

Texas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Areas, Inc.

Tire Collection Events and Cleanup of Abandoned Tire Sites

SEP No. 2012-03

Project Description

Texas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Areas, Inc. ("RC&D") is organized as a main State Office ("State Office") and regional RC&D Councils ("RC&D Councils"). The State Office will receive SEP contributions under this Agreement, deposit them in the SEP Fund Account, then distribute the SEP Funds to the RC&D Councils for performance of the Project throughout the state.

RC&D shall coordinate with local city and county government officials and private entities ("Partner Entities") to conduct tire collection events where residents will be able to drop off tires for proper disposal or recycling ("Collection Events"), or to clean sites where tires have been disposed of illegally ("Site Cleanups").

RC&D shall ensure that collected tires, debris, and waste are properly transported to and disposed at an authorized disposal site, and if a licensed hauler is needed for tires or other regulated waste collected from sites, RC&D shall ensure that only properly licensed haulers are used for transport and disposal of tires and regulated wastes.

Eligible Sites

Site Cleanups will be limited to sites where the responsible party is financially unable to clean up the site or where a responsible party cannot be identified. Site Performing Party may not use SEP Funds to cleanup a site that is the subject of a TCEQ enforcement action.

Environmental Benefit

This SEP will provide an environmental benefit by providing communities with a free and convenient means for safe and proper disposal of tires and by reducing the dangers and health threats associated with illegally dumped tires.

The health risks associated with illegal dumping are significant. Areas used for illegal tire dumping may be easily accessible to people, especially children, who are vulnerable to the physical hazards posed by abandoned tires. Rodents, insects, and other vermin attracted to dump sites may also pose health risks. Tire dump sites which contain scrap tires pose an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes, which can breed 100 times faster in the warm, stagnant water standing in scrap tire casings. Severe illnesses, including West Nile Virus, have been attributed to disease-carrying mosquitoes. The potential for tire fires is also reduced by removing illegally dumped tires. Tire fires can result in the contamination of air, surface water, ground water, and soil. In addition, neighborhoods have been evacuated and property damage has been significant due to tire dump sites that caught fire. Illegal tire dumping can also impact drainage of runoff, making areas more susceptible to flooding when wastes block waterways. Open burning at tire dump sites can cause forest fires and erosion as fires burn away trees and undergrowth. Tire dumping has a negative impact on trees and wildlife, and runoff from tire dumpsites may contain chemicals that can contaminate wells and surface water used for drinking.

Eligible Areas and Counties

Statewide

Minimum Contribution Amount

\$500

Total Project Budget

Estimated budget of \$15,879 per Event, to perform as many events possible.