



# Study on the **ECONOMIC IMPACTS** of **RECYCLING**

**THE STUDY ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF RECYCLING WILL BUILD ON THE EFFORTS OF PRIOR RECYCLING STUDIES AND WILL DIG DEEPER INTO THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE RECYCLING INDUSTRY IN TEXAS.**

In 2015, the 84th Texas Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 2763 for the development of a Study on the Economic Impacts of Recycling that will build on the efforts of prior recycling studies and will dig deeper into the economic benefits of the recycling industry in Texas. The study will include a recycling industry survey to tap into current market conditions. This will give Texas policy makers the information they need to examine the economic, environmental, and policy issues of interest to Texas businesses, citizens, and governmental agencies. The study is expected to be complete in 2017.

## **BUILDING ON PRIOR SUCCESS**

---

The Texas Recycling Data Initiative (TRDI), released in February 2015, was developed by the State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR), in partnership with the Lonestar Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (TxSWANA). TRDI provided a benchmark for recycling activity in Texas, including establishing the methodology and presenting limited economic and jobs information. Other similar, regional studies have been completed by the North Central Texas Council of Governments and the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

Through a competitive bidding process, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has retained Burns & McDonnell to complete the project. Burns & McDonnell led the TRDI effort in collaboration with STAR, and TRDI was successful in part because of the strong participation and support from the recycling industry in Texas. This support and participation will be even more crucial as we move forward with this study and collect data from recycling processors and end markets handling Texans' recyclable material.

## **KEY TOPICS**

---

As directed by HB 2763, the study will provide more information on the following key topics for the Study on the Economic Impacts of Recycling:

- Current recycling efforts
- Methods to increase recycling, such as the development of new markets for recycled materials and new businesses that may result from increased recycling
- Funding methods to increase recycling
- Job creation from recycling, as well as potential job creation that will result from increased recycling
- Infrastructure needs and opportunities for rural and underserved areas



## QUESTIONS?

For questions, please contact Scott Pasternak (spasternak@burnsmcd.com) at Burns & McDonnell.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

As with TRDI, the Study on the Economic Impacts of Recycling will request recycling and economic data from private recycling companies. In an effort to encourage participation, Burns & McDonnell will take every measure allowed by law to protect confidentiality and is developing a confidentiality plan that will be available for review this summer.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

As was the case with TRDI, Burns & McDonnell will be conducting a voluntary statewide survey to measure recycling and its economic impact in Texas. Later this year, recycling processors and end users will be asked to participate in a confidential, on-line survey. Please let Burns & McDonnell know if you would like to participate in the survey.

For more information visit:  
[www.txrecyclingstudy.org](http://www.txrecyclingstudy.org)

