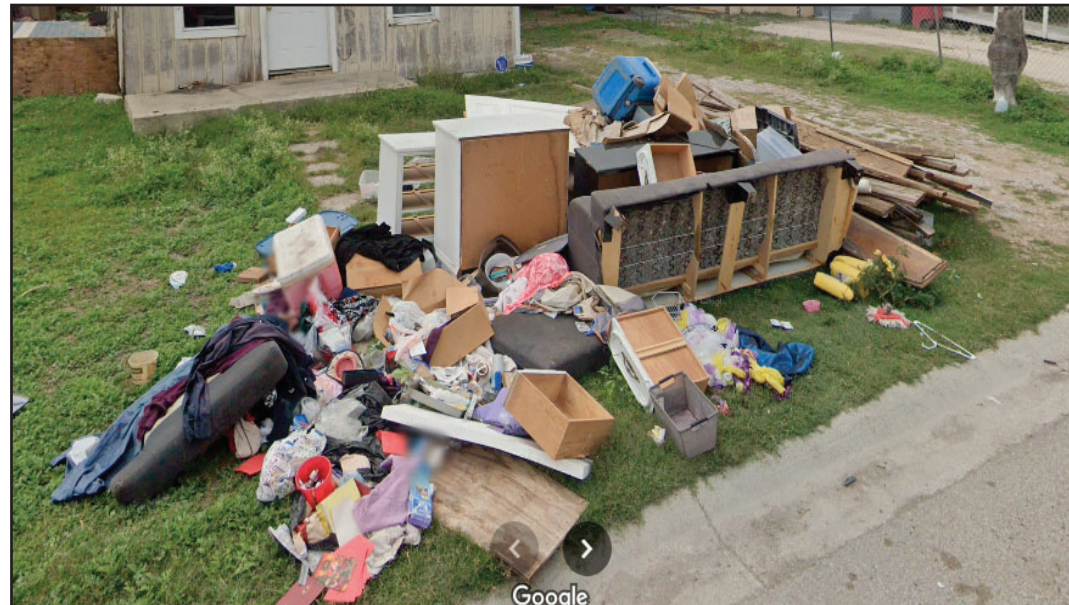
During the Fiscal Years 2022/2023 funding period, CBCOG funded a total of 11 projects. Eight of the grants included collection of hard to manage materials or specifically problematic items, such as bulky waste, pharmaceuticals, cigarette butts, and tires, with tires being the item most commonly accepted at these events. The other three grants focused on local enforcement of illegal dumping, either through the purchase of surveillance cameras to help identify those responsible for illegal dumping or through a regional training focused on solid waste, illegal dumping, and other environmental laws.

One community, the City of Robstown, benefitted from both of these types of grants during Fiscal Years 2022/2023 in their fight against illegal dumping. In 2022, the City of Robstown was awarded a grant for the purchase of surveillance cameras for the purpose of monitoring known sites for illegal dumping with the goal of identifying those caught on camera committing these crimes. With the grant funds they purchased four cameras and two camera enclosures. The cameras can

transmit data remotely to the two Code Enforcement Officers in Robstown charged with working the cases. The City covered all other costs associated with this project including the long-term contract for the Wi-Fi enabled monitoring of the cameras. Knowing they didn't have the capacity to prosecute any identified offenders, the City of Robstown initially partnered with the Nueces County Environmental Crimes Unit to handle the prosecution of cases. Since then, the City of Robstown has taken on the responsibility for prosecution. The cameras were

recently in need of maintenance, but all are now back in the field and in use. In the two months since the cameras were put back in the field, multiple individuals caught on camera illegally dumping have been identified and are being prosecuted.

The City of Robstown was also awarded a grant to host a tire collection event in the spring of 2022 to gather tires from their community. Collected tires were properly disposed of at an area landfill and the city benefitted from a cleaner environment for all residents.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Alice	Jim Wells County
City of Robstown	Nueces County
City of Rockport	San Patricio County
Coastal Bend Council of Governments	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$4,800.00
General Solid Waste Management	7	\$56,249.17
HHW Management	1	\$11,059.83
Local Enforcement	2	\$5,377.89
TOTAL	11	\$77,486.89



photos on pp 22-23 downloaded from Google Maps Street View on 12-18-2024

We are excited to demonstrate our commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainable practices, ultimately benefiting both our community and the environment as a whole. We believe we can be a positive example for other rural municipalities looking to improve their recycling practices.

—City of Eldorado Utilities Superintendent Floyd Fay

In Fiscal Years 2022/2023, the City of Eldorado purchased a new vertical baler for their recycling center using funds received from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the Concho Valley Council of Governments. This vertical baler has significantly streamlined and improved the City’s recycling efforts. By compacting recyclable materials such as cardboard and other packaging materials into dense bales and sending them off to be recycled, the vertical baler reduces the volume of waste that would otherwise occupy precious landfill space.

In one year, the City baled and recycled 4 tons of cardboard. The bales produced by this vertical baler are sold to the big recycling centers for additional revenue streams which help offset other costs for the City. The use of the baler has not only helped streamline their

waste management process, recycling capacity, and productivity, it has also proven to be a wise decision for the City in enhancing its recycling program by promoting environmental stewardship within the community.

Businesses have also benefited from the effort by saving on disposal costs and optimizing storage space at their facilities.

“We, the City of Eldorado, are grateful for this grant and the opportunity it has provided us,” said Floyd Fay, City of Eldorado Utilities Superintendent. “We are excited to demonstrate our commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainable practices, ultimately benefiting both our community and the environment as a whole. We believe we can be a positive example for other rural municipalities looking to improve their recycling practices.”





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Bronte
City of Eldorado

City of Menard
Tom Green County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	2	\$21,332.25
HHW Management	1	\$90,000.00
Recycling	1	\$19,317.80
TOTAL	4	\$130,650.05



Our countywide tire amnesty program was a huge success! On Friday and Saturday, we filled two trailers. These are hundreds of tires that won't end up as mosquito breeding grounds or dumped in our local ditches, waterways and woodlands. They will soon be recycled into rubber mulch and various other products. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event and thanks to DETCOG and TCEQ for the grant that made this possible!

—City of Crockett Director of Public Works Gerald Colter

In a strong display of community action, the Crockett countywide tire amnesty program, funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Regional Solid Waste Management Grants Program, administered by the Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG), achieved outstanding results over its two-day event. Residents across the county came together to tackle the issue of illegally discarded tires, successfully filling two trailers with hundreds of old tires—and even had more left over.

This effort is more than just about clearing out clutter. By removing hundreds of tires from circulation, the program has helped prevent potential mosquito breeding grounds, thus protecting public health and reducing the risk of mosquito-borne illnesses. It also means fewer tires will end up dumped in our ditches, waterways, and woodlands, preserving the beauty and health of our local environment.

But the benefits don't stop there. Thanks to the recycling process, these old tires will soon be transformed into rubber mulch and other sustainable products, giving them new life and further reducing environmental impact.

This success story highlights the importance of programs like these, which bring together local residents, government agencies, and dedicated grant support to make a tangible, positive difference. We look forward to continuing these impactful initiatives that protect our environment and support healthier, cleaner communities.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

Angelina County	Newton County
Cape Royale Utility District	Polk County
City of Crockett	Sabine County
City of San Augustine	San Jacinto County
Deep East Texas Council of Governments	Trinity County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$2,200.00
General Solid Waste Management	7	\$53,187.99
HHW Management	3	\$35,229.89
Recycling	3	\$39,382.12
TOTAL	14	\$130,000.00

It's so wonderful to see the community come out and do their part to protect the environment by participating in Paint Recycles Day. Thanks to the continued partnership with the East Texas Council of Governments, we have been able to keep nearly 30,000 pounds of paint out of the local landfill.

—City of Jacksonville Mayor Randy Gorham

In 2023, Jacksonville took a pivotal step toward safeguarding its community's health and environment with a recycling project hosted at the Jacksonville High School John Alexander Gym. As one of 14 jurisdictions awarded funding through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the East Texas Council of Governments, Jacksonville used its \$9,258 grant to transform its waste management approach, highlighting the value of sustainable practices.

What began as smaller, more frequent collections evolved into larger, community-wide events, drawing residents of all ages. The project, aptly named *The Great Jacksonville Cleanup*, provided a centralized location for collecting recyclable materials. By switching to a larger, one-day event the City is saving money and reducing the amount of time staff spend on planning events throughout the year. During the one-day, four-hour collection event, thousands of pounds of plastic, paper, aluminum, electronics, and other waste were diverted from landfills. Jacksonville High School students played a critical role by organizing materials, raising awareness, and creating educational campaigns to teach citizens about the importance of recycling.

One participant was Juan Gallegos, a long-time Jacksonville resident. After seeing the event advertised

online, Juan gathered items like old furniture and mattresses he would have otherwise struggled to dispose of. "The event provided a great opportunity to get rid of things that would normally have to be taken to the dump," Juan shared. "This helps us a lot."

The program's impact extended beyond convenience and a one-day collection. Parks and green spaces are noticeably cleaner, as a litter cleanup event is paired with the recycling event each year. Waste that once littered streets is getting collected and is properly managed, keeping Jacksonville's residents safer and healthier.

"*The Great Jacksonville Cleanup* was a success with a measurable impact," said Kimberly A. Lynn, Project Specialist, City of Jacksonville, Community and Public Services. "The grant was pivotal in the success of the event, and with continued support, it will help expand the program. The funding bridges the gap of budget constraints, giving us the opportunity to help residents by providing a location and the resources needed for recycling. Jacksonville is better today and will be so in the future because of the funding that helped establish *The Great Jacksonville Cleanup*."



The long-term benefits of the project are already visible. Local leaders believe the initiative has fostered a lasting culture of environmental stewardship. By engaging younger generations and the broader community, Jacksonville has laid the groundwork for sustainable practices that will endure for years to come.

“We’re seeing increased awareness and participation,” said Daniel Seguin, former Director of Jacksonville Tourism and Communication. “Many residents rely on this event to dispose of bulky items they couldn’t otherwise afford to remove, and our code enforcement team has noted a significant decrease in roadside and illegal dumping.”

The 2023 event was a resounding success. Nearly 600 bags of trash were collected by volunteers, alongside 13 roll-off dumpsters filled with almost 50,000 pounds of bulky waste. The cleanup also saw the collection of 16 car batteries, 140 tires, 166 gallons of used motor oil, 3,000 pounds of brush, 4,500 pounds of shredded sensitive documents, 4,100 pounds of electronics, and 7,500 pounds of scrap metal.

Yet, the outcome could have been vastly different. Without this funding, Jacksonville would have continued to grapple with inadequate waste management. Some residents might have lacked the resources to dispose of waste safely, diminishing the community’s quality of life.

Today, Jacksonville stands as a shining example of how community-driven solutions and sustainable funding can create a healthier, safer, and more united future for all.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Athens	City of Waskom
City of Carthage	City of Wills Point
City of East Tawakoni	East Texas Council of Governments
City of Gladewater	Frankston ISD
City of Grand Saline	Rains County
City of Jacksonville	Smith County
City of Kilgore	Upper Sabine Valley Solid Waste Mgmt District (USVSWMD)
City of Log Cabin	Upshur County
City of Rusk	Van Zandt County Precinct 1
City of Tyler	Van Zandt County Precinct 3
City of Uncertain	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$26,250.50
General Solid Waste Management	19	\$60,282.22
HHW Management	1	\$13,000.00
Local Enforcement	3	\$35,000.00
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$37,500.00
Organic Waste Management	1	\$14,978.00
Recycling	1	\$9,500.00
TOTAL	27	\$196,510.72

The communities served by the GCRPC are each unique, but one problem they share with others in the State of Texas is the persistence of illegal dumping. Recognizing the threat that this presents to public health and safety, GCRPC used \$19,003 of TCEQ’s Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds to implement the Regional Illegal Dumping Mitigation Project.

As communities returned to “business as usual,” the funding made available through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s (TCEQ) Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC), supported a wide range of projects in Fiscal Years 2022/2023.

From local recycling infrastructure improvements to regional contributions to the statewide problem of illegal dumping, GCRPC was proud to steward projects large and small this biennium.

The communities served by the GCRPC are each unique, but one problem they share with others in the State of Texas is the persistence of illegal dumping. Recognizing the threat that this presents to public health and safety, GCRPC used \$19,003 of TCEQ’s Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds to implement the Regional Illegal Dumping Mitigation Project with the purchase of 18 cellular cameras. These assets are issued to law enforcement and public safety officials for deployment in areas which have been identified as current or potential dump sites. This not only assists in enforcement efforts, but also provides a wealth of statistical data that can be used to develop preventive measures and identify latent regional disposal needs.

Scrap tires are a challenging waste in the GCRPC region. In addition to the logistical difficulties they present, scrap tires introduce a host of environmental and public



health concerns. With \$78,199 in funding, GCRPC was able to purchase a mobile tire-cutter to more efficiently load and transport collected scrap tires to approved processing facilities.

In Jackson County, two separate projects were awarded funds totaling \$25,486. At the county level, \$19,648 went toward the purchase of a new recycling compactor for the Jackson County Transfer Station. Transport processes in place prior to this acquisition were labor intensive and often left the transfer station

understaffed. Additional costs were also incurred not only in fuel, but also wear and tear on equipment. In the City of Edna, \$5,838 went toward materials and equipment needed to construct a used motor oil recycling facility. Residents now have an all-weather location where they can safely dispose of used motor oil independent of coordinated Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events.

The City of Cuero, in DeWitt County, completed two projects at the Cuero Recycling Center---an expansion of their existing awning and upgrades to used motor oil collection equipment---with budgets of \$6,835 and \$3,950 respectively. Although a City facility,

the Cuero Recycling Center is often used by residents of rural communities in neighboring Victoria and Lavaca counties. The improvements ensure the continued success of the City of Cuero’s efforts to reduce landfill use and allow for greater regional cooperation in the ongoing fight against improper disposal of HHW.

Also in DeWitt County, the Meyersville Independent School District (MISD) used their award of \$24,545 to purchase a new recycling trailer for use by students,

staff, and the entire MISD community. Since the introduction of their existing trailer in 2016, participation at all levels has been enthusiastic. By upgrading the equipment in use, MISD demonstrates their commitment to regional diversion and source reduction efforts while also reducing expenses and administrative overhead associated with maintaining aging equipment.

Finally, the City of Victoria received \$12,583 to add two new Bigbelly HC5 compactors to an existing pair in the downtown area. With these “smart” compactors, visitors to City Hall and Deleon Plaza have an opportunity to participate in recycling and source reduction efforts while enjoying the City’s public spaces. By increasing the visibility and accessibility of these devices, the City of Victoria is also contributing to regional goals focused on increasing awareness of and participation in recycling programs throughout the Golden Crescent.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Cuero

City of Edna

City of Victoria

Golden Crescent Regional
Planning Commission

Jackson County

Meyersville ISD

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Local Enforcement	1	\$18,632.08
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$10,000.00
Recycling	7	\$151,312.06
TOTAL	9	\$179,944.14

This initiative reflects Waco's commitment to environmental sustainability by preventing toxic substances from entering landfills or water systems. Residents benefited from this service not only by making their homes safer but also by contributing to the broader goal of keeping the community clean and green.

The City of Waco, in partnership with the Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG), hosted its 2023 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day to help residents safely dispose of harmful materials. This event, part of an annual effort, took place on March 25, 2023, at the Waco Solid Waste Operations Center, open to residents from Waco and nearby cities such as Bellmead, Hewitt, and Woodway. It provided an opportunity to responsibly dispose of hazardous items that could not be discarded with regular trash, such as batteries, paints, solvents, motor oils, and various chemicals. The collection day was funded through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by HOTCOG.

Participants were encouraged to pre-register through the City's website or mobile app to streamline the drop-off process. Those without pre-registration had to present a utility bill and matching photo ID to participate. The event featured a convenient "fast lane" for pre-registered individuals, reducing waiting times and enhancing efficiency.

The collection accepted a broad range of materials, including household cleaners, pesticides, pool chemicals, and up to five scrap tires per household. However, certain items were restricted, such as large appliances, explosives, commercial waste, and agricultural chemicals, ensuring the focus remained on household-level hazardous waste.



This initiative reflects the City's commitment to environmental sustainability by preventing toxic substances from entering landfills or water systems. Residents benefited from this service not only by making their homes safer but also by contributing to the broader goal of keeping the community clean and green.

Waco's HHW events align with larger regional efforts to promote proper waste management and educate residents about hazardous waste disposal, helping reduce environmental hazards and foster community responsibility.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Gholson

Falls County

City of Itasca

Freestone County

City of Riesel

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

City of Waco

McLennan County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$5,113.75
General Solid Waste Management	7	\$73,355.99
HHW Management	1	\$29,043.49
TOTAL	9	\$107,513.23

Without the partnership with H-GAC and the Regional Solid Waste Management Program grants, our environmental enforcement program as a whole would not be where it is today. It might not even exist.

—Houston Police Department Major Offenders Division, Environmental Investigations Unit, Sgt. Patrick Morrissey

During Fiscal Years 2022/2023, the Houston Police Department (HPD) Major Offenders Division, Environmental Investigations Unit upgraded their surveillance camera equipment and support components thanks to funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Regional Solid Waste Management Grants Program, administered by the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

HPD upgraded to H.265 cameras, which provide better quality images, with less data processing and storage demand. This upgrade allows officers to more efficiently review footage from covert cameras around the city, identify incidences of illegal dumping, and download footage to provide to investigators and prosecutors to make cases.

Over the years, the Environmental Investigations Unit has grown from 7 to 12 employees, with two officers dedicated 100% to the surveillance camera monitoring and assessment. Officers monitor 33 cameras placed around the city based on 311 reports and locations of trash cleanups.

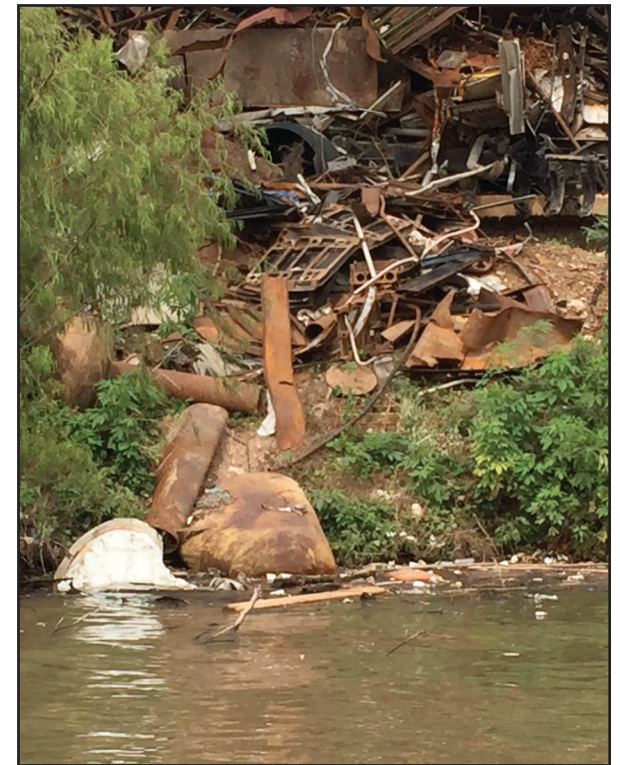
The Environmental Investigations Unit has made a significant impact in the city with an 80% clearance rate of illegal dumping cases over the past year. This basically means an average of 8 out of 10 cases are accepted for criminal charges. The remaining 20% of cases are considered inactive and could be cleared in the future.

Based on U.S. Department of Justice findings, the Houston Police Department leads the nation in filing criminal environmental enforcement cases. All of HPD Differential Response Team (DRT) are trained in illegal dumping enforcement. To support environmental enforcement work in other communities, HPD participates in the Harris County Environmental Training Roundtable, provides trainings in other states, and makes policy recommendations as part of the International Association of Chiefs of Police Environmental Crimes Committee.

Illegal dumping surveillance has not only led to increased clearance of environmental crimes, but also other types of crimes, such as auto theft, insurance fraud, narcotics, and prostitution, because dumpsites not only harbor trash, but other criminal activities as well. In one instance, the surveillance program played a key role in helping the robbery division solve a series of convenience store robberies by recording video of the suspect covering his license plate with a towel and donning a ski mask before entering a convenience store.

Anecdotally, the most illegally dumped materials are household trash and move out items, such as large sofas and televisions, and most cases involve suspects dumping within a 5-mile radius of their homes. Sgt. Patrick Morrissey, Houston Police Department, Major Offenders Division, Environmental Investigations Unit, noted that people may dump trash because they don't know of other disposal options or they have learned

that behavior. He noted that when people illegally dump in a community other people in that community see it and begin to assume they can treat the community like trash and continue to illegally dump there. Sgt. Morrissey added that in addition to making cases against illegal dumping violators, outreach and education programs



may help improve community pride and reduce illegal dumping. Thanks to funding from the Regional Solid Waste Management Grants Programs, funds that would have been budgeted for upgrading equipment can instead be used for outreach and education programs and help to increase the impact of HPD's efforts.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| City of Angleton | City of Rosenberg |
| City of Bay City | City of Tomball |
| City of Eagle Lake | Colorado County |
| City of El Campo | Galveston County |
| City of Houston | Greater Southeast Management District |
| City of League City | Harris County Constable Precinct #3 |
| City of Palacios | Houston-Galveston Area Council |
| City of Pasadena | Montgomery County |
| City of Pattison | Walker County |
| City of Pearland | Wharton County |
| City of Richmond | |

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Citizens' Collection Station & Small Transfer Stations	1	\$125,000.00
Education and Training	1	\$30,508.96
General Solid Waste Management	9	\$178,924.68
HHW Management	4	\$278,384.66
Local Enforcement	3	\$137,144.37
Recycling	5	\$343,539.31
TOTAL	23	\$1,093,501.98

We are deeply grateful to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council for their support in making Mission's first Recycling Drop-off Center possible. This much-needed service has enhanced our City's recycling efforts and has already contributed to keeping Mission clean and beautiful. Recycling is one of the most impactful ways to care for our environment, and with this new facility, we can continue to promote and educate our community about sustainability.

—City of Mission Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

For the past three decades, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) has funded many projects in Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy counties. The City of Mission recognized the need to establish a sustainable and efficient recycling program for the community. For this reason, the City created an area designated for residents to conveniently drop off their recyclables.

The recycling drop-off facility has served as a centralized location where residents can conveniently drive up and deposit their recyclable materials. This facility is designed to be user-friendly and accessible, ensuring that all members of the community can participate in recycling efforts. By providing a dedicated space for recycling, the City of Mission fosters a culture of environmental responsibility and awareness among the residents. Plus, this project represents a significant step forward in the commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible waste management for the City and residents.

To bring this project to fruition, the City of Mission received funding to purchase essential equipment and materials to convert a covered port container into an enclosed recycling drop-off facility, including a 30-yard

roll-off container, a 20-yard roll-off container, sheet metal panels, painting supplies for the metal building, and signs for safety and traffic flow.

The City of Mission continues to educate the community on the importance of recycling and how it contributes to a healthier environment. The goal is to empower residents with the knowledge and tools they need to make informed decisions about waste disposal.

The establishment of the recycling drop-off facility is just the beginning. The City of Mission envisions a network of similar sites throughout the city, making recycling accessible to all residents. By implementing multiple drop-off sites, the City will create a robust recycling infrastructure that supports the community's environmental goals and the LRGVDC Regional Solid Waste Management Plan 2022-2042.

The City of Mission's recycling drop-off facility is an outstanding project that has been a vital initiative that has benefitted the City of Mission and its residents. By providing a convenient and educational resource for recycling, the City has taken a significant step toward a more sustainable future. We are confident that this project will lay the foundation for responsible waste disposal practices and inspire a greater commitment within the community. Currently, the recycling drop-off facility collects paper, cardboard, plastic, and aluminum.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Harlingen

City of Weslaco

City of Mission

Lower Rio Grande Valley
Development Council

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$29,870.42
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$77,783.37
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	2	\$88,000.00
Recycling	3	\$72,673.00
TOTAL	7	\$268,326.79

The Middle Rio Grande Development Council (MRGDC) region has emerged as a proactive leader in promoting sustainable practices, particularly concerning waste prevention and recycling initiatives. Covering a diverse area characterized by its rich cultural heritage and natural resources, the MRGDC focuses on fostering environmental stewardship and community engagement.

One of the Middle Rio Grande Development Council's (MRGDC) cornerstone efforts is its commitment to outreach and education. By implementing informative campaigns, the organization seeks to raise awareness about the importance of waste reduction and responsible disposal. Through workshops, community events, and partnerships with local schools, MRGDC engages residents in conversations about the effects of waste on the environment and the vital role of recycling. These outreach efforts empower individuals and families to take ownership of their waste management practices, instilling a culture of sustainability within the community.

In addition to educational initiatives, the MRGDC helped communities within its region to spearhead various cleanup activities to address litter and promote community pride. These cleanups not only help beautify public spaces but also serve as practical demonstrations of proper waste disposal in action. Volunteers from the region come together to collect trash, showcasing the immediate impact of collective action while reinforcing the message that everyone has a role to play in maintaining a clean environment.

To further enhance recycling efforts, the MRGDC has been evaluating and implementing various recycling options adapted to the region's specific needs. This includes assessing the effectiveness of current recycling programs and exploring innovative solutions that can

improve waste diversion rates. By working closely with local municipalities and organizations, MRGDC identifies barriers to recycling and develops strategies to overcome them, ensuring that residents have the resources and knowledge they need to participate effectively.

The counties that benefited from these projects were Dimmit, Val Verde, La Salle, Uvalde, and Real. Cities within those counties also benefited from these projects. These projects will help the communities maintain a high quality of life and continue efforts of planning to reduce regional solid waste.

In Fiscal Years 2022/2023, projects funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the MRGDC, concentrated on four categories:

- Community Cleanups: Real County, City of Asherton, City of Encinal, City of Carrizo Springs, City of Del Rio, and City of Uvalde
- Outreach/Education: City of Uvalde
- Recycling: City of Carrizo Springs, City of Asherton, and Real County
- Household Hazardous Waste: City of Del Rio

These projects were selected for funding because they were priorities within the communities. The projects will educate the communities with hopes that they continue to keep the community safe and clean

from waste. Recycling efforts are needed because of increasing quantities of solid waste, and the region's residents will have a better quality of life from such efforts. These communities will continue to push their efforts in keeping the region clean and free of illegally dumped trash, litter, and hazardous waste.

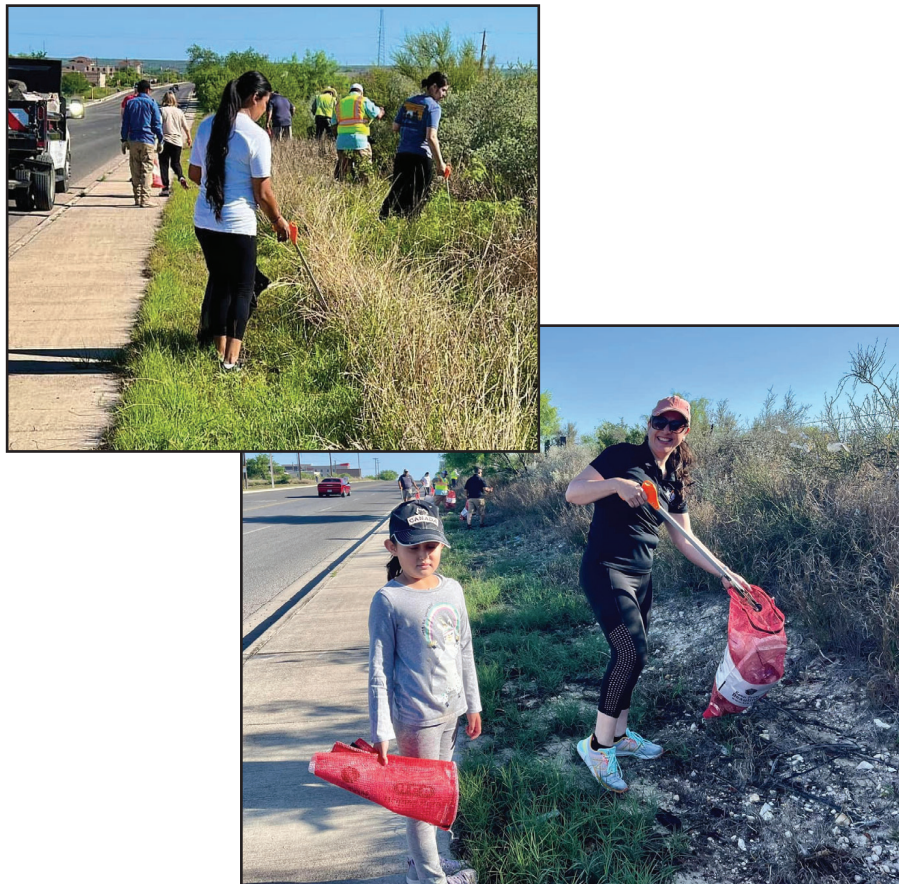


Overall, the MRGDC region's work in waste prevention and recycling showcases a holistic approach that integrates education, community action, and innovation. By focusing on outreach and cleanup efforts while evaluating and enhancing local recycling options, the MRGDC is not only addressing immediate waste management challenges but also laying the groundwork for a sustainable future. The collaborative spirit of the MRGDC fosters a sense of responsibility and pride among residents, ultimately cultivating a healthier environment for generations to come.

And finally, the MRGDC staff is always available to provide technical assistance or training.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

- City of Asherton
 - City of Carrizo Springs
 - City of Del Rio
 - City of Encinal
- City of Uvalde
 - Middle Rio Grande Development Council
 - Real County



GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$10,223.59
General Solid Waste Management	3	\$21,875.48
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$20,000.00
Recycling	3	\$44,470.25
TOTAL	8	\$96,569.32



[Illegally dumped tires are] a problem across the state, and Councils of Governments, including NRPC, have identified the need for more efficient and economical methods of used tire management as a critical concern for the future of Texas.

During Fiscal Years 2022/2023, the Nortex Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) funded 13 projects in seven cities, one county, and the region through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Regional Solid Waste Grants Program. These projects included the purchase of tire cutters for the cities of Olney, Crowell, Quanah, and Vernon.

Tires of all types are illegally dumped in vacant lots, along isolated roads, behind culverts, and in drainage ditches. Illegally dumped or improperly stored scrap tires facilitate breeding grounds for mosquitoes and rodents. This is a problem across the state, and Councils of Governments, including NRPC, have identified the need for more efficient and economical methods of used tire management as a critical concern for the future of Texas.

The City of Olney purchased a tire cutter to safely cut down tires for easier disposal of tires in the community. According to the City's grant application, tires were being illegally dumped on private and public property and being left at the City Convenience Station. The new tire cutter is located at the Convenience Station, which is also an approved scrap tire facility. Once tires are quartered, they can easily be disposed of by the City's solid waste provider. According to the City's grant application, the addition of the tire cutter serves to encourage residents to legally dispose of their tires at pre-set rates instead of illegally dumping them throughout the community.

The City of Crowell also purchased a tire cutter for its scrap tire facility to provide an effective way to quarter tires for proper disposal and decrease the amount of illegal dumping of tires in the city. The City of Vernon purchased a tire cutter to aid in proper tire disposal during community cleanup events. The City of Quanah purchased a tire cutter to help with drop-offs and community cleanups. According to the City of Quanah's grant application, although they do not offer tire disposal at their permanent facility, tires are dumped there anyway and must be dealt with. The tire cutter will help make tire disposal at the facility and future community cleanups more efficient and economical.

Through permanent collections and community cleanups, the NRPC region properly disposed of more than 2,000 tires in Fiscal Years 2022/2023.

Additional projects funded in Fiscal Years 2022/2023 included household hazardous waste management, organic waste management, local solid waste management plans and studies, general solid waste management, recycling, and citizens' collection stations and small transfer stations.

Rural communities within the 11-county region serviced by NRPC continue to use the Citizens' Collection Stations (CCSs) to promote recycling and encourage community cleanups.

The NRPC region only has two Type I landfills serving communities. Both are in Wichita County, the most populous county in the region. The counties in the

region continue to send their municipal solid waste to the two regional landfills in Wichita County or landfills outside the NRPC region. Wichita County continues to accommodate most of the metal and cardboard recycling entities in the region. The smaller communities have expanded the use of the CCSs to fill the gap and better serve the rural population in the region. These centers allow residents to drop off materials that, with the closing of local landfills, would have resulted in increased amounts of materials being left along the side of the



road or dumped in abandoned buildings, costing communities time and money to clean up.

The CCSs have also been identified as a great way to promote recycling and encourage residents to participate in cleanups in their areas.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Archer City

City of Bowie

City of Crowell

City of Olney

City of Quanah

City of Seymour

City of Vernon

Nortex Regional Planning Commission

Wichita County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Citizens' Collection Station & Small Transfer Stations	2	\$59,180.00
General Solid Waste Management	7	\$127,511.51
HHW Management	1	\$5,236.00
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$10,000.00
Organic Waste Management	1	\$20,000.00
Recycling	1	\$27,386.00
TOTAL	13	\$249,313.51

The Denton and Plano food waste pilot programs have established a sustainable framework for organic waste diversion and recycling, enabling both cities to achieve significant environmental, educational, and economic benefits. These initiatives facilitate the collection and processing of food waste, promoting responsible waste management practices in the community.

In Fiscal Years 2022/2023, the City of Denton received \$74,605.36 from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), to expand its solid waste and recycling valet service to their historic downtown businesses by implementing a pilot food waste program by purchasing 5-gallon buckets, 35-gallon locking carts, and a channel grinder. The buckets and carts were provided to participating food service businesses, along with additional educational materials to support the program.

A channel grinder is a mechanical device used to shred solid materials, such as food scraps, including dairy products, meat, bread, fruits, veggies, coffee grounds, and other food waste. This process reduces the size of the food scraps, making it easier to manage for disposal, composting, or bioenergy conversion, while preventing clogs in water systems. The grinder typically consists of rotating blades that effectively break down the food scraps. In the City of Denton, such material enters the composting process to make Dyno Dirt, which is a blend of compost, soils, and mulches, following anaerobic digestion. The Dyno Dirt is sold at the City of Denton’s facility, and all proceeds will be rolled back into the composting program.

With the expansion of the recycling valet service, the City of Denton engaged 26 participating businesses and diverted over 149,000 pounds of organic materials from July 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024. This program

also emphasized both waste diversion and community education, hosting two educational and training events with all 26 participating businesses attending. These events provided valuable insights into the benefits of food waste recycling and offered practical guidance on proper organic waste management at the source to prevent contamination. At these events, the City of Denton also distributed four informational posters, cart and kitchen bin stickers, and a detailed flyer, making sure that participants had the necessary resources to actively engage in the initiative.

The City of Plano received \$60,194.94 in Fiscal Years 2022/2023 to develop a subscription pilot program for residents to drop off food waste, including materials that cannot be backyard composted, such as meats and dairy, at designated drop-off sites throughout the city for composting. The pilot program involved the hiring of a compost hauler, composting pails, 5-gallon buckets, and educational materials.

The City of Plano achieved significant success with the rollout of its pilot program aimed at fostering community engagement and promoting sustainable waste management practices. Over the course of the program, the City hosted 12 educational and training events, attracting a total of 1,082 participants, offering hands-on learning opportunities and increasing awareness of the importance of reducing waste, particularly organic materials.

In addition to these in-person events, the City’s outreach



efforts through mass media proved highly effective, reaching an estimated 81,515 individuals and spreading key messages about environmental sustainability. Between September 1, 2023, and August 31, 2024, Plano processed 107,940 pounds of organic materials, primarily composed of food scraps. During this time, approximately 698 individuals used the City’s collection facilities, reflecting strong community involvement and support.

In total, the cities of Denton and Plano diverted over 250,000 pounds of food waste, hosted 14 educational events, and served almost 2,000 individuals and 26 businesses. The initiatives taken on by both recipients demonstrate the significant impact of community involvement and awareness, along with highlighting the importance of continuous education in achieving sustainable waste management goals.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

- City of Arlington
- City of Balch Springs
- City of Cedar Hill
- City of Denton
- City of Frisco
- City of Grand Prairie
- City of Hudson Oaks
- City of Mansfield
- City of Mesquite
- City of Plano
- City of Rowlett
- City of Southlake
- City of Weatherford
- Collin County
- Kaufman County
- North Central Texas Council of Governments
- Town of Little Elm

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	5	\$549,519.65
General Solid Waste Management	7	\$465,701.06
HHW Management	2	\$44,491.05
Local Enforcement	1	\$15,478.75
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	4	\$356,532.00
Recycling	3	\$106,622.18
TOTAL	22	\$1,538,344.69

We are a small town of 4,123. Like many others in the Panhandle, we don't have the financial means to implement recycling programs without assistance. Through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC), we were able to create a cardboard recycling program and achieve the last waste management pillar in our Keep Friona Clean campaign. The grant helped cover the cost of a baler, forklift, and security cameras, and assisted with free outreach and marketing material through Keep Texas Beautiful. The total fiscal commitment from the City was \$980. The community buy-in for our cardboard recycling program has far exceeded everyone's expectations. We cannot thank PRPC enough for making our program such a success.

—City of Friona City Manager Lee Davila

The top of the Texas Panhandle is a vast area of mostly open spaces composed of 26 counties, covering almost 26,000 square miles, and serviced by the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC). In 1994, the Panhandle Environmental Partnership (PEP) was created to provide recycling services to the residents across the region. With assistance from local resources and funds from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the PRPC, PEP members continue to build and maintain cost-effective recycling and waste diversion programs. The PEP partnership helps overcome the unique challenge of small, rural communities transporting materials long distances to market and divert waste from the landfills. Due to the efficiencies and increased bargaining power which comes from multiple programs working together, the PEP is able to negotiate with processors to keep transportation costs down; coordinate transportation of full loads of plastic, combining baled materials from multiple local programs; and reduce the amount of time local program staff have to spend on the administrative side of recycling, freeing them up to focus more on the operations.

During Fiscal Years 2022/2023, the PEP members diverted 3.683 million pounds of waste from the landfills. The recycled material resulted in \$237,937 in proceeds returned to the local PEP communities and saved \$67,382 from avoided landfill costs.

One of the members of the PEP is the City of Friona. The City of Friona, located in Parmer County, has a population of 4,123. The City started their recycling program in 1999 with the purchase of a roll-off container for scrap metals. The City has added a brush chipper, and now collects scrap tires and used motor oil as part of their recycling efforts. The program had been working well, and the City wanted to expand and begin baling cardboard to meet the demand of a growing business community.

The City of Friona submitted four applications during the Fiscal Years 2022/2023 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program season. Three of the applications were funded for a baler, a forklift, and recycling center security cameras and lights, which got their cardboard recycling program up and running. The City purchased four large, used cardboard containers and refurbished them. Those cardboard containers were then placed in a centralized



location at the recycling center for easy access for residents. The security lights and cameras are used to reduce illegal dumping and contamination of the materials. The baler is used to bale the cardboard collected. Then the baled cardboard is moved from the recycling center to the truck by the forklift. The materials are then transported to the recycling market. By purchasing this equipment, the City has been able to keep more materials out of the landfill.

The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program allows programs like this to start up, continue, and grow. This, along with other programs in the region, enables the PEP members to enhance and improve recycling efforts to help clean up the wide-open spaces of the Texas Panhandle.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Booker ISD | City of Perryton |
| City of Dumas | City of Spearman |
| City of Friona | City of Tulia |
| City of Fritch | Collingsworth County |
| City of Gruver | Panhandle Regional Planning Commission |

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$14,500.00
HHW Management	1	\$7,649.00
Local Enforcement	2	\$9,820.49
Organic Waste Management	2	\$55,235.00
Recycling	8	\$154,336.35
TOTAL	14	\$241,540.84

Within a 12-year period, the Ector County Environmental Enforcement Unit collected over 54 tons of bulky items and two semi-trailers full of scrap tires. They also provide educational awareness through a widely popular social media page.

To help clean up illegal dumping in Ector County, in Fiscal Years 2022/2023, the Ector County Environmental Enforcement Unit (ECEEU) purchased 30-yard heavy duty bathtub roll-off containers. The purchase was made possible through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission.

The ECEEU remediation division uses the containers in combination with a compact truck loader to assist

with the cleanup of illegal dumping throughout Ector County, especially Western Ector County. Western Ector County, also known as West Odessa, is one of the largest unincorporated communities in the State of Texas.

Lack of a sanitary sewer system and government waste services, and previously poor illegal dumping enforcement, led to an immeasurable illegal dumping problem within West Odessa and Ector County. The TCEQ estimates there are 2.5 to 5 million tires illegally dumped in Ector County, a number that does not include illegal dump sites that the State is unaware of.

In addition to cleaning up illegal dump sites, the ECEEU hosts community collection events. Within a 12-month period, the ECEEU collected over 54 tons of bulky items and two semi-trailers full of scrap tires.

They also provide educational awareness through a widely popular social media page. This social media page advertises upcoming collection events and cleanup days, information on proper disposal for various items, and has been used to help the ECEEU identify individuals who have committed illegal dumping crimes.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Monahans
Ector County

Permian Basin Regional Planning
Commission



GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$77,109.63
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$22,959.00
Organic Waste Management	1	\$27,000.00
TOTAL	3	\$127,068.63

The Lower Valley Water District along with the Rio Grande Council of Governments takes great pride in providing this yearly service to residents, and we look forward to providing continuous community cleanups and tire amnesty for many years to come.

The Lower Valley Water District (LVWD) provides water, wastewater, and solid waste services to the residents of the southeastern portions of El Paso County. The solid waste department works with the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG) and elected officials to offer a community cleanup to a different part of the area each year to assist our residents with disposing of their garbage in a proper and sanitary manner. For example, during Fiscal Years 2022/2023 the LVWD received funds from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by RGCOG to provide a community cleanup in the Lynn Park Subdivision (City of Socorro), all streets in the Town of Clint, and Mission Trail Estates (City of San Elizario).

Often, residents are without the means to take their garbage to the landfill or are incapable of disposing of their garbage properly. By providing community cleanups, the LVWD, along with participating communities and cities, can take as much as 48 tons of garbage (per subdivision) to the Clint Landfill, owned by the City of El Paso, at no cost to residents. Along with disposing of garbage, the solid waste department also provides a tire amnesty that allows residents to bring up to six tires per household to a designated location for proper disposal. This service is provided at no cost to residents.

The LVWD along with the RGCOG takes great pride in providing this yearly service to residents, and we look forward to providing continuous community cleanups and tire amnesty for many years to come.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

Brewster County	El Paso County Water Improvement District #1
City of Alpine	Hudspeth County Solid Waste
City of El Paso	Lower Valley Water District
City of Marfa	Town of Van Horn
City of Presidio	Village of Vinton
City of Valentine	
El Paso County	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	17	\$131,382.81
HHW Management	5	\$13,743.69
TOTAL	22	\$145,126.50



The average home can accumulate 100 pounds of hazardous waste in a garage or in the cabinets at home. It's imperative that Southeast Texans take a proactive approach in properly disposing these items not only to protect their own health but the quality of life in our region.

—SETRPC Executive Director Shanna Burke

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) received funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program to conduct two household hazardous waste and scrap tire events in southeast Texas during Fiscal Years 2022/2023.

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 Orange and Jefferson counties.

More than 1,100 southeast Texas residents participated in the collection events. The SETRPC collected more than 236,520 pounds of hazardous waste and more than 13,875 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 7,210 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 were to catch on fire, they would release harmful chemicals and are very difficult to extinguish.





GRANT RECIPIENT
South East Texas Regional Planning Commission

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
HHW Management	1	\$213,306.09
TOTAL	1	\$213,306.09



With the Regional Solid Waste Grants program funding the City was able to overhaul our wood chipper instead of replacing it. This not only extended the life of a valuable piece of equipment but also prevented it from being discarded. The overhaul was completed at a fraction of the cost of a new machine, enabling the limited regional funds to have a broader impact.

—City of Hale Center City Manager Mike Cypert

During the 2022/2023 biennium, the City of Hale Center was awarded a \$5,467 grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the South Plains Association of Governments for the repair of a longstanding community asset, Chucky the Wood Chipper. The used Vermeer Model 1250 wood chipper, which was originally purchased from the City of Plainview in 2012 when they no longer had a need for it, is an essential tool for reducing tree waste and brush in the community. Once chipped, the mulch is made available to the public free of charge.

The chipper had been in service for 32 years and had accumulated 3,074 hours of use, necessitating significant repairs. While the engine remained in good condition, the chipping components were extensively worn and required replacement.

The grant-funded project involved transporting the machine to a certified mechanic specializing in Vermeer equipment, where all moving parts within the chipping mechanism were replaced. The primary objective of this initiative was to extend the operational life of the machine and enhance its performance. City staff continue to maintain Chucky through regular servicing and repairs, with the goal of further prolonging its lifespan.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Amherst	City of Plainview
City of Crosbyton	City of Spur
City of Hale Center	Lynn County
City of Lubbock	South Plains Association of Governments
City of O'Donnell	Town of Ransom Canyon
City of Olton	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$3,745.90
General Solid Waste Management	6	\$51,451.00
HHW Management	2	\$9,099.25
Organic Waste Management	2	\$43,241.10
Recycling	1	\$12,588.56
TOTAL	12	\$120,125.81

Tire cleanup campaigns not only improve the health and well-being of the residents but also contribute to the overall cleanliness of the environment. It is essential to conduct such campaigns regularly to maintain a clean and healthy environment for ourselves and future generations.

—Webb County Precinct 4 Commissioner Ricardo Jaime

During Fiscal Year 2023, low-income residents of Webb County living in colonias in rural areas along the U.S.-Mexico border benefitted from tire cleanup campaigns funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the South Texas Development Council.

From May to July 2023, Webb County, implemented three tire cleanup campaigns that brought in 23,650 tires for proper disposal. Health risks and dangers from discarded tires are common in rural areas, such as rat infestations and disease carrying mosquitoes. Also, under polluted conditions, a small spark can ignite tires and cause fires. Had the tire collection events not been funded, residents would have continued to be impacted by health hazards, and the affected areas would have remained polluted.

Webb County commissioners visited various sites to see how collections were conducted and the impact they made. Webb County Precinct 4 Commissioner Ricardo Jaime said, "tire cleanup campaigns not only improve the health and well-being of the residents but also contribute to the overall cleanliness of the environment. It is essential to conduct such campaigns regularly to maintain a clean and healthy environment for ourselves and future generations." Webb County Precinct 1

Commissioner Jesse Gonzalez said, "this week we started our tire cleanup campaign in El Cenizo, and it was a big success. Over 1,000 tires were collected

and were hauled away for proper disposal. I'm glad the community of El Cenizo was able to take advantage of this free service."



This week we started our tire cleanup campaign in El Cenizo, and it was a big success. Over 1,000 tires were collected and were hauled away for proper disposal. I'm glad the community of El Cenizo was able to take advantage of this free service.

—Webb County Precinct 1 Commissioner Jesse Gonzalez



GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Laredo
South Texas Development Council

Webb County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$69,274.00
HHW Management	1	\$50,000.00
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$20,000.00
TOTAL	3	\$139,274.00

Recycling and effective waste management are key components of sustainable economic growth. They provide not just financial advantages, but also contribute positively to the environment, society, and public health.

Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG) organizes at least two significant household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events annually. In addition, various events throughout the year are dedicated to collecting latex paint, electronics, and batteries. Residents of Cooke, Grayson, and Fannin counties depend on these events for safe disposal, as there are no facilities in the area to assist them. TCOG frequently receives calls and emails about disposing of paint, gasoline, oil, pesticides, and tires, as well as inquiries regarding upcoming HHW events. Many callers have expressed a desire for monthly events.

During Fiscal Years 2022/2023, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by TCOG funded seven events totaling over \$75,000. This included an event in Grayson County each spring where HHW was collected, one event each fall alternating between Cooke and Fannin counties where HHW and latex paint were collected, a latex paint collection event during Texoma Earth Day Recycle in Sherman in April each year, and a tire collection in Sherman. Batteries are collected daily at the TCOG building and during the events, then transferred to the HHW truck. Over 700 individuals attended these events.

TCOG actively participates in community events to educate the public about illegal dumping, recycling, and

the proper disposal of household items. This education is essential for fostering environmental sustainability and enhancing public health. Raising awareness of the environmental and social advantages of effective waste management will create a cleaner and healthier environment for all.

Over 700 individuals attended TCOG-funded events, resulting in the collection of:

- 25,450 lbs of latex paint
- 17,680 lbs of oil based and aerosol paint
- 8,085 lbs of pesticides
- 8,541 lbs of oil
- 16,207 lbs of “other” materials (propane, gasoline, mercury, etc.)
- 2,352 lbs of batteries
- 6,250 lbs of low-grade electronics
- 4,675 lbs of TVs
- 3,075 lbs of CPUs
- 1,925 lbs of monitors
- 30,100 lbs of tires

Engaging with the community not only distributes information but also serves as an opportunity to gather feedback. The Texoma area is experiencing growth, with many newcomers coming from regions that have established recycling programs. New residents are often surprised by the limited options available in the area, particularly regarding curbside recycling. TCOG is able to guide them toward existing drop-off recycling programs or connect them with the appropriate contacts in their cities to initiate new programs. TCOG supports city councils by identifying recycling options specific to their regions when asked, and participates in meetings to address questions related to these initiatives.

TCOG is dedicated to organizing regular HHW events for residents of Cooke, Grayson, and Fannin counties while fostering recycling efforts within those communities. Since landfills have a limited lifespan, it is vital to responsibly extend that duration. Additionally, recycling and effective waste management are key components of sustainable economic growth. They provide not just financial advantages, but also contribute positively to the environment, society, and public health. To accomplish these goals of extending the life of the landfill and contributing positively to the community, ongoing and sufficient funding is essential.



GRANT RECIPIENT
Texoma Council of Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$5,667.95
HHW Management	2	\$77,617.88
TOTAL	3	\$83,285.83



During Fiscal Years 2022/2023 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding period, the West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG) managed scrap tire recycling events totaling \$32,000 and collected and properly disposed 244,420 pounds of scrap tires.

The illegal dumping of scrap tires across the West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG) region is a severe problem, causing hazardous conditions in waterways, threatening economic development, and creating breeding grounds for rodents and mosquitoes that carry harmful pathogens.

During Fiscal Years 2022/2023, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by WCTCOG, provided funding for cleanup events and 12 tire trailers in the 19-county Big Country region. WCTCOG managed scrap tire recycling events totaling \$32,000. The following cities participated: Early, Ranger, Baird, Sweetwater, Snyder, Cisco, Eastland, Ballinger, Tuscola, Gorman, and Tye. More than 244,420 pounds of scrap tires were collected and properly disposed of. WCTCOG staff attended several scrap tire events and distributed educational and outreach materials to all participants.

WCTCOG is involved in supporting rural communities' recycling efforts, particularly in the realm of cardboard material transportation. This initiative addresses the challenges faced by rural areas in managing recyclable waste effectively. Eli Torres, the City Manager of Snyder, has been vocal in his appreciation for the WCTCOG's financial support. The funding, provided through the Transportation of Recyclable Materials grant, enables communities to implement "milk runs" - a term borrowed from the dairy industry to describe efficient, scheduled routes for collecting recyclables. These milk runs have

significantly improved the logistics of recycling in rural areas, making it more feasible and cost-effective for smaller communities to participate in large-scale recycling programs.

The City of Snyder has fully embraced these recycling initiatives and successfully collected and processed

1,160 scrap tires, which translates to approximately 23,200 pounds of potentially hazardous waste diverted from landfills or illegal dumping sites in just one year. The City processed over 26 loads of cardboard, equaling 1,040,000 pounds. This significant volume of recycled cardboard demonstrates Snyder's dedication to sustainable waste management practices.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Early	West Central Texas Council of Governments
City of Ranger	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$4,513.75
General Solid Waste Management	3	\$35,629.61
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$11,534.00
Recycling	1	\$7,000.00
TOTAL	6	\$58,677.36



Regional Solid Waste Grants Program Funding Report
Fiscal Years 2022/2023

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS
txregionalcouncil.org