# Methods for Municipal Solid Waste Diversion: Options for Local Governments

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# Who Should Use This Guide?

This document can help local officials and local governments address rules that affect municipal solid waste management operations to include different types of facilities, additional authorizations, reports, and fees. This publication is not intended as a substitute for the actual rules.

# Authorities and Significant Laws and Regulations

Texas has been authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to manage its municipal solid waste program. Texas statute recognizes and is consistent with the federal municipal solid waste (MSW) rules, but municipal solid waste in Texas is managed in accordance with Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330 (30 TAC 330) and Title 5, Texas Health and Safety Code. Rules governing composting and mulching in Texas are in 30 TAC 332 and those governing recycling are in 30 TAC 328. To ensure compliance with state rules, you can obtain the most current, official copy of the rules by contacting the Secretary of State's office at 512-305-9623. Copies of the rules can also be downloaded from our Web site, at <www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/rules>.

Federal rules for MSW are in Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapters 257–58. These rules can be obtained by contacting the U.S. Government Printing Office at 866-512-1800 or downloading a copy from <a href="http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html">http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html</a>.

# What's Next? Waste Management Beyond the Landfill

Traditionally, waste management has focused on landfilling. However, our natural resources and landfill capacity are limited. The EPA's solid waste management hierarchy ranks methods for waste management in order of preference:

- 1. Waste reduction
- 2. Recycling and composting
- 3. Energy recovery
- 4. Landfilling

The hierarchy puts source reduction at the top of the pyramid to avoid creating waste in the first place. From the waste they cannot avoid producing, communities should try to recycle, compost, or harvest energy. Promoting alternative waste management can conserve valuable natural resources and limited landfill capacity.

# Waste Reduction (Minimization)

The first tier of the model is waste reduction or minimization. Local governments can promote minimization by numerous methods.

 Adequate tipping fees. Landfill tipping fees should accurately reflect the value of landfill property, daily operating costs, and saving for future

landfill expansion. Too often tipping fees are lower than the true cost of sending trash to a landfill. In addition, there is no incentive for citizens to reduce their waste when disposal fees are low.

- Pay as you throw. In a pay-as-you-throw program, trash-collection rates are based on the amount of waste produced. Rates can be calculated by the bag, the size of the can, or the weight of the trash. Directly linking fees to the amount of waste generated encourages citizens to reduce. The EPA's Pay-As-You-Throw: Lessons Learned About Unit Pricing (publication no. EPA 530-R-94-004) is a guide for establishing a local program. It can be downloaded at <www.epa.gov/waste/conserve/tools/payt/pdf/payasyou.pdf>. EPA Pay-as-You-Throw publications (and other materials) can be downloaded at <www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/payt/tools/order.htm>.
- Environmental Management System. An EMS is a method used to plan, implement, review, and improve environmental performance. Your local government can create its own EMS to reduce impacts on the environment while increasing operational efficiency. Some of the major aspects of an EMS include:
  - identifying and prioritizing environmental impacts
  - creating environmental goals
  - considering environment impacts when purchasing materials or conducting operations
  - evaluating performance to reduce impacts on the environment
- An EMS helps a local government identify ways to reduce or even eliminate waste by changing the products or processes that it uses. Not only can an EMS positively affect the environment, it can save labor and money. The TCEQ's guide *A Model Environmental Management System for Local Governments* (publication no. RG-437) can help the local government start developing its EMS. For more information, contact the Pollution Prevention and Education Section at 512-239-3100.

# **Diversion**

While minimization of waste streams is preferred, diversion is the next best thing. Diversion is preventing valuable materials from being disposed of as wastes in a landfill. Diversion is not only better for the environment—it makes economic sense. Reducing or reusing materials saves money because of the decrease in virgin materials purchased.

#### Where to Start?

• **Encourage reuse** at the point of generation. Diverting items from a waste stream is the first step in reducing waste. Discarded items often have value. Encourage reuse at the point of generation before the potential waste is tossed out with the garbage. Simply stated: don't generate the waste.

- **Find value in waste.** Look for value in all waste streams—in each waste stream there is some residual value. For example, when demolishing a building, light and plumbing fixtures can be salvaged and reused in other buildings. Keep in mind that each community is unique. What works for one may not work for all.
- **Promote source separation** where possible. Mixing assorted solid wastes can cross-contaminate useful materials, which will most likely reduce their value. Instead, educate citizens to separate usable materials from other waste streams and use those materials in another part of the community.
- **Start projects small.** Small, low-tech projects usually cost less to initiate, to alter, or abandon if they are no longer practical or beneficial to the community. Additionally, small projects can be a great learning experience for first-time participants.
- Evaluate project needs. Evaluate each project periodically to make sure it is meeting its goals. A true cost evaluation can give planners the information to make adjustments to a project or even abandon it. Proper planning allows for proper determination of needed materials, saving money and using fewer natural resources.
- **Communicate.** Continuously inform the community of successful projects. Everyone likes success, and regular communication will only reinforce community involvement and promote further innovative ideas.
  - ✓ Reduce
  - ✓ Reuse
  - ✓ Recycle
  - ✓ Dispose

# **Recycling Centers**

(30 TAC 328, 330)

Recycling supports the diversion of materials from solid waste streams and promotes the economical recovery and reuse of materials. There are numerous considerations a local government should make before starting its recycling program to best meet the needs of citizens while balancing the cost.

• Materials to be accepted. The first step in planning is to find a market for collected materials. Some materials may require a small fee to be recycled. The community may have to offset the cost of recycling one material with the profit from recycling another. In addition, the local government will want to estimate the amount of material the community anticipates recycling. Some materials may be more profitable to recycle in large quantities. For example, after transporting and processing expense, recycling large quantities of paper may be more profitable than small quantities of metals. Evaluating the cost-benefit ratio will help the local government determine which materials to collect. A good rule is that, if

there is no existing market for a certain material in the region, don't anticipate that a market can be created just because the community's program collects that material.

- **Owner-operator.** The next question is who will own and operate the recycling facility. There are three possible options:
  - 1. *Municipal ownership and operation* allow the local government to control how the facility operates; however, the financial burden is on the local government. If your local government wants to own and operate the facility you should review *Requirements for Nonhazardous Recycling and Composting Facilities* (publication no. RG-410).
  - 2. *Contracted operations* allow local government lands to be used and help ensure solid waste management solution for the contractual period. Although the local government does not need to manage the day-to-day activities, it will have to pay the contractors to conduct operations, and ensure the operations are meeting regulations.
  - 3. *Private business* can be recruited by the local government to establish an independently owned and operated facility.
- **Collection.** Governments that want to start a recycling program should determine what type of collection method meets the community's needs and is economically feasible. Options include:
  - Curbside. House-to-house pickup is the most convenient method for citizens. Citizens are more likely to participate when they do not have to travel to a drop-off center. Curbside pickup can be scheduled on the same day as regular trash collection, or a different day. Transport vehicles are available that store trash in one compartment and recyclables in another. Another option is to replace a trash collection day with a recyclable-materials collection day. This method encourages waste diversion because household trash-can capacity must last longer. While curbside recycling promotes higher participation, collection costs may cut into recycling profits. The community will need to determine if curbside service is worth the price.
  - Drop-off centers. An alternative to curbside collection is drop-off centers, which reduce transportation costs while still serving the community. To make drop-off centers as convenient as possible, consider having stations in central areas of town and developing an easy drive-through setup. In addition, aesthetics are important. Drop-off centers should have adequate storage bins and regular pickup to prevent overflow of materials.
  - Buyback centers. Local governments can partner with private buyback centers for marketable materials. If resources are not available to start a drop-off center, this service provides an opportunity to divert some materials from the landfill while helping to bring new enterprises and job opportunities to the community. Buyback centers are typically associated with aluminum-can recycling, but can be expanded to any material for which there is a viable market.

- Initial and operating costs. Before the start of recycling operations, the local government needs to consider the short- and long-term costs. First, determine what authorizations are needed to start a recycling center. Then evaluate what equipment will be needed: Are curbside bins or roll-offs needed to collect materials? Does the facility need to process the materials received? Will materials be shipped off-site for processing? Next, determine operating costs: How many employees are needed to manage the operations? Are there additional transportation or equipment maintenance costs? Does the city own the property or will space be leased for the endeavor?
- **Siting.** When determining where to establish operations, determine how much land is required and choose an optimal location. Consider space for preprocessing, processing, and postprocessing areas; a buffer zone; drainage; any physical facilities needed, such as a gatehouse; and equipment storage. In finding an optimal location, the local government will have to balance convenience for the customer and potential disturbance to the adjacent neighborhood. A key principle is to find a location where the potential for nuisance will be minimal. Good areas include plots with large buffer zones, semi-industrial areas, and remote parts of town. At the same time, participation will be greater the more centrally located your facility is in the community. Finally aesthetic fencing and signage coupled with trees and low-maintenance plants will improve the aesthetics of the facility.
- **Rules.** There are numerous rules that local governments must follow when owning or operating a recycling facility. A few such rules are highlighted below. For additional guidance see *Requirements for Nonhazardous Recycling and Composting Facilities* (TCEQ publication no. RG-410).
  - Recycling operations are regulated under 30 TAC 328 and 330.
  - According to 30 TAC 328.4 and 328.5, recycling facilities owned or operated by a local government are not required to obtain a municipal solid waste permit or registration, are not subject to storage and processing limitations of materials, and are not subject to reportingquantity requirements of recycled materials.
  - Local governments must comply with general requirements found in 30 TAC 328.3.
  - A recycling facility must not create a nuisance condition.
  - Materials, whether unprocessed or processed, may not be abandoned.

# **Composting and Mulching Centers**

(30 TAC 332)

Composting and mulching are ways to divert organic materials from the municipal solid waste stream, and promote the beneficial reuse of those materials. When starting a composting or mulching operation, the local government should consider the scope of operations.

- **Owner-operator.** The first question is who will own and operate the composting or mulching facility (see Recycling, above, for more information). There are three possible options:
  - municipal ownership and operation
  - contracted operations
  - private business
- Pilot program. Consider a pilot program before starting a larger operation. Starting small will allow removal of unforeseen obstacles before they get too large, as well as determination of the local demand for processed materials.
- **Collection.** When accepting brush from citizens, the local government must determine what type of collection system will be used. As with recycling, there are two major options for collection of brush (see Diversion, above, for more information):
  - Curbside. With curbside collection, the local government needs to determine how each household will contain its materials for collection. Material can be left loose or put into biodegradable bags or a reusable disposal container, such as a trash can or bin.
  - Drop-off centers. Consider whether drop-off centers will accept brush from businesses. If the facility accepts brush from a company such as a landscaper, consider whether to charge tipping fees to earn supplemental funds for operating your facility.
- **Siting.** When determining where to establish operations, determine how much land is required and choose an optimal location (see Recycling, above, for more information).
- **Seasonal fluctuations.** Based on the time of year, the amount of brush generated will vary. Spring and fall—when people are pruning shrubs and picking up leaves—tend to be the busiest seasons. However, December and January may also be busy if citizens discard their Christmas trees.
- **Rules.** Local governments that own and operate a composting or mulching facility must follow numerous rules. A few are highlighted below. For additional guidance see *Requirements for Nonhazardous Recycling and Composting Facilities* (publication no. RG-410).
  - Composting operations are regulated under 30 TAC 328, 330, and 332.
  - According to 30 TAC 328.4 and 328.5, a composting and mulching facility that receives only source-separated yard trimmings, clean wood material, vegetative materials, paper, and manure, and is owned or operated by a local government, is not required to obtain any MSW permit or registration, is not subject to limitations on the materials that may be stored, and is not subject to reporting-quantity requirements.
  - Local governments must comply with the general requirements found in 30 TAC 328.3 and 30 TAC 332.4, and the air quality requirements in 30 TAC 332.8.

- A mulching or composting facility must not create a nuisance condition.
- Materials, whether unprocessed or processed, may not be abandoned.

Beginning September 10, 2009, all composting and mulching operations in Bexar County that do not require a registration or permit must comply with requirements for storage, processing, and notification, and for water-pollution-abatement plans in 30 TAC 328.4(g).

# Type V, VI, VII, VIII, and IX MSW Facilities

Not all waste streams can be recycled or composted; however, there are other waste-management options besides landfilling. Here are some examples of other types of municipal solid waste facilities.

# Type V—Solid-Waste Processing Facilities

## **Examples:**

- Construction and demolition debris recycling facilities. Materials can be separated or salvaged from C&D debris to be recycled or reused. Typical materials found in C&D debris that may be recycled or reused are wood, drywall, bricks, concrete, soil, rock, plaster, plumbing fixtures, non-asbestos insulation, roofing shingles, pavement, glass, some plastics, empty containers, electrical wiring free from hazardous liquids, and metals.
- Grease-trap-waste processing facilities. Waste grease from a commercial kitchen (sometimes referred to as "yellow grease") is most commonly recycled and is a valuable commodity for making animal feed and pet food. Grease-trap waste (sometimes referred to as "brown grease") can be used as feedstock for properly permitted composting operations.

# Type VI—Experimental Facilities

• Experimental facilities are facilities or operations that use a new or unproven method of managing or utilizing MSW, to include resource and energy recovery projects for processes that are not currently used in Texas.

# Type VII—Facilities for Land Management of Sludge or Similar Wastes

 Sewage sludge that is suitable for land application can afford multiple benefits. Organic nitrogen found in sewage sludge is released slowly into the soil as crops grow throughout the growing season, reducing the chances of groundwater pollution. Not all sludges are suitable for land application; however, land application for beneficial use may conserve valuable landfill space.

# Type VIII—Management of Used or Scrap Tires

 If scrap tires are disposed of in an MSW landfill they must be split, shredded, or quartered. Tires cut in one of these ways not only are more manageable in the landfill, but also reduce the amount of space needed for their disposal. In addition, processed tires can also be recycled into other products or burned as fuel.

# Type IX—Facilities for Energy, Material, and Gas Recovery and Landfill Mining

## Examples:

- Landfill gas-to-energy facilities. Landfill gas (methane) extracted from landfill gas wells can be converted to energy which provides a valuable service and has environmental benefits, including capturing methane that would have otherwise been released into the environment.
- Landfill-mining operations can be beneficial for waste recovery. Often, valuable materials (metals, glass, soil, etc.) can be recovered from old landfills and recycled. Landfill mining can also preserve valuable space where disposal capacity is limited.

Type V, VI, VII, VIII, and IX facilities require a permit or registration from the TCEQ. If your local government is considering one of these facilities, contact the Small Business and Local Government Assistance Section at 800-447-2827 or the Waste Permits Division at 512-239-2334 for assistance.

# **Additional Requirements**

# **Registration or Notification**

If a local government's MSW management facility does not require a permit, it may be required to register with, or at least notify, the TCEQ.

- **Registration.** Facilities that require registration must not commence construction until registration has been completed in accordance with 30 TAC 330.9.
- **Notification.** Facilities for which notification is mandated must notify the TCEQ and any local pollution agency with jurisdiction at least 90 days prior to the start of operations in accordance with 30 TAC 330.11.

Contact the Small Business and Local Government Assistance Section at 800-447-2827 to help determine if your MSW facility will require a registration or notification.

# **Supervisor or Manager**

All municipal solid waste facilities that require a permit or registration must employ at least one licensed person to supervise or manage the facility

according to 30 TAC 30, Subchapters A and F. Unless the facility's permit specifically states another level, the license requirement for each different classification of facilities is:

Type of MSW Facility	Level of License Required
Type IX landfill mining	Class A
Type V storage and processing facilities not otherwise specified; Type IX energy or material recovery; permitted and registered compost facilities	Class B
Type VI demonstration; Type VII land-application sites; Type VIII used or scrap tire	Class C

Beginning September 1, 2009, all MSW facilities mentioned above must have a supervisor who bears a level of license as given in the table above unless otherwise stated in the facility's permit. Provisional supervisor letters and solid-waste-facility supervisor-in-training letters already issued shall remain in effect until their expiration date.

The following are exempt from the supervisory license requirement:

- Type IX beneficial landfill gas-recovery facilities
- Animal crematories, dual-chamber incinerators, and air-curtain incinerators operating in accordance with an MSW permit by rule
- MSW facilities exempt from permitting or registration

All MSW facilities must have a licensed operator in accordance with 30 TAC 30, Subchapters A and F, or the facility permit. Field citations will be issued to facilities without required licensed operators.

# **Financial Assurance**

(30 TAC 37, Subchapter R)

Financial assurance enables timely environmental cleanup should the facility owner be unable or unwilling to perform required environmental actions in the future. Most permitted or registered MSW facilities are required to have financial assurance. To demonstrate financial assurance for MSW facility closure, post-closure, and corrective action, the following mechanisms can be used: a trust fund, a surety bond guaranteeing payment or performance, insurance, or a corporate financial test.

# **Water Regulations**

#### Wastewater

To protect the waters of the state, all MSW facilities must comply with the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES). Any liquids that a

facility produces must be disposed of in a manner that will not cause surface water or groundwater pollution. The facility should determine how to handle any wastewater that the operation creates (for example, vehicle wash water or water that has come into contact with waste). If approved by the publicly owned treatment works, wastewater may be discharged to the local sanitary sewer. To discharge directly into the waters of Texas, the facility must have a TPDES permit.

#### Storm Water

To prevent contaminating storm water with solid waste, landfills and recycling facilities are required to obtain and operate in accordance with a storm water permit. Coverage can be obtained through either the Multi-Sector General Permit #TXR050000 or applying for an individual permit. The process to receive coverage under the general permit is much simpler, less expensive, and less time consuming than applying for an individual permit. Applicants for the general permit must develop a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) and then file a Notice of Intent for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity under the TPDES Multi-Sector General Permit (TXR050000) (form TCEQ-10382) with the TCEQ. Templates to create an SWP3 are available online at <a href="http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/sw-construction">http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/sw-construction</a>. For assistance on obtaining coverage and meeting the requirements of the permit, contact the Small Business and Local Government Assistance Section at 800-447-2827.

## **Air-Pollution Control**

#### Air Authorizations

Operating recycling, mulching, composting, or other municipal solid waste facilities may produce air emissions requiring TCEQ authorizations. The simplest, least expensive, and least time-consuming air authorization to obtain is a permit by rule (PBR). A list of PBRs can be reviewed at <www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/air\_pbr\_numerical>. When claiming an air authorization, the facility must first meet the requirements of PBR 106.4. Handheld equipment, such as grinders and saws; heating and cooling of weigh houses; and even stationary engines for emergency power may require an air authorization.

# **Reports and Fees**

(30 TAC 330.675, Texas Health and Safety Code 361.013)

Permitted and registered disposal and processing facilities are required to track and report the amounts and types of waste being stored, treated, processed, recovered, recycled, or disposed, and to pay collection fees.

Reports enable the TCEQ to equitably assess and collect fees, as well as track the amount of waste being diverted from a landfill. The operator must file a separate report for each facility that has a unique permit, permit application

number, or registration number. Reports are due quarterly and annually. It is important that the facility operator submits the required report by the due date: late reports are sufficient cause for the commission to revoke a permit or registration.

Fees are calculated by the executive director using information obtained from the quarterly solid-waste summary report. A billing statement will be generated quarterly by the executive director and forwarded to the applicable permittee or registrant.

For additional information on both reports and fees, see *Municipal Solid Waste Reporting and Disposal Fee* (publication no. RG-289).

# Statewide and Regional Planning

Every council of governments (COG) has developed a regional plan for solid-waste management, which the TCEQ has incorporated into a statewide solid-waste plan. In an effort to monitor MSW capacity throughout the state, TCEQ permits and registers facilities, licenses operators, and obtains facility data under the authority of 30 TAC 330, Subchapter P (Fees and Reporting) which requires all registered or permitted facility operators to report the types and amounts of waste processed at the facility.

#### COG Solid Waste Grants

As part of its waste-planning efforts, the TCEQ provides a Regional Solid Waste Grants Program administered by the state's 24 regional councils of governments. The program funds regional and local solid-waste management projects. See Appendix B for a list of the COGs.

# Inspections—What to Expect

To ensure compliance with MSW rules, inspections by a TCEQ representative are required. Routine inspections are conducted on a standardized time line using standardized checklists. The facility operator or owner can request a copy of the checklist prior to the inspection. On the other hand, if there are consumer complaints, operational problems, or requests for assistance, or the facility is a poor performer, inspections may be more frequent. Immediately following the inspection, the TCEQ investigator will go over the findings with in an exit interview. Then one of three letters will be sent: a compliance letter if there were no violations found; a notice of violation (NOV) with a compliance schedule to resolve the violations; or a Notice of Enforcement if violations are of a serious enough nature to warrant automatic enforcement. Formal enforcement may begin if the violations have not been resolved after issuance of an NOV and no justifiable extension has been requested. If the facility receives an NOV, be certain to respond in writing within the time stated in the letter, explaining what actions are being taken to resolve any violations, including pictures if possible. Send the response to the regional office with "return receipt requested," and keep a copy for your files.

# Appendix A

#### **TCEQ Area Offices**

#### **BORDER AND SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS**

Region 6, El Paso Region 11, Austin Region 13, San Antonio Region 15, Harlingen Region 16, Laredo

Area Director: Ramiro Garcia, MC 174 P.O. Box 13087

Austin, TX 78711-3087 512-239-4481 • FAX: 512-239-0404

# COASTAL AND EAST TEXAS

Region 5, Tyler Region 10, Beaumont Region 12, Houston Region 14, Corpus Christi

Area Director: David Bower, MC 174 P.O. Box 13087

Austin, TX 78711-3087

512-239-2953 • FAX: 512-239-0404

#### NORTH CENTRAL AND WEST TEXAS

Region 1, Amarillo Region 2, Lubbock Region 3, Abilene

Region 4, Dallas-Fort Worth

Region 7, Midland Region 8, San Angelo Region 9, Waco

Area Director: Ricky Anderson, MC 174

P.O. Box 13087 Austin, TX 78711-3087

512-239-6566 • FAX: 512-239-0404

## **TCEQ Regional Offices**

#### 1—AMARILLO

Regional Director: Brad Jones 3918 Canyon Dr. Amarillo, TX 79109-4933 806-353-9251 • Fax: 806-358-9545

#### Perryton Office

511 South Main Perryton, TX 79070

806-435-8059 • Fax: 806-434-8443

#### 2-LUBBOCK

Regional Director: Randy Ammons 5012 50th St., Ste. 100 Lubbock, TX 79414-3426 806-796-7092 • Fax: 806-796-7107

#### 3—ABILENE

Regional Director: Winona Henry 1977 Industrial Blvd. Abilene, TX 79602-7833 325-698-9674 • Fax: 325-692-5869

#### 4-DALLAS/FORT WORTH

Regional Director: Tony Walker 2309 Gravel Dr. Fort Worth, TX 76118-6951 817-588-5800 • Fax: 817-588-5700

Stephenville Office (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) 580-D W. Lingleville Rd. Stephenville, TX 76401 254-965-9200 or 1-800-687-7078

#### 5-TYLER

Regional Director: Leroy Biggers 2916 Teague Dr.
Tyler, TX 75701-3734
903-535-5100 • Fax: 903-595-1562

#### 6-EL PASO

Regional Director: Lorinda Gardner 401 E. Franklin Ave., Ste. 560 El Paso, TX 79901-1212 915-834-4949 • Fax: 915-834-4940

#### 7—MIDLAND

Regional Director: Randy Ammons 3300 N. A St., Bldg. 4-107 Midland, TX 79705-5406 432-570-1359 • Fax: 432-570-4795

#### 8—SAN ANGELO

Regional Director: Randy Ammons 622 S. Oakes, Ste. K San Angelo, TX 76903-7035 325-655-9479 • Fax: 325-658-5431

#### Concho Watermaster Office

325-481-8069 or 1-866-314-4894 Fax: 325-658-5431

#### 9-WACO

Regional Director: Anna Dunbar 6801 Sanger Ave., Ste. 2500 Waco, TX 76710-7826 254-751-0335 • Fax: 254-772-9241

#### 10—BEAUMONT

Regional Director: Georgie Volz 3870 Eastex Fwy. Beaumont, TX 77703-1830 409-898-3838 • Fax: 409-892-2119

#### 11—AUSTIN

Regional Director: Patty Reeh 2800 S. IH 35, Ste. 100 Austin, TX 78704-5700 512-339-2929 • Fax: 512-339-3795

#### 12-HOUSTON

Regional Director: Donna Phillips 5425 Polk St., Ste. H Houston, TX 77023-1452 713-767-3500 • Fax: 713-767-3520

#### 13—SAN ANTONIO

Regional Director: Richard Garcia 14250 Judson Rd. San Antonio, TX 78233-4480 210-490-3096 • Fax: 210-545-4329

# South Texas Watermaster Office 210-490-3096 • Fax: 210-545-4329

1-800-733-2733

#### 14—CORPUS CHRISTI

Regional Director: Susan Clewis NRC Bldg., Ste. 1200 6300 Ocean Dr., Unit 5839 Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5839 361-825-3100 • Fax: 361-825-3101

#### 15—HARLINGEN

Regional Director: David A. Ramirez 1804 W. Jefferson Ave. Harlingen, TX 78550-5247 956-425-6010 • Fax: 956-412-5059

#### Rio Grande Watermaster Office

956-430-6056 or 800-609-1219 Fax: 956-430-6052

### Eagle Pass Office

1152 Ferry St., Ste. H Eagle Pass, TX 78852-4367 830-773-5059 • Fax: 830-773-4103

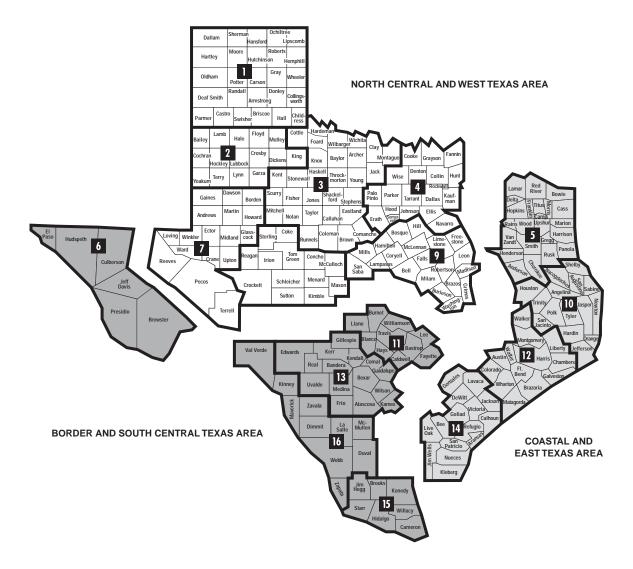
#### 16—LAREDO

Regional Director: David A. Ramirez 707 E. Calton Rd., Ste. 304 Laredo, TX 78041-3887 956-791-6611 • Fax: 956-791-6716

TCEQ rules, publications, agendas and highlights of commission meetings, and other environmental information are available on the TCEQ Web site at <www.tceq.state.tx.us>. Additional region information is available at <www.tceq.state.tx.us/about/directory/region/reglist.html>.

\*\*TCEQ Central Office: P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, 512-239-1000

# TCEQ Areas and Regions



# TCEQ Regions by Location of Office (City)

1 Amarillo5 Tyler9 Waco13 San Antonio2 Lubbock6 El Paso10 Beaumont14 Corpus Christi3 Abilene7 Midland11 Austin15 Harlingen4 Dallas–Fort Worth8 San Angelo12 Houston16 Laredo

# Appendix B

# **Councils of Governments**

Region	No.	Abbr.	Web Site
Alamo Area Council of Governments	18	AACOG	www.aacog.com
Ark-Tex Council of Governments	5	ARK-TEX	www.atcog.org
Brazos Valley Council of Governments	13	BVCOG	www.bvcog.org
Capital Area Council of Governments	12	CAPCOG	www.capcog.org
Central Texas Council of Governments	23	CTCOG	www.ctcog.org
Coastal Bend Council of Governments	20	CBCOG	cbcog98.org
Concho Valley Council of Governments	10	CVCOG	www.cvcog.org
Deep East Texas Council of Governments	14	DETCOG	www.detcog.org
East Texas Council of Governments	6	ETCOG	www.etcog.org
Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission	17	GCRPC	www.gcrpc.org
Heart of Texas Council of Governments	11	нотсоб	www.hotcog.org
Houston-Galveston Area Council	16	H-GAC	www.h-gac.com
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council	21	LRGVDC	www.lrgvdc.org
Middle Rio Grande Development Council	24	MRGDC	www.mrgdc.org
Nortex Regional Planning Commission	3	NORTEX	www.nortexrpc.org
North Central Texas Council of Governments	4	NCTCOG	www.nctcog.dst.tx.us
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	1	PRPC	www.prpc.cog.tx.us
Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	9	PBRPC	www.pbrpc.org
Rio Grande Council of Governments	8	RGCOG	www.riocog.org
South East Texas Regional Planning Commission	15	SETRPC	www.setrpc.org
South Plains Association of Governments	2	SPAG	www.spag.org
South Texas Development Council	19	STDC	www.stdc.cog.tx.us
Texoma Council of Governments	22	TEXOMA	www.texoma.cog.tx.us
West Central Texas Council of Governments	7	WCTCOG	www.wctcog.org

# For More Information

For confidential assistance on environmental compliance for small businesses and local governments:

Small Business and Local Government Hotline, 800-447-2827

To find a TCEQ publication mentioned in this document, visit: <a href="https://www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications">www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications</a>>

To report a spill (24 hours a day): *Spill Reporting*, 800-832-8224

To report an environmental complaint or violation: *Environmental Violations Hotline*, 888-777-3186

For information about waste authorizations: *TCEQ Waste Permits Division*, 512-239-2334

For information about air permits: *TCEO Air Permits Division*, 512-239-1250

For information about water quality issues: *TCEQ Water Quality Division*, 512-239-4671

For information on financial assurance: TCEQ Financial Assurance Office, 512-239-6242

For information on investigations:

TCEQ Field Operations Division, 512-239-0400, or your regional office

For information on enforcement:

TCEQ Enforcement Division, 512-239-2545

For information about recycling or composting:

TCEQ Pollution Prevention and Education Section, 512-239-3100 The TCEQ's Take Care of Texas, <www.takecareoftexas.org> The EPA's Resource Conservation Challenge, <www.epa.gov/epawaste/rcc/index.htm>

To locate a recycling center:

Earth 911, <earth911.com/>
Recycle Texas Online, <www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/recycle\_tx>

For information on household hazardous waste programs or collections of agricultural waste pesticides:

TCEQ Pollution Prevention and Education Section, 512-239-3100 Texas Cooperative Extension at Texas A&M University, 979-845-7800

For information about councils of governments:

*Texas Association of Regional Councils*, 512-478-4715 or <www.txregionalcouncil.org/>

For information about federal MSW programs:

Environmental Protection Agency Region 6, 800-887-6063 or <a href="https://www.epa.gov/garbage/">www.epa.gov/garbage/>