
West Central Texas Council of Governments

Regional Solid Waste Management Plan 2000-2020

**Adopted by the West Central Texas Council of Governments
Natural Resources Committee on August 22, 2002
And the WCTCOG Executive Committee on
September 25, 2002**

This plan was funded through a solid waste management grant provided by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, formerly known as the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, through the West Central Texas Council of Governments. This funding does not necessarily indicate endorsement or support of the plan findings and recommendations.

COG Number: 7



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

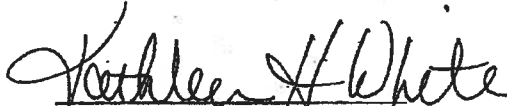
Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

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: **MAY 31 2007**


Kathleen H. White
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*.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



VOLUME II: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINE Approved under provisions of Texas Health & Safety Code Ann. Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments:

West Central Texas Council of Governments
841 North Judge Ely Boulevard
Abilene, Texas 79601

Regional Solid Waste Management Implementation Guidelines provide the details for implementing the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (Volume I). The TCEQ Commissioners adopted Volume I on May 31, 2007. The requirement and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Implementation Guidelines are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

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

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

This action is taken under authority delegated by the Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

APPROVAL DATE: SEP 06 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Shultz", written over a horizontal line.

For the Commission