

# TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS



## IMPACTS & RESULTS IN YOUR REGION

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program Funding Report  
Fiscal Years 2014/2015

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

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

A compilation of data received from the 24 COGs through the Waste Permits Division of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is included, summarizing projects funded by each of the planning regions during the State Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

This report also includes a brief overview of some of the challenges and successes the regions have had, including illegally dumped tires, used electronics, and household hazardous waste.



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

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THE GRANT PROGRAM	WHY THE PROGRAM IS IMPORTANT	USING COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS (COGs) TO OVERSEE GRANTS
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>(See Table 2 for a list of the Types of Projects Funded.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides start-up or implementation funds for needed programs</li> <li>• Safeguards health, general welfare, and physical property</li> <li>• Protects the environment</li> </ul>	<p>COGs are successful administrators of these grant funds because of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LOCAL FAMILIARITY</b> Grant proposals are evaluated by public and private experts from each region who are familiar with the region's needs and issues.</li> <li>• <b>ACCOUNTABILITY</b> COGs can administer a wide range of grants, from \$117 to \$245,461, with legislatively set forth methods of accountability.</li> <li>• <b>PARTNERSHIP</b> COGs work with governments to develop and update Regional Solid Waste Management Plans.</li> <li>• <b>REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES</b> COGs can help facilitate projects that benefit the region as a whole, including developing regional household hazardous waste facilities, cross-jurisdictional environmental enforcement task forces, and regional recycling facilities.</li> <li>• <b>EFFICIENCY</b> COGs know what activities are under way in their areas, thus decreasing the chance for duplication of efforts.</li> </ul>



*“Our community has been given more options for environmentally safer disposal of trash, and I have seen a sharp decline in illegal dumping. This would not have been possible without the help of the State of Texas and Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding.”*

*Fiscal Year 2014/2015 recipient*

**W**hen the rubber hits the road, the result is worn out tires. Nearly 300 million used tires are discarded every year in the United States. According to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), more than 32 million are disposed of properly in Texas. There is no way to estimate the number not recovered statewide. However, the City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department cleans up about 70,000 illegally dumped tires per year.

Tires of all types (automobile, truck, and agricultural equipment) are illegally dumped in vacant lots, along

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

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

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

During Fiscal Years 2014/2015 almost \$260,500 of the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds was spent on collecting and disposing of tires. COGs identified the need for more tire collections, more accessible markets for tire recycling, more education about illegal tire dumping, more enforcement, and more funding to meet the demand and address the problem.

**Grantees collected over 255,000 tires.**

**When stacked together, that's taller than**

**584 Texas Capitol Buildings.**





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

*During Fiscal Year 2014/2015, the 24 regional COGs funded 226 projects totaling \$5,304,949.61.*

**T**he 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 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) receives a portion of these funds, and a portion is allocated to the COGs for local and regional projects.

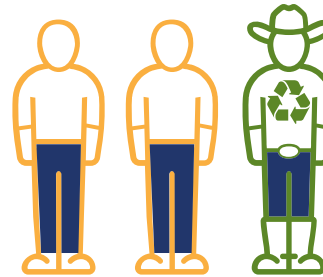
Allocations to COGs are based on a formula that considers population, area, solid waste fee generation, and public health needs (Solid Waste Disposal Act, Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, 361.014(b)).

Communities have a great demand for these grant funds and programs. During Fiscal Year 2014/2015, the 24 regional COGs funded 226 projects totaling \$5,304,949.61.



### PEOPLE IMPACTED

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



**1 in 3**

**Texans used a grant-funded recycling facility.**

*"Cowboy" icon by Artem Kovyazin from thenounproject.com*



**338,000**

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

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

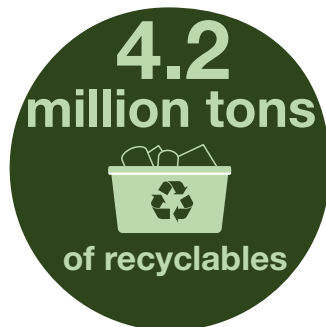
## 20 YEARS OF THE REGIONAL SOLID WASTE GRANTS PROGRAM

The year 2015 marked the completion of 20 years of the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program with 4,376 grants given. The program continues to help local governments provide much needed services to their residents, including household hazardous waste collection, illegal dumping investigations and prosecutions, and recycling collection.

Many changes and challenges were experienced during the past two decades, particularly in the recycling industry.

As newspaper readership decreased, so did the amount of newspaper recycled by nearly 50 percent. On the other hand, significant increases have occurred in the amount of cardboard and plastic bottles collected for recycling, with the amount of plastic bottles nearly quadrupling. At the same time, plastic bottles and aluminum cans became lighter, meaning it takes more bottles and cans to make up a ton, thereby increasing the processing costs associated with that ton for local governments and private industry.

Despite challenges, recycling grants have continued to show impressive results. More than 4.2 million tons of recyclables have been collected over the life of the program.



Over the past 20 years, there has also been a gradual shift in the public sector from a focus purely on recycling rate to one more driven by the economics of recycling, as evidenced by recent studies conducted in the Houston and Austin areas and the statewide study currently underway. These studies have shown impressive numbers for jobs and individual output for the regions where they have been completed and will likely do the same for the statewide study.

A final shift during this time has been the increasing focus and awareness of local governments and their residents on the types of issues that have the potential to negatively impact their health, safety, and quality of life. These include improper disposal of household hazardous waste and electronics and illegal dumping of all items. Like the recycling grants, local enforcement and household hazardous waste grants have also produced substantial results. Over 315,000 illegal dumping investigations have been conducted, with nearly 200,000 tons of waste cleaned up. Over 14,000 tons of household hazardous waste has been collected, keeping waste haulers and landfill operators safe.

Over the last two decades the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program has helped to start and grow countless recycling, local enforcement, household hazardous waste, and other

programs related to solid waste in communities throughout Texas, but there is still work to be done. Some communities, especially in unincorporated and rural counties, still do not have access to recycling or safe disposal options for household hazardous waste. These funds were of particular importance during the recession. Without the Regional Solid Waste Grants, many local governments would have been forced to shift the burden of cost to tax payers or reduce or eliminate these valuable services altogether.



## WHO BENEFITS FROM THE GRANTS

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds are awarded through a competitive process in each of the 24 regions to the following eligible entities:

- Cities
- Counties
- COGs (for region-wide projects)
- School Districts
- Special Districts with either solid waste or water quality authority and responsibility

Residents benefit by having convenient or expanded ways to recycle and by having a way to dispose of household hazardous waste, used electronics, and tires. Residents may also see their property values increase due to fewer instances of illegal dumping.

(See Table 1 for a breakdown of the grant funds benefitting each type of entity.)



**TABLE 1 FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015 FUNDING BY ENTITY**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL	PROJECT FUNDING
Cities	151	67%	\$3,090,861.31
Counties	53	24%	\$1,017,818.11
COGs	10	4%	\$891,824.12
School Districts	3	1%	\$252,230.00
Other Districts/Authorities	9	4%	\$52,216.07
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$5,304,949.61</b>



COG's 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.



### REGIONAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION

In addition to grant administration and management, the COGs perform many functions to ensure coordination and implementation of regional plans (Solid Waste Disposal Act, Chapter 363, Health and Safety Code, 361.064 - 363.066) and projects.

COGs:

- Facilitate solid waste advisory committees;
- Maintain an inventory of closed landfills for their region;
- Conduct data collection and analysis and keep current regional planning data and reference materials;
- Maintain and promote a catalog of solid waste education and outreach materials;
- Review municipal solid waste permit applications for consistency with the COG's regional solid waste management plan; and
- Conduct program and financial reporting.

M

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

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

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



Unfortunately, much of Texas lacks adequate disposal options for HHW. Many communities, especially in rural areas, do not have permanent facilities available, and collection events are not held on regular schedules. That means the 180 million pounds of HHW stored in nine million households in Texas are creating the potential for significant health and safety hazards.

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

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

During Fiscal Years 2014/2015, local governments spent almost \$1 million in Regional Solid Waste Grants Program

funds hosting collection events and building permanent disposal facilities to help Texas residents address the issue of stockpiled HHW and create opportunities to educate the general public on the importance of proper use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials.



TABLE 2

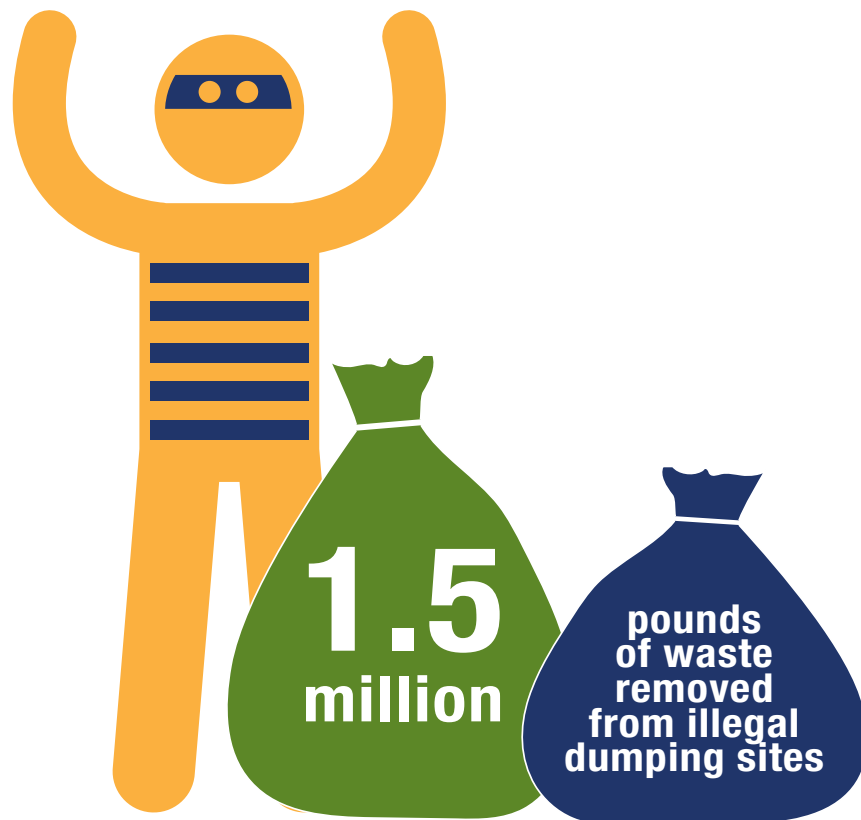
FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015

## FUNDING BY CATEGORY

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PROJECTS	PROJECT FUNDING BY CATEGORY	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FUNDING
Education and Training	19	8%	\$383,409.79	7%
General Solid Waste Management	70	31%	\$833,352.50	16%
HHW Management	27	12%	\$976,192.40	18%
Local Enforcement	25	11%	\$630,032.03	12%
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	0	0%	\$0	0%
Organic Waste Management	10	5%	\$279,137.80	5%
Recycling	71	31%	\$2,153,610.09	41%
Used Oil Management	4	2%	\$49,215.00	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$5,304,949.61</b>	<b>100%</b>

## ILLEGAL DUMPING

Grant-funded programs kept Texas clean by enforcing solid waste laws and identifying **2,337 offenders**. Partners collected nearly **\$180,000 in fines**.



