

## **Regional Recycling Program Sample: 3 Outstanding Programs in the H-GAC Region**

### **University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston**

Recycle it, swap it or reprocess it – that’s the mindset of UTMB at Galveston. A state run Hospital and University that recycles 1.6 million pounds of paper and cardboard in a year. Other items recycled are batteries, chemicals, kitchen grease, brass keys, used oil, paint, tires, x-ray films and toner/inkjet cartridges.

Landscape debris, broken pallets and Christmas trees are ground into mulch through a partnership with the City of Galveston and Moody Gardens.

Office Supply Swap Shop can be done online or at UTMB’s annual Earth Day event. Children design the graphic identity that will be featured on recycle content posters, t-shirts and tote bags.

Zero waste lunches are an environmental way to celebrate a special event by recycling your beverage containers and composting your food and organic packaging.

The University of Texas Medical Branch is “*Here for the health of Texas*”

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### **Montgomery County Pct 3 Recycling Complex**

#### **RECYCLING**

The Recycling Facility opened in April 2001. Hours of operation are Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m.-5p.m. Currently week day participants 50-60 and Saturdays 150-200 vehicles. Aluminum, plastics #1 & #2, mixed metal, clear & brown glass jars and bottles, cardboard, paper, yard trimmings (limbs and trunks are chipped to be used for pathways, playgrounds, and around plants), used motor oil & filters, antifreeze, gasoline, batteries (rechargeable, mercury, lithium and lead acid) are accepted. Other non recyclable items are accepted for a fee, placed in the roll offs and sent to the landfill. Tires and latex paint are accepted for a fee.

#### **LATEX PAINT REBLENDING**

Accepted for a fee. If the latex paint brought to the complex is of good quality, it is processed by colors, put in new 1 gallon cans and 5 gallon buckets, Conservation Colors labels by batches and placed on the Reuse Shelves. Over 3,400 gallons of paint have been rebleded since October 2003. Montgomery County is currently developing a guidance document on latex paint rebleding.

#### **MOBILE COLLECTION UNIT**

20’x8’ box trailer pulled behind a 3/4 ton pick up truck is taken to the other 3 precincts when they have their semiannual heavy trash pick up. Initially batteries, oil, antifreeze and re-useable latex paint were accepted. All Household Chemical Waste can now be accepted.

#### **HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL WASTE BUILDING**

The Household Chemical Waste Building opened in September 2004. Items accepted include latex and oil based paint, solvents, pool chemicals, cleaning products, gardening products (pesticides/insecticides, fungicides, fertilizer) aerosols, acids & bases). The fee schedule is 0-5 gallons of total product \$5, 5-10 gallons \$10 etc. Spray bottles with printed recipes are given to residents encouraging them to use less toxic products.

#### **REUSE SHELVES**

Items brought to the HHW building that are in their original container ½ full or more are placed on the Reuse Shelves for residents and non-profit groups to take and use. Round-up type products are the most popular chemical followed by root simulator. Various divisions are Automotive Products, Household Cleaners (floor, tile, carpet cleaners) polishes (furniture, metal), Pet Products, Pesticides/Insecticides, Fungicides, Fertilizers &

Plant Food, Weed Killers, Paint Stripper, Spray Paints, Deck Sealer, Wall Paper sizing, stripper, paste, craft supplies (glue, paint, glazes) and Calking.

There are no plans for expansion. A staff of 4 full time people operate all segments of the Complex.

### **EDUCATION**

The Community Association of the Woodlands has made extensive public education efforts, which have contributed greatly to the success of the Recycling Complex.

### **CURBSIDE**

The Woodlands has curbside pick up of recyclable items.

### **Contact Information:**

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## **WHAMCO Regional Recycling Center, Bay City**

### **RECYCLING**

WHAMCO, open since June 1994, is a 24-hour dropoff center which is manned 8-5 all week except Wednesday and Sunday. Accepts Plastics #1 and #2, cardboard, newspaper, magazines, brown and clear glass, steel and aluminum cans, and motor oil.

WHAMCO employs 6 mentally challenged part-time workers, with one full time supervisor, who sort and process all materials by hand. The center serves approximately 500 households per week, and processes approximately 900 tons per year.

### **SCHOOL RECYCLING**

Bay City and WHAMCO also operate a countywide school-based recycling program with 4 districts participating. Each school uses a separated collection trailer for newspaper, office paper, cardboard and aluminum. There are 16 trailers in use, which the schools drop off at the recycle center when they are full and then pick up after they are emptied.

### **COMPOSTING**

Brush is picked up from citizens curbside by Bay City's waste hauler, who then hauls it to a brush site. The waste hauler is also responsible for chipping the brush as part of their contract. Once or twice a year the City rents a trammel screen to sift and separate large and small pieces so that they are left with a nice mulch or compost. The material is distributed to the public free of charge. There is always great participation, with lines around the block, and all of the material collected throughout the year is distributed within a couple of weeks.

### **HHW**

Bay City and WHAMCO cooperate with Matagorda County's annual household hazardous waste collection events. This is the longest running HHW program in the state at 13 years. Local industry helps by providing funding for the collections.

### **EDUCATION**

"Roaring to Recycle with Rex Recycler" – Rex Recycler is a dinosaur character created to promote recycling. A costume has been developed and is used at events and schools to promote recycling.

### **Contact Information:**

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