

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program

Funding Report for Fiscal Years 2018/2019



**IMPACTS
&
RESULTS**
IN YOUR REGION

FOREWORD

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

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

A compilation of data received from the 24 COGs through the Waste Permits Division of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is included, summarizing projects funded by each of the planning regions during the State Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019.

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



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THE GRANT PROGRAM

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

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

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

WHY THE PROGRAM IS IMPORTANT

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

WHY USE COGS TO OVERSEE GRANTS

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

- **LOCAL FAMILIARITY**
Grant proposals are evaluated by public and private experts from each region who are familiar with the region's needs and issues.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY**
COGs administer a wide range of grants, from \$377.97 to \$766,835.11 in Fiscal Years 2018/2019, 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 underway in their areas, thus decreasing the chance for duplication of efforts.



Illegal dumping is a problem throughout Texas. Materials are illegally dumped in vacant lots, along isolated roads, behind culverts, in drainage ditches and other waterways, and in the bays along the Texas coast. Items dumped can range from construction and demolition materials and other bulky items to regular

household trash. These items can lead to a multitude of issues. They can be physically dangerous if children play nearby, cause flooding problems if they are dumped in drainage channels or waterways, contaminate surface and groundwater if the materials are hazardous, become breeding grounds for rodents and mosquitos, decrease property values in the surrounding area, and act as a magnet for additional illegal dumping and other crimes.

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

Environmental Enforcement Officers collected almost \$1.7 million in fines.

During Fiscal Years 2018/2019, the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funded 25 local enforcement grants at almost \$489,860. Through these grants, law enforcement investigated over 5,000 illegal dumping sites, identified 1,684 violators, and caused the removal of more than 21.6 million pounds of waste.

Illegally dumped tires are of particular concern in Texas. To combat this, many grantees across the state include tire collection and recycling as a part of their grant. During Fiscal Years 2018/2019 almost \$430,195 of Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds was spent on the collection and recycling of 213,664 tires. Councils of Governments identified the need for more tire collections, more accessible markets for tire recycling, more education about illegal tire dumping, more enforcement, and more funding to meet the demand and address the problem.



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



HOW THE PROGRAM IS FUNDED

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

During Fiscal Years 2018/2019, the 24 regional COGs funded 240 projects totaling \$6,107,585.14.

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

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

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

Communities have a great demand for these grant funds and programs. During Fiscal Years 2018/2019, the 24 regional COGs funded 240 projects totaling \$6,107,585.14.



PEOPLE IMPACTED

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



Grantees
reached out to
Texans through
39,300
mass media
activities.

"Cowboy" icon by Artem Kovyazin from thenounproject.com



97,800
Texas students attend
a school district
with a grant-funded
recycling program.

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

WHO BENEFITS FROM THE GRANTS

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

Table 1 Fiscal Years 2018/2019 Funding by Entity

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Cities	131	\$2,807,555.00
Counties	58	\$862,006.44
COGs	43	\$2,299,550.49
School Districts	7	\$67,760.66
Other Districts	1	\$70,712.55
TOTAL	240	\$6,107,585.14

IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS

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

Recycling—Rural communities in the state face a challenge of distance when trying to make their recycling programs successful. Markets for collected materials are usually farther away from rural areas than urban and suburban areas of the state. One way communities can overcome challenges associated with marketing proximity is by forming partnerships with one another. Since it was formed in 1994 in the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, the Panhandle Environmental Partnership (PEP) has been helping member communities set up and maintain recycling programs. By working together, the 16 member communities have increased the quantity of materials collected in the region and earned a reputation for high-quality, low contamination bales, making it worthwhile for recyclers to make the trek to pick up materials in the region. During Fiscal Years 2018/2019, the PEP recycled more than 5 million pounds of materials.

Illegal Dumping—A common problem for communities across the state is illegal dumping. The El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, within the Rio Grande Council of Governments region, has partnered with all communities within its boundaries and has found that by working together communities have a greater impact. As partners, they share in the cost of waste collection equipment, jointly host cleanup and collection events, and help one another identify and monitor problem areas.

Business Partnerships—An example of an entity with a strong partnership with businesses is the City of Palacios recycling center in the Houston-Galveston Area Council region. In addition to functioning as a drop-off recycling location for both city and county residents the recycling center partners with area businesses, providing them with an easy way to recycle their cardboard. The City expanded this program in Fiscal Years 2018/2019 by adding six trailers to the program, bringing the total to 10 trailers. Participating businesses save money by reducing the amount of waste they must pay to have hauled away each week. The City benefits by increasing the amount of cardboard collected and capturing the resulting larger revenue when the cardboard is sold instead of landfilled. In a little over two years, the recycling center brought in more than 150,000 pounds of cardboard for recycling.

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

COGS PROVIDE REGIONAL SERVICES

In addition to grant administration and management, the COGs perform many functions to ensure coordination and implementation of regional projects and plans (Solid Waste Disposal Act, Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, 361.064 – 363.066) and help local governments better deliver services to their constituents.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

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

ASSISTS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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

ASSISTS STATE GOVERNMENT

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



TOPIC OF INTEREST HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

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

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

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

Grantees held 61 one-day events for Texans to drop off their HHW.

Unfortunately, much of Texas lacks adequate disposal options for HHW. Many communities, especially in rural areas, do not have permanent facilities available, and collection events are not held on regular schedules. That means the 198 million pounds of HHW stored in 9.9 million households in Texas are creating the potential for significant health and safety hazards.

The lack of options and education about disposal leaves residents with three choices: store HHW indefinitely,

send it to a landfill, or dispose of it improperly. Whether poured down the sink or a storm drain or dumped on a vacant lot, HHW poses an environmental risk. For example, a single quart of oil can contaminate two million gallons of drinking water or create an oil slick that covers eight acres.

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



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

During Fiscal Years 2018/2019, local governments spent more than \$1.2 million in Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds hosting collection events and building permanent disposal facilities to help Texas residents address the issue of stockpiled HHW and create opportunities to educate the general public on the importance of proper use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials.

Through these programs they were able to collect more than 1.4 million pounds of HHW.



FUNDING CATEGORIES

Table 2 Fiscal Years 2018/2019 Funding by Category

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	31	\$1,408,061.17
General Solid Waste Management	73	\$958,894.76
Household Hazardous Waste Management	32	\$1,220,819.22
Local Enforcement	25	\$489,859.79
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	2	\$149,550.00
Organic Waste Management	7	\$163,341.18
Recycling	70	\$1,717,059.02
TOTAL	240	\$6,107,585.14

Regional Solid Waste
grantees diverted

17 million

pounds of recyclables,
enough to cover more than
29 football fields with one
foot of recyclables.



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

TOPIC OF INTEREST PHARMACEUTICALS

The United States is facing an epidemic of abuse when it comes to unused, unsecured, and unwanted prescription medications. These medications can fall into the wrong hands becoming a danger to people and can cause serious irrevocable damage to the environment. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) says that the safest way to dispose of unwanted pharmaceuticals in the home is through a drug take back program, and only if one is not available should individuals dispose of the medication by flushing it down the toilet or placing it in the trash¹. Unfortunately, both the flushing and trash disposal methods can cause the pharmaceuticals to end up in the environment.

Flushing pharmaceuticals sends leftover medications into streams, rivers, and waterways because wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove them, and studies have found antibiotics, anti-seizure medicines, mood stabilizers and sex hormones in the nation's drinking water supply². Serious harmful effects have been recorded in wildlife across the country.

Three Councils of Governments set out to address this problem by making drug take back more available in their regions. The Coastal Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG), Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission (PBRPC), and Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) each provided Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Regional Solid Waste Grant Program funds to their regions in Fiscal Years 2018/2019 to deliver pharmaceutical waste collection units for their communities.

In the CBCOG region, there are currently 17 MedSafe pharmaceutical waste disposal units. Many of the units are in the region's rural communities where there are fewer large chain pharmacies to accept the unwanted medications. This offers a safe alternative for pharmaceutical disposal. In the first full year of operation, the Coastal Bend region's units collected nearly 500 pounds of pharmaceuticals.

The PBRPC partnered with the University of Houston School of Pharmacology and the PBRPC Area Agency on Aging to provide Deterra pouches in the region. The Deterra pouches are a convenient and environmentally friendly way to neutralize unused medications and are a convenient way for assisted living facilities and the elderly population to have access to proper disposal of medications.

In 2018, only eight of 13 counties within the H-GAC region had permanent pharmaceutical drop boxes available for the public. With the grant funds, H-GAC purchased 19 drop boxes and a set of four liners to go with each. H-GAC worked with local law enforcement to get them placed and the region now has at least one permanent collection box in each county. Over 284 pounds of pharmaceuticals were collected during the first year of the program.



1 <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/safe-disposal-medicines/disposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know>

2 https://www.health.harvard.edu/newsletter_article/drugs-in-the-water

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

Since the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) began the Texas Recycles Computers (2009) and Texas Recycles TVs (2013) initiatives, 265.8 million pounds of televisions and computer equipment have been recycled and 8.4 million pounds have been reused.

According to the 2019 *TCEQ Program Report on Texas Recycles Computers and Texas Recycles Televisions*, computer manufacturers collected an additional 44

million pounds of electronics not covered by the program, during the same time frame.

