



PRESS RELEASE

Solid Waste Grant Funds to be Distributed

\$262,330.07 Allocated for Projects Aimed to Minimize Solid Waste in East Texas

Kilgore, TX, December 4, 2009: Local governments and special districts will soon receive grant funds from the East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). To support regional waste minimization efforts in ETCOG's fourteen county region, the solid waste program has approved twenty proposals to distribute a total of \$262,330.07 for FY 2010 Municipal Solid Waste grant funds. Approved projects are as follows:

Approved project categories included: 1) *Local Enforcement*- This category consists of projects which contribute to the prevention of illegal dumping. These projects may include programs to investigate illegal dumping problems, educate the public on illegal dumping laws, and prosecute violators. These programs may also include activities such as monitoring collection and transport through a manifest system to enforce laws pertaining to the illegal disposal of liquid wastes; 2) *Source Reduction and Recycling*; 3) *Educational and Training Projects*- Educational components are encouraged under the other categories in order to better ensure public participation in projects; 4) *Community Cleanup Events*.

Twenty-nine grant proposals with a total funding request of \$598,499.47 were submitted by twenty-six local governments during an open meeting on November 19, 2009. Twenty applications were approved by the ETCOG Executive Committee on December 3, and are now pending approval with TCEQ.

Approved grant funding requests were in support of the goals and objectives of the

ENTITY	REQUESTED	RECOMMENDED
Smith County #2	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
City of Hawkins	\$3,953.38	\$2,000.00
City of Quitman	\$37,500.00	\$25,000.00
Upper Sabine Valley Solid Waste Management District	\$29,950.00	\$26,950.00
City of Arp	\$9,200.00	\$7,200.00
City of Tool	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Rains County	\$24,908.00	\$12,269.81
City of Hallsville	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
City of Gladewater	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Van Zandt County	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
City of Henderson	\$42,416.00	\$15,100.00
City of Lindale	\$8,345.00	\$7,200.00
City of Point	\$18,593.00	\$3,000.00
City of Jacksonville #1	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
City of Bullard	\$11,700.00	\$7,200.00
City of Rusk	\$23,860.00	\$10,000.00
City of Carthage	\$5,195.00	\$5,195.00
City of Whitehouse	\$35,215.26	\$10,215.26
City of Van	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Gun Barrel City	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
TOTAL	\$381,835.64	\$262,330.07

ETCOG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. Eligible public entities that could apply for funds were: 1) Cities; 2) Counties; 3) Public Schools and School Districts (excluding universities and other post-secondary educational institutions); and 4) General and Special Law Districts created as political subdivisions of the state, with the authority and responsibility for water quality protection or municipal solid waste management, including river authorities.

Solid Waste Management Plan

The purpose of the Plan is to provide guidelines for current and future solid waste management to local governments in the region. The State requires that the Regional Plan give preference, to the maximum extent economically and technologically feasible, to the hierarchy of management methods for solid waste, from the most preferred to the least preferred:

- Source reduction and minimization of waste
- Reuse or recycling of waste
- Treatment to destroy or reprocess waste for energy or resource recovery; and
- Land disposal

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.

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