



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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

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

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

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

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

ADOPTION DATE:

For the Commission

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SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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

SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

A. Regional Goals

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Objective 3A: Regional recycling goals will be developed.

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

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

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

Objective 4B: Consider potential impacts of present and future legislation.

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

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

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

B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling and Education

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - ETCOG will:

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

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