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

## RECYCLABLES

Recyclables collected by grant-funded programs create many more jobs for Texans than if they were disposed of in a landfill, **approximately 10 times as many jobs**.



*"Elephant" icon by Cédric Villain and "Palm Tree" icon by Jacqueline Fernandes from thenounproject.com*

### COMMUNITY COLLECTION

Regional Solid Waste grantees collected nearly **100 million pounds of trash and recyclables**, keeping Texas communities beautiful.

Texans collected enough trash and recyclables during cleanups to fill

**199 football fields** with one foot of garbage.



*"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*

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

**580,000 Texans** dropped off household hazardous waste, including paint, at permanent facilities and **68 one-time events**.



Partners collected enough left-over paint to trace a line around the State of Texas

**14 times.**

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

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

Since the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) began the Texas Recycles Computers (2009) and Texas Recycles TVs (2013) initiatives, 164 million pounds of electronics have been recycled and 133,500 pounds have been reused. According to the 2016 TCEQ "Program Report on Texas Recycles Computers and Texas Recycles Televisions," computer manufacturers collected an additional 42 million pounds during the same time frame.

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

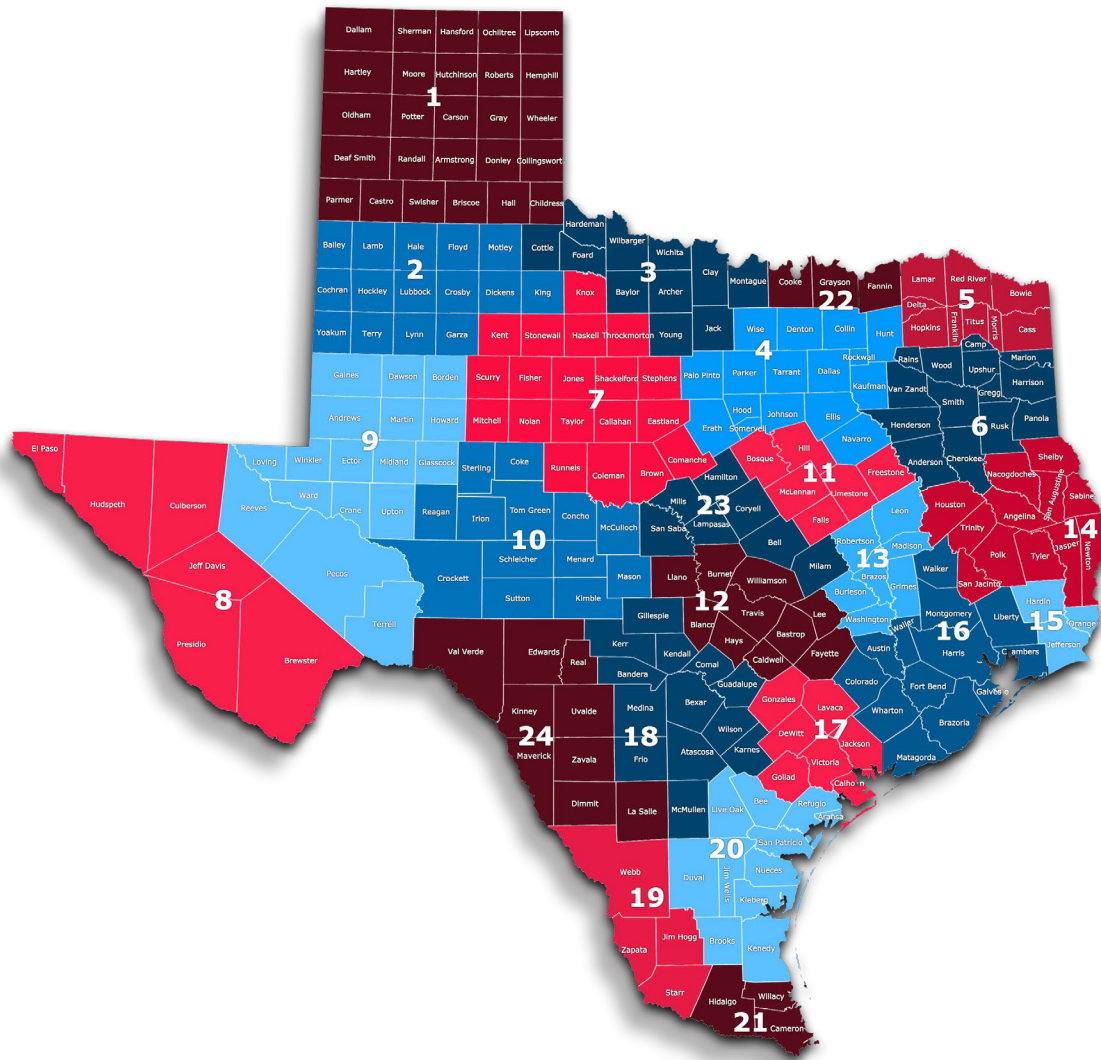
While Texas law requires television and computer equipment manufacturers offer recycling opportunities for their own brands, retail sellers of these products are not required to accept them or may not have stores in areas outside large urban centers.

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

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

The appropriation of grant funds and additional regional collection events or permanent local electronics recycling facilities would likely increase the recycling numbers. During Fiscal Years 2014/2015, with Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds, local governments collected 14,569.80 tons of used electronics.





**COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS**

Alamo Area Council of Governments (18)	16
Ark-Tex Council of Governments (5)	18
Brazos Valley Council of Governments (13)	20
Capital Area Council of Governments (12)	22
Central Texas Council of Governments (23)	24
Coastal Bend Council of Governments (20)	26
Concho Valley Council of Governments (10)	28
Deep East Texas Council of Governments (14)	30
East Texas Council of Governments (6)	32
Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (17)	34
Heart of Texas Council of Governments (11)	36
Houston-Galveston Area Council (16)	38
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (21)	40
Middle Rio Grande Development Council (24)	42
Nortex Regional Planning Commission (3)	44
North Central Texas Council of Governments (4)	46
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (1)	48
Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission (9)	50
Rio Grande Council of Governments (8)	52
South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (15)	54
South Plains Association of Governments (2)	56
South Texas Development Council (19)	58
Texoma Council of Governments (22)	60
West Central Texas Council of Governments (7)	62



*The City of San Antonio used Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding of \$77,600 to expand its educational outreach program and achieve the half-way mark of its 2025 goal of a 60 percent recycling rate.*

Recycling is not yet an automatic behavior in Texas. Education grants help reinforce the need to care for the environment through proper waste diversion and maximize resources. Each program in the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) region works to maximize the benefits from their recycling efforts, minimize the cost of recycling, and maximize the diversion of materials from the landfills.

**City of San Antonio**

The City of San Antonio provides its residents with curbside organic waste pickup and recycling. The City also provides drop-off locations for materials not accepted in the curbside bins. A Regional Solid Waste Grants Program grant of \$77,600 allowed staff to make presentations on recycling, composting, and other waste diversions to school children, neighborhood

associations, garden clubs, and other public organizations. This helped the City reach the half-way point of its 2025 goal of a 60 percent recycling rate. The presentations reached 86,334 residents.

**San Antonio River Authority**

Using grant funds of \$3,200, the San Antonio River Authority offered two illegal dumping classes for code enforcement and peace officers. The classes provided case studies on investigations, cleanups, and trials. Each attendee received the latest copy of “Local Control of Illegal Dumping” and was asked to share what they learned with five other officers in their communities. If all 76 attendees comply with the sharing of information request, an additional 380 officers will be equipped to pursue illegal dumping occurrences.

**City of New Braunfels**

The City of New Braunfels received many requests to recycle packing foam; a material which takes up a lot of space, but weighs little. The cost of taking a load of packing material to the Materials Recovery Facility exceeds its value. The City used grant funds of \$7,500 to purchase a plastic foam densifier which reduces the packing materials by 2/3 and makes it economically possible to recycle plastic foam. A second grant of \$1,405 provided a used oil filter crusher.

*A sign identifying the drop-off recycling center in northeast San Antonio reminds drivers to recycle.*



*An oil filter crushing apparatus drains any remnant liquid from filters before crushing them.*



*An example of the end product of a load of densified plastic foam.*



Oil and fuel filters collected during HHW collection events and from the City of New Braunfels's year round maintenance are crushed and recycled as scrap metal. The City recycled 50.4 gallons of used oil and 1,730 filters as scrap metal.

**Household Hazardous Waste**

Many communities in the AACOG region acknowledge the need for proper disposal options for household hazardous waste (HHW) but lack the infrastructure and monetary means for permanent HHW collection facilities. Grant funds provided four communities with the ability to offer their residents proper HHW disposal options. During Fiscal Years 2014/2015, three small cities held a total of four one-day HHW collection events. A fourth community selected the option of commercial curbside HHW collection for a year. A total of 1,460 residents participated in the various collections.



