

ALAMO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2002-2022

The contents of regional and local solid waste management plans are specified in the Texas Health & Safety Code §363.064. A regional or local solid waste management plan shall conform to the requirements of the Texas Health & Safety Code §363.064 and provide the general structure to implement a regional or local program. Volume I: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan will be adopted by the TCEQ Commissioners by rule according to the Texas Health & Safety Code §363.062.

Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guidelines is a separate document which provides the details to implement Volume I, and is to be approved by the TCEQ's Executive Director or his designee. Volume II identifies the concerns and recommended actions for solid waste management over a long-range period for the entire planning region.

A. Regional Goals

- (1) **Goal #1:** Provide for recovery of material resources by emphasizing reuse, reduction (waste minimization) and recycling.

Objective 1A: Use innovative measures to increase citizen participation in recycling and reuse of residential waste.

- Convenience
- Novelty

Objective 1B: Promote multi-family housing recycling programs throughout the region.

- Increase drop-off opportunities
- Partner with haulers that service multi-family units
- Offer educational materials to multi-family complexes that will facilitate reaching tenants even with high turnover

Objective 1C: Increase commercial recycling efforts in business and government.

- Promote paper recycling
- Promote recycling of ewaste

Objective 1D: Expand resource recovery efforts in the construction and demolition industry.

- Promote source reduction in materials
- Promote reusable building materials from deconstruction of sites rather than demolition
- Promote the use of materials with recycled content

Objective 1E:

- Promote programs for the collection, reuse and management of special wastes such as household hazardous wastes, e-wastes, and green wastes.
- Promote the use of eco-friendly alternatives for pesticides, cleansers and other products which contribute to the household hazardous waste stream.
- Promote “don’t bag it” and composting programs for green waste.
- Promote proper handling of e-wastes.

Objective 1F: Develop better information systems for tracking reuse, recycling and source reduction efforts.

- (2) Goal #2: Improve the recovery of landscape resources by halting illegal dumping.

Objective 2A: Reduce illegal dumping through increased public awareness and education

Objective 2B: Facilitate a region-wide effort to reduce illegal dumping

- Promote/seek a coordinated program between cities and counties
- Develop a process to speak to dumping along boundaries

Objective 2C: Promote cleanup events for illegal dumpsites through public and private partnerships.

Objective 2D: Provide for better enforcement by actively monitoring known dump sites and prosecuting violators.

- (3) Goal #3: Maintain proper and safe disposal of remaining waste with adequate landfill capacities and promotion of the development of alternative technologies which are economically feasible.

Objective 3A: Strive for a 10-year minimum disposal capacity in the AACOG region through a bi-annual capacity review.

Objective 3B: Promote integrated waste management practices throughout the regions’ urban and rural areas.

Objective 3C: Maintain the Closed Landfill Inventory (CLI).

Objective 3D: Conduct or update feasibility studies with regard to landfill alternatives.

- (4) Goal #4: To utilize both public and private financial resources to achieve optimum results in the best practices of integrated solid waste management in the AACOG region.

Objective 4A: Acknowledge the generation of the funds dedicated to solid waste management in reviewing the funding project.

Objective 4B: Evaluate each request for funding on its impact on the region's goals for diversion, waste minimization, cessation of illegal dumping, and proper handling of bulk waste.

Objective 4C: Promote public-private partnerships in developing facilities and programs to enhance the best practices in the region.

B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) Both public and private recycling centers are found in the AACOG region. Accepted materials generally include newspaper, cardboard, plastic, glass, scrap metal, aluminum and steel/tin cans. Some of the centers, but not all, also take used oil, batteries, and computers. Approximately half of the cities provide curbside recycling for residential customers. Several entities have green curbside waste programs all year or during the major growing and leaf dropping periods. Composting and chipping programs serve city and county residents throughout the region. Yard and brush trimmings are composted and/or chipped and are used for a variety of beneficial uses.

Both private and public facilities collect some automotive waste. Some collections are limited to used oil while others include oil filters, tires and batteries. Two private landfill facilities recycle landfill gas and sell it to electric companies in San Antonio and Austin. There are liquid waste and sludge transporters in the region. Some sludge is used to make commercial compost. Current efforts in the region to minimize municipal solid waste and divert sludge from the waste stream appear to be adequate at this time. However, AACOG is always actively pursuing opportunities to beneficially use sludge.

- (2) Recommendations for encouraging and achieving a greater degree of waste minimization and waste reuse or recycling in the geographic area covered by the plan stem directly from the goals and objectives (listed above) of the AACOG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. The goals and objectives include promotion of multi-family housing recycling programs, encouraging commercial recycling efforts in business and government, and using innovative measures to

increase citizen participation in existing programs. AACOG has and plans to continue supporting the reuse of recycled materials in the region. Grant support has encouraged two entities to become their own market for recycled glass.

- (3) Availability of household hazardous waste collection services vary greatly in the region. There is one permanent collection center in the region where household hazardous waste is dropped off by citizens. Several local entities have a contractor who provides curbside collection of household hazardous waste on request. Yearly collection events are held by some cities in the region. Taken together, the various programs serve approximately 50% of the cities in the region and three counties. There is a need to increase public education on proper disposal of household hazardous waste and more "earth friendly" substitutions for household hazardous waste products. Programs for the collection of HHW are needed in the unserved areas of the region.
- (4) Alamo Area Council of Governments will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) Alamo Area Council of Governments recommends 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; and
 - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch;
- (6) Alamo Area Council of Governments solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - Alamo Area Council of Governments *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 commits to maintaining and updating it as needed; 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 Guidelines*.