



PRESS RELEASE

Solid Waste Grant Funds to be Distributed

\$118,153 Allocated for Projects Aimed to Minimize Solid Waste in East Texas

Kilgore, TX, December 19, 2013: 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 advisory committee reviewed twenty eight (28) grant proposals with a total funding request of \$154,574 submitted by eighteen (18) local governments during an open meeting on December 5, 2013. A total of \$118,153 was available to be awarded. After consideration of the proposals, the committee recommended to the ETCOG Executive Committee the following twenty five (25) projects totaling \$118,153 to be approved for FY 2014 Municipal Solid Waste grant funds. Approved projects are as follows:

APPLICANT	FUNDING	CATEGORY
Gregg County	\$3,000.00	community clean up
City of East Mountain #1	\$730.00	local enforcement-camera
City of East Mountain #2	\$2,831.00	other-tires
City of East Mountain #4	\$10,000.00	local enforcement-officer year 2
City of Murchison	\$2,000.00	Education & Training Projects
City of Jacksonville	\$3,000.00	Community Clean up
Van Zandt County	\$30,000.00	Local Enforcement-officer
Rains County #1	\$630.00	local enforcement-camera
Rains County #2	\$2,500.00	other-tires
Upper Sabine Valley Solid Waste Management District #1	\$2,232.00	Education & Training Projects
Upper Sabine Valley Solid Waste Management District #2	\$2,750.00	other-tires
Upper Sabine Valley Solid Waste Management District #3	\$4,200.00	HHW-oil collection
City of East Tawakoni	\$3,000.00	Community Clean up
City of Easton	\$1,460.00	local enforcement-camera
City of Gladewater	\$2,400.00	litter & illegal dumping cleanup-trailer
Upshur County	\$1,460.00	local enforcement-camera
Smith County	\$3,000.00	community clean up
City of Hallsville #1	\$20,000.00	local enforcement-officer year 2
City of Hallsville #2	\$1,460.00	local enforcement-camera
City of Elkhart #1	\$4,500.00	HHW-e recycling
City of Elkhart #2	\$1,500.00	Education & Training Projects

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City of Longview- Sanitation	\$7,500.00	Education & Training Projects
City of Wills Point	\$3,000.00	Community Clean up
City of Carthage	\$2,000.00	community clean up
City of Tyler	\$3,000.00	Education & Training Projects

TOTAL: \$118,153.00

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 listed projects were approved by the ETCOG Executive Committee on December 12 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 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.

For more information, contact Julie Burnfield, Economic Development Lead, at (903) 218-6436.

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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