TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS



IMPACTS & RESULTS IN YOUR REGION

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program Funding Report
Fiscal Year 2012/2013

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 2012 and 2013.

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 thanks are provided to the Regional Council of Governments Solid Waste Planners and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ's) Waste Permits Division for their hard work in developing this report.

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

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THE GRANT PROGRAM

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

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

(See Table 3 for a list of the Types of Projects Funded.)

WHY THE PROGRAM IS IMPORTANT

- Provides start-up or implementation funds for needed programs
- Safeguards health, general welfare, and physical property
- Protects the environment

"There is no doubt that our program would not exist without the support of the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program."
Fiscal Year 2012/2013 recipient referring to a long-term, successful environmental enforcement program geared to clean up and reduce illegal dumping

USING COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS (COGs) TO OVERSEE GRANTS

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

- LOCAL FAMILIARITY
  Grant proposals are evaluated by public and private experts from each region who are familiar with the region's needs and issues.
- ACCOUNTABILITY
  COGs can administer a wide range of grants, from $175 to $350,000 with legislatively set forth methods of accountability.
- PARTNERSHIP
  COGs work with governments to develop and update Regional Solid Waste Management Plans.
- REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
  COGs can help facilitate projects that benefit the region as a whole, including developing regional household hazardous waste facilities, cross-jurisdictional environmental enforcement task forces, and regional recycling facilities.
- EFFICIENCY
  COGs know what activities are under way in their areas, thus decreasing the chance for duplication of efforts.

Illegally dumped tires are an issue throughout Texas. Every COG region has identified the need for more tire collections, more accessible markets, and more funds to meet the demand and address the problem.

During Fiscal Year 2012/2013 almost $535,000 of the regional solid waste grant funds appropriated by the legislature were spent on collecting and disposing of tires.

Even with a growing number of collection events, cities and counties, especially rural areas, still have a significant problem with illegally dumped tires.

Tires are illegally dumped along isolated roads, in drainage ditches, behind culverts, and even in the bays along the Texas coast.

Various types of tires are found in the illegally dumped piles – automobile tires, truck tires, and in the more rural areas, agricultural tires.

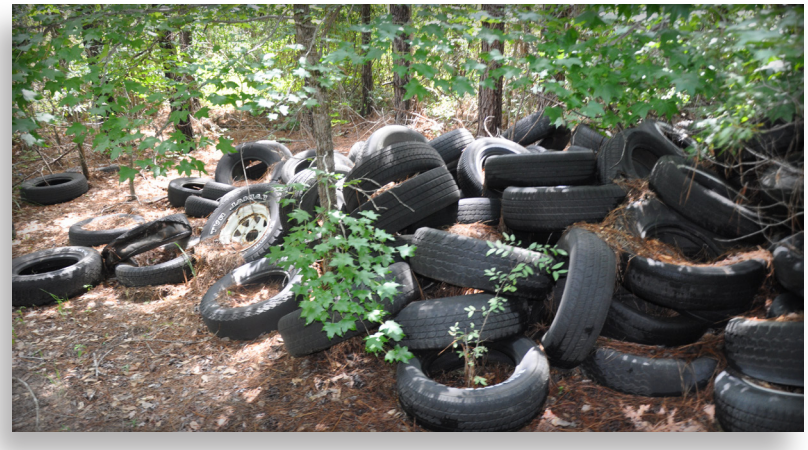
Sites with illegally dumped tires may have anywhere from 2 or 3 tires to 1,000 or more.

According to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, more than 24 million tires are illegally dumped in Texas each year. Illegally dumped tires can take hundreds of years to decompose, can cause navigation hazards in waterways, and may negatively impact fish habitat.

Illegally dumped tires may also collect standing water which can be a breeding ground for disease-carrying mosquitoes. The Texas Department of State Health Services reports more than 4,000 cases of West Nile Virus, spread by mosquitoes, in Texas since 2002. More than 1,500 of those cases were reported in 2012.

24 million tires
dumped in Texas in 2012





4,000 cases of West Nile Virus
in Texas since 2002



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

During Fiscal Year 2012/2013, the 24 regional COGs funded 231 projects totaling $6,113,230.81.

The 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 2012/2013, communities requested $10,000,122.07 for projects, and the 24 regional COGs funded 231 projects totaling $6,113,230.81. This request is less than previous years* due to a reduction in the amount of funding made available for the program. If the funding level from the dedicated fund is maintained or restored communities will be able to continue developing projects to maximize resources and to enhance the safety and welfare for their citizens.

(See Table 1 for a breakdown by COG.)

**Communities requested $28,320.657.36 for projects in 2010/2011 and 452 projects totaling $13,946,119 were funded.*



TABLE 1 FISCAL YEARS 2012/2013 PROJECT FUNDING VS. PROJECT REQUESTS BY COG

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT	PROJECT FUNDING	PROJECT REQUESTS	DIFFERENCE
Alamo Area Council of Governments	$362,596.97	$372,796.97	$(10,200.00)
Ark-Tex Council of Governments	$69,700.00	$69,700.00	$0.00
Brazos Valley Council of Governments	$101,344.00	$107,429.95	$(6,085.95)
Capital Area Council of Governments	$416,745.51	$510,534.00	$(93,788.49)
Central Texas Council of Governments	$114,974.00	$115,000.00	$(26.00)
Coastal Bend Council of Governments	$98,177.03	$98,177.03	$0.00
Concho Valley Council of Governments	$117,337.08	$141,112.00	$(23,774.92)
Deep East Texas Council of Governments	$139,977.40	$152,518.40	$(12,541.00)
East Texas Council of Governments	$255,534.94	$417,792.51	$(162,257.57)
Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission	$195,183.08	$230,000.00	$(34,816.92)
Heart of Texas Council of Governments	$110,763.50	$110,763.50	$0.00
Houston-Galveston Area Council	$1,239,897.65	$3,150,599.00	$(1,910,701.35)
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council	$179,270.32	$487,117.68	$(307,847.36)
Middle Rio Grande Development Council	$114,722.47	$114,722.47	$0.00
Nortex Regional Planning Commission	$159,153.55	$175,000.00	$(15,846.45)
North Central Texas Council of Governments	$1,284,777.77	$2,077,119.60	$(792,341.83)
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	$237,905.49	$290,251.50	$(52,346.01)
Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	$77,441.59	$373,412.00	$(295,970.41)
Rio Grande Council of Governments	$174,953.00	$174,953.00	$0.00
South East Texas Regional Planning Commission	$247,889.34	$247,889.34	$0.00
South Plains Association of Governments	$120,000.00	$253,182.00	$(133,182.00)
South Texas Development Council	$140,712.00	$140,712.00	$0.00
Texoma Council of Governments	$87,139.12	$87,139.12	$0.00
West Central Texas Council of Governments	$67,035.00	$102,200.00	$(35,165.00)
TOTAL	**$6,113,230.81**	**$10,000,122.07**	**$(3,886,891.26)**

Some COGs choose to conduct only regional COG managed projects when limited amounts of funds are available so as to be able to assist a greater number of communities. During the FY2010/2011 biennium the number of COGs that made this decision was only two, but during the FY2012/2013 biennium this increased to seven.

Grant 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

Citizens 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 2 for a breakdown of the grant funds benefitting each type of entity.)



TABLE 2 FISCAL YEAR 2012/2013 **FUNDING BY ENTITY**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL	PROJECT FUNDING
Cities	148	64%	$3,291,697.40
Counties	56	24%	$1,030,123.01
COGs	16	7%	$1,105,185.68
School Districts	6	3%	$550,179.25
Other Districts/Authorities	5	2%	$136,045.47
TOTAL	**231**	**100%**	**$6,113,230.81**

- 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
- 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.

Much of the state is severely lacking in disposal options for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). HHW is anything from a household that is explosive, reactive, corrosive, flammable, toxic, or poisonous. Many local communities do not have a permanent facility available to them, and often collection events are not held consistently.

The lack of disposal options and education often leaves residents with little option but to store their HHW indefinitely, send it to a landfill, or dispose of it improperly.

During windstorms, wildfires, or floods, HHW may be released into the environment, endangering people, pets, or wildlife that unknowingly come in contact with it. The average household has between 3 and 10 gallons of HHW.

That means with 9 million households in Texas, nearly 90 million gallons of HHW could be in Texas homes, creating the potential for a significant health and safety hazard.





Disposing of HHW in the landfill may at first seem like a valid option. The problem lies in the possibility that materials will be inadvertently mixed either en route or once they reach the landfill. Mixing HHW can cause a chemical reaction, fire, or explosion.

According to safety records, more than 2% of all garbage workers will be injured by a fire or explosion resulting from the mixing of HHW.

Whether poured down a storm drain or dumped on a vacant lot, the HHW poses a risk. For example, one gallon of improperly disposed of oil can contaminate one million gallons of water. That's a year's supply of water for 50 people.

The appropriation of regional solid waste grant funds for local programs can help fund collection events and permanent facilities.

During Fiscal Year 2012/13 local governments spent more than $1 million in regional solid waste grant funds to help their residents address the issue of stockpiled HHW and create opportunities to educate the general public on the importance of proper disposal and alternative materials that can be used in place of typical hazardous products.



TABLE 3 FISCAL YEAR 2012/2013 FUNDING BY CATEGORY

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PROJECTS	PROJECT FUNDING BY CATEGORY	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FUNDING
Education and Training	26	11%	$659,335.32	11%
General Solid Waste Management	67	29%	$1,018,771.06	17%
HHW Management	18	8%	$1,066,784.50	17%
Local Enforcement	21	9%	$592,581.80	10%
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	0	0%	$0	0%
Organic Waste Management	19	8%	$496,528.83	8%
Recycling	78	34%	$2,230,297.30	36%
Used Oil Management	2	1%	$48,932.00	1%
TOTAL	**231**	**100%**	**$6,113,230.81**	**100%**



LOCAL ENFORCEMENT

Projects funded by the grant program supporting environmental enforcement officers, training in litter and dumping laws, and documenting litter and dumping with the purchase of equipment produced the following results:

- 3,698 illegal dumping sites investigated
- 4,599,620 pounds of waste removed through enforcement actions



RECYCLING AND ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

Projects focusing on recycling and material reduction including recycling, composting, chipping, mulching, and source reduction produced the following results:

- 87,234 tons of materials diverted for recycling
- $1,088,284.07 in local revenues from the sale of diverted materials
- $2,335,923.58 in local disposal costs avoided
- 435.5 tons of electronics diverted for recycling



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) AND USED OIL MANAGEMENT

Projects that keep dangerous, but commonly found, items out of the water and waste stream and dispose of HHW materials properly and cost-effectively, or recycle them, produced the following results:

- 126,388 citizens participated in collection events
- 622,243 pounds of HHW collected for disposal
- 180,163 gallons of paint collected for recycling or reuse
- 243,789 gallons of oil collected for recycling
- 12,587 oil filters collected for recycling
- 2,390,156 tires collected for recycling



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Public awareness and education programs encouraging proper disposal or recycling of waste produced the following results:

- 24,839 education and training events were held
- 202,116 individuals received training or attended educational events



GENERAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

General solid waste management projects, including cleanup campaigns, citizens' collection stations*, and community collection events, produced the following results:

- 121,783 citizens served by citizens' collection stations
- 18,388 tons of waste collected for disposal at citizens' collection stations
- 32,994 citizens participated in clean-up and community collection events
- 9,944,840 pounds of waste collected for disposal at events

*Citizens' collection stations are facilities established for the convenience and use of residents to dispose of household waste and recycling in small communities where regular collections are not available.

Electronics recycling and disposal across Texas is as varied as the geographical characteristics of the state's natural regions. There are many rural areas in the state that do not have recycling services for common materials, such as metals or paper, much less used electronic equipment.

The responsibility of being good stewards with our used electronics has only recently come to mind for many Texans.

All of the used electronics recycled or disposed in the state have various amounts of lead, cadmium, and mercury that can, with enough time, leach out of a typical landfill into our waterways.

These hazardous materials make it imperative that the state's response to the increasing call for electronics recycling be addressed by trained and qualified professionals.

Legislators have established state-run programs, administered by TCEQ, to "take back" computers and televisions. In 2012 and 2013, Texas collected 33,606 tons of used electronics through the take-back programs.

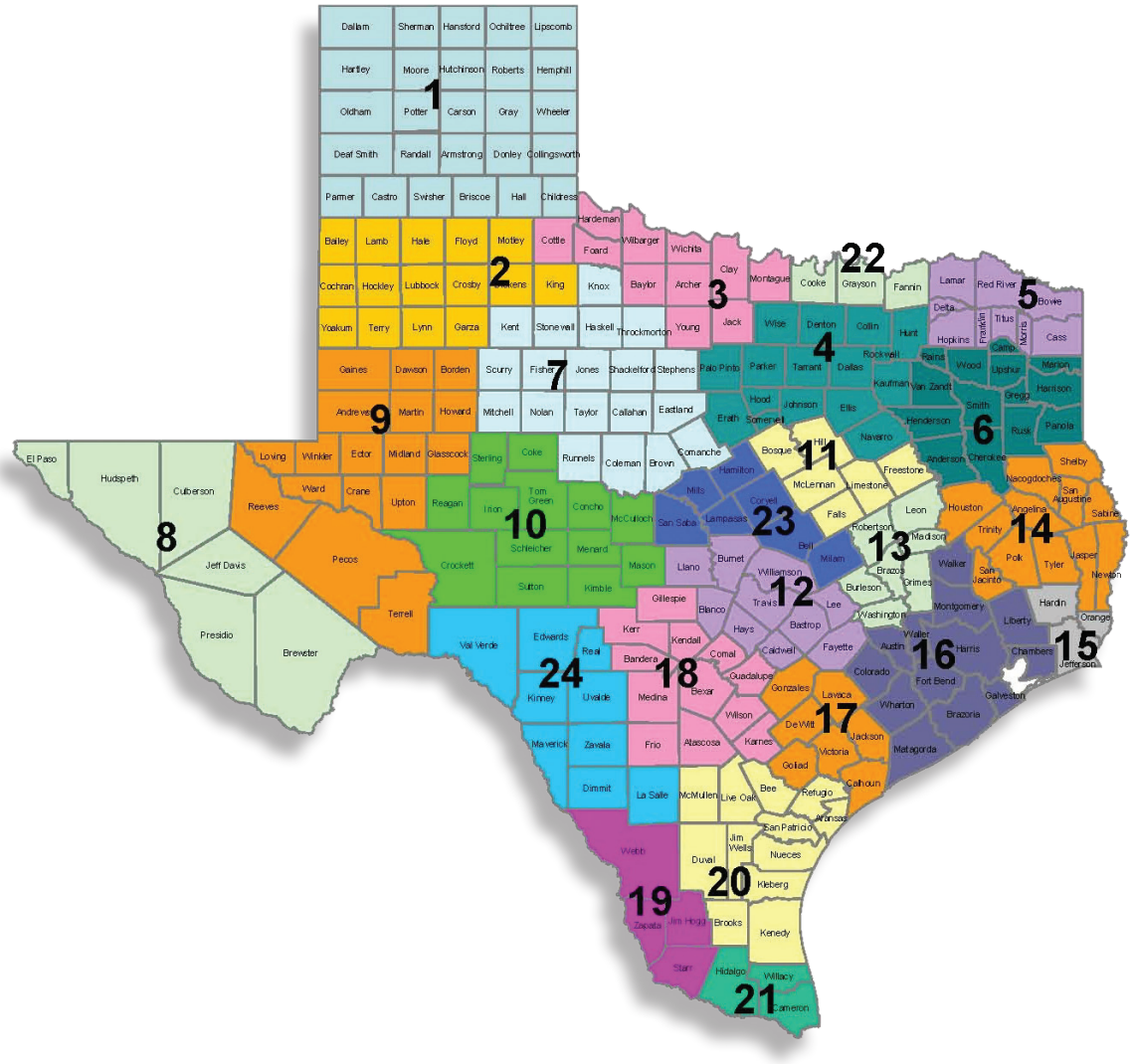
The appropriation of grant funds and additional regional collection events or permanent electronics recycling facilities would likely increase that amount.

During Fiscal Year 2012/2013, with grant funds appropriated by the legislature and allocated through the regions, local governments collected 435.5 tons of used electronics.









Executive Order RP 78, executed in September 2013, realigned McMullen County from State Planning Region 20 to State Planning Region 18. For purposes of this report period, 2012-2013, McMullen County is in Region 20.

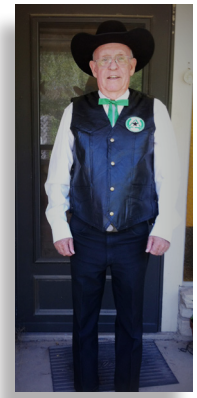
COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS

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

With the help of volunteers and a Regional Solid Waste Grants Program grant for $14,564.08, Wilson County initiated its first recycling program and was collecting approximately 8.4 tons per month within the first year.

The Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) region is diverse and so are the solid waste management needs of the various local governments. The grant requests in Fiscal Year 2012/2013 included funding for household hazardous waste collection events, equipment, and education. In this biennium, several of the programs (Recycle Ranger, MedDrop Collection, smartphone apps, and used electronics collections) provided some insight to the link between educational outreach, available infrastructure, and waste diversion.

Recycle Ranger, a volunteer for Wilson County, visited schools to teach children how and why we recycle. He showed the students pictures of the newly installed recycling trailers at two school locations in Wilson County, where each resident could deposit their recycled materials. With the help of volunteers and a Regional Solid Waste Grants Program grant for $14,564.08, Wilson County initiated its first recycling program and was collecting approximately 8.4 tons per month within the first year.



Recycle Ranger visited schools in Wilson County to teach how and why we recycle.

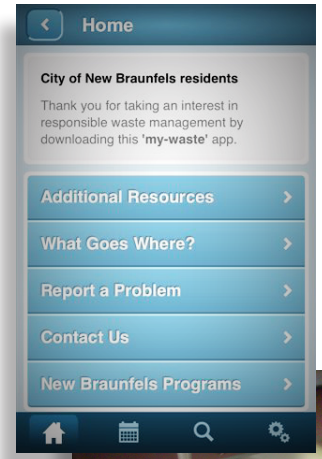
The San Antonio Water System (SAWS) started a MedDrop Collection for prescriptions and over-the-counter pharmaceuticals no longer needed by residents. SAWS engaged a group of supporters, including AACOG, who publicized the event with posters, inserts, and other free media. A Regional Solid Waste Grants Program grant provided $21,474 for primetime radio announcements, a street banner, and newspaper advertisements. Collections grew significantly after the paid media campaigns began. The last event publicized with grant-funded media netted 2,226 pounds (1.2 tons) of pharmaceuticals.