*HHW Collection Event held in the City of Helotes.*

**Wilson County**

Wilson County purchased a cargo trailer and established a year-round free drop-off for used electronics and tires for its residents. Searching for a way to get the used electronics loads to a processor proved to be an economic challenge—leading to a partnership with Comal County. Comal County had previously established a year-round used electronics recycling program for its residents and secured equipment from the Fiscal Years 2012/2013 program to shrink-wrap pallets of used electronics. Comal County reached out to aid Wilson County by taking used electronics for free, sending them to their processor, and receiving a return for the extra poundage. The exchange benefits both counties, their residents, and the environment.

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- City of Boerne
- City of Helotes
- City of Kerrville
- City of New Braunfels
- City of San Antonio
- City of Seguin
- Comal County
- San Antonio River Authority
- Wilson County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	2
Household Hazardous Waste Management	6
Recycling	3
Used Oil Management	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$80,800.00
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$122,764.72
Recycling	\$122,849.64
Used Oil Management	\$1,405.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$327,819.36</b>



*Participants in the Ark-Tex Council of Governments COG-managed Project diverted 537,665 tons of recyclable materials from regional landfills.*

During Fiscal Years 2014/2015 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding period, the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) conducted a COG-managed Project to expand the Regional Recycling Program and educate residents. ATCOG formed partnerships with 11 eligible entities throughout the nine-county region to develop new and enhance existing recycling programs. ATCOG used \$60,000 in funding to purchase 22 6-by-14-foot utility trailers for the participating entities. In addition, ATCOG provided each participant with a comprehensive list of all material recovery facilities (MRF) located in the region and a list of all available Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) publications relating to recycling for distribution.

As a result, the participants diverted 537,665 tons of recyclable materials from regional landfills, including

- 28 tons of brush/yard waste;
- 82.8 tons of metal;
- 110 tons of cardboard;
- 316 tons of paper; and
- 0.8 tons of electronic equipment.

Additionally, the participants generated \$97,403.60 in revenue from the sale of the diverted materials.

The COG-managed project participants are Paris ISD, Linden-Kildare CISD, City of Mount Vernon, Queen City ISD, City of Annona, City of Reno, Bowie County, Hopkins County, City of Naples, City of Clarksville, and Delta County. Approximately



25 percent of the 174,892 residents in eligible areas of the ATCOG region have participated in the Regional Recycling Program. The success of the Regional Recycling Program indicates residents living within the ATCOG region are actively participating in recycling activities benefitting the entire region, both environmentally and economically.



*ATCOG purchased 22 6-by-14-foot utility trailers for entities participating in the Regional Recycling Program.*



*ATCOG formed partnerships with 11 eligible entities throughout the nine-county region to develop new and enhance existing recycling programs.*

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

Ark-Tex Council of Governments

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Recycling	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>

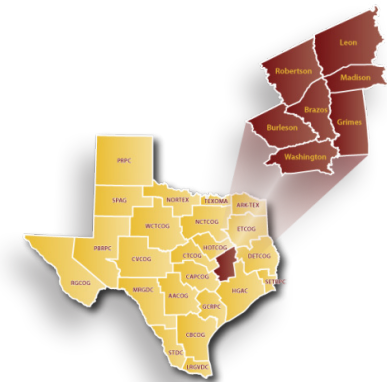
  

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Recycling	\$60,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$60,000.00</b>



*The large concentration of funding for litter and illegal dumping cleanups and community collection events demonstrates how the residents of the Brazos Valley region value the importance of eliminating illegal dumping and providing other options for the residents to dispose of unused or unwanted materials.*

The Brazos Valley Council of Governments uses the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds to address a previously unmet need for illegal dumping prevention in the Brazos Valley. Approximately 47 percent of Fiscal Years 2014/2015 funding was used for litter and illegal dumping cleanups and community collection events. The large concentration of funding under this category demonstrates how the residents of the Brazos Valley region value the importance of eliminating illegal dumping and providing other options for the residents to dispose of unused or unwanted materials.



Burleson County is committed to its residents and is concerned about their welfare and quality of life. As a result, they have used the grant funds for

cleanup events across the County and its cities, such as the Fourth Annual Big Spring Clean Up Event, allowing them to expand and improve on managing solid waste. This event

has demonstrated increased cooperation between numerous volunteers and the communities within Burleson County.

As the County and cities have stepped up enforcement activities to reduce illegal dumping and the number of abandoned, overgrown, and trashed out properties, the issue of legal disposal has become more critical. The programs supported by the cities and County have proven when residents are provided a means and are empowered to legally dispose of rubbish and debris, the response is enthusiastic.

Litter and illegal dumping cleanup and community collection events ensure the quality of life of the residents is not

compromised. The illegal dump sites can create unsafe and hazardous living conditions for the community. The residents in the Brazos Valley have become more aware and are more concerned about increased problems of litter and illegal dumping within their communities over the years.

Engaging the local residents, schools, non-profits, and volunteers in the litter and illegal dumping cleanups and community collection events will ultimately improve disposal and recycling practices. These activities can subsequently evolve into positive and measurable results that improve the surrounding aesthetics of the communities, as well as provide a beautiful, clean, and safe environment for families.



*Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding helps communities offer options for the residents to dispose of unused or unwanted materials, such as the Fourth Annual Big Spring Clean Up Event.*



*Residents of the Brazos Valley region value the importance of legally disposing of rubbish and debris.*

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- Burleson County
- Caldwell Middle School
- City of Brenham
- City of Buffalo
- City of College Station
- Grimes County
- Leon County
- Washington County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	1
General Solid Waste Management	5
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1
Recycling	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$13,700.00
General Solid Waste Management	\$60,721.04
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$6,375.00
Recycling	\$10,147.46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$90,943.50</b>



*Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds greatly improved devastating conditions with the removal of debris that posed an immediate threat to the public health, safety, and welfare of Central Texas residents affected by the May 2015 floods and tornadoes.*

The Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) serves 10 counties in central Texas which are susceptible to many types of hazards and catastrophic incidents. The 2011 Bastrop Fire Complex destroyed over 34,000 acres and 1,700 structures and impressed upon local governments the need for region-wide disaster planning. In 2014, CAPCOG held Disaster Debris Management Workshops to introduce the tools, training, and resources required to adequately address the significant challenges of managing debris after a catastrophic incident.

In 2015, local governments requested assistance with development of county-level disaster debris management plans. CAPCOG, with the guidance and support of its Solid Waste Advisory Committee, worked directly with Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, and Williamson counties; the Lower Colorado River Authority; the City of Austin; and the Texas Department of Emergency Management to develop a master disaster debris management plan template. This involved developing a series of questionnaires to gather necessary data, conducting advanced disaster debris management workshops, and folding all information gathered into the plan template. The documents are available on CAPCOG's website at [www.capcog.org/divisions/regional-services/solid-waste](http://www.capcog.org/divisions/regional-services/solid-waste) for communities throughout Texas to use in developing their own disaster debris management plans. CAPCOG received the 2015 National Association of Development Organizations Innovations Award for the Disaster Debris Management Plan

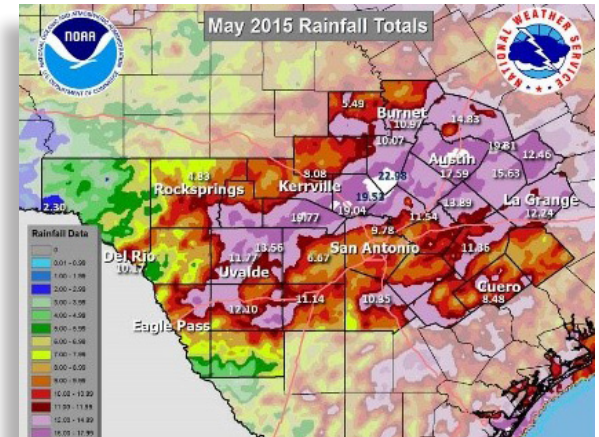
template and the regional disaster debris management planning efforts.

As part of ongoing efforts, CAPCOG's Solid Waste Program completed a Burnet County Disaster Debris Management Plan and is currently working with Hays, Caldwell, and Llano counties on their plans. CAPCOG continues to provide solid waste planning services and assistance in response to



*In May 2015, the San Marcos River was out of its banks, leading to devastating conditions, including tons of debris that posed an immediate threat to the health and safety of residents.*

disaster declarations. In May 2015 a 40-foot wall of water inundated the Blanco River watershed, forcing the San Marcos River over its banks, and 13 tornadoes touched down in the region. In the aftermath of the disaster event and in response to the subsequent Disaster Declaration, CAPCOG used Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds to provide \$77,785 to five counties for the removal of 4,124 tons of debris. These monies greatly improved devastating conditions with the removal of debris that posed an immediate threat to the public health, safety, and welfare of Central Texas residents affected by floods and tornadoes.





*Thanks to Regional Solid Waste Grant Program funds, five counties in the CAPCOG region cleaned up more than 4,000 tons of debris following the 2015 floods.*

### GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Austin Community College
- Bastrop County
- Blanco County
- Brushy Creek Municipal Utility District
- Burnet County
- Caldwell County
- CAPCOG
- City of Cedar Park
- City of Granite Shoals
- City of Hutto
- City of Lockhart
- City of San Marcos
- City of Smithville
- Fayette County
- Lee County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	1
General Solid Waste Management	3
Household Hazardous Waste Management	7
Local Enforcement	1
Recycling	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$7,458.86
General Solid Waste Management	\$29,815.42
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$104,039.32
Local Enforcement	\$61,156.73
Recycling	\$48,729.83
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$251,200.16</b>



*Five HHW collection events in the CTCOG region were successful, with just over 1,300 individuals disposing of 104,201 pounds of household hazardous waste and 3,639 gallons of used oil/antifreeze—hazardous waste that was kept out of the local landfills.*

Household hazardous waste (HHW) services are one of the greatest needs within the Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) region. Permanent HHW facilities are nonexistent, and collection events are usually too expensive for most communities to host on a regular basis. When one does occur, the event is usually limited to the residents within the city or county limits.