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

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

Used electronics contain various amounts of lead, cadmium, mercury, and other metals that can, over

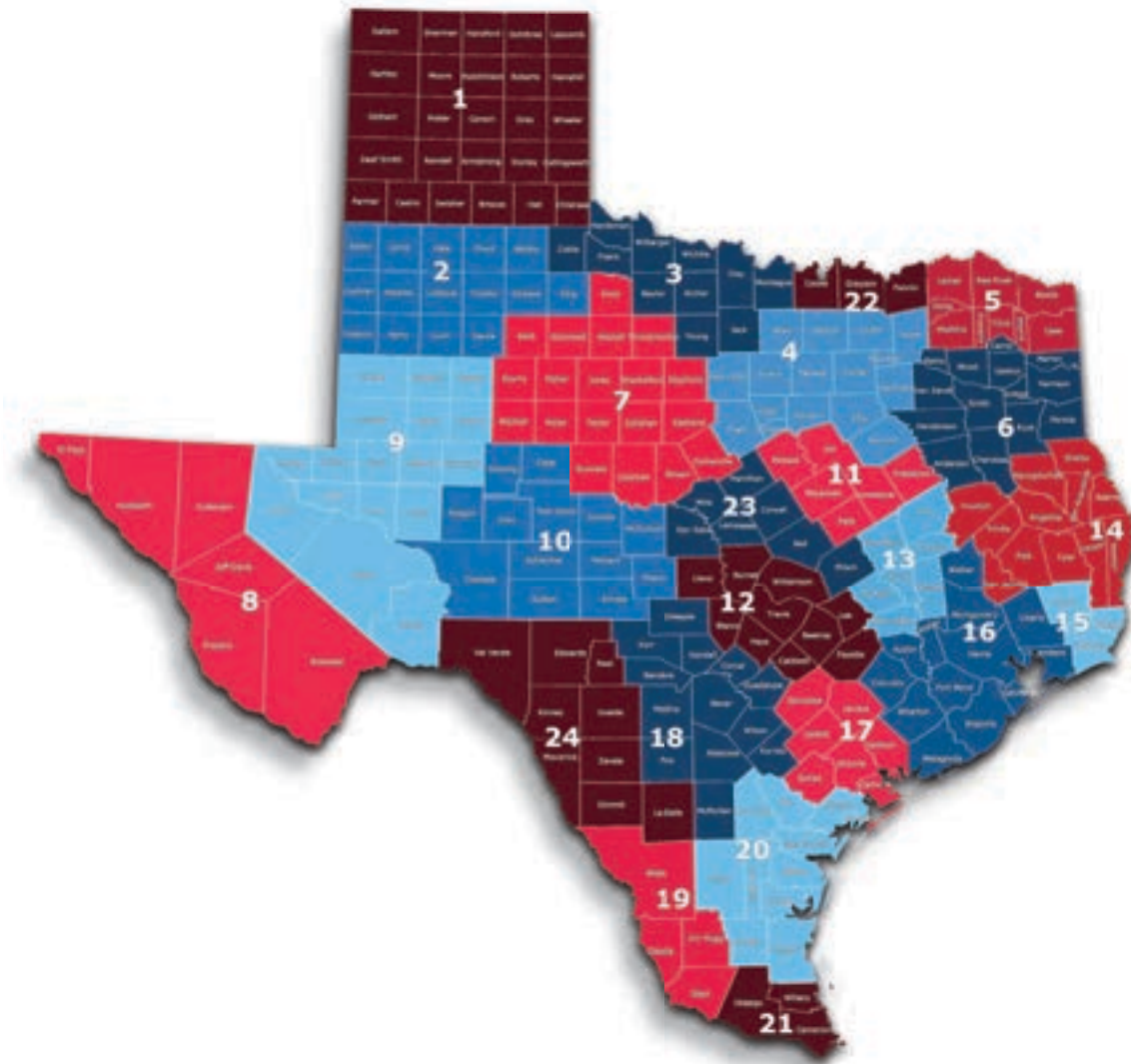
time, leach out of a typical landfill into waterways. The dangers presented by hazardous materials, combined with the potential to capture valuable materials by recycling electronics, make it imperative that the State's response to the increasing call for electronics recycling be addressed by trained and qualified professionals with programs accessible to all segments of the population.

The appropriation of grant funds and additional regional collection events or permanent local electronics recycling facilities would likely increase the recycling numbers. During Fiscal Years 2018/2019, with Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds, local governments collected 1.25 million pounds of used electronics.

1.25 million
pounds of used
electronics were
collected using
grant funding.



TEXAS REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS



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Students in the San Antonio School District collected a record-breaking 32 million pounds of recyclables as part of the annual PepsiCo Recycle Rally.

Since 1996, the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) has received funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to administer the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program to local governments to purchase recycling equipment, host special collections of household hazardous waste (HHW), promote proper recycling, and prevent illegal dumping. To date, over \$10.3 million has been granted to local governments to develop their solid waste management programs.

One of the projects funded by AACOG's Resource Recovery Program in Fiscal Years 2018/2019 was to the San Antonio Independent School District (ISD) for \$15,000. The San Antonio ISD purchased a recycling container, and students painted it. This project was

featured in the local newspaper, San Antonio Express-News.

The Resource Recovery Program and the TCEQ Regional Solid Waste Grants Program supported additional activities that helped students learn about recycling as well as practice it, including one that gained national attention.

Students from Arnold Elementary School collected plastic bottles and aluminum cans as part of the PepsiCo Recycle Rally, a nationwide school competition. Through their efforts from September 2018 to April 2019, the school won the contest.

According to a report in the San Antonio Express-News, students in the school district collected a record-breaking

32 million pounds of recyclables.

"Thousands of schools have participated over the years, and Arnold Elementary has stood out as the epicenter," said Tom Mooradian, PepsiCo's senior manager of sustainability, as quoted in the *San Antonio Express-News*. "They're the biggest, the best of what we've seen."

Teachers across the campus promoted the competition and emphasized the importance of recycling. Local and state elected officials attended a special celebration to congratulate the students. The school received a \$50,000 prize for winning the competition. The school continues to participate in the PepsiCo Recycle Rally, collecting bottles and cans on campus and through special events throughout the school year.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

Alamo Area Council of Governments	City of San Antonio
City of Converse	City of Seguin
City of Kerrville	Kerr County
City of Leon Valley	San Antonio ISD
City of New Braunfels	San Antonio River Authority

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	3	\$162,589.52
Household Hazardous Waste Management	3	\$115,367.27
Organic Waste Management	1	\$31,137.78
Recycling	6	\$83,636.49
TOTAL	13	\$392,731.06

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments Environmental Resources Program is committed to improving the quality of life for all residents by supporting efforts to reduce the amount of illegal dumping within our region and educating citizens about the hazards associated with improper waste disposal.

During Fiscal Years 2018/2019 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding period, the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) conducted a COG-managed project focusing on illegal dumping cleanups. ATCOG formed a partnership with Bowie County and provided \$14,100.60 to supplement the cost of cleaning up a site where tires had been illegally dumped.

The dump site, located in an unincorporated area of Bowie County near Simms, was discovered by the Bowie County Environmental Enforcement Officer and the Bowie County Fire Marshal. The property owner was involved in an illegal dumping scheme for several years, along with various other illegal activities, and is currently incarcerated in a state penitentiary for matters unrelated to tire dumping. The 10-acre site was completely covered with passenger, truck, and off-the-road tires, which were largely concealed from public view by overgrown weeds and trees. Investigators estimated approximately 40,000 to 50,000 tires were present at this location.

Bowie County officials entered into a contract with BAR Recycling Enterprises, an authorized scrap tire processor and transporter, to collect and transport tires from this location to their facility in New Boston to be chipped. Approximately 5,000 tires were removed from this illegal dump site as a result of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding. Bowie County authorities continue to allocate any available funds toward the eventual removal of all scrap tires on this property, however it will

be a lengthy and expensive process. This is a perfect example of the urgent need for additional funding to remediate sites where tires had been illegally dumped. Tire dump sites pose numerous risks to human health and the environment, such as increasing fire hazards, rodent, snake and mosquito habitats, and decreasing property values.

The ATCOG Environmental Resources Program is committed to improving the quality of life for all

residents by supporting efforts to reduce the amount of illegal dumping within our region and educating citizens about the hazards associated with improper waste disposal, which can be detrimental to human health and the environment. ATCOG continues to encourage communities to work together for the benefit of all citizens, so that future generations may learn the importance of growing up and living in a cleaner, safer environment.





GRANT RECIPIENT
Ark-Tex Council of Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$7,998.50
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$46,801.21
Local Enforcement	1	\$12,264.43
TOTAL	3	\$67,064.14

Leon County continues to ensure the availability of disposal in the Brazos Valley, ensuring residents have opportunities to safely dispose of waste in a legal and environmentally safe manner.

The regionalization of solid waste management reduces environmental pollution and develops comprehensive waste management practices for urban and rural communities. We live in a community where the residents care about protecting the environment, conserving resources, keeping people healthy, and ensuring that our waste and recycling system works for everyone. However, major gaps continue in waste collection coverage and the enforcement of illegal dumping.

The Brazos Valley region is largely rural and sparsely populated. The challenge of maintaining sustainable solid waste management programs in rural communities persists. Solid waste management activities in rural communities are often challenged by an unsystematic approach with the added burdens of poverty, geographic isolation, limited local government staff resources, financial limitations, and other constraints. Though local residents wish to sustain their communities by protecting human health and improving the quality of life for their families and their environment, the expenses associated with maintaining integrated solid waste management activities in rural communities are further predisposed by limited environmental enforcement. This makes adequate waste collection services and treatment more difficult and leads to vulnerabilities



throughout rural communities, usually with increased illegal dumping problems and the continued necessity for the implementation of comprehensive solid waste management programs.

In the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program cycle for Fiscal Years 2018/2019 administered by the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG), the majority of the grant funds were used to address scrap tire collection and community cleanup events in the Brazos Valley. More than 10,000 scrap tires were collected during this period. Approximately 92 percent of the funding was used for litter and illegal dumping cleanups and community collection events. This marks a 25% increase in funding distribution over Fiscal Years 2016/2017 and demonstrates the heavy emphasis the residents of the Brazos Valley region place on eliminating illegal dumping and providing other options to dispose of unused or unwanted materials, especially scrap tires.

Leon County hosted a Community Collection Event, giving county residents a way to recycle their scrap tires and reduce the likelihood of producing mosquito and rodent breeding grounds.

Leon County continues to be concerned about improving the health and safety for all of its residents, as well as,

their quality of life. The County continues to ensure the availability of disposal in the Brazos Valley, which includes source reduction and recycling. These types of projects provide more opportunities for residents to safely dispose of waste in a legal and environmentally safe manner.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

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

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$1,953.01
General Solid Waste Management	8	\$68,502.37
Local Enforcement	1	\$4,108.82
TOTAL	10	\$74,564.20

A regional approach to environmental enforcement is more effective than each government tackling it on their own because this is a problem that crosses city and county lines with communities having varying levels of funding and resources.

Most communities have a problem with illegal dumping. This is a problem that affects urban and rural areas and can be a challenge for local governments to address effectively. Because this is a problem that crosses city and county lines with communities having varying levels of funding and resources, a regional approach is more effective than each government attempting to tackle this problem on their own. In the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) region, a Regional Environmental Task Force (RETF) works to address environmental crimes, including illegal dumping.

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

Operating under a memorandum of agreement signed by CAPCOG's 10 counties, the City of Austin, and the City of Cedar Park, this innovative approach to environmental law enforcement includes regional coordination, a tollfree hotline to report crimes, access to shared resources and advice, and environmental law training. This program increases the effectiveness of participating environmental investigators, law enforcement, code enforcement, and State agencies with natural resource



management responsibilities. Members of the RETF coordinate on investigations with members of the Texas Environmental Enforcement Task Force. CAPCOG provides centralized coordination, and administration, and serves as fiduciary managers for the RETF.

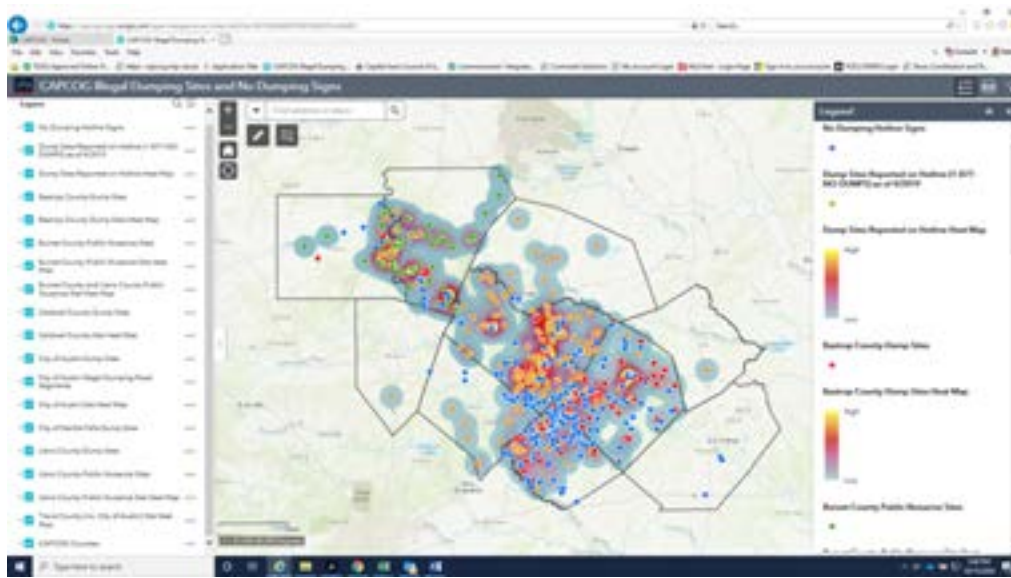
The RETF leverages resources to mitigate and prevent illegal dumping and public nuisance sites throughout the region with assistance from a new spatial analysis tool launched to track dump sites and deterrents. This new, interactive mapping tool, developed by CAPCOG, will further aid the region's local governments to mitigate illegal dumping. The map pinpoints dumping sites throughout the region and estimates how prevalent

they are being used. It also shows the placement of "No Dumping" signs that warn of penalties and tell residents how to report illegal dumping. Correlating such data can determine where additional resources may be needed, and helps counties and cities target special enforcement programs in trouble areas.

The map can be viewed at <https://arcg.is/q40q5>.

The RETF hosts Basic and Intermediate Environmental Law Training courses. The courses attract peace officers, sanitation workers, and code enforcement officials from around the state to learn about environmental crimes. It focuses on regulations in the Texas Health and Safety Code, Texas Water Code, and Texas Transportation Code to help enforce public nuisance violations, illegal dumping, and water pollution issues.

CAPCOG awarded \$181,923 in funding for 11 county and city solid waste projects in the region during Fiscal Years 2018/2019 and \$18,569 for one CAPCOG-managed project. Eight projects improved household hazardous waste management, which is a primary goal of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. The four remaining projects funded a community collection event, recycling facility infrastructure, recycling trailers, and an education and training grant to increase solid waste diversion in the communities.



CAPCOG's interactive mapping tool can be viewed at <https://arcg.is/q40q5>

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Bastrop County	City of Lago Vista
Blanco County	City of Lakeway
Burnet County	City of Lockhart
Capital Area Council of Governments:	City of Smithville
City of Buda	Llario County
City of Granite Shoals:	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$18,569.25
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$6,450.00
Household Hazardous Waste Management	8	\$164,751.61
Recycling	2	\$10,722.00
TOTAL	12	\$200,492.86

Approximately 2,700 participants dropped off hazardous waste materials, such as paints, oil, antifreeze, batteries, household cleaners, fluorescent bulbs, and other harmful chemicals, at special drop-off events in the Central Texas Council of Governments region.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) services are one of the greatest needs within the Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) region. Permanent HHW facilities are nonexistent, and collection events are usually too expensive for most communities to host regularly.

Recognizing this need, CTCOG funded eight HHW collection events throughout Fiscal Years 2018/2019. Funds for the events are part of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by CTCOG.

Approximately 2,700 participants dropped off hazardous waste materials, such as paints, oil, antifreeze, batteries, household cleaners, fluorescent bulbs, and other harmful

chemicals, at these events. Through coordination with the host entities, tires, electronics, trash/bulk items, recyclables, and other items were also collected from residents during the HHW drop-off events.

Below is a table that highlights the pounds of hazardous waste materials collected during Fiscal Years 2018/2019 events.

In addition to the special drop-off events, CTCOG used Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds to purchase 40 recycling bins for local entities for collecting paper, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, cardboard, and other appropriate items. More than 2,850 pounds of recyclables have been collected from these bins since their installation.

Items	Paint	Pesticides	Acids/Bases	Fuels	Batteries	Fluorescent/ Light Bulbs	Other Hazardous Materials
Total Pounds	100,000	14,475	5,500	7,050	4,000	80	4,325





GRANT RECIPIENT
Central Texas Council of Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$120,527.32
Recycling	1	\$13,986.57
TOTAL	2	\$134,513.89

Although cigarette butts are small and only weigh a few ounces, their impact on the global environment is one that needs to be taken more seriously. The first steps in reversing the impact is behavior change when it comes to littering a cigarette butt. In the Coastal Bend we are making great efforts to create that change.

The Coastal Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG) provided Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds for three Council of Governments (COG) Managed regional projects in Fiscal Years 2018/2019, including installing Sidewalk Buttlers to collect cigarette waste in heavily used areas around the region such as beaches, parks, restaurants, and other public spaces. CBCOG was awarded approximately \$10,609 for the purchase of 100 Sidewalk Buttlers cigarette collection units.

Approximately 5.6 trillion cigarettes are smoked each year globally, and for over 35 years the cigarette butt has been the number one piece of trash collected internationally through beach and waterway cleanups. Cigarette butts are made from cellulose acetate, a plastic. They do not degrade. A single, used cigarette butt contains more than 4,000 known chemicals. These chemicals can leach out of cigarette butts, contaminating the water and soil and killing wildlife.

Because the Coastal Bend is a popular tourist destination, CBCOG wanted to provide an alternative to simply flicking a cigarette butt onto the ground, onto the beach, or into the water. Cigarette butts not only contaminate the environment, but they are also unsightly and can deter

visitors from businesses in areas littered with butts, causing a negative economic impact.

Although cigarette butts are small and only weigh a few ounces, their impact on the global environment is one that needs to be taken more seriously. The first steps in reversing the impact is behavior change when it comes to littering a cigarette butt. In the Coastal Bend we are making great efforts to create that change.

CBCOG distributed 100 Sidewalk Buttlers throughout the region, with cities and counties choosing locations for placement. Data collected for the first three months of use from some locations showed that the Sidewalk Buttlers were full each time they were emptied, with a noticeable lack of littered cigarettes in their vicinity. In January 2019, 80 more units were added to the region thanks to a donation from Keep America Beautiful and Phillip Morris. By June 2020, almost 43,000 cigarette butts had been collected throughout the region.

In addition to providing Sidewalk Buttlers around the region, CBCOG's projects included conducting regional local enforcement training programs and providing pharmaceutical waste collection locations across the region.





GRANT RECIPIENT
Coastal Bend Council of Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	2	\$2,151.80
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$10,609.13
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$12,364.55
Local Enforcement	1	\$10,980.73
TOTAL	5	\$36,106.21

The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds received from Concho Valley Council of Governments allowed the City of Sonora to dispose of potentially hazardous flood debris in a timely manner. Citizens of Sonora are very thankful for the valued assistance provided by CVCOG during this flood disaster.

Unexpected flash flooding from the Dry Devil's River caused several feet of water and mud to enter homes and businesses in Sonora on September 22, 2018. Sonora, located on Interstate 10 and U.S. 277, was inundated with rising water as a result of a mix of heavy rainfall, a cold front, and remnants of a Pacific tropical system over West Texas¹. The high volume of flash flood water caused significant damage to about 300 homes and scattered flood debris throughout Sonora.

Three flood debris collection points were established in Sonora. The primary collection point was on the south parking lot of the Sutton County baseball field. The second collection point was at the City of Sonora property at First and Menard. The third location was at the City of Sonora property near the wastewater treatment plant.

Lack of funding prevented the City of Sonora from properly transporting and disposing of collected flood

debris. At one point, local businesses started to complain about the nuisance debris piles. The Concho Valley Council of Governments (CVCOG) agreed to assist with debris disposal by providing funding through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program.

Due to this financial assistance, the City of Sonora immediately cleared the Sutton County baseball field parking lot, removing approximately 1,300 tons of debris at a cost of \$85,303.11.

The remaining debris from the other collection points was properly disposed of in February 2019. The final total debris disposal cost for the City of Sonora was reported as \$206,530.56 (3,490 tons).

The grant funds received from CVCOG allowed the City of Sonora to dispose of potentially hazardous flood debris in a timely manner. Citizens of Sonora are very thankful for the valued assistance provided by CVCOG during this flood disaster.



¹ <https://sanangelolive.com/news/texas/2018-09-22/sonora-dry-devils-river-comes-life-flash-flooding-creates-hellish-conditions>

Debris Collection Sites

Before

After



GRANT RECIPIENT

Concho Valley Council of Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$126,622.11
TOTAL	1	\$126,622.11

One of the anticipated outcomes of the City of Crockett cleanup project was to encourage other residents to remove solid waste from their properties. After seeing the cleanup of two lots nearby, another property owner removed extensive debris from his property.

Through its ongoing property code enforcement program, the City of Crockett's staff identified nine properties with litter/rubbish from illegal dumping, burned furniture and lumber from structure fires, and collapsed buildings. These vacant properties were a public health nuisance and neighborhood eyesores for several years. The properties were abandoned or owned by elderly disabled residents needing assistance in removing the debris.

City code enforcement staff raised awareness of the need for assistance in removing the solid waste, and the City received Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding from the Deep East Texas Council of Governments to rent large disposal containers and pay landfill fees.

The City of Crockett followed its ordinances and issued legal notices of intent to enter the properties and correct the conditions if the owners did not. When no corrective actions were taken by the owners, the City scheduled four days for collecting and disposing of the materials on the nine properties.

The City contracted for 23 30-yard roll-off dumpsters, and over four days City employees loaded and disposed of 69,000 pounds of litter and materials, including 37 tires from the nine properties. The amount of land cleaned totaled 2.5 acres.

One of the anticipated outcomes of the cleanup project was to encourage other residents to remove solid waste from their properties. After seeing the cleanup of two lots nearby, another property owner removed extensive debris from a 2018 arson fire that remained on his property.

Without the funding for cleanups, the nine properties would have continued to be public health hazards and neighborhood nuisances. The owner of the neighboring property might also still be delaying the cleanup of his property.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

Angelina County	Jasper County
City of Crockett	Newton County
City of Huntington	Sabine County
City of Nacogdoches	San Jacinto County
Deep East Texas Council of Governments	Trinity County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$4,796.44
General Solid Waste Management	3	\$51,369.00
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$17,468.17
Local Enforcement	1	\$12,279.61
Recycling	6	\$101,166.91
TOTAL	12	\$187,080.13

“It is very important to teach our students about the negative effects of littering and illegal dumping, while at the same time giving them hands-on experience of the positive effects that keeping our campus clean brings,”

—Derrick Conley, Birch Elementary Principal

To support regional waste minimization efforts in our region, the East Texas Council of Governments’ (ETCOG) solid waste program accepts applications for annual Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds each September. These funds are given to ETCOG by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for this purpose.

In Fiscal Year 2019, ETCOG awarded a local independent school district, Pine Tree ISD, a \$3,000 cleanup grant.

Pine Tree ISD is in Longview, Texas, and has long been an advocate of keeping its schools as pristine as possible. With the funds, the school held two cleanup days, one event in the Fall of 2018 and the other in the Spring of 2019.

The project goal was to encourage students, teachers, and parents to get involved in keeping the school properties free of trash and illegally dumped material. Through the cleanup days, Pine Tree ISD aimed to inspire and encourage cooperation throughout the community.

“We believe that children are our future and are the best part of what we leave of ourselves on the earth. As a result, it is very important to teach our students about the negative effects of littering and illegal dumping, while at the same time giving them hands-on experience of the positive effects that keeping our campus clean brings,” said Derrick Conley, Birch Elementary Principal.

With the grant funds, the school district purchased t-shirts, giveaways, trash bags, trash grabbers, vests,

and gloves for their cleanup days. The project specifically targeted the Pine Tree ISD administration complex, the primary and elementary schools, and the adjoining football/track stadium.

On May 28, 2019, the Spring “Big Event” was held for an excited group of elementary students. Pine Tree ISD shared photos from their social media account with ETCOG stating, “Today we are practicing service. Our students and staff will be recycling and cleaning up our building all day. We would like to send a huge THANK YOU to East Texas Council of Governments for our amazing Big Event shirts!”





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Alto	City of Waskom
City of Carthage	City of Wills Point
City of East Tawakoni	City of Winnsboro
City of Gladewater	East Texas Council of Governments
City of Grand Saline	Gregg County
City of Jacksonville	Harrison County
City of Log Cabin	Pine Tree ISD
City of Longview	Rains County
City of Palestine	Smith County
City of Tyler	Van Zandt County
City of Uricertain	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	3	\$22,500.00
General Solid Waste Management	26	\$99,723.61
Household Hazardous Waste Management	2	\$16,107.00
Local Enforcement	8	\$84,610.86
Recycling	2	\$7,700.00
TOTAL	41	\$230,641.47

The Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission's (GCRPC) regional advisory committee strives to continually collect tires, cardboard, and yard waste for recycling and disposal, utilizing the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program to fund these programs.

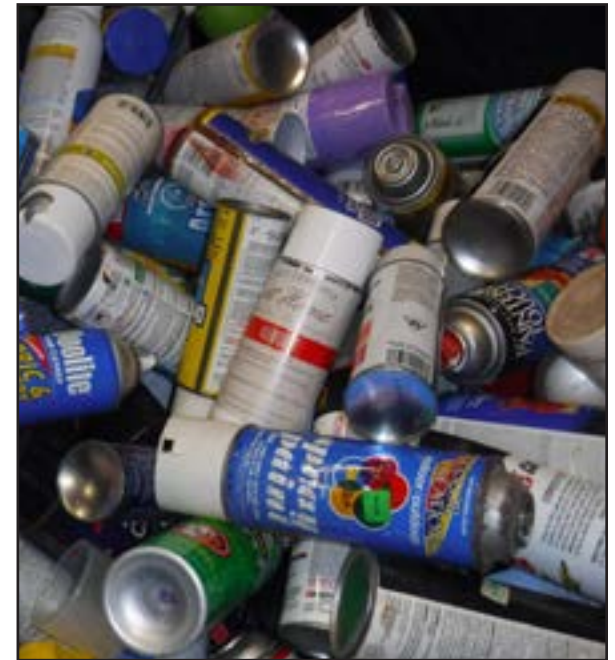
The Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission's (GCRPC) Regional Environmental Resources Advisory Committee (RERAC) serves as a regional voice in providing input, expertise, and ideas for the development and implementation of regional and local environmental projects. The region strives to continually collect tires, cardboard, and yard waste for recycling and disposal, utilizing the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program to fund these programs. During Fiscal Years 2018/2019, GCRPC funded an array of projects to address the specific needs of the various communities.

Throughout the Golden Crescent Region, there were four household hazardous waste events to collect any household waste residents were unable to dispose of safely. Jackson County, the City of Yoakum, the City of Cuero, and the City of Hallettsville received a total of \$49,357 to help make these events successful. There was a total of 9,720 pounds of hazardous and non-hazardous paint collected at events. Other household

items that were collected included batteries, empty pesticide containers, electronics, and other items that residents could not dispose of themselves.

