

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program

Funding Report for Fiscal Years 2020/2021



**IMPACTS
&
RESULTS**
IN YOUR REGION

FOREWORD

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

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

A compilation of data received from the 24 COGs through the Waste Permits Division of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is included, summarizing projects funded by each of the planning regions during the State Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021.

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

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Special thanks are provided to the Regional Council of Governments Solid Waste Planners and the TCEQ Waste Permits Division for their hard work in developing this report.

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

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Grant Program	
Why the Program is Important	4
Why Use COGs to Oversee Grants	
COGs Provide Regional Services	5
Topic of Interest Illegal Dumping	6
How the Program is Funded / Who Benefits from the Grants	
TABLE 1 Funding by Entity	7
Topic of Interest Household Hazardous Waste	8
Challenging Times During the Covid Pandemic	
TABLE 2 Funding by Category	9
Topic of Interest Used Electronics	10
Councils of Governments Map	11
Councils of Governments Highlights: Find Your COG	12-59

THE GRANT PROGRAM

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

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

(See Table 2 on page 9 for a list of the Types of Projects Funded.)

WHY THE PROGRAM IS IMPORTANT

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

WHY USE COGS TO OVERSEE GRANTS

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

- **LOCAL FAMILIARITY**
Grant proposals are evaluated by public and private experts from each region who are familiar with the region's needs and issues.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY**
COGs administer a wide range of grants, from \$332.53 to \$231,003.70 in Fiscal Years 2020/2021, with legislatively set-forth methods of accountability.
- **PARTNERSHIP**
COGs work with local 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 and recycling facilities, cross-jurisdictional environmental enforcement task forces, and regional education campaigns.
- **EFFICIENCY**
COGs know what activities are underway in their areas, thus decreasing the chance for duplication of efforts.



COGS PROVIDE REGIONAL SERVICES

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

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

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

ASSISTS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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

ASSISTS STATE GOVERNMENT

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



TOPIC OF INTEREST ILLEGAL DUMPING

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

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

To combat illegal dumping, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality promotes a four-part approach: promote available disposal options, raise public awareness of the hazards and disposal options, host cleanups of existing illegal dump sites, and enforce illegal dumping laws.

Prevention and cleanup of illegal dump sites makes a community more resilient by reducing the risk of flooding, more attractive to investors or companies by providing clean and safe locations for doing business, and more welcoming for residents and visitors by improving and sustaining daily quality of life.

During Fiscal Years 2020/2021, the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funded 24 local enforcement grants at almost \$474,000. Through these grants, law enforcement investigated 2,987 illegal dumping sites, identified 1,006 violators, and caused the removal of 6.59 million pounds of waste.

Illegally dumped tires are of particular concern in Texas. To combat this, many grantees across the state include tire collection and recycling as a part of their grant. During Fiscal Years 2020/2021 almost \$1,228,400 of Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds was spent on the collection and recycling of 636,083 tires, an almost threefold increase over the previous biennium. Councils of Governments identified the need for more tire collections, more accessible markets for tire recycling, more education about illegal tire dumping, more enforcement, and more funding to meet the demand and address the problem.



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



HOW THE PROGRAM IS FUNDED / WHO BENEFITS FROM THE GRANTS

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

During Fiscal Years 2020/2021, the 24 regional COGs funded 234 projects totaling \$5,916,148.68.

The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program is funded by revenues collected through municipal solid waste fees, or tipping fees, paid at landfills and appropriated by the legislature during each regularly scheduled session. Statutorily, the TCEQ receives a portion of these funds, and a portion is allocated to the COGs for local and regional projects.

Allocations to COGs are based on a formula that considers population, area, solid waste fee generation, and public health needs (Solid Waste Disposal Act, Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, 361.014(b)). Communities have a great demand for these grant funds and programs. During Fiscal Years 2020/2021, the 24 regional COGs funded 234 projects totaling \$5,916,148.68.

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

Table 1 Fiscal Years 2020/2021 Funding by Entity

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Cities	123	\$2,961,817.93
Counties	58	\$1,177,559.82
COGs	47	\$1,711,948.25
School Districts	5	\$58,448.06
Other Districts	1	\$6,374.62
TOTAL	234	\$5,916,148.68

PEOPLE IMPACTED

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding allows COGs to offer services and education impacting a large portion of Texans.



Grantees
reached out to
Texans through
4,470
mass media
activities.

"Cowboy" icon by Artem Kovyazin from thenounproject.com



57,339
Texas students attend
a school district
with a grant-funded
recycling program.

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

TOPIC OF INTEREST HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

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

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

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

Grantees held 1,400 one-day events for Texans to drop off their HHW.

Many communities, especially in rural areas, do not have permanent HHW disposal facilities available, and collection events are not held on regular schedules. That means the estimated 216 million pounds of HHW stored in 10.8 million households in Texas are creating the potential for significant health and safety hazards.

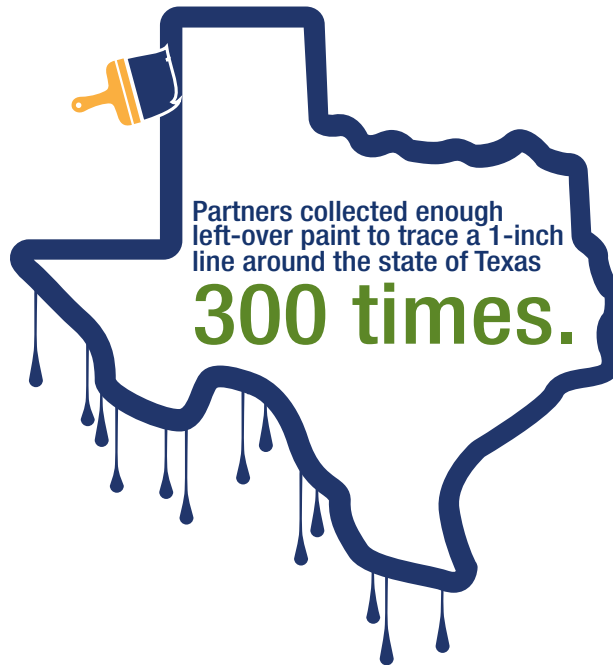
The lack of options and education about disposal leaves residents with three choices: store HHW indefinitely, send it to a landfill, or dispose of it improperly. Whether poured down the sink or a storm drain or dumped on a vacant lot, HHW poses an environmental risk. For example, a single quart of oil can contaminate two million gallons of drinking water or create an oil slick that covers eight acres.

Landfill disposal creates the possibility of HHW inadvertently mixing either en route or at the landfill,

causing a chemical reaction, fire, or explosion. Sanitation workers can also be injured by fires or explosions resulting from mixing of hazardous materials during residential pickups.

During Fiscal Years 2020/2021, local governments spent more than \$1,200,000 in Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds hosting collection events and upgrading permanent disposal facilities to help Texas residents address the issue of stockpiled HHW and create opportunities to educate the general public on the importance of proper use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials.

Through these programs they were able to collect more than 17.8 million pounds of HHW.



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



CHALLENGING TIMES DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

In the first quarter of Fiscal Years 2020/2021, the COVID pandemic hit, and, like everyone else, COG staff had to quickly pivot and change the way of doing things. Meetings, trainings, and grant selection processes had to immediately switch to online platforms, and new safety measures were put in place when people needed to assemble. During this biennium 23 of the 24 COGs were working to develop the newest version of their 20-year Regional Solid Waste Management Plans. Schedules had to change, and different strategies for involving the local governments and general public had to be used.

Grant recipients also had to make these major shifts to the way things were being done. They did so effectively and successfully implemented their grants despite all the added challenges. Plus, solid waste managers had a new product to deal with in the disposal stream—personal protective equipment (PPE). Education campaigns emerged in communities reminding residents they

couldn't recycle gloves and masks, but they also shouldn't just throw them on the ground. Many of the processes established during this biennium may stay in place moving forward, such as setting appointments for drop off times at permanent facilities.

Table 2 Fiscal Years 2020/2021 Funding by Category

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	30	\$1,100,725.14
General Solid Waste Management	72	\$846,555.85
Household Hazardous Waste Management	32	\$1,214,803.59
Local Enforcement	24	\$473,950.35
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	24	\$819,088.02
Organic Waste Management	9	\$599,738.77
Recycling	41	\$848,513.96
Used Oil Management	2	\$12,773.00
TOTAL	234	\$5,916,148.68

Regional Solid Waste grantees diverted

15.35 million

pounds of recyclables,
enough to cover almost
26 football fields with one
foot of recyclables.



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

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

Since the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) began the Texas Recycles Computers (2009) and Texas Recycles TVs (2013) initiatives, 302.3 million pounds of televisions and computer equipment have been recycled and 68.3 million pounds have been reused.

According to the 2021 *TCEQ Program Report on Texas Recycles Computers and Texas Recycles Televisions*, computer manufacturers collected an additional 44

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

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

While Texas law requires television and computer equipment manufacturers to offer recycling opportunities for their own brands, retail sellers of these products are not required to accept them or may not have stores in areas outside large urban centers. Televisions can be particularly challenging for residents to recycle, especially the older models.

Used electronics contain various amounts of lead,

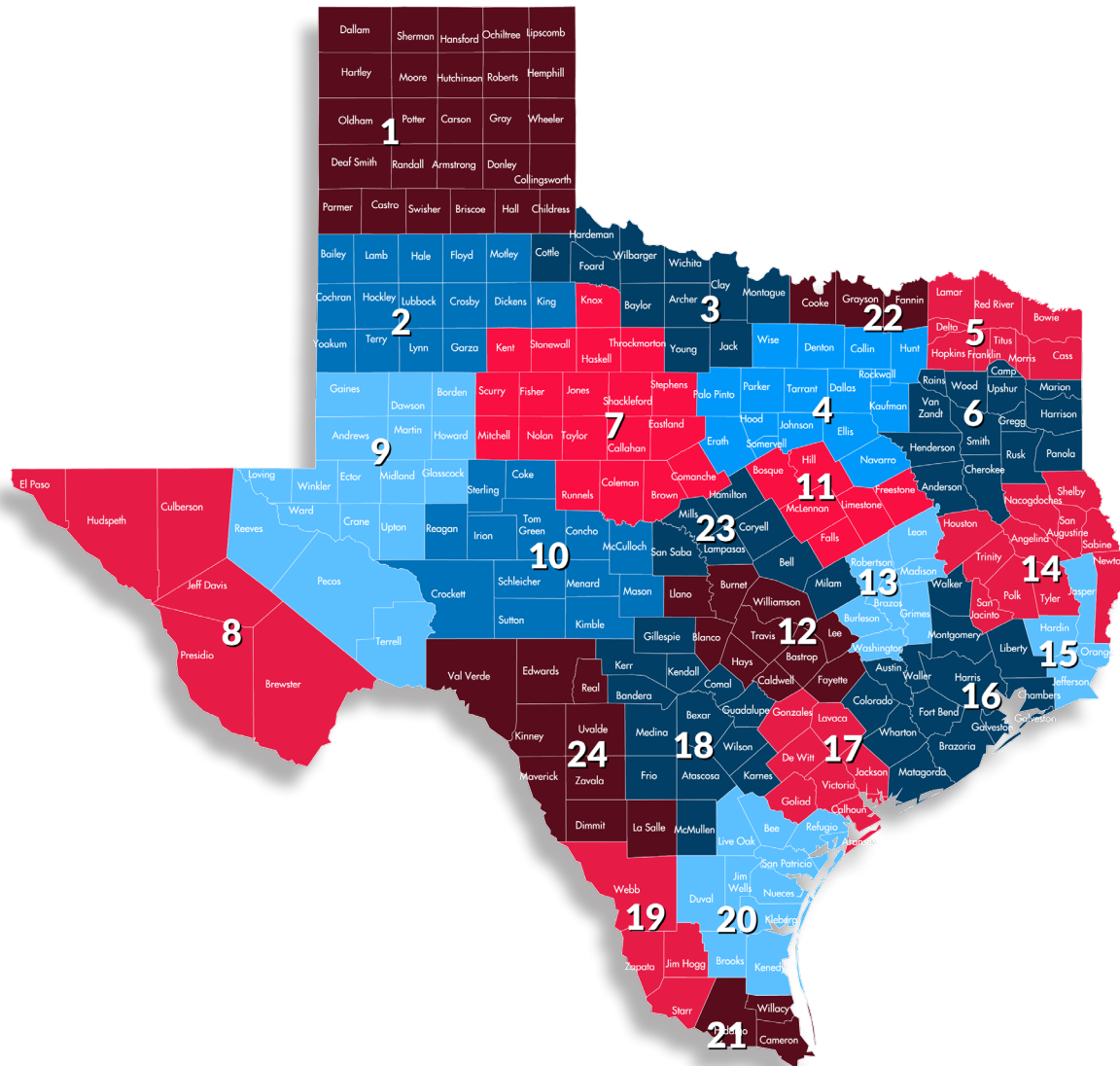
cadmium, mercury, and other metals that can, over time, leach out of a typical landfill into waterways. The dangers presented by hazardous materials, combined with the potential to capture valuable materials by recycling electronics, make it imperative that the State's response to the increasing call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

The appropriation of grant funds and additional regional collection events or permanent local electronics recycling facilities would likely increase the recycling numbers. During Fiscal Years 2020/2021, with Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds, local governments collected 1.97 million pounds of used electronics at a cost of just over \$162,000.

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



TEXAS REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS



COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS	PAGE
Alamo Area Council of Governments (18)	12
Ark-Tex Council of Governments (5)	14
Brazos Valley Council of Governments (13)	16
Capital Area Council of Governments (12)	18
Central Texas Council of Governments (23)	20
Coastal Bend Council of Governments (20)	22
Concho Valley Council of Governments (10)	24
Deep East Texas Council of Governments (14)	26
East Texas Council of Governments (6)	28
Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (17)	30
Heart of Texas Council of Governments (11)	32
Houston-Galveston Area Council (16)	34
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (21)	36
Middle Rio Grande Development Council (24)	38
Nortex Regional Planning Commission (3)	40
North Central Texas Council of Governments (4)	42
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (1)	44
Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission (9)	46
Rio Grande Council of Governments (8)	48
South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (15)	50
South Plains Association of Governments (2)	52
South Texas Development Council (19)	54
Texoma Council of Governments (22)	56
West Central Texas Council of Governments (7)	58

A community's commitment to recycling and a cleaner environment is often considered to reflect its commitment to a higher quality of living. Recycling and the resulting feedstocks can attract companies that reprocess recyclables and the suppliers who reuse these materials in their products.

The Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) is the state-designated planning agency for solid waste management issues in the region. The AACOG Solid Waste Program reviews applications for landfill permits and provides technical assistance to local governments on solid waste issues and continuing education opportunities for local governments and solid waste professionals. Each year AACOG provides oversight and administration for Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding for local government projects, including source reduction, recycling, local illegal dumping enforcement, solid waste studies, household hazardous waste collections, and public education efforts.

During Fiscal Years 2020/2021, the total grant money available to communities in the region was \$486,870.11. Seven communities, in addition to AACOG, were awarded funds to implement 15 projects selected by the Resource Recovery Committee (RRC) at AACOG. The projects given to cities and counties in the region impacted a total of 1,626,525 residents. There were 7.5 tons of materials diverted from the landfill as a result of these projects.

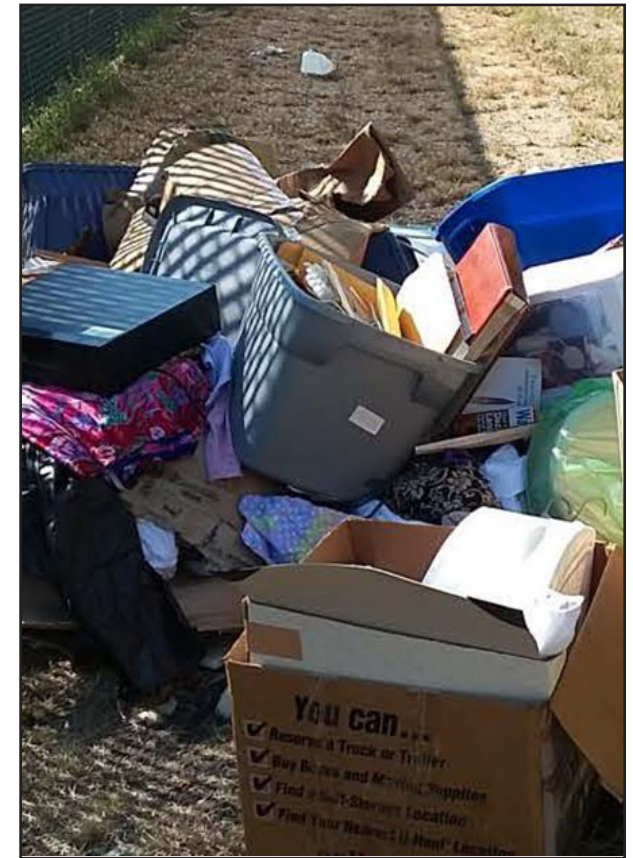
Landfills are designed to deal with waste; however, if we threw everything away when it could be recycled, the landfill would fill up faster and lead to the need

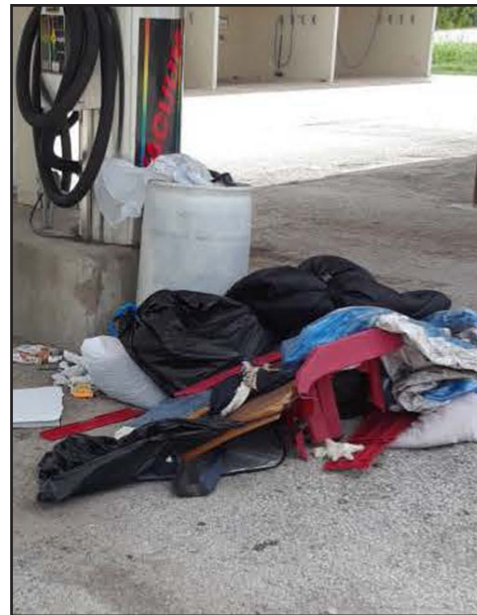
for expansions or new landfills sooner, something that residents are often opposed to. By increasing recycling, valuable resources are saved and landfill space is preserved for items without available options for recycling.

A community's commitment to recycling and a cleaner environment is often considered to reflect its commitment to a higher quality of living. Recycling and the resulting feedstocks can attract companies that reprocess recyclables and the suppliers who reuse these materials in their products.

Also, illegal dumping is a growing concern. The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program has helped a number of communities to develop watch programs for areas popular for illegal dumping.

One such community is the City of Converse. In FY2020 the City purchased illegal dumping cameras. Their goal was to help with the alleviation of illegal dumping throughout the city, by successfully identifying those responsible and hopefully deterring them from committing the same crime in the future. They also had a goal of improving the landscape and reducing the rodent population in those areas. The purchased cameras have made an impact already and will continue to do so in the future.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

Alamo Area Council of Governments

City of Converse

City of Kerrville

City of New Braunfels

City of San Antonio

City of Seguin

Kendall County

Wilson County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	6	\$189,231.27
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$124,639.84
Household Hazardous Waste Management	3	\$63,414.00
Local Enforcement	1	\$2,675.00
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	2	\$89,000.00
Organic Waste Management	1	\$14,000.00
Recycling	1	\$3,910.00
TOTAL	15	\$486,870.11

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments Environmental Resources Program is committed to improving the quality of life for all residents by supporting efforts to reduce the amount of illegal dumping and educating residents about the hazards associated with improper waste disposal, which can be detrimental to human health and the environment.

During Fiscal Years 2020/2021 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding period, the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) administered COG-Managed projects as part of a two-pronged approach to address the problem of illegal dumping in the region.

The first project focused on educational outreach. ATCOG allocated \$10,000 to develop an educational outreach campaign, using social media platforms, to send targeted messages regarding illegal dumping and recycling to residents' cell phones via a technology known as geofencing. A total of 840,000 targeted messages regarding illegal dumping and recycling were sent out via social media to residents within the ATCOG region to those that entered geographical areas known for their higher instances of illegal dumping.

The second project focused on cleaning up litter and illegally dumped waste. ATCOG formed partnerships with all nine counties in the region and provided \$6,140.38 to each to host a cleanup event. The counties were encouraged to divert recyclable materials picked up during the cleanup events to material recovery facilities in the area.

At the nine cleanup events conducted during this funding period, 310 volunteers participated in the planning, implementation, and cleanup of 130,000 acres. Volunteers included county precinct road commissioners, mayors, city managers, students from various independent school districts and adult

probationers.

As a result, Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus counties collected 830,000 pounds of waste for disposal at municipal solid waste landfills. Additionally, 437,700 pounds of materials were collected for recycling/reuse, including

- 29,000 pounds of white goods;
- 7,200 pounds of brush/yard waste;
- 16,500 pounds of C&D debris; and
- 7,700 scrap tires.

The ATCOG Environmental Resources Program is committed to improving the quality of life for all residents by reducing the amount of illegal dumping and educating residents about the hazards associated with improper waste disposal, which can be detrimental to human health and the environment. By providing this service, which is available for all residents in the region, ATCOG continues to encourage communities to work together for the benefit of all residents so that future generations may learn the importance of growing up and living in a cleaner, safer environment.





GRANT RECIPIENT
Ark-Tex Council of Governments

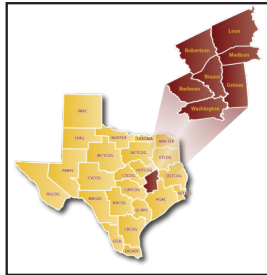
GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$10,000.00
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$55,263.39
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$10,000.00
TOTAL	3	\$75,263.39

The most obvious impact of the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program to our projects is that they allow us to multiply what we could do alone. These grants allow us to reach more of the citizens of Washington County to promote good waste management practices and to target removal of more material that creates a nuisance and/or is illegally dumped. This program is good for our community and enhances our opportunity for future economic development.

—Mark Marzahn, Environmental Health Director, Washington County Engineering and Development Services

Integrated waste management approaches rely on the complementary use of a mixture of waste management practices to safely and effectively handle municipal solid waste (MSW). However, limited financial resources in rural America, stemming from a lower tax base than their urban counterparts and rapid inflation, continue to widen the gaps in waste collection coverage and the enforcement of illegal dumping. The Brazos Valley region is largely rural and sparsely populated. Population in the region is rising substantially and resulting in higher quantities of waste. Residential, commercial, and industrial waste generation are projected to increase over the next 20 years. The fastest growth in waste generation is likely to occur in the next decade. So, the challenge of maintaining sustainable solid waste management programs in rural communities is likely to persist.

The Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG), which administers the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program for the region, used more than 80% of the region's funds for Fiscal Years 2020/2021 on



projects that addressed litter and illegal dumping, scrap tires, and collection of difficult to dispose of items. The projects funded were in the cities of Buffalo and Hearne and Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, and Washington counties. There were more than 6,800 scrap tires collected during this period. The same types of grants were also the top funded categories during the Fiscal Years 2018/2019 grant cycle. However, the collection of this type of MSW has decreased by 12%. Even though it may

look as though the Brazos Valley residents have demonstrated that integrated solid waste management is having a positive impact throughout the region, the decrease in collection in the region may instead be impacted by residents' reluctance to participate in collection events during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The large concentration of funds used for these funding

**FREE SCRAP TIRE
COLLECTION EVENT**

October 10th thru 24th 2020

Open to ALL Residents of Washington County
including the cities of Brenham and Burton

BVR Collection Station
2009 Old Chappell Hill Rd.
979-922-5958
Monday – Friday 8 am – 5 pm
Saturday 8 am – 4 pm



**NO MORE THAN 8 PASSENGER TIRES 20" & SMALLER
ACCEPTED FREE PER HOUSEHOLD**


Quantities greater than 8 tires and/or sizes above 20", please
schedule with Collection Station attendant to bring these tires at
the end of the event if space is available.


PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED
Such as a utility bill or driver license

**WE CANNOT ACCEPT OFF-ROAD TIRES
OR PIECES OF TIRES**
Our tire disposal vendor does not accept off-road/agricultural
tires or pieces of tires due to weight

THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS
Commercial accounts will be charged normal fees.

Sponsored by
Washington County and the City of Brenham in
partnership with BVR and Keep Washington County Beautiful.



Funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
thru the Brazos Valley Council of Governments

categories also demonstrates the importance that the residents of the Brazos Valley region continue to place on eliminating illegal dumping and providing other options for disposal of unused or unwanted materials, especially scrap tires. Washington County cleaned up more than 19,700 pounds of waste and 1,200 pounds of materials for recycling/reuse from 135 illegal dump sites. Washington County continues to work diligently to sustain their enforcement program by investigating the illegal dump sites to identify violators. Whenever they are located, these violators are penalized for breaking the law. Washington County investigated 44 Class C misdemeanor sites, 114 Class B misdemeanor sites, and nine Class A misdemeanor sites for a total of 167 sites investigated.

The funding awarded by the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program provides some of the assistance needed for Washington County to keep up the momentum for local enforcement of illegal dumping. In Fiscal Year 2020, Washington County hosted their

Scrap Tire Collection Event. The entire county has benefitted from the opportunity of having a means to recycle their scrap tires and reduce the likelihood of producing mosquito and rodent breeding grounds. They believe that having a shared responsibility is key to keeping the Brazos Valley environmentally safe. If this funding had not been available, especially during the pandemic, an already perilous situation could have been made even worse with the accumulation of scrap tires and the potential of spreading other diseases.



Washington County continues to be concerned about improving the health, safety, and quality of life for all of its residents. The County has demonstrated compliance with the BVCOG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan by ensuring the availability of disposal in the Brazos Valley, which includes source reduction and recycling. These types of projects provide more opportunities for residents to safely dispose of waste in a legal and environmentally safe manner.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

Brazos Valley Council of Governments

Grimes County

Burleson County

Leon County

City of Buffalo

Madison County

City of Hearne

Washington County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$2,900.00
General Solid Waste Management	8	\$44,455.97
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$8,409.90
Local Enforcement	1	\$2,474.56
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$18,102.00
TOTAL	12	\$76,342.43

Projected Residential Waste Generation in the Brazos Valley						
Year	Growth Rate Per Year	Current Population/ Population Projection	Landfill Disposal (Tons)	Disposal Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	Recycling (Tons)	Residential Waste Generation (Tons)
Current (2019)	N/A	355,486	412,544	6.36	115,681	528,225
2022	4.0%	369,812	429,169	6.36	120,343	549,513
2027	6.5%	393,845	457,060	6.36	128,164	585,224
2032	6.5%	419,249	486,541	6.36	136,431	622,972
2037	6.0%	444,372	515,697	6.36	144,606	660,303
2042	5.5%	468,755	543,993	6.36	152,541	696,535

The funds provided through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program go a long way to help promote responsible solid waste management practices and to reduce illegal dumping which pollutes roads, highways, and thoroughfares; public and private properties; and waterways and aquifers.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) consists of leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients. Products such as paints, thinners, varnishes, cleaners, oils, batteries, cell phones, automotive fluids, pool chemicals and bug and weed killers may be considered HHW. These products are labeled “DANGER,” “WARNING,” “CAUTION,” “TOXIC,” “CORROSIVE,” “FLAMMABLE,” or “POISON,” and may be harmful to you, your family, and the environment when misused, stored, or discarded improperly.

The Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) maintains the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan providing a structure for regional and local government solid waste planning. Encouraging HHW collection and diversion programs at the local and regional level has been the plan’s top goal since 2002. To address this, CAPCOG promotes coordination of public and private partnerships to share the cost burden and provide

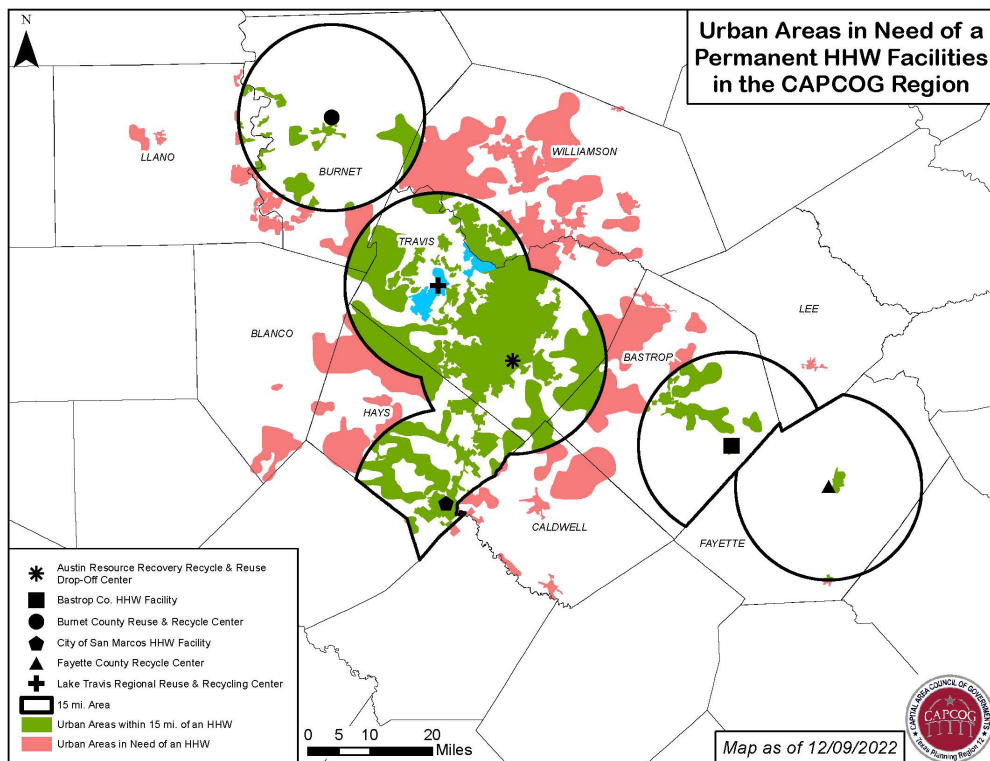
services, development of sub-regional collection programs that encourage permanent reuse facilities, and cost-efficient collection programs other than one-day events.

CAPCOG facilitates the plan goals and objectives through the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) and the CAPCOG Solid Waste Program. Participants help establish and promote priorities for solid waste planning to include HHW initiatives. During Fiscal Years 2020/2021, CAPCOG’s SWAC directed 78% of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding to help meet the region’s HHW needs, including funding for enhanced permanent regional HHW facilities in the City of Lakeway and Burnet, Bastrop, and Fayette counties.

To reduce the risk to public health and the environment, CAPCOG’s members try to schedule HHW collection events as often as the budget allows, which averages

once every three years. These events are not possible without financial support from multiple entities. The rural collection events easily draw more than 300 vehicles per event, with proper disposal costs ranging from \$117 to \$133 per household.

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



Urban areas in need of permanent HHW facilities in the CAPCOG region.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Bastrop County	City of Granite Shoals
Blanco County	City of Lockhart
Burnet County	Fayette County
Caldwell County	Llano County
Capital Area Council of Governments	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	2	\$83,778.74
General Solid Waste Management	3	\$46,390.11
Household Hazardous Waste Management	6	\$156,021.16
TOTAL	11	\$286,190.01

Many residents have reached out saying how grateful they are that CTCOG and the local cities offer these events since there are no other options for them to dispose household hazardous waste properly.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) disposal service is one of the greatest needs within the Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG) region. Permanent HHW facilities are nonexistent, and collection events are usually too expensive for most communities to independently host even on an irregular basis.

Recognizing this need, the CTCOG's Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) began an HHW program 10 years ago to provide regular funding for local cities and counties to host HHW events that are open to all residents in the region. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by CTCOG, funded seven HHW collection events in Fiscal

Years 2020/2021. Through this program, nearly 3,000 residents were able to drop off hazardous waste materials, such as paints, oil, antifreeze, batteries, household cleaners, fluorescent bulbs, and other harmful chemicals for proper disposal. CTCOG also coordinated with each host entity to include additional services for tire recycling, used electronics collections, and recyclables during the events. While not every event had all of these disposal options, seeking to provide collection opportunities for more than just HHW at a central event increases the benefits for residents trying to offload this kind of waste. Many residents have reached out saying how grateful they are that CTCOG and the local cities offer these events since there are no other options for them to dispose of HHW properly.

Highlights of HHW Items and Scrap Tires Collected during Fiscal Years 2020/2021 Events						
Paint	Pesticides	Fuels	Batteries	Fluorescent Light Bulbs	Other Hazardous Materials	Scrap Tires
131,171 lbs.	11,471 lbs.	11,307 lbs.	500	25 lbs.	26,153 lbs.	13,000





GRANT RECIPIENT
Central Texas Council of Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$4,209.94
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$102,595.14
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$25,000.00
TOTAL	3	\$131,805.08

Being able to provide local enforcement training and equipment is instrumental to the sustained efforts to eliminate the issue of illegal dumping in the Coastal Bend region.

During the Fiscal Years 2020/2021 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding period, the Coastal Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG) administered three COG-Managed regional projects to provide pharmaceutical waste collection locations in the region and to provide Sidewalk Buttlers to collect cigarette waste in heavily used areas, such as beaches, parks, restaurants, and other public spaces. CBCOG also administered approximately \$12,474.59 for the purchase of 400 "No Dumping" signs and to provide scholarships to cover the full cost of online local enforcement training opportunities for code enforcement personnel and law enforcement officers who need continuing education credits for their licenses.

CBCOG has provided low-cost or free local enforcement training opportunities for the region since at least 2004. The Coastal Bend region is a vast area of 11 counties that extends from the Gulf of Mexico inland to the plains and brush country of South Texas. Attending meetings and trainings is often difficult for many of the region's agencies and officers due to the distance and time it takes to travel from the farthest reaches of the region.

The CBCOG worked with the Texas Illegal Dumping Resource Center (TIDRC) to offer free, online training for local enforcement personnel who needed training to keep their licenses current but were not allowed to travel.

Throughout the years, the CBCOG has partnered with

TIDRC for in-person training but never online. CBCOG's free, in-person training sessions trained up to 100 attendees per year. Online training was able to attract the same number of participants who completed their trainings at their own pace and in a local enforcement subject of their choice from TIDRC's list of many classes. Since 2004 approximately 900 local enforcement personnel have taken advantage of the free training opportunities in the CBCOG region.

In addition to training opportunities, the CBCOG has been able to provide metal "no dumping" signs that can be placed in areas of high illegal dumping activity. In 2014, the CBCOG purchased 300 "No Dumping" signs that were quickly distributed across the region. In 2020 the signs were revamped according to Texas Department of Transportation standards. A total of 400 new signs were purchased, and more than half were distributed within the first six months of receiving them.

Measuring the effectiveness of the signs through observation and on the ground efforts indicates the signs have generated a change in behavior toward illegal dumping activities in much of the region. Where signs have been placed, illegal dumping activities have diminished substantially.

Being able to provide local enforcement training and equipment is instrumental to the sustained efforts to eliminate the issue of illegal dumping in the Coastal Bend region.





GRANT RECIPIENT

Coastal Bend Council of Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	2	\$12,307.12
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$759.00
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$8,141.93
TOTAL	4	\$21,208.05

“When you think about what goes into the ground from just our yard, items like pesticides, oils, and paints, antifreeze that may get poured down the driveway, all those items impact our lakes, rivers, and streams. This event is important to the community...and can help make San Angelo and Tom Green County a better place to live.”

—Charlotte Anderson, Executive Director, Keep San Angelo Beautiful

Funds from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the Concho Valley Council of Governments (CVCOG), have allowed the cities and the counties to dispose of not only household hazardous waste (HHW) materials, but debris, tires, and unsightly materials.

During Fiscal Years 2020/2021, CVCOG partnered with Tom Green County and Keep San Angelo Beautiful (City of San Angelo) on HHW events. The need for these events has become increasingly important as partners believe in the shared responsibility to create awareness and maintain clean, green, affordable, safe, and beautiful spaces in homes and around the CVCOG service area.

During Fiscal Years 2020/2021, one-day events in Tom Green County and San Angelo collected 88,000 pounds of HHW materials. Such materials included flammable liquids and solids; aerosols, pesticides, and herbicides (liquids and solids); fluorescent bulbs; propane cylinders (camp size & BBQ); oil-based and latex paints; poisons; corrosive liquids and solids; oxidizers (pool chemicals); isocyanates; hydrogen peroxide; antifreeze, used oil, and used oil filters; mercury items; freon cylinders; fire

extinguishers; rechargeable batteries (NiCad, nickel-metal hydride); and alkaline, lithium and lithium-ion batteries.

This funding cycle was during the surge of the COVID-19 pandemic. Partners attribute much of the successes of these particular projects to residents being at home with more free time, creating the opportunity for household cleanups. The first of these was a drive-through event to limit the spread of the virus, enforcing social distancing and enhanced safety and handling measures. The event management professionals and volunteers responsible for removing the items from each vehicle wore gloves and masks, also ensuring social distancing and enhanced safety measures.

Being able to work with the professionals in this industry on these efforts allowed partners to be able to provide essential services, helping protect the community from harmful waste, all the while promoting greater resident safety and satisfaction. Partners are able to provide safe, compliant, affordable, and sustainable solutions for HHW disposal for the residents of San Angelo and Tom Green County.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Eldorado

City of Sonora

City of Mason

Schleicher County

City of Menard

Tom Green County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	5	\$60,737.24
Household Hazardous Waste Management	2	\$54,044.50
TOTAL	7	\$114,781.74

“It’s hard to believe they could collect more than 16 tons of material in one day until you are there seeing the line of trucks and cars and watching how fast the volunteers are unloading them.”

—Bob Bashaw, DETCOG Region Coordinator

For the past 12 years, Angelina Beautiful/Clean (AB/C) and community partners have hosted a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection day event for Deep East Texas residents. The purpose of this event is to give individuals an opportunity to properly dispose of hazardous materials that could potentially harm them or the environment.

During the 2021 HHW Collection Day, which was held on March 5, over 300 vehicles drove through the City of Lufkin’s Solid Waste/Recycling Center to properly dispose of (and recycle) over 32,038 pounds of hazardous materials. People from multiple households outside of the immediate Lufkin area drove over an hour to take advantage of this opportunity. Local businesses volunteered to help with everything from traffic control, unloading the materials, and mixing the collected paint to be used to paint East Texas schools and nonprofits, or disposed of properly.

Through this program, AB/C’s goal is to educate the

public that sustainability is key to successful solid waste management. HHW Collection Day, the only one in the region, provides a much-needed resource, free of charge, to the public that would not be readily available otherwise. With the help of sponsors, donations, Texas

Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) fines, and funding from the TCEQ’s Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the Deep East Texas Council of Governments, AB/C continues to offer this service to the community.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

Angelina County
City of Crockett
Polk County

San Jacinto County
Trinity County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$13,596.31
Household Hazardous Waste Management	2	\$37,318.54
Local Enforcement	3	\$30,718.12
Recycling	1	\$18,375.00
TOTAL	7	\$100,007.97

“It’s so wonderful to see the community come out and do their part to protect the environment by participating in Paint Recycles Day. Thanks to the continued partnership with the East Texas Council of Governments, we have been able to keep nearly 30,000 pounds of paint out of the local landfill.”

—Erin Garner, Community Coordinator, Keep Tyler Beautiful

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is the state-designated organization for municipal solid waste planning in its 14-county region. ETCOG administers funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for grassroots planning to reduce regional solid waste. Through this role, ETCOG administers pass-through funding for local and regional implementation projects.

In Fiscal Years 2020/2021, the TCEQ’s Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by ETCOG, allocated \$147,475 in grant funding to local communities to implement various solid waste minimization projects. Examples of projects funded are local environmental enforcement officers and vehicles, community cleanup events, tires and electronics recycling, recycling education, recycling rolloff containers, and equipment for illegal dumping cleanup and prevention.

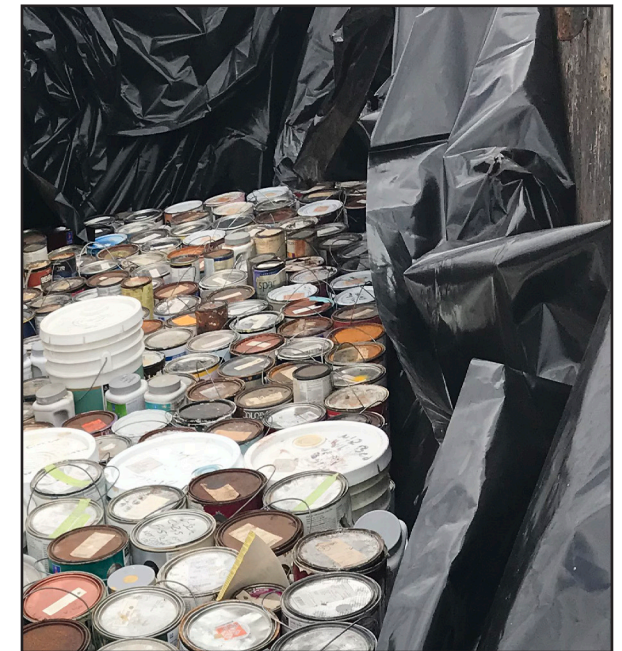
With these funds, ETCOG partnered with the City of Tyler to tackle a common environmental problem in the region—disposing of household hazardous waste (HHW)—by hosting a paint collection event.

A growing community concern in the City of Tyler is the handling and disposal of hazardous waste and materials. There is also a concern that many individuals are not aware that oil-based and latex paint should not be disposed of casually.

The City of Tyler, through its community agency Keep Tyler Beautiful, hosted Paint Recycles Day to spread awareness of this issue and provide an easy place for residents to bring their hazardous waste to be disposed of properly. Keep Tyler Beautiful has hosted this event every other year since 2011, and residents who have participated in the event now anticipate and plan for the event by saving and storing their paint rather than throwing it away, which prevents it from potentially ending up in the water system and soil. All 105,859 (Source: 2020 Census) residents are welcome and encouraged to bring their paint to the Solid Waste Department’s Downtown Recycling Center, where staff educates residents about the center and recycling processes while helping dispose of the HHW. The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds help pay for supplies, staffing, educational materials, and the cost of hiring a professional disposal company.

Both Keep Tyler Beautiful and ETCOG receive calls regularly about where residents can dispose of paint and other HHW. The cost of hosting Paint Recycles Day in 2020 was \$19,554. The City of Tyler received \$14,000 in Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding for the event, and Keep Tyler Beautiful covered the remaining costs. This partnership resulted in a cost of \$0.37 per pound of paint collected for the event. The event collected 7,178 pounds of paint that would have otherwise ended up in a landfill or disposed of improperly

in another way. With this event happening during the COVID-19 pandemic, the City feared participation would be negatively affected but was pleasantly surprised to collect more paint than ever before. There is an increasing need and desire from the City of Tyler’s residents for the ability to recycle hazardous materials, and the City intends to continue to meet that need.



Staff report the event has also been an educational opportunity for residents, as they often find the residents start using the downtown recycling facility for other recyclables as well. This helps keep more items out of local landfills and put them back into use through third-party recycling partners.

“It’s so wonderful to see the community come out and do their part to protect the environment by participating in Paint Recycles Day,” said Keep Tyler Beautiful’s Community Coordinator Erin Garner. “As long as we can keep hosting the event, Tyler residents will always have a place to come. This event would not be possible without the funding from ETCOG due to the high cost of recycling HHW. Thanks to the continued partnership with the East Texas Council of Governments, we have been able to keep nearly 30,000 pounds of paint out of the local landfill.”



GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Alto	City of Palestine
City of Athens	City of Tyler
City of Big Sandy	City of Waskom
City of Chandler	City of Wills Point
City of East Tawakoni	East Texas Council of Governments
City of Gladewater	Henderson County
City of Grand Saline	Rains County
City of Kilgore	Smith County
City of Log Cabin	Upper Sabine Valley Solid Waste Management District
City of Longview	Van Zandt County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	2	\$21,224.00
General Solid Waste Management	21	\$58,773.87
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$14,000.00
Local Enforcement	8	\$55,558.24
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$37,450.00
Recycling	2	\$16,766.63
TOTAL	35	\$203,772.74

Through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, communities in the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission area collected or cleaned up more than 4,000 pounds of hazardous materials, 400 gallons of used oil, and 48,000 pounds of tires. Through recycling and brush chipping efforts, 6,000 pounds of brush waste and almost 400,000 pounds of waste were diverted from landfills.

In Fiscal Years 2020/2021, there were eight projects totaling \$132,238 funded through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC).

The City of Edna, in Jackson County, held a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection event to assist residents in the proper disposal of items, such as paint, batteries, antifreeze, used oil, and pesticides. Over 4,000 pounds and 30 gallons of hazardous material were collected. The County was also able to purchase a used oil container, which is available at the County Transfer Station and Recycling Center. This used oil container provides residents with the ability to dispose of used oil properly at any time, rather than waiting for an HHW collection event. Also, in Jackson County, the City of Lolita replaced their 18-year-old used oil container with a new one. With some additional funds

the City was also able to build a roof over the equipment to protect it from the elements, extending its useful life. With these two new used oil containers, Jackson County has diverted over 400 gallons of used oil from the landfill. Finally, Jackson County Constables are now better able to document illegal dumping of waste along roadways and in County-supported parks using several newly purchased security cameras. The County estimates that the use of these cameras has led to 33 total sites cleaned up and \$2,261 in fines collected.

Goliad County used Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funds to purchase a brush chipper that was installed at the Goliad County Transfer Station. The County safely reduced the volume of brush in the transfer station without resorting to burning, which adds smoke and other pollutants to the air, affecting residents living nearby. Additionally, the brush remnants were made available for residents' yard and garden use. The County reports that over 6,000 pounds of brush waste has been

diverted because of this purchase.

The City of Cuero, located in DeWitt County, was able to make necessary improvements to the City of Cuero Recycling Center that not only provides residents and businesses with the opportunity to properly recycle materials, but also helps the employees' recycling procedure become more efficient. Roughly \$27,000 was invested in the facility for improvements that increased productivity. Almost 400,000 pounds of waste was diverted because of this project.

A major concern and perpetuating problem the Golden Crescent Region faces is the proper disposal of tires. During this funding cycle, the counties within the Golden Crescent Region came together to invest a total of \$27,331 on tire collection events held in each of the seven counties. More than 100 residents from across the region participated, and an estimated 48,000 pounds of tires were diverted as a result.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Cuero

Goliad County

City of Edna

Gonzales County

Golden Crescent Regional Planning
Commission

Jackson County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$2,500.00
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$19,070.00
Local Enforcement	1	\$2,220.00
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$20,000.00
Organic Waste Management	1	\$41,700.00
Recycling	1	\$34,020.00
Used Oil Management	2	\$12,773.00
TOTAL	8	\$132,283.00

With over 900 participants, the City of Waco's Household Hazardous Waste Day event was a huge success. There was a wide variety of waste materials that was ultimately diverted from the regional landfill. Over 600 pounds of paint, 1,100 tires, and more than 26,000 pounds of electronics were recovered and hauled off properly.

In the mid-20th century, solid waste management issues rose to new heights of public concern in many areas of the United States because of increasing solid waste generation, shrinking disposal capacity, rising disposal costs, and public opposition to the siting of new disposal facilities. These solid waste management challenges continue today, as many communities are struggling to develop cost-effective, environmentally protective solutions. The growing amount of waste generated has made it increasingly important for solid waste management officials to develop strategies to manage wastes safely and cost effectively.

Through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG), the City of Waco conducted a comprehensive Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Day collection event for residents of four cities. This one-day collection event was designed to properly collect and dispose of a wide variety of HHW, including automotive, cleaning, gardening, and paint products. Also collected at the event were batteries, light bulbs (including fluorescent light tubes and compact fluorescent lamps), scrap tires, and used electronics. Grant funds were used to fund a contract for the following services: collection, packaging, transporting, storing, disposing, recycling, and/or recovery of HHW collected.

The first goal of this project was to provide residents of all participating cities the opportunity to dispose of



unwanted hazardous items at no charge. The second goal was to significantly reduce the amount of hazardous materials being disposed of improperly in our storm drains, landfill, and waterways and to reduce the fire and health safety hazards associated with storage of HHW in homes or garages. This also reduces danger to waste collectors and other sanitation workers. The final goal was to increase general public awareness of the HHW found in most homes and how these materials may impact human health and the environment.

With over 900 participants, the City of Waco's Household Hazardous Waste Day event was a huge success. There was a wide variety of waste materials ultimately diverted

from the regional landfill. Over 600 pounds of paint, 1,100 tires, and more than 26,000 pounds of electronics were recovered and hauled off properly.

The HOTCOG region prides itself on providing every available opportunity for its residents to live in a clean and healthy environment. The City of Waco's HHW collection event is just one of the many resources that communities within the area have at their disposal. HOTCOG continues its broad efforts to encourage and seek out even more cost-effective strategies to eliminate HHW from getting into the waste stream.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Clifton	Falls County
City of Fairfield	Freestone County
City of Rosebud	Heart of Texas Council of Governments
City of Waco	McLennan County
City of Walnut Springs	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$5,019.07
General Solid Waste Management	6	\$52,725.91
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$20,000.00
Local Enforcement	1	\$26,720.00
TOTAL	9	\$104,464.98

“I’m convinced that people want to do the right thing, but the problem was, they didn’t have anywhere to go. Driving to other parts of the county was a long drive and expensive. It was easier to send items to the landfill, or worse, illegally dump them. Now people have a place to go.”

—Bill Harrison, Superintendent, Conroe/North Montgomery County Recycle Center

In 2016 and 2017, Montgomery County Precinct 1 received funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the Houston-Galveston Area Council to construct and outfit a recycling center and fill a previously unmet need in the third most populated county in the region. Construction was completed and the Conroe/North Montgomery County Recycle Center officially opened to the public on August 1, 2017. Before the facility was built, there were no county facilities in the northern part of the county.

As part of the original grant, Montgomery County Precinct 1 partnered with the City of Conroe to offer free drop-off recycling services to all residents of the county and has continued to do so ever since. In its first year of operation the Recycling Center had a goal to collect 40 tons of recyclables. This goal was met and surpassed with ease with 132 tons collected. Usage of the recycling center has continued to grow substantially in the years since. In its first month in operation, 47 customers used the facility. Today, an average of 3,000 customers use the facility’s services each month.

In Fiscal Years 2020/2021, the Recycling Center expanded its capacity to serve residents by purchasing additional equipment, again with grant funds.

The Recycling Center accepts traditional recyclables, used electronics, batteries, motor oil, antifreeze, and household appliances—items that might otherwise be illegally dumped. And at four collection events each

year the Recycling Center collects paint.

A unique service offered by the Recycling Center is the removal of freon. One employee at the Recycling Center is trained to safely remove freon from refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners. This allows the Center to accept these items, a service not often provided at recycling centers or many times not even at household hazardous waste drop-offs. As a result of this service offering, the County has witnessed a decrease in the number of refrigerators illegally dumped throughout the county.

In Fiscal Years 2020/2021 the Recycling Center used \$68,513 to purchase a 6-foot steel workbench to use at the BOPA (batteries, oil, paint, and antifreeze) packing station, two self-dumping hoppers to transport materials to and from work stations, and two 4-yard compactors and three compaction containers to increase plastic and cardboard recycling efficiency by allowing them to compact the materials more frequently and reduce waste hauling costs.

Before purchasing the compactors and other equipment, the Recycling Center used road equipment to “mash down” cardboard and plastic to fit in containers. This not only took time and equipment away from the County’s road department, but it was also not an efficient way to keep up with the community’s demand for cardboard and plastic recycling. In Fiscal Years 2018/2019, Waste Management made 53 trips to pick up cardboard and plastic at the Recycling Center. The County estimates

the use of the compactors, which can compact 4.5 tons of plastic and 5.5 tons of cardboard, has reduced the number of trip collections to 31 per year, saving the County and City approximately \$8,800 each year for collection trips.



In addition to serving the residents of Montgomery County, the Recycling Center also provides employment to four full-time employees, one part-time employee, and one manager.

Montgomery County continues outreach to residents through signage, social media, local newspapers, and the County and City websites. Neighbor-to-neighbor word-of-mouth is a significant driver of use of the facility. And Roxy the Recycle Dog is also a fun draw for children and adults alike.

The County's goal is to divert recyclables in an efficient manner and provide essential recycling drop-off services to all county residents. The County is meeting and surpassing this goal. In Fiscal Years 2020/2021, more than 23,000 people participated in recycling drop off at the Recycling Center and recycled more than 654 tons.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

Austin County	City of Pattison
Brazoria County	City of Pearland
City of Alvin	City of Sugar Land
City of Bay City	Colorado County
City of Bellaire	Fort Bend County
City of El Campo	Galveston County
City of Hitchcock	Houston-Galveston Area Council
City of Houston	Montgomery County
City of Palacios	Walker County
City of Pasadena	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	5	\$356,533.54
General Solid Waste Management	3	\$89,222.00
Household Hazardous Waste Management	7	\$317,552.10
Local Enforcement	4	\$184,977.92
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$4,900.00
Recycling	6	\$186,339.63
TOTAL	26	\$1,139,525.19

Without Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding the City of Alamo recycling department ran the risk of outgrowing its old facility and leaving many residents with few options for recycling in the area.

During Fiscal Years 2020/2021, four cities received funding through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC). The City of Alamo received funding to expand recycling services for their community by building a recycling facility that would be accessible to the residents to drop off their recyclables after working hours and on the weekends. Recycling, sustainability, and environmental awareness have always been long-term goals for the City.

Through this funding, the City purchased large poly boxes for residents to self-serve through the windows of the late-night stand-alone center. The signage acquired makes it easy for residents to see the operating hours and location if no one is available at the facility. This setup allows residents to bring in and drop off recycling materials like paper, cardboard, plastics, and more. The City of Alamo Recycle Collection Center has been a success for the City of Alamo, with many residents taking advantage of the initiative.

The City of Alamo is proud of the progress made in providing residents with the option and ability to recycle materials for the betterment of the environment and the beautification of the community. The benefits are available to all residents of the Alamo area, including

Pharr San Juan Alamo Independent School District (ISD), Captain D Salinas Elementary, which is part of neighboring Donna ISD, and many local businesses. Strides made through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program help set a precedent for future generations, making it easier for residents to make recycling stewardship a priority. Without Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding the City of Alamo recycling department ran the risk of outgrowing its old facility and leaving many residents with few options for recycling in the area.

The City of Alamo's recycling program is outstanding because it helps reduce the amount of waste at the local landfill. The success of this project is measured by the positive impact it has on the community. In June 2022, TCEQ staff was on site to witness the accomplishments of this facility. LRGVDC commends the City of Alamo for its excellent efforts in helping its neighbors and is proud to assist the local entities to continue educating the community on the importance of recycling.

Through the joint efforts of City personnel and resident participation, the City of Alamo Recycle Collection hopes to continue its growth and achieve the goal of self-sustenance, one day bringing its services to every home in Alamo. The City of Alamo hopes its efforts can help shepherd its neighboring cities and all of Texas to keep the state beautiful.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Alamo

City of Weslaco

City of Alton

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development
Council

City of Penitas

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$43,418.68
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$80,053.50
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$24,000.00
Recycling	4	\$95,891.14
TOTAL	7	\$243,363.32

The Middle Rio Grande Development Council (MRGDC) region worked diligently on getting back on track after the COVID-19 pandemic. Regional projects were mainly focusing on waste prevention and evaluating recycling options. The MRGDC region concentrated on outreach and education and implemented waste reduction activities.

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The counties that benefited from these projects were Real, Kinney, Maverick, Uvalde, Val Verde, and La Salle. Cities within those counties also benefited from these projects. These projects will help the communities maintain a high quality of life and continue efforts of planning to reduce regional solid waste.

In Fiscal Years 2020/2021, projects funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the MRGDC, concentrated on four categories:

Community Cleanups: Real County and the cities of

Asherton, Spofford, Encinal, Camp Wood, Brackettville, and Uvalde.

Outreach/Education: Eagle Pass Independent School District and City of Eagle Pass

Recycling: City of Eagle Pass and City of Del Rio

Household Hazardous Waste: City of Sabinal

These projects were selected for funding because they were priorities within the communities. The projects will educate the communities with hopes that they continue to keep the community safe and clean from waste. Recycling efforts are needed because of solid waste increase and Texas lives will be better with a better quality of life from such efforts. These communities will continue to push their efforts in keeping the region clean and free of illegally dumped trash, litter, and hazardous waste.

And finally, the MRGDC staff is always available to provide technical assistance or training.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Asherton	City of Sabinal
City of Brackettville	City of Spofford
City of Camp Wood	City of Uvalde
City of Carrizo Springs	Eagle Pass ISD
City of Del Rio	Middle Rio Grande Development Council
City of Eagle Pass	Real County
City of Encinal	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	2	\$16,422.94
General Solid Waste Management	10	\$45,959.42
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$4,459.62
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$10,000.00
Recycling	4	\$22,218.86
TOTAL	18	\$99,060.84

The use and creation of Citizens' Convenience Centers continues to grow in the NORTEX Region as more communities identify these centers as a great way to promote recycling and encourage their residents to participate in cleanups in their areas.

During Fiscal Years 2020/2021, the NORTEX Regional Planning Commission (NORTEX) funded the development of its 20-year Regional Solid Waste Management Plan through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Regional Solid Waste Grants Program. This regional plan is developed every 20 years, and this one replaces a plan that ended in 2022. The plan was produced by subcontractor Biggs & Mathews Environmental, Inc., and took one year to compile. NORTEX held public meetings and pulled existing available data on population and waste disposal to provide guidance to the region on solid waste practices and activities to focus efforts on for the next 20 years. The plan is scheduled to be adopted in 2023.

One important role of the plan is guiding how grant funds will be allocated over the next two decades. To be eligible for grant funding, projects proposed by local governments must address a goal and objective of the regional plan. The new plan includes four goals and 15 objectives. Goals of the plan are measuring waste reduction efforts; promoting waste minimization, waste reduction, recycling, and composting programs; maintaining adequate levels of transportation and

disposal in the region; and supporting and encouraging new municipal solid waste programs.

One type of project funded under the previous regional plan and still eligible for funding under the new plan that has been critical in the region's management of solid waste is the development and enhancement of Citizens' Convenience Centers (CCC). The NORTEX region only has two Type I landfills serving the communities. Both are in Wichita County, the most populous county in the region. The counties in the region continue to send their municipal solid waste to the two regional landfills in Wichita County or landfills outside the NORTEX region. Wichita County continues to accommodate most of the metal and cardboard recycling entities in the region. The smaller communities have expanded the use of the CCCs to fill the gap and better serve the rural population in the region. These centers allow residents to drop off materials that, with the closing of local landfills, would have resulted in increased amounts of materials being left along the side of the road or dumped in abandoned buildings. The CCC's have also been identified as a great way to promote recycling and encourage residents to participate in cleanups in their areas.



NORTEX REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

VOLUME I

2022 - 2042

Adopted by
Nortex Regional Planning Commission

January 2022

Prepared by
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TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
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FIRM REGISTRATION NO. 50222

GRANT RECIPIENT

Nortex Regional Planning Commission

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$35,000.00
TOTAL	1	\$35,000.00

Dallas Treecycling project facilitated a sustainable system of arboreal (tree) waste diversion and recycling from which the City of Dallas has derived environmental, logistical, and economic benefits. The Dallas Treecycling project allows 100% of that waste to be diverted from the municipal landfill and recycled for use in Dallas parks.

In Fiscal Years 2020/2021, the City of Dallas Parks and Recreation Department (DPRD) received \$200,000 from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), to allow its Park Maintenance and Operations division (PMO) to pilot an organic materials recycling program by purchasing a commercial grade trommel. Such efforts comprise the Dallas Treecycling project which has facilitated a sustainable system of arboreal (tree) waste diversion and recycling from which the City of Dallas has derived environmental, logistical, and economic benefits. Previously, any arboreal waste collected by the City of Dallas was sent to Dallas's municipal landfill. The Dallas Treecycling project allows 100% of that waste to be diverted from the landfill and recycled for use in Dallas parks.

A trommel is a large rotating cylinder made up of mesh screens along its length that filter out particles of various sizes. Such a device allows the Dallas Treecycling project to filter arboreal waste from inorganic debris like rocks and sand and further filter arboreal waste by size so it can be differentiated for use as mulch or compost. The cost savings from recycling arboreal waste in such a way are twofold as landfill tipping fees are reduced and less mulch and compost are required to be purchased for use in Dallas parks and other locations. The logistical benefit is obvious as a waste product is being repurposed for practical use with minimal processing. Of course, the environmental benefit is greatest as rather than being

removed from nature and placed in a landfill, arboreal waste collected by the City is now used to nurture the lawns and gardens of its parks, returning those vital nutrients to the soil.

At the inception of the Dallas Treecycling project, it was estimated that PMO would process around 1,350 tons of arboreal waste with the trommel annually, representing a reduction of annual landfill tipping fees by \$18,063 at \$13.38 per ton. The trommel was purchased and delivered in the first half of 2021 and work proceeded

to bring the project to fruition as DPRD began diverting arboreal waste away from the landfill. When the trommel finally came online, it did so as a backlog of arboreal waste waited to be processed for use as mulch and compost. In its first year of regular operation, the Dallas Treecycling program's trommel has processed 8,736 cubic yards, about 2,620 tons of arboreal waste. That amount of waste represents about \$35,000 saved on landfill tipping fees by the Dallas Treecycling project so far. PMO has also reported that mulch processed by the trommel is in constant demand for use in various



locations, including horticulture beds across the 23,464 acres of Dallas park land.

The Dallas Treecycling project's projected cost savings over five years are such that the City of Dallas could eventually purchase a commercial grinder capable of further expanding the project's capabilities and efficiency in producing compost in particular. Producing compost is a time-consuming process compared to mulch, and being able to produce more compost in a shorter timeframe would be a great boon to PMO's efforts.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Burleson	City of Mansfield
City of Dallas	City of Mesquite
City of Denton	City of Plano
City of Euless	City of Princeton
City of Fort Worth	City of Rowlett
City of Frisco	City of Southlake
City of Garland	City of White Settlement
City of Heath	Hood County
City of Lewisville	North Central Texas Council of Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	4	\$322,900.76
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$18,192.80
Household Hazardous Waste Management	2	\$28,375.16
Local Enforcement	2	\$118,018.07
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	6	\$383,070.02
Organic Waste Management	3	\$499,975.68
Recycling	3	\$169,614.40
TOTAL	21	\$1,540,146.89

The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program allows programs like the Booker Independent School District student-led recycling center to continue and grow. This, along with other programs in the region, enables the Panhandle Environmental Partnership members to enhance and improve recycling efforts to help clean up the wide-open spaces of the Texas Panhandle.

The top of the Texas Panhandle is a vast area of mostly open spaces composed of 26 counties, covering almost 26,000 square miles, and serviced by the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC). In 1994, the Panhandle Environmental Partnership (PEP) was created to provide recycling services to the residents across the area. With assistance from local resources and funds from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the PRPC, PEP members continue to build and maintain cost-effective recycling and waste diversion programs. The PEP partnership helps overcome the unique challenge of small, rural communities transporting materials long distances to market and divert waste from the landfills.

During Fiscal Years 2020/2021, the PEP members were able to divert 4.548 million pounds of waste from the landfills. The recycled material resulted in \$178,987 in proceeds returned to the local PEP communities and saved \$83,103 from avoided landfill costs.

One of the members of the PEP is Booker ISD/Kiowa Recycling Center in Booker, Lipscomb County. Booker has a population of just over 1,400 and just over 3,000 in the county. The Kiowa Recycling Center program began in 2009-2010 at Booker Independent School District (ISD). This is a student-led program, which continues to add new aspects and equipment to their recycling efforts. This project recycles plastics, mixed paper, cardboard, and metals. The center offers recycling services to not only the community of Booker but also

all of Lipscomb County.

Booker ISD is the first school district in the region to take full ownership of a recycling center and remains the only school-owned recycling center in the region. It has continued to show commitment to preferred solid waste management practices and to reducing the waste entering the local landfills. In 2016, the center was the recipient of the 2016 Texas Environmental Excellence Award in the Youth category. Along with teaching many aspects of business, the recycling center has also sparked an interest in the field of solid waste. Many students who have participated in this program have gone on to pursue careers in the solid waste field.

In Fiscal Years 2020/2021, Booker ISD received funds from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program to purchase a skid steer and portable yard ramps to continue and grow the program. The purchase of the skid steer was to upgrade from the previous skid steer, which was originally purchased in 2002, and was transferred to the ISD from the City of Booker. The skid steer enables the loose material to be moved to the baler. Then the baled materials are moved from the recycling center to the truck to be taken to the recycling market. The portable yard ramps have greatly enhanced the recycling center. The ISD stores the baled material at the recycling center, and, in the past, some material became contaminated, leaving the materials unable to be recycled. By adding the yard ramps, the ISD is able to move baled materials on site until they have a full load to send to the recycling market. With each of

these purchases, the ISD can recycle more materials, which in turn keeps more materials out of the landfill.

The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program allows programs like this to continue and grow. This, along with other programs in the region, enables the PEP members to enhance and improve recycling efforts to help clean up the wide-open spaces of the Texas Panhandle.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

Booker ISD	City of Memphis
City of Amarillo	City of Perryton
City of Dalhart	City of Spearman
City of Dumas	City of Stratford
City of Gruver	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission
City of Happy	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Local Enforcement	1	\$26,730.70
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$5,000.00
Organic Waste Management	2	\$16,715.23
Recycling	12	\$191,927.64
TOTAL	16	\$240,373.57

The Ector County Environmental Enforcement Unit exists because of Regional Solid Waste Grant Program funding. The program was founded on the support of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Without TCEQ, the ECEEU would not have made the impact on West Texas that the Unit has.

Historically, the enforcement of state environmental laws in Ector County was dismal, ineffective, sporadic, and unorganized. As a result, littering and the illegal dumping of garbage and tires was a growing problem that presented serious environmental and public health concerns for residents. Many materials that are illegally dumped contain toxic or hazardous substances that can threaten surface water or groundwater supplies. In response, Ector County formed the Ector County Environmental Enforcement Unit (ECEEU) in 2011 to address these concerns and since then have been able to make a positive impact on the county.

Trash and piles of illegally dumped tires present an ideal living and breeding environment for rats, mice and other rodents, ticks, flies, and mosquitoes that transmit disease. Additionally, illegally dumped material presents the risk of physical injury resulting from contact with broken glass, sharp metal, and biological and chemical waste. Decaying garbage and yard waste dumped in residential areas can create unpleasant odors and contribute negatively to the health of the residents.

During Fiscal Years 2020/2021, the ECEEU acquired a camera with funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission. The camera is discreet and is capable of being moved from one high traffic area to another and use of this camera significantly increased

enforcement efforts resulting in the detection and apprehension of violators. These apprehensions resulted in fines and illegal dump sites being remediated by the violators, not the taxpayers. The ECEEU exists because

of Regional Solid Waste Grant Program funding. The program was founded on the support of TCEQ. Without TCEQ, the ECEEU would not have made the impact on West Texas that the Unit has.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Big Spring

Midland County

City of Kermit

Permian Basin Regional Planning
Commission

Ector County

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$16,694.93
Local Enforcement	2	\$23,857.74
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$57,000.00
Organic Waste Management	2	\$27,347.86
TOTAL	6	\$124,900.53

“For a pilot program, disposing of over 700 pounds of hazardous waste properly is a huge success for Alpine. The program was the first step to moving forward with providing our residents the education and resources needed to dispose of items considered household hazardous waste.”

— Megan Antrim, City Manager, City of Alpine

The City of Alpine received funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOC), to conduct one Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Pilot Collection Event during Fiscal Years 2020/2021. The City was awarded \$6,740 for the project, and based on 2020 Census data (pop. 6,035), the cost per capita was \$1.12 per resident.

Through the pilot program, the City identified the needs of the community. Based on national information, on average, HHW collection events are expensive and technical to organize. The goal of the pilot project was to assist the City of Alpine in assessing the need for a yearly HHW collection program. These types of programs benefit the community and educate residents in the proper disposal of HHW. During this event, the City collected household products that, if improperly disposed of, could pose health and environmental risks.

The collection event was open to City of Alpine as well as surrounding Brewster County residents, and the City collected waste at no cost to participants. The event was held at the Hal Flanders Recycling Center within Alpine city limits. A total of 770 pounds of HHW was collected at the event. The program was successful and assisted the City with future planning and budgeting for such events. As a result, it was determined that the City can incorporate BOPA (Batteries, Used Oil, Latex Paint, Antifreeze) collection at the Recycling Center

without hazmat assistance from an HHW company. The City is working to add these items in the future for regular recycling.

Additionally, the City of Alpine has demonstrated its commitment to solid waste management by establishing and continuing to run and maintain the glass pulverizer funded in 2010 from the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program. The City of Alpine has continued to provide glass aggregate for free to the community for different applications, such as use in concrete, walkways, and other decorative applications.

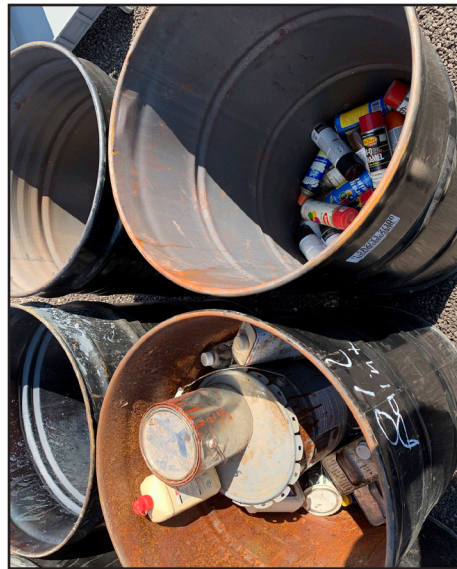
Illegal dumping is a significant problem in the community. To address this issue, the City established a scrap tire collection program (for a \$5 fee) in 2020 and recently

(Summer 2022) added three bulk item collection containers at the Hal Flanders Recycling Center for the residents to use. The City has increased bulky curbside pick-ups to monthly (as opposed to quarterly) and has increased code enforcement education and citations related to illegal dumping and nuisance properties. This has helped mitigate the illegal dumping of used tires and furniture in the city and has given residents a convenient way to properly dispose of their waste, saving residents the 8-mile drive and the \$60 minimum disposal fee at the Alpine Municipal Landfill.

It is the Environmental Services Department's chief goal to provide resources and opportunities for proper waste disposal to the residents of Alpine.



City of Alpine HHW Event Results	
Material Type	Material Collected and Disposed
Flammables	125
Pesticides, Herbicides, Fertilizers	350
Batteries	45
Paint/Paint-related	250
Total	770



GRANT RECIPIENT
Rio Grande Council of Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Household Hazardous Waste Management	1	\$90,567.21
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$19,500.00
TOTAL	2	\$110,067.21



“It’s not acceptable to throw batteries, paint, or other hazardous waste in a trash can. Once these items get to the landfill, they release pollutants which contribute to poor air quality. Southeast Texans are encouraged to do their part to protect the health of their neighbors and the environment by properly disposing of their hazardous waste during this free collection event.”

—Shanna Burke, Executive Director, SETRPC

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) received funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s Regional Solid Waste Grants Program to conduct two household hazardous waste and scrap tire collection events in southeast Texas during Fiscal Years 2020/2021.

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 Orange and Jefferson counties.

More than 1,380 southeast Texas residents participated in the collection events. The SETRPC collected more than 266,779 pounds of hazardous waste and more than 2,750 gallons of used oil during the events. If the SETRPC had not conducted these collection events, the hazardous waste may have potentially been discarded in the landfill, the environment, or in the water system. Disposal of these types of hazardous items in the environment or landfill could result in polluted soil or water, harm to wildlife, or be mixed unintentionally in a

garbage truck while on route to the landfill and react, ignite, or explode, potentially injuring the waste collector.

During the events, the SETRPC also collected more than 5,038 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. Abandoned tires also have the potential to harbor rodents and snakes. If these tires were to catch on fire, they would release harmful chemicals and are very difficult to extinguish.





GRANT RECIPIENT
South East Texas Regional Planning Commission

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$229,758.98
TOTAL	1	\$229,758.98

“The [Regional] Solid Waste Grants Program allows communities to put dollars to use wisely! We absolutely appreciate all that we have been able to do through this program and from SPAG. I know there are many communities like ours that would struggle to acquire this type of equipment without this program in place. There is a huge need for it, and we appreciate it very much!”

—Clinton Sawyer, Mayor, City of Amherst

In Fiscal Years 2020/2021, the City of Amherst was awarded \$9,600.92 in grant funds from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by the South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG), for the purchase of a 14-foot, low-profile dump trailer providing three times the capacity of their former dump trailer. While this may seem insignificant to some, Amherst is a city of 664 people, and they drive 55 miles each way for metal recycling. For tire recycling, it's a 180-mile round trip. By increasing the capacity of their trailer, the City has saved money in fuel, employee time, and wear and tear on vehicles and the trailer itself. With only two full-time employees, the significance of these savings cannot be emphasized enough.

As a repeat recipient of funding through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program over the years, the City has used each round of funding to further build on previous projects with a goal to have a comprehensive solid waste management program. The City holds community cleanup days, has updated ordinances, and has even obtained code enforcement services. Including the school district and residents in their efforts has been instrumental to the progress the City has made.

When asked what the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program means for the City of Amherst, Mayor Clinton Sawyer shared this:

“Several years ago, the City of Amherst was faced with the difficult decision of what to do with our alley trash in the future since our city landfill was reaching end-of-life. Do we close it permanently and take our Type 4 trash to another landfill nearby or do we buy land to open a new landfill elsewhere? Neither were good options in our mind.

A great suggestion was made by our engineers to do an elevated landfill using the same footprint as our old

one. The old landfill had served the city's needs for more than 50 years. We wanted that to be the case with whatever we decided to do going forward.

That brings me to the [Regional] Solid Waste Grants Program and SPAG and why I appreciate them so much. This program is dedicated to providing opportunities for members to acquire different types of equipment that is designed specifically to keep certain waste products out of the landfill that would normally shorten its life.



Amherst has benefited from this program several times over the years, with various pieces of equipment such as a front-end wheel loader, a dump trailer, and a wood chipper. We use all of these items to keep waste products from entering our landfill, which in turn helps to extend the life of the landfill hopefully beyond that 50-year target. Most recently we had a cleanup project where we used the dump trailer to haul several loads of used tires from the community to a tire recycling plant.

The [Regional] Solid Waste Grants Program allows communities to put dollars to use wisely! We absolutely appreciate all that we have been able to do through this program and from SPAG. I know there are many communities like ours that would struggle to acquire this type of equipment without this program in place. There is a huge need for it, and we appreciate it very much!"

The community is committed to the success of solid waste management and recycling efforts. The programs they have implemented are being sustained through an alley cleanup fee charged in the monthly water bill.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

- City of Amherst
- City of New Deal
- City of Floydada
- City of Plainview
- City of Hale Center
- City of Sudan
- City of Lockney
- South Plains Association of Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	4	\$21,255.67
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$32,600.00
Recycling	3	\$49,095.92
TOTAL	8	\$102,951.59



Webb County's main focus is to properly dispose of tires to prevent hazards to the environment. Illegal tire dumping is notoriously dangerous, increasing the risk of fire and serving as a breeding ground for rodents, snakes, venomous spiders and mosquitoes that carry harmful viruses.

In fiscal year 2021, Webb County Economic Development Department, in partnership with Webb County Road and Bridge Department, was awarded \$20,000 in grant funds from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the South Texas Development Council to address illegal dumping of tires. Webb County Colonias are unfortunately a sought-after location for illegal tire disposal. You can find numerous tires of all types ranging from passenger, commercial, and off-road tires. Webb County's main focus is to properly dispose of tires to prevent hazards to the environment. Illegal tire dumping is notoriously dangerous, increasing the risk of fire and serving as a breeding ground for rodents, snakes, venomous spiders and mosquitoes that carry harmful viruses.

Webb County successfully conducted five tire pick-up campaigns in Colonias along Precinct 2 by reaching out to residents via different platforms and flyers advertising each campaign. A total of 13,378 tires were retrieved from illegal dump sites in the rural areas. Despite the projects' success, illegal tire dump sites are a persistent problem in Colonias, and continued funding is needed to remediate these locations.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Roma	Starr County
Jim Hogg County	United ISD
Jim Hogg County ISD	Webb County
South Texas Development Council	

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	4	\$80,524.18
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$10,000.00
Recycling	2	\$36,744.38
TOTAL	7	\$127,268.56

At a collection event on Earth Day, TCOG may collect between 2,000 and 4,000 pounds of latex paint. Recycling this latex paint costs only \$0.16 per pound, and the paint doesn't go to the landfill. TCOG is able to put the remaining grant funds toward additional special HHW assistance for the region and is still working on educating the region's residents.

Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG) hosts at least one major household hazardous waste (HHW) collection event each year, plus some smaller events for non-hazardous collections. The goal is to keep waste out of the landfill, but the cost for an HHW event can be upwards of \$100,000 with the contractor representing over \$96,000 of that. During Fiscal Years 2020/2021 the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by TCOG, funded three events, with more than 800 participants. All of these events are open to the entire three-county TCOG region, with no address restrictions. These events are important to residents since there are currently no facilities in the region that accept these materials.

TCOG staff realized that they were collecting more paint than anything else through a combination of paint-only events and HHW collections. More than 50,000 pounds of paint was collected at events in Fiscal Years 2020/2021. TCOG tried to educate residents about latex paint, suggesting letting it dry out before throwing away,

but did not make tremendous progress with printed materials and phone advice.

Disposing of latex paint through a regular collection event with an HHW contractor costs \$1 per pound. TCOG staff did some research and found a recycler reasonably close to the area. Now when a Saturday paint or HHW collection event is held, two volunteers check labels and set the latex paint aside. It's stacked on pallets and shrink-wrapped. The site owners are generous and let TCOG leave the paint and pallets until Monday. On the Monday after the event, the recycler sends a truck, the paint is loaded with a forklift, and the recycler takes it to their facility.

At a collection event on Earth Day, TCOG may collect between 2,000 and 4,000 pounds of latex paint. Recycling this latex paint costs only \$0.16 per pound, and the paint doesn't go to the landfill. TCOG is able to put the remaining grant funds toward additional special HHW assistance for the region and is still working on educating the region's residents.





GRANT RECIPIENT
Texoma Council of Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
Education and Training	1	\$16,084.15
HHW Management	1	\$61,075.35
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$30,000.00
TOTAL	3	\$107,159.50

During Fiscal Years 2020/2021 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program funding period, the West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG) managed scrap tire recycling events totaling \$41,752.00 and collected and properly disposed 322,880 pounds of scrap tires.

The illegal dumping of scrap tires across the West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG) region has become a severe epidemic causing hazardous conditions in waterways, threatening economic development, and serving as a breeding ground for rodents and mosquitoes that carry harmful viruses.

During Fiscal Years 2020/2021 the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Regional Solid Waste Grants Program, administered by WCTCOG, provided funding for cleanup events and 16 tire trailers in the 19-county big country region. WCTCOG managed scrap tire recycling events totaling \$41,752.00. The following cities participated in scrap tire recycling events: Ballinger, Cisco, Benjamin, Breckenridge, Merkel, Snyder, Ranger, Coleman, Early, Roby, Sweetwater, and Anson. Through this effort more than 322,880 pounds of scrap tires were collected and properly disposed. The WCTCOG staff attended several scrap tire events and distributed education and outreach materials to all who participated. In addition, WCTCOG provided a class on scrap tires to help educate elected officials, and law and code

enforcement officers on the effects of illegal dumping of scrap tires.

The WCTCOG also administered funding to the City of Tuscola for the purchase of a brush chipper for \$16,420.50. The purchase of the brush chipper will help

establish a recycling program at the citizen convenience station by creating mulch that will be available for residents to use in landscaping projects as well as by city staff in the park and other green spaces. Use of the brush chipper can also reduce the number of individual residents burning brush.





GRANT RECIPIENTS

City of Tuscola

West Central Texas Council of
Governments

GRANT CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	GRANT AWARD
General Solid Waste Management	1	\$51,506.64
Local Solid Waste Management Plans and Studies	1	\$8,466.00
Recycling	2	\$23,610.36
TOTAL	4	\$83,583.00

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program Funding Report
Fiscal Years 2020/2021

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS