GOLDEN CRESCENT REGIONAL PLANING COMMISSION

2022 – 2042

Regional Solid Waste Management Plan

DRAFT

Goals, Objectives, and Plan of Action
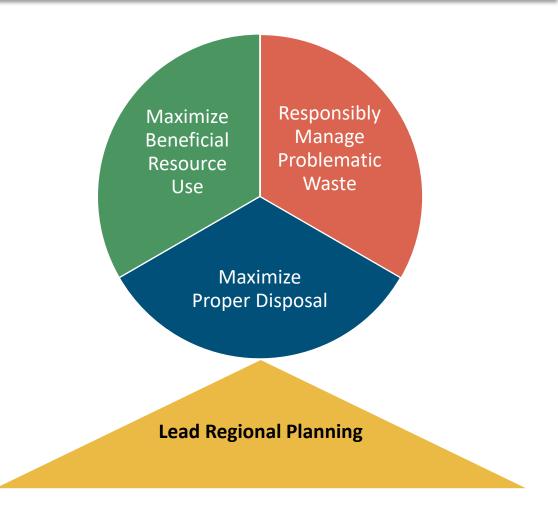
TEXAS ★ STATE ®

INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT INNOVATION

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

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MEMBER **THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

Goals

Goal 1	Maximize beneficial resource use
Goal 2	Responsibly manage problematic waste
Goal 3	Maximize proper disposal
Goal 4	Lead regional planning

Maximize Beneficial Resource Use

Responsibly Manage Problematic Waste

Maximize Proper Disposal

Lead Regional Planning

Maximize Beneficial Resource Use

Goal 1

OBJECTIVES

1.A.	Improve access to diversion opportunities
1.B.	Improve community participation
1.C.	Provide education

Objective	Action steps	Action period
1.A. Improve access to diversion opportunities	1.A.1. Identify and share comprehensive list of locations to divert materials from the landfill (e.g., recycling, reuse, and composting drop-off locations, schools, private businesses)	Short-term
	1.A.2. Encourage government agencies to lead by example in waste diversion and environmentally friendly procurement practices (e.g., establish recycling programs and buy recycled products, per TAC Chapter 328, Subchapter K, Rule 328.202)	
	1.A.3. Explore innovative waste collection and processing methods (e.g., Recyclops collection services, and black soldier fly larvae for food waste)	
	1.A.4. Continue and expand the composting of biosolids and brush, following local successful models (e.g., City of Victoria Composting Center)	Mid-term
	1.A.5. Encourage cities and counties to offer free cardboard recycling to businesses and explore free recycling for additional high-value commodities at other large-volume generators (e.g., City of McAllen free workplace recycling program)	

Objective	Action steps	Action period
1.B. Improve community participation	1.B.1. Outreach to large-volume generators with existing programs to consider accepting community-generated materials	Mid-term
	1.B.2. Outreach to community, civic, and school/university groups to provide volunteers for collection event activities	Short-term, mid-term and long-term
1.C. Provide Education	1.C.1. Ensure broad public awareness using cost-effective communication tools including social media; COG, city, and county websites; and print materials, where appropriate, to provide consistent, reliable communication (e.g., where to take common reusable materials and recyclable materials)	Short-term, mid-term and long-term
	1.C.2. Support sharing audience-specific information to educate target audiences on source reduction, recycling, reuse, or composting opportunities	

Responsibly Manage Problematic Waste

Goal 2

OBJECTIVES

2.A.	Improve access to problematic waste collection
2.B.	Provide education
2.C.	Collect data

Goal 2: Responsibly Manage Problematic Waste

Objective	Action steps	Action period
2.A. Improve access to problematic waste collection	2.A.1. Encourage cities and counties to request information about on-demand curbside special waste collection (e.g., Waste Management At Your Door)	Short-term
	2.A.2. Explore creating reuse opportunities (e.g., paint reuse program)	
	2.A.3. Support local problematic waste collections events and explore developing region-wide collection events (e.g., one centralized rotating event, individual community events held on the same day)	Short-term, mid-term and long-term

Objective	Action steps	Action period
2.B. Provide Education	2.B.1. Identify businesses where problematic wastes can be dropped off (e.g., Walgreens, Best Buy, Automotive Shops) and post online on all websites	Short-term
	2.B.2. Ensure broad public awareness using cost-effective communication tools including social media; COG, city, and county websites; and print materials, where appropriate, to provide consistent, reliable communication	Short-term, mid-term and long-term
	2.B.3. Leverage collection events to increase understanding of problematic waste by providing information to the media and local champions, and providing information to event participants—including print materials where appropriate (e.g., collection events, environmental impacts, and where to take problematic materials)	
2.C. Collect data	2.C.1. Collect, analyze, and share data to improve future events (e.g., participant ZIP Code, materials collected, and cost to dispose of materials)	Mid-term

Maximize Proper Disposal

Goal 3

OBJECTIVES

3.A.	Improve access to solid waste drop-off opportunites
3.B.	Increase community participation
3.C.	Provide education
3.D.	Collect data
3.E.	Increase illegal dumping prevention efforts
3.F.	Increase illegal dumping enforcement

Goal 3: Maximize Proper Disposal

Objective	Action steps	Action period
3.A. Improve access to solid waste drop-off opportunities	3.A.1. Support reduced-cost options for waste disposal (e.g., free drop-off days, income-based vouchers, and pay-per-bag programs at collection centers and/or landfills)	Short-term
	3.A.2. Promote establishment of additional municipal and county collection centers (e.g., Cuero)	Mid-term
3.B. Increase community participation	3.B.1. Support programs that encourage and enable community reporting (e.g., illegal dumping reporting app, phone line)	Short-term
	3.B.2. Support local community clean up events and encourage organizers to seek funding from business and civic partners, share best practices with other local organizers and recruit volunteers from schools and other community organizations	Short-term, mid-term and long-term

Goal 3: Maximize Proper Disposal

Objective	Action steps	Action period
3.C. Provide education	3.C.1. Ensure broad public awareness using cost-effective communication tools including social media and the websites of each relevant city and county to provide consistent, reliable communication	Short-term, mid-term and long-term
	3.C.2. Leverage cleanup events to increase understanding of illegal dumping by providing information to the media and local champions, and providing information to cleanup participants—including print materials where appropriate (e.g., event dates, penalties and impact, and where to take commonly dumped materials)	
	3.C.3. Educate and engage targeted segments of the community (e.g., students, residents, construction companies, property owners, and businesses) on proper disposal methods and the impact of illegal dumping	

Objective	Action steps	Action period
3.D. Collect data	3.D.1. Encourage collection and analysis of illegal dumping data. (e.g., illegal dumping--dumping locations, cost to clean up and enforce laws, and enforcement outcomes; reduced-cost disposal options--participation, volume, and ZIP Code)	Mid-term
3.E. Increase illegal dumping prevention efforts	3.E.1. Support deterrents such as surveillance cameras, simple signage, beautification, and fencing in high-incident areas as part of a comprehensive illegal dumping strategy, which includes prevention, abatement, education, and enforcement	Long-term
3.F. Improve illegal dumping enforcement	3.F.1. Outreach to prosecutors and judges to increase their support of illegal dumping	Short-term
	3.F.2. Explore establishment of a Regional Environmental Task Force to share emerging illegal dumping issues, lessons learned, and best practices (e.g., CAPCOG model)	Mid-term
	3.F.3. Support training for enforcement officers and judges (e.g., Ark-Tex COG training model)	Short-term, mid-term, and long-term

Lead Regional Planning

Goal 4

OBJECTIVES

4.A.	Collaborate
4.B.	Optimize RERAC participation
4.C.	Oversee facility planning
4.D.	Review and update solid waste management plans
4.E.	Make continuous improvements
4.F.	Collect data
4.G.	Plan for disaster waste

Objective	Action steps	Action period
4.A. Collaborate	4.A.1. Initiate annual Solid Waste Management Award program for cities, counties, businesses, and individuals within the region (e.g., BVCOG)	Short-term
	4.A.2. Share the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan with relevant local decision makers to increase awareness, encourage participation, and maximize benefits (e.g., cities, counties, school districts, and other civic leaders)	
	4.A.3. Encourage cities and counties to implement the relevant aspects of Goals 1 - 3 in this plan for their communities as part of their own local solid waste management	
	4.A.4. Compile a master list of all materials collected for recycling, composting, or reuse by cities and counties within the region and look for opportunities to harmonize collections to minimize confusion	
	4.A.5. Utilize and customize existing resources and tools where possible to create consistency and save time and money (e.g., TCEQ- and other COG-developed educational materials)	Short-term, mid-term and long-term

Objective	Action steps	Action period
4.B. Optimize RERAC participation	4.B.1. Seek out actively engaged Advisory Committee members representing a diverse cross-section of solid waste activities	Short-term
	4.B.2. Establish COG pass-through grant funding criteria that encourage participation in committee activities and ensures alignment with regional waste management priorities (e.g., Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council criteria)	
4.C. Oversee facility planning	4.C.1. Evaluate Municipal Solid Waste facility permit applications	Short-term, mid-term and long-term
	4.C.2. Ensure adequate regional waste disposal capacity	
	4.C.3. Maintain closed landfill inventory	
4.D. Review and update solid waste management plans	4.D.1. Update Regional Solid Waste Management Plan as necessary	Short-term, mid-term and long-term
	4.D.2. Publish biennial progress reports of regional solid waste management plan goal accomplishments	

Goal 4: Lead Regional Planning

Objective	Action steps	Action period
4.E. Make continuous improvements	4.E.1. Stay informed about changing solid waste management best practices and technologies	Short-term, mid-term and long-term
4.F. Collect Data	4.F.1. Explore developing a regional data sharing platform which could be used by cities and counties within the COG to help with solid waste planning	Mid-term
4.G. Plan for disaster waste	4.G.1. Encourage development of local disaster debris management plans	Mid-term
	4.G.2. Create peer exchange opportunities to share best practices and existing resources for local disaster debris managements plans	Short-term, mid-term and long-term