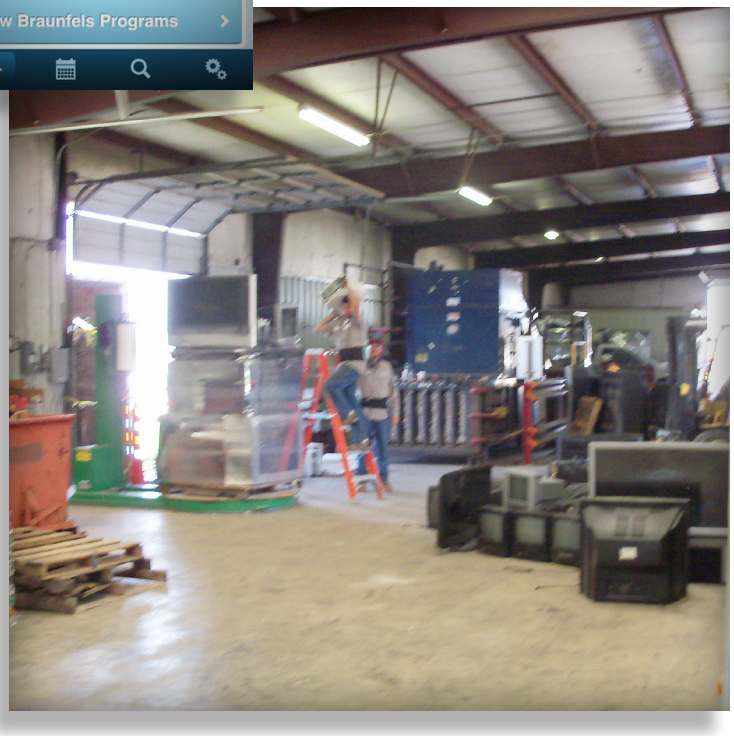
The cities of San Antonio and New Braunfels took the first steps towards outreach with new technologies by developing free smartphone applications that provide residents with information on their respective city's curbside recycling, drop-off sites for other materials such as electronics, collection schedules, and other special events like household hazardous waste collections. The use of apps for information is growing among all segments of the population, but it is almost exclusively relied on by people in the 25-39 age group. This age group is also starting new households, so it is important to provide them with an easy way to access waste diversion information.

Smartphones are the latest in a long line of electronic products used to disseminate information. Soon the next generation of electronics will replace current products. A 2013 grant allowed Comal County to begin a county-wide year-round electronics drop-off program. The County uses equipment purchased with grant funds ($14,114.82) to shrink wrap pallets of electronics to be picked up by a processor. In 20 months, Comal County has collected 77 tons of electronics that might otherwise have been sent to a landfill or illegally dumped.

A San Antonio Water System MedDrop Collection netted 1.2 tons of pharmaceuticals.



San Antonio and New Braunfels launched informational smartphone apps, and Comal County began a year-round used electronics drop-off program.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of New Braunfels
City of San Antonio
City of Seguin
City of Selma
City of Shavano Park
Comal County
Medina County
San Antonio River Authority
San Antonio Water System
Wilson County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	4
General Solid Waste Management	1
Household Hazardous Waste Management	3
Local Enforcement	1
Organic Waste Management	2
Recycling	2
TOTAL	**13**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	$216,562.25
General Solid Waste Management	$14,431.00
Household Hazardous Waste Management	$58,017.96
Local Enforcement	$1,861.86
Organic Waste Management	$43,045.00
Recycling	$28,678.90
TOTAL	**$362,596.97**

Approximately 12,950 people have been directly involved in the development and implementation of the Regional Recycling Program which has benefited over 103,000 residents located within the ATCOG region.

During the Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding period, the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) conducted a COG Managed Project with the goal of implementing a Regional Recycling Program targeting our youth in order to educate the citizens within the region. ATCOG formed partnerships with 12 Independent School Districts (ISD) comprised of 25 campuses located throughout our 9-county region in an effort to develop and enhance a recycling program. ATCOG utilized $69,700 in funding to purchase 375 recycling containers, 144 can compactors, 12 compost bins, 2,100 reusable tote bags, and 13 5-by-8-foot utility trailers for the participating ISDs. In addition, ATCOG provided each participant with a comprehensive list of all material recovery facilities (MRF) located within our region and a list of all available Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) publications relating to recycling for use in the classroom.

As a result, the participants have diverted 91 tons of recyclable materials from regional landfills including four tons of brush/yard waste, 13.5 tons of metal, 19.5 tons of plastic, 18 tons of cardboard, 6 tons of newspaper, and 30 tons of office paper. Additionally, the participants generated $23, 598 in revenue from the sale of the diverted materials.

The COG Managed Project participants include Sulphur Springs ISD, Pleasant Grove ISD, North Lamar ISD, Queen City ISD, Roxton ISD, Detroit ISD, Saltillo ISD, Avinger ISD, Linden-Kildare CISD, Mount Vernon ISD, Winfield ISD, and Red Lick ISD. Approximately 12,950 people have been directly involved in the development and implementation of the Regional Recycling Program which has benefited over 103,000 residents located within the ATCOG region.

The success of the Regional Recycling Program indicates that the citizens living within the ATCOG region are willing to participate in recycling activities, especially if their own children are directly involved in conducting the program. This activity is beneficial for our region, both environmentally and economically.

ATCOG worked with 12 ISDs across a 9-county area to develop and enhance a recycling program targeting youth in order to educate the citizens within the region.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

Ark-Tex Council of Governments

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Recycling	1
TOTAL	**1**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Recycling	$69,700.00
TOTAL	**$69,700.00**



Crushing aluminum cans.



ATCOG purchased 13 5-by-8-foot utility trailers for ISDs participating in the Regional Recycling Program.

The Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding has allowed the continuation of educational and outreach activities associated with Brazos Valley Earth Day, with as many as 12,000 people in attendance.

The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has afforded welcomed opportunities for the counties and municipalities in the Brazos Valley over the years. The reduction in these funds, however, has created challenges for expanding the regional solid waste management program in the Brazos Valley.

Solid Waste Management is a major issue for the environment. The problem is not restricted to any particular place. It consumes the entire environment which can lead to toxic pollutants that decrease the quality of life of its citizens therein. As a result, the cities and counties in the Brazos Valley region have continued to make the best of a challenging situation by focusing on targeted solid waste management issues that accommodate the needs and concerns of their individual communities. More and more communities are finding that utilizing regional solid waste management resources, like the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event, sponsored by the Brazos Valley Solid Waste Management Agency, Inc. (BVSWMA) is more cost effective. By joining forces, communities are able to continue participation in a project that may otherwise be too expensive for them to afford individually.

The Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding has allowed the continuation of educational and outreach activities associated with Brazos Valley Earth Day, an outreach and educational event that promotes awareness and appreciation for our environment. The combination of entertainment, food, crafts, informational booths, and activities appeal to people of all backgrounds and ages throughout the Brazos Valley. There were as many as 12,000 people in attendance during Fiscal Year 2012/2013.

Approximately, 47% of the Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding was used to promote source reduction and recycling in the Brazos Valley. Source reduction and recycling continues to be recognized as a key component of integrated waste management in the Brazos Valley. While the expansion of creative strategies has decreased across the region, largely due to the reduction in the availability of solid waste management funds, the percentage of funding spent under this category is larger than in other categories. The continued concentration of funding used for source reduction and recycling projects demonstrates that the residents of the Brazos Valley region value its importance because it conserves natural resources, reduces disposal costs and illegal dumping, and teaches conservation and prevention measures.



Grant program funding helps communities offer educational and outreach activities, such as Brazos Valley Earth Day.





Residents of the Brazos Valley region value the importance of source reduction and recycling because it conserves natural resources, reduces disposal costs and illegal dumping, and teaches conservation and prevention measures.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Burleson County
City of Brenham
City of Bryan
City of College Station
City of Navasota
Leon County
Madison County
Washington County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	2
General Solid Waste Management	7
Organic Waste Management	1
Recycling	2
TOTAL	**12**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	$19,900.00
General Solid Waste Management	$39,425.32
Organic Waste Management	$20,783.47
Recycling	$21,235.21
TOTAL	**$101,344.00**

During Fiscal Year 2012/2013, CAPCOG's SWAC directed 43% of available funding to help meet the region's HHW needs, including funding for the region's fifth permanent HHW facility in Lakeway.

As the average home can produce as much as 100 pounds of environmentally harmful products, promoting responsible Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) management is a primary goal of Capital Area Council of Governments' (CAPCOG) Solid Waste Program.

The program maintains the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan providing a structure for regional and local government solid waste planning. Encouraging HHW collection and diversion programs at the local and regional level is the plan's top goal. To address this, CAPCOG promotes: coordination of public and private partnerships to share the cost burden and provide services; development of sub-regional collection programs that encourage permanent reuse facilities; and cost efficient collection programs other than one-day events.

CAPCOG also manages pass-through grants provided by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, which may fund permanent HHW collection facilities or one-day community HHW collection events where permanent facilities are not available.

CAPCOG facilitates the plan goals and objectives through the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) and the CAPCOG Solid Waste Program. Participants help establish and promote priorities for solid waste planning to include HHW initiatives. During Fiscal Year 2012/2013, CAPCOG's SWAC directed 43% of available funding to help meet the region's HHW needs, including funding for the region's fifth permanent HHW facility in Lakeway.

Since the region has five permanent HHW facilities serving CAPCOG's three central counties, residents in our seven rural counties must still drive up to four hours and 180 miles round trip for a responsible means to dispose of HHW. To reduce the risk to public health and the environment, CAPCOG's delegate members try to schedule HHW collection events as often as the budget allows, which averages once every three years. These events are not possible without multiple entity financial support. The rural collection events easily draw more than 300 vehicles per event, with disposal costs ranging from $98 to $158 per vehicle.

The monies provided through this Regional Solid Waste Grants Program go a long way to help promote responsible solid waste management practices and to reduce illegal dumping which pollutes our roads, highways, and thoroughfares; public and private properties; and waterways and aquifers. More than 90% of rural HHW collection event participants identify they want some type of collection event at least two times a year or a permanent location within a reasonable distance to take their HHW. These funds are appreciated, and additional funding would help us continue and expand our programs to reduce waste, increase recycling and prevent pollution for years to come..

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is labeled "DANGER," "WARNING," "CAUTION," "TOXIC," "CORROSIVE," 'FLAMMABLE," or "POISON," and may be harmful to you, your family, and the environment when misused, stored or discarded improperly.



HHW consists of leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients. Products such as paints, thinners, varnishes, cleaners, oils, automotive fluids, pool chemicals, and bug and weed killers may be considered HHW.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Bastrop County
Blanco County
Burnet County
Caldwell County
Capital Area Council of Governments
City of Bastrop
City of Cedar Park
City of Cottonwood Shores
City of Granite Shoals
City of Johnson City
City of Lakeway
City of Lockhart
City of San Marcos
City of Smithville

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	2
Household Hazardous Waste Management	5
Local Enforcement	1
Organic Waste Management	2
Recycling	4
TOTAL	**14**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	$30,133.78
Household Hazardous Waste Management	$177,853.00
Local Enforcement	$96,819.14
Organic Waste Management	$64,439.00
Recycling	$47,500.59
TOTAL	**$416,745.51**

CTCOG promotes proper and safe disposal of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) by partnering with both large and small cities to host collection events and give residents the opportunity to get rid of chemicals, oil, paint waste, used tires, and/or electronics.

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) of the Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) focuses on Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collections. The primary program goal is to promote the proper and safe disposal of household hazardous waste in the seven-county region. CTCOG accomplishes this by partnering with both large and small cities to host HHW collection events and give residents, especially in rural areas, the opportunity to get rid of chemicals, oil, paint waste, used tires, and/or electronics.

During each event, the CTCOG team collected survey responses from attendees, directed traffic, and provided outreach materials to people. This survey data, aggregated over several years, has proved to be a valuable tool in predicting turnout, types of waste to expect whether in a rural or urban community, and whether advertising money is being spent effectively. For example, over the past two years, 81.6% of attendees came from the immediate area where the event was held. This showed the SWAC that placing newspaper ads in distant communities was not the most effective technique, and allowed more money to be spent on funding HHW events, as well as on education and outreach materials. These surveys are collected electronically on smartphones, setting an example by reducing printing costs and paper waste.

CTCOG attended Earth Day events in Belton and at Fort Hood to educate young people and interested residents about reducing waste, reusing or recycling common household items, and how the environment is affected by the trash generated in our communities. During the Fort Hood event, team members led groups of students aged 9-12 through an environmental-themed crossword puzzle. Each child received a reusable shopping bag stuffed with activity sheets and stickers from Take Care of Texas.

CTCOG staff members gave a presentation to the Central Texas Master Naturalist class on the importance of environmental awareness in regional planning. This resulted in a passionate discussion of how growth and development must be balanced by a concern for conserving existing natural resources. One key takeaway was the importance of outreach efforts in helping local citizens stay informed and aware of ongoing legislative changes as well as events (such as HHW collections) taking place in their community.





CTCOG attended Earth Day events in Belton and at Fort Hood.

GRANT RECIPIENT

Central Texas Council of Governments

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1
TOTAL	**1**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Household Hazardous Waste Management	$114,974.00
TOTAL	**$114,974.00**









At each Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection event, the CTCOG team collected survey responses from attendees, directed traffic, and provided outreach materials to people.

Communities in the CBCOG region collected 14,201 tires in one year through organizing clean-up efforts and providing drop-off sites for residents.

The Coastal Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG) used Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding for Fiscal Year 2012/2013 to conduct regional tire collections for all 12 counties in its service area - Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio counties.

The entire state of Texas has an enormous problem with tires that are illegally dumped. Many rural areas of Texas, which are often hotspots for dumped tires, are overwhelmed and cannot provide the manpower or finances needed to pick up the tires and properly dispose of them.

The CBCOG provided funds for the 12 counties and 32 COG member communities to use to pay for the disposal of their tires. In a one year period the region collected 14,201 tires through this project. Not all entities participated, but those that did were able to collect tires from numerous locations throughout their jurisdiction or provide central locations for their residents to drop off tires. This was the first time that the CBCOG conducted such a large-scale collection event.

To raise awareness of the problem, CBCOG hosted an illegal dumping photo contest. All of the tires were collected after the photos were submitted.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

Coastal Bend Council of Governments

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	2
General Solid Waste Management	1
Local Enforcement	1
TOTAL	**4**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	$39,531.72
General Solid Waste Management	$33,621.82
Local Enforcement	$25,023.49
TOTAL	**$98,177.03**





Tires are illegally stored or dumped throughout the CBCOG region, including a stash of tires found following a house fire (above) and tires dumped outside of the CBCOG offices.

The City of Mason has a goal to extend the life of the landfill by actively encouraging city and county residents to recycle. In 2013, the City recycled 180 tons of paper and 21 tons of plastic.

The City of Mason is constantly working to expand and improve its Recycling Center to offer an alternative for garbage going into the landfill. As many cities are aware of and deal with landfill issues, it is the City's goal to extend the life of its landfill. The City actively encourages city and county residents to recycle, making a substantial impact on the life of the landfill.

This however, would not be possible without funding received through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program managed by the Concho Valley Council of Governments (CVCOG). The City of Mason has been securing grant funds from CVCOG since its recycle center was built in 2002. Through the grant opportunities each year, the City has expanded and enhanced the facility and services offered to the public.

During Fiscal Year 2012/2013, the City secured $43,033.18 for improvements and equipment.

Used Caterpillar Forklift - The forklift enables employees to use the self dumping hopper bins for a more efficient way of emptying bins once customers have filled them with their recyclables. It is also a must when loading trailers with boxes and bales of recyclables to ship them to a plant that purchases comingle and cardboard loads.

Used Vertical Baler - The vertical baler is a secondary baler for baling plastics, aluminum, shredded paper, and sacks. This allows the City to use its primary baler strictly for cardboard.

Five New Self Dumping Hopper Bins - On location the City uses the self dumping hopper bins for customers to sort their recyclables. There are bins for cardboard, aluminum, #1 & #2 plastics, steel and other metals, books and magazines, newspaper, school paper, glass, paper sacks, and plastic sacks. This is a convenience for the customers as they can fill dumpsters from both sides with their recyclables and helps employees to be more efficient and less labor intensive, as well.

New 36-Foot Aluminum Yard Ramp - The aluminum yard ramp is vital in loading semi-trucks with comingle bales and boxes. Before the ramp, this task was dangerous, unsafe and extremely labor intensive. Loading a truck manually without the ramp took four to five employees several hours and risked injury and fatigue. With the yard ramp, two to three employees can use the forklift and easily load a truck in just a little over an hour.

Extension to Existing Awning - The extension to the existing awning has been an encouragement for customers to recycle even during inclement weather conditions. It keeps customers out of the direct sun and rain and keeps the recycle bins out of the weather.

The City of Mason strives to educate and encourage residents to recycle. Several classes from Mason Independent School District take field trips to the Recycling Center to learn about recycling and its benefits to the environment. City staff also make annual educational presentations about recycling to the Lions Club, Riata Service Organization, Hilda Community Club, and other civic organizations and groups.

Without the grant funding, the City of Mason would be limited on the recycling services offered to customers. The City intends to continue offering recycling opportunities to better serve community needs. In 2012, the City of Mason received a Certificate of Recognition for Recycling Excellence for recycling 153 tons of paper and 23 tons of plastic. The following year, the City received another Certificate of Recognition for recycling 180 tons of paper and 21 tons of plastic. These are exceptional numbers since Mason County has just over 4,000 residents and the City of Mason alone has a population of 2,114 residents.

The City of Mason greatly appreciates the grant funding it has received thus far and hopes that future funding will be available. City officials believe that the Recycle Center is an important service to offer to the community and also to the environment.



The aluminum yard ramp is vital in loading semi-trucks with our comingle bales and boxes.





The City of Mason purchased equipment for the recycling program, including a used forklift and vertical baler.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Big Lake
City of Brady
City of Bronte
City of Eden
City of Mason
City of Menard
City of Robert Lee
Menard County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	6
Recycling	2
TOTAL	**8**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	$66,652.25
Recycling	$50,774.83
TOTAL	**$117,337.08**





An awning extension and self dumping hopper bins make recycling more convenient for residents and employees.

Angelina Beautiful/Clean's Annual Household Hazardous Waste collection events have reused, recycled, and properly disposed of at least 100,000 pounds of hazardous materials.

Serving five unique "Keep Texas Beautiful Proud Communities" with education and event coordination, Angelina Beautiful/Clean (AB/C) is a non-profit organization serving Angelina County. It has earned several awards and recognitions for its community based tree plantings, recycling, and solid waste management projects.

The Lufkin-based agency has been repeatedly successful in qualifying for Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds through the program administered by the Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG). Those grant funds go to AB/C with their recycling programs, cleanup events, and numerous efforts at environmental education throughout Angelina County.

AB/C involves every grade level in at least one solid waste management activity or project through its educational program. Its programs have touched more than 18,000 students and 900 teachers in the county's public and private schools. This success has allowed it to grow its educational programs to sustain or increase the awareness of environmental issues.

Code enforcement and law officers in DETCOG's planning region are also provided with Litter and Illegal Dumping seminars through AB/C's partnership with the Texas Illegal Dumping Resource Center.

This year AB/C's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day had almost double the number of cars pulling through the drop-off zone than in previous years. When the event opened there was a line of waiting cars down the street. They were mostly loaded with home entertainment equipment and paint. More than 70 volunteers spent most of the day unloading televisions, mixing paint, and sorting electronics. The usable paint was mixed together, put in 5 gallon containers, and donated to Habitat for Humanity and Goodwill Industries. All usable electronics were donated to non-profit organizations for their use.

Many local industries and businesses pitch in to support the annual event. Volunteers from Lockheed Martin helped with everything from traffic control to mixing paint. CMC Recycling participated by recycling several tons of scrap metal and automobile batteries that were donated. The City of Lufkin Regional Recycling Center helped sort the used electronics and made sure anything recyclable was taken to the City of Lufkin Recycling Center.

The AB/C collection event recycled or properly disposed of over 100,000 pounds of household hazardous waste. The materials collected during the event are reused, recycled, or properly disposed of so they don't end up in a landfill or improperly released into the environment.



More than 70 volunteers spent the day unloading televisions, mixing paint, and sorting electronics at the Angelina Beautiful/Clean Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.



The AB/C collection event recycled or properly disposed of over 100,000 pounds of household hazardous waste, including 60,000 pounds of electronics.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Angelina County
City of Center
City of Crockett
City of San Augustine
City of Woodville
Jasper County
Newton County
San Jacinto County
Trinity County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	2
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1
Local Enforcement	1
Recycling	6
TOTAL	**10**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	$22,249.00
Household Hazardous Waste Management	$16,776.33
Local Enforcement	$7,661.60
Recycling	$93,290.47
TOTAL	**$139,977.40**

Henderson remains committed to increasing their recycling presence in the community, and their partnership with the ETCOG solid waste program allows them to do so.

The City of Henderson, a community of 13,000, has been involved in implementing a no-cost recycling program to better serve the community. In 2010, the City received Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding from East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) to construct a recycle facility which is operated daily.

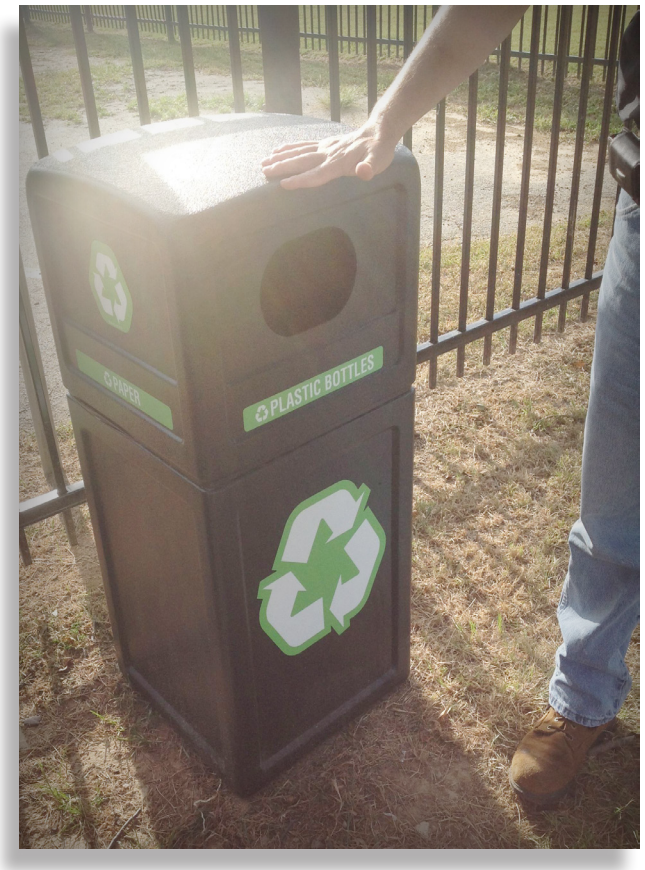
The City has worked to get the word out about the recycling program through frequent newspaper articles and regular reminders to the community through water bills. Organizations in the community, such as Keep Henderson Beautiful, also help promote the program by sponsoring and participating in clean-up events.

The local parks and the downtown areas of Henderson are locations the City believed could use designated areas to allow and encourage the public to recycle items, rather than dispose of them in trash containers. In 2013, the City received $3,000 in Solid Waste Management Grants Program funding from ETCOG to install recycle receptacles in the parks and in downtown areas to help reduce the amount of waste being collected and destined for their landfill. As a result, the same City staff who had been picking up trash in these locations began emptying the recycle receptacles and transporting the materials to the City's recycle center.

Media news articles, radio announcements, monthly water bill information and the City website were ways Henderson reached out to the community to inform them of this new recycling opportunity.

The program has been met with great success and tons of materials are being collected and thousands of dollars in landfill disposal fees are being avoided. Henderson remains committed to increasing their recycling presence in the community, and their partnership with the ETCOG solid waste program allows them to do so.

ETCOG installed recycle receptacles in parks and downtown areas to help reduce the amount of waste being collected there.





City park in Henderson where recycling receptacles have been placed and are currently being collected.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of East Mountain
City of East Tawakoni
City of Easton
City of Elkhart
City of Emory
City of Gladewater
City of Grand Saline
City of Hallsville
City of Henderson
City of Jacksonville
City of Kilgore
City of Longview
City of Quitman
City of Tyler
Gregg County
Henderson County
Rains County
Rusk County
Smith County
Upshur County
Upper Sabine Valley Solid Waste Management District
Van Zandt County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	4
General Solid Waste Management	20
Local Enforcement	7
Organic Waste Management	3
Recycling	6
TOTAL	**40**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	$17,917.55
General Solid Waste Management	$68,486.99
Local Enforcement	$79,750.11
Organic Waste Management	$67,050.23
Recycling	$22,330.06
TOTAL	**$255,534.94**

Demand for recycling has dramatically increased in the Golden Crescent region. Region-wide recycling campaigns in the area's school districts have proven that the youth of today are excited about being a part of this ever growing effort.

The City of Victoria's Environmental Services Department protects and restores natural resources, keeps the landscape clean, and maintains livability by offering services including education on solid waste, air quality, water, and recycling. Environmental Services has increased recycling awareness through affordable curbside recycling services, public outreach, and events, such as an annual Earth Day Expo and a Texas Recycles Day scavenger hunt.

Recycling awareness, citizen involvement, and citizen demand has increased dramatically in Victoria over the past few years, and Environmental Services has met this rising demand by implementing environmental programs in the community, including:

- Single stream curbside recycling;
- At-Your-Door Household Hazardous Waste and Used Electronics collection;
- Landfill gas reclamation;
- Composting of brush, yard waste, and sludge; and
- Additional school recycling programs with custom curriculum.

Victoria Kids Recycle (VKR) began in 2006 as a paper recycling program on just three campuses. Since then it has become a single stream recycling program and has expanded to 82 campuses in the Victoria district. The success of VKR gained recognition from the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC).

As a result, GCRPC asked the City of Victoria to continue their partnership with them to expand their program to the seven counties in the GCRPC region. Thus, Golden Crescent Recycling (GCR) was formed as a network of school recycling programs tailored to fit the needs of each participating community. Since 2012, Environmental Services has implemented recycling programs in schools in Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, and Victoria counties.

VKR and GCR provided all the amenities needed to recycle, including recycling bins for every classroom, recycling trailers, curriculum, training, promotional items, and informational materials, and helped open recycling drop-off centers.

When Environmental Services adds a new community to GCR, they hold a meeting between the school, the city, the county, and the local recycling center to ensure that the entire community's recycling goals are the same.

To date, GCRPC has administered $100,230 in regional solid waste grant funds for GCR, and the City of Victoria has provided $45,000 in in-kind funds and services. GCRPC has also begun prioritizing grant funds distributed to other entities based on the needs of GCR. For example, if a rural recycling center needs a baler to accept recyclables from a campus, the baler will get prioritized funding.



Victoria Kids Recycle received $25K in a National Recycling Competition.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Goliad

City of Hallettsvilles

City of Moulton

City of Nixon

Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	2
Organic Waste Management	1
Recycling	3
TOTAL	**6**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	$42,216.55
Organic Waste Management	$89,037.53
Recycling	$63,929.00
TOTAL	**$195,183.08**

Victoria schools have recycled 1,284 tons of recyclables since 2006. GCR doubled the number of students with access to recycling every day and expects to see about 800 tons of recyclables generated by area schools in the 2014/2015 school year.

HOTCOG Region collects 33.5 tons of tires and continues educating its citizens on Illegal Dumping and Code Enforcement.

Of all the things illegally dumped by Texans, scrap tires are probably the most difficult for communities to handle. Texans generated around 25 million scrap tires in 2013, with 349,273 of those in the Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTGOG) region. This number will increase as the population increases. To address the problem, HOTCOG held several events in each of its six counties and collected 33.5 tons of scrap and illegally dumped tires.

While most residents in the HOTCOG region continue to manage their waste in an environmentally-responsible manner, illegal dumping continues across the region. There are various reasons for illegal dumping ranging from lack of convenient waste disposal locations in many rural areas to a lack of understanding that illegal dumping poses an environmental and safety threat to neighbors.

HOTCOG additionally provided space for Dr. John Ockels, Director of the Texas Illegal Dumping Resource Center, to share the various ways that local governments can respond to and control illegal dumping in their jurisdictions. Classes were held in each of HOTCOG's six-counties. These sessions focused on ways to control illegal dumping. Various policy and officer safety issues involved in enforcing illegal dumping were also addressed.

HOTCOG held several events in each of its six counties and collected 33.5 tons of scrap and illegally dumped tires.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	1
TOTAL	**1**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	$110,763.50
TOTAL	**$110,763.50**



While most residents in the HOTCOG region continue to manage their waste in an environmentally-responsible manner, illegal dumping continues across the region.

"Local enforcement is key to the success of any illegal dumping reduction program."

- Walker County Director of Planning, Andrew Isbell

Walker County has a population of 70,000 people and is growing. Its proximity to urban areas and thousands of acres of national forest makes it seem like an ideal place for illegal dumping. So, in 1996, Walker County hired its first Environmental Enforcement Officer to investigate solid waste complaints. Thanks in part to Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding grants administered by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), the Environmental Enforcement Program has expanded to two full-time investigators who investigate any crime that has an environmental component, including but not limited to illegal dumping, improper storage or disposal of solid waste, illicit discharge into waterways, and burning.

In Fiscal Year 2012/2013, Walker County received $111,112 in Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding and investigated 566 illegal dump sites (319 of which have been cleaned up), issued 58 misdemeanor citations, identified 365 violators, and removed 172,189 pounds of materials from the sites. Every year, the Environmental Enforcement Investigators receive more than 900 complaints from concerned residents.

Local enforcement is key to the success of any illegal dumping reduction program. The laws that Walker County are enforcing have been in effect for many years; however, state agencies lacked the manpower to enforce laws on a local level.

For example, over the course of several years one commercial hauler amassed a 5-acre pile of construction debris on property in a low-income neighborhood. Neighbors complained about the dumping, but their complaints went unanswered until the Environmental Enforcement Program was established. Working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Environmental Crimes Unit and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Criminal Enforcement, Walker County has issued 158 felony charges against the hauler. To date, the hauler has removed more than 1 million pounds of illegally dumped materials from the county.

The Walker County Program also works to educate residents about common dumping activities that are against the law.

"We are working to keep our community clean and safe," said Andrew Isbell, Walker County Planning Director. "At the end of the day, our program is here to serve our community."





In Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Walker County removed 172,189 pounds of debris from illegal dump sites.



Walker County is home to thousands of acres of national forest and two large lakes. Residents in the county are proud of their natural assets and welcome the Environmental Enforcement Program's efforts to reduce illegal dumping activities.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Austin County
City of Cleveland
City of Dickinson
City of Fulshear
City of La Porte
City of Missouri City
City of Palacios
City of Pearland
City of Sugar Land
Colorado County
Fort Bend County
Harris County
Houston ISD
Katy ISD
Walker County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	1
General Solid Waste Management	6
Household Hazardous Waste Management	4
Local Enforcement	3
Recycling	6
TOTAL	**20**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	$26,724.00
General Solid Waste Management	$104,064.80
Household Hazardous Waste Management	$262,755.73
Local Enforcement	$295,569.02
Recycling	$586,784.10
TOTAL	**$1,239,897.65**

The City of Pharr's Recycling Program now includes five full-time employees, more than 200 bins for curbside recycling, a portable trailer, a collection warehouse, and extensive environmental education outreach.

During the past years the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) has funded many projects in the tri-county area. The City of Pharr's Recycling Program is an outstanding project which received funding through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program.

The Public Works Department opened the recycling center to the public in September 2009. The Center began with only three full-time employees; a small, portable trailer for staff; five 40-yard dumpster bins for recycling; and six 95-gallon bins for residential collection.

Today, the program has expanded to five full-time employees housed in new offices and an expanded warehouse. The Public Works Department has also constructed an E-shed for electronics storage, as well as a large citizen collection warehouse for 24-hour recycling.

The City of Pharr's Recycling Program now offers recycling at over 70 new locations with more than 200 new recycle bins. Thanks to Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds, the City of Pharr was also able to implement extensive environmental education outreach, including a portable recycling trailer for special events and a new robot mascot.

New equipment purchased for the City of Pharr's Recycling Program includes a baler for cardboard and paper compaction, trailers for hauling, a 250 Ford truck equipped with a Tommy Lift for recycling services collection, and a forklift. 95% percent of the equipment has been established with the assistance of state funding, including the LRGVDC.



Environmental education tools for the City of Pharr include a portable trailer for special events and a robot mascot.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

Cameron County
City of Lyford
City of McAllen
City of Mercedes
City of Mission
City of Pharr

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	1
Local Enforcement	1
Organic Waste Management	1
Recycling	3
TOTAL	**6**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	$10,000.00
Local Enforcement	$25,819.11
Organic Waste Management	$29,944.40
Recycling	$113,506.81
TOTAL	**$179,270.32**

Thanks to a Regional Solid Waste Grant, the City of Pharr was able to build a new E-shed for electronics storage and purchase new trailers for recycling hauling.

Response to the Del Rio Recycling Program has been so great that the City has outgrown its current drop-off center and is in the process of constructing a new facility. This highlights just one way the City is committed to making recycling services available for all residents.

Del Rio is the county seat of Val Verde County. As of 2012, the City had a population of 35,543. Del Rio is connected with Ciudad Acuña via the Lake Amistad Dam International Crossing and Del Río – Ciudad Acuña International Bridge. Del Rio is also home to Laughlin Air Force Base.

Del Rio's recycling program has had steady, continuous growth since it began in 2008. Due to tremendous progress, the City has outgrown its current voluntary drop-off center and is in the process of constructing a new facility. Through public education and awareness, the citizens of Del Rio are continuously increasing their recycling efforts. This past April, the City started residential curbside pickup of recyclable materials. The recycle center has not been negatively affected by the new program and has actually seen an increased number of customers and materials due to increased public information about recycling.

In April of 2012 the City of Del Rio applied for a Regional Solid Waste Grants Program grant for $8,635 to purchase a flatbed trailer. The trailer was used for the expansion of the recycling program to help eliminate electronics from entering the landfill. The electronics are loaded onto the flatbed trailer and brought to the recycling center to be sent to an electronics recycler.

This new service benefits not only the residents of Del Rio, but also the entire Middle Rio Grande Development Council region. Del Rio has opened the program to the region at no cost as long as they can get the electronics to the Del Rio Recycling Center.

The Recycling Center strives to provide the public education and resources to promote recycling in their community by:

- Distributing recycling information at community events
- Issuing media releases and recycling tips
- Broadcasting on the municipal television channel 34
- Developing an educational program for local school children

The City also hosts many events throughout the year to promote and pick up recycling, for example:

- Curbside Single Stream Recycling
- Earth Day Del Rio
- Green City Del Rio
- Recycle Trailer Schedule

The Recycle Trailer Schedule consists of the City placing the trailer in different locations, making recycling more accessible for the residents.



Due to residents' response, the Del Rio Recycling Collection Center has outgrown its capacity. The City is currently building a new facility.

Recycling is the easiest and most efficient way to keep Del Rio clean. The City wants to include every member of the community in its recycling efforts, and introduced an award-winning environmental education program to the San Felipe Consolidated Independent School District using 'Toby Globy,' the earth loving mascot, to teach simple environmental awareness to students.



Education and public awareness activities have led to increased citizen participation in Del Rio's recycling efforts.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Asherton
City of Crystal City
City of Del Rio
City of Eagle Pass
City of Encinal
City of Uvalde
Dimmit County
Kinney County
Real County
Uvalde County
Zavala County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	1
General Solid Waste Management	5
Local Enforcement	3
Recycling	2
TOTAL	**11**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	$7,500.00
General Solid Waste Management	$48,059.00
Local Enforcement	$40,098.47
Recycling	$19,065.00
TOTAL	**$114,722.47**

Communities in the NORTEX region work to reduce illegal dumping by setting up drop-off centers for materials that previously would have landed in dump sites and bar-ditches along county roads.

During the past few years, the 11-county Nortex Regional Planning Commission (NORTEX) has used Regional Solid Waste Grant Program funds to help reduce illegal dumping and promote source reduction and recycling activities.

The NORTEX region has only two Type I landfills, both in Wichita County, the most populated county in the region (131,664 residents). Outlying areas must transfer their Municipal Solid Waste to these landfills. Wichita County is also home to most of the metal and cardboard recycling entities in the region. To better serve the population in the small outlying cities, these communities have started setting up citizens' 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 unofficial dump sites or in bar-ditches along county roads.

The use and creation of citizens' collection stations continue to grow in the NORTEX Region as more and more communities find the benefits of these centers. They provide a great way to promote recycling and encourage citizens to participate in clean-ups in their areas.

In Fiscal Year 2012/2013, the cities used Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds to take advantage of source reduction and recycling activities as well as the cleanup of abandoned property. Set up or enhancement of citizens' collection stations made up 70% of the implementation project budget, with the remaining 30% of the budget dedicated to cleaning up illegal dump sites.

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 during the last grant cycle.





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





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

GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Archer City
City of Bryson
City of Cashion
City of Chillicothe
City of Electra
City of Newcastle
City of Nocona
City of Semour
City of Vernon

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	4
Recycling	5
TOTAL	**9**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	$71,053.90
Recycling	$88,099.65
TOTAL	**$159,153.55**

With twice-monthly collections, the City of Keller's Mulch Madness program's popularity skyrocketed, and more than 9,200 cubic yards of material was collected in 2012 (a commercial value of about $276,000).

The City of Keller's "green" efforts are getting a boost this year thanks to a $100,000 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and administered by North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The City of Keller used the funding to purchase a rubber tire loader, which helps staff keep up with the incredible success of Mulch Madness, the city-wide residential mulching and composting program.

The initial goal of Mulch Madness was to create approximately 1,600 cubic yards of compost material, which would allow for the recovery of more than $48,000 (based on $30 per cubic yard). With twice-monthly collections, the program's popularity skyrocketed, and more than 9,200 cubic yards of material was collected in 2012 (a commercial value of about $276,000).

"The volume of materials produced through the Mulch Madness program is directly correlated with the type of equipment used, and the program's success has resulted in the need for additional equipment to safely move heavy loads of leaf and yard recycling material," said Management Assistant Jonathan Phillips, who oversees the city's special projects. "The addition of a rubber tire loader to move materials from the collection site to the composting and mulching areas greatly increased efficiency and production."

The City of Keller's mulching and composting program has diverted useful, organic material away from local landfills and, instead, has processed it to support the landscaping of public land. Mulch and humus soil created by this program are used to build landscape beds, enrich soil in the city's parks system, and top dress turf areas.

The City of Keller's Mulch Madness program also receives assistance from the use of an EZ-Screen Compost Screener and an EZ-Screen Middle Product Conveyor, which were purchased with Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds in Fiscal Year 2010/2011.





The City of Keller's mulching and composting program has diverted useful, organic materials away from landfills.



The City of Keller used Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding to purchase a rubber tire loader to help Mulch Madness, the citywide residential mulching and composting program.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Allen
City of Cedar Hill
City of Cleburne
City of Dallas
City of Denton
City of Euless
City of Forest Hill
City of Fort Worth
City of Garland
City of Haltom City
City of Keller
City of Murphy
City of Plano
City of Springtown
City of Wylie
Collin County
Hood County
Kaufman County
Terrell ISD
Town of Flower Mound
Town of Little Elm

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	6
General Solid Waste Management	3
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1
Local Enforcement	1
Organic Waste Management	1
Recycling	11
TOTAL	**23**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	$230,189.73
General Solid Waste Management	$113,351.75
Household Hazardous Waste Management	$125,000.00
Local Enforcement	$39,479.00
Organic Waste Management	$99,700.00
Recycling	$677,057.29
TOTAL	**$1,284,777.77**

The rural communities across the vast open lands of the Panhandle are able to come together in an effort to clean up their communities and simultaneously divert waste from area landfills.

The Panhandle Environmental Partnership (PEP) continues to help the rural communities of the Texas Panhandle move their solid waste resources to recycling and waste diversion programs. PEP, as the names suggests, is true teamwork at its best. The rural communities across the vast open lands of the Panhandle are able to come together in an effort to clean up their communities and simultaneously divert waste from area landfills.

During Fiscal Year 2012/2013, PEP, along with local resources and grant program funds, diverted 5.96 million pounds of waste from landfills. PEP was able to return $301,737 from the sale of the waste back to the 28 PEP members to help cover the operating costs of their recycling programs. Through the teamwork PEP provides each of the members, the Panhandle Region as a whole was able to save $95,777 in landfill costs.

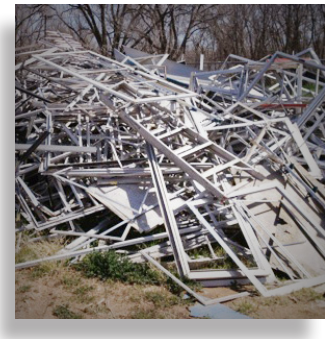
Every year in November PEP organizes an electronics recycling program. For Fiscal Year 2012/2013, the Panhandle area was able to collect and recycle 117,698 pounds of electronics that would have otherwise filled up a landfill. In January 2013, PEP added a recycling program for batteries and cell phones through a partnership with Call2Recycle. The program is getting into the local school districts where they are already gathering up discarded batteries and cell phones.

The City of Clarendon is also working to help divert waste from landfills. Through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, the City of Clarendon was able to enhance their cardboard recycling efforts by adding cardboard only dumpsters to be placed around the city and purchasing a baler for their recycling center. The City of Clarendon was able to successfully divert 350,140 pounds of cardboard from the landfill and send it to the recycling market.

The City of Clarendon, along with the Clarendon Independent School District (ISD) hosted an educational field trip for the local elementary school children to illustrate how the City's Recycling Center processes the cardboard then prepares the bales for shipping to the recycling markets. The grant to Clarendon ISD helped make this possible by first introducing the students to recycling in their classrooms, educating them on ways to divert waste and then showing them the product at the Recycling Center as they process it for shipping.

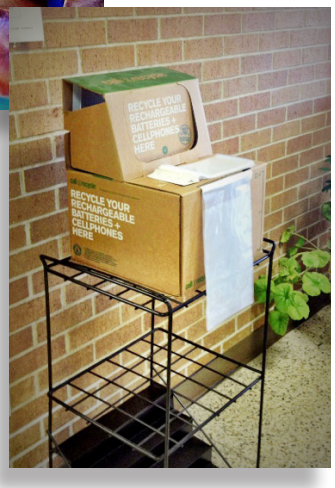
The City of Clarendon also gathers up scrap metal then has it hauled off for recycling. The City of Clarendon is a great example of how a small rural community with a population of 2,026 can overcome the long drive to markets and still get waste into the proper channels for repurposing.





The City of Clarendon was able to successfully divert 350,140 pounds of cardboard from the landfill. The small rural community also collects scrap metal for recycling.





Through a partnership with Call2Recycle, PEP placed recycling receptacles for discarded batteries and cell phones in local school districts. PEP also organized a field trip for Clarendon ISD students to see how the City's Recycling Center processes cardboard for shipping to recycling markets.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Amarillo ISD
Booker ISD
City of Borger
City of Childress
City of Clarendon
City of Dalhart
City of Darrouzett
City of Dimmitt
City of Friona
City of Gruver
City of Memphis
City of Panhandle
City of Perryton
City of Skellytown
City of Spearman
City of Sunray
City of Textline
City of Tulia
City of Wheeler
Clarendon ISD
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	1
General Solid Waste Management	2
Organic Waste Management	6
Recycling	18
Used Oil Management	1
TOTAL	**28**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	$1,040.00
General Solid Waste Management	$16,122.50
Organic Waste Management	$63,229.20
Recycling	$148,581.79
Used Oil Management	$8,932.00
TOTAL	**$237,905.49**

As a result of the actions taken by the Ector County Environmental Enforcement Office, 499 chronic dump sites have been investigated, 422 violators have been identified, and $211,523 has been collected in fines.

In the Permian Basin region, addressing the growing problem of illegal dumping continues to be a priority for the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission's (PBRPC) Solid Waste program. As the area's oil boom continues to grow, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee has maintained a strong commitment to partner with local initiatives to address the issue. An example is Ector County, one of the state's leaders in oil production and also the most populated area in the Permian Basin. With its rapid population growth due to the continuous energy boom, there is an overwhelming concern over public health issues related to increased illegal dumping activity, much of which occurs in unincorporated areas within the county.

In 2008, Ector County obtained seed money from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the PBRPC to establish an Environmental Enforcement Office within the County Health Department. The County hired a Certified Peace Officer for Environmental Enforcement and began prosecuting offenders who were caught illegally dumping. The department was recently moved to the County Attorney's office where they work closely together to prosecute offenders.

The County has received $60,000 in Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds since Fiscal Year 2008 and has provided approximately $50,000 to $60,000 annually as in-kind services and cash match for the grants.

As a result of the actions taken by the Environmental Enforcement Office, 499 chronic dump sites have been investigated, 422 violators have been identified, and $211,523 has been collected in fines all leading to 1,755,800 pounds of waste being removed from illegal dump sites.

In addition, the Ector County Environmental Enforcement Office has made valuable contributions to the neighboring jurisdictions throughout the region, often assisting them in their operations to investigate and cite offenders, and in providing the training and planning for establishing procedures for environmental enforcement where needed.





The Ector County Environmental Enforcement Office works closely with the County Attorney's office to prosecute illegal dumping violators.





As a result of the Environmental Enforcement Office, more than one million pounds of trash has been cleaned up since 2008.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Big Spring
City of Kermit
City of McCamey
City of Midland
City of Monahans
City of Odessa
Ector County
Ward County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	2
General Solid Waste Management	1
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1
Local Enforcement	2
Organic Waste Management	2
Recycling	1
TOTAL	**9**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	$17,849.09
General Solid Waste Management	$7,092.50
Household Hazardous Waste Management	$13,500.00
Local Enforcement	$16,500.00
Organic Waste Management	$19,300.00
Recycling	$3,200.00
TOTAL	**$77,441.59**

Through both the clean-up events and amnesty days, communities and organizations collected a total of 40,172 passenger tires, 546 truck tires, and 72 OTR tires from the Rio Grande region.

Illegally dumped tires continue to be a top concern for cities, counties, and water districts in the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG) region. Made up of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis and Presidio counties, the Rio Grande region is expansive, remote and sparsely populated. These characteristics make the area appealing to people wanting to illegally dump tires and other materials. The border region also presents the unique challenge of accumulating illegally dumped tires from not only Texas, but from Mexico as well. "We don't know if the tires come from our region or from Mexico," said Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG Executive Director. "But we take all of them."

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) reports more than 24 million tires are discarded across the state each year. These tires can be breeding grounds for disease-carrying pests, such as mosquitoes, snakes, and rodents. Unfortunately, cities and counties in the Rio Grande region often find it challenging to enforce illegal dumping ordinances.

In Fiscal Year 2012/2013, RGCOG used $133,943 in Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds to remove scrap tires. Communities and organizations across the region organized various volunteer neighborhood clean-up days to collect trash and tires. Some communities also combined their resources to offer tire amnesty days for extended areas within their counties. During the amnesty days, held once or twice a year, residents drive through a staff-managed area to drop off scrap tires for recycling. The tires from the clean-up events and amnesty days are shredded at one of two nearby facilities, and the rubber is sold to various plants in Mexico to be used for energy.

Through both the clean-up events and amnesty days, communities and organizations collected a total of 40,172 passenger tires, 546 truck tires, and 72 OTR tires from the region.

"Without the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds, the clean-up events and amnesty days would have to be held on a more limited basis or not at all," said Gutierrez.



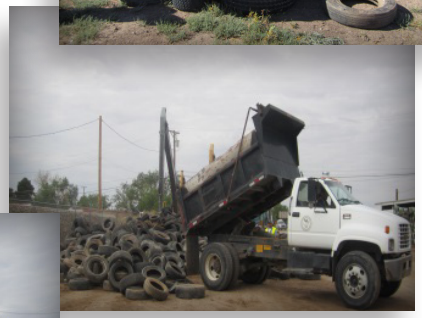
More than 24 million tires are discarded across the state each year.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Rio Grande Council of Governments









With the use of grant funding, the communities and organizations held illegal dumping clean-up and amnesty drop-off programs.

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	1
TOTAL	**1**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	$174,953.00
TOTAL	**$174,953.00**

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 and Scrap Tire Collection events in southeast Texas during Fiscal Year 2012/2013.

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

More than 939 southeast Texas residents participated in the collection events. The SETRPC collected more than 172,166 pounds of hazardous waste and more than 1,690 gallons of used oil during the events. 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. 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 4,349 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 939 southeast Texas residents participated in the SETRPC Hazardous Waste and Scrap Tire Collection events.

GRANT RECIPIENT

South East Texas Regional Planning Commisison

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	1
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1
TOTAL	**2**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	$37,120.98
Household Hazardous Waste Management	$210,768.36
TOTAL	**$247,889.34**



During collection events, more than 4,349 scrap tires were collected, including passenger, truck, and large machine tires.

The reduction in waste presented a reasonable buffer against rising disposal costs for residents, as well as produced revenue for the city to support its budget and services.

Lubbock, the largest city in the South Plains Region and home of the South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG), has constantly tried to expand their recycling efforts to accommodate the large population of 229,573 residents within its city limits.

In Fiscal Year 2012/2013, with the help from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by SPAG, the City of Lubbock was able to expand its Recycling and Citizen Convenience Drop-Off stations from two to four locations to better serve residents.

The City of Lubbock is now able to accommodate residents who wish to conveniently drop off bulky items and accepts recycling commodities, such as office paper, cardboard, paperboard, newspaper, plastics, tin, aluminum, and white goods (used appliances). Do-it-yourselfers in Lubbock will find the drop-off stations also accept and recycle used oil, used antifreeze, and used oil filters.

The City of Lubbock purchased the following pieces of equipment for the two new drop-off locations:

1. Four (4) 30 cubic yard heavy duty roll-off containers
2. Two (2) containment spill pans
3. Four (4) used oil filter igloo spill pans
4. Two (2) additional used oil filter receptacles and spill pans

This project provided service to all Lubbock residents and gave environmentally conscious citizens a medium by which they can conveniently recycle. The reduction in waste also presented a reasonable buffer against rising disposal costs for residents, as well as produced revenue for the city to support its budget and services.



The City of Lubbock was able to expand its Recycling and Citizen Convenience Drop-Off stations from two to four locations to better serve residents.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Levelland
City of Lubbock
City of Olton
Lamb County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	1
Recycling	3
TOTAL	**4**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	$11,523.40
Recycling	$108,476.60
TOTAL	**$120,000.00**



The City of Lubbock is now able to accommodate residents who wish to conveniently drop off bulky items and accepts recycling commodities.

Since beginning the oil recycling program, the City of Laredo has collected an average of 51,000 gallons of used oil per year that could have ended up in any of the creeks, lakes, or the City's only source of potable water, the Rio Grande.

The City of Laredo has been aggressively promoting the recycling of automotive lubricants and used oil products, through its used oil recycling program. Currently, the City operates nine used oil recycling drop-off centers that allow for easy and convenient disposal of oil and oil based materials for recycling. Since beginning the oil recycling program, the City has collected an average of 51,000 gallons of used oil per year. Without the availability of these containers, part of this collected used oil could have ended up in any of the creeks, lakes, or the City's only source of potable water, the Rio Grande.

Using Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds through the program administered by the South Texas Development Council (STDC), the City of Laredo's Environmental Services Department purchased and distributed 15-quart oil drip collection pans. These used oil recycling containers were distributed to the general public in the City of Laredo.

The City also purchased a 400 gallon stationary used oil collecting tank to replace a deteriorating tank used by the public for the disposal of their collected used oil. By the continuous distribution of these used oil recycling containers to the citizens of Laredo, the City plans to increase awareness of the importance of proper used oil recycling and how it prevents or minimizes water pollution.

To enhance awareness and participation, the City also aired paid advertisements on popular local radio stations, aired public service announcements on television, and posted 10 billboards around the area. This advertising helped the Environmental Services Department educate and create awareness among a diverse city population and obtain feedback from the audience.

This program serves the entire population of Laredo and the surrounding areas in Webb County (estimated population of about 244,000 people). In addition to the distribution of the used oil recycling containers and materials, citizens are educated through newspaper ads, as well as through special educational seminars and/or interviews. Through local City of Laredo events, such as a Household Hazardous Waste Collection event, the City has distributed approximately 3,500 used oil recycling containers.



The City of Laredo increased awareness of the importance of recycling used oil during local activities, including the Household Hazardous Waste Collection event.



The City of Laredo distributed approximately 3,500 15-quart used oil recycling containers to residents.



The City of Laredo purchased a 400 gallon stationary used oil collecting tank.

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
Recycling	1
Used Oil Management	1
TOTAL	**4**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	$35,000.00
General Solid Waste Management	$38,160.00
Recycling	$27,552.00
Used Oil Management	$40,000.00
TOTAL	**$140,712.00**

Reduced funding makes it challenging to have the HHW event in each county, but the Texoma Council of Governments is dedicated to continuing these biennial events, at the same level of service currently provided.

Disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW), while difficult in many parts of the State, is even more difficult in more rural areas such as the tri-county region covered by the Texoma Council of Governments. One of the more popular programs funded by Regional Solid Waste Grants Program dollars is the biennial Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program, with sites in each of the three counties, Cooke, Grayson and Fannin. Information from the Texas State Data Center indicates an estimated population of 196,267 for the three county region.

The 2013 Household Hazardous Waste Collection was held on Saturday, April 20, 2013, with sites at the Cooke County Justice Center, Grayson College, and the Fannin County Precinct 4 Warehouse. This hazardous waste collection affords residents of the three counties an opportunity to dispose of hazardous material such as paint, insecticides, tires, and electronics.

Results from the 2013 Household Hazardous Waste Collection event included 41.89 tons of hazardous materials, 17.71 tons of used electronics, 829 tires, and 707 car loads of waste that did not end up in landfills or creeks and streams of the Texoma region.

Reduced funding makes it challenging to have the HHW event in each county, but the Texoma Council of Governments is dedicated to continuing these biennial events, at the same level of service currently provided.

During Fiscal Year 2008, a Fannin County Commissioner applied for $33,400 of Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding to build a recycling facility that would serve all citizens in the county.

The scope of the project involved recycling white paper and cardboard. Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds were used to build a 30-by-60-foot metal building equipped with a three-phase compactor capable of producing 60-by-48-by-30-inch bales of compacted material. The building has adequate capacity to store bales until a truck load of material (36 bales) can be shipped. Each bale will weigh approximately 800 to 1,000 pounds depending upon compaction density.

The recycling facility has recently begun accepting white paper from the Buster Cole Unit, a State jail facility in Fannin County, and Bonham Independent School District (ISD). The jail transfers 1,600 pounds of white paper to the recycling center each month in addition to the 1,300 pounds per month that comes from the Bonham ISD.



As a result of the 2013 Household Hazardous Waste Collection event, 59.5 tons of material and 829 tires didn't end up in landfills or creeks and streams in the Texoma region.



During the 2013 Household Hazardous Waste Collection event 707 car loads of waste was dropped off.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Texoma Council of Governments

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1
TOTAL	**1**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Household Hazardous Waste Management	$87,139.12
TOTAL	**$87,139.12**

The WCTCOG staff and advisory council members have worked to provide a continuum of local, state, and federal resources to address environmental concerns and public safety as well as provide opportunity for growth.

West Central Texas is a vast region of 18,000 square miles, 150% the size of Maryland and half the size of Indiana. Residents are tied strongly to the land and depend upon it for their living. In recent years, the environmental impact of waste has become a concern, and residents and elected officials have committed to land restoration, reduction of solid waste streams, and conservation of precious water resources. Economic development and environmental conservation are now viewed as necessary rather than mutually exclusive. The West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG) staff and advisory council members have worked to provide a continuum of local, state, and federal resources to address environmental concerns and public safety as well as provide opportunity for growth.

The West Central Texas Environmental Partnership (WCTEP), developed in 2008, provides technical assistance and training to help communities reduce the solid waste stream and provide training to enhance operator skills in the development, operation, and maintenance of recycling facilities. WCTEP also works to find solutions to transportation issues, mainly transporting recyclables to market as part of the the COG Managed Project.

A second element of the COG Managed Project was tire disposal, where 59% of Regional Solid Waste Grant Program funds were spent assisting communities cleaning up used tires dumped into county bar-ditches, city alleyways, and streets. The grant reimbursement process was on a first-come, first-served basis, and the following communities participated:

- City of Snyder
- City of Stamford
- City of Miles
- City of Sweetwater
- City of Merkel
- Eastland County
- Stephens County
- City of Comanche
- City of Brownwood
- City of Eastland

In Fiscal Year 2012/2013, 10% of the Regional Solid Waste Grant Program funds were utilized to assist rural communities dealing with condemned and dilapidated structures or illegal dumping. Many residential structures fall into disrepair because landowners are elderly or have moved out of the rural community. The remaining 31% of grant funds were utilized for source reduction and recycling.

In recent years, the environmental impact of waste has become a concern, and residents and elected officials have committed to land restoration, reduction of solid waste streams, and conservation of precious water resources.



In the WCTCOG area, 31% of grant funds were utilized for source reduction and recycling.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Snyder

City of Winters

West Central Texas Council of Governments

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	1
Recycling	2
TOTAL	**3**

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	$6,500.00
Recycling	$60,535.00
TOTAL	**$67,035.00**



Regional Solid Waste Grant Program funds were spent assisting communities cleaning up used tires dumped into county bar-ditches and in city alleyways, and streets.

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program Funding Report
Fiscal Year 2012/2013

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS