

# Regional Solid Waste Grants Program

Funding Report for Fiscal Years 2022/2023

## IMPACTS & RESULTS IN YOUR REGION





# Regional Solid Waste Grants Program



33 percent of the revenue is dedicated to local and regional solid waste projects consistent with regional plans approved by the commission in accordance with this chapter and to update and maintain those plans. Those revenues shall be allocated to municipal solid waste geographic planning regions for use by local governments and regional planning commissions according to a formula established by the commission that takes into account population, area, solid waste fee generation, and public health needs. Each planning region shall issue a biennial report to the legislature detailing how the revenue is spent.



**TEXAS SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL ACT  
CHAPTER 361**



# HOW IT WORKS



## TRASH

Garbage is picked up from homes and businesses, loaded into trucks and delivered to landfills.

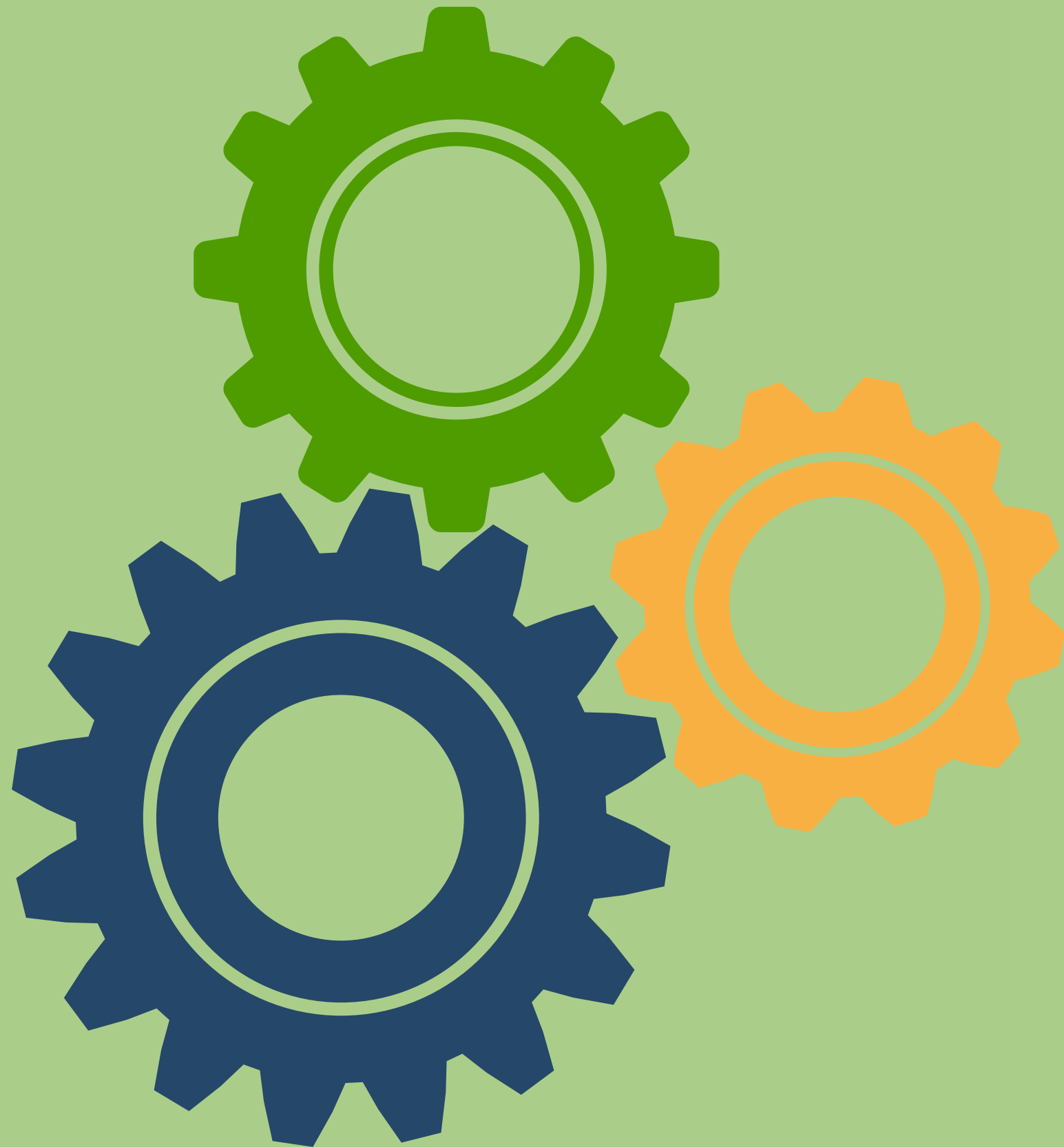
## LANDFILL

Trucks assessed a "tipping fee" for trash they deliver to the landfill. 33% of the amount collected is dedicated for the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program.

## LEGISLATURE

The Legislature appropriates funds from the dedicated account for the regional grants.





# Regional Planning & Coordination

## **Protecting health & safety**

COGs help local governments better deliver services to their constituents by providing technical assistance to local governments in the implementation and evaluation of solid waste management programs; education and outreach activities, programs, and printed materials that provide a unified message but can also be customized for local governments; and regional training such as environmental enforcement for peace officers and disaster debris management for emergency managers.

# WHY USE COGS TO OVERSEE GRANTS

## 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 administered \$1.02 billion in public funds in Fiscal Year 2020, with legislatively required methods of accountability.

## PARTNERSHIP

COGs work with governments to develop and update Regional Solid Waste Management Plans.

## EFFICIENCY

COGs know what activities are underway in their areas, thus decreasing the chance for duplication of efforts.



# FY 2022 - 2023 By the Numbers

254

Total Projects



## PEOPLE IMPACTED

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

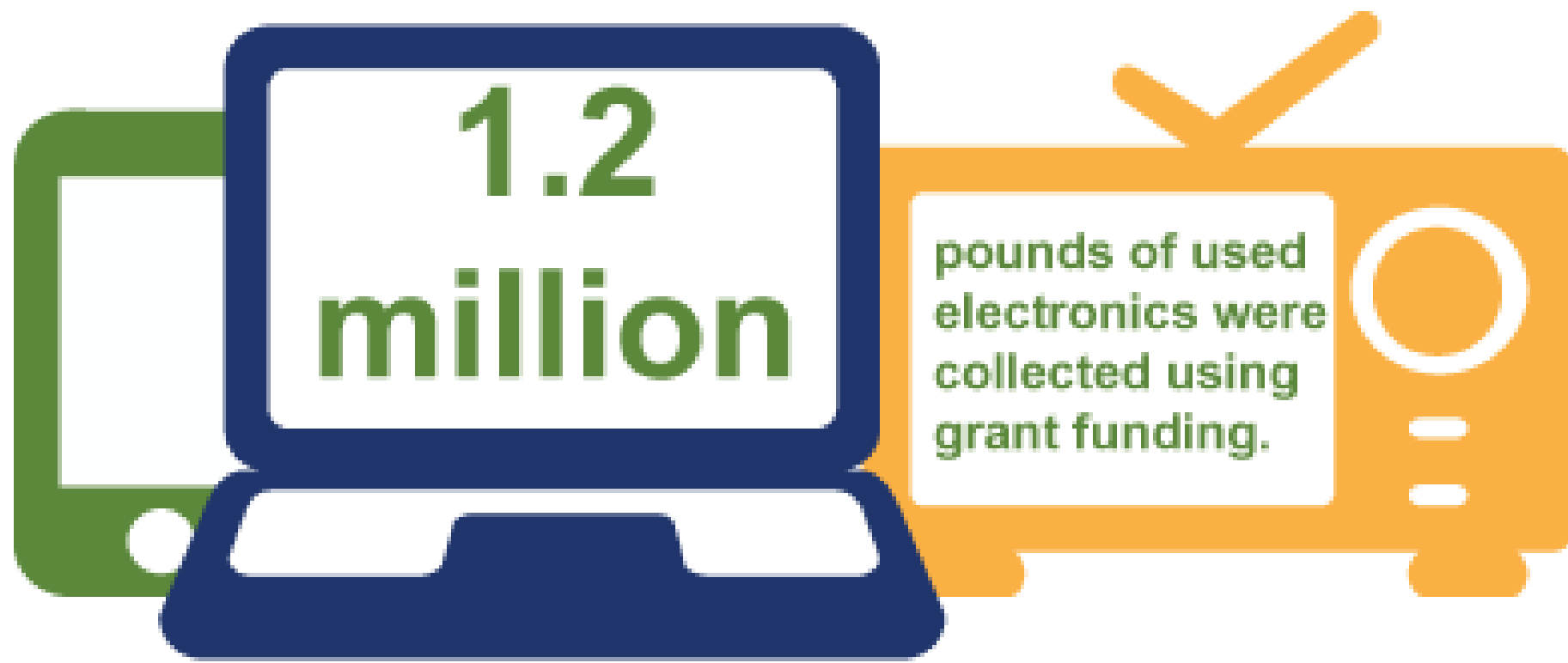
Almost  
**2.6 million**  
people participated in  
an event, attended a  
training, or used a facility.

"Cowboy" icon by Artem Kovyazin from [thenounproject.com](http://thenounproject.com)



"Criminal" icon by Gan Khoon Lay and "Trash" icon by Marianna Marozzi from [thenounproject.com](http://thenounproject.com)





\*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



Grantees collected  
275,550 tires.

When stacked  
together, that's  
almost the  
height of

660



Texas Capitol Buildings.



FY 2022 - 2023

# Regional Highlights

# Alamo Area Council of Governments

## City of Grey Forest Brush Chipper

Grey Forest used funds to purchase a brush chipper, helping residents dispose of organic debris in an eco-friendly way. The chipper reduces brush that could otherwise increase the threat of igniting wildfires.

With over 200 participants utilizing the chipper service, the city has processed more than 50,000 pounds of green waste from the abundant trees in the area.



# Capital Area Council of Governments



Regional Environmental Task Force (RETF) works to address environmental crimes, including illegal dumping. Formed in 1996, funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program through CAPCOG, the RETF is a multi-jurisdictional, multi-level government law enforcement effort.

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 (500to 1000 pounds), and 20 felony sites (1000 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.

# Concho Valley Council of Governments

The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds received from Concho Valley Council of Governments allowed the City of Eldorado to purchase a vertical baler for their recycling center. Over the course of a year, the baler allowed the city to collect and divert 4 tons of cardboard from landfills.



# Houston-Galveston Area Council

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.



# Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission

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.





# North Central Texas Council of Governments

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.

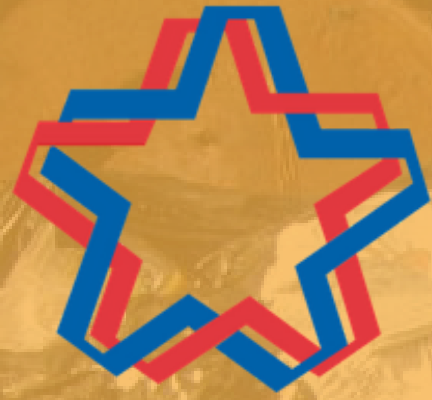


The City of Denton engaged 26 participating businesses and diverted over 149,000 pounds of organic materials from July 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024.

# South Plains Association of Governments



"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." – Mike Cypert, Hale Center City Manager



Texas Association  
of Regional Councils

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