



# PRESS RELEASE

## Solid Waste Grant Funds to be Distributed & Second Round of Funding Announced

*\$109,260 Allocated for Projects Aimed to Minimize Solid Waste in East Texas, \$28,683 Remains Available*

**Kilgore, TX, October 19, 2012:** 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 received and approved sixteen proposals totaling \$109,260 to be distributed in FY 2013 Municipal Solid Waste grant funds. A total of \$137,943 was available to be awarded in the East Texas region, leaving \$28,683 accessible for a second round of funding. 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*.

The sixteen applications were approved by the ETCOG Executive Committee on October 11 and are now pending approval with TCEQ. Approved grant funding requests were in support of the goals and objectives of the ETCOG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. Eligible public entities that could apply for funds were: 1) Cities; 2) Counties; 3) Public Schools and School

ENTITY	AMOUNT	CATEGORY
City of Grand Saline	\$3,000	Community Clean Up
City of East Mountain	\$15,000	Local Enforcement
City of East Tawakoni	\$3,000	Community Clean Up
City of Easton	\$3,000	Community Clean Up
City of Elkhart	\$3,000	Community Clean Up
City of Gladewater #1	\$2,500	Source Reduction & Recycling
City of Gladewater #2	\$1,560	Local Enforcement
City of Hallsville	\$30,000	Local Enforcement
City of Henderson	\$2,850	Source Reduction & Recycling
City of Jacksonville	\$3,000	Community Clean Up
City of Kilgore	\$25,000	Source Reduction & Recycling
City of Longview	\$3,500	Educational & Training Projects
Gregg County	\$3,000	Community Clean Up
Rains County #1	\$850	Source Reduction & Recycling
Rains County #2	2,500	Community Clean Up
Upper Sabine Valley Solid Waste Management District	\$7,500	Source Reduction & Recycling

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.

The remaining \$28,683 is available for application under the same above listed criteria. Application forms may be downloaded at <http://www.etcog.org/417/2013-Grant-Funding.htm> and are due to ETCOG on November 1 at 5:00 PM. Scoring will be conducted by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee on November 8 at 10:00 AM at ETCOG. For more information, contact Julie Burnfield, Environmental Services & Economic Development Specialist – Lead, at 903.984.8641 x237.

### **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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