

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## GENERAL HISTORY

March 13, 2007

### REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are authorized in Chapter 363 of the Health and Safety Code. Each of Texas' twenty-four Councils of Governments (COGs) develops a plan using a planning process that provides public notice, public participation, and local governmental review. The plans identify the overriding concerns, goals, objectives, and recommended actions for solid waste management over a long-range period for the entire planning region. Each COG officially adopts its plan before submitting it to the Commission for adoption.

Actions that are taken on the regional plans are coordinated through the Solid Waste Grants Program within the TCEQ. The program was operated within the Office of Environmental Policy, Analysis, & Assessment when agency reorganization moved it under the MSW Permits Section in the Waste Permits Division (WPD), effective March 1, 2005. The first plans that were funded by the state were adopted in various Agenda sessions primarily in 1993. Since then, the plans have been updated by the COGs on a two-year cycle and submitted to the Executive Director's program staff. At the time the program was reorganized, revised plans had been submitted by the COGs as the 2002 Revision.

The Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Rules, Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, were under revision at the time the Solid Waste Grants Program was moved to the WPD. WPD included the rules for the Solid Waste Grants Program, found in Subchapter O, in the revision. To ensure consistency with the new Chapter 330 rules, the decision was made to delay the adoption of the 2002 Revision until after the rule revisions became effective.

The main change in the rules that affected the regional plans is that the plans are now separated into two volumes for each COG. Volume I, Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, which is before the Commission at this time, consists of longstanding information that will not require frequent updating. This includes the region specific goals and objectives along with standard commitments and assessments pertaining to recycling and other MSW related issues. Consistent with the Statute, Volume I must be adopted by the Commission. Upon adoption by the Commission, the Plans are incorporated by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O.

Volume II, Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline, contains the details of the plan and the revised rules allow for updates to it to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director.

The revised rules became effective on March 27, 2006. Therefore, the staff is bringing forward at this time, the 2002 Update in the form of Volume I.

In accordance with Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Section 330.641(c), the staff's recommendation to adopt the plans is based on the tentative determination that the plans conform to the requirements in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O and that the plans reflect consideration of the preference of municipal solid waste management methods under the Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 361.022.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG)  
COG Number 18  
Document: Volume I - Regional Plan  
Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for AACOG.  
Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina, and Wilson Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the AACOG region and they pertain to the recovery of material resources, illegal dumping, landfill capacities, and optimization of solid waste management efforts. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is also in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

Standard Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

Teres Jimenez (512) 239-1480  
MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: Alamo Area Council of Governments  
8700 Tesoro, Suite 700  
San Antonio, TX 78217

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

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For the Commission

## **VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Alamo Area Council of Governments (hereafter called AACOG). The counties covered under this plan include Atacosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina, and Wilson.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated 2002, as revised on September 19, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

Goal #1: Provide for recovery of material resources by emphasizing reuse, reduction (waste minimization), and recycling.

Objective 1A: Use innovative measures to increase citizen participation in recycling and reuse of residential waste.

- Convenience
- Novelty

Objective 1B: Promote multi-family housing recycling programs throughout the region.

- Increase drop-off opportunities.
- Partner with haulers that service multi-family units.
- Offer educational materials to multi-family complexes that will facilitate reaching tenants even with high turnover.

Objective 1C: Increase commercial recycling efforts in business and government.

- Promote paper recycling.
- Promote recycling of e-waste.

Objective 1D: Expand resource recovery efforts in the construction and demolition industry.

- Promote source reduction in materials.
- Promote reusable building materials from deconstruction of sites rather than demolition.
- Promote the use of materials with recycled content.

Objective 1E: Promote programs for the collection, reuse, and management of special wastes, such as household hazardous waste.

- Promote programs for the collection, reuse, and management of special wastes such as household hazardous wastes, e-wastes, and green wastes.

- Promote the use of eco-friendly alternatives for pesticides, cleansers, and other products which contribute to the household hazardous waste stream.
- Promote “Don’t Bag It” and composting programs for green waste.
- Promote proper handling of e-wastes.

Objective 1F: Develop better information systems for tracking reuse, recycling, and source reduction efforts.

Goal #2: Improve the recovery of landscape resources by halting illegal dumping.

Objective 2A: Reduce illegal dumping through increased public awareness and education.

Objective 2B: Facilitate a region-wide effort to reduce illegal dumping.

- Promote/seek a coordinated program between cities and counties.
- Develop a process to speak to dumping along boundaries.

Objective 2C: Promote cleanup events for illegal dumpsites through public and private partnerships.

Objective 2D: Provide for better enforcement by actively monitoring known dump sites and prosecuting violators.

Goal #3: Maintain proper and safe disposal of remaining waste with adequate landfill capacities and promotion of the development of alternative technologies which are economically feasible.

Objective 3A: Strive for a 10-year minimum disposal capacity in the AACOG region through a bi-annual capacity review.

Objective 3B: Promote integrated waste management practices throughout the region’s urban and rural areas.

Objective 3C: Maintain the Closed Landfill Inventory (CLI).

Objective 3D: Conduct or update feasibility studies with regard to landfill alternatives.

Goal #4: To utilize both public and private financial resources to achieve optimum results in the best practices of integrated solid waste management in the AACOG region.

Objective 4A: Acknowledge the generation of the funds dedicated to solid waste management in reviewing the funding project.

Objective 4B: Evaluate each request for funding on its impact on the region’s goals for diversion, waste minimization, cessation of illegal dumping, and proper handling of bulk waste.

Objective 4C: Promote public-private partnerships in developing facilities and programs to enhance the best practices in the region.

## B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

(1) Both public and private recycling centers are found in the AACOG region. Accepted materials generally include newspaper, cardboard, plastic, glass, scrap metal, aluminum, and steel/tin cans. Some of the centers, but not all, also take used oil, batteries, and computers. Approximately half of the cities provide curbside recycling for residential customers. Several

entities have green curbside waste programs all year or during the major growing and leaf dropping periods. Composting and chipping programs serve city and county residents throughout the region. Yard and brush trimmings are composted and/or chipped and are used for a variety of beneficial uses.

Both private and public facilities collect some automotive waste. Some collections are limited to used oil while others include oil filters, tires and batteries. Two private landfill facilities recycle landfill gas and sell it to electric companies in San Antonio and Austin. There are liquid waste and sludge transporters in the region. Some sludge is used to make commercial compost. Current efforts in the region to minimize municipal solid waste and divert sludge from the waste stream appear to be adequate at this time. However, AACOG is always actively pursuing opportunities to beneficially use sludge.

- (2) Recommendations for encouraging and achieving a greater degree of waste minimization and waste reuse or recycling in the geographic area covered by the plan stem directly from the goals and objectives (listed above) of the AACOG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. The goals and objectives include promotion of multi-family housing recycling programs, encouraging commercial recycling efforts in business and government, and using innovative measures to increase citizen participation in existing programs. AACOG has and plans to continue supporting the reuse of recycled materials in the region. Grant support has encouraged two entities to become their own market for recycled glass.
- (3) Availability of household hazardous waste collection services varies greatly in the region. There is one permanent collection center in the region where household hazardous waste is dropped off by citizens. Several local entities have a contractor who provides curbside collection of household hazardous waste on request. Yearly collection events are held by some cities in the region. Taken together, the various programs serve approximately 50% of the cities in the region and three counties. There is a need to increase public education on proper disposal of household hazardous waste and more "earth friendly" substitutions for household hazardous waste products. Programs for the collection of HHW are needed in the unserved areas of the region.
- (4) AACOG will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) AACOG recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) AACOG's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - AACOG will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;

- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG)

COG Number 5

Document: Volume I - Regional Plan

Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for ATCOG.

Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the ATCOG region and they pertain to source reduction, recycling, composting, illegal dumping, integrated solid waste management, and review of municipal solid waste management facility applications. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

#### Standard

Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

Teres Jimenez (512) 239-1480  
MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: Ark-Tex Council of Governments  
P. O. Box 5307  
Texarkana, TX 75505

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

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For the Commission

## **VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Ark-Tex Council of Governments (hereafter called ATCOG). The counties covered under this plan include Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated May 23, 2003, as revised on April 5, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

Goal #1: Encourage and promote funding availability for regional, sub regional, and local implementation of this plan.

Objective #1A: Pursue continued funding through available sources.

Goal #2: Promote source reduction efforts to decrease the amount of solid waste generated.

Objective #2A: Reduce amount of materials entering the waste stream.

Goal #3: Promote the maximum development of regional as well as local, integrated, convenient, collection systems.

Objective #3A: Increase the use of more efficient collection systems.

Goal #4: Promote recycling efforts to decrease the amount of solid waste entering the waste stream.

Objective #4A: Educate the citizens about the value of recycling.

Objective #4B: Increase recycling centers throughout the region.

Objective #4C: Coordinate recycling markets throughout the region.

Goal #5: Promote public education on integrated solid waste management.

Objective #5A: Develop outreach programs to educate citizens on municipal solid waste issues to include waste reduction and recycling.

Goal #6: Promote enforcement efforts to decrease illegal dumping.

Objective #6A: Increase the number of rural Code Enforcement Officers.

Objective #6B: Establish waste stations and/or programs for rural residents to dispose of solid waste unsuitable for regular trash pickup.

Goal #7: Promote composting of yard waste and sludge within the region.

Objective #7A: Coordinate with municipalities to develop composting programs.

Goal #8: Utilize existing facilities to the extent environmentally and economically feasible.

Objective #8A: Reduce the waste stream to existing landfills to extend their lifespan.

Goal #9: Promote development of integrated solid waste management systems.

Objective #9A: Use cooperative measures to allow for integration of solid waste, recycling, and composting.

Goal #10: Encourage sub-regions to allow for more cost effective local plans and regionalization of facilities.

Objective #10A: Coordinate throughout the region to ensure adequate access to solid waste facilities.

Goal #11: Use the MSW permit application process to determine conformance with the regional plan mindful of environmental and other constraints that impact the siting of future solid waste facilities.

Objective #11A: Address concerns to minimize negative impact on the environment and human health in reference to siting of future solid waste facilities.

#### B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) Efforts in the ATCOG region to decrease the amount of solid waste and sludge entering the waste stream include city and water utility composting efforts in Texarkana. This program combines yard waste with water treatment facility sludge to produce mulch and compost. Composting using municipal sludge and yard waste is being actively pursued throughout the region in order to reduce the flow of sludge into landfills.

Current recycling efforts of reusable materials include collection and recycling of used oil, paper, plastic, and cardboard. Other recycling programs include metals, paper, and e-waste. Recycling of most materials is sufficient within the region; however, establishment of glass recycling is a priority.

- (2) Recommended activities for encouraging waste minimization include a focus on education of the public regarding the benefits and availability of recycling and reuse as well as pursuing local business opportunities for recycling industries to locate in the ATCOG region, which is chronically underserved by these industries, especially glass recycling.
- (3) Currently, the ATCOG region does not have any Hazardous Waste collection programs in place. ATCOG promotes the safe use, storage, and handling of hazardous materials by educating consumers. Household hazardous waste collection and disposal services are in great need in the region.
- (4) ATCOG will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) ATCOG recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) ATCOG's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - ATCOG will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG)  
COG Number 13  
Document: Volume I - Regional Plan  
Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for BVCOG.  
Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Washington Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the BVCOG region and they pertain to adequate municipal solid waste management, source reduction, recycling, and composting. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

Standard Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

Teres Jimenez (512) 239-1480  
MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: Brazos Valley Council of Governments  
P. O. Drawer 4128  
Bryan, TX 77805-4128

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

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For the Commission

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Brazos Valley Council of Governments (hereafter called BVCOG). The counties covered under this plan include Brazos, Burlleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson and Washington.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated submitted on December 11, 2002, as revised on May 5, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

A. Regional Goals

- Goal #1: Ensure the availability of disposal in the BVCOG region to manage municipal solid waste (MSW) after source reduction, recycling, and composting has occurred.
  - Objective #1A: Explore alternatives dealing with the disposal of special wastes.
  - Objective #1B: Support local efforts to identify areas with litter and illegal disposal problems and encourage implementation of future and current enforcement programs to address those problems.
  - Objective #1C: Encourage Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection
  - Objective #1D: Support provisions for adequate solid waste capacity throughout the BVCOG region.
  - Objective #1E: Review for adequate infrastructure support of solid waste for new solid waste management sites while minimizing impacts to other infrastructure users.
  - Objective #1F: Support community participation opportunities prior to the permitting and closure processes.
- Goal #2: Ensure the availability of proper and safe management of solid waste in the BVCOG Region.
  - Objective #2A: Review solid waste disposal, handling, and management facilities and promote sound operational practices to eliminate adverse health and aesthetic impacts.
  - Objective #2B: Encourage the maintenance of appropriate buffers and setbacks from sensitive land uses for new and expanded MSW facilities.
  - Objective #2C: Encourage minimizing the negative visual impacts of solid waste disposal, handling, and management facilities for new and expanded MSW facilities.
  - Objective #2D: Maintain administrative structures to promote some measure of local control in the siting, expansion, and operation of MSW facilities.
  - Objective #2E: Review for provisions that support appropriate environmental protection in the siting, operation, and closure of the solid waste management facilities.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Environmental protection measures should be appropriate for the type and impact of facility. However, these objectives may not be applicable to all types of solid waste management facilities. For example, material recovery facilities may not need to avoid aquifer recharge zones.

Goal #3: Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) generated and disposed of by maximizing source reduction and recycling, to the extent feasible, through voluntary approaches.

Objective #3A: Encourage public education and outreach programs that achieve public awareness and knowledge of solid waste management options and solutions.

Objective #3B: Encourage programs to facilitate the development and maintenance of local source reduction, waste minimization, recycling, and composting programs within the region, thus, conserving disposal capacity and resources to the extent technically and economically feasible. (NOTE: Recycling includes yard waste composting).

Objective #3C: Encourage waste reduction activities to certain components of the waste stream that may pose special risks or problems.

#### B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) Several public and private recycling centers exist throughout the region, each serving a particular service area. The types of accepted materials for recycling vary with each facility. Accepted materials include newspaper, cardboard, plastic, used oil, batteries, glass, scrap metal, metals, and aluminum and steel cans. The City of College Station is the only entity that currently provides curbside residential recycling.

There is a need for increased recycling activities including collection/drop-off markets and a lack of viable markets and transportation for recycled items. The lack of convenient collection locations for some potential recyclable commodities, due to costs, is the main reason given by those experiencing problems in their recycling efforts. Liquid wastes processed regionally are by area wastewater treatment plants, which choose to accept this type of waste. Some liquid wastes are exported to other regions by private transport. There are not any registered liquid waste transfer stations or registered or permitted liquid waste processing facilities in the region. There are not any MSW Landfills authorized to accept liquid wastes for solidification in the region. There is not a current need or any planned liquid waste facilities expected in the region.

Currently, sludge and yard wastes from wastewater treatment plants are used in a co-composting operation operated by the City of Bryan in Brazos County. The sludge from cities within the BVCOG region is generated from wastewater treatment facilities, except for those that have lagoon systems or OSSF systems.

Decreased landfilling of sludge from wastewater treatment facilities needs to occur throughout the region by implementing other waste reduction options, such as composting or land application.

There are no known plans for Citizens' Collection Station facility expansions or new facilities and services.

The services for household waste collection and transportation facilities appear to be adequate for the majority of the Brazos Valley Council of Governments region to manage future waste amounts.

There is an illegal dumping problem in the entire Brazos Valley Council of Governments region. Various entities are working to resolve these problems.

- (2) Recommendations for encouraging and achieving a greater degree of waste minimization and waste reuse or recycling in the geographic area covered by the plan include:
  - (A) Consider integrated waste management options;
  - (B) Maintain a database of reliable electronic recycling industries;
  - (C) Develop used tire collection programs at MSW facilities;
  - (D) Create programs to remove special wastes from the MSW waste stream;
  - (E) Create a plan to describe how the disposal of large volumes of waste and storm debris produced by severe weather will be accommodated;
  - (F) Use regional MSW facilities after waste reduction, reuse and recycling efforts have been considered;
  - (G) Develop larger regional MSW facilities to the extent practical and where such facilities would be the best alternative;
  - (H) Develop facilities that reduce, reuse, or recycle waste materials;
  - (I) Distribute MSW facilities appropriately to minimize transportation costs where such facilities would be the best determination;
  - (J) Expand and redevelop existing MSW sites, where feasible, over siting of new facilities when they meet certain environmental criteria; and
  - (K) Develop citizen collection stations and transfer stations, where appropriate, for the movement of solid waste within the region.
  
- (3) Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection services are in great need within the region. There are currently no permanent collection centers. The Brazos Valley Solid Waste Management Agency holds two regional collection events annually. Residents throughout the region may access this service but, due to the distances involved, this is not the ideal solution. Other HHW collections need to be held throughout the region. Assessment of proposed HHW programs for the BVCOG region include:
  - (A) Sub-regional collection programs that encourage permanent re-use facilities;
  - (B) Increased efforts to provide adequate HHW collection services within the region;
  - (C) Public/private partnerships in the development, funding and implementation of HHW programs within the region; and
  - (D) Diversion, beneficial reuse, and recycling of HHW.
  
- (4) BVCOG will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
  
- (5) BVCOG recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
  
- (6) BVCOG's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - BVCOG will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG)  
COG Number 12

Document: Volume I - Regional Plan

Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for CAPCOG.

Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee Llano, Travis, and Williamson Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the CAPCOG region and they pertain to household hazardous waste, recycling, source reduction, proper management of specific segments of the overall waste stream such as tires, electronic waste, etc., illegal dumping, yard waste, community clean up, proper solid waste management, integrated waste management, and reviewing municipal solid waste facility applications. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

Standard Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

Teres Jimenez (512) 239-1480  
MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: Capital Area Council of Governments  
P. O. Box 17848  
Austin, TX 78760-7848

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Commission

## **VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### SECTION I -- NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Capital Area Council of Governments (hereafter called CAPCOG). The counties covered under this plan include Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, and Williamson.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated July 10, 2002, as revised on May 22, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II -- REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

- Goal #1: Encourage a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection and diversion program.
  - Objective #1A: Coordinate public/private partnerships to share the cost burden and provide services.
  - Objective #1B: Develop sub-regional collection programs that encourage permanent reuse facilities.
  - Objective #1C: Promote more cost efficient collection programs other than annual one-day events.
- Goal #2: Promote public education on integrated solid waste management.
  - Objective #2A: Establish educational programs specific to other goals (HHW, illegal dumping, and recycling).
  - Objective #2B: Coordinate educational programs through school curricula, advertising, and environmental projects.
  - Objective #2C: Maintain and promote the environmental resource center for public use.
- Goal #3: Promote community clean up events to provide citizens with an alternative to illegal dumping.
  - Objective #3A: Coordinate public/private partnerships to share the cost burden and promote sponsorship.
  - Objective #3B: Educate communities on the availability of funds to provide the service and coordinate events.
  - Objective #3C: Coordinate services to communities that do not have bulky item pick-up, curbside municipal solid waste services, or that have illegal dumping issues.
- Goal #4: Continue and enhance current illegal dumping enforcement programs.
  - Objective #4A: Support participation in the Regional Enforcement Task Force.
  - Objective #4B: Support all programs that aim to curtail illegal dumping.
  - Objective #4C: Provide environmental enforcement training to the entire region throughout the year.
- Goal #5: Encourage effective and efficient management and operation of recycling services.
  - Objective #5A: Coordinate public/private partnerships.

Objective #5B: Coordinate the development of markets for recycled materials and maintain local control as necessary to assure quality of services.

Objective #5C: Seek support for and encourage continued operation of small businesses and non-profit recycling entities.

Goal #6: Explore alternatives to dealing with the disposal of special wastes.

Objective #6A: Reduce the amount of construction and demolition (C&D) waste and encourage recycling.

Objective #6B: Determine effective and efficient management of used tires and oil.

Objective #6C: Provide public education on electronics recycling and work with other entities on maintaining a database of reliable electronic recycling industries.

Objective #6D: Encourage MSW facilities to have used tire programs.

Goal #7: Encourage the proper management and disposal of municipal solid waste.

Objective #7A: Ensure best industry practices for all MSW facilities.

Objective #7B: Encourage MSW facilities to be involved with surrounding communities.

Goal #8: Promote reduction in the disposal amount of yard waste and encourage recycling.

Objective #8A: Coordinate programs for the diversion of yard trimmings and brush, and their use of the compost or mulch.

Objective #8B: Provide material on the "Don't Bag It" program for yard waste and backyard composting.

Objective #8C: Provide education materials on the beneficial use of green waste.

Objective #8D: Coordinate with MSW facilities to divert yard waste and brush from disposal.

Goal #9: Determine whether access to and the availability of legal disposal options in the CAPCOG region are adequate.

Objective #9A: Determine if new or expanded facilities are needed with the region.

Objective #9B: Coordinate the development of transfer stations and citizen collection stations in areas of need.

Objective #9C: Coordinate open and free markets within the region for solid waste collection, disposal, and recycling.

Goal #10: Promote administrative structures to ensure some measure of local control in the siting, expansion, and operation of MSW facilities.

Objective #10A: Coordinate with counties to pass municipal solid waste siting ordinances.

Objective #10B: Provide pre-application assistance to interested parties.

Objective #10C: Utilize a checklist to provide guidance and determine plan conformance for MSW permit and registration applications.

Objective #10D: Coordinate development of regional or local programs to enforce MSW regulations and permit requirements.

Goal #11: Promote incentives for recycling activities and increased recycling participation rates across the region.

Objective #11A: Work to seek funding for CAPCOG to coordinate, monitor, and report on progress achieved toward meeting regional recycling goals.

Objective #11B: Consider/evaluate volume-based rate structures/recycling programs.

Objective #11C: Encourage studies and analysis of the current waste stream to stimulate economic development in the recycling industry.

Goal #12: Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste generated and disposed of within the region.

Objective #12A: Coordinate the separation and collection of recyclables from governmental facilities.

Objective #12B: Emphasize market-based incentives and market development.

Objective #12C: Target waste reduction activities to the specific waste streams.

Goal #13: Increase the CAPCOG region recycling rate.

Objective #13A: Coordinate innovative recycling projects throughout the region.

Goal #14: Provide permanent household hazardous waste collection facilities throughout the region.

Objective #14A: Coordinate the creation of HHW facilities throughout the region.

Goal #15: Use the Plan Conformance/Facility Application Review process and the provisions of §363.066, Health & Safety Code, to address land use compatibility and other local issues in order to avoid if possible, or minimize if avoidance is not possible, adverse impacts from municipal solid waste (MSW) facilities on human health and the environment.

Objective #15A: Determine whether the use of a site for a MSW facility may adversely impact human health or the environment by evaluating and determining impacts of the site upon counties, cities, communities, groups of property owners, or individuals in terms of compatibility of land use, zoning in the vicinity, community growth patterns, and other factors associated with the public interest.

Objective #15B: Monitor MSW facilities' compliance with local zoning requirements, siting ordinances, and other local government land use regulations.

Objective #15C: Assess MSW facilities' impacts on roads, drainage ways, and other infrastructure. Consider existing and planned future land uses near proposed facilities. Consider and address infrastructure problems created by facilities. Consider and address potential land use conflicts between MSW facilities and existing and planned development.

Objective #15D: Encourage MSW facilities to be good neighbors, by assessing and considering every applicant's five-year compliance history in Texas to the fullest extent allowed by TCEQ.

Objective #15E: Encourage programs that provide incentives for using landfills instead of illegal dumping including but not limited to conducting and increasing awareness of community cleanup events, efforts to curtail illegal dumping, litter abatement and waste reduction programs, public education programs, lower rates for waste-collection events, etc.

Objective #15F: Avoid if possible, or minimize if avoidance is not possible, concerns about visual and aesthetic impacts from MSW facilities on adjacent land uses by incorporating "context sensitive" design, appropriate buffers, and setbacks into facility design. Encourage operators to take reasonable and

appropriate steps to avoid such impacts if possible or minimize them if complete avoidance is not possible.

Objective #15G: Address local land use concerns about the long term and cumulative effects of MSW facilities and protect the public interest in a natural landscape, avoid if possible, or minimize if not possible, major disruptions to the landscape and other adverse long term and cumulative effects by monitoring whether the permitted and maximum potential (theoretical geometric calculation) height and capacity of a MSW facility are accurately calculated and taken into account.

Objective #15H: Avoid if possible, or minimize if avoidance is not possible, nuisance conditions associated with MSW facilities that generate community concerns by encouraging applicants to implement reasonable and appropriate measures and best management practices to prevent and control litter, storm water runoff, vectors, odor, excessive noise, light pollution, and other nuisance conditions.

#### B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) Several local governmental entities in the CAPCOG region have recycling policies in place and active programs to encourage waste diversion. In order for the remaining local governments to develop recycling policies and programs, more stable markets are needed.

The CAPCOG region is home to several large recycling industries for central Texas. The private service providers in the region also provide services to other regions of the state. Environmental quality and concerns continue to create new recycling markets within the CAPCOG region. For example, the tremendous growth in the region has created new markets within the construction and building industry for recyclables. There are a number of construction and demolition recyclers in the region. Another example is the introduction of electronic recyclers, to deal with the large number of electronics within the region.

Recycling centers have been established throughout the region with assistance from solid waste grants. Facilities are now located in Blanco County (Blanco), Johnson City, Hays County (Wimberly & Driftwood), Fayette County (LaGrange), Llano County, Burnet County, Williamson County (Hutto), and 4 centers in Lee County. All of these facilities will accept recyclables from citizens within their county. LaGrange has a glass pulverizer and Blanco received a grant for one in this current grant cycle. Blanco is cooperating with Johnson City and Hays County to receive and pulverize glass into a usable material, eliminating the high hauling cost of the glass. The City of Georgetown has also received a grant to buy recycling equipment for the upgraded Transfer Station. There are also currently a number of stand alone recycling programs within our region, the City of Austin has a large curbside recycling program, BFI has a recycling center at the northeast Travis County landfill, Ecology Action maintains four recycling centers within the region, TDS does recycling at their landfill and the Eco Depot transfer station; and LCRA continues to work to develop markets through the Central Texas Recycling Association. BFI, IESI, TDS and WMI also offer recycling programs for residential pickup throughout the areas of the region that they serve.

There are different programs throughout the region that have an impact on source reduction. The "Don't Bag It" program and Backyard Composting educational classes have helped divert organic materials from the landfills. An LCRA facility in Burnet and the City of Austin's Hornsby Bend (Dillo Dirt) facility uses sludge in their composting operations. There are also a few operators that use animal sludge in their composting operations. Current efforts in the region to minimize sludge appear to be adequate at this time.

Illegal dumping has been addressed in the CAPCOG region by forming a Regional Environmental Task Force. The group provides training, a communication network for enforcement entities, and assistance in developing strong programs to deter illegal dumping.

- (2) Because yard waste and paper still make up a majority of the waste stream, the "Don't Bag It" program and Backyard Composting educational classes need to be enhanced and continued throughout the region in order to have a larger impact.

These priorities were identified as the region's needs for the current planning period:

- Permanent HHW facilities and/or reuse centers;
- Programs and/or initiatives that deal with scrap tires;
- Community clean-up events and bulky item collection;
- Illegal dumping and local enforcement programs; and
- Recycling services, programs, and market development.

- (3) There are a number of successful HHW programs within our region. The LCRA operates the Regional Mobil Waste program which provides one day collection events to rural communities. Another is the City of Round Rock HHW Facility. This facility was initially partially grant funded but has evolved to stand on its own and provides collection to its citizens on an ongoing basis. A second program that was initially partially grant funded is the Fayette County reuse center in LaGrange that is now also an ongoing collection site. Finally, the City of Austin HHW facility, serves residents of the City of Austin and Travis County. The City of Austin HHW facility collects the largest amount of HHW within the CAPCOG region.

The City of San Marcos has applied for and has been awarded a grant to create an HHW facility. Their goal is to provide a citizen re-use center as well as accept unusable HHW for recycling or disposal. They plan to cooperate with Hays County and other Cities within the area to accept HHW from those citizens.

We have made great progress in the collection of HHW within the region; however some communities may still be underserved and will require continued improvement.

- (4) CAPCOG will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) CAPCOG recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and

(C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.

- (6) CAPCOG's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - CAPCOG will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG)  
COG Number 23  
Document: Volume I - Regional Plan  
Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for CTCOG.  
Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills, and San Saba Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the CTCOG region and they pertain to recycling, composting, household hazardous waste, scrap tires, illegal dumping, proper waste disposal, and local solid waste management plans. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

#### Standard

Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

Teres Jimenez (512) 239-1480  
MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: Central Texas Council of Governments  
P. O. Box 729  
Belton, TX 76513

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Commission

## **VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Central Texas Council of Governments (hereafter called CTCOG). The counties covered under this plan include Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills, and San Saba.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated August 22, 2002, as revised on May 12, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

- (1) Goal 1: Promote the proper and safe disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW) and scrap tires.

- Objective 1A: Coordinate and encourage the establishment of a permanent regional HHW collection facility.

- Objective 1B: Develop and implement on-going public education programs about the importance of properly disposing of HHW and scrap tires.

- Objective 1C: Coordinate and encourage the development of local and/or regional HHW and scrap tire collection events.

- Objective 1D: Coordinate and encourage the establishment of a HHW collection facility with mobile capability within the region.

- (2) Goal 2: Promote recycling and composting programs as viable ways to reduce the waste stream and increase landfill longevity.

- Objective 2A: Coordinate and encourage the establishment of new recycling and composting facilities.

- Objective 2B: Coordinate and encourage the expansion of existing recycling and composting facilities.

- Objective 2C: Develop and implement on-going public education programs about the importance of recycling and composting.

- Objective 2D: Develop and implement on-going public education programs about the proper ways to recycle and compost.

- Objective 2E: Coordinate and encourage the expansion and development of curbside recycling.

- (3) Goal 3: Increase awareness of the harmful effects of illegal dumping and promote proper waste disposal.

- Objective 3A: Establish a long-term public educational campaign about the importance of the proper disposal of waste and scrap tires.

- Objective 3B: Support the establishment of citizens' collection stations for rural residents.

Objective 3C: Coordinate and encourage the use of litter abatement officers to manage illegal dumping.

Objective 3D: Coordinate and encourage training and education of peace officers, judges, and prosecutors.

Goal 4: Promote the development of local solid waste management plans.

Objective 4A: Coordinate and encourage CTCOG member entities to develop their own local solid waste management plans based on their more immediate local needs.

Objective 4B: Coordinate and encourage the use of the CTCOG Solid Waste Regional Plan as a model for the format and content of the local solid waste management plan.

Objective 4C: Coordinate and encourage member entities to update their local plans on a regular basis. It is suggested that local plans be updated on a schedule similar to the Regional Plan updates.

#### B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) The CTCOG region has made several efforts to minimize municipal solid waste. Several public and private recycling centers exist throughout the region, each serving a particular service area. The types of accepted materials for recycling vary with each facility. Accepted materials include newspaper, cardboard, plastic, used oil, batteries, glass, scrap metal, metals, and aluminum and steel cans.

Also, several entities provide curbside recycling collection for residential and commercial customers. Composting and chipping programs also exist throughout the region. Yard and brush trimmings are composted and/or chipped and converted into beneficial use.

Several facilities also collect automotive waste. The type of waste collected varies from facility to facility, and wastes are recycled and processed accordingly. Wastes collected include used oil, oil filters, antifreeze, tires, and batteries. These facilities are located primarily in incorporated areas, leaving rural residents with no convenient opportunity to recycle.

Approximately eight million tons of wet sludge from municipal water and wastewater treatment plants and septic tanks are generated each year in Texas, according to the TCEQ. Within the region, there are liquid waste and sludge transporters. Several active registered sludge land application sites exist within the region.

Current efforts in the region to minimize municipal solid waste, sludge, and to reuse and recycle waste appear to be adequate at this time.

- (2) CTCOG is anticipating an increase of waste generation as the region's population is expected to rise. Currently curbside recycling is limited within a few communities. Rural residents need to have access to recycling facilities. Public education on the benefits of recycling and composting is also needed. Current facilities may not be sufficient for the future. Composting programs also need to be expanded.

CTCOG is planning to establish new recycling and composting facilities, as well as encourage the expansion of existing facilities. Also, CTCOG plans to develop and implement public education programs on the proper ways to recycle and compost. CTCOG anticipates expanding current and developing new curbside recycling programs.

- (3) Household hazardous waste (HHW) collection services are in great need within the region. There are currently no permanent collection centers, and there have been sporadic collection events. Recent collection events have had a significant public response and a great need exists for HHW facilities. Also, there is a need to increase public education on the dangers of improperly disposing of HHW.

CTCOG plans to establish a permanent HHW collection facility and a mobile collection facility within the region. CTCOG also plans to develop and implement an on-going public education program about proper disposal of HHW and scrap tires. CTCOG will also encourage local collection events.

- (4) CTCOG will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) CTCOG recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) CTCOG solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities – CTCOG will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction; and
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and

- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with the goals and objectives outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: Coastal Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG)  
COG Number 20  
Document: Volume I - Regional Plan  
Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for CBCOG.  
Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the CBCOG region and they pertain to source reduction and recycling, proper management of municipal solid waste, and the availability of municipal solid waste management alternatives. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. Incorporated by reference with the plan is an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region along with a commitment to maintain the inventory. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

#### Standard

Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

Teres Jimenez (512) 239-1480  
MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments:

Coastal Bend Council of Governments  
P. O. Box 9909  
Corpus Christi, TX 78469

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

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For the Commission

## **VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Coastal Bend Council of Governments (hereafter called CBCOG). The counties covered under this plan include Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated December 6, 2002, as revised on September 22, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

Goal #1: Promote the proper management and disposal of municipal solid waste.

- Objective 1A: Identify areas with inadequate collection, transportation, and/or processing services, and provide solid waste management alternatives that will encourage proper disposal and reduce illegal dumping.
- Objective 1B: Coordinate local efforts to identify areas with litter and illegal disposal problems, implement enforcement and other programs to address those problems, and promote the management and cleanup of litter and illegal dumpsites.
- Objective 1C: Target household hazardous waste, tires, and other components of the waste stream that may pose special risks or problems for waste reduction activities and encourage proper disposal practices.
- Objective 1D: Develop trainings and educate professionals and the public to make them aware of a variety of solid waste topics that affect the proper management and disposal of solid waste in the region.

Goal #2: Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) generated and disposed of in the Coastal Bend Region.

- Objective 2A: Continue to use outreach and education programs to support program initiatives and to facilitate long-term changes in attitudes about source reduction and recycling.
- Objective 2B: Coordinate the diversion of waste from regional landfills through recycling efforts, including corporate recycling and composting, and by targeting major components of the waste stream such as brush, paper, and construction and demolition debris.
- Objective 2C: Seek regional, state, and federal partnerships within the region that encourage solid waste management, waste reduction and recycling.

Goal #3: Encourage the proper and safe management of solid waste, the availability of management alternatives, and implementation of statewide goals at the regional and local levels, through development and implementation of regional and local plans.

Objective 3A: Implement a regional municipal solid waste management planning cycle with updates and amendments as necessary.

Objective 3B: Clarify and implement the role of regional plans in the Council of Government's participation in MSW permitting decisions.

Objective 3C: Use the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program as a tool to implement the regional solid waste management plans.

Objective 3D: Establish a process to maintain the Closed Landfill Inventories.

Objective 3E: Assist in the development of local plans that better address the needs of a specific community or county while implementing the state and regional goals for municipal solid waste management.

#### B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) The Coastal Bend Region has recycling markets, but it has no manufacturing facilities to use these recycled materials. The exact reason for this is not known, but possible reasons include the cost involved in opening a facility, depressed fees paid for recyclables in comparison to virgin material, and the lack of a strong state mandate for diversion in the State of Texas. The Coastal Bend has the need for recycled content manufactures and the infrastructure to support any facility that may want to open here (port, major highways, etc.).

Some cities in the Coastal Bend, which offer drop-off or curbside recycling, must subsidize these programs in order for them to continue. Currently, there are 6 cities offering curbside recycling and 9 offering drop-off centers (2 of these also offer curbside) to their citizenry. Browning Ferris Industries (BFI) operates a recycling process facility in the City of Corpus Christi on Agnes Street. This BFI Agnes Street Center has acted as a hub for the other Coastal Bend Region recycling centers and recycling efforts. BFI bulks the various recyclables and then finds markets for them through out the State. Generally, the materials are sent to Houston, Texas or San Antonio, Texas, but due to economics, they will be sent wherever profitable. Through its efforts, BFI has been helping local governments and organizations maintain recycling as an option to its citizens instead of landfilling these products.

The Coastal Bend Region currently does not have a sludge facility in place, but encourages the development of such a facility.

Current efforts in the Coastal Bend Region to minimize municipal solid waste, sludge, and to reuse and recycle waste appear to be adequate at this time.

- (2) Waste minimization and waste reuse or recycling in the geographic area covered by the goals and objectives of the plan as stated above.
- (3) The Coastal Bend Region does not have a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility, however, various cities through the region hold community programs for the collection of household hazardous waste. Existing programs for the collection of HHW appear to be adequate for the Coastal Bend Region.

- (4) CBCOG will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) CBCOG recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) CBCOG's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - CBCOG will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: Concho Valley Council of Governments (CVCOG)  
COG Number 10  
Document: Volume I - Regional Plan  
Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for CVCOG.  
Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Cook, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, and Tom Green Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the CVCOG region and they pertain to recycling, source reduction, household hazardous waste, integrated solid waste management, illegal dumping, specific segments of the overall waste stream such as used tires, electronic waste, etc., proper management of municipal solid waste, and participation in the municipal solid waste facility application process. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

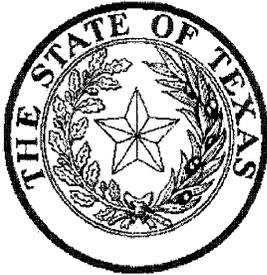
Standard Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

Teres Jimenez (512) 239-1480  
MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: Concho Valley Council of Governments  
P. O. Box 60050  
San Angelo, TX 76906

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Commission

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Concho Valley Council of Governments (hereafter called CVCOG). The counties covered under this plan include Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, and Tom Green.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated December 4, 2002, as revised on May 16, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

A. Regional Goals

Goal #1: Promote the development of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection and diversion programs.

Objective #1A: Coordinate public/private partnerships to share the cost burden and provide services.

Objective #1B: Develop a permanent reuse facility.

Objective #1C: Develop more cost efficient collection programs.

Goal #2: Promote public education on integrated solid waste management.

Objective #2A: Establish and coordinate educational programs specific to other goals (HHW, illegal dumping, recycling, etc.).

Objective #2B: Maintain and promote the environmental resource center.

Goal #3: Promote alternatives to illegal dumping.

Objective #3A: Coordinate public/private partnerships and services.

Objective #3B: Educate communities to provide services and coordinate events.

Goal #4: Continue and enhance current enforcement programs of illegal dumping.

Objective #4A: Support all programs that aim to curtail illegal dumping.

Objective #4B: Provide environmental enforcement training.

Objective #4C: Develop efficient collection, transportation and processing programs for used tires.

Goal #5: Promote effective and efficient management and operation of recycling services.

Objective #5A: Coordinate and provide information about public/private partnerships.

Objective #5B: Coordinate the development of markets for recycled materials.

Objective #5C: Coordinate operation of business and non-profit recycling entities.

Goal #6: Explore alternative disposal methods of special wastes.

Objective #6A: Reduce the amount of construction and demolition (C&D) waste and coordinate recycling.

Objective #6B: Determine effective and efficient management of used tires and oil.

Objective #6C: Provide public education on electronics recycling.

- Goal #7: Encourage the proper management and disposal of municipal solid waste.  
Objective #7A: Coordinate best industry practices for all MSW facilities.  
Objective #7B: Coordinate MSW facilities to be involved with surrounding communities.  
Objective #7C: Coordinate and ensure proper training of MSW personnel.
- Goal #8: Encourage reducing the disposal amount of yard waste.  
Objective #8A: Coordinate programs for the diversion of yard trimmings and brush.  
Objective #8B: Provide educational materials.
- Goal #9: Encourage access to and availability of legal disposal options in the region.  
Objective #9A: Evaluate whether new or expanded facilities are needed.  
Objective #9B: Coordinate the development of transfer and citizen collection stations in areas of need.  
Objective #9C: Coordinate open and free markets within the region for solid waste collection, disposal and recycling.
- Goal #10: Promote administrative structures to provide some measure of local control in the siting and expansion of MSW facilities.  
Objective #10A: Support development of municipal solid waste siting ordinances.  
Objective #10B: Provide pre-application assistance to interested parties.
- Goal #11: Encourage incentives for recycling activities and increased recycling rates.  
Objective #11A: Work to seek funding for CVCOG to coordinate, monitor and report on progress achieved toward meeting regional recycling goals.  
Objective #11B: Initiate studies and analysis of the current waste stream to stimulate economic development in the recycling industry.
- Goal #12: Promote reduction of municipal solid waste generated and disposed of within the region.  
Objective #12A: Coordinate the separation and collection of recyclables from governmental facilities.  
Objective #12B: Develop markets and market based incentives.  
Objective #12C: Target waste reduction activities to the specific waste streams.

Goals and Objectives for Conformance Review of Facility Applications

- Goal #13: Use the Process of Review of MSW Facility Applications and the provisions of §363.066, Health and Safety Code, to address land use compatibility and other issues in order to avoid and/or mitigate adverse impacts from MSW facilities on human health and the environment.  
Objective #13A: Address issues that may adversely impact human health or the environment for MSW facility applications.  
Objective #13B: Address issues to promote MSW facilities compliance with local zoning requirements, siting ordinances, and other local government land use regulations.  
Objective #13C: Address issues to evaluate whether MSW facilities' impacts on roads, drainage ways, and other infrastructure are addressed.  
Objective #13D: Coordinate programs that provide incentives for using landfills instead of illegal dumping.

Objective #13E: Address concerns to avoid and or minimize visual and aesthetic impacts from MSW facilities.

Objective #13F: Address local land use concerns about the long term and cumulative effects of MSW facilities and protect the public interest in a natural landscape.

Objective #13G: Address concerns to avoid and/or minimize nuisance conditions associated with MSW facilities.

#### B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) Both public and private recycling centers are found in the CVCOG region. Accepted materials generally include newspaper, cardboard, plastic, glass, scrap metal, and aluminum and steel/tin cans. Some of the centers also take used oil, batteries, and computers. Composting and chipping programs serve city and county residents throughout the region. Yard and brush trimmings are composted and/or chipped and are used for a variety of beneficial uses.

Both private and public facilities collect some automotive waste. Some collections are limited to used oil while others include oil filters and batteries. There are liquid waste and sludge transporters in the region. Some sludge is used to make commercial compost.

As a whole, the advances achieved in decreased waste generation, as well as increases in the reuse and recycling of waste generated, including sludge, seems to be adequate for the region. While there is limited room for advancement in the beneficial use of sludge, waste minimization and recycling and/or reuse have ample space for advancement and growth. Therefore, we have a continued need to increase education and opportunities to advance waste minimization, increase recycling and reuse of products.

- (2) Recommendations for encouraging and achieving a greater degree of waste minimization and waste reuse or recycling in the geographic area covered by the plan stem directly from the goals and objectives (listed above) of the CVCOG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.
- (3) Availability of household hazardous waste collection services is limited within the region. There are no permanent collection centers in the region. Yearly collection events are held by some cities in the region. Taken together, the various programs serve approximately 70% of the population within the region. Periodic additional collection events are needed in the underserved areas of the region. Also, there is a need to increase public education on proper disposal of household hazardous waste and more "earth friendly" substitutions for household hazardous waste products.
- (4) CVCOG will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) CVCOG recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and

(C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.

- (6) CVCOG's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - CVCOG will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG)

COG Number 14

Document: Volume I - Regional Plan

Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for DETCOG.

Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the DETCOG region and they pertain to proper management of municipal solid waste, source reduction and recycling, and the availability of alternatives for municipal solid waste management. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

Standard

Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

Teres Jimenez (512) 239-1480  
MSW Permits Section



## VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

### SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Deep East Texas Council of Governments (hereafter called DETCOG). The counties covered under this plan include Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated January 23, 2003, as revised on October 4, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

Goal #1: Promote the proper management and disposal of municipal solid waste.

Objective 1A: The DETCOG should assess disposal capacity needs in its regional solid waste management plan and should target local areas with less than 10 years of capacity for development of plans or technical studies to identify the best approach to meet those capacity needs. When such options are possible, DETCOG should consider establishing long-term agreements with private disposal service providers, cooperative agreements with other local governments, or other mechanisms to assure long-term availability of disposal capacity.

Objective 1B: In its regional solid waste planning, the DETCOG should identify those subregional areas which lack adequate collection services and/or access to available disposal facilities, and identify actions to ensure that those needs are met. The regional solid waste management plans should include regional and multi-regional solutions for providing services, and should encourage use of citizens' collection stations and transfer stations where appropriate.

Objective 1C: The DETCOG should identify those areas with litter and illegal dumping problems, and identify entities that should establish a local enforcement program, with an emphasis on regional cooperation. Based on the priorities established in the regional plan, DETCOG should use the solid waste grant funding programs to support development of local enforcement programs, and those programs should be standardized to ensure that the grant funding is effectively utilized.

Goal #2: Promote the proper and safe management of solid waste and the availability of management alternative through development and implementation of regional and local plans.

Objective 2A: The *Plan's* goal for the TCEQ was that it clarify and then implement the role of regional plans and local Councils of Governments in municipal solid waste permitting decisions. The goal for the DETCOG was that its regional solid waste management plan should identify the factors that should be used to evaluate a permit application for conformance with the regional plan and that

DETCOG should establish clearly defined internal processes for how conformance recommendations will be made to the TCEQ.

- Objective 2B: Use the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program as a tool to implement the regional solid waste management plans. The DETCOG should include priorities for use of solid waste grant funds in its regional solid waste management plan which, once approved, will form the basis for regional solid waste grant funding decisions.
- Objective 2C: The DETCOG should target areas with critical needs to develop a local solid waste management plan or a specific technical study to identify how those needs can be addressed.
- Objective 2D: After completing its regional inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill sites, the DETCOG should establish a process to maintain that inventory. The regional solid waste management plan should address whether further assessments of the potential risks posed by closed landfill sites in the region are needed.
- Goal #3: Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste generated and disposed of in Texas, through source reduction and recycling, to the extent feasible through voluntary approaches.
- Objective 3A: The DETCOG should identify the status of local governmental entities' compliance with requirements to establish programs for the separation and collection of recyclables from governmental facilities.
- Objective 3B: The DETCOG and other regional and local entities should consider establishing cooperative purchasing and market development programs to support markets for recyclable materials and for products made from those materials.
- Objective 3C: The DETCOG should continue to use outreach and education programs to support program initiatives and to facilitate long-term changes in attitudes about source reduction and recycling. The DETCOG should establish a regional outreach and education program under the regional coordination activities conducted with solid waste grant funds.
- Objective 3D: The DETCOG should target waste reduction activities to the major components of waste disposal. The DETCOG's regional solid waste management plan should identify programs to target source reduction and diversion of paper, yard trimmings, and construction and demolition debris.
- Objective 3E: The DETCOG should target waste reduction activities to certain components of the waste stream that may pose special risks or problems. The DETCOG and local governments should emphasize source reduction of household hazardous waste in education and outreach programs, in conjunction with programs to collect these materials. The DETCOG should consider facilitating cooperative contracting agreements between local governments to help collect and recycle these materials.
- Objective 3F: The DETCOG should identify where the greatest benefits can be achieved through waste reduction, and local implementation efforts should focus on those activities that will achieve the greatest results. DETCOG's solid waste grant funding decisions should be directly tied to implementation of the regional solid waste management plans.

B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) Reuse and recycling efforts are market-driven. If there is no market, then recycling and reuse cannot be effective. Input from area recycling centers indicates that the markets for most recycled items are currently sufficient to encourage efforts in recycling and reuse. Regional efforts will focus on the recycling of solid waste. Short term efforts generally incorporate volunteer recycling with emphasis on education to encourage the general public to recycle. Long term efforts generally work toward bio-processing to incorporate commingled household and commercial solid waste, municipal sludges, grit, septic tank and grease trap wastes. The bio-processing will convert all elements that will decompose into compost. Separation of compost, inerts, and recyclables will follow decomposition. This compost can then be processed, cured, and possibly screened for sale. The inerts from the process can be landfilled and the recyclables can be transported to the regional recycling center for processing and sale.

Several cities in the DETCOG region have recycling programs in place. In the past, recycling markets have been a problem for the more rural areas of the region, along with the inability to generate sufficient amounts of recycled materials to attract a recycling vendor to the smaller and more remote areas of the region. Transportation costs can also have an inhibiting effect on the regional approach to recycling. However, it should also be noted that the City of Lufkin Recycling Center reports that they currently have no problem finding vendors for their recycled materials. The Lufkin facility is one of the largest in the region and is currently in the process of increasing public education programs and attempting to forge a partnership with private haulers to enable curbside recycling efforts in rural areas. Through those measures, the Lufkin Recycling Center hopes to double its intake of recyclable materials by the end of the next fiscal year.

One of the main goals stated in the original 1992 Plan was to reduce by 40% the amount of solid waste produced or introduced into the waste stream and landfills by January 1, 1994. Out of that reduction in solid waste, 15% was expected to be reduced by composting. Similarly, the extended goal was to further reduce the amount of solid waste by 5% over the intermediate planning period and by 25% over the long range planning period. However, in the Year 2000 update to the plan, it was stated that *“the 40% reduction goal for the immediate planning period has not yet been met and is unlikely to be met in the near future”* and that *“it is highly unlikely that the long range planning goal of 70% will be met by 2010.”* At that time it was stated that *“one possible amendment [to the initial plan] would involve reducing the region’s waste reduction goals to a more realistic level.”*

- (2) It is the goal of the DETCOG:

- To reduce the amount of solid waste produced or introduced into the waste stream and landfills.
- To provide and support incentives for waste reduction and reuse programs by individuals, private organizations, industry or commercial retailers, and government agencies.
- To establish public education programs that educate the public in all aspects of solid waste reduction and reuse programs that can be implemented by individuals, private organizations, industry or commercial retailers, and government agencies.
- At this time, the current efforts in the DETCOG planning region to minimize municipal solid waste, sludge, and to reuse and recycle waste appear to be adequate.

A. Recycling objectives

- Support all legislation that will make recycling an effective solid waste management practice.
- Support the establishment of tax incentives to encourage market development.
- Promote educational programs that inform the public about which materials are recyclable and the details of how to recycle items which will be acceptable to the various markets.
- Support cooperative marketing arrangements for the public and private sectors.
- Encourage government agencies to buy products made from recycled materials and to recycle their own internal waste.
- Investigate grant programs for recycling activities and inform all recyclers of such programs.
- Provide workshops and seminars to support the development and implementation of local community recycling programs.
- Develop and maintain market information for local government use.

B. Composting Objectives

- Support legislation that will make composting an effective solid waste management practice.
- Educate the consumers on what "composting" is and how it can be beneficial.
- Create compost programs that focus on yard waste and other organic materials that are common in the waste stream.
- Educate the private and public entities as to requirements for siting and operation requirements for composting facilities.
- Encourage government agencies to use compost materials whenever possible and to establish their own composting facilities to compost yard waste and wastewater treatment sludge.
- Support the development of composting programs that beneficially use compostable materials.
- Support the development of compostable packaging and products.

C. Sludge Objectives

- Promote source reduction by reducing infiltration and inflow (I/I) of surface runoff into Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) head works and reducing industrial discharges of heavy metals and toxins.
- Utilize treatment to reduce pathogens and to encourage bio-processing to produce a beneficial by-product.
- Market the composted product from bio-processing and work with timber industry to run pilot project to determine effects of compost on timber growth.
- Market the fact that the bio-process produces an EPA approved product.
- Continue land application until implementation of bio-processing.  
Do not utilize land treatment unless it is proven beneficial for specific purposes.
- Reduce landfilling of sludge which is currently only about 0.2% of total solid waste disposed. The DETCOG planning region currently does not have a sludge facility in place, but encourages the development of such a facility.

D. Incineration

At the present time the use of incineration in the DETCOG region is very limited. This is mainly due to environmental/air quality issues.

- (3) Household Hazardous Waste produced in the region is transported out of the region for disposal. Area landfills do not accept hazardous wastes. Producers of hazardous waste are responsible for disposal. Existing programs for the collection of HHW appear to be adequate for the DETCOG planning region at this time.
- (4) DETCOG will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) DETCOG recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) DETCOG's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - DETCOG will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG)  
COG Number 6  
Document: Volume I - Regional Plan  
Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for ETCOG.  
Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the ETCOG region and they pertain to cost-effective transportation and disposal, illegal dumping, waste minimization, participation in discussions that lead to decisions about the management of municipal solid waste, and encouragement of local planning activities. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

#### Standard

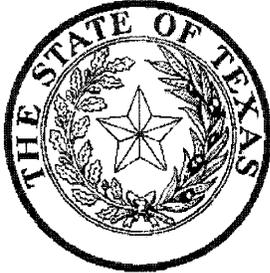
Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

Teres Jimenez (512) 239-1480  
MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: East Texas Council of Governments  
Stoneridge Plaza Office Building  
3800 Stone Road  
Kilgore, TX 75662

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

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For the Commission

## **VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to East Texas Council of Governments (hereafter called ETCOG). The counties covered under this plan include Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated November 7, 2002, as revised on May 25, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

Goal # 1: Maintain long term, cost effective transportation and disposal opportunities for all areas of the region.

Objective 1A: Evaluate collection services for all cities in the Region as well as all unincorporated areas in the counties with populations greater or near 30,000.

Objective 1B: Review landfill capacity for the 25 year planning period.

Goal # 2: Promote programs to control illegal dumping in incorporated and unincorporated areas and manage special wastes.

Objective 2A: Promote provision of convenient collection and disposal to residents in unincorporated areas to reduce the amount of illegal dumping.

Objective 2B: Recycling and processing opportunities will be pursued for special wastes.

Goal # 3: Develop and encourage cost effective recycling, composting, source reduction, and other waste minimization activities taking place in the Region.

Objective 3A: Regional recycling goals will be developed.

Objective 3B: Develop materials to increase recycling and source reduction for the Region.

Goal # 4: Develop and evaluate institutional arrangement affecting waste management.

Objective 4A: Evaluate the need for more public sector involvement in municipal solid waste management.

Goal # 5: Coordinate Regional Plan implementation and encourage local planning activities.

Objective 5A: Determine the need for sub-regional plans.

Objective 5B: Develop education/awareness programs at the regional level to encourage the overall municipal solid waste management system.

#### B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling and Education

- (1) In the ETCOG region both economic activity and population growth are increasing at a fast pace, and yet still we are showing a downturn in disposal rates. The most likely contributing factors to this are waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. Another factor that could influence the decline in disposal rates is illegal dumping. However, many areas in the region are becoming more active in enforcing litter abatement laws. In addition ETCOG has also provided seed money to local governments for employing litter abatement officers.

There are currently many efforts in our region to reuse and recycle waste including curbside recycling in a number of cities and recycling by some commercial and industrial generators. Also included in these efforts are grants that are given to local entities through ETCOG that pay for dozens of recycling events throughout the region.

Based on estimates developed from municipal and private hauler surveys, approximately 23% of the solid waste within the region is exported for disposal to landfills located outside the region.

No changes in recent federal, state, or local legislation will have any effect on the management of Solid Waste in the East Texas area. The entities that affect solid waste management include the cities and counties that have received litter abatement grants for ETCOG in the past. Through these grants cities and counties have started to affect the waste stream significantly by diverting materials to their proper place (e.g. Recycling) and by making sure that illegal dumps etc. are cleaned up.

All together, advances the ETCOG area has attained in decreased levels of waste generation, and increased levels in reuse and recycling of waste generated (including sludge) appears to be sufficient for the surveyed area. While it is apparent that there is not much room for growth in the area of sludge, waste minimization, and recycling/reuse appear to have more than abundant space for progression, development, and growth into the future in our area. As a result, it will be essential for us to increase education and waste minimization opportunities far into the future, while also increasing our level of recycling and reuse of various products.

- (2) In order to achieve a greater degree of waste minimization and waste reuse or recycling in the ETCOG's region additional disposal facilities will need to be developed in the region to support a 40% percent recycling rate. The types,

capacity, and cost of the facilities required will depend on the types of recycling programs implemented, types of recycled material, and market demand.

Continued efforts by ETCOG to pass-through grant funds will also help to increase the amount of waste reuse and recycling in the areas. These funds can be used for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) pickup, recycling programs, "Adopt a Road" programs, community collection events, building new transfer stations, and carrying off illegally dumped materials to the landfill.

- (3) The program that exists for collection of HHW is provided through ETCOG grant funds and is carried out by TCEQ. If an entity in the region has the need to have a Household Hazardous Waste collection in their area they first need to apply to ETCOG for grant funds. If these funds are awarded, the entity will subcontract with TCEQ. A household hazardous waste team will come to the entity's predetermined location and will host the event from start to finish. This is the fastest and most effective way to collect HHW. There are also other periodic collection events that TCEQ puts on in various areas throughout a calendar year. In assessing the existing programs for HHW pickup it can be said that efforts in the ETCOG region are somewhat lacking and that increases in this area are greatly needed.
- (4) The ETCOG will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) The ETCOG composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (a) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (b) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service;
  - (c) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) The ETCOG's solid waste programs include a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - ETCOG will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;

- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC)  
COG Number 17  
Document: Volume I - Regional Plan  
Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for GCRPC.  
Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Calhoun, Dewitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, and Victoria Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the GCRPC region and they pertain to waste reduction, recycling, composting, options for municipal solid waste management, construction and demolition waste management, illegal dumping, household hazardous waste education, participation in review of municipal solid waste facility applications, management of specific segments of the overall waste stream such as sludge and used oil, the closed landfill inventory, intra-regional coordination, and grant funding. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

#### Standard

Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

Teres Jimenez (512) 239-1480  
MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission  
568 Big Bend Drive  
Victoria, TX 77904

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

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For the Commission

## **VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (hereafter called GCRPC). The counties covered under this plan include Calhoun, Dewitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, and Victoria.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated 2002, as revised on April 10, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

Goal #1: Waste Reduction, Recycling, Composting: Reduce the region's volume of municipal solid waste (MSW) disposed of at landfills through source reduction, waste minimization/diversion, reuse, composting, and recycling.

#### Short-Term Objectives

- Objective #1A: Local governments should cooperatively support the regional composting effort.
- Objective #1B: Promote source separation of yard wastes so they can be more effectively used for composting.
- Objective #1C: Use education programs to promote long-term changes in attitudes about source reduction, waste minimization/diversion, reuse, composting, and recycling.
- Objective #1D: Collection stations, transfer stations, and landfills in the region should accept source-separated recyclables and yard waste at little or no cost.
- Objective #1E: Promote recycling programs and procurement efforts by schools and local governments, and inventory the extent of these activities.
- Objective #1F: Encourage an integrated approach to solid waste management in the design and operation of facilities and programs.

#### Mid-Term Objectives

- Objective #1G: Aggressive waste diversion programs should be implemented to meet regional goals to the extent they are technologically and economically feasible.
- Objective #1H: Develop and implement aggressive waste diversion programs in addition to composting to reduce the region's volume of MSW disposed of at landfills, with emphasis on achieving the greatest possible benefits.
- Objective #1I: Promote source reduction by businesses and industries.
- Objective #1J: Promote cost-effective, innovative technologies designed to reduce waste.

#### Long-Term Objectives

- Objective #1K: Promote the development of a regional electronics-recycling contract.

Objective #1L: Encourage the development of sustainable markets for recyclables.

Goal #2: MSW: Promote sound, cost-effective, and efficient MSW disposal options for the regions, and develop sufficient disposal capacity in the region for at least 15 years.

Short-Term Objectives

Objective #2A: Pursue balanced and cooperative public/private programs for solid waste disposal in the region.

Long-Term Objectives

Objective #2B: Local governments should continue to pursue long-term disposal capacity in the region.

Goal #3: Construction/Demolition Debris: Develop strategies to better handle the amounts of construction/demolition debris produced in the region.

Mid-Term Objectives

Objective #3A: Develop a disaster plan to address what to do with debris resulting from major catastrophes such as flooding or hurricanes, and encourage public/private cooperation and support.

Objective #3B: Locate staging areas as part of the disaster preparedness plan development process.

Objective #3C: Educate builders to reuse and recycle materials whenever possible -- deconstruct buildings instead of demolishing them.

Objective #3D: Help develop diversion and beneficial uses for construction/demolition debris such as asphalt and concrete products.

Objective #3E: Educate builders regarding waste minimization and source separation options at construction sites.

Goal #4: MSW Collection, Storage, Transfer and Transportation: Provide sound, cost-effective, and efficient collection, storage, transfer, and transport systems for MSW in the region.

Short-Term Objectives

Objective #4A: Pursue balanced and cooperative public/private programs for solid waste collection, transport, and transfer in the region.

Mid-Term Objectives

Objective #4B: Encourage appropriate distribution of transfer and collection facilities to minimize MSW transportation costs.

Objective #4C: Encourage the use of existing transfer and collection facilities and the development of new ones to help manage waste produced by the increasing number of households on urban fringes and in rural areas.

Goal #5: Illegal Dumping Monitoring, Control, and Enforcement Programs: Control illegal dumping and littering in the region.

Short-Term Objectives

- Objective #5A: Promote the use of existing law enforcement agencies to control illegal dumping and littering.
- Objective #5B: Identify problem areas in the region, and enforce existing state and local laws that address littering and illegal dumping.
- Objective #5C: Provide training and education opportunities regarding litter laws for law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, and judges.
- Objective #5D: Expand opportunities for lawful waste disposal to help control illegal dumping.

Goal #6: Household/Farm Hazardous Waste: Manage household and farm hazardous waste in a cost-effective, efficient, and environmentally sound manner throughout the region.

Short-Term Objectives

- Objective #6A: Promote the continuance of special collection and cleanup events (such as those previously funded by the American Chemical Council and regional industries).
- Objective #6B: Encourage public and private entities in the region to provide support for special collection and cleanup events.

Goal #7: Public Education: Use education to promote sound, cost-effective and efficient solid waste management systems in the region.

- Objective #7A: Raise the banner for education – develop and implement programs to educate the region’s citizens about critical MSW management issues facing the region.

Goal #8: Facility Siting: The Regional Environmental Resources Advisory Committee should review and comment on all permit applications for MSW management facilities in the region.

Short-Term Objectives

- Objective #8A: Implement and consistently apply a set of streamlined factors and procedures for review of MSW permit and registration applications for conformance with plan goals and objectives and general land use compatibility.
- Objective #8B: Encourage the expansion and further development of existing disposal facilities over the siting of new facilities.
- Objective #8C: Protect water and other environmental resources from the potential adverse impacts of siting MSW landfills and other disposal facilities.
- Objective #8D: Evaluate facility design and operating plans considering the impact on the residents in close proximity to the facility and encourage appropriate measures to minimize the impact.

Goal #9: Special Wastes: Maximize the reuse and beneficial use of the region’s special wastes.

Short-Term Objectives

- Objective #9A: Promote land application and composting of municipal treatment plant sludge.
- Objective #9B: Support existing special waste programs such as “Don’t Be Crude” by helping them expand throughout the region.

Mid-Term Objectives

- Objective #9C: Support efforts for effectively managing special wastes, on local, county, and regional levels.
- Goal #10: Closed Landfill Inventory: Assure that the region’s closed landfills as listed in the Closed Landfill Inventory do not pose risks to the region’s citizens.

Short-Term Objectives

- Objective #10A: Make the initial risk assessment included in this amended plan readily available to government entities and interested citizens.

Long-Term Objectives

- Objective #10B: Consider seeking funding for more in-depth research into those closed landfill sites with a potential “Risk Rank” of one.
- Goal#11: Coordination in the Golden Crescent Region: GCRPC and all entities involved with solid waste management in the region must coordinate and cooperate to implement this plan effectively and efficiently.

Short-Term Objectives

- Objective #11A: GCRPC should provide technical assistance to local governments, businesses, and institutions in identifying and implementing source reduction, composting, reuse/recycling, and household and small quantity generator hazardous waste management strategies.
- Objective #11B: Pursue the cooperation and involvement of public and private interests in the effective management of solid waste in the region.

Mid-Term Objectives

- Objective #11C: GCRPC should track state and federal funding sources and technical assistance opportunities for public, private, and non-profit MSW management programs, periodically distribute information, and assist in preparation of applications for MSW programs and facility permits.
- Goal #12: Plan Updates: The region’s MSW plan should be maintained as appropriate to best serve the needs of the region and meet the requirements of state law.

Short-Term Objectives

- Objective #12A: GCRPC should make minor revisions to the plan as needed.
- Objective #12B: GCRPC should develop regional plan implementation status reports at least on a biennial basis, and provide these reports to TCEQ.
- Objective #12C: GCRPC should maintain a current database of all public and private solid waste management facilities, program, and service providers serving the region to facilitate plan updates.

Mid-Term Objectives

- Objective #12D: GCRPC should conduct a major review of the plan on a four-year basis.
- Goal #13: Grant Funding: The application, review and approval of pass-through grant funding will closely track the goals, objectives and actions of this plan.

Short-Term Objectives

- Objective #13A: The application, review, and approval of pass-through grant funding will closely track the goals, objectives, and recommended actions of this plan, with emphasis placed on addressing critical needs in the region.
- Objective #13B: Applicants for regional and pass-through grant funding will be directed to the goals, objectives, and recommended actions identified in this plan.
- Objective #13C: Continue the current review process for grant funding for regional and local programs and projects.
- Objective 13D: The RERAC and GCRPC staff will make every effort to judiciously expend all grant resources available to it in a cost-effective, democratic, plan-reflective manner.

Mid-Term Objectives

- Objective 13E: The region should assess the need for more formal cooperative administrative structures for multi-jurisdictional programs.

B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) The Golden Crescent Region continues to place minimization on the front burner through school contests, recycling promotions, technical public assistance, continued recycling programs, new programs for yard waste and composting, and several other avenues of recycling. The region has a sludge program that advances end product into city manned composting program. Currently, TCEQ has another permit request for waste sludge that will enhance the same program. The reuse of this material will greatly enhance the Regional Amended Solid Waste Management Plan. Our current efforts to minimize municipal solid waste, including sludge, and efforts to reuse or recycle waste appear to be adequate at this time.
- (2) Increased public education on all matters related to recycling and composting landfill materials should be a plus. Initiating a recycling center in each municipality of our region

will also enhance the program tremendously. It is a general feeling that keeping tipping fees low at landfills can spark an interest in recycling and composting.

- (3) The cities of Victoria and Port Lavaca have a joint Household Hazardous Waste Day in April every year. It is probably the most successful event in the region, utilizing over 100 volunteers and collecting huge amounts of materials. This event produces much activity in the region and is going to be around for many years. We have incorporated a business E-Waste collection day on the Friday before the actual HHW Day and a separate E-Waste collection for the public on the actual day (Saturday). The current and proposed programs for household hazardous waste appear to be adequate at this time.
- (4) GCRPC will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) GCRPC recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) GCRPC's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - GCRPC will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG)  
COG Number 11  
Document: Volume I - Regional Plan  
Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for HOTCOG.  
Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and McLennan Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the HOTCOG region and they pertain to integrated solid waste management, education, funding, and household hazardous waste management. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

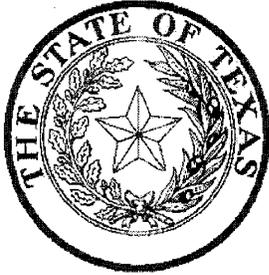
Standard Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

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MSW Permits Section



**TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: Heart of Texas Council of Governments  
P. O. Box 20847  
Waco, TX 76712

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Commission

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Heart of Texas Council of Governments (hereafter called HOTCOG). The counties covered under this plan include Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and McLennan.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated September 26, 2002, as revised on September 28, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

A. Regional Goals

Goal #1: Promote integrated solid waste management strategies, as described in the Waste Management Hierarchy, which are appropriate for the HOTCOG region under state and federal priorities and which assure long-term disposal capacity.

Objectives:

- Maximize capacity and efficiency of landfills and recycling operations.
- Maintain and develop adequate disposal and recycling facilities in the region.
- Encourage the development of transfer stations, waste separation, and recycling facilities.
- Encourage the recovery of methane from active and post closure solid waste landfills and the dairy industry.
- Encourage industry research and development of solid waste technologies and provide new disposal capacity where existing capacity is not sufficient.

Goal #2: Encourage public education and involvement on integrated solid waste management.

Objectives:

- Encourage community programs through school curricula, advertising campaigns, environmental projects, and volunteer organizations.

1. Reduce the generation of municipal solid waste through source reduction and waste minimization.

Objectives:

- Encourage composting programs in the region.
- Continue to support state efforts to increase the use of publishing on recycled products and encourage electronic publishing methods.
- Encourage the use of recyclable products under the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program.
- Establish a reasonable recycling goal in the HOTCOG region.
- Encourage reuse/recycling with tax abatement incentives and preferred loan programs for large and small businesses.
- Encourage the development of more collection services and drop off centers in under served areas of the region.

- Promote reduction of non-recyclable product packaging and encourage the use of durable and reusable products.
- Encourage cooperative marketing strategies for recyclable products, reuse, and market diversification when feasible.

2. Encourage local efforts to stop illegal dumping.

Objectives:

- Clarify local government responsibilities and encourage the use of litter abatement officers, with the vision of establishing a regional task force.
- Develop educational and training programs for law enforcement personnel and the judicial system with particular emphasis on areas of the region without enforcement programs.
- Increase public awareness through clean up events sponsored by the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program and through Council of Governments managed projects.

3. Promote public and private sector relationships.

Objectives:

- Promote and support public and private partnerships, collective bidding, continued operation of small businesses, and non-profit recycling entities, and competition in the public and private operation of solid waste facilities.
- Seek state, federal and private funds for the enhancement of solid waste educational programs.

Goal #3: Encourage and promote funding availability to ensure regional and local implementation of this plan.

Objectives:

- Utilize grant funds for local plans and provide updates and distribution of the regional solid waste information system.
- Promote and encourage grant and loan programs from federal, state, and private sector institutions to comply with the plan.
- Implement HOTCOG regional review procedures for permit applications to determine conformance with regional plan.
- Consider possible impacts of municipal solid waste facilities on local governments by incorporating land use factors.
- Encourage local governments to create land use plans incorporating: zoning; population growth patterns; future planning needs; social and mitigation factors; and other factors that may affect the surrounding communities.
- Encourage incoming facilities to review any plats on file in the local government office for development within 1 mile of the footprint of the proposed facility.

Goal 4: Encourage the development of household hazardous waste management and diversion programs.

1. Encourage the formation of a permanent regional hazardous household waste collection facility.

Objectives:

- Encourage public and private partnership efforts.
- Support reduction, recycling and reuse of household hazardous waste.
- Recommend the development and use of alternative non-hazardous products.

B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

(1) Waste Minimization

Recycling Services

Waste collected in the HOTCOG region includes the following types of recyclables: paper products, selected plastics, wood and yard waste, metals, glass, and other wastes. All types of paper products are collected in the region, which include: old corrugated cartons, newsprint, computer paper, white ledger, color ledger, magazines, mixed paper, and other paper. Plastics that are accepted in the region consist of polyethylene and polyethylene terephthalate derivatives, which include: milk jugs, soda bottles, and shampoo bottles. Clear and brown glass items are recyclable within the region, with several recycling green glass as well.

According to the HOTCOG *Local Government and Private Solid Waste Service Provider Survey*, the majority of respondents operate citizen's collection drop off centers, with only 18 percent without drop off facilities. These facilities are available for the collection of solid waste, recyclable material, and composting material comprising, respectively, 8 percent, 15 percent, and 9 percent of the waste stream. The vast majority of respondents host at least one community clean up event annually, with the average frequency of the event equaling 1.75 per year. There are 5 metal recyclers in the region that recycle the following metals: aluminum, copper, and brass, with several companies accepting lead and stainless steel products.

Residential and Commercial Recycling

Six percent of the entities responding to the *Local Government and Private Service Provider Solid Waste Survey* currently have an organized recycling collection service. The three municipalities that offer these services operate under an optional recycling program. Two cities provide plastic containers or tubs to residents, while one city uses clear plastic bags for recyclable materials. Four percent of the respondents indicated that there were no programs to collect yard trimmings from commercial and multi-family units. Thirty-nine percent of the respondents offer curbside yard trimming collection. Approximately one third of the respondents have the ability to process yard trimmings into compost or mulch. Although there are currently 4 drop off recycling centers in the region, there is still a great need for additional curbside recycling programs.

Residential and Commercial Composting

There have been numerous recycling or composting projects started or enhanced through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program. Centralized composting and chipping projects have grown in popularity within the last few years. The City of Waco has seen their centralized composting site continually expand. Since the inception of the solid waste grant program in 1996, HOTCOG has funded a total of 18 chippers in the region.

According to the *Local Government and Private Service Provider Solid Waste Survey*, 39 percent of the respondents offer curbside yard trimming collection. Approximately one third of the respondents have the ability to process yard trimmings into compost or mulch. The chipped material has been used throughout the region in city parks and public landscaping for beautification and water conservation. The chipped material has also been provided to citizens at no cost.

The Cities of Hewitt, Waco and Woodway offer Master Composting and Master Naturalist classes and volunteer opportunities several times a year to encourage backyard composting and to reduce residential wastes. The City of Waco intends to develop a regional compost facility that will process compost from wood waste and municipal sludge from the Waco Metropolitan Area Regional Sewage System (WMARS).

The City of Waco participates in the Composted Manure Incentive Project, which was developed by the TCEQ and the Texas State Soil Water Conservation Board. The city holds composting sales annually to address the nutrient problems in the Bosque and Leon Rivers. The existing programs for residential and commercial composting appear to be adequate for the region.

#### Other Solid Waste Services

There are no liquid waste processing facilities permitted or registered in the HOTCOG. Municipal Sludge waste comprises less than 1 percent of the waste generated in the HOTCOG region. The City of Waco is working with WMARS to develop a regional compost facility that will process compost from wood and municipal sludge wastes. The current and planned efforts in the region to minimize and compost sludge are adequate at this time.

#### (2) Regional Plan Recommendations

##### Individuals

- Practice waste minimization and recycling programs to include home composting.

##### Cities and Counties

- Utilize facilities and programs as appropriate to achieve the regional waste reduction, recycling, and composting goals.
- Practice and promote source reduction and recycling and purchase of recycled material and reusable products.
- Utilize authorized resource recovery and disposal facilities for other portions of the waste stream, which cannot practically be reduced or recycled.
- Utilize and develop, as funds allow, local educational materials appropriate to the county or community.
- Promote source reduction and recycling through organizations such as Keep Waco Beautiful, Keep McLennan County Beautiful, Central Texas Recycling Association, and others.

##### Private Sector

- Practice and promote source reduction and recycling to achieve regional goals.

- Support research and development of processing and marketing use of recyclable products.

#### Sub-regional

- Perform feasibility studies to evaluate refuse derived fuel plants and the types of management and operational structures for regional solid waste facilities and programs to include such entities as river authorities and others.
- Ensure that counties with no disposal facilities have access to a disposal site in an adjacent county.

#### HOTCOG and Other Regional Entities

- Seek funds for recycling related business development, product marketing, and the purchasing of recyclables.
- Encourage river authorities and other regional and sub-regional entities, such as school districts and municipal utility districts, to support and participate in the implementation of the regional plan.

#### Recommendations for State Level Action

- Provide funds for implementation of regional plans including recycling rate reporting, activity guidance, monitoring, and amendments to the plan.
- Provide funds and assistance to help regional and local entities in meeting state requirements for recycling and solid waste disposal.
- Provide educational material and assistance to all local levels including governments, schools, businesses, and individuals.
- Seek and/or provide assistance, including loans and/or assistance in financing, to businesses engaged in waste reduction and recycling related products.
- Identify, enhance, and work to develop new markets for recyclables in Texas.

### (3) Community Programs for the Collection of Household Hazardous Waste

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is managed within the HOTCOG region through collection events. Currently, no permanent facilities, equipped to handle household hazardous waste, operate in the region. The City of Waco has conducted annual HHW collection events through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program and through partnerships with other cities in McLennan County, since 1997. The City of Waco has partnered with Habitat for Humanity, Sherwin Williams, and Home Depot to reuse the collected latex paint for community projects and has made the recycled material available to the public at the Habitat ReStore. The 2005 collection event recycled and properly disposed of 40,000 pounds of hazardous materials. Texas Country Cleanups and other collection events are held throughout the region as well, although additional HHW programs are still needed. The City of Waco plans to eventually develop a permanent HHW facility, which is a long term goal of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

There are 41 used oil collection facilities in the area. According to the *Local Government and Private Service Provider Solid Waste Survey*, 18 percent responded that a program was in place in their area to collect used oil and other types of automotive wastes. The HOTCOG has awarded a grant for the McLennan County Tire Amnesty Day that will be held this September.

Two electronic recyclers provide services in the region. The HOTCOG, the Shelter Alliance, and the Waco Family Abuse host an Earth Day Cell Phone Recycling Collection Event in the spring. Keep Waco Beautiful and Ecophones host a Texas Recycles Day Cell Phone Recycling Collection Event in the fall.

The City of Waco has conducted 10 successful HHW collection events partially funded through the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program. The partnerships with other cities in McLennan County have grown to 5 participating cities.

- (4) HOTCOG will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) HOTCOG recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) HOTCOG's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - HOTCOG will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC)  
COG Number 16  
Document: Volume I - Regional Plan  
Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for HGAC.  
Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the HGAC region and they pertain to reduction and recycling, adequate municipal solid waste management and facilities, and local and regional planning. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

#### Standard

Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

Teres Jimenez (512) 239-1480  
MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: Houston-Galveston Area Council  
P. O. Box 22777  
Houston, TX 77227-2777

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Commission

## **VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### SECTION I -- NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Houston-Galveston Area Council (hereafter called H-GAC). The counties covered under this plan include Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated April 16, 2006, as revised on September 25, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

Goal #1: Promote services and technical assistance support of local and regional solid waste management planning.

- Objective 1A: Develop regional cooperative service contracts such as a regional household hazardous waste collection contract.
- Objective 1B: Coordinate region-wide membership in environmental professional organizations and trade associations with a solid waste emphasis.
- Objective 1C: Assess disposal capacity needs to identify the best approach to meet local capacity needs.
- Objective 1D: Support regional and local efforts to identify areas with litter and illegal dumping problems.
- Objective 1E: Continue to develop and maintain an inventory of solid waste management facilities located in the H-GAC region.
- Objective 1F: Maintain a regional clearinghouse on solid waste management practices of H-GAC local governments.
- Objective 1G: Serve as central point of contact for solid waste management outreach, education, and training programs.
- Objective 1H: Continue development of a regional geographic information system (GIS) for the H-GAC region.

Goal #2: Promote the planning for adequate municipal solid waste disposal, handling, and management facilities.

- Objective 2A: Continue to review permit applications for municipal solid waste management facilities.
  - i. Review compliance history and operational record of permit applicant consistent with state and local practices.
  - ii. Encourage landscaping and visual screening of sites.
  - iii. Advocate aerial buildup with consideration of surrounding topography and screening.
  - iv. Encourage applicant use of the “land use” hearing option to provide opportunities for community participation early in the permitting process.

- v. Encourage consideration of surrounding land use when establishing buffers and setbacks; encourage long-range land use planning at the county level.
- vi. Encourage long-range planning at the county level including adoption of landfill siting ordinances.
- vii. Encourage consistency with local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances.
- viii. Encourage consideration of community growth patterns and trends.
- ix. Encourage consideration of possible impacts of a proposed facility on residents and the local community.

Objective 2B: Encourage the development of facilities that reduce, reuse, or recycle waste materials.

Objective 2C: Encourage appropriate distribution of facilities to minimize transportation costs.

Objective 2D: Encourage the development of larger regional facilities to the extent practical and where such facilities would be the best alternative.

Objective 2E: Encourage expansion and redevelopment of existing municipal solid waste facilities, where feasible, over siting of new facilities.

Objective 2F: Encourage development of transfer stations and citizen collection stations, where appropriate.

Objective 2G: Continue to endorse the consideration of integrated waste management.

Goal #3: Promote the options for reduction and recycling of waste disposal in municipal solid waste management facilities.

Objective 3A: Develop and implement on-going public awareness programs to encourage waste minimization, reduction, and recycling.

Objective 3B: Target waste reduction activities to the major components of waste disposal.

Objective 3C: Target waste reduction activities to certain components of the waste stream that may pose a special risk or problem.

#### B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) Both public and private recycling programs are found in the H-GAC region. Municipal recycling programs typically collect newspaper, aluminum and steel cans, and plastic containers. Glass containers are also collected but not as frequently. Both private and public facilities collect some automotive waste. Used oil and oil filters are accepted at many local retailers as well as at many municipal barns. There are over 400 used oil collection sites in the region. There are liquid waste and sludge transporters in the region. The liquid waste and sludge is managed in several different ways including landfill disposal, land application, and composting. All management methods are in accordance with TCEQ requirements. Many local governments offer organic materials chipping or composting services. There is also strong competition among private composting operations in the region. On a regional basis, the methods to manage and minimize municipal solid waste including liquid waste and sludge are adequate; however, there is a distribution problem as not all counties have facilities located within a close proximity.

In 1992, thirty-four (34) local communities, including cities, counties, and census designated places had some types of recycling and/or waste reduction in place. In 2001, forty-nine (49) communities offered curbside recycling and seventy-four (74) municipal recycling drop-off centers were located in the region. In 2000, 25% of the population of Texas had curbside recycling available. Curbside recycling was available to 23% of the general population or 37% of the homeowners in the H-GAC region. In the H-GAC region, 39% of the population lives in multi-family dwellings and rely on drop-off sites for recycling.

Recycling activities within the H-GAC region are primarily influenced by the availability of markets. Houston and nearby communities have relatively easy access to end-markets. Many large end-markets are drawn to the Houston-Galveston region because of Houston's large population base, which can supply a sufficient amount of recyclable materials to serve as material input. Within the region, the increased collection of recyclables has spurred an expansion of several sorting/processing centers. There are five private material recovery facilities in operation. Additionally, there are two processing centers focusing on workplace recycling. The cities that are in more populated counties within the H-GAC region have moderately adequate recycling options (either curbside or drop-off). However, in unincorporated areas of all the thirteen (13) counties and smaller cities, there is a need to increase recycling and waste reduction opportunities in these unserved areas of the region. The reuse and recycling programs in the region can be located by zip code using the website [www.cleanup.org](http://www.cleanup.org) or the phone number 1-800-CLEANUP.

- (2) Recommendations for encouraging and achieving a greater degree of waste minimization and waste reuse or recycling in the geographic area covered by the plan stem directly from the goals and objectives (listed above) of the H-GAC Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. More specific recommendations include:

- fully identify the populations served by curbside recycling; including municipal utility districts (MUD's) and community associations;
- provide curbside recycling to a larger percentage of the region's population;
- identify areas where drop-off sites are needed;
- create pilot programs for curbside recycling programs in multi-family dwellings;
- develop regional educational programs to include publicly available database of locations, public service announcements (PSAs), and sample brochures;
- establish joint agreements to study and initiate the development of transfer stations for recyclables;
- increase capacity of organic materials composting and mulching operations; and
- conduct market development strategies for organic material composting.

- (3) Availability of HHW and electronics collection services varies greatly in the region. There are both one-day collection events and permanent collection centers. H-GAC also offers regional contracts for collection and management of these types of materials.

A. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Services

There are five permanent collection centers located within the H-GAC region. The City of Houston operates two centers. The other centers are operated by Fort Bend County, Montgomery County, and the City of Pearland. In addition to the permanent centers, the City of Houston operates a limited HHW collection center (BOPA) for batteries, oil, oil

filters, latex paint, and antifreeze. The City's BOPA serves as a regional facility where any resident from the H-GAC region may drop-off materials. The permanent collection centers also offer vouchers to other local government entities that don't offer collection services or only offer them on a limited basis. Local governments may purchase vouchers for their citizens' usage. Citizens may take their HHW to one of the permanent centers as long as they have a voucher. Currently, four other entities are considering permanent collection centers. Montgomery County and Harris County offer HHW collection through mobile HHW collection service. Additionally, yearly collection events are held by other entities in the region. However, periodic additional collection events are needed in the unserved areas of the region. Also, there is a need to increase public education on proper disposal of HHW and more "earth friendly" substitutions for HHW products.

H-GAC has contracted with a private company for the collection, transportation and disposal of HHW within the H-GAC region. The contract covers both one-day collection events and permanent HHW facilities. Pricing includes labor, equipment, supplies, transportation, and disposal. The pricing is based on all-inclusive per container prices. The mobilization costs for one-day collection is based on the number of participants and for the permanent facility it is based on the county in which the facility is located.

B. Electronic Waste (e-waste) Services

Electronic waste, commonly referred to as e-scrap or e-waste, consists of electronics such as computers, televisions, and cell phones. E-waste typically contains metals, such as mercury and lead, which should not be landfilled. There are six permanent collection centers located within the H-GAC region. The City of Houston operates three centers. The other centers are operated by Fort Bend County, Montgomery County, and the City of Pearland. The permanent collection centers also offer vouchers to other local government entities that don't offer collection services or only offer them on a limited basis. Local governments may purchase vouchers for their citizens' usage. Citizens may take their e-waste to one of the permanent centers as long as they have a voucher. Additionally, yearly collection events are held by other entities in the region. Additionally, there are private companies that recycle e-waste within the region. However, periodic additional collection events are needed in the unserved areas of the region. Also, there is a need to increase public education on proper management of e-waste.

H-GAC has contracted with a private company for the collection, transportation and recycling of e-waste within the H-GAC region. The contract covers both one-day collection events and permanent facilities. The contract is similar to the regional HHW contract.

- (4) H-GAC will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) H-GAC recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.

(6) H-GAC's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities – H-GAC will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC)

COG Number 21

Document: Volume I - Regional Plan

Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for LRGVDC.

Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the LRGVDC region and they pertain to reduction in municipal solid waste generation and disposal amounts, responsible disposal, and adequate disposal capacity. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

Standard

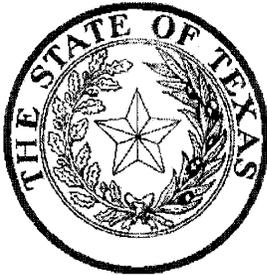
Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

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MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
311 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
McAllen, TX 78501-4705

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Commission

## **VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (hereafter called LRGVDC). The counties covered under this plan include Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated August 22, 2002, as revised on September 18, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

Goal #1: Reduce waste generation/disposal and develop responsible waste disposal practices.

Objective #1A: Minimize illegal dumping.

Objective #1B: Educate communities on recycling and reduce waste generation.

Objective #1C: Expand disposal service to rural areas and colonias.

Goal #2: Plan for adequate regional waste disposal capacity.

Objective #2A: Maintain at least 10 years of landfill capacity throughout the LRGVDC region.

Objective #2B: Coordinate provisions for disposal of special wastes.

Objective #2C: Maintain solid waste data and support sub-regional studies to respond to solid waste needs.

#### B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) The current efforts in the region to minimize municipal solid waste, including sludge, and efforts to reuse or recycle waste are as follows: recycling services consisting of citizen drop off stations accepting general materials such as paper, plastic, aluminum cans, etc. In addition, citizen drop off stations accepting automotive wastes and stations hosting yard waste recycling programs with composting or chipper services are widely available. The City of McAllen is the only entity in the region providing curbside recycling services and even then more citizen education is needed to produce better recycling statistics. There are about six open Recycling Centers in the region and only four cities with composting programs. Cameron and Hidalgo County both have local enforcement programs to curtail illegal dumping. Cameron County is also providing solid waste service pick-up to its rural residents. The City of McAllen is the only entity in the region pursuing efforts to begin recycling sludge. They are currently looking into finding land for the project. All other sludge is currently being land filled.

The LRGVDC recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes to include education and training programs on home composting, community

composting, and composting to address water conservation and storm water issues. The two larger cities in the region, McAllen and Brownsville, have established composting programs and are producing compost and mulch for sale. Other communities also have composting programs on a smaller scale and provide mulch to residents free of charge.

The LRGVDC has developed several composting brochures and provides educational material to interested entities. LRGVDC Staff is also available to help with public education and outreach.

Assessment - The region suffers from an apparent lack of curbside recycling services due mainly to financial constraints. However, a significant effort has been made by city/county governments and the private sector to ensure that citizen drop off locations are available. The main limitations to recycling as a means to waste reduction are limited existing recycled materials markets and limited legislation at a state level requiring recycling. Current efforts in the region to minimize municipal solid waste and sludge and to reuse and recycle waste appear to be adequate at this time.

- (2) The LRGVDC recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes to include education and training programs on home composting, community composting, and composting to address water conservation and storm water issues. The two larger cities in the region, McAllen and Brownsville, have established composting programs and are producing compost and mulch for sale. Other communities also have composting programs on a smaller scale and provide mulch to residents free of charge. The LRGVDC has developed several composting brochures and provides educational material to interested entities. LRGVDC Staff is also available to help with public education and outreach.
- (3) The region currently supports no permanent, ongoing household hazardous waste programs. Periodically, local government or private entities host collection events; however, none of the citizen drop-off stations maintain facilities to accept household hazardous waste. Programs for the collection of household hazardous waste are in need within the region.
- (4) LRGVDC will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) LRGVDC recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) LRGVDC's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities – LRGVDC will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: Middle Rio Grande Development Council (MRGDC)  
COG Number 24  
Document: Volume I - Regional Plan  
Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for MRGDC.  
Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Dimmit, Edwards, Kinney, LaSalle, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, and Zavala Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the MRGDC region and they pertain to reduction in amounts and toxicity of municipal solid waste, recycling, adequate disposal and transfer facilities, effective municipal solid waste management, available and affordable collection throughout the region, participation in the municipal solid waste facility permitting process, and open discussion with local governments on zoning or ordinances. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

Standard Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731 Teres Jimenez (512) 239-1480  
Environmental Law Division MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: Middle Rio Grande Development Council  
P. O. Box 1199  
Carrizo Springs, TX 78834

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Commission

## **VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Middle Rio Grande Development Council (hereafter called MRGDC). The counties covered under this plan include Dimmit, Edwards, Kinney, LaSalle, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, and Zavala.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated August 28, 2002, as revised on October 4, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

Goal #1: Encourage programs that reduce the amount and toxicity of municipal solid waste and municipal sludge, and encourage programs that recycle.

Objective 1: Encourage educational programs to achieve source reduction.

Objective 2: Promote public participation in waste reduction and recycling.

Objective 3: Develop model incentive programs that further waste reduction and re-use and recycling, and promote their adoption.

Objective 4: Encourage educational programs that will reduce the toxicity of the municipal solid waste stream.

Goal #2: Encourage the development of adequate solid waste management disposal and transfer facilities in the region.

Objective 1: Encourage the development of facilities that collect recyclable materials including used oil collection centers, tire facilities, and public composting facilities.

Objective 2: Encourage the development of larger regional facilities related to materials or resource recovery and disposal.

Objective 3: Whenever possible, encourage the expansion of existing facilities that are environmentally safe rather than siting new facilities.

Objective 4: Encourage optimal location of regional facilities and transfer stations to minimize transportation costs.

Objective 5: Make recommendations for developing household hazardous waste management programs, i.e. waste exchange program, etc.

Objective 6: Encourage public participation and review early in siting process.

Objective 7: Make recommendations for controlling illegal dumping.

Goal #3: Maximize local and potential resources for effective and efficient regional solid waste management.

Objective 1: Promote interjurisdictional cooperation among local government and sub-regions for implementation of regional solutions for resource recovery and disposal facilities.

Objective 2: Encourage jurisdictions to accept waste from other jurisdictions.

Objective 3: Consider cooperation between the public and private sectors that provide financing of regional or sub-regional facilities and allows public sector to maintain control over disposal facilities.

Objective 4: Consider the cost and benefits of importing municipal solid waste from outside the region as a revenue producer for local communities to offset the cost of managing local wastes.

Goal #4: Ensure that all residents within the region have convenient and affordable solid waste collection services.

Objective 1: Encourage the development of citizens' collection stations in rural areas that currently lack adequate collection services.

Objective 2: Foster the provision of collection services for recreational visitors within the MRGDC Region.

Objective 3: Encourage educational programs that provide information regarding collection options.

Goal #5: Increase local government input into the permitting process for waste facilities in the MRGDC Region.

Objective 1: Increase local public awareness of private waste facilities.

Objective 2: Increase local voices in the conditions under which permits are issued.

Objective 3: Provide increased information to local communities regarding the operational and management processes of privately permitted facilities.

Goal #6: Work with local governments to determine their level of interest in developing zoning or siting ordinances to address siting of solid waste facilities.

Objective 1: Emphasize to local communities the importance of establishing zoning or local ordinances regarding the siting of municipal solid waste facilities as a mechanism to restrict development of facilities in specific areas.

Objective 2: For those communities interested in establishing zoning or local ordinances regarding the siting of municipal solid waste facilities, facilitate the exchange of information regarding zoning or ordinances that have been established in other communities.

#### B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) Both public and private recycling centers are found in the MRGDC region. Accepted materials generally include newspaper, cardboard, plastic, glass, scrap metal, aluminum, and steel/tin cans. Some of the centers, but not all, also take used oil, batteries, and computers. Approximately half of the cities provide curbside recycling for residential customers. Several entities have green curbside waste programs all year or during the major growing and leaf dropping periods. Composting and chipping programs serve city and county residents throughout the region. Yard and brush trimmings are composted and/or chipped and are used for a variety of beneficial uses. Some collections are limited to used oil while others include oil filters, tires, and batteries. Current efforts in MRGDC region to minimize municipal solid waste sludge, and to reuse and recycle waste appear to be adequate at this time.

The MRGDC region currently does not have a sludge facility in place but encourages the development of such a facility.

- (2) Recommendations for encouraging and achieving a greater degree of waste minimization and waste reuse or recycling in the geographic area covered by the plan stem directly from the goals and objectives (listed above) of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. The goals and objectives include promotion of multi-family housing recycling programs, encouraging commercial recycling efforts in business and government, and using innovative measures to increase citizen participation in existing programs. MRGDC has and plans to continue supporting the reuse of recycled materials in the region.
- (3) Availability of household hazardous waste collection services varies greatly in the region. There is one permanent collection center in the region where household hazardous waste is dropped off by citizens. Several local entities have a contractor who provides curbside collection of household hazardous waste on request. Yearly collection events are held by some cities in the region. Taken together, the various programs serve approximately 50% of the cities in the region and three counties. Periodic additional collection events are needed in the unserved areas of the region. Also, there is a need to increase public education on proper disposal of household hazardous waste and more "earth friendly" substitutions for household hazardous waste products.
- (4) MRGDC will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) MRGDC recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) MRGDC's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - MRGDC will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;

- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: Nortex Regional Planning Commission (NRPC)  
COG Number 3  
Document: Volume I - Regional Plan  
Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for NRPC.  
Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the NRPC region and they pertain to identifying municipal solid waste management needs and developing a cohesive solid waste management organization, source reduction and waste minimization, recycling, effective use of existing and proposed facilities, household hazardous waste, used tires, and illegal dumping and other waste problems. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

#### Standard

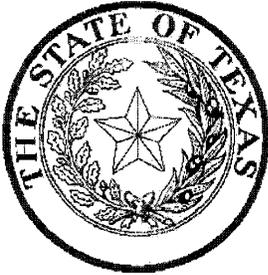
Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

Teres Jimenez (512) 239-1480  
MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: Nortex Regional Planning Commission  
P. O. Box 5144  
Wichita Falls, TX 76307

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

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For the Commission

## **VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Nortex Regional Planning Commission (hereafter called NRPC). The counties covered under this plan include Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated July 17, 2003, as revised on April 26, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

Goal #1: Identify Solid Waste Management needs for the region and develop a Cohesive Solid Waste Management Organization.

Objective 1A: Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) has been formed. The SWAC attempts to meet monthly, but at a minimum meets quarterly to discuss ongoing needs of communities and other municipal solid waste issues. Collection, Transportation, Storage and Transfer facilities, Processing, and disposal are among the subjects discussed.

Goal #2: Promote Source Reduction and Waste Minimization.

Objective 2A: This goal can be reached through development of public education and composting programs.

NRPC recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:  
(A) Creation and use of community composting centers;  
(B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and  
(C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.

Goal #3: Expand the market for recycling and recycling products.

Objective 3A: Identify markets for recycled material and develop programs to utilize these markets. Coordinate and encourage businesses to recycle and use recycled products.

Goal #4: Establish attainable recycling goals for NRPC and develop programs for the effective use of existing and proposed solid waste facilities.

Objective 4A: Encourage entities to conduct waste stream sampling to determine recyclable components and evaluate alternative means of waste

separation, collection, and transportation. Coordinate and establish educational programs within the region to promote the purchase of recycled goods for office use.

Goal #5: Develop programs for the effective use of existing and proposed solid waste facilities.

Objective 5A: Coordinate and promote public and private cooperation with local entities.

Objective 5B: Maintain control of regional and sub-regional solid waste management to achieve objectives.

Objective 5C: Maximize the use of existing facilities.

Objective 5D: Develop programs for the effective use of existing and proposed solid waste facilities.

Objective 5E: Coordinate and encourage the creation and operation of small business and nonprofit recycling enterprises.

Objective 5F: Coordinate, encourage, and promote the regionalization of landfill disposal sites by private and public entities.

Goal #6: Develop a Regional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Management Program.

Objective 6A: Project is idle at this time. SWAC lacks adequate resources to sponsor a HHW program.

Goal #7: Develop programs to provide solutions to other waste problems.

Objective 7A: Develop outreach materials to reduce illegal dumping, etc.

Goal #8: Promote tire center/recycling initiative.

Objective 8A: Provide some type of tire handling/recycling center for region in strategic locations.

#### B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling, & Education

- (1) **Waste Minimization:** The region is currently not achieving the 40% waste reduction goal set in Senate Bill 1340 (SB 1340). NRPC's SWAC feels this number (40% waste reduction) is unfeasible in the NRPC region because of perceived "limitless" open space, transportation costs to haul recyclable materials to processors (most out of the NRPC region), and other factors. NRPC's local governments and private sector waste generators should, whenever economically feasible, consider increasing their efforts to minimize waste through recycling, composting, and source reduction.

The consensus for the NRPC region for a more feasible waste reduction goal is in the 20 to 25% range.

**SB 1340 Recycling Programs:** Currently, many of NRPC region's local units of government (counties, cities, schools, and universities) required by SB 1340 to maintain in-house recycling programs are not doing so.

Moreover, as also required by SB 1340, many of these covered governmental units are not giving preference to products made of recycled materials when making routine purchases.

More efforts should be made to encourage and facilitate the region's local government's active participation with in-house recycling programs and preference purchasing as required by SB 1340.

**Marketing and Transportation of Recyclables:** Continued consolidation and marketing of recyclables will help to overcome the distance barriers in the region and increase the feasibility of recycling in the region.

**Scrap Tire Management:** Illegal disposal of tires is increasing in the region because many landfill operators refuse to accept whole tires for cost, operations, and safety reasons. Recycling opportunities and cost-effective and safe opportunities to shred, split, or quarter tires, as well as educational initiatives, are needed to increase the proper disposal, or ideally, recycling of scrap tires.

**Waste Handling:** Local governments need to ensure there is reasonable access to collection services within their jurisdictions (either publicly or privately provided) as a means of controlling unauthorized burning and improper disposal.

**Illegal dumping and littering:** Through the problem is not yet pronounced in the region, illegal dumping and littering are on the rise. Efforts need to be made to control the problem before it gets out of hand.

**Disposal:** Continued long-term disposal capacity needs to be ensured for all waste generators in the region.

Sludge in the NRPC region is landfilled. There are no known treatment plants in the region with alternatives to landfill disposal for sludge. At one time, there was a discussion with one city in the region about a land application pilot project, but the project was not implemented.

Current efforts in the region to minimize municipal solid waste and sludge and to reuse and recycle waste appear to be adequate at this time.

(2) List of recommendations:

- The region should continue to support local and shared programs designed to reduce waste through recycling or composting.
- The region should use an educational approach to encourage local governments and residents to employ source reduction options. NRPC's solid waste program includes public education/outreach components.
- The region should attempt to achieve and maintain a 20 to 25% waste reduction rate, using a 4 pounds per day rate as the benchmark rate, by the year 2015. The target per capita generation rate would then be 4.375 pounds per day per person.

- The region should encourage more of the governmental units covered by SB 1340 to implement in-house recycling programs.
  - The region should consider the possibility of implementing a cooperative purchasing program as a means of promoting the purchase of recycled content products.
  - The region should develop a Regional Marketing & Transportation System to market and transport the recyclable commodities being generated by the region's local governments.
  - The region should continue to encourage local governments to work together to support shared recycling endeavors.
  - The region should increase its efforts to educate the public on the illegality of improperly disposing of scrap tires.
  - If allowed by the TCEQ, the region should consider undertaking a shared program that will facilitate the proper disposal of scrap tires.
  - The region should encourage its legislators and the TCEQ to introduce state-level programs that will make it easier to recycle and/or dispose of used tires at the local level.
  - Local governments should encourage their residents to take advantage of private sector collection services when those services are not being provided by the local government.
  - Local governments should consider the use of citizens' convenience centers as a means of making waste collection more accessible to their residents.
  - Public education should be used to make residents aware of the social and environmental consequences associated with illegal dumping and littering.
  - Where the problem is becoming persistent, local governments should consider undertaking law enforcement measures to control illegal dumping and littering within their jurisdictions.
  - Landfill operators in the region should monitor their annual disposal rates to determine when the state permitting process should be initiated.
  - To the extent possible, landfill operators in the region should use an integrated waste management system to extend the life of their facility.
- (3) HHW Management: Currently, there are nearly no programs or facilities in place to ensure the proper disposal of the household hazardous wastes (HHW) being generated in the region.

At the present time HHW is collected once a year by the TECQ. Several transport trucks are brought in to collect old paint, oil, insulation etc. Approximately 5% of

the total waste collected in our regular landfills is HHW. This continues to be a problem but one that is hard to totally eradicate. Outside of the Wichita Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area, the County Extension Offices and TCEQ collect HHW on a regular basis.

Given the cost of conducting periodic or permanent collection programs, most of the region's local governments have elected to avoid direct involvement in such programs.

- The region should educate the public on the proper personal management of HHW so that the waste can be reduced at its source.
- When economically feasible, local governments should consider the possibility of working together to cooperatively implement periodic or permanent programs for the proper management of HHW.
- When economically feasible, individual local governments should consider the possibility of implementing a periodic or permanent program for the proper management of HHW.

Programs for the collection of HHW are in need within the region. (TCEQ does an annual pesticide/HHW pickup in the region and this has satisfied needs to date.)

- (4) NRPC will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) NRPC recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) NRPC's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - NRPC will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;

- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)

COG Number 4

Document: Volume I - Regional Plan

Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for NCTCOG.

Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the NCTCOG region and they pertain to recycling, illegal dumping, and municipal solid waste disposal capacity. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

#### Standard

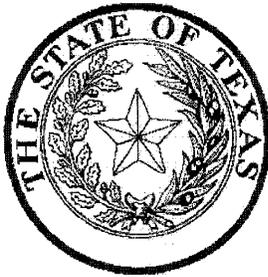
Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

Teres Jimenez (512) 239-1480  
MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: North Central Texas Council of Governments  
P.O. Box 5888  
Arlington, TX, 76005

The contents of regional solid waste management plans are specified in and shall conform to the requirements of the Texas Health & Safety Code §363.064; the plans provide the general structure to implement a regional or local program.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

Pursuant to Title 30 Texas Administrative Code §330.647(a), this plan is adopted by reference into Chapter 330, Subchapter O.

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Commission

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to North Central Texas Council of Governments (hereafter called NCTCOG). The counties covered under this plan include Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant and Wise.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated June 27, 2002, as revised on April 14, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

A. Regional Goals

Goal #1: TIME TO RECYCLE: Purchased materials are reused and recycled wherever possible.

Objective #1A: Increase citizen participation in reuse and recycling of residential waste through innovative programs.

Objective #1B: Create and expand multifamily housing recycling programs throughout the region.

Objective #1C: Benchmark and track the effectiveness of regional and local residential waste reduction efforts.

Objective #1D: Expand commercial recycling efforts in business and governments across the region.

Objective #1E: Promote source reduction, deconstruction, and construction and demolition material reuse.

Objective #1F: Benchmark and track the effectiveness of regional and local commercial waste reduction efforts.

Objective #1G: Use outreach and education programs to facilitate long-term changes in attitudes about source reduction, reuse, and recycling.

Objective #1H: Promote innovative technologies to reduce waste.

Objective #1I: Expand collection and management of special wastes.

Goal #2: STOP ILLEGAL DUMPING: Illegal dumping is significantly reduced.

Objective #2A: Facilitate public awareness and education opportunities to reduce illegal dumping.

Objective #2B: Increase coordination between cities and counties through enforcement groups as well as political and organizational entities to reduce illegal dumping.

Objective #2C: Reduce the number of illegal dump-sites and expand clean-up events through public and private partnerships.

Objective #2D: Promote increased enforcement against illegal dumping crimes.

Goal #3: ASSURING CAPACITY FOR TRASH: The remaining waste is handled in a safe manner at permitted facilities.

Objective #3A: Facilitate the development and implementation of local and sub-regional integrated solid waste management plans.

Objective #3B: Evaluate the need for disposal capacity on an ongoing basis for every area of the region.

Objective #3C: Promote integrated waste management practices and provide ample and convenient collection and disposal options in rural and under served areas.

Objective #3D: Review state permit applications for compliance with the adopted regional solid waste plan.

Objective #3E: Coordinate local, regional, and state partnerships for the Closed and Abandoned Landfill Inventory (CLI).

B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) Waste minimization efforts in this region include curbside and drop-off recycling programs, household composting initiatives and yard waste diversion. Many area municipalities provide curbside recycling collection for residential customers. There are also composting or mulching programs that make use of discarded brush and lawn-litter for ecologically beneficial reuse. Additionally, classes are offered in some communities on how to implement yard and food waste composting.

There are facilities in the region that either accept or pick up automotive wastes. The types of wastes vary but may include used oil, motor oil, oil filters, tires, antifreeze and batteries.

A material recovery facility (MRF) is a processing center for recyclable materials. Since 1990, a number of public and private MRFs have been sited throughout the region. Each accepts materials from a particular geographic area. The types of items accepted for recycling vary from facility to facility but typically include aluminum cans, newspaper, glass, cardboard and plastics.

The chart "Other Solid Waste Services: Material Recovery Facilities in North Central Texas" found in Appendix 10 of *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guidelines* provides information regarding the design and operating capacity of each identified facility.

Approximately eight million tons of wet sludge from municipal water and wastewater treatment plants and septic tanks is generated each year in Texas, according to TCEQ. Within the region, there are liquid waste and sludge transporters. Some composting facilities integrate sewage sludge into the final product.

Although there have been major strides in the attempt to minimize the amount of waste being generated through better reuse efforts and recycling programs in the region, much more remains to be accomplished. Further, the region should develop waste management options of materials such as tires, sludge, and other special wastes.

- (2) NCTCOG is anticipating an increase of waste generation due to the region's expected population increase.

There are several objectives in the plan that focus on a greater degree of waste minimization, reuse and recycling in the region. They include, but are not limited to the following.

- a. Increase citizen participation in reuse and recycling of residential waste through innovative programs.
- b. Create and expand multifamily housing recycling programs throughout the region.
- c. Benchmark and track the effectiveness of regional and local *residential* waste reduction efforts.
- d. Benchmark and track the effectiveness of regional and local *commercial* waste reduction efforts.
- e. Expand commercial recycling efforts in businesses and governments across the region.
- f. Promote source reduction, deconstruction and construction and demolition material reuse.

- g. Use outreach and education programs to facilitate long-term changes in attitudes about source reduction, reuse, and recycling.
  - h. Promote innovative technologies to reduce wastes.
- (3) Collection programs for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) products have been established throughout parts of the region. There are at least two permanent facilities that accept HHW such as paints, pesticides, and petroleum products, and a few HHW reuse facilities. However, programs need to be made available to all cities in the region.
  - (4) NCTCOG will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
  - (5) NCTCOG recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
    - (a.) Creation and use of community composting centers;
    - (b.) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
    - (c.) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
  - (6) NCTCOG's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - NCTCOG will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC)  
COG Number 1  
Document: Volume I - Regional Plan  
Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for PRPC.  
Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, and Wheeler Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the PRPC region and they pertain to source reduction, waste minimization, composting, solid waste management, illegal dumping, the review of municipal solid waste facility applications, and adequate capacity. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

#### Standard

Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

Teres Jimenez (512) 239-1480  
MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: Panhandle Regional Planning Commission  
P. O. Box 9257  
Amarillo, TX 79105

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Commission

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (hereafter called PRPC). The counties covered under this plan include Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, and Wheeler.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated August 29, 2002, as revised on May 17, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

A. Regional Goals

- Goal #1: Promote programs to facilitate the development and maintenance of local source reduction, waste minimization, recycling, and composting programs with the region, thus, conserving disposal capacity and resources to the extent technically and economically feasible.
  - Objective #1A. Implement subregional and local source reduction, waste minimization, reuse, and recycling strategies to meet the goals of the Regional Plan and any subsequent plan amendments.
  - Objective #1B. Develop education/information programs and technical assistance programs to encourage source reduction, waste minimization, reuse, and recycling.
  - Objective #1C. Coordinate with state efforts and develop programs as necessary at the regional level to monitor the success of source reduction, waste minimization, reuse, and recycling efforts.
  - Objective #1D. Suggest minimum levels of recyclables and yard waste collection services to be provided in incorporated and unincorporated areas.
  - Objective #1E. Develop programs to facilitate cooperative and standardized approaches to recycling.
  - Objective #1F. Maintain market development programs that focus on ensuring "high quality and consistent volumes of recyclables," economic development; assisting subregions, local governments, businesses, and institutions in obtaining markets for their recyclables, and coordinating and encouraging state-level market development actions.
  - Objective #1G. Develop programs to support private and non-profit recycling programs.
  - Objective #1H. Develop programs to reduce regional solid waste.
  - Objective #1I. Coordinate with local governments to work toward establishing or enhancing locally-operated recycling and wood/yard waste reduction programs.

- Objective #1J. Coordinate and maintain active in-house recycling programs and routine purchasing of recycled content products. Also coordinate with cities, counties, school districts, colleges, and universities to maintain in-house recycling programs and to routinely purchase recycled content products.
  - Objective #1K. Coordinate with local governments in their recycling and waste reduction efforts to target the key components of waste disposal, including paper, metal, wood, and yard waste.
  - Objective #1L. Coordinate with local governments to improve their ability to document and report the amounts of waste being diverted by their program.
  - Objective #1M. Coordinate with the TCEQ and other applicable state agencies to improve the Panhandle's recycling markets particularly, for waste tires and automotive wastes.
- Goal #2: Encourage regional cost-effective, efficient, and environmentally-suitable solid waste management systems.
- Objective #2A. Develop programs at the regional, subregional, and local levels to facilitate effective communication among local government officials and private and non-profit entities involved in municipal solid waste (MSW) management.
  - Objective #2B. Develop programs to facilitate effective communication between the Panhandle Region and state officials on MSW management issues.
  - Objective #2C. Develop programs to help local governments as well as private and non-profit entities pursue state and federal funding sources for MSW management programs.
  - Objective #2D. Develop education/awareness campaign to increase awareness of integrated MSW management practices and associated costs.
  - Objective #2E. Coordinate with local governments, the TCEQ, and private sector service providers to work toward improving the cost effectiveness of waste tire management in the Panhandle.
  - Objective #2F. Coordinate with MSW facility permit or registration applicants to consider an integrated waste management approach when designing their facilities to support the environmental suitability of the region's waste management system.
- Goal #3: Promote programs to assist regional and local entities in controlling and stemming illegal and improper disposal practices.
- Objective #3A. Develop education/awareness programs at the regional level to discourage open-burning, illegal dumping, and other improper disposal practices.
  - Objective #3B. Support subregional and local strategies that intend to minimize open-burning, illegal dumping, and other improper disposal practices.
  - Objective #3C. Develop education/awareness programs and technical assistance programs to encourage proper management practices for special and problem wastes.

- Objective #3D. Identify preferred regional, subregional, and local strategies for managing special wastes, household hazardous wastes, and problem wastes.
- Objective #3E. Contact local governments to consider the establishment of citizens' convenience centers as a means of improving solid waste management service in the rural areas.
- Objective #3F. Contact local governments to consider the passage of a litter control ordinance and litter enforcement officer programs.
- Objective #3G. Coordinate with the TCEQ and other applicable state agencies in an effort to resolve the region's waste tire management issues.

Goal #4: Maintain administrative structures that will ensure at least some measure of local control over future systems operations and provide an element of control over siting of future landfills in the Region.

- Objective #4A. Maintain the Regional Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee's (RSWMAC's) Conformance Review process to verify if all future MSW facilities are compatible with the goals and objectives of the regional solid waste management plan.
- Objective #4B. Coordinate with the TCEQ to verify if RSWMAC's role in the MSW facility permitting process is clearly defined and understood by all concerned parties.
- Objective #4C. Coordinate with MSW facility registration and/or permit applicants to work toward designing their facility to achieve the greatest possible conformance with the regional solid waste management plan.
- Objective #4D. The RSWMAC will maintain an active role in coordinating and ensuring with future MSW facilities sited in the Panhandle to conform to the regional solid waste management plan.
- Objective #4E. Coordinate with the TCEQ to actively review the recommendations of the RSWMAC regarding the conformance of proposed MSW facilities to the regional solid waste management plan.

Goal #5: Regionally, ensure continued, adequate disposal capability.

- Objective #5A. Where it is not currently provided or easily accessible, coordinate and encourage local governments to make MSW collection services more available in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the Panhandle Region.
- Objective #5B. Develop programs at the regional level to facilitate cooperative and standardized approaches to providing MSW collection and transportation services in rural areas of the Panhandle.
- Objective #5C. Coordinate with local government and private landfill operators in the region to work towards achieving maximum feasible compaction of waste so as to extend the life of their landfill.

- Objective #5D. Coordinate with local government and private landfill operators to consider extending the life of their MSW facility by implementing new integrated waste management alternatives.
- Objective #5E. Coordinate with local government landfill operators to consider initiating the permitting process for a new facility when the expected life of their current landfill drops below 10 years.
- Objective #5F. Coordinate with local governments to work toward encouraging their underserved residents to access the available waste collection services in the region, be they private or public services, to improve waste management in the rural areas of the Panhandle.

B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) Since 1993, much of the effort spent in implementing the Panhandle regional plan has been expended in the area of waste minimization and recycling. The most evident and productive example of the region's efforts to minimize MSW is seen with the regional recycling program initiated and now sustained through the Panhandle Environmental Partnership (PEP). The partnership is essentially a marketing cooperative formed to help spur recycling efforts in the Panhandle. The PEP continues to serve in that capacity today and is helping to support community-based recycling programs in 24 Panhandle communities. Approximately 5-10 percent of the region's MSW is being diverted through recycling programs.

In 2002, approximately 10-15 percent of the region's MSW was diverted through yard/wood waste composting programs.

At the present, sludge from the region's wastewater treatment plants is being dried and disposed of in area landfills in accordance with TCEQ requirements.

Currently, efforts to minimize municipal waste, yard/wood waste, sludge and to recover recyclable materials for reuse appear to be effective and adequate. However, there may be opportunity in the future for developing local composting programs further by incorporating sludge in with the materials being composted.

- (2) Efforts should continue to focus on expanding the reach of the regional PEP recycling program and on maintaining the advancements made to date with that program. Efforts should be made to encourage expansion of the region's yard waste and wood waste reduction programs. Efforts should be made to better educate the public on the waste minimization opportunities available in the region to increase program participation and ultimately, waste diversion.
- (3) In 1993, the region implemented a Panhandle-wide public used oil collection program and established 75 used oil drop-offs; most of those sites are still in operation. The City of Pampa continues to maintain an annual HHW collection event first begun eight years ago.

Existing programs appear to be appropriate for the region. However as HHW collection systems mature it may become practical and affordable to expand the number of programs available in the region.

- (4) PRPC will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.

- (5) PRPC recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Promotion of aggressive use of community-based wood waste reduction programs;
  - (C) Encouraged use of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, wood waste reduction and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) PRPC's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - PRPC will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission (PBRPC)  
COG Number 9  
Document: Volume I - Regional Plan  
Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for PBRPC.  
Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Andrews, Borden, Crane, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Loving, Martin, Midland, Pecos, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Ward, and Winkler Counties the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the PBRPC region and they pertain to municipal solid waste landfill capacity, source reduction and recycling, reuse, availability of transfer facilities, reviewing municipal solid waste facility applications, cooperation among local entities, adequate collection services, and illegal dumping. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

#### Standard

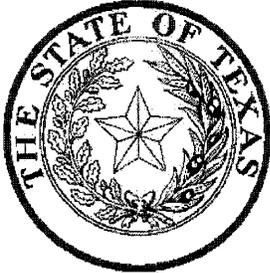
Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

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MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission  
P. O. Box 60660  
Midland, TX 79711

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Commission

## VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

### SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission (hereafter called PBRPC). The counties covered under this plan include Andrews, Borden, Crane, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Loving, Martin, Midland, Pecos, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Ward, and Winkler.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated August 29, 2002, as revised on April 25, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

- (1) Goal #1: Provide for adequate landfill capacity across the region.
- Objective #1A: Provide planning assistance to communities which do not have adequate disposal life in the development of new sites.
  - Objective #1B: Coordinate with communities as much as possible to maintain adequate disposal capacity.
- (2) Goal #2: Encourage waste/sludge reduction and recycling where feasible.
- Objective #2A: Develop programs to archive source reduction and recycling goals.
  - Objective #2B: Coordinate and encourage activities to increase public participation in waste reduction and recycling.
  - Objective #2C: Coordinate and encourage educational programs that emphasize reduction of waste systems.
  - Objective #2D: Coordinate with communities to develop and distribute public service advertisement and flyers.
- (3) Goal #3: Encourage programs that focus on reusing and /or recycling waste produced across the region.
- Objective #3A: Coordinate with communities to develop yard waste compost programs.
  - Objective #3B: Develop Christmas tree recycling programs.
  - Objective #3C: Coordinate and encourage phonebook recycling.
  - Objective #3D: Coordinate and encourage communities to increase cardboard recycling.
- (4) Goal #4: Encourage communities to develop solid waste disposal and transfer facilities in the region.

- Objective #4A: Coordinate with PBRPC members to establish recycling facilities for the collection of materials.
- Objective #4B: Coordinate with existing facilities to develop material or resource recovery operations.
- Objective #4C: Coordinate with regional disposal and transfer facilities to minimize transportation costs.
- Objective #4D: Coordinate with communities to develop HHW management programs.

(5) Goal #5: Encourage involvement by local governments in the permitting process for waste facilities across the region.

- Objective #5A: Coordinate and encourage waste facility applicants to contact the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee early in their planning process.
- Objective #5B: Develop materials to increase awareness of the need for waste facilities on the local level.
- Objective #5C: Contact community members where feasible to determine the conditions for which a permit may be approved, addressing local land use and zoning concerns.

(6) Goal #6: Utilize local resources for more effective regional solid waste management.

- Objective #6A: Coordinate and encourage cooperation among local governments to implement regional plans for municipal solid waste disposal facilities.
- Objective #6B: Coordinate and encourage disposal facility operations to accept waste from those communities that do not have the resources or facilities to properly manage their wastes.
- Objective #6C: Evaluate the cost and benefits of importing municipal solid waste from outside the region.
- Objective #6D: Provide assistance to local governments to obtain short and long-term financing to meet the solid waste needs of the community.

(7) Goal #7: Routinely monitor communities within the region to verify adequate and affordable solid waste collection services exist.

- Objective #7A: Develop outreach materials to promote citizen's collection stations in rural areas.
- Objective #7B: Develop educational programs that promote collection options.

(8) Goal #8: Promote activities which contribute to prevention of illegal dumping, and the cleanup of litter at illegal dumping locations.

- Objective #8A: Coordinate and encourage communities to investigate illegal dumping and prosecute those habitual dumping offenders.

- Objective #8B: Organize community-wide cooperative programs of adopting areas for periodic cleanup efforts.
- Objective #8C: Coordinate and encourage local courts to enforce illegal dumping ordinances or laws to the fullest extent possible.
- Objective #8D: Develop materials to educate citizens of problems caused by illegal dumping.
- Objective #8E: Coordinate and encourage local enforcement programs.

B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) Scrap metal, batteries, cardboard, newspaper, paper, aluminum cans, e-waste, tires, plastics, tree limbs, compost, yard waste, etc., are being removed from the waste stream and reused or recycled. The sludge from area wastewater treatment plants is used for beneficial land application or disposed of in area landfills. Current efforts in the region to minimize municipal solid waste, sludge, and to reuse and recycling waste appear to be adequate at this time.
- (2) It is recommended that we continue to work on programs that will support a market price consistent with our cost.
- (3) PBRPC has one household hazardous waste facility which gives the citizens of Ector County the opportunity to dispose of household hazardous waste at an approved facility. This facility will collect, categorize, store, and dispose of the hazardous materials. Existing programs for the collection of HHW appear to be adequate at this time.
- (4) PBRPC will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) PBRPC recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) PBRPC's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - PBRPC will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;

- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG)

COG Number 8

Document: Volume I - Regional Plan

Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for RGCOG.

Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the RGCOG region and they pertain to the adequacy and proper management of municipal solid waste services, proper disposal, providing technical support for local and regional planning, reduction, recycling, and reuse. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

Standard

Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

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MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: Rio Grande Council of Governments  
1100 North Stanton, Suite 610  
El Paso, TX 79902

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

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For the Commission

## **VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Rio Grande Council of Governments (hereafter called RGCOG). The counties covered under this plan include Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated August 15, 2003, as revised on September 28, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

Goal #1: Promote planning to facilitate adequate services and facilities for the proper management and disposal of municipal solid waste.

Objective #1 A. Identify areas with less than 10 years of municipal solid waste disposal capacity, and implement programs or actions to develop more capacity.

Objective #1 B. Identify areas with inadequate collection, transportation, and disposal and processing facilities and/or services and implement programs to address those problems.

Objective #1 C. Support regional and local efforts to identify areas with litter and illegal dumping problems, and implement programs to address those problems.

Objective #1 D. Encourage the development of local solid waste management plans where necessary to ensure long-term capacity and the provision of services.

Objective #1 E. Review municipal solid waste management facility permit applications for conformance with local and regional solid waste plans.

Objective #1 F. Review municipal solid waste facility locations for compatibility with surrounding land uses, zoning, growth patterns, and community land use plans.

Objective #1 G. Encourage local stakeholder involvement in the review of proposed municipal solid waste facility applications.

Goal #2: Provide technical support and services to promote local and regional municipal solid waste planning.

Objective #2 A. The RGCOG shall serve as the central point of contact for solid waste management information, outreach, education and training programs.

Objective #2 B. Develop regional cooperative service contracts such as household hazardous waste collection contracts or regional recyclables marketing contracts.

Objective #2 C. Assess waste disposal needs and service needs to identify the best approach to meet those needs.

Objective #2 D. Continue to develop and maintain an inventory of solid waste management facilities and services in the planning region.

Objective #2 E. Benchmark and track the effectiveness of regional and local waste reduction and recycling efforts.

Goal #3: Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste disposed of, through waste reduction, recycling, and reuse.

Objective #3 A. Use outreach and education programs as a catalyst for short-term program initiatives and for long-term changes in attitudes.

Objective #3 B. Benchmark and track the effectiveness of regional and local waste reduction and recycling efforts.

Objective #3 C. Target waste reduction and recycling activities to the major components of the waste disposal stream.

Objective #3 D. Target waste reduction and recycling activities to components of the waste stream that may pose special risks or problems.

#### B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) The RGCOG Planning region has ongoing efforts in the region established to minimize municipal solid waste. For example, the region has developed recycling opportunities in every County. Recycling initiatives have existed in the region and continue through municipality budgeting or solid waste grant funding. Also, with grant-funded programs many entities have established recycling drop off centers.

The Planning area has also implemented Yard Waste and Construction and Demolition (C & D) waste collection and recycling. Under these programs municipalities have begun waste separation of yard waste and C & D waste. Separation of this material has been done at the landfill and at the point of collection; area governments have also used wood chippers to divert wood material from being land filled.

Valley By Products is in the process of filing a Type 5GG grease/grit trap waste processing facility. The City of El Paso Water Utilities is exploring the idea of developing a Type 5GG grease and grit trap processing facility. There is a growing need for such facilities in the El Paso metropolitan area to help minimize the illegal dumping of grease/grit effluent. There are no sludge treatment facilities in the region; so all sludge is trucked out of the region for handling and processing.

Current efforts in the region to minimize municipal solid waste, sludge, and to reuse and recycle waste appear to be adequate at this time. There is however a need for a treatment facility in the region for grease/grit effluent.

- (2) It is anticipated that within the Planning Region there will be continued attempts to improve on waste minimization efforts. Many of the entities will continue to find and use recycling markets to reduce the number of recyclables being land filled. The region will also continue efforts to more broadly implement the "Don't Bag It" program in all communities. To improve on waste minimization, municipalities may implement local restrictions that control and reduce disposal of yard and C & D material. To further the efforts of land fill diversion the City of El Paso is exploring the possibility of a waste gasification facility that will generate electrical energy from solid waste.
- (3) The region has had great examples of entities participating in household hazardous waste (HHW) collections, for example the City of El Paso has had great success in implementing HHW collections into their normal services. They have established monthly events for citizens of many communities within the City. Through grant funding other municipalities have also developed HHW collection events. The region is becoming more concerned with how HHW is being handled and it is anticipated that more municipalities will continue to

target problem areas in their communities. In the region most do-it-yourself auto part stores accept used oil and oil filters. This has become an important business practice that will serve to continue responsible efforts in handling this type of HHW. Future cooperative subregional programs may need to be installed so that HHW collection becomes a more economical and effective option in the future. Existing programs for the collection of HHW appear to be adequate for the region.

- (4) RGCOG will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) RGCOG recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) RGCOG's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - RGCOG will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC)  
COG Number 15

Document: Volume I - Regional Plan

Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for SETRPC.

Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the SETRPC region and they pertain to reduction of amounts of waste sent to landfills, illegal dumping and littering, disposal options and capacity, maintenance of the closed landfill inventory for the region, review of municipal solid waste facility applications, regional coordination, funding, state and federal support for existing and new programs, and maintenance of the regional plan. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

#### Standard

Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

Teres Jimenez (512) 239-1480  
MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: South East Texas Regional Planning Commission  
311 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
McAllen, TX 78501-4705

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Commission

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (hereafter called SETRPC). The counties covered under this plan include Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated 2003, as revised on May 3, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

A. Regional Goals

Goal #1: Waste Diversion, Combustion, Reduction/Minimization, Composting, Reuse, and Recycling. Reduce the region’s volume of municipal solid waste disposed of at landfills through waste diversion, combustion, source reduction, waste minimization, composting, reuse, and recycling.

- Objective 1.1: The successful program of incinerating significant portions of the region’s large amount of green wastes will be coordinated and encouraged.
- Objective 1.2: Coordinate and promote source separation and diversion of yard wastes so they can be more effectively incinerated or used beneficially for chipping, mulching, and composting.
- Objective 1.3: Coordinate and promote recycling programs and procurement efforts by schools and local governments, and inventory the extent of these activities.
- Objective 1.4: Coordinate and encourage an integrated approach to solid waste management in the operation of facilities and programs.
- Objective 1.5: Existing waste minimization and source reduction programs will be continued and expanded as necessary and feasible, with emphasis on achieving the greatest possible benefits.
- Objective 1.6: Coordinate with local governments to cooperatively support regional educational efforts aimed at waste minimization and source reduction.
- Objective 1.7: Develop education and outreach programs to promote positive and lasting changes in attitudes about source reduction, waste minimization, diversion, reuse, incineration, HHW management, composting, and recycling.
- Objective 1.8: Develop programs to maximize the reduction and beneficial reuse of the region’s special wastes.
- Objective 1.9: Coordinate and promote land application, use as landfill daily cover, and the composting of municipal wastewater treatment plant sludge.
- Objective 1.10: Coordinate with landfills in the region to accept source-separated recyclables at little or no cost to residents.

- Objective 1.11: Coordinate and promote source reduction in the building industry by educating builders regarding waste minimization and source separation options at construction sites.
- Objective 1.12: New waste minimization and source reduction programs will be developed and implemented to the extent they are technologically and economically feasible.
- Objective 1.13: SETRPC will provide technical assistance to local governments, businesses, and institutions in identifying and implementing source reduction, composting, and recycling/reuse opportunities.
- Objective 1.14: Coordinate and promote cost-effective and innovative technologies designed to reduce waste and increase solid waste management efficiencies.
- Objective 1.15: Coordinate and promote the development of a regional electronics-recycling contract.
- Objective 1.16: SETRPC will help identify sustainable markets for recyclables.

Goal #2: Illegal Dumping and Littering. Control illegal dumping and littering in the region.

- Objective 2.1: Coordinate with existing law enforcement agencies to control illegal dumping and littering.
- Objective 2.2: Provide training and educational opportunities regarding litter laws for law enforcement personnel, prosecutors and judges.
- Objective 2.3: Enforce existing state and local laws that address littering and illegal dumping.
- Objective 2.4: As necessary, continue and expand the use of existing grant-funded programs to control illegal dumping and littering such as sponsoring household hazardous waste collection events, community clean-ups, scrap tire collections events, and other special wastes.
- Objective 2.5: SETRPC will develop and implement programs to educate the public on how to reduce illegal dumping habits and occurrences.
- Objective 2.6: Expand opportunities for lawful waste disposal to help control illegal dumping.

Goal #3: Municipal Solid Waste Disposal. Identify, promote, and develop cost-effective and efficient solid waste disposal options, and ensure sufficient disposal capacity in the region for at least 15 years.

- Objective 3.1: Coordinate with local governments to continue to pursue contracts for long-term disposal capacity in the region.
- Objective 3.2: Provide sound, cost-effective, and efficient collection, storage, transfer, and transport systems to disposal facilities for municipal solid waste generated in the region.
- Objective 3.3: Develop a disaster plan to address what to do with debris resulting from major catastrophes such as flooding or hurricanes.

- Objective 3.4: Manage household and farm hazardous waste in a cost-effective, efficient and environmentally sound manner throughout the region.
- Objective 3.5: Support efforts for effectively managing the region's special wastes.
- Objective 3.6: Continually evaluate and review new and proven technologies for the disposal of waste within the region.

Goal #4: Closed Landfill Inventory. Ensure that the region's closed landfills, as listed in the Closed Landfill Inventory, do not pose risks to the region's citizens.

- Objective 4.1: Make the initial risk assessment included in this amended plan readily available to government entities and interested citizens.
- Objective 4.2: Consider seeking funding for more in-depth research or conduct an in-house review into those closed landfill sites identified in the plan with a potential "Risk Rank" of 1.

Goal #5: Facility Siting. Review and comment on all permit and registration applications for MSW management facilities in the region.

- Objective 5.1: Implement and consistently apply a set of streamlined factors and procedures for review of municipal solid waste (MSW) permit and registration applications for conformance with plan goals and objectives and general land use compatibility.
- Objective 5.2: Coordinate and encourage the expansion and further development of existing disposal facilities over the siting of new facilities.
- Objective 5.3: Conduct studies to protect water and other environmental resources from the potential adverse impacts of siting MSW landfills and other disposal facilities.
- Objective 5.4: Evaluate facility design and operating plans to consider the impact on the residents in close proximity to the facility and encourage appropriate measures to minimize the impact.

Goal #6: Coordination and Cooperation within the Southeast Texas Region. SETRPC and all entities involved with solid waste management in the region must communicate and cooperate to implement the programs of this plan effectively and efficiently.

- Objective 6.1: Coordinate a cooperative, continued, and improved relationship between public and private sectors.
- Objective 6.2: Coordinate activities to pursue balanced and cooperative public/private programs for solid waste management in the region.
- Objective 6.3: Coordinate and encourage private waste management entities, and local governments with privatized waste management systems, to participate more in regional waste management issues and Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meetings.

Goal #7: Funding Sources and Grants for the Southeast Texas Region. Funding sources and grant opportunities will be identified for implementation in the Southeast Texas region that are consistent with the solid waste management programs and efforts identified and recommended in this plan.

- Objective 7.1: The application, review, and approval of pass-through grant funding will closely track the goals, objectives, and actions of this plan, with emphasis placed on addressing critical needs in the region.
- Objective 7.2: Applicants for regional and pass-through grant funding will be directed to the goals and objectives identified in this plan.
- Objective 7.3: Continue the current selection process for grant funding for regional and local programs and projects.
- Objective 7.4: The SWAC and SETRPC staff will make every effort to effectively expend all grant resources available to it in a cost-effective, democratic, plan-reflective manner.

Goal #8: Support from State/Federal Officials. State and federal support for the development, refinement, and implementation of existing and new, innovative municipal solid waste management projects and programs are to be encouraged.

- Objective 8.1: With the clear understanding that SETRPC cannot “lobby” legislators in Austin, it may nevertheless coordinate efforts to seek the support of state and federal officials with regards to the costs and the relative environmental impacts that the various waste reduction and disposal legislation will have on the communities of the region.

Goal #9: Plan Updates. The region’s MSW plan will be maintained as appropriate to best serve the needs of the region and meet the requirements of state law.

- Objective 9.1: SETRPC will make minor revisions to the plan on an annual basis.
- Objective 9.2: SETRPC will develop regional plan implementation status reports at least on a biennial basis, and provide these reports to TCEQ.
- Objective 9.3: SETRPC will maintain a current database of all public and private solid waste management facilities, program, and service providers serving the region.
- Objective 9.4: SETRPC will conduct a major review of the plan on a four-year basis, consistent with state strategic plan guidelines.

#### B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) Generally speaking, the three-county region of Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange enjoys ample coverage of solid waste collection services. Even though there are still a few municipally-operated solid waste services, most of the region’s waste is collected, transported and disposed of by private collection services.

The three largest components of the region's waste stream remain residential waste, commercial waste, and construction/demolition debris. However, due to high annual rainfall, the region also produces a large amount of green waste, up to 25% of the waste stream. Consequently, to minimize its impact on landfill disposal capacity, the diversion of green waste from the waste stream has always been one of the region's top priorities. Currently, much of the green waste is collected separately and either chipped, mulched, composted, and/or incinerated.

All municipally-sponsored curbside recycling programs in the region have been discontinued due to poor participation, relatively high costs, and the lack of reliable markets for recyclables. However, as there are still opportunities to recycle other than curbside recycling - and with the private sector doing a good job of handling commercially generated recyclables such as cardboard, aluminum, and paper, SETRPC will make every effort to establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region as well as encourage waste minimization programs which attempt to realize that goal.

Even though there are some rural areas where waste is either burned, disposed of on-site or are illegally dumped, there are several programs throughout the region that address littering and/or illegal dumping. In fact, several cities within the region have adopted additional ordinances that not only pertain to littering/illegal dumping, but focus on dilapidated structures, unsightly property conditions, weedy lots, and abandoned or junked vehicles.

All wastewater treatment sludge is currently disposed of in local landfills.

In summation, current efforts in the region to minimize solid waste, sludge, and to reuse and recycle waste appear to be sufficient.

- (2) SETRPC's solid waste program has, and continues to provide, educational outreach programs either directly or through implementation grants as part of this effort.
- (3) While there are no permanent household hazardous waste (HHW) collection facilities, SETRPC generally sponsors at least one HHW/scrap tire collection event per year. Along with the TCEQ - sponsored Texas Country Clean-up events that periodically are held in the region, current existing programs of HHW appear to be adequate for the region. All medical waste is transported out of the region and there is one liquid waste processing facility that serves the region for sludge and grease/grit traps.
- (4) SETRPC will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) SETRPC recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and

The three largest components of the region's waste stream remain residential waste, commercial waste, and construction/demolition debris. However, due to high annual rainfall, the region also produces a large amount of green waste, up to 25% of the waste stream. Consequently, to minimize its impact on landfill disposal capacity, the diversion of green waste from the waste stream has always been one of the region's top priorities. Currently, much of the green waste is collected separately and either chipped, mulched, composted, and/or incinerated.

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  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and

(C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.

- (6) SETRPC's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities – SETRPC will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG)  
COG Number 2  
Document: Volume I - Regional Plan  
Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for SPAG.  
Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry, and Yoakum Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the SPAG region and they pertain to the reduction of municipal solid waste at area landfills, composting, household hazardous waste, education, and support for processing facilities for diverted wastes. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

#### Standard

Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731  
Environmental Law Division

Teres Jimenez (512) 239-1480  
MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: South Plains Association of Governments  
P. O. Box 3730 Freedom Station  
Lubbock, TX 79452

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Commission

## **VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to South Plains Association of Governments (hereafter called SPAG). The counties covered under this plan include Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry, and Yoakum.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated July 8, 2003, as revised on April 21, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

- Goal #1: Work to achieve a reduction in waste disposal amounts at area MSW landfills in future years.
- Objective #1A: Establish a regional tire collection system.
  - Objective #1B: Reduce yard waste through activities such as mulching and, composting.
  - Objective #1C: In partnership with others, establish recycling stations and promote corporate recycling.
  - Objective #1D: Increase the number of phone books that are recycled.
- Goal #2: Encourage composting of yard waste and organic waste.
- Objective #2A: Educate citizens on composting's impact on the waste stream.
  - Objective #2B: Provide assistance for communities to obtain funding for composting programs.
- Goal #3: Encourage proper disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW) and other hazardous waste.
- Objective #3A: Hold annual collection days in regional communities.
  - Objective #3B: Partner with other organizations to establish hazardous waste facilities.
  - Objective #3C: Provide education on the effect of HHW.
- Goal #4: Assist county and local governments with pertinent educational campaigns.
- Objective #4A: Form a speaker's bureau to speak to local and area civic groups, schools, etc.
  - Objective #4B: Create educational and informational materials and distribute the materials to the general public.
  - Objective #4C: Inform the community about partnerships on media campaigns.
- Goal #5: Work with communities and private enterprises when feasible to help establish waste processing facilities.
- Objective #5A: Research available funding.
  - Objective #5B: Inform community groups about partnerships on waste programs throughout the region.
  - Objective #5C: Involve community groups in the planning process for new facilities.

B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) Most recycling in the SPAG region consists of sorting and recycling newspaper and plastic bottles and chipping wood debris from trees and shrubs. Several communities in the Region have developed substantial facilities to perform these services. Other recycling efforts taking place in the Region include metal, oil, oil filters, tires, anti-freeze, concrete, asphalt, brick, cotton burrs and seeds, refrigerant, batteries, glass, cardboard, magazines, office paper, and phone books. Wastewater sludge is currently sent to the landfill, although the idea of composting sludge is something that is being reviewed in our Region. Recycling of e-waste is also something for future consideration for our Region. The current efforts to minimize MSW and to reuse or recycle waste in our Region are adequate at this time.
- (2) SPAG encourages waste minimization through use of Implementation Funds for waste reduction projects within the region. In addition, the Region hopes to achieve a reduction in the solid waste stream in future years. Furthermore, an increase in local government recycling would occur if there was an economical reuse market in the Region. Once a reuse market is established, recycling services would increase. Ways to improve the impact of recycling include providing funding for recycling drop-off centers in small communities, providing education and awareness to citizens and focusing efforts on businesses that use large amounts of recyclable materials. In the future, it may be beneficial to provide further education and encouragement to businesses that already recycle, in order to help them continue recycling.
- (3) There is a household waste facility in the Region that helps divert Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) from the waste stream by housing materials that normally go to the landfill or for incineration disposal. In addition, SPAG encourages HHW projects through its implementation funding available each year. The existing or proposed community programs for the collection of HHW are beneficial for our Region. However, the Region might further benefit from more collection days or an additional waste facility at some point in the future.
- (4) SPAG will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) SPAG recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) SPAG's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - SPAG will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;

- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: South Texas Development Council (STDC)  
COG Number 19  
Document: Volume I - Regional Plan  
Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for STDC.  
Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb, and Zapata Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the STDC region and they pertain to capacity, needs of rural areas and colonias, source reduction, diversion, recycling, optimization of solid waste management practices, acting as a resource for state decision makers, solid waste management and coordination, management of specific segments of the overall waste stream such as household hazardous waste, used oil, etc., and review of municipal solid waste facility applications. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

#### Standard

Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

CONTACT Diane Goss (512) 239-5731 Teres Jimenez (512) 239-1480  
Environmental Law Division MSW Permits Section



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: South Texas Development Council  
P. O. Box 2187  
Laredo, TX 78044

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Commission

## **VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to South Texas Development Council (hereafter called STDC). The counties covered under this plan include Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb, and Zapata.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated 2004, as revised on May 9, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

Goal #1: Ensure adequate disposal facilities and long-range disposal capacity in the region.

- Objective 1.1: Evaluate public and private disposal facilities for conformance with state, regional, and local solid waste management plans.
- Objective 1.2: Review applications for any landfill or alternative technology facility permit to verify the integrated solid waste management program conforms to the amended regional solid waste management plan.
- Objective 1.3: Continue to provide grants that promote effective waste transfer, and prolong landfill life and disposal capacity.
- Objective 1.4: Maximize landfill capacity in the region through increased resource recovery, conservation, and waste diversion activities, including a study of regional alternatives.
- Objective 1.5: Through regional cooperation, and to take advantage of economies of scale, eliminate the development of new, small, arid-exempt landfills serving local areas, and focus on the development of transfer stations to transport waste to regional facilities.
- Objective 1.6: The long-term solution to the region's MSW disposal needs is best met through regional landfills, and any future expansions of current landfills or development of new landfills will be evaluated for conformance to this approach.
- Objective 1.7: Evaluate and review new and proven technologies for the disposal of wastes within the region.

Goal #2: Ensure that solid waste management issues and needs and environmental protection in rural areas and colonias are adequately addressed.

- Objective 2.1: Present appropriate alternatives in providing solid waste management services to rural subdivisions and colonias of South Texas.
- Objective 2.2: Consider the use of citizen collection centers to provide a means of waste disposal in rural communities and colonias, as well as a way to help curb or eliminate illegal dumping.
- Objective 2.3: Seek stronger measures to control illegal dumping of waste in South Texas, including: encouraging law enforcement personnel to enforce laws for illegal dumping crimes; providing training for law enforcement personnel; seeking assistance from residents to catch illegal dumpers; conducting community-based cleanup activities; and providing grant funding.

- Objective 2.4: Coordinate with rural communities to study the specific advantages of developing transfer stations for managing their municipal solid waste.
- Objective 2.5: Coordinate with rural area governments and operators of existing, small MSW facilities to evaluate and utilize new waste management technologies.

Goal #3: Increase public and political awareness of source reduction, waste diversion, and recycling through education.

- Objective 3.1: Continue targeting environmental education to the officials of local governments and school districts, and to county governments, the private sector, the general public, and Mexico.
- Objective 3.2: Support and continue developing permanent solid waste management coordinator positions within local governments.

Goal #4: Encourage efficient, effective, and equitable solid waste management practices and actions in the South Texas region.

- Objective 4.1: Continue to coordinate and encourage counties and municipalities in South Texas to ensure that adequate solid waste services are available to all residents within their jurisdictions.
- Objective 4.2: Coordinate with residential waste collection, transfer, and transportation entities to improve overall systems.
- Objective 4.3: Develop a disaster plan to address wastes resulting from major catastrophes.
- Objective 4.4: Develop a comprehensive study of waste flows in the South Texas region, and maquiladora and industrial waste management practices.
- Objective 4.5: Evaluate the closed landfills as listed in the Closed Landfill Inventory to determine any risks posed to the region's citizens.

Goal #5: Encourage regional support of state legislation pertaining to the development, promotion, and advancement of source reduction, waste diversion, and recycling.

- Objective 5.1: Coordinate with local governments in the region to demonstrate to the Legislature the need for continued solid waste management grant funding, changes in the threshold amount for small COGs, and changes in the funding allocation formula.

Goal #6: Increase waste diversion and recycling in the South Texas region; establish local waste diversion recycling goals that best represent individual planning unit needs and capabilities; and continue support of long-term planning for waste diversion and recycling activities, market development, and innovative technologies in the region.

- Objective 6.1: Support measures through implementation projects, etc., that can achieve the greatest solid waste management benefits/results, such as source reduction, waste diversion, and recycling.
- Objective 6.2: Coordinate and encourage utilization of shredders and chippers for diversion and volume reduction of yard waste, including funding of such projects.
- Objective 6.3: Coordinate and promote source separation of yard waste so that it can be more effectively used in chipping and composting programs.

- Objective 6.4: Coordinate and encourage development of local school district and local government source reduction and waste diversion programs, and monitor the results of these efforts.
- Objective 6.5: Continue and expand existing waste diversion and reduction programs as necessary and feasible.
- Objective 6.6: Support development and implementation of new waste diversion and reduction programs to the extent technologically and economically feasible.
- Objective 6.7: Coordinate and promote source reduction in the building industry by educating builders on waste minimization and source separation methods at construction sites.
- Objective 6.8: Coordinate and encourage the private sector to become involved in source reduction and waste minimization.
- Objective 6.9: Coordinate, explore and encourage stable markets for recyclable materials generated within the South Texas region.

Goal #7: Encourage international cooperation along the common border with Mexico and within the region to work toward better waste management methods.

- Objective 7.1: Coordinate and develop greater association with Mexico's bordering cities to address relevant solid waste management issues and topics.
- Objective 7.2: Develop bilingual information and seminar/workshop materials relevant to solid waste management issues and topics.
- Objective 7.3: Coordinate, promote and encourage intergovernmental meetings and agreements to improve integrated solid waste management in South Texas.

Goal #8: Continue to support the role of solid waste management planning and coordination in the South Texas region.

- Objective 8.1: STDC will maintain a solid waste management regional data clearing house, including provision of technical assistance.
- Objective 8.2: STDC will maintain the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) and coordinate meetings as needed.
- Objective 8.3: STDC will make the initial risk assessment included in this amended plan readily available to the government entities and interested citizens.
- Objective 8.4: STDC will review applications and evaluate whether they closely track the goals, recommendations, and action plan of the amended regional solid waste management plan.
- Objective 8.5: Consider projects for funding and make every effort to effectively expend all grant resources in a democratic, plan-reflective manner.
- Objective 8.6: Coordinate and encourage the integration of local plans with the goals and recommendations in the amended plan.
- Objective 8.7: Coordinate and continue/improve a cooperative relationship between public and private sectors.
- Objective 8.8: Coordinate and pursue balanced and cooperative public/private programs for solid waste management in the region.
- Objective 8.9: STDC will make minor revisions to the regional solid waste management plan as needed and develop implementation status reports at least on a biennial basis and provide them to TCEQ.

Goal #9: Ensure that special wastes are managed in an efficient, effective, and environmentally sound manner.

- Objective 9.1: Consider development of HHW collection programs and facilities in the South Texas region.
- Objective 9.2: Establish public used oil and used oil filter collection programs as part of developing strategies for prohibiting the disposal of automotive wastes in the region's landfills.
- Objective 9.3: Coordinate and encourage the development of a sludge/yard waste alternative beneficial reuse facility in the City of Laredo.
- Objective 9.4: Coordinate and encourage better management of municipal sludge and agricultural wastes for the South Texas region.

Goal #10: The SWAC will review and comment on all permit applications for MSW management facilities in the region.

- Objective 10.1: Implement and consistently apply a set of streamlined factors and procedures for review of MSW permit and registration applications for conformance with Plan goals and recommendations and general land use compatibility.
- Objective 10.2: Evaluate the potential adverse impacts of siting MSW landfills and other disposal facilities in order to protect water and other environmental resources.
- Objective 10.3: Evaluate the facility design and operating plans to consider the impact on the residents in close proximity to the facility and encourage appropriate measures to minimize impacts.

#### B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) There are currently a number of private liquid waste transporters permitted in the South Texas region who handle a variety of liquid wastes, including septic tank waste, grease trap waste, and sludge from water and wastewater treatment plants. Additionally, city and county generated sludge transporters and special waste transporters such as used oil transporters provide transfer/transport services within the region. Additionally, there are two registered scrap tire processors in the South Texas region located in the City of Laredo. There is still a need to continue efforts with handling liquid wastes and transporting/transferring generated sludge.

The South Texas region supports recycling in region. The most popular material recycled throughout the region by far is cardboard. Ferrous metal and aluminum are the highest recycled in terms of tonnage.

Entities that participate in recycling, reuse and waste reduction (minimization) programs in the region include cities, counties, private companies, and school districts. Programs range from "Don't Bag It" yard waste diversion; sludge diversion through controlled soil injection, curbside collection, and annual recycling events targeting seasonal materials such as chipping Christmas trees to be used as mulch. Most of these programs are supported by education campaigns.

Although construction/demolition (C&D) debris makes up about ten percent of total solid waste disposal in the region, there are no known efforts in the region to beneficially use this material. In addition to reclaiming usable materials, possible beneficial uses may include clean fill, riprap, and road base material.

Overall, the region over the past several years has experienced an increase in practices that foster waste minimization, recycling, and to a lesser extent reuse. Programs should continue to benefit from the application of such waste minimizing, recycling, and reuse practices, but with an equally increased approach in the use of public education to support such efforts. Hence, there is still a need to continue with waste minimization, recycling and reuse programs, and practices in the region, coupled with increased need for public education.

- (2) Although fairly accurate solid waste disposal amounts are reported for the region, it is difficult to provide a reasonable estimate of the total solid waste generated in the region. Specifically, little or no data is available to assist in quantifying imports and exports of waste, and the state recycling rate data currently available is according to geographic regions not closely corresponding to the South Texas region. The only given in the generation equation is that projected population increases for the region will result in more solid waste requiring proper management.

The three largest components of waste disposal in the region are commercial waste, residential waste, and construction/demolition (C&D) waste. Although several programs are in place to reduce residential waste, the relatively large amounts of commercial and C&D waste may present effective targets for further waste reduction efforts.

Whereas several other regions of the state have experienced increased privatization in solid waste management, particularly in collection services, there is a relative balance between public and private control of solid waste collection in the South Texas region. Still, it will be important to encourage cooperation between public and private interests in the effective management of solid waste in the region.

The combined disposal capacity of the six landfills located in the region is projected to run out by 2018. However, the permit for the large Ponderosa Regional Landfill is currently pending. Starr County recently completed its own solid waste management plan, which recommends options for either closing the landfill and relying on a transfer station, or expanding the landfill into a regional facility.

Recycling and green waste management programs in the region are still growing. The cities of Laredo and Roma have particularly successful programs. The amount of brushy waste generated in the region may warrant a sharper focus on chipping, mulching, and composting programs.

- (3) The City of Laredo Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program (the only one in the region), consists of a permanent facility as well as biannual events, which provide a safe and environmentally friendly way for citizens to dispose of hazardous chemicals properly. This program has been in effect since 1996 and to date has collected almost 314,000 pounds of hazardous waste. Another program, known as the Computer & Electronics Recycling Program, allows citizens to dispose of their outdated consumer electronics. This electronic waste, or e-waste, contains hazardous materials such as mercury, cadmium, and lead that can contaminate our environment if disposed of

incorrectly. This program has helped citizens rid their closets and garages of over 200,000 pounds of old computers, VCRs, TVs, stereos, and cell phones. The aforementioned programs have helped keep hazardous wastes from households from polluting our environment. Finally, the City of Laredo Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program has developed a hazardous waste collection program for small businesses. Through the Small Business Hazardous Waste Collection Program, the program helps small businesses dispose of hazardous wastes properly, as well as helping small business owners reduce the amount of hazardous waste that they produce. Through this program the City of Laredo has collected over 55,000 pounds of hazardous waste from small businesses.

Although the urban districts of the region are well serviced with the availability of established Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) programs, the rural sectors are lacking in such programs. Greater efforts in providing the under-served portions of the region, especially those associated with high Colonia communities should be encouraged, planned, and implemented in the future. STDC needs to continue public education associated directly with the benefits of HHW programs and the proper disposal of household hazardous waste.

- (4) The STDC will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) The STDC recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) The STDC's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities – STDC will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and

- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG)

COG Number 22

Document: Volume I - Regional Plan

Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for TCOG.

Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the TCOG region and they pertain to illegal dumping, source reduction, waste minimization, reuse, recycling, composting, and adequate municipal solid waste management systems. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

Standard

Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

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## **VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### SECTION I -- NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG). The counties covered under this plan include Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated August 15, 2002, as revised on April 5, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II -- REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

Goal #1: Promote programs to assist regional and local entities in controlling and stemming illegal and improper disposal practices.

Objective #1A: Coordinate education/awareness programs for citizens discouraging illegal dumping, open burning, and other improper disposal practices.

Objective #1B: Coordinate education/awareness programs to inform residents about alternatives to hazardous home products.

Objective #1C: Coordinate education/awareness programs to inform small quantity generators.

Objective #1D: Assist local governments in developing plans for management of special waste.

Objective #1E: Institute region "dump stoppers" hotline and reward system.

Goal #2: Encourage local source reduction, waste minimization, reuse, recycling, and composting programs to conserve disposal capacity and resources.

Objective #2A: Initiate a study to evaluate regional collection, transportation, processing, and marketing options.

Objective #2B: Coordinate yard-waste composting sites at existing landfills.

Objective #2C: Provide technical assistance to local governments, businesses, and institutions identifying and implementing source reduction, waste minimization, reuse and recycling strategies, including use of drop off recycling center.

Objective #2D: Coordinate with governments and school districts to adopt internal source reduction, reuse, recycling, and recycled content procurement policies and programs.

Objective #2E: Develop education/awareness programs targeting proper methods or preparing recyclables, encouraging consumers to "pre-cycle" and "buy recycled."

Objective #2F: Develop education/awareness programs targeting preferred options for yard waste reduction/management.

Objective #2G: The amount of Municipal Solid Waste diverted from disposal through source reduction, waste minimization, reuse and recycling programs in the TCOG region should be estimated on an annual basis, and publicized.

Objective #2H: Identify where deficiencies exist in the collection and/or marketing of used oil and tires, and outline regional and local alternatives for dealing with these materials.

Objective #2I: Consider facilitating cooperative contracting agreements between local governments to help collect & recycle these materials.

Objective #2J: Identify the status of local governmental entities' compliance with requirements to establish programs for the separation & collection of recyclables from governmental facilities.

Goal #3: Promote regional cost-effective, efficient, and environmentally suitable solid waste management systems.

Objective #3A: Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)/Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC) shall determine the need for establishment of sub-regional plans.

Objective #3B: Report on the status of implementing their regional plans, through biennial reports to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Objective #3C: Establish priorities for use of solid waste grant funds which, once approved, will form the basis for regional solid waste grant funding decisions.

Objective #3D: Target areas with critical needs for development of local solid waste management plans.

Objective #3E: Address whether further assessments are needed to determine risks posed by closed landfill sites in their regions.

Objective #3F: The COGs' solid waste grant funding decisions should be directly tied to implementation of the regional solid waste management plans.

Goal #4: Regionally, assure adequate levels of transportation and disposal capabilities.

Objective #4A: Consider integrated waste management options, as well as the use of Type IV landfills, to ensure the availability of Type I disposal capacity.

#### B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) Waste reduction, reuse, and recycling programs have been slow to begin in the region, with a few exceptions. Four cities, Gainesville, Sherman, Whitesboro, and Van Alstyne sponsor recycling programs.

Gainesville has collection centers where paper, plastic, glass, metal, brush and glass are accepted. The City of Sherman has curbside collection plus one collection center at a local grocery store. In Whitesboro, materials are collected both curbside and at a collection center. Curbside service is provided for residences and picked up every other week by IESI. New programs are being formed in Van Alstyne (Grayson County) and Bonham (Fannin County). The Van Alstyne program has started accepting recycled goods and has held an "e-waste" collection day accepting computer monitors and other related waste items. The City of Bonham and Fannin County are working together to create a program they call the Beautification, Education, and Enforcement (BEE) program. BEE will focus on environmental concerns including recycling, reuse, and waste minimization.

Continued low market prices for many recyclables have certainly done their part to suppress the development of local recycling programs. More analysis needs to be done to

identify those specific elements of the regional waste stream that can be recycled at a fully-loaded cost equal-to or less-than landfilling.

No regional communities are operating 'smart buying' or other organized waste minimization training programs for citizens. Regional businesses, however, appear to continue making positive strides toward waste minimization through better purchasing practices and process recovery of internally generated waste. Each of the local governments reports that they have established programs for the separation and collection of recyclables in their own government facilities.

In summary, while the City of Gainesville and other cities have made major strides in the management of recycling programs, the situation that was identified in the *Texoma Regional Solid Waste Management Plan* still continues to describe the overall recycling situation in the region: "The state's solid waste management hierarchy is not currently reflected in the region's solid waste management systems. The region's recycling level is currently minimal, despite the various municipal, civic, and private collection efforts. Furthermore, other requirements in state legislation such as those requiring local governments, school districts, and other governmental agencies to start recycling programs and give preference in purchasing products made of recycled materials, will need to be implemented."

No public composting facilities yet exist in the region. The Texoma Area Solid Waste Authority facility has designated an area for composting. Composting may be provided based on incoming waste volumes. Only one city, the City of Sherman, has an active program to address the reuse of municipal sludge. Additional studies are needed to identify where deficiencies exist in the collection and use of municipal sludge and outline local alternatives for dealing with these materials.

- (2) Recommend a study to evaluate regional collection, transportation, processing and marketing options; one yard-waste composting site should be provided in each county at existing landfill sites; technical assistance should be provided to local governments, businesses, and institutions; identify and implement source reduction, waste minimization, and reuse and recycling strategies, including use of drop off recycling center; local Governments and school districts should adopt internal source reduction, reuse, recycling and recycled content procurement policies and programs; education/awareness programs targeting proper methods of preparing recyclables, encourage consumers to "pre cycle" and "buy recycled;" promote education/awareness programs targeting preferred options for yard waste reduction/management; increase the amount of MSW diverted from disposal through source reduction, waste minimization; reuse and recycling programs in the Texoma region should be estimated on an annual basis and publicized; identify where deficiencies exist in the collection and/or marketing of used oil and tires, and outline regional and local alternatives for dealing with these materials; identify where deficiencies exist in the collection and use of municipal sludge and outline local alternatives for dealing with these materials; consider facilitating cooperative contracting agreements between local governments to help collect & recycle these materials; and identify the status of local governmental entities' compliance with requirements to establish programs for the separation and collection of recyclables from governmental facilities.

- (3) The only collection of household hazardous waste in the Texoma region occurs when the Texoma Council of Governments is awarded Solid Waste Implementation Grant Program funding from TCEQ. In the past, the events have been held in Sherman (Grayson County) every year to two years and are sometimes financially supported by Grayson County and the City of Sherman. The COG relies heavily on citizen and private industry volunteers for the community collection events and provides education and public awareness information prior to and during the events. Collection, recycling and reuse activities are also carried out during the events. Typically, only the transportation and disposal costs of the collected materials are paid for with grant funds. Future collection events are planned and may include sites in Cooke and Fannin counties. Overall, the projects to date have been very well received by the general public and have been very successful in diverting hazardous waste from the waste stream. Lack of funding and the uncertainty of future funding have a negative impact on the success of the events due to reduced coverage area (Grayson County site only) and inability to plan for and market future events with any level of certainty.
- (4) TCOG will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) TCOG recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) TCOG's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities – TCOG will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and

- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 13, 2007

### DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL PLAN

COG Name: West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG)

COG Number 7

Document: Volume I - Regional Plan

Request: To adopt a regional solid waste management plan Volume I for WCTCOG.

Authority: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 363.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt plan as requested.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

General: The plan applies to Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor, and Throckmorton Counties in the state of Texas. The goals of the plan are specific to the WCTCOG region and they pertain to adequate transportation, disposal, and other solid waste management systems, source reduction, waste minimization, reuse, recycling, composting, and illegal dumping. Objectives for each goal are included. The plan contains a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste, and commitments to participate in the management of municipal solid waste facilities as the planning entity. A commitment to complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units in the region is included. A commitment to develop a guidance document with which to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance with regional goals and objectives is included in the plan. The plan meets the requirements of the Commission's rules and addresses the proper management of solid waste in the planning area.

Standard

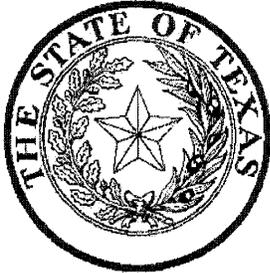
Provisions: Standard provisions are set forth in the final regional plan. Detailed information about the regional plan is contained in Volume II – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline. Volume II is currently in Final Draft form to be approved by the TCEQ Executive Director after the Commission adopts Volume I.

### COMPLIANCE HISTORY

Not applicable.

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## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
adopted under provisions of Texas  
Health & Safety Code Ann.  
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments: West Central Texas Council of Governments  
P. O. Box 3195  
Abilene, Texas 79604

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Commission

## **VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to West Central Texas Council of Governments (hereafter called WCTCOG). The counties covered under this plan include Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor, and Throckmorton.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated November 13, 2003, as revised on May 1, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

Goal #1: Regionally assure adequate levels of transportation and disposal capabilities.

- Objective #1A: Coordinate with local governments in each county to assess disposal strategies.
- Objective #1B: Management methods for grease-grit trap and other liquids prohibited from landfill disposal under Subtitle D should be assessed by Natural Resource Committee (NRC).
- Objective #1C: Coordinate with each city government to pursue the goal of providing convenient MSW collection service at least once weekly in its jurisdiction.
- Objective #1D: Coordinate with each county government to pursue the goal of providing convenient MSW collection service in its jurisdiction at least once weekly.
- Objective #1E: Coordinate with transfer stations to operate in counties without any State-permitted disposal facilities to the extent needed to support a disposal alternative.
- Objective #1F: Assess the need for additional publicly permitted disposal capacity within the region.
- Objective #1G: Coordinate with Local governments in rural areas to cooperatively work toward standardization of MSW collection and transportation services.
- Objective #1H: The need for additional disposal capacity will be monitored in the region.
- Objective #1I: Waste-to-energy and mixed waste composting will be given preference to landfilling to the extent technically and economically feasible.

Goal #2: Develop local source reduction, waste minimization, reuse, recycling, and composting programs to conserve disposal capacity and resources.

- Objective #2A: A study will be performed to evaluate regional collection, transportation, processing, and marketing options including options for residential, commercial, and institutional recycling.
- Objective #2B: Develop a regional material recovery facility to receive and consolidate recyclable material.

- Objective #2C: Coordinate with drop-off collection centers for recyclables to be provide services to each incorporated city of 1,000 or greater population and at each county collection center.
- Objective #2D: Technical assistance will be provided to local governments, businesses, and institutions in identifying and implementing source reduction, waste minimization, re-use, and recycling strategies.
- Objective #2E: Coordinate with local governments and school districts to adopt internal source reduction, re-use, recycling, and recycled content procurement policies and programs.
- Objective #2F: Education/awareness programs targeting proper methods or preparing recyclables, identifying collection locations for recyclables in the region, and encouraging consumers to recycle and buy recycled will be implemented.
- Objective #2G: Education/awareness programs targeting preferred options for yard waste reduction/management will be implemented.
- Objective #2H: Assistance in marketing recyclables and compost/mulch products and developing such markets should be provided.
- Objective #2I: Technical Assistance in procuring products with recycled content will be provided.
- Objective #2J: The amount of MSW diverted from disposal through source reduction, waste minimization, re-use, and recycling programs in the West Central Texas region will be estimated on an annual basis and publicized.
- Objective #2K: The region should support, encourage, and benefit from State-level recyclable market development efforts.
- Objective #2L: Recyclables and compost/mulch market development efforts should be coordinated with other economic development efforts.
- Objective #2M: More aggressive waste reduction programs will be implemented as needed to meet recycling goals to the extent technically possible and economically feasible.

Goal #3: Develop programs to assist regional and local entities in controlling and stemming illegal and improper disposal uses.

- Objective #3A: Education/awareness programs for citizens discouraging illegal waste removal, open burning, and other improper disposal practices will be implemented.
- Objective #3B: Education/awareness programs will be developed to inform residents about alternatives to hazardous home products and proper disposal methods for household hazardous waste.
- Objective #3C: Education/awareness programs will be developed to inform small quantity generators of hazardous waste and infectious medical waste about proper management practices.
- Objective #3D: Technical assistance will be provided to local governments in order to develop plans for management of special waste.
- Objective #3E: Technical assistance will be provided to local governments, businesses, and institutions in identifying and implementing proper management practices for special and problem wastes.

- Objective #3F: Technical assistance will be provided to each county within the region to develop and maintain litter abatement programs to reduce amount of illegal dumping in rural areas.
- Objective #3G: A regional "dumpstoppers" hotline will be used to encourage citizens to anonymously report illegal dumping and other improper disposal practices.
- Objective #3H: Economic incentives will be encouraged for local businesses to accept used oil and oil filters from do-it-yourself oil changes.
- Objective #3I: Large appliances, furniture, tires, and source separated wood waste will be encouraged to be accepted at all MSW management facilities, collected in every city and county, and recycled or reused to the greatest extent technically and economically feasible.
- Objective #3J: Coordinate with local governments and school districts to facilitate and encourage recycling of lead-acid batteries, waste oil, and used oil filters from their fleets.
- Objective #3K: Success of programs to encourage proper management of special and problem wastes will be monitored.
- Objective #3L: Household hazardous waste and small quantity generated waste collection will be available in the region.
- Objective #3M: Special and problem wastes will be minimized reused or recycled to the extent technically and economically feasible.

Goal #4: Develop regional cost-effective, efficient, and environmentally suitable solid waste management systems.

- Objective #4A: Existing regional NRC will be maintained as a standing WCTCOG committee.
- Objective #4B: The NRC and the WCTCOG Executive Board will approve new appointments to the NRC.
- Objective #4C: NRC shall determine the need for establishment of sub-regional plans.
- Objective #4D: MSW management will be coordinated at the regional level and a regional coordinator will be designated.
- Objective #4E: Implementation of regional plan will be monitored at the regional level.
- Objective #4F: Periodic newsletter on solid waste topics will be published in the region.
- Objective #4G: Coordinate with local government officials, facility/service operators, and generators will be educated about changes in State MSW laws, regulations, and policies.
- Objective #4H: Regional Clearinghouse on State and Federal MSW laws, regulations, and policies will be established.
- Objective #4I: NRC will provide input to State officials of Solid Waste management issues important to the region.
- Objective #4J: Local, State, and Federal funding sources will be tracked at the regional level.
- Objective #4K: Assistance to Local Governments in the preparation of applications for MSW management funding sources will be provided at the regional level.
- Objective #4L: NRC will review and discuss MSW grant applications to the State.
- Objective #4M: General/MSW/Management education/awareness campaign will be implemented in the region.

- Objective #4N: Additional education/awareness programs will be developed at the regional level to support MSW management programs in the region and encourage proper management practices.
- Objective #4O: Use of the Plan Conformance/Facility Application Review process and the provisions of §363.066, Health & Safety Code, to address land use compatibility and other local issues in order to avoid if possible, or minimize if avoidance is not possible, adverse impacts from municipal solid waste (MSW) facilities on human health and the environment.
- Objective #4P: Regional plan will continue to be updated.

#### B. WCTCOG Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling and Education

- (1) Several urban public recycling centers and a couple of private recycling centers exist throughout the region, each serving a particular service area. The types of accepted material include but are not limited to newspaper, cardboard, plastic, used oil, batteries, glass, scrap metal, metals, aluminum, and steel cans.

Also, several entities have composting and chipping programs. Yard and brush trimmings are composted and/or chipped and converted into beneficial use. Many facilities also exist that collect automotive wastes. The types of waste collected vary from each facility and wastes are recycled and processed accordingly. Such wastes include antifreeze, batteries, oil filters, tires, and used oil. These facilities are located primarily in incorporated areas leaving rural residents with little or no convenient opportunity to recycle. (Several years ago many rural communities received funding for used oil recycling units to provide for rural customers).

WCTCOG has also planned to establish new composting and recycling facilities in the region as well as the expansion of current facilities. Public education programs of the proper way to compost and recycle will also be developed and implemented.

WCTCOG is anticipating an increase of waste generation as the region's population is expected to rise. Currently recycling is limited to the larger less rural communities. Rural residents need to have access to recycling facilities. Public education on the benefits of recycling and composting is also necessary. Current facilities will not be sufficient for the future.

Per information provided by the TCEQ, approximately eight million tons of wet sludge from municipal water and waste water treatment plants and septic tanks is generated each year in the state of Texas. The west central Texas region has liquid waste and sludge transporters. A few active registered sludge application sites exist within the region.

- (2) WCTCOG recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include and or incorporate the creation and use of community composting centers; adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program developed by Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste used for mulch.
- (3) Household hazardous waste (HHW) collection services are great in need around the region. There are only two permanent collection facilities in the region and there have been sporadic collection events. Recent collection events have had tremendous public response and a great need exists for HHW facilities. There is significant need for a public information/education program regarding HHW collection and proper disposal.

WCTCOG plans to establish and encourage more permanent HHW collection facilities as well as a mobile HHW collection unit within the region. WCTCOG also plans to implement a public information/education program regarding collection and proper disposal of HHW materials and scrap tires.

- (4) WCTCOG will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) WCTCOG recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) WCTCOG's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities – WCTCOG will:

- (1) Encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.

