Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC)

Since its formation in 1967, the LRGVDC has served as a link between federal and state programs and a means for local units of government to join together in developing services and strategy, thus eliminating duplication of effort and encouraging economic efficiency.

Membership in the LRGVDC includes cities, counties, school districts, special districts, educational institutions, and others.

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Mission Statement

“Encourage and permit local units of government to join and cooperate with one another and with representatives of major economic interests, citizen groups and groups experiencing economic distress to improve the health, safety and general welfare of their citizens and to plan for the future development of the region.”

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Stop Illegal Dumping

Have you ever thrown your household garbage into a vacant lot; along a road; or into a ditch? If you answer yes to this question, you’ve dumped your garbage illegally. Litter and illegally dumped garbage are public health hazards. Children playing around illegally dumped litter can get hurt by broken glass, exposed metal, and other dangerous materials and toxic chemicals. Rats, snakes, mosquitoes, bees, and other pests can live in the garbage and transmit disease to humans. Rotting food attracts flies and may contain germs that can make people sick and even cause death. Harmful chemicals and other materials that are dumped can contaminate our water. If you dump it, you’ll drink it! Litter and illegal dumping are public safety problems.

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The Law

Under the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 341, 343, and 365 the following are violations:

- A person who dumps litter in a place other than an approved solid waste site;
- A person who transports litter to a place other than approved solid waste site for the purpose of disposal;
- A person who receives litter for the purpose of disposal in place other than an approved solid waste site;
- An unauthorized person who dumps litter in a dumpster or similar receptacle.

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The Penalties

- Class C Misdemeanor
  Solid waste or litter, which weighs 5 lbs. or less / 5 gallons or less
  Penalty: $500 fine

- Class B Misdemeanor
  Solid waste or litter, which weighs more than 5 lbs. but less than 500 lbs.
  or 5 gallons but under c.f.
  Penalty: 6 mos in jail and/or $2,000 fine.

- Class A Misdemeanor
  Solid waste or litter, which weighs 500 lbs. to 1,000 lbs.
  Penalty: 1 year in jail and/or $4,000 fine.

- State Jail Felony
  1,000 lbs. or more
  Penalty: 1 year in jail and/or $10,000 fine.

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What can you do with your garbage?

- Be responsible for your garbage. Dispose of it properly and help reduce waste.
- Reduce
  Reduce the amount of garbage you produce by buying brands with less packaging. Buy products in bulk quantities or buy refills. When there is less packaging, there is less garbage.
- Reuse
  Instead of disposable products, buy things that can be washed or reused. Find other uses for things that you may otherwise toss.
- Recycle
  Many communities now have recycling centers. If your community does not have one, help start a recycling center in your area. Check on Earth 911.org to find out where your nearest recycling center is and what kinds of recyclable items they accept.
- Re-Buy
  Buy products made from or packaged in recycled materials. Look for bargains at thrift shops, consignment stores, garage sales, and classified ads.
  Avoid buying non-recyclable items and find out what items local recyclers accept, or donate your items.

Report illegal dumping by contacting your local Precinct Constables Office:

- Hidalgo County
  Constable Precinct 1: (956) 447-3775
  Constable Precinct 2: (956) 784-3510
  Constable Precinct 3: (956) 381-6800
  Constable Precinct 4: (956) 383-8560

- Cameron County Sheriff Office: (956) 554-6700
- Hidalgo County Sheriff Office: (956) 383-8114
- Willacy County Sheriff Office: (956) 689-3576
### Collection Stations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection Stations</th>
<th>Hours of Operation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Mile 4 1/2 North East of FM 493 Donna, TX</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 7:00 am—5:00 pm  Sat. 7:00 am—1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Mule 5 1/2 West Road &amp; Mile 21 North Monte Alto, TX</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 7:00 am—5:00 pm  Sat. 7:00 am—1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Mile 1 East and 6 North Mercedes, TX</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 7:00 am—5:00 pm  Sat. 7:00 am—1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Mile 11 North and Mile 1 1/2 West Weslaco, TX</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 7:00 am—5:00 pm  Sat. 7:00 am—1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. FM 493 &amp; 4th Street Harlingen, TX</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 7:00 am—5:00 pm  Sat. 7:00 am—1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. One Mile East of South Tower Road/Corners of Border Road &amp; El Cato Road Alamo, TX</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 7:00 am—5:00 pm  Sat. 7:00 am—1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Mile 7 (Hwy 107) &amp; Salida del Sol Road Peñitas, TX</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 7:00 am—4:45 pm  Sat. 7:00 am—12:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. 6 3/4 Mile North or 1/4 Mile South HWY 107 Los Ebanos Road Alton, TX</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 7:00 am—4:45 pm  Sat. 7:00 am—12:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Corner of Military Road and FM 886 Sullivan, TX</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 7:00 am—4:45 pm  Sat. 7:00 am—12:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Landfill—Military Road 0.5 Mile West of FM 1427 Peñitas, TX</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 7:00 am—4:00 pm  Sat. 7:00 am—3:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. 1051 N. Doolittle Edinburg, TX</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 7:30 am—6:00 pm  Sat. 8:00 am—12:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Northwest corner of Davis and Terry Road Edinburg, TX (Brush Site Only)</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 10:00 am—6:00 pm  Sat. 7:00 am—1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. 0.25 Mile East of Hwy 281 on SH 186 Limn, TX</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 10:00 am—6:00 pm  Sat. 8:00 am—1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8

### Cameron County

#### Harlingen
Harlingen Transfer Station  
4900 E. Harrison  
Harlingen, TX 78550  
(956) 216-5300

#### Terminology
- **Citizen Collection Station**: A building or a processing site that accepts large household items for waste and some construction debris.
- **Transfer Station**: A building or processing site for the temporary deprivation of waste.
- **Landfill**: Environmentally acceptable disposal of waste on ground. Sanitary landfills are where non-hazardous waste is spread in layers, compacted, and covered with earth at the end of each working day.

If you have any questions on the Collection Sites please call  
Hidalgo County Precinct Offices:

- **Precinct 1**  
  1902 Jose Stephens Ave, Suite 101  
  Weslaco, Texas 78599  
  (956) 968-8733

- **Precinct 2**  
  300 West Hall Acres, Suite G  
  Pharr, Texas 78577  
  (956) 787-1891

- **Precinct 3**  
  724 North Breygolf  
  Mission, Texas 78574  
  (956) 585-4369

- **Precinct 4**  
  1051 North Doolittle Road  
  Edinburg, Texas 78542  
  (956) 383-3112

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### Where does the trash go?

Where does all of our trash go? Does it magically disappear? Not unless you recycle and learn how to reduce waste.

**The Landfill**—After garbage leaves your home, it goes to a landfill. A landfill is a large space where trash is buried into the ground. Landfills must receive a permit from the state. Landfills are mandated by the state to use the layering process when disposing of trash. In order to conserve landfill space it is necessary to reduce the amount of waste we produce.

**Dump sites**—They are illegal places to dispose of garbage and are harmful to the environment because they are not mandated or regulated by anyone. They pollute water, attract rodents carrying diseases, breed germs: all of which can make any living creature ill.

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### Wasteful Ways Affects Your Wallet!

- Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 17 mature trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 3 cubic yards of landfill space and 2 barrels of oil.
- Every ton of paper recycled saves approximately 17 trees.
- If only 1,000 people stopped their junk mail, we could save up to 150,000 trees each year.
- $1 out of every $11 Americans spend for food goes for packaging.

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### We MUST Reduce waste in order to conserve our natural resources!

- Recycle your yard waste too!
- One gallon of used motor oil contaminates 1 million gallons of water.
- Facts provided by: www.oberlin.edu/recycle/facts.html
What the Data Shows about Landfills

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Records indicated that in 2014 there were 198 permitted MSW Landfills actively accepting and managing waste in Texas. In the LRGVDC Region there are 5 active landfills, 4 in Hidalgo County and 1 in Cameron County.

Per-capita rate—In 2014, total disposal of MSW in the state was approximately 32.37 million tons. Using the State population estimate of 26,956,958, the per capita landfill disposal rate in Texas was 6.58 pounds per person per day, which is slightly above the 2013 rate of 6.33 pounds. During this period, the state population increased 1.9%. The total disposal in the LRGVDC Region for 2014 was 1,086,376 and the per capita disposal rate was 4.67 pounds per person per day.

Landfill capacity—The total remaining MSW landfill capacity in the state at the end of 2014 was 2.87 billion cubic yards. Based on reported compaction rates, this volume would hold 1.94 billion tons of waste and serve for 60 years. For the LRGVDC Region the estimated remaining capacity as of 2014 is 86,441,442 tons, which would translate to 80 remaining years of landfill space (average, at 2014 statewide disposal rate).

Landfills left in the RGV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility/Permit #</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Total Facility Acres</th>
<th>2014 Initial (Tons)</th>
<th>Composition Rates</th>
<th>Remaining Capacity</th>
<th>Estimated Life</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brownsville – 1273A</td>
<td>Cameron</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>281,325</td>
<td>1.466</td>
<td>21,181,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edinburg – 2302</td>
<td>Hidalgo</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>1.020</td>
<td>12,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edinburg – 7656</td>
<td>Hidalgo</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>371,257</td>
<td>1.400</td>
<td>8,115,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pharrs – 1727</td>
<td>Hidalgo</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>43.97</td>
<td>3,574</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>12,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>La Gloria – 2348</td>
<td>Hidalgo</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>360,471.58</td>
<td>1.600</td>
<td>111,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RGG Recycling Centers and Drop Off Stations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Types of Material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cameron County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brownsville Recycling Center 308 East Elizabeth Brownsville, TX 78559 (956) 541-9061</td>
<td>Newspaper, office paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, plastic bags, aluminum cans, magazines, books, metal and tin cans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Brownsville Landfill 9500 FM 872 Brownsville, TX 78559 (956) 836-6233</td>
<td>Used motor oil, used tires, aluminum cans, tin or steel cans, ferrous metals (steel, iron), white goods (non-repairable large appliances), and brakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Harlingen Recycling Drop Off Site 1006 South Commerce Harlingen, TX 78550 (956) 627-8624</td>
<td>Cardboard, newspaper, magazines, paper, aluminum, steel, plastics 1 &amp; 2, plastic bags, plastic foam patons, automotive oil, Styrofoam, rechargeable batteries (non-NiCd), books, Christmas trees, telephone books, computers, and monitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Isabel Recycling Center 217 E. Hickman Port Isabel, TX 78578 (956) 943-6101</td>
<td>Cardboard (folded), newspaper, office paper, water bottles, detergent and shampoo bottles, aluminum cans, grocery bags, plastic, cardboard, newspapers, and glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of South Padre Island Drop Off Site 4511 Padre Blvd. South Padre Island TX 78597 (956) 761-8123</td>
<td>Aluminum cans, card board, newspaper, office paper, plastic 1 &amp; 2, plastic bottle cap 15, plastic bags, ink cartridges, rechargeable batteries, and phone books</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hidalgo County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Types of Material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Alamo – Drop Off Site 611 W. Tower Road Alamo, TX 78516 (956) 576-0906 ext. 131</td>
<td>Used motor oil, newspaper, mixed paper, telephone books, computer paper, aluminum cans, tin or steel cans, Christmas trees, magazines, card board, plastic, and e-waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen Recycling Center 401 W. Davie St. Alton, TX 78573 (956) 632-6792 Drop off Site: 416 W. Conmany Blvd. Alton TX</td>
<td>Cardboard, Plastic, Aluminum, Paper, Used motor oil,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburg Recycling Center 510 South Business 281 Edinburg, TX 78539 (956) 381-5035</td>
<td>Used motor oil, car batteries, newspaper, cardboard, mixed paper, computer paper, 1 plastic &amp; 2, aluminum cans, tin or steel cans, magazines and catalogs, and white office paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McAllen Recycling Center 401 North Barrion Road McAllen, TX 78504 (956) 681-4050</td>
<td>Used motor oil, car batteries, newspaper, cardboard, paperboard, mixed paper, telephone books, computer paper, 31 plastic &amp; 2, aluminum cans, tin or steel cans, ferrous metals (steel, iron), ink cartridges, magazines and catalogs, brown paper bags, metal clothes hangers, nonferrous metal, aerosol cans, white office paper and drink boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Mission – Drop Off Site 1550 E. Ida De La Garza Loop Mission, TX 78572 (956) 582-2564</td>
<td>Cardboard, Plastic and cardboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharr Recycling Center 1013 E. Ferguson Pharr, TX 78577 (956) 402-4306</td>
<td>Used motor oil, car batteries, newspaper, cardboard, mixed paper, telephone books, computer paper, 1 plastic &amp; 2, plastic bags, aluminum cans, tin or steel cans, ferrous metals (steel, iron), toners, cartridges, magazines, catalogs, cereal boxes, glass, used cell phones, rechargeable batteries and E-Waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Juan Recycling Center 323 West 1st Street San Juan, TX (956) 223-2340</td>
<td>Used motor oil, paper, plastic, newspaper, cardboard, aluminum, metal, metal foil, paper, aluminum, office paper, old computers, keyboards, monitors and monitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Weslaco - Drop Off Site 6191 Joe Stephens Blvd Weslaco, TX 78596 (956) 937-3116 Drop off Site: 301 W. Railroad Weslaco TX</td>
<td>Newspaper, cardboard, aluminum, tin, phone books, used motor oil paper plastic 1 &amp; 2, glass, and e-waste</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About 1% of U.S. Landfill space is full of disposable diapers, which take 500 years to decompose.

Reduce your waste and increase our landfill space.

Before you start a program in your city, do the research, what size bins do you need? Who can service them, what kinds of items will you accept and where will you take those items?

For more information go to LRGVDC Web Site www.LRGVDC.org or www.Earth911.org
How is Compost Beneficial to our planet?

**WHAT IS COMPOST?**

Composting is the natural process of decomposition and recycling of organic material into a humus rich soil amendment known as compost. Compost is one of the most valuable resources for beautifying your landscape, and it is virtually free. Leaves drop from trees, grass clippings are left after mowing the lawn and plants and animals naturally die. Over time these organic materials break down or decompose. The rich, dark-brown, crumbly, soil-like material that results from this material is called compost which also may have a pleasant smell.

**WHY COMPOST?**

Recycling the organic waste of a household into compost allows us to return badly needed organic matter to the soil. In this way, we participate in nature’s cycle, and cut down on garbage going into landfills. Composting also provides a way not only of reducing the amount of waste that needs to be disposed of, but also of converting it into a product that is useful for gardening, landscaping, or house plants.

**Compost Programs in the LRGV Region:**

Please contact these facilities for prices on compost and mulch.

- City of McAllen Compost Facility
  15201 N. 29th Street (Rooth Road)
  (956) 681-4580

- City of Brownsville
  9000 FM 802, Brownsville, TX
  (956) 831-3641

- City of San Juan Recycling Center
  323 W. 1st St., San Juan, TX
  (956) 223-2340

Recycle Tires

Illegal Dumped tires decreases the quality of life in all of our communities and impacts tourism and our growing economy. It also causes hazards in water ways producing flooding and threatening infrastructure and housing. Toxins released from tire decomposition, incineration or accidental fires can pollute the water, air and soil. We encourage the community to dispose tires legally.

To help address this issue the LRGVDC has initiated the “Road to Recycling” Regional Tire Collection Project.

**Regional Tire Collection Project**

- **ROAD TO RECYCLING**
  UTW Tire Collection
  3005 N. Valverde Road
  Donna, Texas
  Phone: 956-723-8484

Environmental Education is the Key!

**Why is it important to Recycle?**

- Recycling is one way to keep waste out of landfills.
- Recycling recovers valuable raw materials. If we make cans from recycled cans, then we don’t have to disturb the environment by mining new materials.
- Recycling reduces pollution and saves energy that would have been used for new products. It also harvests new energy that is wasted.

**What would happen if everyone stopped recycling?**

- Disposing of garbage would become much more expensive. Since everything would be thrown away, landfills would fill up at a very fast rate. We would have to build more landfills to accept more new garbage.
- The supply of any material is limited. Many natural resources would quickly disappear. If we keep filling our landfills with valuable resources such as aluminum, plastic, steel and paper, there will eventually be no materials left.
How Can I Minimize My Carbon Footprint?

Electronic Waste
Electronic waste is becoming one of the fastest growing types of waste. The key to reducing e-waste in our landfills is to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Re-Buy and Restore. All computer manufacturers are now required by law to offer a buy-back program to offer recycling programs. The Cities of McAllen, City of Pharr, City of San Juan, City of Alamo and City of Harlingen and City of Weslaco collect electronic waste (e-waste) for recycling. Please call each location for more information. Or you can go to www.Earth111.org.

Heavy Trash
Heavy trash is a huge problem for any city. Many communities offer collection events for heavy trash at least once a month. Many cities also schedule Clean-up Events during the first few weeks in April during the Great American Clean up sponsored by Keep Texas Beautiful. Check with your community to find more information or go to www.KTB.org or www.KATB.org to see when your community is scheduling their next clean up.

Storm Water
Did you know it is illegal to dump waste and pollution into storm drains? Anything poured into the storm drain makes its way into the Arroyo Colorado and Lower Laguna Madre. Storm drains are used to prevent flooding from excess rain water. Storm water receives no treatment, so if it is contaminated by pollutants it stays polluted. Storm drains can also be clogged by waste or debris that is dumped into them, causing flooding.

When It Rains... It Drains

The Secret Life of Plastic
Plastic has become the most widely used material in the world since 1976. Bottled water being the single largest growth amongst all liquids, which include consumable and non-consumable plastic. Three major reasons for recycling plastic bottles are 1) less petroleum is consumed, 2) the litter factor and 3) the plastic recycling industry faces a shortage because much of the recycled plastic is being exported to China. Before recycling, plastics are sorted according to their resin identification code, a method of categorization of polymer types, which was developed by the Society of the Plastics Industry in 1988.

Plastics can be numbered from 1 through 7, the numbers signify the type (resin) of plastic that the product is made from and it also identifies if it is recyclable or not. Number 1 (PET) is often used in milk jugs or detergent bottles. It is easily recycled by breaking it apart into small chips which are washed, dried and reused. Some common end uses for recycled #1 plastics are plastic pipes, lumber, flower pots, trash cans, or containers for motor oil or cleaning supplies. Number 2 (HDPE) plastics are commonly used in food packaging, as well as water and soda bottles. Number 2 plastic is one of the most used recycled plastics and is commonly used in textiles. Some companies make their carpet using 100% recycled #2 plastic. Number 2 plastic is also used like cotton candy to make fiber filling or fabric for things like pillows, quilts or jackets and a large quantity goes back into the bottle market. Plastic films (LDPE) are often used for plastic bags, shrink wrap and grocery bags. Film plastics are washed and reformulated or used to make new products.

Some end uses for recycled LDPE plastic films are plastic tubing, agricultural film and plastic lumber. The types of plastic that can be recycled depends on where you live. The most common types of recyclable plastics are #1 plastic, #2 plastic and film plastic.

Recycle your yard waste tool
Grass Cycling is the natural recycling of grass by leaving clippings on the lawn when mowing. Grass clippings quickly decompose, returning valuable nutrients to the soil. Composting is another great way to recycle yard waste. Call your local city hall to see if your city has a composting facility.

- Grass Cycling saves time, money and protects the environment.
- Labor time is reduced since there is no bagging or the need to dispose of clippings.
- Grass clippings add beneficial organic matter (free fertilizer) to soil and produce health, green lawns.
- Grass Cycling also reduces the amount of yard waste disposed in landfills.
- No! Grass clippings do not cause thatch, grass roots are the primary cause of thatch.
- No! Grass Cycling does not spread lawn disease, improper watering and fertilizing are the primary cause of disease spread.
- No! Grass Cycling will not make a lawn look bad, if lawn is properly mowed, watered and fertilized grass cycling can produce a healthier-looking lawn.

Yard trimmings make up at least 20% of landfills in the Lower Rio Grande Valley