



Accomplishments Report
Four-State Regional Work Group
Texas – Coahuila – Nuevo Leon – Tamaulipas
U.S.-Mexico Border Environmental Program

September 2011

Programs and Projects Initiated or Implemented in Texas or Collaboratively with Mexican Partners since Fall 2010

[Prepared by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality]

This report is organized according to the three sub-regional task forces in this regional workgroup. Going east-southeast from Amistad Reservoir, these are the Amistad Task Force, the Falcon Task Force, and the Gulf Task Force.

AMISTAD TASK FORCE

The City of Eagle Pass and Maverick County, Texas

Program/Project Name: *Maverick County Landfill for Municipal Solid Waste*

Contact: Miguel Castillo Phone: **(830) 352-1960** E-Mail: mikecastillocdt@gmail.com

Border 2012 Goal	Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination	
Description	<p>In September 2010 the County of Maverick opened a new landfill for municipal solid waste, located about 16 miles northeast of the City of Eagle Pass.</p> <p>Previously, Eagle Pass and the County were using a transfer station and for several years had been shipping MSW to San Antonio. This was an expensive process that necessitated high fees for trash service, and officials had noticed an increase in illegal dumping by people wishing to avoid the fees. The new landfill has led to an 80 percent reduction in the fees.</p> <p>The landfill site includes room for expansion and at current disposal rates could accept MSW for 67 years.</p>	
Accomplishments	<p>The new landfill has saved county residents a significant amount of money. No data are available yet on any reduction in the incidence of illegal dumping.</p>	

Program/Project Name: *Used Electronics Project in Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras*

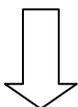
Contact: Hector Chavez

Phone: (830) 773-9408

E-Mail: hchavez@eaglepasstx.us

<p>Border 2012 Goal</p>	<p>Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination</p>	
<p>Description</p>	<p>With assistance from an EPA Border 2012 grant of \$30,000, the City of Eagle Pass collaborated with its sister city of Piedras Negras, Coahuila on a recycling project aimed at used electronic products.</p> <p>The project was implemented from April 2010 to June 2011.</p> <p>Eagle Pass incorporated electronics collection into its existing municipal recycling center. Piedras Negras established new collection centers.</p> <p>The cities contracted with a Piedras Negras environmental group to manage an education program in schools regarding health risks associated with improper disposal. An Eagle Pass recycling company disassembled the equipment and determined where to ship the constituents.</p> <p>The educational component reached more than 4,900 students in 77 schools.</p>	
<p>Accomplishments</p>	<p>The project increased public awareness of the health risks posed by used electronic products and established a system for recycling and proper disposal in the two sister cities. More than 165 tons of used electronics products were processed by the two cities.</p>	

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Program/Project Name: *Healthy Homes Training for Promotoras in Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras*

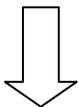
Contact: Paula Selzer

Phone: 214-665-6663

E-Mail: Selzer.paula@epa.gov

Border 2012 Goal	Goal #4: Improve Environmental Health	
Description	<p>The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in conjunction with the National Healthy Homes Training Center and Network, organized a class in May 2011 on cost-effective methods for making homes healthier.</p> <p>The training focused on pest management to reduce health hazards in homes. Kickapoo Tribe officials hosted the workshop at a site on its reservation and invited public health officials from Eagle Pass, Maverick County, and the sister city of Piedras Negras to the training.</p> <p>Approximately 40 promotoras from the city, county, and the tribe, as well as six health care providers from Piedras Negras, attended. Participants received continuing education credit hours for attending the course.</p>	 
Accomplishment	<p>Promotoras have begun using what they learned at the workshop in their outreach to colonia residents, in an effort to reduce exposure to chemicals that are linked to asthma and cancer-related illnesses.</p>	

cont.



The City of Del Rio, Texas

Program/Project Name: *Early Childhood Environmental Education Program*

Contact: Kimberly Del Castillo

Phone: (830)774-8565

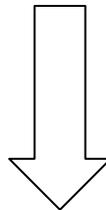
E-Mail: kdelcastillo@cityofdelrio.com

Border 2012 Goal	Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination
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Description	<p>The City of Del Rio received funding from the federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program to invest in education programs in schools. A portion of the grant was used to develop an environmental education program to bring awareness of recycling, energy efficiency, and water conservation at the early childhood level (pre-K to second grade).</p> <p>Toby Globy (a copy-righted, planet-shaped mascot) is used as a spokesperson.</p> <p>Pre-K and elementary schools incorporated the program into their curriculum. As of October 2011, more than twelve schools were enrolled in the program.</p>	
Accomplishment	<p>From the teachers who have been given the curriculum, young children are becoming more aware of environmental issues and how to interact with the environment in a sustainable fashion.</p>	



Next – Falcon Task Force



FALCON TASK FORCE

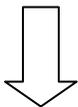
Laredo, Texas

Program/Project Name: *Día del Rio Awareness Campaign*

Contact: Tricia Cortez Phone: (956)721-5392 E-Mail Address: RGISC@laredo.edu

Border 2012 Goal	Goal #1: Reduce Water Contamination	
Description	<p>In October 2010 the Rio Grande International Study Center (RGISC) coordinated the annual Día del Rio event in Laredo, assisted by an EPA Border 2012 grant that was used for public outreach.</p> <p>Activities included cleanup of a nature trail near the Rio Grande and a “water round-up,” in which student teams from Laredo were part of a network of 60 U.S. and Mexican teams along the entire Rio Grande watershed that conducted water quality sampling.</p> <p>The RGISC planned a similar series of events for October 2011 that are being carried out as this report is being written.</p>	
Accomplishment	<p>More than 370 volunteers participated in the cleanup, in addition to the student teams working on water sampling. Residents of Laredo learned about water quality and pollution in the Rio Grande watershed and became directly involved in stewardship.</p>	

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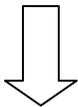


Program/Project Name: Los Dos Laredos NSP Childhood Education Video

Contact: Ivan Santoyo Phone: (956)794-1650 isantoyo@ci.laredo.tx.us

Border 2012 Goal	Goal #1: Reduce Water Contamination	
Description	<p>The City of Laredo's Department Environmental Services completed production of an animated video for Pre-K children, in English and Spanish, on the prevention of non-source pollution. The project had received an EPA Border 2012 grant of \$50,000.</p> <p>The video includes cartoon characters/mascots that had been created using a previous EPA grant for printed materials and songs.</p> <p>In July 2011 the "world premier" of the video took place at a Laredo theater attended by more than 100 children, community residents, and city officials.</p> <p>The video is being distributed to pre-schools in Laredo and Nuevo Laredo for use by teachers.</p>	
Accomplishments	Thousands of children will learn about recycling and non-point source pollution.	

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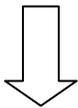


Program/Project Name: *Scrap-Tire Cleanup Campaign and Enforcement Plan in Laredo and Webb County*

Contact: Jean Carmona Phone: (956)712-6018 jcarmona@ci.laredo.tx.us

Border 2012 Goal	Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination	
Description	<p>In 2010-2011 the Laredo Health Department implemented a scrap-tire cleanup and enforcement strategy to prevent illegal dumping and the accumulation of tires. The project was assisted by an EPA Border 2012 grant of \$40,000.</p> <p>The city organized a scrap-tire collection event in September 2010 and then a binational workshop in 2011, which addressed relevant issues and especially the development of markets, as well as considered strategies to reduce the flow of scrap tires to Mexico.</p> <p>City officials also began drafting a new ordinance to reduce illegal dumping.</p>	
Accomplishments	<p>The collection event garnered 10,000 scrap tires that were subsequently disposed of properly at a landfill.</p> <p>Through the publicity, residents learned about the health risks pose by scrap tires, and how to mitigate the threat of illness caused by vectors that proliferate in tire piles.</p>	

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Program/Project Name: *Keep America Beautiful's "Waste in Place" Curriculum Training*

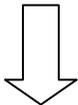
Contact: Lynne Nava

Phone: (956)794-1650

Lnava1@ci.laredo.tx.us

Border 2012 Goal	Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination	
Description	<p>Keep America Beautiful and the Gateway Rotary Club provided funds for a workshop for teachers on curriculum related to recycling and litter prevention. Keep America Beautiful (a national organization) already had the curriculum available.</p> <p>Teachers from the two school districts in Laredo—the United Independent School District and the Laredo Independent School District—were invited and also participated in hands-on waste management training through a tour of the landfill, seeing a demonstration of how paper is recycled, and education in other waste-to-energy concepts.</p>	
Accomplishments	<p>Sixty teachers participated and will be able to integrate the learned concepts and strategies into their classrooms, allowing children to learn about environmental and sustainable practices that they can apply in their community.</p>	

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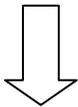


Program/Project Name: HAZMAT Equipment Training for Nuevo Laredo First Responders

Contact: Lic. Juan E. Rivera Phone: (867)713-62-30 proteccioncivil@nuevolaredo.gob.mx

Border 2012 Goal	Goal #5: Emergency Preparedness and Response	
Description	<p>The U.S. Department of Defense's Northern Command Unit (Northcom) donated hazardous equipment to Nuevo Laredo firefighters and emergency response staff in mid-2011, and then EPA followed up with training on the use of the equipment during response drills as well as hazardous materials management courses.</p> <p>The training was held at the Laredo Fire Department's Law Enforcement Training Center in August 2011.</p>	
Accomplishments	<p>More than 30 Nuevo Laredo responders received the training and were given HAZMAT training certifications by the Northern Command Unit. Now the municipality of Nuevo Laredo is better prepared and equipped to respond to chemical spills, thus protecting natural resources and enhancing public safety.</p>	

NEXT – Gulf Task Force



GULF TASK FORCE

Alton, Texas

Program/Project Name: *City of Alton – Colonias Sanas y Seguras*

Contact: Jorge Arcaute Phone: (956) 432-0760 E-Mail: jorge.arcaute@alton-tx.gov

Border 2012 Goal	Goal #4: Improve Environmental Health	
Description	<p>The City of Alton received an EPA Environmental Justice Grant and partnered with the Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health's Center for Community Health Development to develop the materials necessary for a sustainable promotora outreach program on environmental health, to train promotoras, and to begin community outreach to colonias.</p> <p>Two modules, one on safe drinking water and one on waste disposal (colonias often don't have either drinking water connections or formal trash pickup), were developed by lead promotoras, tested, and revised. Then all Alton-area promotoras were trained, and they in turn initiated community outreach. The goal was to on to improve health status and reduce exposure to environmental risks and diseases.</p>	
Accomplishments	The project trained 142 promotoras, and the initial outreach went to 231 colonia residents. Both figures exceeded original expectations.	

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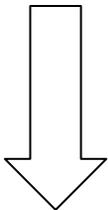
Brownsville, Texas

Program/Project Name: *Keep Brownsville Beautiful Activities*

Contact: Hilario de León Phone: (956) 465-8817 E-Mail Address: Hilario.Deleon@Cob.us

Border 2012 Goal	Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination	
Description	<p>Keep Brownsville Beautiful organized a large number of events each year in partnership with the city and other organizations, in order to reduce litter, promote recycling, and conserve water. An abbreviated list of the activities includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt-a-Spot (modeled on Adopt-a-Highway) • BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag) awareness days to advertise the city's new ordinance • Landfill tours • Presentations at schools on water pollution and composting • Make-a-Difference Day with UT Brownsville • Cleanup and renovation of El Tapiz Plaza • Great American Cleanup • Tire Roundup Day • Resaca Cleanup • High School Recycling Challenge 	
Accomplishments	<p>The results of the many events included participation of 3,400 volunteers, 24 miles of streets cleaned, 48 sites beautified, 26,000 pounds of materials recycled, another 26,000 pounds of trash cleaned up. The services provided to the community were valued at \$380,000.</p>	

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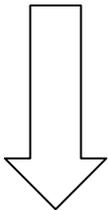


Program/Project Name: *Binational Mega-Drill Exercise for Selected Cities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley*

Contact: Leonardo Perez Phone: (956) 546-8539 E-Mail: lenperez@cob.us

<p>Border 2012 Goal</p>	<p>Goal #5: Enhance Joint Readiness for Environmental Response</p>	
<p>Description</p>	<p>In April 2011 the cities of Brownsville and San Benito in Texas cooperated with the Tamaulipas municipalities of Matamoros, Rio Bravo, and Reynosa in “Operation Amigo,” a binational simulation exercise in emergency response.</p> <p>The exercise involved a simulated spill of multiple hazardous materials near the middle of a port-of-entry bridge. Participants included personnel from fire departments, EMS, emergency management, law enforcement, hospitals with response and rescue equipment, ambulances services, an incident command system, and communications equipment from both sides of the border.</p> <p>Participants worked as a team to assess the situation, respond with the appropriate equipment and personnel, decontaminate the victims, and get victims treated at hospitals.</p>	
<p>Accomplishments</p>	<p>Seven hundred persons participated. Officials learned and improved on communications strategies and protocols, and practiced the incident command system and response and recovery activities.</p>	

Cont.



Program/Project: *Binational Beach Clean-up (Matamoros – Brownsville)*

Contact: Hilario De Leon Phone: (956) 465-8817 E-Mail Address: hilario.deleon@cob.us

Border 2012 Goal	Goal #1: Reduce Water Contamination Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination	
Description	The Municipio of Matamoros in Tamaulipas and the Keep Brownsville Beautiful organization collaborated on a Binational Beach Clean-Up on Saturday, August 6.	
Accomplishments	Volunteers collected 8 tons of trash on Matamoros' Bagdad Beach and 1.6 tons on Brownsville's Boca Chica Beach. These two beaches are directly across from each other at the mouth of the Rio Grande.	

Program/Project: *Make a Difference! Cash for Bulk*

Contact: Arturo Rodriguez Phone: (956) 542 3437 E-Mail Address: art.rodriguez@cob.us

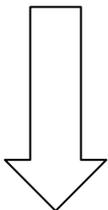
Border 2012 Goal	Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination	
Description	On August 13, 2011, the City of Brownsville accepted bulk items from residents—discarded couches, mattresses, tables, dressers, television sets, washer/dryers, boats, water heaters, air conditioners, and refrigerators. The city offered a weight-based monetary incentive, funded in part by the \$1 provision fee from the city's plastic bag ordinance.	
Accomplishment	The city collected over 26 tons of unwanted and discarded items from 144 residents, equal to about 20% of average daily waste pick-up. These items disappeared from lots and alleys. In exchange, participants took home \$6,655.	

Program/Project: Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Contact: Joe Hinojosa Phone: (956) 548-6092 E-Mail: johino@cob.us

<p>Border 2012 Goal</p>	<p>Goal #1: Reduce Water Contamination Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination</p>	
<p>Description</p>	<p>Funded by an EPA Border 2012 grant of \$30,000, the City of Brownsville held three workshops to provide citizens with information on proper disposal of this household hazardous waste (HHW). Following one of the workshops, citizens were directed to two Home Depot stores where HHW collection events were being held.</p>	
<p>Accomplishments</p>	<p>The collection events attracted 30 volunteers to help, including local ham radio operators and university science students. The events collected 279 paint containers (3-5 gal), and 228 of those containers were used in a city program to paint over graffiti. The events also collected 85 dry cell batteries, 54 pesticide containers, and an additional 20 miscellaneous items.</p>	

Cont.



Harlingen, Texas

Program/Project Name: *Keep Harlingen Beautiful Activities*

Contact: Adam Weaver

Phone: (956) 451-1088

E-Mail: keepghnbeautiful@aol.com

Border 2012 Goal

Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination

Description

Harlingen Proud - Keep Harlingen Beautiful organize a number of activities each year in partnership with the city and other organizations in order to reduce litter and promote recycling and water conservation. In 2011 these activities have included 39 events in the following categories:

- Outreach and education
- TSTC Make a Difference Day
- Trash Bash
- Liberty Garden clean-up
- Cemetery clean-up



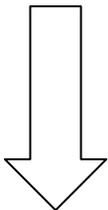
Accomplishments

The year's events have attracted 1,600 volunteers. The program opened a Recycling Education Center, which had collected 950 tons of recyclable materials. Additional clean-up activities collected 75 tons of trash.

A study estimated that the annual value of these activities to the city is \$130,000.



Cont.



McAllen, Texas

Program/Project Name: *Keep McAllen Beautiful Activities*
 Contact: Chris Lash Phone: (956) 681-4562 E-Mail: kmb@mcallen.net

Border 2012 Goal Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination

Description

Keep McAllen Beautiful organizes a number of activities each year in partnership with the city and other organizations in order to reduce litter, promote recycling and water conservation, and reduce non-point pollution of stormwater flows.

In 2011 these activities included the following types of events:

- Outreach/education (142)
- Cleanup (34)
- Beautification

Accomplishments

The outreach education events reached many thousands of people. For the various events, 1,118 volunteers helped out, and they collected 290 tons of trash and 3,240 scrap tires.



Cont.



Pharr, Texas

Program/Project Name: *Environmental Education Program*

Contact: Grace Segovia Phone: (956) 223-2580 E-Mail: grace.segovia@pharr-tx.gov

Border 2012 Goal Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination

Description

The Environmental Education program for the City of Pharr (population 64,000) consists of presentations on environmental topics to area schools (customized based on age level and area of interest) and at special events such as festivals and other city functions, field trips for students to the city's recycling center, and courtesy recycling services for at least 78 locations.

The program uses a mascot—Gary the Green Ranger. School children are deputized to be "Green Stars." In 2011 the program added a program of education for "parental involvement specialists."

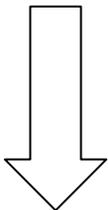


Accomplishments

The schools have their own recycling programs, and those programs are reinforced by the presentations to the students made by the city's environmental educators. Fiscal year 2011 saw a tripling in revenue from recycled materials compared to the previous year.



Cont.



Program/Project Name: *Operation Clean Sweep, Phases I-V*

Contact : Grace Segovia Phone: (956) 223-2580 E-Mail: grace.segovia@pharr-tx.gov

Border 2012 Goal	Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination	
Description	<p>Operation Clean Sweep is a phased effort begun by the City of Pharr in April 2010 (and not previously reported through Border 2012)) to clean up 12 different areas of the City using volunteers. Each phase involves one day dedicated to a segment. City staff solicit volunteers from the community.</p>	
Accomplishments	<p>Phase I (April 2010): 100 persons collected 24 tons of trash and 800 scrap tires in South Pharr.</p> <p>Phase II (October 2010): 200 persons collected more than one ton of trash and 492 scrap tires in Central Pharr.</p> <p>Phase III (April 2011): 200 volunteers collected 24 tons of trash and 817 scrap tires in East Pharr.</p> <p>Phase IV (August 2011): 150 volunteers collected 12 tons of trash in an area along Old Highway 88 in Central Pharr.</p> <p>Phase V (September 2011): 100 volunteers collected 24 tons of trash and 1,060 scrap tires in West Pharr.</p>	

Program/Project Name: *Tire Incentive Pilot Program*

Contact: Grace Segovia Phone: 956-223-2580 E-Mail Address: grace.segovia@pharr-tx.gov

Border 2012 Goal	Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination	
Description	<p>The City of Pharr organized an 11-day Tire Incentive Pilot Program (TIPP) in July 2011, in an effort to rid the city's streets and alleys of tires and illegal dumping. City residents were paid 50 cents per tire to bring tires from their own neighborhoods.</p>	
Accomplishments	<p>The city collected over 18,700 tires. The City hopes to repeat the program at least once every quarter, and has applied for a grant that would assist in establishing such continuity.</p>	

**Valley-Wide and Regional Activities
in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas**

Program/Project Name: *Recycling Phone Books Saves Landfill Space*
Contact: Laura Maxwell **Phone:** (956) 412-8004 **E-Mail:** vpec@sbcglobal.net

Border 2012 Goal **Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination**

Description

Each March the Valley Proud Environmental Council (VPEC, a regional, binational project-oriented organization that addresses a range of local needs, including responsible waste disposal, litter control, and reforestation), joins with AT&T Real Yellow Pages, city recycling centers, and media in the Lower Rio Grande Valley to promote recycling of outdated yellow page directories. The purpose is to keep the directories out of the landfill and to provide feedstock for production of new items.

Businesses and individuals were urged to take their old phone books to collection centers in Alamo, Alton, Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen, Pharr, San Juan, Weslaco, and San Benito.

Accomplishments

During March 2011 residents of Valley cities recycled an estimated 12.6 tons of directories.

That amount of “waste” was re-directed from the landfill and into recycling channels that could re-use the material to manufacture such products as animal bedding, home insulation, bathroom tissue, cereal boxes, roofing shingles, and new phone books.

Don't Throw Away Your Old Phone Book!
PROJECT REDIRECTORY
 MARCH 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2011

Take your old AT&T Real Yellow Pages Directories to the recycling container at one of these convenient locations. For more information call 1-800-953-4400.

ALAMO 423 N. Tower Rd. M-F 8 am to 12 & 1 - 5 pm	EDINBURG Recycling Center & Education Center 3102 S. Business 201 M-F 8 am - 6:30 pm Sat. 8 am - 5 pm Sunday 8 am - 5 pm	McALLEN Recycling Center 4101 N. Bentum Rd. M-F 8 am - 4:30 pm Sat. 8 am - 12 pm	SAN BENITO City Service Center 925 W. Stenger City Hall 465 N. Sam Houston
ALTON Public Works 421 W. Caines M-F 8 am - 5 pm	HARLINGEN Recycling Center 1000 South Commerce M-F 8 am - 5 pm	PHARR Recycling Center 1301 W. Medina M-F 8 am - 5 pm Sat. 9 am - 1 pm	SAN JUAN Recycling Center 323 W. 1st Street
BROWNSVILLE Public Works 6035 Coffee Port Rd. M-F 8 am - 5 pm Sat. 8 am - 5 pm			WESLACO Public Facilities Bldg. 1912 Joe Stephens Ave. M-F 8 am - 5 pm Sat. 8 am - 12 pm

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PROJECT REDIRECTORY CONTRIBUTORS

VALLEY PROUD SPONSORS

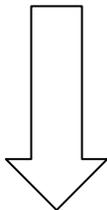
American Electric Power • Bargain Book • BBVA Compass Bank Brownsville • Bobby & Robin Farris • Brownsville Herald
 Cameron County Drainage District #5 • Cameron County Parks & Recreation Dept. • City of Brownsville • City of Harlingen
 City of McAllen • City of San Benito • City of South Padre Island • City of Weslaco • Coastal Current • H&B • KRIS-FRANKS-
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 Lamar Outdoor Long Chilton, LLP • Los Fresnos News • Mr. & Mrs. M.M. MacRae • Mercedes Enterprise • Mid Valley Town Crier
 Port Isabel/SPH Press • Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers • Rio Hondo News • San Benito News • Texas Commission on
 Environmental Quality • Texas Forest Service • Texas General Land Office • U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service • Valley Morning Star

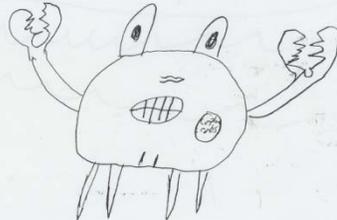
For additional information contact Valley Proud or visit our web site.
VALLEY PROUD ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL • 956.412.8004 • www.valleyproud.org

<p>Program/Project Name: <i>All-Valley Trash and Texas County Cleanup</i></p> <p>Contact: Laura Maxwell Phone: (956) 412-8004 E-Mail: vpec@sbcglobal.net</p>	
<p>Border 2012 Goal</p>	<p>Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>Now in its twenty-first year, Valley Proud's Trash Bash annually attracts thousands of volunteers in cleaning up roads and streets, alley, and drainage ditches all across the Lower Rio Grande Valley.</p> <p>Trash dumped in drainage ditches and the Arroyo Colorado creates a safety issue when heavy rains come.</p> <p>The All-Valley Trash Bash has been joined by the Annual Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off organized by the Texas Department of Transportation, Keep Texas Beautiful, and Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup.</p>
<p>Accomplishment</p>	<p>In 2010 more than 74,100 volunteers cleaned over 6, 219 miles of Texas highways and collected over 8 million pounds of trash.</p>



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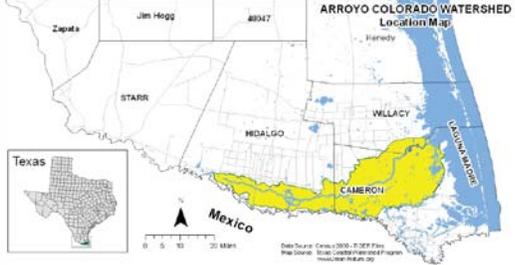


Program/Project Name: <i>Captain Crab Clean Beach Puppet Show</i>	
Contact: Laura Maxwell Phone: (956) 412-8004 E-Mail: vpec@sbcglobal.net	
Border 2012 Goal	Goal #1: Reduce Water Pollution
Description	<p>The Valley Proud Environmental Council developed a program aimed at getting elementary school children to care about keeping beaches clean, with funding from the Texas General Land Office and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.</p> <p>The program starts with a 20-minute video entitled "A Day at the Beach," with the message "Trash Our Beach, Pay The Price." A puppet show based on the adventures of Captain Crab, the clean beach mascot, follows the video.</p> <p>The puppet show is currently being revised to add a component about recycling, in response to a movement among school districts to bring in-school recycling programs.</p>
Accomplishments	<p>Since its launching in January 2006, the Captain Crab Puppet Show has been performed in 131 elementary schools for 36,982 students in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. It has also been performed for another 50,722 viewers at 64 other public events.</p>
 <p>Dear Mrs. Maxwell and Mr. Matz, I Thank you for teaching me about to not litter and how much we destroy the Earth I will try to keep the beach clean Captain Crabs. Sincerely Michael Martinez</p> 	

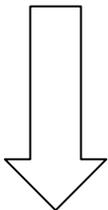
Program/ Project Name: <i>Texas Waterways Cleanup</i>	
Contact: Jaime Flores Phone: 956-969-5607 E-Mail: jjflores@ag.tamu.edu	
Border 2012 Goals	Goal #1: Reduce Water Contamination Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination
Description	<p>On April 9, 2011, volunteers from Valley Proud Environmental Council, Valley Sportsmen Club Keep Texas Beautiful and partners of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed participated in the Texas Waterways Cleanup event in the Arroyo Colorado.</p>
Accomplishments	40 volunteers collected more than 800 pounds of trash.
	

Program/Project Name: *Improving Arroyo Colorado Watershed*

Contact: Jaime Flores Phone: 956-969-5607 E-Mail Address: jjflores@ag.tamu.edu

Border 2012 Goal	Goal #1: Reduce Water Pollution	
Description	<p>The Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership (ACWPP), which is administered by the Texas A&M's Water Resources Institute in cooperation with the TCEQ and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, works with numerous stakeholders and has a goal of improving water quality in the watershed. Activities are in two categories:</p> <p>(1) Integrated farm management education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pesticide applicator safety training and continuing education • Production and distribution of an integrated pest management newsletter and fact sheet <p>(2) Pesticide education in the coastal zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation and distribution of bumper stickers and pesticide disposal signs • A Turfgrass Education Conference • Creation and broadcast of two television public service announcements, one about soil testing and the other about urban nonpoint source pollution, each in English and Spanish 	
Accomplishment	Greater awareness in the agricultural community of the impact of activities on water pollution.	

Cont.



Program/Project Name: <i>HAZMAT Equipment Transfer and Training for Matamoros and Reynosa First Responders</i>		
Contact: Paige Delgado	Phone: 214.665.2724	Email: Delgado.Paige@epamail.epa.gov
Border 2012 Goal	Goal #5: Enhance Joint Readiness for Emergency Response	
Description	<p>The U.S. Department of Defense's Northern Command Unit (Northcom) donated hazardous equipment to Matamoros and Reynosa firefighters and emergency response staff in mid-2011. EPA then followed up with training on the use of the equipment during response drills as well as hazardous materials management courses.</p> <p>Separate training was held in Brownsville for Matamoros responders and then in McAllen for Reynosa responders, both in August 2011. The Brownsville and McAllen Fire Departments opened their facilities for the trainings.</p>	
Accomplishments	<p>More than 60 first responders from the two municipios received the training and were given HAZMAT training certifications by the Northern Command Unit. These cities are now better prepared to respond to chemical spills, thus protecting natural resources and enhancing public safety.</p>	

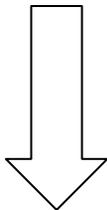
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Program/Project Name: <i>Sustainability Workshops for the Border Community</i>	
Contact: Ouina Rutledge	Phone: (956) 665-3030
E-Mail: rutledgeoc@utpa.edu	
Border 2012 Goal	Goal #6 Environmental Stewardship
Description	<p>The University of Texas Pan American (UTPA) in Edinburg Texas initiated a series of environmental workshops for the public in the fall of 2011. EPA will be providing funding assistance for translation services for three of the workshops, for which registration is open to Mexican participants at no cost.</p> <p>The bilingual workshops are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Sustainable Economic Growth through Energy Conservation Behavioral Change (October 12) • Sustainable Water Management for Long-Term Savings" (December 1) • Conservation and Restoration of Coastal Habitat (December 14)
Accomplishments	The initial workshop, on energy conservation, attracted 60 attendees.



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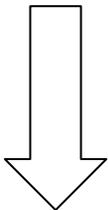


Program/Project Name: *Technical Assistance to Tamaulipas State and Local Officials regarding Comprehensive Solid Waste Management*

Contact: Claudia Lozano Phone: (956) 430-6035 E-Mail: Claudia.Lozano@tceq.texas.gov

<p>Border 2012 Goal</p>	<p>Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination</p>	
<p>Description</p>	<p>As follow-up to the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the TCEQ and the Tamaulipas</p>	
<p>Accomplishments</p>		

Cont.



Activities of the U.S. Consulate in Matamoros, Tamaulipas in Cooperation with Matamoros and Reynosa

Program/Project Name: <i>Levee Cleanup in Matamoros</i>		
Contact: Laura Garza Phone: +52 868 812 4402 E-Mail: Garzala@state.gov		
Border 2012 Goal	Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination	
Description	<p>On August 20th, 2011, staff of the U.S. Consulate in Matamoros collaborated with the municipio's Environmental Control Office to implement a cleanup event on a levee of the Rio Grande.</p> <p>Participants collected trash located in the area known as "El Bordo", which begins at the flagpole on the Gateway International Bridge and ends at the Migrant's Cross.</p>	
Accomplishment	Approximately one ton of paper, recyclable PET containers, discarded construction materials, and other trash was collected.	

Program Project Name: <i>Earth Day 2011 in Reynosa</i>		
Contact: Laura Garza Phone: +52 868 812 4402 E-Mail: Garzala@state.gov		
Border 2012 Goal	Goal #6: Improve Environmental Performance through Pollution Prevention and Stewardship	
Description	<p>On the morning of April 19, 2011, the U.S. Consulate's satellite office in Reynosa helped carry out a celebration of Earth Day with the children of Casa Hogar DIF in Reynosa with a variety of recreational activities.</p> <p>The activities all promoted a commitment to the planet and environmental awareness. The highlight of the event was a small fashion and art show put on by the children. The children also planted a symbolic tree.</p>	
Accomplishment	<p>More than 25 children from Casa Hogar participated at this green event.</p> <p>Each child promised to take care of the planet and adopted an "Agent Santiago" toy to help. "Agent Santiago" was accompanied by a green reusable bag and candy to share with its new partner.</p>	

Program/Project Name: 2011 Environmental Fair (Eco Feria 2011)		
Contact Name: Laura Garza Phone: +52 868 812 4402 E-Mail Address: Garzala@state.gov		
Border 2012 Goal	Goal #6: Improve Environmental Performance through Pollution Prevention and Stewardship	
Description	<p>On April 10, 2011, the U.S. Consulate collaborated with the Matamoros Department of Environmental Control, the Water Utilities Company (JAD), the federal Environmental Ministry (SEMARNAT), the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE), and several civil society organizations to hold the second annual Televisa XHAB 10K Race and Environmental Fair.</p> <p>Consulate employees staffed recycling centers, handed out information about the Consulate's Green Diplomacy program, and participated in the 10k race and 5K walk. More than 27 organizations set up booths around the main square. There were workshops, animal adoption booths, a tree giveaway, and information about environmental programs.</p>	
Accomplishment	Over 500 local citizens attended the Fair.	

Program/Project Name: 2011 Art Contest and Recycling Activities Awareness Event		
Contact: Laura Garza Phone: +52 868 812 4402 E-Mail Address: Garzala@state.gov		
Border 2012 Goal	Goal #6: Improve Environmental Performance through Pollution Prevention and Stewardship	
Description	<p>In April 2011 the U.S. Consulate Office supported the promotion of environmental awareness by holding the second annual Art Contest and Recycling Activities Awareness Event.</p> <p>The art competition was aimed at secondary students and required the submission of a piece of art or useful article made from waste materials. The objective was to stimulate creativity in recycling everyday materials, save natural resources, and reduce the volume of waste.</p>	
Accomplishment	Five secondary schools participated and more than 100 submissions were received in the contest.	

Program/ Project Name: <i>Go Green – How Students Can Save the Planet</i>		
Contact: Laura Garza Phone: +52 868 812 4402 E-Mail Address: Garzala@state.gov		
Border 2012 Goal	Goal #6: Improve Environmental Performance through Pollution Prevention and Stewardship	
Description	<p>The U.S. Consulate in Matamoros held a series of talks March 28-31 at nine local schools to promote environmental responsibility and the conservation of natural resources.</p> <p>Staff from the Consulate, the Matamoros Water Board, and the Federal Electricity Commission showed elementary and middle school students simple ways to help to protect the environment.</p> <p>Representatives of the Matamoros Water Utilities Board (JAD) also showed the students a short video explaining how water purification works.</p>	
Accomplishment	More than 200 students from nine schools were targeted with these series of mini-conferences.	

Program/ Project Name: <i>Bike Ride and Beach Cleanup</i>		
Contact: Laura Garza Phone: +52 868 812 4402 E-Mail Address: Garzala@state.gov		
Border 2012 Goal	Goal #1: Reduce Water Contamination Goal #4: Improve Environmental Health	
Description	On April 2, 2011, the U.S. Consulate in Matamoros and the Matamoros Mayor's Office held the second annual Bike Ride to the Beach and Beach Cleanup at Playa Bagdad. The Consulate's Principal Officer Michael Barkin and Matamoros Mayor Alfonso Sanchez Garza inaugurated the event and state representative Daniel Sampayo Sánchez led the cyclists.	
Accomplishment	Approximately 80 cyclists rode the 32 km from the outskirts of Matamoros to Playa Bagdad. The cyclists and others, including volunteers from the Consulate, local schools, and the Mexican marines, collected one ton of trash at the beach.	

Bi-State Cooperation in the Four-State Region

Program/Project Name: *Technical Assistance to Nuevo León on the Use of Waste Materials in Road Construction*

Contact: Eddie Moderow Phone: (512) 239-0218 E-Mail: Eddie.Moderow@tceq.texas.gov

Border 2012 Goal	Goal #3: Reduce Land Contamination	
Description	<p>In July 2011 the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality hosted a group of officials from the state of Nuevo León for two days of presentations related to the potential use of selected waste streams in road-building.</p> <p>Items like scrap tires, recycled plastics, fly ash, and recycled concrete and asphalt were discussed in visits to two universities, state agencies, and research laboratories.</p> <p>The visitors included the Nuevo León Secretary of Sustainable Development, who oversees not only environmental issues but also road construction. Hurricane Alex destroyed many roads in Monterrey in 2010.</p> <p>This activity was undertaken under a memorándum of cooperation between the TCEQ and the Nuevo León agency.</p>	
Accomplishments	Nuevo León officials are exploring how they can put to use the information and practices they learned during the visit.	