The City of Victoria was awarded funds to purchase solar powered recycling compactors, and Victoria County was able to purchase a single source recycling roll off. In addition, the City of Yoakum was able to purchase a recycling track loader.

The City of Port Lavaca used awarded funds to host tire collection and post-Harvey clean-up events. A total of 6,920 pounds of waste and 510 tires were collected and disposed of to not only restore the city to pre-Harvey condition, but to help struggling residents dispose of waste they might not be able to dispose of themselves. Funds were also used in the region to purchase cameras to help in the fight against illegal dumping in the City of Cuero. These cameras were used to investigate over 39 illegal dumping sites and helped law enforcement issue tickets to help keep those sites clean.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Cuero	City of Yoakum
City of Hallettsville	Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission
City of Port Lavaca	Jackson County
City of Victoria	Victoria County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$7,875.23
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$4,830.23
Household Hazardous Waste Management	5	\$51,910.00
Local Enforcement	1	\$8,438.99
Recycling	3	\$102,706.62
TOTAL	11	\$175,761.07

Around-the-clock surveillance may not only help cities and counties catch and prosecute violators, but the cameras may also serve as a deterrent against illegal dumping.

It is no longer uncommon to see or find huge piles of debris, old household items, construction waste, or used products dumped by the roadside, in the forests, or non-designated dumping sites. This trend is on the rise and is increasingly becoming a problem because it can have serious impacts on wildlife and habitat and hinders the objective of keeping the environment clean.

Through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, the Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG) coordinated the purchase of 12 utility trailers to help combat and control illegal dumping in the region. Each county in the HOTCOG region received two trailers to help pick up dumped items, such as mattresses, furniture, electronics, bags of trash, and construction debris. When the counties clean up sites, they do their best to recycle as much as possible and remove all the metal to sell as scrap. Trailers are housed and maintained in county barns or at road and bridge facilities in Freestone, Limestone, McLennan, Falls, Hill, and Bosque counties.

To help with illegal dumping enforcement efforts, HOTCOG purchased over 15 high-tech trail cameras for local law enforcement in all six of the region's counties

to be placed at previously identified dump sites. The cameras are wireless, and usually used to track game. Using the cameras, law enforcement can work to identify individuals through facial or license plate recognition and begin the prosecution process. Around-the-clock surveillance may not only help cities and counties catch and prosecute violators, but the cameras may also serve as a deterrent against illegal dumping.

Law enforcement and prosecution are fundamental in stopping illegal dumping over the long-term. Instead of spending millions of dollars cleaning up illegally dumped materials, a special task force of police can be employed to watch over sites where illegal dumping frequently occurs. By clearly outlining the penalties and consequences of being caught and making them known to the general public, some would-be offenders may choose to take the legal route when disposing of waste instead of illegally dumping the materials.

The HOTCOG region continues to ensure that all its communities have access to resources to help in the prevention of illegal dumping along with multiple avenues for recycling. Local hotline numbers are also given out

to help with the reporting of illegal dumping in the area. Whether it is trying to help catch and prosecute people who illegally dump materials in the region or helping with the cleanup of sites, HOTCOG continues its efforts to support the local communities to achieve their goals.





GRANT RECIPIENT

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$5,922.44
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$87,107.60
Local Enforcement	1	\$4,299.94
TOTAL	3	\$97,329.98

One of Keep Pearland Beautiful's primary goals for the Stella Roberts Recycling Center is to eliminate as many barriers as possible for residents to "do the right thing" and properly dispose of HHW and used electronics and participate in general recycling programs.

For more than 15 years, the Stella Roberts Recycling Center in Pearland, Texas, has offered recycling services to residents of the city and some surrounding areas. Today, the Center is becoming a regional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and used electronics recycling facility, providing service and value to four counties in the greater Houston area.

Under the operation of Keep Pearland Beautiful (KPB), the Center regularly serves residents from more than 30 cities in Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, and Harris counties. The drive-through center makes recycling drop off easy for residents who do not have access to HHW disposal and used electronics recycling services in their communities.

The Center received funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the Houston-Galveston Area Council to purchase items to update the HHW program. KPB used the \$27,639 to purchase rolling carts, a shipping container, an oxidizer cabinet, a drum truck, a bulb crusher, and other operational supplies to allow the Center to safely collect more HHW to meet the communities' needs.

Over the years, the Center has received more than \$736,000 from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program for operational expenses and expansion. However, KPB is working with cities and counties that use the facility to establish reimbursement agreements and grants to help reduce some of the fees passed on to residents.

"We are turning a corner to becoming a true regional center," said Adrian Hernandez, KPB executive director. "We're able to show municipalities that we are providing a service for residents and a value to the communities, and the municipalities are supporting our program and helping sustain operations."

One of KPB's primary goals for the Stella Roberts Recycling Center is to eliminate as many barriers as possible for residents to "do the right thing" and properly dispose of HHW and used electronics and participate in general recycling programs. Residents outside of the areas with municipal partnerships are willing to drive up to 45 minutes from around the area and pay a small fee to use the facility.

In Fiscal Years 2018/2019, more than 49,000 people participated in recycling drop off at the Center, including approximately 2,600 people who brought in their HHW and used electronics.

To further encourage use, KPB offers a loyalty program that recognizes residents who use the center and properly sort their recycling for drop off. This year, they ramped up their program by offering daily entries in a gift card drawing leading up to Pearland Recycles Day. KPB hopes to expand the loyalty program in the future to include additional prizes and recognition.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

Austin County	City of Pearland
City of Bay City	City of Sugar Land
City of Conroe	City of West University Place
City of El Campo	Colorado County
City of Houston	Harris County Environmental Enforcement Division
City of Houston Police Dept.	Harris County Constable Pct 3
City of League City	Houston-Galveston Area Council
City of Palacios	Walker County
City of Pasadena	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	2	\$112,565.22
General Solid Waste Management	3	\$57,190.63
Household Hazardous Waste Management	6	\$251,354.03
Local Enforcement	6	\$286,016.35
Recycling	7	\$639,194.67
TOTAL	24	\$1,346,320.90

The Valley Nature Center plays a significant role in educating both residents and visitors about the south Texas native landscape and the rich assortment of wildlife it supports.

During the Fiscal Years 2018/2019 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) funded the City of Weslaco who collaborated with the Valley Nature Center (VNC) to educate the community on recycling and to address brush and yard waste. The VNC is the oldest nature center in the Rio Grande Valley and is a gem in the middle of the city. VNC is the only non-profit center fully dedicated to environmental education south of San Antonio and east of Eagle Pass. It has been in operation as a non-profit organization dedicated to its mission since 1984. VNC plays a significant role in educating both residents and visitors about the south Texas native landscape and the rich assortment of wildlife it supports.

The Valley Nature Center provides educational opportunities not only to the community and schools within Weslaco, but all visitors to the nature center. The City of Weslaco purchased two four-yard bins, a compost tumbler, a multiple level worm composting bin, and a self-feeding chipper to be placed at the Nature Center. The City also constructed a security fence to secure compost equipment and compost material. VNC offers composting workshops, educational materials, and hands-on opportunities to help the public to be stewards of this bio-diverse region. The public can bring composting materials to the VNC, and in return, receives mulch or soil rich with compost which pairs nicely with their native plant nursery.

The VNC serves not only to educate, but to bring families

together, something that has become increasingly important in these challenging times.

The City of Weslaco also purchased an 8-by-16-foot recycling trailer which continues to be placed at the Valley Nature Center and various other locations. The trailer is accessible to all residents to recycle their items. The recyclables are taken weekly to the City of McAllen Recycling Center.

“We are so grateful for the very generous support of TCEQ and proud of the collaboration with the City of Weslaco and the LRGVDC for the benefit of our community,” said Hollie Johnston, Executive Director at the Valley Nature Center.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Altamira	City of South Padre Island
City of Port Isabel	City of Weslaco
City of San Juan	Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$6,621.10
General Solid Waste Management	2	\$103,670.92
Recycling	4	\$83,451.71
TOTAL	7	\$193,743.73

“Take Pride in Your Side” was a cleanup and revitalization program concentrating on cleaning properties, removing deteriorating and/or dilapidated structures and used tires, planting greenery, painting homes, hosting a community yard contest, installing sidewalks, and building a community park.

The City of Encinal is a small rural community within the Middle Rio Grande Development Council (MRGDC) region. It is approximately 40 miles north of Laredo and 30 miles south of Cotulla along the 35 South Interstate Highways. With the expansion of oil and gas activities due to the Eagle Ford Shale, the City experienced a rapid growth and some problems associated with the increase in population, notably the increase in solid waste. Using funds from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by MRGDC, the City of Encinal implemented the community collections event in a 3-phase process called “Take Pride in Your Side,” a cleanup and revitalization program concentrating on cleaning properties, removing deteriorating and/or dilapidated structures and used tires, planting greenery, painting homes, hosting a community yard contest, installing sidewalks, and building a community park.

Phase I was the authorization and education period where the City reviewed, revised, and posted ordinances. All City personnel, from the sanitation department to code compliance, were trained on applicable federal, state, and local code compliance laws along with the proper methods to identify, receive, and accept qualified bulk trash.

Phase II consisted of securing assets needed to administer the program. In this phase personnel identified and acquired the necessary equipment required to collect and transport bulk trash. Personnel also integrated notifications, citation payments, and

reporting components with the City’s current accounting and collections systems.

Phase III was the compliance and audit phase. The City of Encinal made sure staff maintained a separate system of accounting for all Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds, auditing specific grant and grant related financial records per the requirements of the state Uniform Grant Management Standards.

This program assisted the community by reducing the amount of trash, tires, and debris within the City. Reducing trash and debris also reduces the amount of trash disposal fees paid by the City. These savings will be reinvested into the community to support beautification and water conservation measures by providing mulch for landscaping and trees. This is consistent with the MRGDC regional solid waste management plan and is the over-riding goal of the project.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

Brackett ISD	City of Sabinal
City of Asherton	City of Spofford
City of Bracketville	City of Uvalde
City of Carrizo Springs	Dimmit County Sheriff's Office
City of Crystal City	Eagle Pass ISD
City of Del Rio	Kinney County
City of Eagle Pass	Middle Rio Grande Development Council
City of Encinal	Real County
City of Rocksprings	Val Verde County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	2	\$11,934.90
General Solid Waste Management	11	\$47,836.14
Local Enforcement	2	\$8,388.76
Recycling	10	\$53,766.07
TOTAL	25	\$121,925.87

The NORTEX region has Citizens' Convenience Centers operations across the 11-county area. These facilities gather increased support and use as more areas respond to residents' needs to facilitate the management of solid waste other than household trash.

Rural communities within the 11-county region serviced by the NORTEX Regional Planning Commission continue to use the Citizens' Convenience Centers to promote recycling and encourage community cleanups.

There are only two Type I landfills serving the NORTEX 11-county region. Both are in Wichita County, the most populous county in the region. The counties in the region continue to send their municipal solid waste to the two regional landfills or to landfills outside the NORTEX region. Wichita County continues to accommodate most of the metal and cardboard recycling entities in the region. The smaller communities have expanded the use of the Citizens' Convenience Centers (CCC) to better serve the rural population in the region. These centers allow residents to drop off materials that, with the closing of local landfills, would have resulted in increased amounts of materials being left along the side of the road or dumped in abandoned buildings.

The use and creation of CCCs continue to grow in the NORTEX Region as more communities identify these centers as a great way to promote recycling and encourage their residents to participate in cleanups in

their areas. The NORTEX region has CCC operations across the 11-county area. These facilities gather increased support and use as more areas respond to residents' needs to facilitate the management of solid waste other than household trash.

The NORTEX Region had multiple projects in Fiscal Years 2018/2019: enhancement of existing CCCs, cleanups (dilapidated structures and/or community cleanups), and roll-off dumpsters for recycling materials. One entity

requested a woodchipper to replace an obsolete unit. Twenty eight percent of the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds administered by NORTEX were dedicated to enhancing CCCs, 30% was allocated for equipment, and the remaining 42% was for community cleanups. This funding trend continues to hold relatively steady as these types of projects will be the most in demand in the NORTEX region for the foreseeable future.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Archer City

City of Nocona

City of Burkburnett

City of Scotland

City of Crowell

City of Vernon

City of Newcastle

Cottle County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	4	\$25,400.33
Organic Waste Management	1	\$20,740.27
Recycling	4	\$23,760.00
TOTAL	9	\$69,900.60

“This project [with the school district], and those like it, allow us to engage local youth in vital conversations about resource management, pollution prevention, habitat preservation, and environmental protection. There can be no worthier goal.”

—Dr. Patricia Redfearn, City of Grand Prairie Solid Waste and Recycling Manager

In Fiscal Years 2018/2019, the City of Grand Prairie received \$51,112.67 from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) to place over 270 36-gallon capacity recycling bins at 42 campuses and the Education Center in Grand Prairie Independent School District (ISD). Previously, only minimal recycling was offered at Grand Prairie ISD campuses. The Green and Clean Campus Program is a cooperative partnership between the City of Grand Prairie, Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful, Grand Prairie ISD, and the Green and Clean Campus Program. The program includes student teams at many of the Grand Prairie ISD campuses participating in an array of activities promoting the Keep Texas Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful pillars: litter prevention, recycling, and beautification.

The City of Grand Prairie purchased additional recycling bins through fundraising efforts, including direct bin sponsorships from local business and organizations, a Pennies for Plastic classroom competition, and the Plastic Free Plan-It Gala. The Plastic Free Plan-It Gala, sponsored by the City of Grand Prairie and Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful, was held on November 3, 2018, at the Uptown Theater, a fully restored 1950's theater and performing arts center. The gala included a silent auction, recycled instrument performance, recycled art gallery, and a showing of the 2016 documentary *A Plastic Ocean*. This event, which raised funds through direct donations, the silent auction, and ticket sales, featured a fashion show featuring clothing made from recycled materials and a presentation from Tanya

Streeter, a free diver featured in *A Plastic Ocean*. In addition to the gala, the City of Grand Prairie hosted or attended 19 other recycling educational events with over 3,300 attendees during Fiscal Years 2018/2019, including the Grand Prairie Conservation, Recycling, Energy, and Wetlands (CREW) Camp and the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce.

After the bins were placed on campuses in April 2019, the Green and Clean Campus teams were charged with monitoring recycling bins for any contamination and taking the recycling from each bin to the recycling dumpster for collection. Through March 2020, Grand Prairie ISD recycled over 4,600 pounds of plastic—a recycling increase of 231.4%, as compared to the rate prior to installing the bins. Aluminum cans were also accepted, and over 1,130 pounds were recycled—a recycling increase of over 500%.

“This project, and those like it, allow us to engage local youth in vital conversations about resource management, pollution prevention, habitat preservation, and environmental protection. There can be no worthier goal,” said Dr. Patricia Redfearn, City of Grand Prairie Solid Waste and Recycling Manager.

While COVID-19 has severely impacted the amount of recycling Grand Prairie ISD has been able to collect since March 2020, Grand Prairie ISD and the Green and Clean Campus Programs are still anticipating a large increase in plastics recycling when all students return to campus.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Alma	City of Plano
City of Duncanville	City of Terrell
City of Euless	City of Weatherford
City of Fort Worth	Kaufman County
City of Grand Prairie	North Central Texas Council of Governments
City of Lancaster	Wise County
City of Lewisville	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	5	\$886,093.31
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$20,600.00
Household Hazardous Waste Management	2	\$92,101.32
Local Enforcement	1	\$30,521.39
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	2	\$149,550.00
Organic Waste Management	2	\$63,098.13
Recycling	5	\$237,861.84
TOTAL	18	\$1,479,825.99

The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, funded by landfill tipping fees, enables the PEP members to clean up our land, continue to build up our recycling efforts, and see our wide-open spaces continue to welcome both the people and agriculture that we care for so much!

The Panhandle Environmental Partnership (PEP) covers almost 26,000 square miles of mostly open spaces with members from all over the Texas Panhandle. Since its inception in 1994, PEP has provided recycling services to residents across the area. By working with the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, the PEP can leverage Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds against local resources to build and maintain cost-effective recycling and waste diversion programs. The PEP members consistently divert cardboard, mixed paper, newspaper, office paper, plastics, aluminum, used motor oil, and scrap tires from the landfills. Members take pride in their recycling facilities and work to ensure the material is not contaminated. This attention has fostered good relationships with mills searching for quality materials to overcome the issues and costs of recycling across the nation.

During Fiscal Years 2018/2019, the PEP members diverted over 5.19 million pounds of waste from the landfills. Not only did this provide a savings of \$92,166 for our landfill costs, but we also saw a total of \$247,602 returned to our PEP-member cities/counties/ISDs on the materials that they sold to the recycling mills, which is quite a feat considering the Panhandle's distance to recycling markets.

The recycling industry has seen many changes over the past 25 years. Materials prices dropped following a downturn in global markets and the implementation of more stringent contamination standards. This did not

deter our PEP members, as they knew from experience that the market will ebb and flow. They know that the cost savings to the residents is not summed up in the price received for the material at the market alone. Diversion of materials from the landfill reaps its rewards from various avenues, such as cities/counties working with their economic development corporations to explore attracting or developing recycling markets in our own backyard. New recycling markets in the area would not only reduce transportation costs but would also add jobs to the communities it serves. Though the region has not yet added a recycling mill, conversations continue.

In Fiscal Years 2018/2019, the PEP furthered our goal of diverting waste from the region's landfills with 16 implementation projects for a total of \$219,850. There were over 6,869 scrap tires recycled over the course of 14 cleanup events. One of the region's ISDs, with only 397 students, built a new storage building to continue storing their baled material. Five applicants purchased over 111 collection containers specifically labeled to collect material for baling.

Funding for large equipment included the purchase of a loader and the refurbishment of a grapple truck for two cities now able to pick-up large piles of scrap metal for recycling or tree limbs left after snow/ice storms or to move regular yard waste/small tree limbs to composting centers available to residents and businesses. Some of our region's recycling centers used funds to replace standard equipment that was no longer usable, such as balers, movable containers for collection, and skid steers.

The recycling centers around the region have become a staple in their communities, residents will drop off and self-sort material. These equipment purchases made our recycling centers get back to business as usual.

The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, funded by landfill tipping fees, enables the PEP members to clean up our land, continue to build up our recycling efforts, and see our wide-open spaces continue to welcome both the people and agriculture that we care for so much!





GRANT RECIPIENTS

Booker ISD	City of Gruver
Castro County	City of Hart
City of Bovina	City of Pampa
City of Dalhart	City of Panhandle
City of Dimmitt	City of Stratford
City of Fritch	Swisher County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	4	\$17,850.00
Organic Waste Management	3	\$48,365.00
Recycling	9	\$153,635.00
TOTAL	16	\$219,850.00

Through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, the PBRPC financially assisted three communities with solid waste projects: used motor oil collections, yard waste mulching, and illegal dumping enforcement.

The Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission (PBRPC) has had an exceptional year in utilizing Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding in our education and outreach program. We have strived to enhance and expand our educational program with the purchase of Curby the Recycling Robot. This robot has been instrumental in strengthening our partnership with local independent school districts who have invited their local Keep Texas Beautiful affiliates into their classrooms to discuss the importance of the three R's-Recycling, Reducing and Reusing. Curby has been invited to numerous communities' events, both in and out of the Permian Basin Region, and has been well-received by audience members of all ages.

Through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, the PBRPC financially assisted three communities with solid waste projects.

The City of Monahans purchased used motor oil collection bins and has collected 10,432 gallons of used motor oil from residents.

The City of Big Spring participated in a landfill diversion in which a contractor was hired to chip yard waste into useable mulch which was then offered free to the public. Last year this project diverted 1,217,432 pounds of yard waste from entering the landfill.

Ector County Environmental Enforcement officers had a remarkable year and have expanded their enforcement program. Ector County purchased two security cameras

which can be placed at locations experiencing increased illegal dumping. These cameras continue to provide Ector County with real-time monitoring and have been instrumental in identifying subjects who are illegally dumping. Ector County Environmental Enforcement has also utilized social media to get the public's help in reducing their numbers and holding accountable those who improperly dispose of their garbage. Ector County's Environmental Enforcement efforts led to the investigation of 737 illegal dumping sites:

- 19 Class C misdemeanors (5lbs. or less)
- 706 Class B misdemeanors (5-500 lbs.)
- 12 Class A misdemeanors (500-1000 lbs.)

In total, 95 violators have been identified, and \$1,626,953.00 have been collected in fines. A total of 20,540,00 lbs., or 10,270 tons, of waste have been removed from illegal dumping sites.

PBRPC continues the effort to educate elected officials, judges, district/county attorneys, law enforcement, and code enforcement officers. For the first time, an Illegal Dumping Law and Enforcement Conference was held in Odessa. The event brought 48 elected officials, attorneys, and enforcement officers under one roof for open dialogue and communications to maximize local governments' efforts to stem illegal dumping in their community.

As we enter the new biennium, we will continue to build upon the progress which is being made in large part by

the support and allocations provided by our legislative body and TCEQ.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Big Spring

Ector County

City of Monahans

Permian Basin Regional Planning
Commission

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$47,041.40
Local Enforcement	1	\$11,949.91
Recycling	2	\$35,781.00
TOTAL	4	\$94,772.31

Promoting interagency cooperation with all entities and stakeholders involved in solid waste management and disposal has proven to be advantageous within the Rio Grande Council of Governments region.

Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG) and our regional stakeholders work to divert waste tires from landfill disposal and address litter and illegal dumping in Far West Texas. Promoting interagency cooperation with all entities and stakeholders involved in solid waste management and disposal has proven to be advantageous within our region. The process of joining together for the purpose of problem solving and improving services is an approach El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 (EPCWID) has undertaken.

EPCWID is committed to working with local subdivisions to prevent and dispose of hazardous waste and trash dumped illegally in waterways. EPCWID manages over 350 miles of irrigation canals and laterals and 269 miles of drainage systems serving 69,010 acres of water rights land along the Rio Grande. Additionally, EPCWID delivers water to El Paso Water Utilities to meet approximately 50% of municipal demand for more than 700,000 people. Cleaning up waste in irrigation canals and drains is necessary to ensure El Paso County residents continue to have safe and quality water for both agricultural and municipal use, while safeguarding the environment, promoting public health, and beautifying communities.

EPCWID has established partnerships with Lower Valley Water District, City of Socorro, City of San Elizario, Town of Clint, Village of Vinton, and other unincorporated communities within El Paso County to identify and monitor problem areas. Being in such proximity with

one another, it makes sense for these communities to work together. By doing so, through investments in waste collection equipment and jointly hosted illegal dumping cleanup and community collection events, they can have a greater impact on the illegal dumping problem.

EPCWID currently has a total waste management capacity of approximately 46,875 pounds and regularly collects and disposes of waste dumped illegally in waterways. Illegally dumped waste includes tires, household hazardous waste (HHW), appliances, electronics, used oil containers, ammunition, metals, plastics (including face masks and gloves), construction waste and debris, and other hazardous materials such as vehicle fluids, pesticide containers, and lead acid batteries. EPCWID collected approximately 55,000 passenger

tires during the previous five tire amnesty events which were supported through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by RGCOG.

EPCWID has effectively promoted solid waste reduction by addressing illegal dumping sites. With the use of the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding, EPCWID increased its waste management capacity through the purchase of a 30-cubic yard roll-off container and implemented multiple tire amnesty events in collaboration with stakeholders. Through their efforts, improvements were made to El Parque de los Niños (*The Children's Park*).





GRANT RECIPIENT
Rio Grande Council of Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$3,846.79
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$133,452.98
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$32,755.84
TOTAL	3	\$170,055.61



“Southeast Texans are encouraged to do their part to protect the health of their neighbors and the environment by properly disposing of their hazardous waste during these free collection events.”

—SETRPC Executive Director Shanna Burke

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) received funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program to conduct two Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Scrap Tire Collection events in southeast Texas during Fiscal Years 2018/2019.

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 1,215 southeast Texas residents participated in the collection events. The SETRPC collected more than 289,291 pounds of hazardous waste and more than 2,800 gallons of used oil during the events. If the SETRPC had not conducted these collection events, the HHW could have been discarded in the landfill, the environment, or in the water system. Disposal of these types of hazardous items in the environment or landfill could result in polluted soil or water or injured wildlife. HHW discarded with regular trash has the potential to be mixed unintentionally in a garbage truck while on route to the landfill and react, ignite, or explode, possibly injuring the waste collector.

During the events, the SETRPC also collected more than 7,315 scrap tires, including passenger, truck, and large machine tires. Discarded tires are a breeding ground

for mosquitoes, which carry disease-causing viruses. Abandoned tires have the potential to harbor rodents and snakes. If these tires were to catch on fire, they would release harmful chemicals and are very difficult to extinguish.

“It’s not acceptable to throw batteries, paint, or other hazardous waste in a trash can. Once these items get to

the landfill, they release pollutants which contribute to poor air quality” said SETRPC Executive Director Shanna Burke. “Southeast Texans are encouraged to do their part to protect the health of their neighbors and the environment by properly disposing of their hazardous waste during these free collection events.”





GRANT RECIPIENT
South East Texas Regional Planning Commission

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$229,022.94
TOTAL	1	\$229,022.94

Since purchasing the new equipment with Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding, the City of Plainview has diverted 3,150 pounds of metal, 25,914 pounds of plastic, 290,866 pounds of cardboard, and 95,226 pounds of paper from the landfill.

Plainview -Since 1994, the City of Plainview has provided recycling services to residents of the city and surrounding area through a sub-regional recycling center. Serving a total population of 30,190 from Plainview, Lockney, Floydada, Abernathy, and Hale Center, the recycling center recycles a variety of materials, such as cardboard, shredded paper, newspaper, plastic, electronics, and brush. They also take metal cans, aluminum, and appliances to their local vendor. A total of 259 commercial and residential blue box containers are taken to the recycle center annually. On average, almost six tons of waste a week are diverted from the landfill through recycling.

Recently the City has increased the efficiency of their recycling center. In Fiscal Years 2018/2019 with funding from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the South Plains Association of Governments, the City purchased a 12-foot Portable Incline Feed Conveyor and Stationery Trommel Screen. This equipment helps move recycled material more quickly off the recycle center floor, reduce odors and rodent populations, and make room for more recycling material. Since purchasing the new equipment, the City has diverted 3,150 pounds of metal, 25,914 pounds of plastic, 290,866 pounds of cardboard, and 95,226 pounds of paper from the landfill.

The City of Plainview hopes to continue improving their recycling facility to increase the rate of recycling in the overall region they serve. City staff encourage different types of recycling and events by advertising through

newspapers, radio, and Facebook throughout the year.

“Our City is very proactive concerning recycling and looking for ways to promote more public involvement in recycling,” said Tim Crosswhite, City of Plainview Director of Public Works “The City’s landfill is currently at 7% recycling, and we would like to increase that percentage.”

Sudan—Over the past few years, the City of Sudan has seen a decrease in litter and debris by giving citizens the opportunity to take the cleanup of their neighborhoods into their own hands. This is due, in large part, to the City’s purchase of a new mini dump trailer with funds from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the South Plains Association of Governments.

For the past decade, Sudan residents have been allowed to call in work orders to have large items, such as appliances, downed trees, and tires, picked up by City workers. The City began utilizing mini dump trailers to do this because of their maneuverability and ability to be pulled without requiring larger or specialized vehicles. Due to the high volume of calls, the City used Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds to purchase an additional mini dump trailer, which they allow citizens to call and reserve, free of charge, for weekend cleanups. This has decreased littering and illegal dumping around the city, while also saving the cost of man-hours and truck wear and tear that would otherwise be accumulated cleaning up the dump sites.

Items that can be recycled, while the rest is taken to a landfill for disposal. In just two years’ time, the City collected and recycled approximately 12,000 pounds of white goods, 228 scrap tires, and approximately 20,000 pounds of brush and yard waste. The costs for disposal, fuel, and maintenance of the trailer and truck are all covered by a small fee customers pay each month.

According to Richard Salazar, City of Sudan Public Works Director, the innovative mini dump trailer project has been an ongoing success in cutting down instances of illegal dumping. “It’s an excellent little project,” Mr. Salazar said. “We’re going to keep doing it and it’s working.”





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Hale Center

City of Ralls

City of Littlefield

City of Sudari

City of Plainview

South Plains Association of Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$30,583.95
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$4,111.00
Recycling	4	\$77,365.00
TOTAL	6	\$112,059.95

Today, the City of Laredo is not plastic bag free, and litter is still an environmental issue. However, the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding enabled a massive effort to bring awareness of good environmental habits to an overlooked population.

After the 2018 Texas Supreme Court issued a ruling that removed the City of Laredo's single-use plastic bag reduction ordinance that was adopted in 2014, a grassroots campaign began to take shape. A nonprofit organization, the Rio Grande International Study Center (RGISC), and the City of Laredo's Environmental Services Department (ESD) wanted to continue to raise public awareness, initiate dialogue, engage groups, and promote alternatives with diverse community members on plastic bag pollution and the need for reusable bags.

However, this plastic bag pollution awareness campaign for the public and retailers needed financial support to move forward. Organizers received funding through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the South Texas Development Council.

Funding from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program helped ESD and RGISC produce a dynamic marketing campaign, which included designing the "LOVE LAREDO BIG!" logo and branding it on numerous promotional items, distributing over 8,000 reusable decal stickers and more than 10,000 reusable bags, and marketing material in print and television advertisements.

"The 'Love Laredo Big!' campaign initiative raises awareness and educates our youth..." said John Porter, Director of the ESD.

The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program contributed to the "LOVE LAREDO BIG!" campaign in several ways.

- Through speaking engagements about plastic bag pollution, audience members could sign up to take the pledge to shop with reusable bags instead of plastic bags. The funding supported "signing up" to LOVE LAREDO BIG and continue to "Bag it Green!" The sign-up pledges enabled the movement to increase public awareness and the effects of single-use plastics on the environment by 10%. Before the TCEQ program funded the "LOVE LAREDO BIG!" campaign, the number of Bag It Green! pledges coming into the Lovelaredbig.org website had stopped.
- The ESD expanded its scope in outreach and environmental education by building on the "LOVE LAREDO BIG!" campaign and increased the number of outreach events and public speaking engagements by 40%.
- The ESD grew their social media following by 15%. Additionally, the ESD focused on raising awareness of the environmental hazards of single-use plastics by refocusing their promotional items to be reusable items. All promotional items include the "Love Laredo BIG!" logo and are reusable and eco-friendly, such as reusable straws, cutlery, and meal containers.

- The project has actively developed and strengthened new and existing collaborations within the City and has led to further understanding and work regarding littering, stormwater pollution, and sustainable practices.



"There's been a tremendous outpouring of support for Laredo not to go backward in plastic bag dependency... to keep our community plastic bag free, protect our natural resources, and change the culture of environmental awareness," said Tricia Cortez, Executive Director at RGISC.

Today, the City of Laredo is not plastic bag free, and litter is still an environmental issue. However, the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding enabled a massive effort to bring awareness of good environmental habits to an overlooked population. The City increased stormwater pollution education, emphasizing water quality protection, and the harmful effects of single-use plastics. This funding has a residual impact that assisted the outreach and educational component of the ESD to further numerous ecological initiatives.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Laredo

Starr County

City of Rio Bravo

Webb County

City of Roma

Zapata County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$28,000.00
General Solid Waste Management	2	\$28,497.50
Local Enforcement	1	\$16,000.00
Recycling	2	\$61,371.00
TOTAL	6	\$133,868.50

On April 20, 2019, TCOG hosted three simultaneous HHW collection events, one in each county. Forty-seven volunteers worked at three sites directing traffic, answering questions, and helping unload. Our full budget capacity was met at all three locations within 2.5 hours.

Since 2010, Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG) has hosted household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events in Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson counties, every two years. HHW is collected to alleviate hazardous material stock piling in homes to ensure the safety of residents and first responders, to give residents options for proper disposal, to better protect the environment and natural resources of our region. These events are offered free to residents.

HHW collected includes batteries, paint, pesticides, herbicides, solvents, used motor oil, antifreeze, and other household chemicals. We also collect used automobile tires to combat illegal dumping and used electronics to promote recycling and to keep electronics out of landfills.

On April 20, 2019, TCOG hosted three simultaneous HHW collection events, one in each county. Forty-seven volunteers worked at three sites directing traffic, answering questions, and helping unload.

A total of 802 households participated in the events: 221 from Cooke County, 285 from Fannin County, and 296 from Grayson County. In total 1,354 tires were collected, down from 2,833 in 2017, and 40,042 pounds of used electronics were collected, down from 44,161 in 2017.

Even though the number of tires and pounds of used electronics decreased over 2017, overall HHW collection amounts continue to increase every year:



- 52,683 pounds of HHW collected in 2015
- 97,002 pounds in 2017
- 119,139 pounds in 2019, including over 38,000 pounds of latex paint

The challenges we face in Texoma are that the amount of hazardous materials collected each year continues to grow dramatically. There are no year-round HHW drop off facilities in the region, there are not enough collection events, and area residents have few disposal options. Costs also continue to rise. The demand exceeds our capacity. People lined up for hours, and many people were turned away. We estimated we would have needed two or three times as much money to meet the

demand. Our full budget capacity was met at all three locations within 2.5 hours. We are using 100% of our implementation funds from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program on HHW collection at the expense of education and outreach about source reduction, smarter shopping, and disposal options.

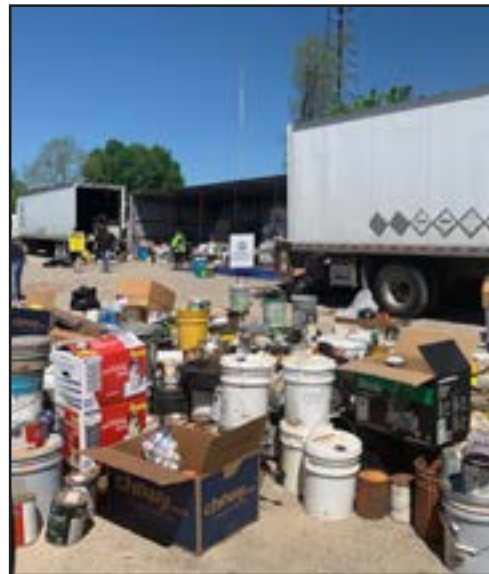
We are looking at more creative solutions to meet demand in the future: eliminating latex paint collection; hosting smaller, more frequent events; requiring prior appointments; finding more year-round disposal options within the community; and more funds for education and outreach.



GRANT RECIPIENT

Texoma Council of Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$3,650.54
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$117,089.17
TOTAL	2	\$120,739.71



During Fiscal Years 2018/2019 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding period, the West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG) conducted an illegal dumping awareness campaign to help reduce the ill effects of illegal dumping in our region.

During Fiscal Years 2018/2019 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding period, the West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG) conducted an illegal dumping awareness campaign to help reduce the ill effects of illegal dumping in our region.

Illegal dumping has increasingly become a bigger issue in rural west central Texas. Scrap tires, construction and demolition waste, and other household trash has and continues to be illegally dumped on county roads and vacant lots across the WCTCOG region.

Using \$31,479 in Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding, WCTCOG implemented a region-wide illegal dumping outreach and education campaign consisting of billboards, radio and television advertising, digital media, and commercial PSA's. "No Dumping" signage was also made available to our 19-county "Big Country" region.

In addition to the outreach and education campaign, the WCTCOG managed \$18,270 of scrap tire recycling events. The illegal dumping of scrap tires across the region has become a severe epidemic, causing

hazardous conditions in waterways, threatening economic development, and serving as a breeding ground for rodents and mosquitoes that carry harmful viruses. The following communities participated in scrap tire recycling events: City of Sweetwater, City of Coleman, City of Cisco, City of Breckenridge, and Stephens County. More than 130,000 pounds of scrap tires were collected and properly disposed. WCTCOG staff attended several scrap tire events and passed out

education and outreach materials to all who participated.

The WCTCOG also administered funding to the City of Cisco for the purchase of a cardboard baler for \$14,000. The City of Cisco provides a staging area for the disposal of cardboard at the local convenience center where a City employee bales the cardboard and prepares it for transport.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Ballinger
City of Cisco

West Central Texas Council of
Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	2	\$43,367.77
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$18,270.00
Recycling	3	\$30,954.14
TOTAL	6	\$92,591.91

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program Funding Report
Fiscal Years 2018/2019

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS