

COG Number: 12



THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF TRAVIS

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of a
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality document,
which is filed in the permanent records of the Commission.
Given under my hand and the seal of office on

LaDonna Castanuela JUN 25 2007

LaDonna Castanuela, Chief Clerk
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN
adopted under provisions of Texas
Health & Safety Code Ann.
Chapter 363 (Vernon)

Name of Council of Governments:

Capital Area Council of Governments
P. O. Box 17848
Austin, TX 78760-7848

Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

This plan is adopted subject to the rules and orders of the Commission and laws of the State of Texas and it replaces any previously approved plan. Nothing in this plan exempts the Council of Governments from compliance with other applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This plan is valid until canceled, amended, or revoked by the Commission.

This plan is adopted by reference into Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 330, Subchapter O as specified in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Section 330.647(a).

ADOPTED in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 330.

ADOPTION DATE: MAY 31 2007

Kathleen H. White
For the Commission

VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Capital Area Council of Governments (hereafter called CAPCOG). The counties covered under this plan include Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, and Williamson.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated July 10, 2002, as revised on May 22, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

A. Regional Goals

- Goal #1: Encourage a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection and diversion program.
- Objective #1A: Coordinate public/private partnerships to share the cost burden and provide services.
 - Objective #1B: Develop sub-regional collection programs that encourage permanent reuse facilities.
 - Objective #1C: Promote more cost efficient collection programs other than annual one-day events.
- Goal #2: Promote public education on integrated solid waste management.
- Objective #2A: Establish educational programs specific to other goals (HHW, illegal dumping, and recycling).
 - Objective #2B: Coordinate educational programs through school curricula, advertising, and environmental projects.
 - Objective #2C: Maintain and promote the environmental resource center for public use.
- Goal #3: Promote community clean up events to provide citizens with an alternative to illegal dumping.
- Objective #3A: Coordinate public/private partnerships to share the cost burden and promote sponsorship.
 - Objective #3B: Educate communities on the availability of funds to provide the service and coordinate events.
 - Objective #3C: Coordinate services to communities that do not have bulky item pick-up, curbside municipal solid waste services, or that have illegal dumping issues.
- Goal #4: Continue and enhance current illegal dumping enforcement programs.
- Objective #4A: Support participation in the Regional Enforcement Task Force.
 - Objective #4B: Support all programs that aim to curtail illegal dumping.
 - Objective #4C: Provide environmental enforcement training to the entire region throughout the year.
- Goal #5: Encourage effective and efficient management and operation of recycling services.
- Objective #5A: Coordinate public/private partnerships.

Objective #5B: Coordinate the development of markets for recycled materials and maintain local control as necessary to assure quality of services.

Objective #5C: Seek support for and encourage continued operation of small businesses and non-profit recycling entities.

Goal #6: Explore alternatives to dealing with the disposal of special wastes.

Objective #6A: Reduce the amount of construction and demolition (C&D) waste and encourage recycling.

Objective #6B: Determine effective and efficient management of used tires and oil.

Objective #6C: Provide public education on electronics recycling and work with other entities on maintaining a database of reliable electronic recycling industries.

Objective #6D: Encourage MSW facilities to have used tire programs.

Goal #7: Encourage the proper management and disposal of municipal solid waste.

Objective #7A: Ensure best industry practices for all MSW facilities.

Objective #7B: Encourage MSW facilities to be involved with surrounding communities.

Goal #8: Promote reduction in the disposal amount of yard waste and encourage recycling.

Objective #8A: Coordinate programs for the diversion of yard trimmings and brush, and their use of the compost or mulch.

Objective #8B: Provide material on the "Don't Bag It" program for yard waste and backyard composting.

Objective #8C: Provide education materials on the beneficial use of green waste.

Objective #8D: Coordinate with MSW facilities to divert yard waste and brush from disposal.

Goal #9: Determine whether access to and the availability of legal disposal options in the CAPCOG region are adequate.

Objective #9A: Determine if new or expanded facilities are needed with the region.

Objective #9B: Coordinate the development of transfer stations and citizen collection stations in areas of need.

Objective #9C: Coordinate open and free markets within the region for solid waste collection, disposal, and recycling.

Goal #10: Promote administrative structures to ensure some measure of local control in the siting, expansion, and operation of MSW facilities.

Objective #10A: Coordinate with counties to pass municipal solid waste siting ordinances.

Objective #10B: Provide pre-application assistance to interested parties.

Objective #10C: Utilize a checklist to provide guidance and determine plan conformance for MSW permit and registration applications.

Objective #10D: Coordinate development of regional or local programs to enforce MSW regulations and permit requirements.

Goal #11: Promote incentives for recycling activities and increased recycling participation rates across the region.

Objective #11A: Work to seek funding for CAPCOG to coordinate, monitor, and report on progress achieved toward meeting regional recycling goals.

Objective #11B: Consider/evaluate volume-based rate structures/recycling programs.

Objective #11C: Encourage studies and analysis of the current waste stream to stimulate economic development in the recycling industry.

Goal #12: Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste generated and disposed of within the region.

Objective #12A: Coordinate the separation and collection of recyclables from governmental facilities.

Objective #12B: Emphasize market-based incentives and market development.

Objective #12C: Target waste reduction activities to the specific waste streams.

Goal #13: Increase the CAPCOG region recycling rate.

Objective #13A: Coordinate innovative recycling projects throughout the region.

Goal #14: Provide permanent household hazardous waste collection facilities throughout the region.

Objective #14A: Coordinate the creation of HHW facilities throughout the region.

Goal #15: Use the Plan Conformance/Facility Application Review process and the provisions of §363.066, Health & Safety Code, to address land use compatibility and other local issues in order to avoid if possible, or minimize if avoidance is not possible, adverse impacts from municipal solid waste (MSW) facilities on human health and the environment.

Objective #15A: Determine whether the use of a site for a MSW facility may adversely impact human health or the environment by evaluating and determining impacts of the site upon counties, cities, communities, groups of property owners, or individuals in terms of compatibility of land use, zoning in the vicinity, community growth patterns, and other factors associated with the public interest.

Objective #15B: Monitor MSW facilities' compliance with local zoning requirements, siting ordinances, and other local government land use regulations.

Objective #15C: Assess MSW facilities' impacts on roads, drainage ways, and other infrastructure. Consider existing and planned future land uses near proposed facilities. Consider and address infrastructure problems created by facilities. Consider and address potential land use conflicts between MSW facilities and existing and planned development.

Objective #15D: Encourage MSW facilities to be good neighbors, by assessing and considering every applicant's five-year compliance history in Texas to the fullest extent allowed by TCEQ.

Objective #15E: Encourage programs that provide incentives for using landfills instead of illegal dumping including but not limited to conducting and increasing awareness of community cleanup events, efforts to curtail illegal dumping, litter abatement and waste reduction programs, public education programs, lower rates for waste-collection events, etc.

Objective #15F: Avoid if possible, or minimize if avoidance is not possible, concerns about visual and aesthetic impacts from MSW facilities on adjacent land uses by incorporating "context sensitive" design, appropriate buffers, and setbacks into facility design. Encourage operators to take reasonable and

appropriate steps to avoid such impacts if possible or minimize them if complete avoidance is not possible.

Objective #15G: Address local land use concerns about the long term and cumulative effects of MSW facilities and protect the public interest in a natural landscape, avoid if possible, or minimize if not possible, major disruptions to the landscape and other adverse long term and cumulative effects by monitoring whether the permitted and maximum potential (theoretical geometric calculation) height and capacity of a MSW facility are accurately calculated and taken into account.

Objective #15H: Avoid if possible, or minimize if avoidance is not possible, nuisance conditions associated with MSW facilities that generate community concerns by encouraging applicants to implement reasonable and appropriate measures and best management practices to prevent and control litter, storm water runoff, vectors, odor, excessive noise, light pollution, and other nuisance conditions.

B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) Several local governmental entities in the CAPCOG region have recycling policies in place and active programs to encourage waste diversion. In order for the remaining local governments to develop recycling policies and programs, more stable markets are needed.

The CAPCOG region is home to several large recycling industries for central Texas. The private service providers in the region also provide services to other regions of the state. Environmental quality and concerns continue to create new recycling markets within the CAPCOG region. For example, the tremendous growth in the region has created new markets within the construction and building industry for recyclables. There are a number of construction and demolition recyclers in the region. Another example is the introduction of electronic recyclers, to deal with the large number of electronics within the region.

Recycling centers have been established throughout the region with assistance from solid waste grants. Facilities are now located in Blanco County (Blanco), Johnson City, Hays County (Wimberly & Driftwood), Fayette County (LaGrange), Llano County, Burnet County, Williamson County (Hutto), and 4 centers in Lee County. All of these facilities will accept recyclables from citizens within their county. LaGrange has a glass pulverizer and Blanco received a grant for one in this current grant cycle. Blanco is cooperating with Johnson City and Hays County to receive and pulverize glass into a usable material, eliminating the high hauling cost of the glass. The City of Georgetown has also received a grant to buy recycling equipment for the upgraded Transfer Station. There are also currently a number of stand alone recycling programs within our region, the City of Austin has a large curbside recycling program, BFI has a recycling center at the northeast Travis County landfill, Ecology Action maintains four recycling centers within the region, TDS does recycling at their landfill and the Eco Depot transfer station; and LCRA continues to work to develop markets through the Central Texas Recycling Association. BFI, IESL, TDS and WMI also offer recycling programs for residential pickup throughout the areas of the region that they serve.

There are different programs throughout the region that have an impact on source reduction. The "Don't Bag It" program and Backyard Composting educational classes have helped divert organic materials from the landfills. An LCRA facility in Burnet and the City of Austin's Hornsby Bend (Dillo Dirt) facility uses sludge in their composting operations. There are also a few operators that use animal sludge in their composting operations. Current efforts in the region to minimize sludge appear to be adequate at this time.

Illegal dumping has been addressed in the CAPCOG region by forming a Regional Environmental Task Force. The group provides training, a communication network for enforcement entities, and assistance in developing strong programs to deter illegal dumping.

- (2) Because yard waste and paper still make up a majority of the waste stream, the "Don't Bag It" program and Backyard Composting educational classes need to be enhanced and continued throughout the region in order to have a larger impact.

These priorities were identified as the region's needs for the current planning period:

- Permanent HHW facilities and/or reuse centers;
- Programs and/or initiatives that deal with scrap tires;
- Community clean-up events and bulky item collection;
- Illegal dumping and local enforcement programs; and
- Recycling services, programs, and market development.

- (3) There are a number of successful HHW programs within our region. The LCRA operates the Regional Mobil Waste program which provides one day collection events to rural communities. Another is the City of Round Rock HHW Facility. This facility was initially partially grant funded but has evolved to stand on its own and provides collection to its citizens on an ongoing basis. A second program that was initially partially grant funded is the Fayette County reuse center in LaGrange that is now also an ongoing collection site. Finally, the City of Austin HHW facility, serves residents of the City of Austin and Travis County. The City of Austin HHW facility collects the largest amount of HHW within the CAPCOG region.

The City of San Marcos has applied for and has been awarded a grant to create an HHW facility. Their goal is to provide a citizen re-use center as well as accept unusable HHW for recycling or disposal. They plan to cooperate with Hays County and other Cities within the area to accept HHW from those citizens.

We have made great progress in the collection of HHW within the region; however some communities may still be underserved and will require continued improvement.

- (4) CAPCOG will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) CAPCOG 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) CAPCOG's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - CAPCOG 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 update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; 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 Guideline*.