Recognizing the region's need for appropriate HHW disposal, during Fiscal Years 2014/2015 CTCOG partnered with four cities and one county to assist in hosting five regional household hazardous waste collection events. Any resident within CTCOG's seven-county region was allowed to participate. The City of Temple originally applied to be a host site through CTCOG's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds; however, the limited budget caused the City to withdraw their application and only ask for \$5,000 each fiscal year to cover the costs of individuals participating outside of the city limits.

Collection events were held:

- February 15, 2014 - City of Killeen
- April 12, 2014 - City of Lampasas
- October 18, 2014 - City of Lometa
- March 7, 2015 - Milam County
- April 18, 2015 - City of Gatesville



*HHW collection events are the most requested service in the CTCOG region's Resource Conservation Program.*

The events were successful, with just over 1,300 individuals disposing of 104,201 pounds of household hazardous waste and 3,639 gallons of used oil/antifreeze. That is equivalent to each individual bringing in 80 pounds plus 2.5 gallons of waste—hazardous waste that was kept out of the local landfills.

The cost for all of these events was \$128,424.12, or just over \$25,600 per event. CTCOG was able to offset the cost by \$98,972, leaving the five communities to share the remaining \$29,452.12. Each community contributed what they could, based on size and financial ability. Cost shares ranged from \$3,086 to \$9,410.

HHW collection events greatly benefit the CTCOG region. They continue to be the most requested service within the region's Resource Conservation Program. The vast majority of the phone calls (65) the Resource Conservation Program received in Fiscal Years 2014/2015 pertained to where to safely dispose of HHW or when the next collection event would take place.







**GRANT RECIPIENT**

CTCOG

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$108,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$108,000.00</b>

More than 1,300 people disposed of over 100,000 pounds of HHW during five collection events in the CTCOG region.



*It is important that Texas is kept clean and that everyone takes care of the State's resources. With the help of Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding and volunteer efforts, the City of Aransas Pass is doing just that.*

The Coastal Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG) provided Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds for 12 projects in Fiscal Year 2014/2015 to conduct regional cleanup events, purchase equipment and facilitate upgrades to existing programs. A total of approximately \$253,790 was requested for solid waste projects in the Coastal Bend region with only \$68,839.40 being awarded for Fiscal Years 2014/2015 projects.

The City of Aransas Pass Police Department has conducted voluntary cleanup events in a marsh area along State Highway 361 that leads to the ferry landing at Port Aransas since 2014.

This stretch of roadway sees thousands of visitors from all over the world annually. Because the area is highly visible to South Texas visitors, the Aransas Pass Police Department and numerous volunteer organizations started to clean the marsh flats on their own time, with their own vehicles, and using their own funds on an almost monthly basis.

In Fiscal Year 2015, the City of Aransas Pass Police Department was awarded \$8,498 to purchase an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and surveillance cameras to clean up and curtail illegal dumping activities in the community. With the purchase of the ATV, the Aransas Pass Police Department has been able to expand their cleanup areas and use their personal vehicles

less. In 2015, the City of Aransas Pass removed a total of five tons of tires and debris from the marsh flat cleanup areas. Unfortunately, the cameras were destroyed by the dumpers who attempted to steal the cameras after their crime. However, by using the cameras, the police department caught two separate illegal dumpers.

The success of these cleanup events is an example of what can be accomplished with hard work and perseverance. It is important that Texas is kept clean and that everyone takes care of the state's resources. With the help of Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding and volunteer efforts, the City of Aransas Pass is doing just that.



*Volunteers and off-duty Aransas Pass police officers and fire rescue volunteers after a cleanup event.*



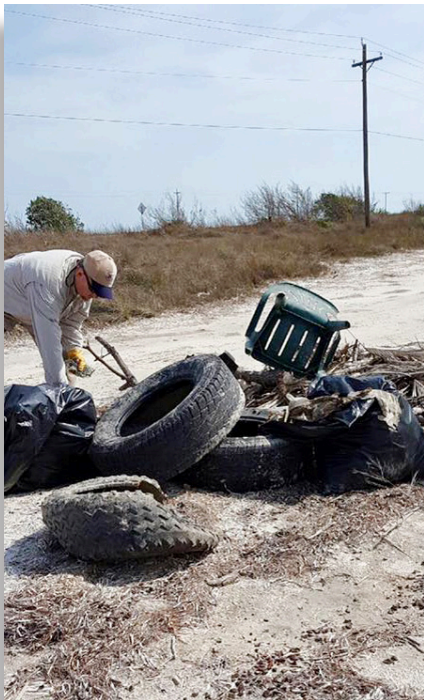
**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- Bee County
- CBCOG
- City of Alice
- City of Aransas Pass
- City of George West
- City of Kingsville
- City of Robstown
- City of Rockport
- Nueces County
- Refugio County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	1
General Solid Waste Management	8
Local Enforcement	3
Recycling	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$2,420.00
General Solid Waste Management	\$45,062.35
Local Enforcement	\$21,807.94
Recycling	\$6,050.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$75,340.29</b>

*Aransas Pass Police Department off-duty officers and volunteers during a cleanup with the ATV purchased with Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds.*



*The camera destroyed by an illegal dumping suspect. Remote transmission provided evidence and an arrest of the suspect via the remote technology of the camera system.*





*The success of Junction’s recycling program has inspired the City to increase their efforts and grow the program by increasing awareness and accessibility with a goal of doubling their collection within five years.*

The City of Junction has maintained a recycling program since 2010, diverting a yearly average of 52,000 pounds of recyclables from the landfill. As a Keep Texas Beautiful affiliate, Junction prides itself on the growing effort from the community to protect the environment through an increasingly sustainable recycling program. The success of the program has inspired the City to increase their efforts and grow the program by increasing awareness and accessibility with a goal of doubling their collection within five years. The City used a multi-faceted approach to increase recycling by residents, including adding storage containers at its recycling facility, providing recycling bins for special events, purchasing a forklift for moving recyclables, and repairing a trailer for portable recycling needs.

Recycling has taken off in Junction so well the City has outgrown its facility’s storage capacity, resulting in some recyclables stored outside, exposed to the weather and possible contaminants. To address this challenge, Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding was used to purchase two 40-foot, weather-proof containers to store plastic, aluminum, and cardboard. Grant funding also helped the City purchase a forklift with hopes of improving efficiency in meeting the program’s goal of doubling collection within five years.

Because community participation is essential to a sustainable recycling program, the City used grant funds to purchase additional recycling bins for special events. Previously, the City relocated limited recycling bins from area schools, where they were primarily located, to the city park for events.

In addition to the increased availability of recycling bins, Junction repaired an existing trailer which had safety latches that were not operational—rendering one side unusable. Now City employees can collect recyclables efficiently and safely. With the fully functional trailer, the City can set up another collection site during special events, such as Labor Day weekend festivities and rodeo weekend.



*To keep recyclables from being stored outside, the City of Junction purchased two 40-foot, weatherproof containers.*



*The City of Junction used Regional Solid Waste Grant Program funding to repair a trailer to increase availability of recycling bins and purchase a forklift for its recycling program.*

### GRANT RECIPIENTS

- City of Big Lake
- City of Brady
- City of Eldorado
- City of Junction
- City of Mason
- City of Menard
- Menard County
- Schleicher County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	3
Organic Waste Management	2
Recycling	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	\$29,779.18
Organic Waste Management	\$39,350.95
Recycling	\$60,748.16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$129,878.29</b>



*Sabine County's cleanup events have cleaned up 91 acres along roadways and public places, collected approximately 24,500 pounds of debris/litter, and collected and recycled approximately 7,280 pounds of materials.*

The Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG) Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) awarded seven Regional Solid Waste Grants Program grants in Fiscal Years 2014/2015. These grants were for various types of projects, including household hazardous waste (HHW) management/collection event, purchase of equipment for a litter/illegal dumping program, and source reduction/recycling programs.

The City of Nacogdoches received \$20,500 to increase the capacity of the Used Oil Collection/Recycling Program. The grant funds were used to purchase six used oil recycling containers and construct walls and shelter awnings at



*The City of Nacogdoches increased the capacity of its Used Oil Collection/Recycling Program by purchasing six used oil recycling containers.*

the three used oil collection facilities (the landfill and Fire Stations #3 and #4). Construction at these facilities was not complete until the end of Fiscal Year 2015; however, approximately 2,495 gallons of used oil have been collected since program implementation in October 2015.

Sabine County received \$18,602.85 to implement a Litter and Illegal Dumping Cleanup Program. The focus was to clean up litter and illegal dumping throughout the county and provide a cleaner and healthier environment for residents, tourists, and wildlife. The funds were used to purchase two utility trailers, billboard signage/advertising/public awareness ads supporting "Keep Sabine County Clean," and various cleanup

supplies. The cleanup events were on weekends and led by a combination of county employees and volunteers from "Keep Hemphill Beautiful" and "Keep Pineland Beautiful" organizations. This program has cleaned up 91 acres along roadways and public places. They collected approximately 24,500 pounds of debris/litter and collected and recycled approximately 7,280 pounds of materials.

The City of Jasper received \$10,900 to purchase a recycling trailer with labeled bins to collect recyclable materials, such as paper, plastic, aluminum, and cardboard. Each bin holds approximately 5.05 cubic yards. The City averages dumping the trailer on a monthly basis. Each trailer load equates to approximately 4,000 pounds of recycled material being diverted from the landfill. The following is an example of the amount of material collected monthly by type:

- Paper – 3,000 pounds
- Plastics – 170 pounds
- Aluminum – 300 pounds
- Cardboard - 500 pounds



*The City of Nacogdoches received \$20,500 to increase the capacity of the Used Oil Collection/Recycling Program.*



*With a new trailer and labeled recycling bins, the City of Jasper diverts almost 4,000 pounds of materials from the landfill each month.*



Using Regional Solid Waste Grant Program funds, the City of Nacogdoches constructed walls and shelter awnings at three used oil collection/recycling facilities, including two fire stations.



#### GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Angelina County
- City of Center
- City of Hemphill
- City of Jasper
- City of Nacogdoches
- Sabine County
- San Jacinto County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	1
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1
Organic Waste Management	1
Recycling	3
Used Oil Management	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	\$18,602.85
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$21,762.75
Organic Waste Management	\$20,625.58
Recycling	\$48,639.60
Used Oil Management	\$20,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$130,130.78</b>



*The City of Tyler and Keep Tyler Beautiful's educational and demonstration garden is the first project of its kind in the ETCOG region and a unique place for visitors to learn about numerous solid waste principles.*

In 2014, the City of Tyler and Keep Tyler Beautiful received \$3,000 from the East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program to install an educational and demonstration garden using plants native to the East Texas area, along with benches, trash receptacles, and interpretive signage made from recycled materials. As part of the project, they installed a composting area using composted food and garden material for soil amendment. A drip irrigation system for supplemental watering was also created.

The goals and objectives of this garden are to demonstrate to visitors how they can use native plants, recycled building materials, and compost in their home landscaping. The garden illustrates many principles of the solid waste grant program including:

- How composting will reduce food and plant material in the waste stream to reduce the amount of solid waste going into the landfill
- How using composting and native plants reduces the amount of household hazardous waste through the reduction in the use of fertilizers and pesticides
- How using recycled material will reduce the reliance on virgin materials and contribute to further efforts to recycle more materials

The project incorporates QR codes on interpretive signs so visitors can use a self-guided tour, reference information on specific plants and methods of using plants in home landscape, and find other helpful information. This is the first project of its kind in the ETCOG region and a unique place for visitors to learn about numerous solid waste principles.



*Using Regional Solid Waste Grant Program funds, the City of Tyler and Keep Tyler Beautiful installed a demonstration garden, including a composting area.*





*Paths and boardwalks help visitors enjoy the City of Tyler and Keep Tyler Beautiful Demonstration Garden.*



**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- City of Carthage
- City of East Mountain
- City of East Tawakoni
- City of Easton
- City of Elkhart
- City of Gladewater
- City of Grand Saline
- City of Hallsville
- City of Jacksonville
- City of Longview
- City of Murchison
- City of Pittsburg
- City of Tyler
- City of Wills Point
- Gregg County
- Harrison County
- Henderson County
- Rains County
- Smith County
- Upshur County
- Upper Sabine Valley Solid Waste Management District
- Van Zandt County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	6
General Solid Waste Management	20
Household Hazardous Waste Management	2
Local Enforcement	11
Recycling	4
Used Oil Management	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$20,039.57
General Solid Waste Management	\$63,716.80
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$8,600.00
Local Enforcement	\$132,783.15
Recycling	\$18,315.05
Used Oil Management	\$4,200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$247,654.57</b>



*The City of Edna's HHW campaign allowed for paint, oil, oil filters, pesticides, and used electronics to be safely disposed of and kept out of area streams, rivers, and landfills.*

The Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission's region has continued to increase recycling campaigns in the area. The region has become increasingly diligent in tire collection and disposal, cardboard collection and recycling, and hazardous material collection and disposal.

The environmental resource departments in the region are concerned with revitalizing and reusing their current equipment to sustain their recycling capabilities.

The City of Cuero used \$70,600 in Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds to purchase numerous cardboard recycling containers and a large truck to assist with cardboard compacting. Over 106 tons were collected in the first year. Many, if not all, businesses in the city participate. It has become such a success that an additional cardboard trailer is needed to keep up with the demand.

The City of Hallettsville was allocated \$20,576 to refurbish previously purchased recycling trailers to continue their recycling efforts. This money was used to repaint and repair

trailers that have been in use for over 10 years.

The City of Edna used \$21,972 to host a household hazardous waste (HHW) campaign. The event was successful and allowed for paint, oil, oil filters, pesticides, and used electronics to be safely disposed of and kept out of area streams, rivers, and landfills.

The City of Yoakum was given \$14,546 to purchase new recycling bins for their recycling center. Previously they used the older "igloo" type recycling bins, which limited the amount and size of recyclables that could be collected. Wear and tear, along with challenges unloading, made the old bins less useful than previously anticipated.

The remaining \$18,723 was used for an ongoing tire recycling campaign throughout the region, where 9,500 tires were collected and disposed of.



*Over 106 tons of cardboard were collected in the first year of the City of Cuero's recycling program.*



*The City of Hallettsville refurbished its recycling trailers with new paint and repairs.*



*More than 9,500 tires were collected and disposed of using funds from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program.*

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- City of Cuero
- City of Edna
- City of Hallettsville
- City of Yoakum
- GCRPC

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	1
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1
Recycling	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	\$25,770.71
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$21,972.50
Recycling	\$103,091.82
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$150,835.03</b>



*Collecting over 116,480 pounds of waste that would otherwise stay at various illegal dump sites, HOTCOG areas continue to take initiatives to keep their region clean.*

In Texas, an estimated 26 million scrap tires are generated each year (approximately one tire per person per year). When used and/or scrap tires are improperly managed, stockpiled, or illegally dumped, they can become breeding grounds for disease-carrying mosquitoes, rats, and other vectors.

During Fiscal Years 2014/2015, the Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG) region was responsible for collecting 44,250 of those tires using Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds. This is significantly less than the HOTCOG area collected last biennium, which shows that not only awareness, but commitment to region cleanup is increasing. While most residents in the HOTCOG region are supportive of proper tire

disposal, illegal dumping of tires continues.

Illegal tire and household waste dumping can have a wide range of impacts, including unsightly pile-ups that pose public health and environmental hazards, increased waste management costs for local governments through cleanups and lost productivity, and decreased property values.

The HOTCOG region has taken steps to clean up many parts of the region by hosting Community Cleanup Events using grant funds. Collecting over 116,480 pounds of waste during Fiscal Years 2014/2015 that would otherwise stay at various illegal dump sites, HOTCOG areas continue to take initiatives to keep their region clean.



*HOTCOG held Community Cleanup Events and collected 116,480 pounds of waste that could have ended up in illegal dump sites.*





*Most residents in the HOTCOG region are supportive of proper tire disposal and participate in Community Clean-up Events.*

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

HOTCOG

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	\$80,217.80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$80,217.80</b>



*People are cleaning up their own yards, helping their neighbors clean up their yards, and disposing of unwanted junk properly instead of within the rights-of-way.*

**T**hanks to a Regional Solid Waste Program grant, residents in unincorporated Harris County Precinct 1 now have no-cost drop-off sites for their heavy trash and recycling.

In 2014, Harris County Precinct 1 opened their first drop-off center in response to wide-spread illegal dumping. Illegal dumping of trash in yards, along roadsides, and in ditches is a public health hazard, is a breeding ground for mosquitoes, contributes to flooding, and is unsightly. Unfortunately, many residents in the northern and eastern portions of the unincorporated parts of Precinct 1 had no access to regular curbside pickup services or any free drop-off facilities. In the northern portion of the precinct, the Precinct 1 Road and Bridge Department staff previously provided limited pickup by request and spent significant resources removing debris from rights-of-way. Providing this service took time and resources away from road and bridge maintenance.

The first no-cost drop-off center opened on Miller Road in the eastern portion of the precinct. Precinct 1 used funding from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program to promote the grand opening of the facility with direct marketing to

residents through mailers. When the center opened in October, residents showed up carrying the mailed flyers, demonstrating the success of the outreach.

Since opening, the Miller Road site has seen 550 visitors and has collected 380 tires and 216 tons of heavy trash. After seeing the success of the grant-funded project, Precinct 1 opened a second facility to serve the northern portion of the precinct at the Hardy Service Center in February 2016.

In addition to taking heavy trash, both drop-off sites also collect single stream recycling. Precinct 1 staff says many residents had been saving glass and plastic bottles for months and are ecstatic to finally have a convenient location to drop off recycling.

The opening of the drop-off centers is making a significant impact. People are cleaning up their own yards, helping their neighbors clean up their yards, and disposing of unwanted junk properly instead of within the rights-of-way.

Precinct 1, under the leadership of Commissioner Gene L. Locke, hopes to expand the program to other facilities and provide a loading ramp to help residents unload their heavy trash in the facilities.



*Residents in unincorporated Harris County Precinct 1 now have a drop-off location for heavy trash and recycling.*



Harris County Precinct 1 used funding from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program to send direct marketing mailers to residents to promote the grand opening of the no-cost drop-off center.

#### GRANT RECIPIENTS

Austin County  
 City of Bay City  
 City of Baytown  
 City of Galveston  
 City of Houston  
 City of Huntsville  
 City of La Marque  
 City of Missouri City  
 City of Palacios  
 City of Pasadena  
 City of Pearland  
 City of Sugar Land  
 Fort Bend County  
 Galveston County  
 Harris County  
 Harris County Precinct 1  
 Houston ISD  
 Walker County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	4
General Solid Waste Management	3
Household Hazardous Waste Management	4
Local Enforcement	6
Recycling	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$75,525.28
General Solid Waste Management	\$80,284.22
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$141,217.87
Local Enforcement	\$187,039.80
Recycling	\$583,729.92
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,067,797.09</b>



*Thanks to the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds, the City of Alton was able to build their recycling center and expand their services throughout the community.*

**F**or the past two decades, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) has funded many projects in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy counties.

In 2010, the City of Alton received funds through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program to begin their new recycling program and now has recycling collection seven days a week at the Alton Recycling Center.

This facility, on the south side of Alton City Hall on W. Dawes Avenue, serves a population of 15,500. Offering a staffed drop-off center at the previously unmanned site helped increase collections. The recycling center recycles paper, newspaper, magazines, cardboard, and aluminum. The Alton Recycling Center is also currently collecting recyclables from 21 businesses and nine schools within the city boundaries.



*Thanks to the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds, the City of Alton was able to expand their services throughout the community.*

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds were used to purchase new equipment, including a baler for cardboard and paper compaction and trailers for hauling the recyclable materials. The grant funds were also used to purchase educational items to implement environmental outreach throughout the community and schools.

The Alton Recycling Program does extensive outreach through presentations at elementary and middle schools during the school year. Staff also attends career days and other school and city functions. Third grade students participated in a competition to name the program's mascot. The winning name is "HERO," which stands for "Helping Everyone Recycle Our resources." HERO makes appearances, and the kids love him.

The Alton Recycling Center implemented a Recycle Bowl competition with all schools invited to see who could collect the most paper and cardboard for recycling in one week. The recycling center collects the items and judges them by weight.

The City of Alton received a certificate from Keep Texas Beautiful affirming it as a "Keep Texas Beautiful" Good Standing Affiliate.







Through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, the City of Alton could build their new recycling center.



The Alton Recycling Program pilot "Neighborhood Recycling Program" places a recycling trailer inside a subdivision for one week to collect recyclables to get more enthusiasm and neighborhood pride to recycle and keep neighborhoods clean.

### GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Cameron County - Valley Proud
- City of Alamo
- City of Alton
- City of Los Fresnos
- City of Los Indios
- City of Mercedes
- City of Pharr
- City of Primera
- City of Weslaco

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	2
Organic Waste Management	1
Recycling	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	\$14,631.28
Organic Waste Management	\$29,680.12
Recycling	\$178,434.64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$222,746.04</b>



*The Eagle Pass Independent School District Go Green Project has diverted recyclables from ending up in the landfill. These resources have a daily impact on over 8,392 students, faculty and staff.*

The Eagle Pass Independent School District Superintendent formed the Student Advisory Council to establish face-to-face dialogue with students regarding concerns, issues, and goals. The council identified its main objective to implement a “Go Green” concept throughout the two high schools in the district. Council members (students) began implementing and promoting recycling within their schools by creating their own recycling bins out of cardboard boxes and strategically placing them throughout the campuses to make recycling easier and more accessible to the entire student body. These boxes were collected and sorted on a weekly basis by the students. Realizing these cardboard boxes were not durable and deteriorated quickly, better recycling bins became necessary. The district’s School Improvement Director/Grant Writer submitted an application, coauthored by the students, to the Middle Rio Grande Development Council (MRGDC) for funds under the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program. Grant funds were used to purchase recycling bins, clear bags to identify materials as it is transported to dumpsters, and disposable vinyl gloves for students to use in collecting and disposing of trash. With these funds, the students also created recycling awareness posters to promote and educate other students on the concept of recycling.

The Go Green Project has diverted recyclables from ending up in the landfill. These resources have a daily impact on over 8,392 students, faculty, and staff on making sustainable choices in managing solid waste in the school and in their community. The Eagle Pass ISD Superintendent and the Board of Trustees



*The project educates students and staff to have a life-long commitment to recycling.*

are fully supportive of this project and unanimously approve a yearly resolution in support of this ongoing project. The project has a partnership with the City of Eagle Pass Recycling Center. This partnership further facilitates and solidifies the recycling Go Green Project and brings awareness of recycling to a different level that includes community youth. Students take photos of their projects and marketing materials for upload to social media outlets, such as Facebook, and the school district’s public website to showcase their recycling efforts and cleanups. In the Spring, students participated in a city-wide spring cleaning campaign to further exposure of the Go Green Project. They researched and filmed a short video to share with the student body. Posters were strategically placed alongside the recycling bins, and students reached out to the Go Green Clubs at their respective campuses to collaborate on their mission to protect the Earth.



Phase II of the project included the two junior high school campuses. Phase III added an adopted elementary campus per participating school, bringing four elementary campuses on board.

They hope to extend the Go Green Project to Phase IV. The high schools and junior high schools plan to add adopted elementary campuses each, giving them a total of eight elementary campuses participating, which will impact approximately 10,304 people.

This project will benefit the environment within the school grounds where other students will view their commitment to keeping their campuses litter free. The project will serve as a model for future students to continue with the Go Green



*Students came up with their own slogan—If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem. This slogan is posted on t-shirts and posters, and it is also mentioned on their YouTube videos at [www.youtube.com/embed/u3QAMhLwdWo](http://www.youtube.com/embed/u3QAMhLwdWo)*

Project year after year. The impact to the overall environment is threefold:

1. The recycling of gathered trash will help in reducing the amount of trash at the local landfill providing cost savings to the taxpayers in Eagle Pass.
2. The project creates awareness within the district's students of their responsibilities to maintaining a healthy and safe environment
3. The project encourages high school seniors to consider a career in environmental studies, and other fields of study that could result in area students inventing better ways to recycle landfill materials.

The success of this project is measured by the positive impact it has had on the students' environmental awareness and commitment to recycling.

The cost effectiveness of this project is immeasurable. Instilling the value of conservation and creating a life-long commitment to recycling and protecting the Earth in these students is priceless.

In August 2016 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) staff was on site to witness the accomplishments students have had with this program. Staff toured Eagle Pass High School and Eagle Pass Junior High School. Students explained the huge impact the funding they receive through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program has had on all their schools.

#### GRANT RECIPIENTS

- City of Asherton
- City of Carrizo Springs
- City of Crystal City
- City of Del Rio
- City of Eagle Pass
- City of Encinal
- City of Sabinal
- Eagle Pass ISD
- Real County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	1
General Solid Waste Management	4
Recycling	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$3,677.05
General Solid Waste Management	\$33,424.11
Recycling	\$85,724.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$122,825.36</b>



*The use and creation of citizens' collection stations continues to grow in the NORTEX region as more and more communities find the benefits of these centers a great way to promote recycling and encourage their residents to participate in cleanups.*

The NORTEX Regional Planning Commission (NORTEX) region has only two Type IV landfills in the 11-county region. Both facilities are located in Wichita County, which has the largest population (131,664). Outlying areas have their Municipal Solid Waste transferred to these two landfills. Wichita County is also the home of most of the metal and cardboard recycling entities in the region. To better serve the population in the small outlying cities, these communities have started setting up citizens' collection stations. This allows residents to drop off materials that, with the closing of local landfills, had resulted in increased amounts of materials winding up in illegal dump sites or in bar-ditches along county roads.

The use and creation of citizens' collection stations continues to grow in the NORTEX region as more and more communities find the benefits of these centers a great way to promote recycling and encourage their residents to participate in cleanups in their areas.

During Fiscal Years 2012/2013, approximately 70 percent of the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds went to

either set up or enhancement of these collection centers. For Fiscal Years 2014/2015, the funds percentage was 66 percent. For the foreseeable future this seems to be the trend for use of funds in the NORTEX region.

For Fiscal Years 2014/2015, the NORTEX region had only two types of projects: set up and/or enhancement of citizens' collection stations (66 percent of the implementation project budget) and illegal dump site cleanup (33 percent of the implementation project budget).

These were the same project categories as the previous funding cycle, and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee has stated that for the foreseeable future these types of projects will again be the most in-demand for the NORTEX region.

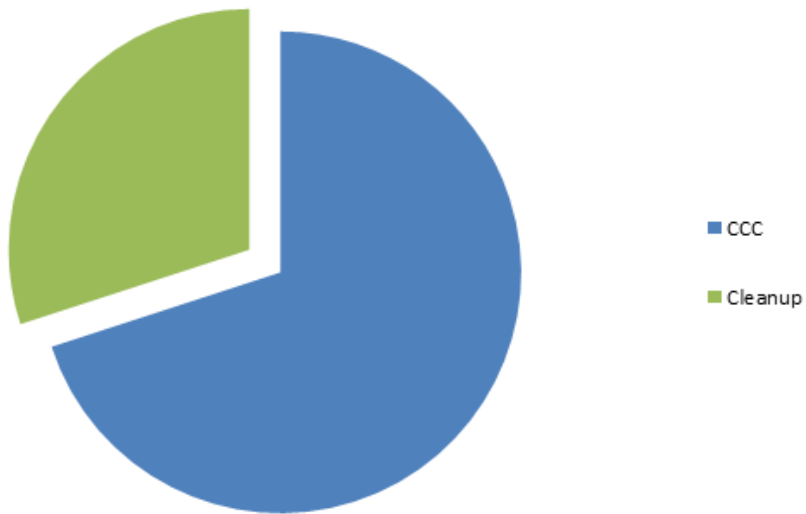
Funding shortfalls resulted in seven unfunded projects, all falling in the previously mentioned or equipment categories. Recycling trailers have been the most in-demand equipment requested.



*To better serve the population in small outlying cities, citizens' collection stations allow residents to drop off materials.*



## 2014-15 Budget



*Set up or enhancement of citizens' collection stations made up 70 percent of the implementation project budget.*

### GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Archer City  
 City of Electra  
 City of Henrietta  
 City of Newcastle  
 City of Olney  
 City of Scotland  
 City of Vernon  
 City of Windthorst

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	4
Recycling	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	\$16,662.33
Recycling	\$45,062.02
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$61,724.35</b>



*As of September 2016, the City of Grand Prairie has diverted over 14,500 tons of concrete, saving over \$450,000 in avoided disposal costs.*

According to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), in 2013 landfills in Texas diverted 312,881 tons of construction and demolition (C&D) material from the solid waste stream, which comprised 24 percent of the total amount of material diverted by landfills. Strong growth in the building construction and renovation markets has made increasing the recycling rate for C&D materials an important focus of regional waste management efforts in the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) region. It is critical that disposal rates be reduced and recycling rates be increased to recover the economic value of materials that have traditionally been considered waste and to conserve landfill space.

The City of Grand Prairie has a Type I Landfill that accepts waste from residents, businesses, and internal City departments, such as Parks & Recreation and Public Works. For several years, this landfill has been accepting C&D waste in the form of a concrete/soil composite removed from areas within the community.



*The City processes concrete into flex-base material, with the remainder being used to fortify the perimeter road at the landfill.*

These materials had been stockpiled and periodically ground on-site by a local vendor. This process, however, had not diminished a legacy stockpile of approximately 30,000 cubic yards that appeared as a grass-covered rocky mound in the southern part of the citizens' convenience area.

To address the problem of the aging concrete/soil stockpile and to improve the suitability of the final product, the City of Grand Prairie Solid Waste Division, using a combination of City funds and \$98,000 in Regional Solid Waste Grants Program

funding, purchased a McCloskey R155 High Energy Screen with Hardox Steel-plate Apron Feeder that separates the input into discrete grades of material. This screening process results in an improvement of the quality of material, allowing the City to use the material in a wider variety of activities. By improving the quality of the finished product, the City was able to generate a cost savings of approximately \$50,000 because the Streets Division didn't have to purchase and haul as much material from other sources outside the city.



*A landfill accepted construction and demolition waste in the form of a concrete/soil composite which had been stockpiled and periodically ground on-site by a local vendor.*

The City of Grand Prairie processes concrete into flex-base material, with the remainder being used to fortify the perimeter road at the landfill. Not only has the City avoided disposal costs, but it has also been able to generate \$46,000 in revenue, demonstrating that C&D materials are a valuable commodity that can be easily recycled into a new product. As of September 2016, the City of Grand Prairie has diverted over 14,500 tons of concrete, saving over \$450,000 in avoided disposal costs.

In addition to using the screening equipment as a source of revenue, the City held several education/training events, where visitors toured the facility and learned about recycling C&D materials. Three of these events were held for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Camp students from the Grand Prairie Independent School District and engaged more than 300 students. The City of Grand Prairie's recycling of C&D material conserves landfill capacity in the North Central Texas region, supports local markets for recovered goods, and educates residents on how recycling has saved both community space and tax payer dollars.

#### GRANT RECIPIENTS

- City of Allen
- City of Arlington
- City of Azle
- City of Celina
- City of Dallas
- City of Fort Worth
- City of Grand Prairie
- City of Krum
- City of Mansfield
- City of Mesquite
- City of Mineral Wells
- City of Plano
- City of Wylie
- Kaufman County
- Parker County
- Town of Little Elm

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	2
General Solid Waste Management	4
Household Hazardous Waste Management	2
Local Enforcement	1
Organic Waste Management	1
Recycling	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$134,789.03
General Solid Waste Management	\$242,433.90
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$112,579.57
Local Enforcement	\$60,105.02
Organic Waste Management	\$67,446.39
Recycling	\$438,620.17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,055,974.08</b>



*During Fiscal Years 2014/2015 the PEP members were able to divert 5.523 million pounds of waste from the landfills using cooperation, grant funding, and the investment of local resources. That recycled material resulted in \$280,845 in proceeds returned back to the local PEP communities.*

With almost 26,000 square miles, the panhandle of Texas has a lot of ground to cover, giving the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC) some unique challenges. With roughly 16 people per square mile enjoying the large wide open spaces, the PRPC wants to ensure those spaces continue to be taken care of for years to come. The Panhandle Environmental Partnership (PEP) helps rural communities work together to tackle the challenge for small populations of transporting materials the long distances to market, with member communities able to divert waste from landfills while moving recyclable materials to market.

The majority of PEP members have populations of less than 2,000 in their communities. The PEP enables communities to move material on their own or to combine a load with a neighboring city which gets highly sought after materials into the hands of recyclers and out of the region's landfills. PEP members have received Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding to assist in the purchase of equipment and construct a baling facility for materials. PEP members continue to look for avenues to recycle additional materials resulting in furthering the lifespan of the landfill. The PEP communities currently recycle cardboard, mixed paper, plastics, books, sorted office waste, newsprint, used motor oil, scrap metal, scrap tires, concrete, and electronics.

During Fiscal Years 2014/2015 the PEP members were



*The City of Amarillo's cleanup events were successful through a combined effort of the public works department and volunteers.*

able to divert 5.523 million pounds of waste from the landfills using cooperation, grant funding, and the investment of local resources. That recycled material resulted in \$280,845 in proceeds returned back to the local PEP communities. This encourages member communities to continue working on diversion efforts to help cover the operating costs associated with the collection and baling of materials. These same communities were able to further add to the bottom line due to the \$96,661 in savings from avoided landfill costs. During the annual electronics recycling event the PEP members diverted 114,510 pounds of electronics from the landfill.

Scrap tires are plaguing all areas of the panhandle region. Many PEP members have sought out projects to stymie illegal dumping while still recycling the build-up of tires left discarded.

The City of Amarillo, along with 791City, a non-profit looking at cleaning up the city, used the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding to conduct several cleanup events targeting scrap tires. The cleanup events were in the summer months through a combined effort of the public works department and volunteers. The public was invited to bring scrap tires to the various locations without charge, and volunteers throughout the city picked up discarded scrap tires. The collected scrap tires were taken to State Rubber and Environmental Solutions in Denver City, Texas, for recycling. The City's project brought in over 5,416 tires from six loads weighing over 106,160 pounds. This was just the beginning; many more scrap tires need to be recycled.

Through projects like this, the PEP continues to work together to ensure that the wide open spaces will provide livable, workable land for years to come.







*The City of Amarillo's project brought in over 5,000 tires weighing more than 106,000 pounds.*

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- City of Amarillo
- City of Clarendon
- City of Dimmitt
- City of Dumas
- City of Fritch
- City of Memphis
- City of Pampa
- City of Skellytown
- City of Spearman
- City of Stratford
- City of Sunray
- City of Texhoma
- City of Turkey

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	6
Organic Waste Management	3
Recycling	8
Used Oil Management	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	\$38,736.66
Organic Waste Management	\$38,076.64
Recycling	\$131,124.70
Used Oil Management	\$23,110.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$231,048.00</b>



*Since its inception, the recycling facility in Kermit has allowed the City to divert 487,248 pounds of recyclable materials. This has saved the city \$10,339.45 in disposal fees and netted \$1,931.20 in revenue from the sale of the recyclables.*

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

Since 2008, the Ector County Environmental Enforcement Office works to investigate environmental crimes, including illegal dumping. The County received \$15,000 in Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds for Fiscal Years 2014/ 2015 and provided approximately \$48,000 as in-kind services and cash match for the grants.

For Fiscal Years 2014/2015, the Environmental Enforcement Office investigated 361 chronic dump sites, identified 181 violators, and collected \$79,109.76 in fines, all leading to 148,000 pounds of waste being removed. In addition, the Ector



*The Ector County Environmental Enforcement Office investigated 361 chronic dump sites, identified 181 violators, and removed 148,000 pounds of waste.*

County Environmental Enforcement Office provides ongoing assistance to neighboring communities in their operations to investigate and cite offenders. The Environmental Enforcement Office also provides training and planning for establishing procedures for environmental enforcement when needed.

A second example, the City of Kermit operates a recycling facility centered around a baler purchased with Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds. In March 2015 the baler was officially online, and the City immediately began collecting recyclable materials from residents. Since its inception, the recycling facility in Kermit has allowed the City to divert 487,248 pounds of recyclable materials. This has saved the City \$10,339.45 in disposal fees, and netted \$1,931.20 in revenue from the sale of the recyclables. The City of Kermit also provided education and outreach to its residents so that recycling participation could be maximized.





*The City of Kermit purchased a baler and began collecting recyclable materials in March 2015. Since then it has diverted 487,248 pounds of recyclable materials and saved more than \$10,000 in disposal fees.*

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- City of Big Spring
- City of Kermit
- Ector County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Local Enforcement	1
Organic Waste Management	1
Recycling	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Local Enforcement	\$15,000.00
Organic Waste Management	\$39,675.00
Recycling	\$5,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$59,675.00</b>



*Regional Solid Waste Grants Program-funded projects have allowed the Village of Vinton to strengthen their continued solid waste recycling efforts to reduce illegal dump sites and promote solid waste reduction, recycling, and reuse to reduce the amount of solid waste that ends up in a landfill.*

The Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG), consisting of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio counties, continues to address illegal dumping, recycling, household hazardous waste (HHW) removal, and scrap tire removal concerns within the region. The RGCOG seeks to partner with solid waste stakeholders to enhance the health and welfare of its communities and the environment within its jurisdiction by providing collection, disposal, community cleanups, education, and recycling through Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding.

Grant funding allowed for the purchase of equipment, such as a wood chipper, baler, roll-off containers, and a cargo trailer, for various grantees. These purchases served to augment RGCOG's efforts to sustain and improve recycling and cleanup programs. The Council, whose vast region covers over 21,700 square miles, encourages the Counties to better serve their communities by promoting the vital need for recycling and sharing mobile equipment, resulting in a cleaner environment.

In Fiscal Years 2014/2015, RGCOG implemented COG-managed projects consisting of resource reduction, litter and illegal dumping cleanups and community collection events, HHW management events, and education and outreach. For example, the Village of Vinton held community collection events. This community, located between the Franklin

Mountains and the Rio Grande River, used the events to address illegal dumping and littering in public roadways, trenches, properties, and surrounding areas due to the absence of solid waste stations in the area. As a result, the Village of



*The Village of Vinton held community collection events to address illegal dumping and littering.*

Vinton collected 94.6 tons of bulk waste, 8,920 pounds of scrap metal, 4,225 gallons of used oil, 543 commercial tires, and 846 passenger tires. To further enhance their recycling program, the Village of Vinton continuously promotes public awareness and encourages recycling with the distribution of educational items and materials.

These grant-funded projects have allowed the Village of Vinton to strengthen their continued solid waste recycling efforts to reduce illegal dump sites and promote solid waste reduction, recycling, and reuse to reduce the amount of solid waste that ends up in a landfill.





*Through community collection events, the Village of Vinton collected 94.6 tons of bulk waste, 8,920 pounds of scrap metal, 4,225 gallons of used oil, 543 commercial tires, and 846 passenger tires.*



## GRANT RECIPIENTS

RGCOG

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	\$245,460.74
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$245,460.74</b>



*If the SETRPC had not conducted these collection events, the hazardous waste could have potentially been discarded in the landfill, the environment, or in the water system.*

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) received Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding to conduct two household hazardous waste (HHW) and scrap tire events in southeast Texas during Fiscal Years 2014/2015.

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. Events were held in Jefferson and Hardin counties.

More than 1,206 southeast Texas residents participated in the collection events. The SETRPC collected more than 166,451 pounds of hazardous waste (averaging 138 pounds per participant) and more than 1,430 gallons of used oil during the events. If the SETRPC would not have conducted these collection events, the hazardous waste could 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 would pose great health and environmental risks.

During the events, the SETRPC also collected more than 2,882 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, such as the West Nile virus.

Abandoned tires also pose additional health and environmental risks.



*More than 1,000 southeast residents participated in the SETRPC hazardous waste and scrap tire collection events.*

**GRANT RECIPIENT**

SETRPC



*During SETRPC collection events, more than 166,451 pounds of hazardous waste and 1,430 gallons of used oil were collected.*

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$204,315.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$204,315.75</b>



*Since 2007, the City of Levelland has received \$103,712.02 in Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds to make improvements to their recycling facility. With the growth the City of Levelland has experienced, the expansion will allow the City to bring in larger amounts of recyclables, thus reducing the amount going into the landfill.*

The South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG) Region encompasses several proactive communities who make recycling a top priority. Since 2007, the City of Levelland has received \$103,712.02 in Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds to make improvements to their recycling facility.

In Fiscal Years 2014/2015 the City received \$20,223 to expand their facility. The City furthered their grant by matching \$20,223 toward the enhancements. The City added 960 square feet to their facility in the form of an attached 24-by-40-foot building. Additionally, the used oil drop-off site was moved, and a new 24-by-10-foot metal shed with an open front was constructed. The City of Levelland also purchased:

- 3 steel pallet racks, 2 shelves high
- Profile Waste Container which includes:
  - » Containment Spill Pan
  - » Igloo Drum Cover
  - » Open Top Steel Drum
  - » Oil Absorbent Sock

This project will provide service to residents within the City of Levelland and within Hockley County. With the growth the City of Levelland has experienced, the expansion will allow the City to bring in larger amounts of recyclables, thus reducing the amount going into the landfill.



*Using Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds, the City of Levelland added 960 square feet to its recycling facility.*





**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- City of Levelland
- City of Meadow
- City of Petersburg
- City of Plainview
- City of Ralls
- Lynn County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	4
Organic Waste Management	1
Recycling	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	\$48,628.70
Organic Waste Management	\$44,283.12
Recycling	\$20,223.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$113,134.82</b>

*The recycling center expansion provides services to City of Levelland residents and residents of Hockley County.*



*Starr County has collected over 200,000 tires in the past six years and over 30 tons of cardboard bales in the past year.*

The Starr County Transfer Station in the South Texas Development Council region was constructed in 2009. Starr County's vision was to provide a modern method to take care of continuous solid waste growth and to provide county residents and the visiting public with recycling options that reduce threats to the public safety, health, and welfare of local and surrounding communities.

As a result, the County implemented projects such as a White Goods Intake Center for Recycling, along with other expansions. Such advances include the purchase of tire cutters to provide a smooth method in processing the recycled material, along with a cardboard baler to efficiently handle, transport, and store cardboard bales processed through Starr County.

With the assistance of various grants, including the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, the Starr County Transfer Station has been able to promote various recycling methods. The County has collected over 200,000 tires in the past six years and over 30 tons of cardboard bales in the past year.



*The Starr County Transfer Station purchased tire cutters to provide a smooth method in processing the recycled material.*



**GRANT RECIPIENT**

- City of Laredo
- Jim Hogg County
- Starr County
- Webb County



GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	1
General Solid Waste Management	1
Local Enforcement	1
Recycling	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$45,000.00
General Solid Waste Management	\$4,865.15
Local Enforcement	\$30,000.00
Recycling	\$66,930.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$146,795.15</b>

*The Starr County's vision is to provide a modern method to take care of continuous solid waste growth and provide recycling options that reduce threats to the public safety, health, and welfare of local and surrounding communities.*



*Results from the 2015 collection event included proper disposal of 558 tires, 13,996 pounds of used electronics, and 37.6 tons of hazardous materials that were diverted from area landfills and waterways in the Texoma region.*

The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered through the Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG), provides both financial and technical assistance to city and county governments, school districts, and law enforcement districts to combat illegal dumping, promote recycling, and reduce the amount of waste introduced to local landfills.

TCOG continues to focus on holding biennial household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events. The 2015 HHW event was Saturday, April 18, 2015, with sites at the Cooke County Justice Center, Grayson College, and the Fannin County Precinct 4 warehouse. This event is often the only resource

residents have to properly dispose of or recycle hazardous materials. The most popular items disposed of are paint, oil, insecticides, electronics, and tires.

Results from the 2015 collection event included proper disposal of 558 tires, 13,996 pounds of used electronics, and 37.6 tons of hazardous materials that were diverted from area landfills and waterways in the Texoma region. The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds totaled \$73,068.98 for this project.

Reduced funding continues to create challenges, but TCOG staff are continually creating innovative and unique solutions to assist regional residents and member entities with

environmental services.

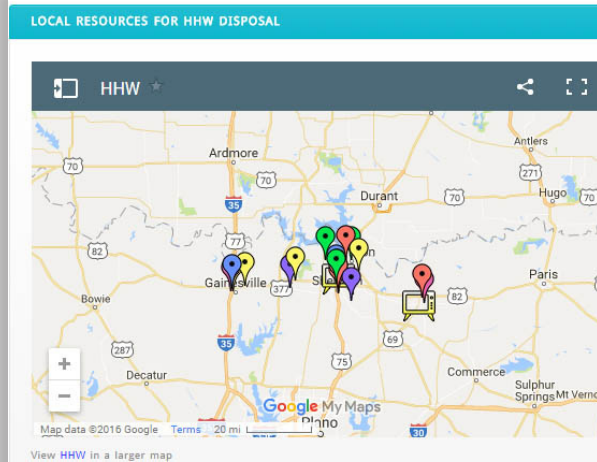
Visitors to the TCOG municipal solid waste website at [www.tcog.com/msw](http://www.tcog.com/msw) can find an interactive map displaying locations where residents can drop off limited types of HHW materials throughout the year. This map is a valuable resource giving residents responsible disposal and recycling solutions that are available in-between regularly scheduled HHW events.

A new form is available on [www.tcog.com/msw](http://www.tcog.com/msw) for residents to sign up to be notified when the next region-wide HHW collection event will be. TCOG program staff now have an additional tool for outreach and notification of events.



*Texoma Council of Governments hosted household hazardous waste collection events on April 18, 2015, at the Cooke County Justice Center, Grayson College, and the Fannin County Precinct 4 warehouse.*

Resources



The TCOG municipal solid waste website features an interactive map displaying HHW drop-off locations.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

TCOG

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$73,068.98
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$73,068.98</b>



*In Fiscal Years 2014/2015, the WCTEP was highly successful in its goal of reducing members' municipal solid waste streams by alleviating 571.81 tons of cardboard, 10.31 tons of paper, 160 pounds of aluminum, 72 tons of metal, and 4.89 tons of plastic.*

The West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG) serves an immense area sprawling across 19 counties, incorporating 62 cities and over 18,000 square miles. The region's main industries are focused around agriculture, oil and gas, and a growing renewable energy industry. In turn, its communities' economies and the livelihood of its residents are highly dependent upon its land use. Recently, markets in the oil and gas industry have been in a steep decline, and many west central Texas communities are experiencing major economic downturn. As a result, many communities are having to look at ways to cut spending in all aspects, including solid waste management. While budgets continue to be cut, environmental conservation continues to be a key issue among residents and their elected officials. To assist communities within the WCTCOG region, continuity of services provided is key.

The West Central Texas Environmental Partnership (WCTEP) was established in 2008 in partnership with Cooperative Teamwork Recycling Assistance (CTRA). It helps communities reduce solid waste streams by providing technical assistance and training to improve solid waste management practices. WCTEP provides training to solid waste management operators to improve solid waste management facility development, operation, and maintenance.

The WCTEP provided an opportunity for rural communities in west Texas to join together to bolster cost-effective recycling and solid waste reduction opportunities. Recycling markets are in a constant flux. The key focus has been in the

development and maintenance of profitable transportation to recycling end market outlets for the commodities of WCTEP members. Successfully maintaining these relationships with viable recycling market outlets has led to opportunities in other waste reduction initiatives in the region and has been key in maintaining the financial stability of each member's recycling program.

Members of the WCTEP include\*:

- City of Snyder
- City of Sweetwater
- Aspermont IDC
- Jayton-Girard ISD
- City of Baird
- Hamlin ISD
- Breckenridge EDC

To provide more fiscal stability to recycling programs, the WCTCOG Natural Resource Committee voted to use \$6,404.55 of Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds to offset the costs of one of the most expensive components to recycling: the transportation of goods from communities to their respective end-markets. By offsetting these costs, members receive a higher return from their investments.

Assisting local officials in providing another avenue of economic development in their communities is key. In Fiscal Years 2014/2015 the WCTEP was highly successful in its goal of reducing members' municipal solid waste streams by alleviating 571.81 tons of cardboard, 10.31 tons of paper, 160 pounds of aluminum, 72 tons of metal, and 4.89 tons of plastic.

In Fiscal Years 2014/2015 the WCTEP was able to ensure all recycling proceeds, totaling \$51,027.85, went straight back to members for their recycling efforts. This COG-managed project continues to be successful and has become a key asset in solid waste planning in the region. More communities in the region are taking note of the continued success of the program and are expressing interest in membership. The WCTEP looks to grow in the coming years, and the WCTCOG is excited about the future potential of the program based on its previous and current success in the region.



*West Central Texas Environmental Partnership (WCTEP) helps communities reduce solid waste streams by providing technical assistance and training.*

*\* Many communities participate in recycling within the region; however, not all communities within the region are signed up in the partnership.*



*The WCTEP helps rural communities in west Texas join together in cost-effective recycling and solid waste reduction opportunities.*

An additional \$16,521.45 of the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding was reimbursed to communities that held a tire Amnesty Day or cleanup in their community. The following west central Texas communities participated:

	City of Sweetwater	City of Throckmorton	City of Merkel	Jones County	Eastland County	City of Snyder
Passenger Tires	841	3634	1548	1732	87*	350*
Light Truck Tires	623	201	n/a	n/a		
Truck/Tractor trailer tires	83	n/a	n/a	176		
Agricultural tires	11	17	n/a	30		
Other tires	n/a	n/a	n/a	58		

*\*types of tires not defined*

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

City of Snyder  
WCTCOG

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Recycling	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Recycling	\$48,364.47
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$48,364.47</b>

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program Funding Report  
Fiscal Years 2014/2015

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS