

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS



# IMPACTS & RESULTS

IN YOUR REGION

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program Funding Report  
Fiscal Year 2010/2011

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

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

A compilation of data received from the 24 COGs through the Waste Permits Division of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is included, summarizing projects funded by each of the planning regions during the State Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011.

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



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

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**THE GRANT PROGRAM**

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

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

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

**WHY THE PROGRAM IS IMPORTANT**

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

**USING COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS (COGs) TO OVERSEE GRANTS**

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

- **LOCAL FAMILIARITY**  
Grant proposals are evaluated by public and private experts from each region who are familiar with the region's needs and issues.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY**  
COGs can administer a wide range of grants, from \$1,500 to \$300,000 with legislatively set forth methods of accountability.
- **PARTNERSHIP**  
COGs work with governments to develop and update Regional Solid Waste Management Plans.
- **REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**  
COGs can help facilitate projects that benefit the region as a whole, including developing regional household hazardous waste facilities, cross-jurisdictional environmental enforcement task forces, and regional recycling facilities.
- **EFFICIENCY**  
COGs know what activities are under way in their areas, thus decreasing the chance for duplication of efforts.



*“The investment provided by the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program allows us to plant the seeds of social change, making waste reduction, recycling, conservation, and civic responsibility the norm.”*

*Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Grant Recipient*

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

During Fiscal Year 2010/2011 almost \$447,000 of the regional solid waste grant funds appropriated by the legislature were spent on collecting and disposing of tires.

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

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

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

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





*Communities have a great demand for these grant funds and programs.  
During Fiscal Year 2010/2011, the 24 regional COGs funded 452 projects totaling \$13,946,119.*

**T**he program is funded by revenues collected through municipal solid waste fees, or “tipping fees,” paid at landfills and appropriated by the legislature during each regularly scheduled session.

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

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

Communities have a great demand for these grant funds and programs. During Fiscal Year 2010/2011, the 24 regional COGs funded 452 projects totaling \$13,946,119.

(See Table 1 for a breakdown by COG.)



TABLE 1

FISCAL YEAR 2010/2011

PROJECT FUNDING VS. PROJECT REQUESTS BY COG

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT	PROJECT FUNDING	PROJECT REQUESTS	DIFFERENCE
Alamo Area Council of Governments	1,321,422.99	2,650,580.08	-1,329,157.09
Ark-Tex Council of Governments	198,943.96	642,173.00	-443,229.04
Brazos Valley Council of Governments	154,090.80	185,603.00	-31,512.20
Capital Area Council of Governments	862,308.80	1,725,413.00	-863,104.20
Central Texas Council of Governments	237,304.00	237,304.00	0.00
Coastal Bend Council of Governments	429,064.55	788,576.19	-359,511.64
Concho Valley Council of Governments	201,881.25	225,547.76	-23,666.51
Deep East Texas Council of Governments	246,498.93	248,932.00	-2,433.07
East Texas Council of Governments	501,471.69	1,151,090.30	-649,618.61
Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission	236,510.14	309,782.13	-73,271.99
Heart of Texas Council of Governments	287,577.86	660,077.00	-372,499.14
Houston-Galveston Area Council	2,715,451.91	6,965,947.00	-4,250,495.09
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council	544,619.18	1,788,142.00	-1,243,522.82
Middle Rio Grande Development Council	162,079.30	174,584.73	-12,505.43
Nortex Regional Planning Commission	188,091.92	275,000.00	-86,908.08
North Central Texas Council of Governments	3,092,228.60	6,830,296.00	-3,738,067.40
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	545,323.48	854,918.00	-309,594.52
Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	327,602.86	339,895.00	-12,292.14
Rio Grande Council of Governments	385,769.64	782,129.00	-396,359.36
South East Texas Regional Planning Commission	270,732.05	302,680.00	-31,947.95
South Plains Association of Governments	311,379.03	432,373.00	-120,993.97
South Texas Development Council	242,564.00	242,564.00	0.00
Texoma Council of Governments	218,453.75	219,597.42	-1,143.67
West Central Texas Council of Governments	264,748.48	287,452.75	-22,704.27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,946,119.17</b>	<b>\$28,320,657.36</b>	<b>\$-14,374,538.19</b>

## WHO BENEFITS FROM THE GRANTS

Grant funds are awarded through a competitive process in each of the 24 regions to the following eligible entities:

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

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

(See Table 2 for a breakdown of the grant funds benefitting each type of entity.)



**TABLE 2 FISCAL YEAR 2010/2011 FUNDING BY ENTITY**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL	PROJECT FUNDING
Cities	299	66%	\$8,385,110.32
Counties	104	23%	\$3,293,682.11
COGs	23	5%	\$1,473,893.55
School Districts	19	4%	\$540,620.04
Other Districts/Authorities	7	2%	\$252,813.15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$13,946,119.17</b>



- Technical assistance to local governments in the implementation and evaluation of solid waste management programs
- Education and outreach activities, programs and printed materials that provide a unified message but can also be customized for local governments
- Regional training such as environmental enforcement for peace officers and disaster debris management for emergency managers



### REGIONAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION

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

COGs:

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

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

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

During windstorms, wildfires, or floods, HHW may be released into the environment, endangering people, pets,

or wildlife that unknowingly come in contact with it. The average household has between 3 and 10 gallons of HHW.

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

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

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

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

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

During Fiscal Year 2010/2011 local governments used almost \$2 million in regional solid waste grant funds to help their residents address the issue of stockpiled HHW and create opportunities to educate the general public on the importance of proper disposal and alternative materials that can be used in place of typical hazardous products.



**TABLE 3**

FISCAL YEAR 2010/2011

**FUNDING BY CATEGORY**

<b>GRANT CATEGORY</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PROJECTS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PROJECTS</b>	<b>PROJECT FUNDING BY CATEGORY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FUNDING</b>
Education and Training	<b>49</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>\$1,933,003.88</b>	<b>14%</b>
General Solid Waste Management	<b>109</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>\$1,678,472.96</b>	<b>12%</b>
HHW Management	<b>39</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>\$2,018,578.95</b>	<b>14%</b>
Local Enforcement	<b>49</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>\$1,403,461.32</b>	<b>10%</b>
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	<b>7</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>\$374,718.78</b>	<b>3%</b>
Organic Waste Management	<b>47</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>\$1,321,266.77</b>	<b>9%</b>
Recycling	<b>146</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>\$5,162,597.56</b>	<b>37%</b>
Used Oil Management	<b>6</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>\$54,018.95</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$13,946,119.17</b>	<b>100%</b>



### LOCAL ENFORCEMENT

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

- 20,204 illegal dumping sites investigated
- 24,287,119 pounds of waste removed through enforcement actions



### RECYCLING AND ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

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

- 662,892 tons of materials diverted for recycling
- \$15,295,742 in local revenues from the sale of diverted materials
- \$17,637,188 in local disposal costs avoided
- 19,920 tons of electronics diverted for recycling



### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) AND USED OIL MANAGEMENT

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

- 119,973 citizens participated in collection events
- 2,580,315 pounds of HHW collected for disposal
- 438,063 gallons of paint collected for recycling or reuse
- 124,431 gallons of oil collected for recycling
- 18,960 oil filters collected for recycling
- 173,072 tires collected for recycling



## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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

- 3,827 education and training events were held
- 707,128 individuals received training or attended educational events



## GENERAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

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

- 134,528 citizens served by citizens' collection stations
- 17,254 tons of waste collected for disposal at citizens' collection stations
- 81,559 citizens participated in clean-up and community collection events
- 29,732,720 pounds of waste collected for disposal at events

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

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

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

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

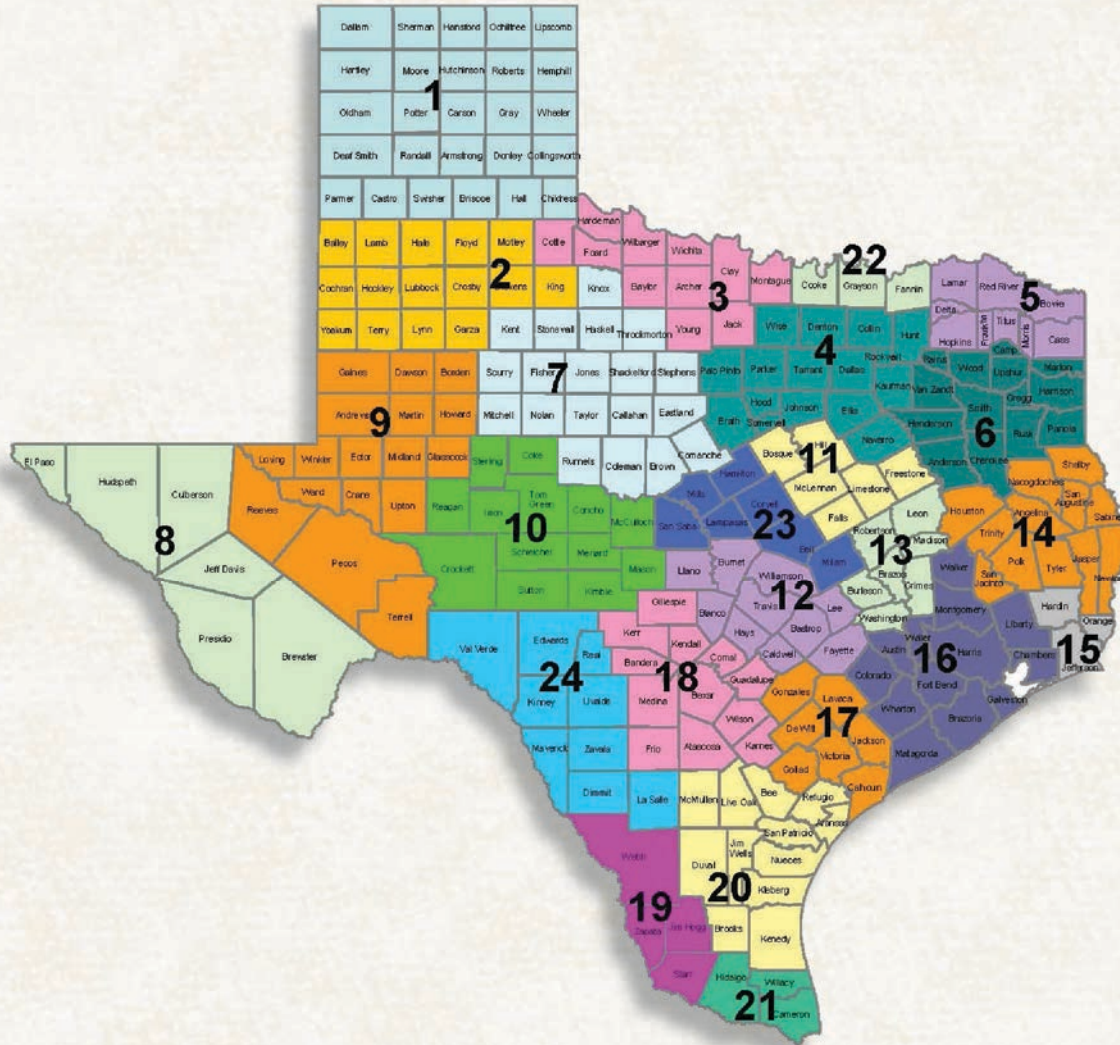
These hazardous materials make it imperative that the state's response to the increasing call for electronics recycling be addressed by trained and qualified professionals.

Legislators have established state-run programs, administered by TCEQ, to "take back" computers and televisions. In 2011, Texas collected 11,138 tons of used electronics through the take-back programs.

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

During Fiscal Year 2010/2011, with some grant funds appropriated by the legislature and allocated through the regions, local governments collected 19,920 tons of used electronics.





NUMBER	COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS NAME	PAGE
1	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	15
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3	Nortex Regional Planning Commission	19
4	North Central Texas Council of Governments	21
5	Ark-Tex Council of Governments	23
6	East Texas Council of Governments	25
7	West Central Texas Council of Governments	27
8	Rio Grande Council of Governments	29
9	Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	31
10	Concho Valley Council of Governments	33
11	Heart of Texas Council of Governments	35
12	Capital Area Council of Governments	37
13	Brazos Valley Council of Governments	39
14	Deep East Texas Council of Governments	41
15	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission	43
16	Houston-Galveston Area Council	45
17	Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission	47
18	Alamo Area Council of Governments	49
19	South Texas Development Council	51
20	Coastal Bend Council of Governments	53
21	Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council	55
22	Texoma Council of Governments	57
23	Central Texas Council of Governments	59
24	Middle Rio Grande Development Council	61



*With the grant program and other resources, 5.5 million pounds of material were diverted from Panhandle landfills.*

In an area with more square mileage than the states of Vermont, New Hampshire and Connecticut combined and a total population less than the city of El Paso, the Texas Panhandle region faces many recycling challenges. From sparsely populated areas to long distances to markets, the Panhandle Environmental Partnership (PEP) has been working for over 16 years to bring effective solid waste diversion programs to rural West Texas.

The PEP, a project supported by the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission's (PRPC's) Regional Marketing and Transportation program, was started shortly after Texas first adopted its recycling goals. The PEP works with rural communities, helping them to leverage regional solid waste grant resources against local resources to maintain cost-effective recycling and waste diversion programs.

The value of the PEP is found in its ability to forge cooperative ties between its members, allowing for efficiencies in transportation and universal access to vital recycling markets.

Many of the 28 PEP member communities have populations of 2,000 or less. Each of them has received grant funding to purchase the equipment needed to run its operation.

Whether that's a baler to compact material for recycling, a roll-off to collect metals for recycling, or a trailer to collect and store used tires, the grants program has provided the initial start-up capital for the local program.

Then, the local agency provides the manpower to keep the equipment in operation. The PEP supports these activities by handling all the details associated with the final phase of the diversion process – getting the materials to the buyer and getting the proceeds back to the recycling community. The checks received in payment for these materials then help to offset the costs of processing the material for recycling.

The goal of the PEP has been to work toward creating economic parity between recycling and landfilling such that the cost of recycling is no greater than what it would cost to landfill the materials being recycled.

During Fiscal Year 2010/2011, through the combination of the grant program, the investment of local resources, and the cooperative efforts of the PEP, 5.5 million pounds of material was diverted from Panhandle landfills. Of the materials that could be recycled, \$275,483 in proceeds from material sales was returned to PEP communities to

help cover their program operating costs. Adding to the ledger, the material diverted for recycling or reuse resulted in approximately \$96,316 in avoided landfill costs.

The PEP also organizes region-wide events for electronics recycling and workshops. In 2010 and 2011, PEP facilitated collection and recycling of over 141,000 pounds of used electronics. While this is just scratching the surface, it is a start, and the PEP hopes to see the regional collection and recycling of electronics continue to grow in the years to come.

While recycling in rural Texas does have its challenges, those challenges can be overcome when communities work together for a common cause. The spirit of cooperation and mutual benefit represents the core strength of the PEP.

**Many of the 28 PEP member communities have populations of 2,000 or less. Each of them has received grant funding to purchase equipment needed to run its operation.**





**With the help of grant funding, the PEP's Marketing and Transportation program assists members in transportation and universal access to vital recycling markets.**

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- Booker ISD
- Boys Ranch ISD
- City of Adrian
- City of Borger
- City of Channing
- City of Clarendon
- City of Dalhart
- City of Dimmitt
- City of Dumas
- City of Friona
- City of Gruver
- City of Memphis
- City of Pampa
- City of Perryton
- City of Quitaque
- City of Sunray
- City of Tulia
- City of Wheeler
- Deaf Smith County
- Oldham County
- PRPC

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	3
Organic Waste Management	5
Recycling	14
Used Oil Management	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	\$23,680
Organic Waste Management	\$88,645
Recycling	\$406,893
Used Oil Management	\$26,105
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$545,323</b>



*With grant funding, the City of Levelland (13,542 residents) expanded its recycling facility to accommodate increased demand.*

**A**s a growing city in the South Plains Region, Levelland in Hockley County, has continuously strived to find new ways to reduce the waste stream, as well as the environmental and economic effects of waste.

In Fiscal Year 2011 with the help of funding from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the South Plains Association of Governments, Levelland enhanced its citizens' recycling facility.

The city now has a larger facility with not only more space to collect and store recyclables, but also an office and work area for facility employees.

The City of Levelland Recycling Facility continues to adapt to the diverse needs of the local population, and currently accepts:

- Newspaper, office paper, and magazines
- Aluminum cans
- Cardboard
- Plastic bottles and jugs
- Automobile batteries

In addition, the city, with a population of 13,542, reduced public disposal costs by an average of \$394 a month and gained total revenue of \$5,682 from the sale of recycled materials one year after the end of the grant period.



**Levelland now has a larger facility with more space to collect and store recyclables, an office, and a work area for facility employees.**



The city has reduced public disposal costs by an average of \$394 a month and gained total revenue of \$5,682 from the sale of recycled materials.

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- City of Amherst
- City of Idalou
- City of Levelland
- City of Lorenzo
- City of Olton
- City of Plainview
- City of Ralls
- City of Ropesville
- City of Slaton
- City of Smyer
- City of Spur
- City of Tahoka
- Lamb County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	6
Organic Waste Management	5
Recycling	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	\$90,197
Organic Waste Management	\$142,473
Recycling	\$78,709
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$311,379</b>



*Communities in the NORTEX region are setting up drop-off centers for materials that previously would have landed in dump sites and bar-ditches along county roads.*

**D**uring the past few years, the 11-county Nortex Regional Planning Commission (NORTEX) has used regional solid waste grant funds to help reduce illegal dumping and promote source reduction and recycling activities.

The NORTEX region has only two Type I landfills, both in Wichita County, the most populated county in the region (131,664 residents). Outlying areas must transfer their Municipal Solid Waste to these landfills.

To better serve the population in the small outlying cities, these communities have started setting up Citizens' Convenience Centers which allow residents to drop off materials that were winding up in unofficial dump sites or in bar-ditches along county roads.

During Fiscal Year 2008/2009 approximately 54% of the funding went to either setup or enhancement of these

convenience centers, and in Fiscal Year 2010/2011 approximately 13% of the funding benefitted the convenience centers.

In Fiscal Year 2010/2011, the cities also used grant funds for the cleanup of abandoned property and for source reduction and recycling activities. Equipment purchases for recycling and source reduction made up 52% of the implementation project budget, and 32% of the budget was dedicated to cleaning up illegal dump sites.

The projects are a priority for the Solid Waste Advisory Committee; however, funding shortfalls resulted in seven unfunded projects during the last grant cycle. These types of projects will continue to be in demand in the NORTEX region.



**To better serve the population in small outlying cities, Citizens' Convenience Centers have been set up to allow residents to drop off materials.**



**The communities used grant funds to purchase equipment for cleaning up abandoned properties and illegal dump sites and recycling activities.**

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- Archer County
- City of Archer City
- City of Bryson
- City of Burkburnett
- City of Crowell
- City of Henrietta
- City of Iowa Park
- City of Paducah
- City of Quanah
- City of Wichita Falls
- City of Windthorst
- Wichita County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	1
General Solid Waste Management	6
Local Enforcement	1
Organic Waste Management	3
Recycling	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$20,000
General Solid Waste Management	\$70,812
Local Enforcement	\$20,000
Organic Waste Management	\$58,300
Recycling	\$18,980
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$188,092</b>



*1.8 million pounds of recycled materials were collected and diverted from landfills in Kaufman County. This is a cost savings in trash hauling of \$64,000 per month.*

**C**ommercial recycling, illegal dumping, and trash pick up are just a few of the solid waste issues the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) focused on in Fiscal Year 2010/2011 through regional solid waste grant funds.

In 2011, Kaufman County used grant funds totaling \$120,054 to expand the Commercial Recycling Program for the rural population which lacked sufficient recycling options. The amount of recycled materials collected and diverted from landfills during the implementation of this grant was 1,830,000 pounds (915 tons); an estimated increase of more than 40% from the previous year and a cost savings to the county in trash hauling of approximately \$64,000 per month.

That same year, the county also launched a Stop Illegal Dumping campaign using \$89,000 in grant funds, the bulk of which was used to outfit two minimally-equipped abatement officers responsible for overseeing illegal dumping activities for 781 square miles of rural countryside. New equipment included a 2011 F250 truck equipped to handle the terrain and load requirements for the large territory; updated laptops and printers for use in the field; basic safety gear, including snake tongs and boot gaiters; infrared digital surveillance equipment; and large yellow banners warning of surveillance

in the area. Illegal dumping incidences in the county have decreased. In conjunction with this grant, Kaufman County was also able to use the Environmental Co-op to provide seven free used electronics recycling events, diverting 111,000 pounds of electronic materials from the sides of roads and landfills.

In Tarrant County, the Sheriff's Department Labor Detail Program collects and removes trash from illegal dump sites throughout the county and along several hundred miles of county roads and state highways each week. City parks and public works departments from at least 10 municipalities and the Tarrant Regional Water District benefit from the program.

The program used grant funds to purchase a 15-passenger van for transporting participants to various cleanup sites and a trailer that is used exclusively for the collection of trash and cleaning up illegal dump sites.

The equipment purchased through the Regional Solid Waste Grant has dramatically increased the trash collection capabilities of the Labor Detail Program at a time when many of the local government entities have reduced their efforts to collect trash. Since the end of June 2011, the Labor Detail Program has cleaned up an estimated 843 acres of land, with collection of 363,202 pounds of trash and debris and 1,850 pounds of recyclable materials.



**Equipment purchased through the Regional Solid Waste Grant has dramatically increased the efficiency of trash collection.**



Since June 2011 the Labor Detail Program has cleaned up 843 acres, 363,202 pounds of trash, and 1,850 pounds of recyclable materials.

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- Burleson ISD
- City of Allen
- City of Anna
- City of Arlington
- City of Bridgeport
- City of Cleburne
- City of Coppell
- City of Dallas
- City of Denton
- City of Desoto
- City of Forney
- City of Fort Worth
- City of Frisco
- City of Garland
- City of Grand Prairie
- City of Greenville
- City of Haltom City
- City of Irving
- City of Keller
- City of Lewisville
- City of Mansfield
- City of Mesquite
- City of North Richland Hills
- City of Plano
- City of Wylie
- Collin County
- Hunt County
- Kaufman County
- Mesquite ISD
- NCTCOG
- Scurry Rosser ISD
- Tarrant County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	6
General Solid Waste Management	5
Household Hazardous Waste Management	6
Local Enforcement	3
Organic Waste Management	4
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	6
Recycling	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$397,908
General Solid Waste Management	\$171,369
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$465,410
Local Enforcement	\$162,636
Organic Waste Management	\$260,868
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	\$358,558
Recycling	\$1,275,480
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,092,229</b>



*More than 6,000 pounds of aluminum were recycled in Hopkins County through non-profit partnerships, providing \$3,900 for youth organizations and educational programs for the mentally disabled.*

Hopkins County serves over 12,000 households in four precincts, and residents generate approximately 39,000 tons of waste per year, including 12,000 tons of recyclable materials. In Fiscal Year 2011, the county received a \$31,925 Regional Solid Waste Grant administered by the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ARK-TEX) to develop and implement an aluminum can recycling program.

This is the first and only publicly-driven recycling program within the county. The objectives of this program are to educate Hopkins County residents about the environmental and economic importance of recycling and to reduce the amount of aluminum cans entering the waste stream.

With this funding, Hopkins County conducted the 2011 Environmental Summit which included educational programs to raise public awareness about recycling. The county created six public collection sites in cooperation with non-profit organizations, including Lakes Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Center (MHMR), Boy Scout Troop 66, Boys and Girls Club, Miller Grove Independent School District, Precincts 1 and 3, and the 4-H Council.

The county also established 10 institutional collection sites with private companies and educational entities, including Owens Food, Southwest Dairy Museum, Alliance Bank, Guaranty Bond Bank, Rains-Hopkins Farm Bureau, Sulphur Springs ISD, Miller Grove ISD, MHMR, and local law offices.

Hopkins County customized the aluminum can collection trailers for each of the six non-profit organizations by allowing each organization to design a logo and choose the color of the trailer. This created a sense of ownership for each organization, thus encouraging friendly competition within the community. More than 6,000 pounds of aluminum (126,000 cans) were recycled through these non-profit partnerships, providing \$3,900 in direct benefits for youth organizations and educational programs for the mentally disabled.

Hopkins County developed an evaluation system to record the volume of aluminum cans collected per institution and site to measure changes in behavioral practices within the community toward recycling and adoption of best management practices. From the results, the county surmises that Hopkins County residents will participate in aluminum can recycling especially if the collection site is easily accessible, highly visible and linked to a well-known, local institution.







**Hopkins County allowed each of the six non-profit organizations to customize the aluminum can collection trailers with their logo and choice of trailer color.**

### GRANT RECIPIENTS

ARK-TEX  
 Bowie County  
 Chapel Hill ISD  
 City of Annona  
 City of Avery  
 City of Clarksville  
 City of Cooper  
 City of Domino  
 City of Redwater  
 Hopkins County  
 Sulphur Springs ISD

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	6
Local Enforcement	1
Recycling	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	\$46,792
Local Enforcement	\$32,373
Recycling	\$119,779
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$198,944</b>



*The Rains County Recycling Center is satisfying the demand of residents who want increased recycling options and convincing everyone of the value of recycling.*

As recycling becomes more popular across Texas, areas with established recycling centers often need to grow their programs. This was the case with Rains County. The county used regional solid waste grant funds administered by the East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) to purchase one cargo-style box trailer for newspapers and two portable storage sheds that are in use 100% of the time for solid waste activities. The purchased equipment was placed at the Rains County Recycling Center, which was constructed in 2010.

As a result of the expansion of the center, a service is provided without additional county labor costs and is sustained with little outside management. This county-wide recycling program also has assistance and support from the three cities within the county.

The program is satisfying the demand of residents who want increased recycling options and convincing others of the value of recycling. The Rains County Recycling Committee continues to be responsible for the program's operations while the Rains County Boy Scout Troop #393 provides labor and transport costs associated with the program. Items collected within Rains County are delivered to a recycler in Greenville, Texas.



**Rains County used grant funds to purchase one cargo-style box trailer for newspapers and two portable storage sheds for solid waste activities.**

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- City of Arp
- City of Bullard
- City of Carthage
- City of Chandler
- City of East Tawakoni
- City of Emory
- City of Gladewater
- City of Grand Saline
- City of Gun Barrel City
- City of Hallsville
- City of Hawkins
- City of Henderson
- City of Jacksonville
- City of Lindale
- City of Marshall
- City of Overton
- City of Point
- City of Quitman
- City of Tool
- City of Trinidad
- City of Van
- City of Whitehouse
- City of Will Point
- City of Winnsboro
- Harrison County
- Rains County
- Smith County
- Upper Sabine SWM District
- Upper Sabine Valley SWM District
- Upshur County
- Van Zandt County



**The Recycling Center's expansion and service is provided without additional county labor costs and is sustained with little outside management.**

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	12
Local Enforcement	6
Organic Waste Management	7
Recycling	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	\$49,393
Local Enforcement	\$150,445
Organic Waste Management	\$149,817
Recycling	\$151,817
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$501,472</b>



*Recycling is in huge demand in small, rural Texas areas, proven by cities like Snyder, population 11,000, who tripled its recycling tonnage in 2011.*

Implementation of a recycling program in Snyder, a small West Texas city, has been challenging. However, thanks to the support of the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, the city has risen to the challenge.

Snyder, with a population of 11,000, began its recycling program in 1994 with little success as a result of high transportation costs in this rural area. In 2008, the city re-launched its campaign with funding from the grant program administered through the West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG).

In Fiscal Year 2011, recycling tonnage at the city tripled. Improvements to the program include a 24-by-60-foot expansion of the recycling building, additional storage space for a straight mill run for cardboard and paper, and the purchase of a skid steer loader and two balers.

Snyder also placed 125 three-to-four-yard recycling dumpsters around the city, at businesses and schools, including Western Texas College. These dumpsters are picked up twice a week.

In addition to improving its own program, Snyder also partnered with a local elementary school to produce award-winning results. Snyder Elementary School's recycling program was a national finalist in the Siemens Discovery Challenge. This marked the first time a Texas school has made the finalist list. Snyder Elementary was also recognized as the second place recipient in the Keep Texas Beautiful Ruthe Jackson Youth Leadership Award.

The State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR) awarded the City of Snyder and Snyder Independent School District the Outstanding Recycling Partnership Award.

The city has also partnered with Snyder High School and Western Texas College in starting their own in-house recycling programs, and both Snyder Elementary and Snyder High School have joined the Recycle Bowl Challenge for 2012.



**Improvements to the recycling program include a 24-by-60-foot expansion of the recycling building and additional storage space for cardboard and paper.**



**In addition to improving its own program, Snyder also partnered with a local elementary school to produce award-winning results.**

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- Brown County
- City of Baird
- City of Breckenridge
- City of Brownwood
- City of Eastland
- City of Hamlin
- City of Hawley
- City of Miles
- City of Snyder
- City of Sweetwater
- City of Winters
- WCTCOG

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	1
General Solid Waste Management	3
Local Enforcement	4
Organic Waste Management	2
Recycling	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$10,654
General Solid Waste Management	\$9,793
Local Enforcement	\$74,831
Organic Waste Management	\$55,000
Recycling	\$114,470
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$264,748</b>



*“Junk Junkies” and “Wild Cowboy” characters increased participation at collection events in Jeff Davis County to gather 88 tons of waste and 68 tons of recyclables that would have ended up in a landfill.*

Illegal dumping is a problem in the rural areas of far west Texas. In Jeff Davis County, this was becoming an eyesore, health hazard, and burden to residents and the community. With the use of regional solid waste grant funding administered by the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOC), the county was able to implement an illegal dumping cleanup and community collection program.

The county achieved great participation with the creation of the “Junk Junkies” and “Wild Cowboy” characters developed to educate the community on what could be collected.

The county held three major collection events in two different locations with 52 volunteers helping in the events. The community participated by taking bulk waste items and recyclable materials for free. This program not only promoted illegal dumping prevention, but recycling as well.

The events collected a total of more than 88 tons of waste and 68 tons of recyclable materials that would have otherwise ended up in a landfill.



**With the use of grant funding, the county held illegal dumping cleanup and community collection programs.**



**The county held three major collection events in two different locations with 52 volunteers.**

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- Alpine ISD
- Brewster County
- City of Alpine
- City of El Paso
- El Paso ISD
- Jeff Davis County
- Lower Valley Water District
- Socorro ISD
- Town of Anthony
- Town of Van Horn
- Village of Vinton

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	2
General Solid Waste Management	6
Recycling	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$64,499
General Solid Waste Management	\$127,399
Recycling	\$193,871
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$385,770</b>



*Ector County has investigated 467 illegal dump sites, 90 of these being chronic dump sites, and issued \$321,463 in fines.*

Ector County, the county with the highest population in the Permian Basin - has experienced an increase in population (13% since 2000) and illegal dumping in the past several years. This increase in illegal dumping could be partially attributed to the oil and gas industry “boom.” Most of the illegal dumping occurs in the unincorporated portions of Ector County, which accounts for more than 25% of the total population and 95% of the land area.

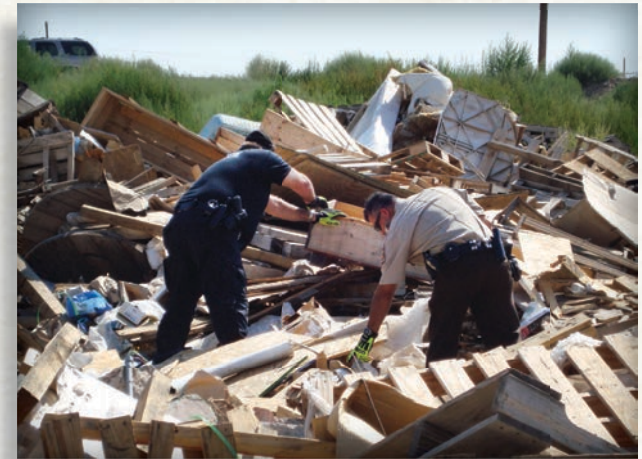
The county, historically, has not had a code enforcement officer to handle illegal dumping issues. These duties, in the past, have been performed by the Ector County Sherriff’s office. However, due to the increased economic activity in the Permian Basin, the resources of the Ector County Sherriff have been stretched to the limit and illegal dumping did not have as high a priority as other crimes.

In Fiscal Year 2008/2009, the county decided it was time to start prosecuting illegal dumping and obtained \$49,127 in regional solid waste grant funds administered by the

Permian Basin Regional Planning Council, as seed money to establish an Environmental Enforcement Office in the County Health Department. Ector County hired a Texas Certified Law Enforcement Officer who has TCEQ environmental enforcement training and provided approximately \$50,000 - \$60,000 annually as in-kind services and cash match for the grants.

Today, the Environmental Enforcement program in Ector County is self sustaining with a budget of approximately \$200,000 allocated for Fiscal Year 2013. The staff of the program includes the environmental enforcement officer and four part-time deputies. Ector County has investigated 467 illegal dump sites, 90 of these being chronic dump sites, and issued \$321,463 in fines.

As a result of the work of the Environmental Enforcement Office, 382 illegal dump sites and 1,300 tons of trash have been cleaned up, either by county efforts or the responsible party.



**Ector County started prosecuting illegal dumping offenders and, through a Regional Solid Waste Grant, was able to establish an Environmental Enforcement Office.**





**As a result of the Environmental Enforcement Office, 382 illegal dump sites and 1,300 tons of trash have been cleaned up.**

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- City of Andrews
- City of Balmorhea
- City of Big Spring
- City of Fort Stockton
- City of Kermit
- City of Lamesa
- City of McCamey
- City of Midland
- City of Monahans
- City of Odessa
- City of Wink
- Ector County
- Terrell County
- Town of Pecos City
- Ward County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	4
General Solid Waste Management	5
Household Hazardous Waste Management	2
Local Enforcement	2
Organic Waste Management	3
Recycling	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$87,951
General Solid Waste Management	\$30,530
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$32,326
Local Enforcement	\$44,627
Organic Waste Management	\$73,600
Recycling	\$58,569
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$327,603</b>



*The Concho Valley region continues to look for ways to offset transportation costs for solid waste services for residents outside of highly-populated areas.*

**M**inimal funding and a small population are just two of the challenges the City of Brady has overcome to launch and maintain a successful recycling program.

The City of Brady, with a population of 4,087, is located in McCulloch County 77 miles southeast of San Angelo. The city started its recycling program in 2006 by purchasing a recycling trailer with the help of a Regional Solid Waste Grant administered by the Concho Valley Council of Governments (CVCOG). Since then, the city has purchased two additional recycling trailers and a recycling building at the city landfill. The city has worked to create this viable recycling program from the ground up, including pouring the concrete pad and installing the

steel framing for the building, insulating the building and installing an inverter to run the two balers.

The city's recycling program currently accepts cardboard, newspaper, magazines and plastic bottles. Residents can also take clean metal to the city landfill at no charge. Residents can bring their used oil, oil filters and antifreeze to the city public works department for disposal.

While the City of Brady has enjoyed success with its program, it continues to work toward improvement, including constructing a pole barn for recyclables, purchasing three flatbed trailers for a cardboard recycling route and adding an office area, sidewalks, and security lighting at the recycling building.

The City of Brady is just one example of the programs operating in the west Texas CVCOG service area. The area faces a unique challenge with population distribution. (Of the 164,693 people in the region, 110,224 live in the City of San Angelo and Tom Green County, and the rest reside in the other 12-county area.) The region must look for ways to offset the increasing transportation costs associated with providing solid waste services to residents outside of the highly-populated areas.

**The city has worked to create this viable recycling program from the ground up.**



**City of Brady Recycling Crew, from left, are Supervisor Jim Kidd and Recycling Crew Members Brandon Roberts, Sherry Morgan, Trevor Ballard, Silveria Huerta, Aaron Torrez, and Fabian Hernandez**

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- City of Big Lake
- City of Brady
- City of Bronte
- City of Junction
- City of Mason
- City of Menard
- Irion County
- Menard County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	4
Organic Waste Management	1
Recycling	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	\$42,555
Organic Waste Management	\$7,806
Recycling	\$151,520
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$201,881</b>



*The Hill County Environmental Enforcement Unit has collected more than 300,000 pounds of debris from illegal dump sites.*

In response to a growing number of illegal dumping sites in Hill County, the Sheriff's Office familiarized itself with the Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG) Regional Waste Management Plan to develop and implement programs to educate members of the public on their environmental responsibility and to enforce illegal dumping laws.

The program kicked off in 2009 with a neighborhood cleanup campaign in an area with an abundance of unsightly residences due to illegal dumping. The Sheriff's Office organized a "Neighborhood Watch" program to assist in the massive neighborhood cleanup project. This project led to the removal of several thousand pounds of debris that had been cluttering the area.

On the heels of this successful project, the Sheriff's Office applied for and received a Regional Solid Waste Grant administered by HOTCOG for Fiscal Year 2010/2011, to establish a full-scale Environmental Compliance Unit. The \$70,269 grant, supplemented by \$20,000 in in-kind services from Hill County, funded the purchase of a new vehicle and

salary and benefits for the abatement deputy. This deputy's role has evolved since the project started from a call response officer to an environmental crimes investigator.

The Hill County Environmental Enforcement Unit has proven effective with 34 illegal dump sites investigated and more than 6,000 pounds of debris removed in the first three months of operation. Only 10 of the cases were Class C Misdemeanor-level offenses; the rest were Class B and above. By the end of February 2010, more than 30,000 pounds of debris had been collected, and by the end of the third quarter of operation the enforcement effort led to the collection of over 300,000 pounds of debris from Hill County. An additional function of the project, supervision of the Inmate Work Program, resulted in the collection of another 20,000 pounds of debris.

A highlight of the project, involved a suspected drug dealer in a neighborhood. Law enforcement had not been able to obtain enough evidence for a search warrant for his house until the Environmental Compliance Unit was authorized to search the property for illegal dumping infractions. During

the course of that search, the officer saw contraband and drug paraphernalia, leading to the drug warrant. The suspect was convicted for felony illegal dumping on his own property and numerous drug offenses.

The project has gained support throughout the county. After the second year of seeing the program funded, the Environmental Compliance Unit took on the operation of the Public Works Department. This resulted in a substantial savings to the county.

The overall success of this project can be measured by the number of complaints filed and quantity of debris removed from illegal dump sites within Hill County.

Thanks to the education of the residents and other law enforcement personnel, the county enjoyed a vast improvement over the conditions experienced prior to this project's inception. Without regional solid waste grant funding this program would not have been realized.

**The success of the Environmental Compliance Unit can be measured by the number of complaints filed and quantity of debris removed from illegal dump sites within Hill County.**



Thanks to regional solid waste grant funding for providing education for residents and other law enforcement personnel, the county has had vast success with improving illegal dumping conditions.

#### GRANT RECIPIENTS

Bosque County  
 City of Groesbeck  
 City of Hubbard  
 City of Lorena  
 City of Marlin  
 City of Waco  
 Fairfield ISD  
 Hill County  
 Hill County Sheriff  
 HOTCOG  
 Limestone County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	2
General Solid Waste Management	5
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1
Local Enforcement	2
Organic Waste Management	1
Recycling	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$5,500
General Solid Waste Management	\$62,371
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$30,000
Local Enforcement	\$120,991
Organic Waste Management	\$26,918
Recycling	\$41,798
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$287,578</b>



*The Capital Area Regional Environmental Task Force used posters, billboards, door hangers, magnets, brochures, movie ads, and an illegal dumping hotline - 1-877-NO DUMPING - to reach out to the public.*

Formed to target the problems associated with illegal dumping and other environmental crimes, the Capital Area Regional Environmental Task Force (RETF) comprises a multijurisdictional law enforcement effort of 12 government agencies in Central Texas. Task force members have collaborated on investigations in Central Texas since 1996. This regional approach helps participating jurisdictions more efficiently address illegal dumping, which frequently crosses city and county boundaries. The RETF holds quarterly meetings where members share expert testimony and learn about environmental enforcement topics. This venue serves a vital role in ensuring effective and consistent regional coverage across jurisdictions.

The RETF maintains an illegal dumping hotline, 1-877-NO-DUMPS, serving the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) region as a central contact for reporting illegal dumping, thereby simplifying reporting by the public and facilitating region-wide outreach and response on reported environmental crimes.

RETF members responded to 239 calls during Fiscal Year 2010/2011 resulting in enforcement, cleanup, or further investigation, along with placement of monitoring cameras and the distribution of bilingual “No Dumping” signs. The RETF has provided more than 500 metal street signs to members.

RETF members share resources and expertise across political boundaries to effectively enforce environmental laws. For example, the RETF membership includes prosecutors and certified environmental samplers who may lend their expertise in investigating and prosecuting cases. This has proven an invaluable resource to CAPCOG’s smaller, more rural governments that may lack funding and other resources for such activity. Posters, billboards, door hangers, magnets, brochures, and movie ads have been used by the RETF to reach out to CAPCOG communities and the public, providing information on environmental laws and penalties, the illegal dumping hotline, and appropriate property disposal.

The RETF provides basic and intermediate environmental law enforcement courses instructed by experts in the field. Approximately 120 attendees per year learn about environmental law, gain continuing education credits toward maintaining their certification, and meet other professionals to share experiences and expertise.

The RETF has published an *Environmental Law Enforcement Pocket Guide* to accompany the other tools and training materials provided. This handy guide contains summaries, tips, statutes, rules, and regulations on federal and state environmental violations, such as nuisances, illegal dumping, water pollution, and outdoor burning.

Because environmental laws can be complex and sometimes confusing, the pocket guide helps investigators further understand the laws and offers tips and guidance on enforcement. For added convenience and accessibility, the pocket guide is now available for downloading from the CAPCOG website to use on a smartphone.

The RETF promotes regionalism and provides strong and responsive answers to illegal dumping. The work of the RETF is made possible through the support of the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program.

**Regional Environmental Task Force members responded to 239 calls resulting in enforcement, cleanup, placement of monitoring cameras, and distribution of bilingual “No Dumping” signs.**





**An illegal dumping hotline, 1-877-NO-DUMPS, serves as a central contact for the region to report illegal dumping. This simplifies public reporting and facilitates a region-wide response to environmental crimes.**

#### GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Austin ISD
- Blanco County
- Burnet County
- Caldwell County
- CAPCOG
- City of Leander
- City of Austin
- City of Cedar Park
- City of Georgetown
- City of Granite Shoals
- City of Hutto
- City of La Grange
- City of Llano
- City of Lockhart
- City of Mountain City
- City of San Marcos
- City of Smithville
- City of Sunset Valley
- City of Taylor
- Fayette County
- Hays County
- Lee County
- Llano County
- Lower Colorado River Authority
- Manor ISD
- Travis County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	1
General Solid Waste Management	8
Household Hazardous Waste Management	10
Local Enforcement	4
Organic Waste Management	1
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1
Recycling	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$9,863
General Solid Waste Management	\$161,414
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$264,314
Local Enforcement	\$111,662
Organic Waste Management	\$49,246
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	\$16,161
Recycling	\$249,648
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$862,309</b>



*Reduction and recycling are key to waste management in the Brazos Valley when it comes to finding solutions to illegally dumped tires.*

**M**anaging Municipal Solid Waste has grown increasingly complex for rural and small communities as a result of limited resources. Unlike urban communities, rural and small communities often have a lower tax base, which means limited revenues for financing solid waste management. In the Brazos Valley region, communities are faced with additional challenges including poverty, geographic isolation, limited government staff resources, and financial limitations.

In an effort to overcome some of the constraints of limited resources, the cities and counties in the Brazos Valley region are concentrating on targeted solid waste management solutions that fit the needs and concerns of their individual communities while taking advantage of regional programs, such as the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event.

This event, sponsored by the Brazos Valley Solid Waste Management Agency, Inc. (BVSWMA), offers important advantages by enhancing the cost-effectiveness of community recycling efforts. By joining forces, communities are able to participate in a project that may otherwise be too expensive for them to afford.

Approximately, 44% of Fiscal Year 2010/2011 regional solid waste grant funding, administered by the Brazos Valley Council of Governments, was used to promote source reduction and recycling in the Brazos Valley. Source reduction and recycling has become recognized as the key components of integrated waste management in the Brazos Valley, especially when it comes to finding an end source for illegally dumped scrap tires.

Through the efforts funded by the grant program, citizens of the Brazos Valley region are learning to value the importance of source reduction and recycling because it conserves natural resources, reduces disposal costs and illegal dumping, and teaches conservation and prevention measures.

Also in Fiscal Year 2010/2011, grant program funding helped the communities increase educational and outreach activities, such as Brazos Valley Earth Day. This outreach and educational event promotes awareness and appreciation for our environment.



**Grant program funding helped communities increase educational and outreach activities, such as Brazos Valley Earth Day.**





The cities and counties in the Brazos Valley region are concentrating on solid waste management solutions that meet their individuals needs and concerns.



**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- Burleson County
- BVSWMA / City of Bryan and College Station
- City of Brenham
- City of Bryan
- City of Buffalo
- City of College Station
- Leon County
- Madison County
- Robertson County Sheriff's Office
- Washington County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	2
General Solid Waste Management	5
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1
Local Enforcement	2
Organic Waste Management	2
Recycling	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$6,873
General Solid Waste Management	\$30,275
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$30,000
Local Enforcement	\$16,102
Organic Waste Management	\$43,663
Recycling	\$27,177
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$154,091</b>



*Angelina Beautiful/Clean's Annual Household Hazardous Waste collection event recycled and properly disposed of nearly 30,000 pounds of hazardous materials and 53,000 pounds of electronics.*

Each year, the Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG) administers regional solid waste grant funds to help support the efforts of Angelina Beautiful/Clean (AB/C) and Angelina County. The focus of the partnership is education, cleanup events, and programs focusing on recycling to increase environmental education throughout Angelina County.

AB/C is a county-wide non-profit organization serving as the educational and coordinating entity for five different "Keep Texas Beautiful Proud Communities." AB/C has initiated numerous community projects, annual cleanups, beautification projects, tree plantings, and solid waste management projects.

AB/C's educational programs involve every grade level in at least one solid waste management activity or project. There are more than 18,000 students and more than 900 teachers within Angelina County's public, private, and home schools. Year after year AB/C has increased its educational efforts to sustain or increase awareness of the importance of environmental efforts.

AB/C also provides a Litter and Illegal Dumping seminar to

all code enforcement and law enforcement officers in the DETCOG planning region conducted by the Texas Illegal Dumping Resource Center.

AB/C hosted the Third Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection, with more than 600 vehicles driving through the Lufkin Middle School parking lot to dispose of more than 52 tons of hazardous household materials. Many local businesses helped make this event a success. Lockheed Martin helped with everything from traffic control to pouring 1,800 pounds of paint to be recycled for local schools and non-profits.

The City of Lufkin Regional Recycling Center helped sort the used electronics and made sure recyclables were taken to the City of Lufkin Recycling Center. CMC Recycling participated in the event by collecting more than 11 tons of automobile batteries and scrap metal to be recycled.

During the disposal event, more than 53,000 pounds of electronics were recycled, and nearly 30,000 pounds of hazardous materials were recycled or properly disposed of. Materials collected during this event will be properly disposed of and will not end up in the landfill or the environment.



**Angelina Beautiful/Clean's Third Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection had more than 600 vehicles drive through and drop off more than 52 tons of hazardous household materials for disposal.**



Many city departments and local businesses helped make this event a success, collecting over 11 tons of automobile batteries and scrap metal to be recycled.

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- Angelina County
- City of Crockett
- City of Hemphill
- City of Nacogdoches
- City of San Augustine
- Jasper County
- Sabine County
- San Jacinto County
- Trinity County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	3
General Solid Waste Management	4
Local Enforcement	2
Organic Waste Management	1
Recycling	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$38,399
General Solid Waste Management	\$67,600
Local Enforcement	\$42,000
Organic Waste Management	\$21,000
Recycling	\$77,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$246,499</b>



*More than 1,777 southeast Texas residents brought 5,843 tires, 248,144 pounds of household hazardous waste and 1,533 gallons of used oil to two collection events.*

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) received funding from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program to conduct two Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and scrap tire collection events in southeast Texas during Fiscal Year 2010/2011.

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 Orange counties.

More than 1,777 southeast Texas residents participated in the collection events. The SETRPC collected more than 248,144 pounds of HHW and more than 1,533 gallons of used oil during the events.

If the SETRPC had not conducted these collection events, the hazardous waste could have been discarded in the landfill,

the environment, or in the water system. Improper disposal of these types of hazardous items poses great health and environmental risks.

During the events, the SETRPC also collected more than 5,843 scrap tires, including passenger, truck, and large machine tires. In southeast Texas, discarded tires are a breeding ground for mosquitoes which carry disease-causing viruses, such as the West Nile virus. Abandoned tires also pose additional health and environmental risks.

**During collection events, more than 5,843 scrap tires were collected, including passenger, truck, and large machine tires.**





Grant funding provided for two HHW and scrap tire collection events. The events were open to all southeast Texas residents at no cost.

**GRANT RECIPIENT**

SETRPC

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	1
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$19,785
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$250,948
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$270,732</b>



*“The benefit to recycling is that it keeps materials from going in landfills. If the materials have value, you are putting money in the ground.”*  
 - Waller County Recycling Center Manager, Jim Meader

Just three years ago, residents of Waller County had to leave the county if they wanted to recycle. Today, thanks to the efforts of Citizens for a Better Waller County, Keep Waller County Beautiful, some interested elected officials, generous community supporters, and two Regional Solid Waste Grants administered by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), the Waller County Recycling Center now recycles over 250,000 pounds of weighed materials through its main facility each year\*.

When the center first opened its doors in January 2010, it was run by volunteers, was open two days a week, and only accepted paper, cardboard and aluminum cans. However, the popularity of the recycling center fast outgrew this initial volunteer effort.

“The community support has been fantastic,” said Waller County Judge Glenn Beckendorff. “More people wanted to recycle or were already recycling than we realized.”

Today the center is open five days a week and also accepts plastics, glass bottles and jars, steel, batteries, and used electronics.

Awareness of the center continues to increase through no-cost outreach efforts. During its first year of operation, the center welcomed the attention of the local media to promote the opening of the new facility. Now, the center primarily relies on word of mouth and social media channels to keep up awareness.

With the introduction of curbside recycling in one municipality in the county the number of visitors to the center has decreased slightly, however, the quantity of recyclables collected has not. In fact, in June 2012, 312 visitors dropped off 20,500 pounds of paper, plastic, cardboard and aluminum (materials that are accounted for monthly).

“This averages to about 68 pounds per visitor,” said Recycling Center Manager Jim Meader. “We see people come in with truck loads of recyclables, not just one bag.”

To answer the challenge of offering recycling services to residents across the 514-square-mile county, three satellite locations have been added. Residents can drop off their recyclables at these trailers, which, once they are full, are picked up and delivered to the main facility.

“It’s a success,” Meador said. “To go from ground zero to the amount of materials that we handle on a daily basis... it’s a success.”

While the center is a success, there is still room for growth. County Judge Beckendorff said that with additional funds, the center could hire an additional employee and increase education and awareness of recycling. Beckendorff also said future plans for the center could include disposal of used oil, tires, and agricultural chemicals.

*\*End of fiscal year 2011. The center is on pace to recycle more in 2012. Weighed materials include paper, plastic, cardboard, and aluminum.*



**“The community support has been fantastic,” said Waller County Judge Glenn Beckendorff. “More people wanted to recycle or were already recycling.”**



**In June 2012, 312 visitors recycled 30,500 pounds of paper, plastic, cardboard, and aluminum.**

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- Anahuac ISD
- Austin County
- Brazoria County
- Chambers County
- City of Baytown
- City of Cleveland
- City of Conroe
- City of Deer Park
- City of Dickinson
- City of Houston
- City of Huntsville
- City of La Porte
- City of Lake Jackson
- City of Missouri City
- City of Pearland
- City of Sugar Land
- Clear Creek ISD
- Fort Bend County
- Galveston County
- Harris County
- H-GAC
- Montgomery County
- Port of Houston
- Walker County
- Waller County
- Wharton County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	6
General Solid Waste Management	2
Household Hazardous Waste Management	6
Local Enforcement	5
Organic Waste Management	2
Recycling	13
Used Oil Management	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$663,643
General Solid Waste Management	\$79,655
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$381,752
Local Enforcement	\$386,528
Organic Waste Management	\$97,943
Recycling	\$108,7267
Used Oil Management	\$18,664
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,715,452</b>



*Demand for recycling has dramatically increased in Victoria. Programs now include curbside recycling with Household Hazardous Waste and used electronics collection.*

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

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

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

Victoria Kids Recycle (VKR) began in 2006 as a paper recycling program on just three campuses. Since then it has become a single stream recycling program and has expanded to 49

campuses in the district, with 33 more planned in 2012. The success of VKR gained recognition from the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC).

As a result, GCRPC asked the City of Victoria to partner with them to expand their program to the seven counties in the GCRPC region. Thus, Golden Crescent Recycling (GCR) was formed as a network of school recycling programs tailored to fit the needs of each participating community. Since 2006, Environmental Services has worked to implement recycling programs in schools in Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, and Victoria counties.

VKR and GCR provide all the amenities needed to recycle, including recycling bins for every classroom, recycling trailers, curriculum, training, promotional items, informational materials, and help opening recycling drop-off centers. When Environmental Services adds a new community to GCR, they hold a meeting between the school, the city, the county, and the local recycling center to ensure that the entire community's recycling goals are the same.

To date, GCRPC has administered \$77,000 in regional solid waste grant funds for GCR, and the City of Victoria has provided \$45,000 in in-kind funds and services. GCRPC has also begun prioritizing grant funds distributed to other entities based on the needs of GCR. For example, if a rural recycling center needs a baler to accept recyclables from a campus, the baler will get prioritized funding.

Victoria schools alone have recycled 470 tons of recyclables since 2006 – 120 tons of that in 2012. GCR doubles the number of students that have access to recycling every day and expects to see about 240 tons of recyclables generated by schools in our area in the 2012/2013 school year.



**Victoria Kids Recycle has become a single stream recycling program and expanded to 49 campuses in the district.**





**Victoria schools have recycled 470 tons of recyclables since 2006 – 120 tons of that in 2012. Around 240 tons of recyclables generated by schools in the area are expected in the 2012/2013 school year.**

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- Calhoun County
- City of Cuero
- City of Gonzales
- City of Hallettsville
- City of Moulton
- City of Victoria
- City of Yoakum
- GCRPC
- Victoria County

**GRANT TYPE**

**NUMBER OF GRANTS**

Education and Training	2
General Solid Waste Management	1
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1
Organic Waste Management	1
Recycling	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>

**GRANT TYPE**

**GRANT AWARD**

Education and Training	\$19,602
General Solid Waste Management	\$4,003
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$16,889
Organic Waste Management	\$25,000
Recycling	\$171,017
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$236,510</b>



*The City of San Antonio is the first city in Texas with an ordinance requiring all multi-family properties to provide recycling to residents.*

**A**s part of the City of San Antonio's 10-year Recycling and Resource Recovery Plan, which creates a "Pathway to Zero Waste," the city wanted to provide convenient access to recycling for its residents living in multi-family units. On December 9, 2010, the City Council passed an ordinance requiring all multi-family properties provide recycling services.

The City of San Antonio is the first city in Texas with an ordinance requiring all multi-family properties to provide adequate and convenient recycling sources to all residents. At the time the ordinance was passed, there were approximately 150,000 multi-family units in the city. The program represents a true partnership between the public and private sectors and the community of residents living in the multi-family units.

The program was phased in over a 12 month period starting with the largest complexes. City staff used regional solid waste grant funds to produce printed and other educational materials used to train property owners, managers, and interested residents. City staff also used grant funds to purchase in-unit buckets for convenient placement of recycled materials for the early adopters.

City staff provided the training and assistance to the managers in choosing sites for toters or dumpsters, and city staff continues to provide monitoring, inspections, and enforcement. The complexes' private haulers pick up recycled materials. At the end of the 12-month phase in, the efforts of all involved resulted in 100% compliance.

The City of Leon Valley used their grant funds to enhance their used oil recycling program. The original igloo obtained with grant funds in 1994 was beginning to show wear and was too small to accommodate the amount of used oil brought monthly to the self-service site by residents of Leon Valley and nearby communities.

The city and the contractor who picks up the oil and filters have agreed that while the contractor won't pay for the used oil, the city won't be charged for the pick-up of the filters.

The updated facility, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, has an overhead cover, which shields the oil container from leaves and other debris. The barrels for the filters also have lids. The oil container holds 400 gallons, and the yearly collection averages 2,560 gallons which might otherwise be illegally dumped.



**At the end of the 12-month phase in, the efforts of all involved apartment complexes resulted in 100% compliance.**



**The used oil recycling container is available 24/7 and holds 400 gallons. Yearly collection averages 2,500 gallons, which might otherwise have been illegally dumped.**

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- Bexar County
- City of Bandera
- City of Boerne
- City of Cibolo
- City of Helotes
- City of Leon Valley
- City of New Braunfels
- City of San Antonio
- City of Seguin
- City of Stockdale
- Comal County
- Karnes County
- Kendall County
- Medina County
- San Antonio River Authority
- Wilson County

**GRANT TYPE**

- Education and Training
- General Solid Waste Management
- Household Hazardous Waste Management
- Local Enforcement
- Organic Waste Management
- Recycling
- Used Oil Management

**NUMBER OF GRANTS**

- 4
- 3
- 7
- 1
- 2
- 8
- 1
- 26**

**TOTAL**

**GRANT TYPE**

- Education and Training
- General Solid Waste Management
- Household Hazardous Waste Management
- Local Enforcement
- Organic Waste Management
- Recycling
- Used Oil Management

**GRANT AWARD**

- \$375,334
- \$121,480
- \$190,923
- \$10,100
- \$70,567
- \$548,169
- \$4,850
- \$1,321,423**

**TOTAL**



*With the landfill nearing capacity, Starr County needed to find another method of waste disposal.*

In 2005, Starr County was faced with a critical dilemma – its landfill was fast approaching capacity. The county, located on the U.S./Mexico border along the Rio Grande River in the Rio Grande Valley of south Texas, is approximately 1,229 square miles, is home to nearly 80,000 people, and had been disposing of almost all of its household and commercial waste in a landfill. However, with the landfill nearing capacity, Starr County needed to find another method of waste disposal.

The Local Solid Waste Management Plan, developed by the county several years earlier, presented building a transfer station as one of the most viable options for the county's future waste disposal needs.

In 2010, the county received a bank loan for construction of the project. At that same time, the South Texas Development Council (STDC) began negotiations with Starr County to administer regional solid waste grant funds to help purchase the heavy equipment necessary for the operation of the facility.

Through a coordinated effort by the county, STDC and the South Texas Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Starr County received \$242,564 for equipment purchase. The total cost of the project was \$1.2 million.

Starr County has since built a state-of-the-art transfer station that serves the entire county.

**The Local Solid Waste Management Plan proposed building a transfer station as a viable option for the county's future waste disposal needs.**



**Starr County received a grant to assist with transfer station equipment costs and has since built a state-of-the-art transfer station that serves the entire county.**

**GRANT RECIPIENT**

Starr County

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

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	\$242,564
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$242,564</b>



*Beeville has recycled over 41,000 pounds of scrap metal since 2007. More than 300 pounds of glass was also collected and donated to Coastal Bend College's Art Department for student art projects.*

Of the 4,000 households in the City of Beeville, more than 1,000 are made up of people who are elderly or disabled. This provided a unique opportunity for the community of 12,590 people.

Beeville began its "Bee Proud, BEE Clean" spring cleanup program in 2007, however, due to the number of households of elderly and disabled people in the city, the community knew it could do more.

The city, along with volunteers from the Garden Club, youth organizations, and churches, contacted each of these households either by phone or by going door to door to determine their cleanup needs.

In April 2010 and 2011, Beeville, with the assistance of the Bee County Road and Bridge Department, went to the homes that were identified to have cleanup needs and removed old furniture, brush, debris, and tires. These were taken to the City of Beeville Recycling Center and added to the materials the community brought in.

Since the city's community cleanup events started in 2007, Beeville has collected more than 300 pounds of glass that is donated to the Coastal Bend College's Art Department for student art projects.

Over 41,000 pounds of scrap metal has been recycled with the proceeds benefitting the following year's cleanup event. Over 159 tons of various other materials have also been collected.

The cleanup event has also had an added benefit. Not only has the event grown as residents look forward to the annual event, but the event has sparked more interest from the community wanting to help the elderly and disabled residents with their needs.

**Beeville employees, along with assistance from city departments and volunteers, went to homes identified to have cleanup needs and removed old furniture, brush, debris, and tires.**





**Materials were removed and taken to the City of Beeville Recycling Center.**

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- Aransas County
- Bee County
- CBCOG
- City of Agua Dulce
- City of Alice
- City of Beeville
- City of Corpus Christi
- City of Driscoll
- City of George West
- City of Ingleside
- City of Kingsville
- City of Odem
- City of Rockport
- City of Taft
- Nueces County
- Refugio County
- San Patricio County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	6
General Solid Waste Management	15
Household Hazardous Waste Management	2
Local Enforcement	11
Organic Waste Management	2
Recycling	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$80,777
General Solid Waste Management	\$112,388
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$38,713
Local Enforcement	\$129,962
Organic Waste Management	\$43,150
Recycling	\$24,074
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$429,065</b>



*“I learned a lot about Environmental Law in Texas. It increased my awareness on illegal dumping in our community.” - An attendee at the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Environmental Enforcement Training*

**E**nvironmental enforcement training is crucial to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Region for public health reasons and to avoid water pollution, illegal dumping, and illegal outdoor burning. During Fiscal Year 2010/2011, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) held five Environmental Enforcement Training sessions funded by a Regional Solid Waste Grant. Attendance primarily included code enforcement officers, police officers, and city staff.

This class had five formal objectives:

1. Provide an overview of applicable laws used to respond to illegal dumping for Texas officers, elected officials, citizens, the media, and industry.
2. Provide detailed information on the Texas Litter Abatement Law for use by local officers.
3. Encourage local enforcement of waste control laws by informing citizens of their availability and use.
4. Show how multiple laws can be used for the same situation, which introduces the policy question of “Which one do we use?”
5. Provide means for local officers to earn continuing education credits without travel.

One of the attendees said, “I learned a lot about Environmental Law in Texas. It increased my awareness on illegal dumping in our community. It’s a great training to have, very informative.”

Attendees were able to not only recognize problem areas but to report those findings to the appropriate agency for action. Plus, law enforcement participants were able to receive 6 hours of TCLEOSE (continuing education) credit after completion of the program. The LRGVDC Police Academy is making plans to incorporate this Environmental Enforcement Training into its Academy.

**Environmental enforcement training is crucial to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Region for public health reasons and to avoid water pollution, illegal dumping, and illegal outdoor burning.**







**Thanks to a Regional Solid Waste Grant, the LRGVDC held five Environmental Enforcement Training sessions, attended primarily by code enforcement officers, police officers, and city staff.**

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- Cameron County
- City of Alton
- City of Harlingen
- City of Los Fresnos
- City of Lyford
- City of McAllen
- City of Mercedes
- City of Pharr
- City of Rio Hondo
- City of San Juan
- City of South Padre Island
- Hidalgo County
- LRGVDC

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	6
General Solid Waste Management	4
Local Enforcement	3
Organic Waste Management	4
Recycling	9
Used Oil Management	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$104,722
General Solid Waste Management	\$37,033
Local Enforcement	\$67,148
Organic Waste Management	\$85,779
Recycling	\$245,538
Used Oil Management	\$4,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$544,619</b>



*Grants related to recycling have diverted 403,352 tons of recyclables from landfills in the TEXOMA Region.*

Recycling at an early age instills a value for recycling that can be used to sustain recycling practices for a lifetime. Approximately 50% of the recycling projects funded through Regional Solid Waste Grants administered by the Texoma Council of Governments (TEXOMA) during Fiscal Year 2010/2011 were junior high school recycling programs.

Junior high classes in Bonham ISD and Van Alstyne ISD received funding that was used to begin recycling projects in two separate counties that did not have any recycling services available. The projects were initiated by science teachers who enlisted their students' help with every aspect of the projects from publicity and planning to weighing and reporting results.

TEXOMA is one of 24 Regional Councils of Government administering Regional Solid Waste Grants across Texas.

This funding supports policies and programs that address management of the state's Municipal Solid Waste.

The ultimate goal of the program is to reduce the amount of solid waste introduced into landfills by educating the public and raising their awareness of alternative waste management practices, including but not limited to recycling. To date, 403,352 tons of recyclable material has been diverted from regional landfills as a result of the six recycling grants funded in Fiscal Year 2010/2011.



**Junior high classes in Bonham ISD and Van Alstyne ISD used funding to start recycling projects in two counties that did not already have recycling services available.**





The goal of the program is to reduce the amount of solid waste going into landfills by educating the public and raising awareness of alternative waste management practices, including recycling.

#### GRANT RECIPIENTS

Bonham ISD  
 City of Sherman  
 City of Southmayd  
 City of Whitesboro  
 Fannin County  
 Fannin County Precinct 1  
 Grayson County  
 TEXOMA  
 Van Alstyne ISD

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
General Solid Waste Management	1
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1
Local Enforcement	1
Organic Waste Management	1
Recycling	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	\$4,660
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$80,000
Local Enforcement	\$10,055
Organic Waste Management	\$21,492
Recycling	\$102,247
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$218,454</b>



*The 2010 Household Hazardous Waste event in Temple collected more than ever before; more than 500 car and truck loads were brought in.*

To best meet the needs of the region, the Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) decided to use regional solid waste grant funds for COG-managed projects. The groups established four goals to address the most important environmental issues facing the region.

The first goal was to set up the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events across the region and in areas that would be most beneficial to the most people in need. At each event, CTCOG staff took surveys of each carload to determine if they were residents of one of the seven service-area counties, what materials they were dropping off, how they heard about the event, and if they might be willing to pay in the future.

The SWAC will use the survey responses to gauge public needs and how well the program is working. One success story was the HHW event in Temple on September 11, 2010. This event saw more HHW collected than ever before in the region with 500 car/truck loads brought in. Most of the residents had collected the HHW for years. At each event, participants indicated they would like to see these events

held more frequently. Approximately 65% of the grant funding went toward the six HHW events.

The second goal was to increase awareness of the harmful effects of illegal dumping and promote proper waste disposal, and the third goal was to promote recycling and composting programs as viable ways to reduce the waste stream and increase landfill longevity.

CTCOG staff attended elementary school programs, Lion's Club meetings, Earth Day events, career days, pollution awareness events, and community fairs. At these events staff presented recycling materials and books and spoke on the harmful effects of dumping. Approximately 20% of the grant funding was used toward the illegal dumping awareness effort, and approximately 10% of the funding was used toward the recycling awareness effort.

The fourth goal was to promote the development of local solid waste management plans (SWMP). CTCOG revised and updated the Closed Landfill Inventory and distributed copies of it to local governments and posted it, along with the SWMP, on the COG website. Approximately 5% of grant funding was used for the promotion of the SWMP.



**At HHW events across the region, an important component was to increase awareness of the harmful effects of illegal dumping and promote proper waste disposal.**



CTCOG staff took surveys at each HHW event to determine what materials were being dropped off and how the resident heard about the event. The survey responses will be used to gauge public needs and how well the programs are working.



**GRANT RECIPIENT**

CTCOG

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

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Household Hazardous Waste Management	\$237,304
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$237,304</b>



*Expanded from one recycling center in 1994 to 600 recycling bins now located throughout Eagle Pass, this city is diverting tons of trash, making money, and saving expenses.*

Eagle Pass, located on the Texas/Mexico border, 55 miles south of the City of Del Rio and 143 miles west of San Antonio, has a goal to become the cleanest city in Texas and to have a diverse educational program. To accomplish these goals, the city is using the SMART model:

- S for specific
- M for measurable
- A for attainable
- R for realistic
- T for timely

Eagle Pass has been very proactive in the recycling arena. In June of 1994, the city's public works department applied for and was awarded a \$150,000 Regional Solid Waste Grant administered by the Middle Rio Grande Development Council (MRGDC) to establish a recycling center to serve the community.

The grant funds were used to purchase a compactor truck, vertical balers, platform scales, forklift attachments, filter crushers, recycling bins, and a heavy duty paper shredder. Currently, they have a drop-off center which is open to the public free of charge. Approximately 600 recycling bins are

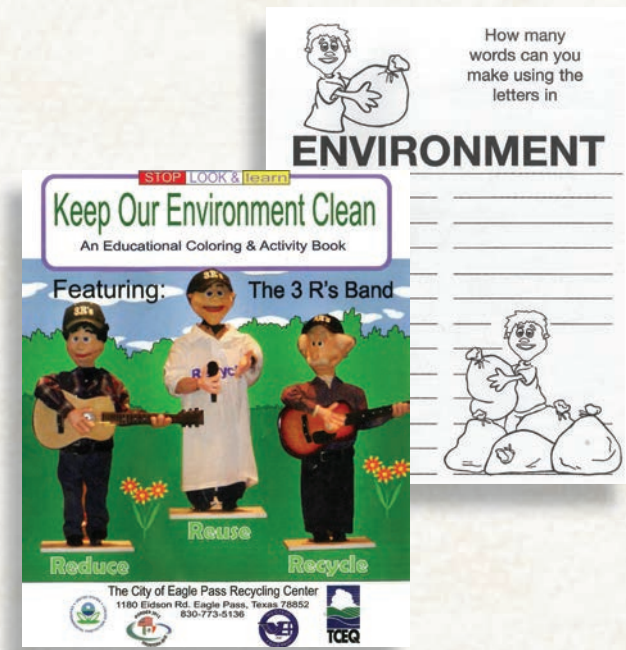
located throughout the city and are picked up twice a month. The department recycles approximately 1,000 tons per year and earns approximately \$70,000 from corrugated cardboard sales. By recycling, they divert 1,000 tons from the landfill in San Antonio with a \$15 per ton cost of transportation and another \$15 per ton for tipping fees.

Eagle Pass municipal staff have championed the cause of recycling city-wide, but have also been instrumental in assisting smaller rural communities which do not have the capacity nor the funds to maintain such recycling and cleanup projects.

Eagle Pass has also partnered with Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico, to establish a sister city recycling and cleanup project to protect water quality.

One of the biggest impacts of the city's program is its collaboration with the Eagle Pass Independent School District. The city conducted 10 workshops for 600 fourth grade students. The program's mechanical robots have made the educational programs a huge success. Students are having fun while learning the values of recycling. Following these programs, the schools' waste diversion through their recycling efforts has increased. The goal is to increase this percentage by 25%.

Eagle Pass also has strong ties to the region and the State of Texas. Mayor Ramsey English Cantu serves as a member of the MRGDC's Board of Directors and represents the nine-county region at the state level as the President of the Texas Association of Regional Councils Board of Directors. Mayor Cantu is also a commission member of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Border 2012 initiative.





**One of the biggest impacts of the city's recycling program is its collaboration with the Eagle Pass Independent School District. The city conducted 10 workshops for 600 fourth grade students.**

**Students are having fun while learning the values of recycling. As a result, the schools' recycling efforts have increased.**

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**

- City of Brackettville
- City of Crystal City
- City of Eagle Pass
- City of Sabinal
- City of Uvalde
- Dimmit County
- MRGDC
- Real County

GRANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Education and Training	2
General Solid Waste Management	4
Local Enforcement	1
Recycling	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>

GRANT TYPE	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	\$27,495
General Solid Waste Management	\$92,511
Local Enforcement	\$24,000
Recycling	\$18,074
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$162,079</b>

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program Funding Report  
Fiscal Year 2010/2011

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS