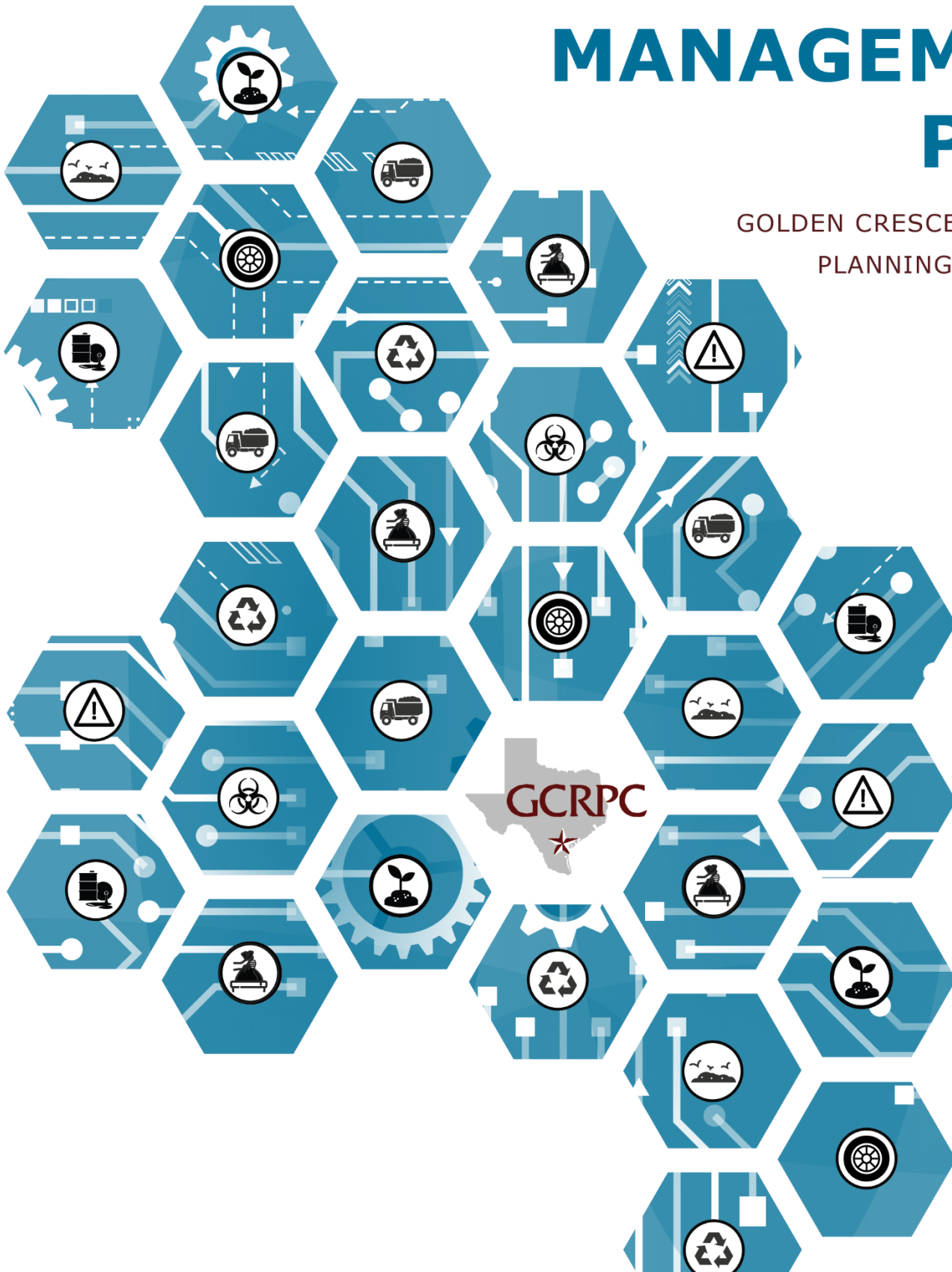


2022 - 2042

# REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

GOLDEN CRESCENT REGIONAL  
PLANNING COMMISSION



Volume I  
Volume II  
Attachments

This report was prepared by  
Texas State Institute for Government Innovation

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**Special thanks** to the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC) for the opportunity to work on this project. We would specifically like to thank Stacey Frazer and Hannah Crone with GCRPC and the members of the Regional Environmental Resources Advisory Committee for their guidance and feedback in the development of this Plan.

Delivered on  
**September 13, 2021**

To support reducing waste,  
we have produced this document to be best viewed electronically.  
We have also included links to print critical parts of the plan.

PLEASE NOTE PRINTING FEATURES ONLY WORK IN ADOBE ACROBAT, NOT IN WEB BROWSERS

### Volume I

The approved summary of the 2022 – 2042  
Regional Solid Waste Management Plan

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### Volume II

The approved plan details of the 2022 – 2042  
Regional Solid Waste Management Plan

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### Plan-at-a-Glance

The 2022 – 2042 Regional Solid Waste Management  
Plan-at-a-Glance for quick reference

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### Plan Conformance Review

The Plan Conformance Review to help evaluate proposed  
municipal solid waste facility applications

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# Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Volume I

## Regional Organization Information

Table 1. Organization Information

Name of Council of Government	Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission
Mailing Address	1908 N Laurent St, Victoria, TX 77901
Website	<a href="http://gcrpc.com">http://gcrpc.com</a>
Phone Number	361-578-1587
Email Address	<a href="mailto:hannahc@gcrpc.org">hannahc@gcrpc.org</a> , <a href="mailto:staceyf@gcrpc.org">staceyf@gcrpc.org</a>

## Section I. Geographic Scope

[Ref. 30 TAC §330.645(a)(1)]

*The geographic scope of the regional planning process shall be the entire planning region.*

Table I.I. Geographic Scope

Names of Member Counties in the Entire Planning Region	Calhoun, Dewitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, Victoria
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## Section II. Plan Content

[Ref. 30 TAC §330.635(a)(2)]

*A regional plan shall be the result of a planning process related to the proper management of solid waste in the planning region. The process shall include identification of overriding concerns and collection and evaluation of the data necessary to provide a written public statement of goals and objectives and actions recommended to accomplish those goals and objectives.*

## II.A. Regional Goals and Objectives

[Ref. 30 TAC §330.635(a)(2)(A)]

In the table, list the long-range regional goals and corresponding objectives for the proper management of solid waste in the planning region. Add rows as needed.

**Table II.A. Regional Goals and Objectives**

<b>Goal #1</b>	Maximize Beneficial Resource Use	<b>Objective 1.A.</b> Improve access to diversion opportunities <b>Objective 1.B.</b> Improve community participation <b>Objective 1.C.</b> Provide education
<b>Goal #2</b>	Responsibly Manage Problematic Waste	<b>Objective 2.A.</b> Improve access to problematic waste collection <b>Objective 2.B.</b> Provide education <b>Objective 2.C.</b> Collect data
<b>Goal #3</b>	Maximize Proper Disposal	<b>Objective 3.A.</b> Improve access to solid waste drop-off opportunities <b>Objective 3.B.</b> Increase community participation <b>Objective 3.C.</b> Provide education <b>Objective 3.D.</b> Collect data <b>Objective 3.E.</b> Increase illegal dumping prevention efforts <b>Objective 3.F.</b> Increase illegal dumping enforcement
<b>Goal #4</b>	Lead Regional Planning	<b>Objective 4.A.</b> Collaborate <b>Objective 4.B.</b> Optimize funding decisions <b>Objective 4.C.</b> Oversee facility planning <b>Objective 4.D.</b> Review and update solid waste management plans <b>Objective 4.E.</b> Make continuous improvements <b>Objective 4.F.</b> Collect data <b>Objective 4.G.</b> Plan for disaster waste

**II.B. Efforts to Minimize, Reuse, and Recycle Waste***[Ref. 30 TAC §330.635(a)(2)(B)]*

In the table, provide a description and assessment of efforts to minimize, reuse, and recycle waste.

**Table II.B. Waste Minimization, Reuse, and Recycling**

Subject	Description
Current Efforts to Minimize Municipal Solid Waste and to Reuse or Recycle Waste	<p>While there is always room for improvement, recycling efforts are widespread and most residents in the region have access to some recycling opportunities, especially curbside collection. Reuse opportunities exist in the region but are not typically handled by cities and counties in the region. These opportunities, such as Goodwill, Salvation Army, and online social networks are also typically not communicated on city and county websites in the region.</p> <p>General source reduction and waste minimization efforts are much less common throughout the region. Though, processing of sludge biosolids is also present in the City of Victoria.</p> <p>For more information, see Attachment III.E. Assessment of Current Source Reduction and Waste Minimization Efforts, Including Sludge, and Efforts to Reuse or Recycle Waste.</p>



<p>Recycling Rate Goal for the Region</p>	<p>Because no established regional recycling rate exists, we estimated one based on the statewide recycling rate. Having adjusted the statewide rate to the region, we found the current GCRPC recycling rate to be 18.8%. Based on this current rate, the recycling rate goal is set for a regional average of 40% by 2042—the end of this plan.</p> <p>Achieving a 40% recycling rate over the course of this 20-year plan amounts to an average increase of about 1% each year. It is based on other waste management plans in Texas. The City of San Antonio plan is to increase recycling 4% every year to reach their goal of 60% by the end of 2025. The City of New Braunfels plan is to increase their annual recycling rate by 1.6% to reach their goal of 38% by 2030.</p> <p>Because the regional recycling rate goal is the average rate for the region, the 1% yearly growth rate accounts for both city and rural areas, and their varied recycling capabilities. Cities and rural communities are not expected to reach the same recycling level, but together they should strive to average 40% by 2042.</p> <p>To make measuring and reaching the recycling rate goal attainable, for the purposes of this plan, any material diverted from the landfill may be included in the recycling rate.</p> <p>The region will need to be able to measure their recycling rate in order to assess their progress towards reaching the regional goal. Developing a process to measure the region's diversion activities will be critical to the success of this goal. Collecting data on waste diversion helps improve diversion efforts. Data driven decision making is crucial to achieving not just the recycling goal, but to improve outcomes for many of the goals listed in this plan.</p> <p>For more information about the region's recycling rate, see Residential Waste Generation in Attachment III.A. Demographic Information on page A14.</p>
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<p>Recommendations for Encouraging and Achieving a Greater Degree of Waste Minimization and Waste Reuse or Recycling</p>	<p>These recommendations are about improving leadership and project implementation. They differ from the recommendations in Volume II, Table III.F.I. Additional Opportunities for Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, Reuse and Recycling of Waste because they are broad management best practices rather than specific ideas.</p> <p>The recommendations are collaboration, communication, education, information tracking, and leadership.</p> <p>For more information, see Attachment III.G. Recommendations for Encouraging and Achieving a Greater Degree of Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, and Reuse or Recycling of Waste.</p>
<p>Existing or Proposed Community Programs for the Collection of Household Hazardous Waste</p>	<p>There are no permanent household hazardous waste drop-off facilities in the region, though there have been collection events in the past. At Your Door, an on-demand curbside service that collects household hazardous waste and electronic waste, is available in some parts of the region.</p> <p>This plan includes a goal to Responsibly Manage Problematic Wastes, which is closely related to household hazardous waste collection.</p>
<p>Composting Programs for Yard Waste</p>	<p>The recommended composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ (I) creation and use of community composting centers;</li> <li>☑ (II) adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and</li> <li>☑ (III) development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.</li> </ul>
<p>Public Education/Outreach</p>	<p>This plan includes a goal to Maximize Beneficial Resource Use, which includes a "Provide education" objective. This objective contains two action steps, one to increase broad public awareness, and the second to educate targeted audiences.</p>

## II.C. Commitment Regarding the Management of MSW Facilities

[Ref. 30 TAC §330.635(a)(2)(C)]

By checking the boxes below, the Council of Government makes a commitment to the following, regarding the management of MSW facilities:

- ☒ (i) encouraging cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- ☒ (ii) assessing the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- ☒ (iii) considering 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;
- ☒ (iv) allowing 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;
- ☒ (v) completing and maintaining an inventory of MSW landfill units in accordance with Texas Health and Safety Code, §363.064. One copy of the inventory shall be provided to the commission and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- ☒ (vi) developing a guidance document to review MSW registration and permit applications to determine conformance with the goals and objectives outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guidelines* as referenced in 30 TAC §330.643.

## Section III. Required Approvals

Table III.I. Required Approvals

<b>Solid Waste Advisory Committee</b>	Enter approval date by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.
<b>Public Meeting Dates</b>	July 22, 2021
<b>Executive Committee</b>	Enter approval date by the Executive Committee.

# Regional Solid Waste Management Implementation Plan Volume II

## Regional Organization Information

Table 1. Organization Information

Name of Council of Government	Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission
Mailing Address	1908 N Laurent St, Victoria, TX 77901
Website	<a href="http://gcrpc.com">http://gcrpc.com</a>
Phone Number	361-578-1587
Email Address	<a href="mailto:hannahc@gcrpc.org">hannahc@gcrpc.org</a> , <a href="mailto:staceyf@gcrpc.org">staceyf@gcrpc.org</a>

## Section I. Geographic Scope

Table I.I. Geographic Scope

I.A. Names of Member Counties in the Entire Planning Region [Ref. 30 TAC §330.643(a)(1)]	Calhoun, Dewitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, Victoria
I.B. Geographic Planning Units Used in the Regional Implementation Plan [Ref. 30 TAC §330.643(a)(1)]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small geographic areas such as census tracts or city boundaries for the most detailed data collection and manipulation;  <input type="checkbox"/> Planning areas to be used for the assessment of concerns and the evaluation of alternatives. These planning areas shall be aggregations of small geographic areas;  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County boundaries for the summarization and presentation of key information; or  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The entire planning region

## Section II. Planning Periods

[Ref. 30 TAC §330.643(a)(2)]

**Table II.I. Planning Periods**

<b>II.A.1. Current and Historical Information</b>	<p><i>2018 - 2021</i></p> <p>All data source years are clearly marked when used throughout this plan. The most recent year was preferred except when comparative analysis required using similar years.</p>
<b>II.A.2. Short-range Planning Period</b>	<p><i>2022 - 2027</i></p> <p>There are 12 action steps in the short-range planning period that cover 7 objectives and span all four goals including maximizing beneficial resource use, responsibly managing problematic waste handling, maximizing proper disposal, and leading regional planning.</p>
<b>II.A.3. Intermediate Planning Period</b>	<p><i>2028 - 2032</i></p> <p>There are 9 action steps in the intermediate planning period that cover 8 objectives and span all four goals.</p>
<b>II.A.4. Long-range Planning Period</b>	<p><i>2033 - 2042</i></p> <p>There is 1 action step in the long-range planning period that covers 1 objective and 1 goal (maximizing proper disposal). This was done purposefully to acknowledge the long-range planning period is subject to significant change and must have flexibility. Still, there are also 19 action steps that span all planning periods that cover 12 objectives.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check box if additional details provided in <i>Attachment II.A.</i>	

## Section III. Plan Content

### III.A. Demographic Information

[Ref. 30 TAC §330.643(a)(3)(A)]

*In the table, provide population projections, significant commercial and industrial economic activity affecting waste generation and disposal in the area, and recycling activities. Use five-year increments beginning from the base year to the end of the long-range planning period. Refer to Regional Plan Instructions for more information on III.A. Demographic Information.*

**Note:** An attachment related to Demographic Information is not called for in the original Volume II form but is nonetheless included. It is similarly noted at the beginning of the relevant section of the attachments that this information is included.

**Table III.A.I. Residential Waste Generation**

Year	Growth Rate per Year	Current Population / Population Projection	Landfill Disposal (Tons)	Disposal Rate (lbs./ Person/ Day)	Recycling (Tons)	Recycling Rate (lbs./ Person/ Day)	Residential Waste Generation (Tons)
Current	N/A	197,742	154,677	4.29	35,812	0.99	190,489
2022	7.3%	212,110	165,916	4.29	38,414	0.99	204,330
2027	4.9%	222,439	173,995	4.29	40,285	0.99	214,280
2032	4.3%	231,933	181,422	4.29	42,004	0.99	223,426
2037	3.6%	240,327	187,988	4.29	43,524	0.99	231,512
2042	3.2%	248,137	194,097	4.29	44,939	0.99	239,035

**Table III.A.II. Commercial Waste Generation**

Year	Description of significant commercial activities affecting waste generation and disposal in the area.	Expected increase or decrease to Commercial Waste Generation																																		
2022	Top 10 Commercial Employment Sectors represent nearly 90% of the commercial workforce. <table><tr><th>Rank</th><th>Sector</th><th>Percent of Workforce</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Health Care and Social Assistance</td><td>15%</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Management of Companies and Enterprises</td><td>14%</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Educational Services</td><td>10%</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>Accommodation and Food Services</td><td>9%</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>Retail Trade (store)</td><td>9%</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>Construction</td><td>9%</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>Public Administration</td><td>7%</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>Other Services</td><td>5%</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>Finance and Insurance</td><td>4%</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>Retail Trade (nonstore)</td><td>4%</td></tr></table>	Rank	Sector	Percent of Workforce	1	Health Care and Social Assistance	15%	2	Management of Companies and Enterprises	14%	3	Educational Services	10%	4	Accommodation and Food Services	9%	5	Retail Trade (store)	9%	6	Construction	9%	7	Public Administration	7%	8	Other Services	5%	9	Finance and Insurance	4%	10	Retail Trade (nonstore)	4%	Growth Rate per Year	N/A
		Rank	Sector	Percent of Workforce																																
		1	Health Care and Social Assistance	15%																																
		2	Management of Companies and Enterprises	14%																																
		3	Educational Services	10%																																
		4	Accommodation and Food Services	9%																																
		5	Retail Trade (store)	9%																																
		6	Construction	9%																																
		7	Public Administration	7%																																
		8	Other Services	5%																																
		9	Finance and Insurance	4%																																
		10	Retail Trade (nonstore)	4%																																
		Current Population	77,492																																	
		Landfill Disposal (Tons)	159,023																																	
Disposal Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	11.24																																			
Recycling (Tons)	38,607																																			
Recycling Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	2.73																																			
Commercial Waste Generation (Tons)	197,630																																			

Year	Description of significant commercial activities affecting waste generation and disposal in the area.	Expected increase or decrease to Commercial Waste Generation	
2027	<p>The number of people employed in commercial activities is projected to grow by 8%.</p> <p>The Healthcare and Social Services sector will remain the most employed sector, with approximately 12,500 employees, an increase of 12% from 2022.</p> <p>The Management of Companies and Enterprises will remain the second most employed sector, with approximately 10,800 employees, an increase of 1% from 2022.</p> <p>The Accommodation and Food Services sector will remain the third most employed sector, with approximately 7,500 employees, an increase of 10% from 2022.</p>	Growth Rate per Year	5.5%
		Population Projection	81,727
		Landfill Disposal (Tons)	167,714
		Disposal Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	11.24
		Recycling (Tons)	40,717
		Recycling Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	2.73
		Commercial Waste Generation (Tons)	208,431
2032	<p>The region’s economy is expected to advance by 2032. Expansion across many industries will result in an increase to total commercial employment.</p> <p>The largest increase in commercial growth during this planning period will occur in the Services industries. This sector includes companies providing services to individuals, businesses, or government entities. Examples of commercial activities in this sector include medical services, business services (excluding finance, insurance, and real estate), hotels, and amusements.</p> <p>Construction, finance, insurance, real estate, and trade are expected to grow at a lesser pace than in the previous planning period.</p>	Growth Rate per Year	6.5%
		Population Projection	87,033
		Landfill Disposal (Tons)	178,603
		Disposal Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	11.24
		Recycling (Tons)	43,361
		Recycling Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	2.73
		Commercial Waste Generation (Tons)	221,964



Year	Description of significant commercial activities affecting waste generation and disposal in the area.	Expected increase or decrease to Commercial Waste Generation	
2037	<p>It is estimated that the highest growth will be in the Services and Health Care sectors. Examples of commercial activities in this sector include medical services, business services (excluding finance, insurance, and real estate), hotels, and amusements.</p> <p>The Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities industries are projected to grow around 6% from 2032 to 2037.</p> <p>Construction is expected to grow at a lesser pace than in the previous planning period at around 3.6% from 2032 to 2037.</p>	Growth Rate per Year	7.1%
		Population Projection	93,192
		Landfill Disposal (Tons)	191,242
		Disposal Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	11.24
		Recycling (Tons)	46,429
		Recycling Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	2.73
		Commercial Waste Generation (Tons)	237,672
2042	<p>The population of the region to is expected to continue to grow.</p> <p>Job gains through this planning period are projected be concentrated in the Services industries.</p> <p>Construction, finance, insurance, real estate, and trade sectors are expected to grow at a lesser pace than other commercial activities</p>	Growth Rate per Year	3.6%
		Population Projection	96,553
		Landfill Disposal (Tons)	198,140
		Disposal Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	11.24
		Recycling (Tons)	48,104
		Recycling Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	2.73
		Commercial Waste Generation (Tons)	246,244

### Table III.A.III. Industrial Waste Generation

Year	Description of significant industrial waste activities affecting waste generation and disposal in the area.	Expected increase or decrease to Industrial Waste Generation																																
2022	<div>The top 5 Industrial Employment Sectors represent 100% of the industrial workforce.</div> <table><tr><th>Rank</th><th>Sector</th><th>Percent of Workforce</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting</td><td>49%</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction</td><td>31%</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Manufacturing (food, beverage, tobacco, leather, apparel, textile)</td><td>17%</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>Manufacturing (metal, machinery, computer, electrical, transportation, misc.)</td><td>3%</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>Manufacturing (wood, paper, printing, plastic, chemical, nonmetallic, petroleum, coal)</td><td>1%</td></tr></table>	Rank	Sector	Percent of Workforce	1	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	49%	2	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	31%	3	Manufacturing (food, beverage, tobacco, leather, apparel, textile)	17%	4	Manufacturing (metal, machinery, computer, electrical, transportation, misc.)	3%	5	Manufacturing (wood, paper, printing, plastic, chemical, nonmetallic, petroleum, coal)	1%	<table><tr><td>Growth Rate per Year</td><td>N/A</td></tr><tr><td>Population Projection</td><td>13,881</td></tr><tr><td>Landfill Disposal (Tons)</td><td>155,905</td></tr><tr><td>Disposal Rate (lbs./Person/Day)</td><td>61.54</td></tr><tr><td>Recycling (Tons)</td><td>37,850</td></tr><tr><td>Recycling Rate (lbs./Person/Day)</td><td>14.94</td></tr><tr><td>Industrial Waste Generation (Tons)</td><td>193,755</td></tr></table>	Growth Rate per Year	N/A	Population Projection	13,881	Landfill Disposal (Tons)	155,905	Disposal Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	61.54	Recycling (Tons)	37,850	Recycling Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	14.94	Industrial Waste Generation (Tons)	193,755
		Rank	Sector	Percent of Workforce																														
		1	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	49%																														
		2	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	31%																														
		3	Manufacturing (food, beverage, tobacco, leather, apparel, textile)	17%																														
		4	Manufacturing (metal, machinery, computer, electrical, transportation, misc.)	3%																														
		5	Manufacturing (wood, paper, printing, plastic, chemical, nonmetallic, petroleum, coal)	1%																														
		Growth Rate per Year	N/A																															
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Recycling Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	14.94																																	
Industrial Waste Generation (Tons)	193,755																																	

Year	Description of significant industrial waste activities affecting waste generation and disposal in the area.	Expected increase or decrease to Industrial Waste Generation	
2027	<p>The number of people employed in industrial activities is projected to grow by 2%.</p> <p>The Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting sector will remain the most employed sector, with approximately 5,900 employees. However, this represents a decrease of 12% from 2022.</p> <p>The Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction sector will remain the second most employed sector, with approximately 4,800 employees, an increase of 13% from 2022.</p> <p>The Manufacturing of food, beverages, and other non-durable goods will remain the third most employed sector, with approximately 2,900 employees, an increase of 26% from 2022.</p>	<b>Growth Rate per Year</b>	1.6%
		<b>Population Projection</b>	14,100
		<b>Landfill Disposal (Tons)</b>	158,361
		<b>Disposal Rate (lbs./Person/Day)</b>	61.54
		<b>Recycling (Tons)</b>	38,447
		<b>Recycling Rate (lbs./Person/Day)</b>	14.94
		<b>Industrial Waste Generation (Tons)</b>	196,807

Year	Description of significant industrial waste activities affecting waste generation and disposal in the area.	Expected increase or decrease to Industrial Waste Generation	
2032	<p>The region's industrial economy is expected to continue to grow by 2032.</p> <p>The largest increase in industrial employment will take place in the Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction industry, which is projected to grow by more than 5% between 2027 and 2032.</p> <p>The Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting industry is projected to see a decrease in employment during this planning period. Specifically, employment in this industry is projected to decrease by 1%, bringing the number of people employed to about 5,800 people.</p>	Growth Rate per Year	2.0%
		Population Projection	14,386
		Landfill Disposal (Tons)	161,572
		Disposal Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	61.54
		Recycling (Tons)	39,226
		Recycling Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	14.94
		Industrial Waste Generation (Tons)	200,798
2037	<p>It is estimated that the highest growth will be in the Mining and Manufacturing industries. Examples of industrial activities in these sectors includes quarrying, oil and gas extractions, and the manufacturing of durable and nondurable goods.</p> <p>Employment in the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting industry is expected to shrink.</p>	Growth Rate per Year	1.8%
		Population Projection	14,648
		Landfill Disposal (Tons)	164,511
		Disposal Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	61.54
		Recycling (Tons)	39,940
		Recycling Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	14.94
		Industrial Waste Generation (Tons)	204,451

Year	Description of significant industrial waste activities affecting waste generation and disposal in the area.	Expected increase or decrease to Industrial Waste Generation	
2042	<p>While industrial employment is expected to grow by 0.7%, the full population of the region is forecasted to continue to grow at about a 3% rate, an indicator of increased economic growth.</p> <p>Job gains through this planning period are projected to be concentrated in the Mining and Manufacturing industries.</p> <p>Agriculture is expected to shrink at nearly a similar pace to the previous planning period.</p>	Growth Rate per Year	0.7%
		Population Projection	14,750
		Landfill Disposal (Tons)	165,660
		Disposal Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	61.54
		Recycling (Tons)	40,219
		Recycling Rate (lbs./Person/Day)	14.94
		Industrial Waste Generation (Tons)	205,879

### III.B. Estimates of Current and Future Solid Waste Amounts by Type

[Ref. 30 TAC §330.643(a)(3)(B)]

*In the table, provide the current and project solid waste amounts by type that will be generated and managed within the region. Use five-year increments beginning from the base year to the end of the long-range planning period. Refer to Regional Plan Instructions for more information on III.B. Estimates of Current and Future Solid Waste Amounts by Type.*

**Table III.B.1. Current and Future Solid Waste Amounts by Type**

Waste Type	Number of Landfills Accepting Waste Type	Percent of Total Tons Disposed	Current Year (tons) (2019)	5-year Projection (tons) (2027)	10-year Projection (tons) (2032)	15-year Projection (tons) (2037)	20-year Projection (tons) (2042)
Municipal	1	84%	130,649	147,056	153,379	158,901	163,985
Brush	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Construction or Demolition	1	0%	418	470	491	508	525
Litter	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Class 1 Non-hazardous	0	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Classes 2 and 3 Non-hazardous	1	14%	21,797	24,534	25,589	26,510	27,359
Incinerator Ash	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Treated Medical Waste	0	0%	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Municipal Hazardous Waste from CESQGs	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

Waste Type	Number of Landfills Accepting Waste Type	Percent of Total Tons Disposed	Current Year (tons) (2019)	5-year Projection (tons) (2027)	10-year Projection (tons) (2032)	15-year Projection (tons) (2037)	20-year Projection (tons) (2042)
Regulated Asbestos- containing Material (RACM)	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Non-RACM	1	0%	164	185	193	199	206
Dead Animals	-0-	-0-					
Sludge	1	1%	1,006	1,132	1,181	1,224	1,263
Grease Trap Waste	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Septage	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Contaminated soil	-0-	-0-	326	367	383	396	409
Tires (split, quartered, shredded)	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Pesticides	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Used Oil Filter	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Other (identify other types reported as <i>Attachment III.B.</i> )	1	0%	317	357	372	386	398
Total		100%	154,677	174,101	181,588	188,124	194,145
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check box if additional details provided in <i>Attachment III.B.</i>							

### III.C. Description of Current and Planned Solid Waste Management Activities

[Ref. 30 TAC §330.643(a)(3)(C)]

*In the tables, provide the current and planned solid waste management activities in the region with a description. Solid waste management activities should focus on data, activities, and resources within the planning area. Refer to Regional Plan Instructions for more information on III.C. Description of Current and Planned Solid Waste Management Activities in the Region.*

**Table III.C.I. Current Solid Waste Management Activities in the Region**

Activity	Description
Generation	<p>Provided here are summary statistics of the waste generation occurring at residential, commercial, and industrial locations in the region. Please see Attachment III.C for a comprehensive description of the generation activities in the region.</p> <p>The solid waste generation rates for the region:</p> <p>Residential: 12.23 lbs./household/day</p> <p>Commercial: 50.14 lbs./employee/day</p> <p>Industrial: 8.93 lbs./employee/day</p> <p>The percentage each category comprised of total waste generated in the region:</p> <p>77% by commercial enterprises, 20% by residences, and 3% by industrial enterprises.</p> <p><i>Waste generated in single-family homes:</i></p> <p>21% Food, 18% Paper (composite paper, cardboard, newspaper, etc.), 13% Other Organic (manures, textiles, carpet, composite organics), 12% Inerts and Other (wood waste, rock, soil, fines, etc.), 10% Plastics, 7% Brush (branches, stumps, prunings, trimmings), 5% Mixed Residue (kitty litter, cosmetics, etc.), 5% Yard Waste (leaves, grass), 3% Special Waste (bulky items, medical waste, ash, etc.). The remaining 5% is comprised of Metals, Glass, Electronics, and Household Hazardous Waste (paint, batteries, etc.).</p>



Activity	Description
	<p><i>Waste generated in multi-family homes:</i></p> <p>25% Food, 24% Paper, 16% Other, 11% Plastics, 6% Inerts and Other, 4% Special Waste, 4% Metals. The remaining 12% is comprised of Mixed Residue (3%), Glass (3%), Yard Waste (3%), Electronics (2%), and Household Hazardous Waste (&lt;1%).</p> <p><i>The waste products generated by commercial entities in the region as a percentage of total <b>weight</b> in 2018:</i></p> <p>79% Construction and Demolition waste, 9% Paper, 7% Organics (food, leaves, grass, etc.), 2% Plastics, 2% Metals, and the remaining 2% is comprised of Brush, Glass, Hazardous, Textiles, Electronics, Bulk, Household Hazardous Waste and Other.</p> <p><i>The waste products generated by commercial entities in the region as a percentage of total <b>volume</b> in 2018:</i></p> <p>49% Construction and Demolition waste, 30% Paper, 8% Plastics, 8% Organics, 2% Metals, 1% Brush, and the remaining 2% is comprised of Textiles, Bulk, Electronics, Glass, Household Hazardous Waste, and Other.</p> <p><i>The waste products generated by industrial entities in the region as a percentage of total weight in 2018:</i></p> <p>38% Organics, 19% Paper, 17% Brush, 9% Construction and Demolition waste, 7% Metals, 6% Plastics, 2% Glass, and the remaining 4% is comprised of Hazardous (leachate, aqueous waste, benzene, etc.), Textiles, Bulk, Electronics, Household Hazardous Waste, and Other.</p> <p>We cannot display a breakdown of industrial waste by volume as we did for commercial waste because much of the Hazardous waste is liquid, and the conversions were not available.</p>
Source Separation	<p>Residents in the most populous city in the region (Victoria) are expected to separate their waste into at least 6 waste streams. Further from Victoria, there are expected to be fewer and less convenient recycling opportunities. As this happens, it is likely more items that could have been diverted from the landfill will end up in the trash.</p>

Activity	Description														
Collection	<p>Collection within the COG consisted of both curbside and drop-off facilities.</p> <p>More than 50% of residents have city-provided access to curbside collection for trash, brush, and yard waste. The remaining percent do not necessarily lack access but likely live outside a municipality and may have to coordinate service privately or could have no access at all.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="574 604 1414 1155"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="574 604 810 716">Waste type</th><th data-bbox="810 604 1414 716">Percent of residents with city-provided access to curbside collection</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="574 716 810 789">Trash</td><td data-bbox="810 716 1414 789">63%</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="574 789 810 863">Brush</td><td data-bbox="810 789 1414 863">58%</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="574 863 810 936">Yard Waste</td><td data-bbox="810 863 1414 936">55%</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="574 936 810 1010">Recycling</td><td data-bbox="810 936 1414 1010">45%</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="574 1010 810 1083">Bulk</td><td data-bbox="810 1010 1414 1083">41%</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="574 1083 810 1155">Organics</td><td data-bbox="810 1083 1414 1155">0%</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>There were 15 active permitted facilities that accepted a variety of waste types via drop-off. An additional 9 active permitted facilities did not publicly indicate if they accepted materials via drop-off.</p>	Waste type	Percent of residents with city-provided access to curbside collection	Trash	63%	Brush	58%	Yard Waste	55%	Recycling	45%	Bulk	41%	Organics	0%
Waste type	Percent of residents with city-provided access to curbside collection														
Trash	63%														
Brush	58%														
Yard Waste	55%														
Recycling	45%														
Bulk	41%														
Organics	0%														
Handling	<p>All haulers that collected waste and all facilities that accepted drop-off materials, transferred waste, processed waste (including resource recovery), or disposed of waste performed waste handling. Data are not available to characterize the total amounts of waste that were handled or the actual capacity of waste handling for those facilities or haulers.</p> <p>In 2021, there were 26 facilities and 8 haulers expected to handle waste in the region.</p>														

Activity	Description
Storage	<p>All facilities that accepted drop-off materials, transferred waste, processed waste (including resource recovery), or disposed of waste are considered storage facilities. Data are not available to characterize the total amounts of waste that were stored, the length of storage, or total storage capacity for those facilities.</p> <p>In 2021, there were 26 facilities expected to store waste in the region.</p>
Transportation	<p>There were 8 haulers, 3 transfer stations, 2 citizens collection stations, and 3 tire transporters in the region.</p> <p>Additionally, the EPA estimates residents should be no more than 34 miles round-trip from a disposal facility. Otherwise, an intermediate facility should be available. Therefore, we evaluated the distance between where waste is generated and where it is disposed. About 44% of the region's population is within 17 miles of a landfill. Of the remaining 56%, more than 15% is not within 17 miles of a transfer station or other drop-off location.</p>
Processing	<p>Processing includes Transportation, Treatment, and Resource Recovery.</p> <p>In total, 23 facilities were engaged in one or more facets of waste processing.</p>
Treatment	<p>As of June 2021, the region had 2 liquid waste processors and 3 compost facilities.</p> <p>In 2019, 20,927 tons of solid waste were treated, and 31,521 tons of liquid waste were treated.</p>
Resource Recovery	<p>There were 13 facilities that recovered resources in the region. Only 2 of these facilities were permitted. Therefore, data related to the resources recovered in the region were unavailable.</p>
Disposal of Solid Waste	<p>There was 1 landfill in the region. A total of 154,610 tons were disposed of in the region in 2019.</p>

**Table III.C.II. Planned Solid Waste Management Activities in the Region**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>
Generation	The percent of total waste by each group (residential, commercial, industrial) is not expected to change significantly, but the amount of total waste generated is expected to increase significantly.
Source Separation	There are no known planned changes at this time.
Collection	There is one known planned change to collection drop-off. It the planned expansion of the City of Victoria Landfill.
Handling	There is one known planned change. It the planned expansion of the City of Victoria Landfill.
Storage	There is one known planned change. It the planned expansion of the City of Victoria Landfill.
Transportation	There are no known planned changes at this time. Even though there is a planned change to the region's landfill, it is not expected to meaningfully affect transportation.
Processing	There are no known planned changes at this time.
Treatment	There are no known planned changes at this time.
Resource Recovery	There are no known planned changes at this time.
Disposal of Solid Waste	There is a planned expansion to the disposal capacity of the City of Victoria Landfill. The region is seeking a 244-acre expansion to the landfill which will add about 90 years of landfill life. To date, the permit is awaiting approval by TCEQ.
<b><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check box if additional information of solid waste management activities is provided as <i>Attachment III.C</i>.</b>	

### III.D. Description and Assessment of the Adequacy of Existing Solid Waste Management Facilities & Practices, and Household Hazardous Waste Programs

[Ref. 30 TAC §330.643(a)(3)(D)]

*In the table, identify if specific waste management facilities, practices, and programs are adequate in the region. Provide an assessment and description of activities that are inadequate in Attachment III.D. Refer to Regional Plan Instructions for more information on III.D. Description and Assessment of the Adequacy of Existing Solid Waste Management Facilities and Practice, and Household Hazardous Waste Programs.*

**Note:** An attachment related to Adequacy is not called for in the original Volume II form but is nonetheless included. It is similarly noted at the beginning of the relevant section of the attachments that this information is included.

**Table III.D.I. Adequacy of Existing Facilities and Practices**

Program	Facility Adequacy	Practices Adequacy
Resource Recovery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, description of facility inadequacy provided in <b><i>Attachment III. D.</i></b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, description of practice inadequacy provided in <b><i>Attachment III. D.</i></b>
Storage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, description of facility inadequacy provided in <b><i>Attachment III. D.</i></b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, description of practice inadequacy provided in <b><i>Attachment III. D.</i></b>
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, description of facility inadequacy provided in <b><i>Attachment III. D.</i></b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, description of practice inadequacy provided in <b><i>Attachment III. D.</i></b>
Treatment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, description of facility inadequacy provided in <b><i>Attachment III. D.</i></b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, description of practice inadequacy provided in <b><i>Attachment III. D.</i></b>

Program	Facility Adequacy	Practices Adequacy
Disposal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, description of facility inadequacy provided in <i>Attachment III. D.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, description of practice inadequacy provided in <i>Attachment III. D.</i>
Household Hazardous Waste Collection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, description of facility inadequacy provided in <i>Attachment III. D.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, description of practice inadequacy provided in <i>Attachment III. D.</i>
Household Hazardous Waste Disposal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, description of facility inadequacy provided in <i>Attachment III. D.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, description of practice inadequacy provided in <i>Attachment III. D.</i>

### III.E. Assessment of Current Source Reduction and Waste Minimization Efforts, Including Sludge, and Efforts to Reuse or Recycle Waste

[Ref. 30 TAC §330.643(a)(3)(E)]

*Refer to Regional Plan Instructions for more information on III.E. Assessment of Current Source Reduction and Waste Minimization Efforts, Including Sludge, and Efforts to Reuse or Recycle Waste.*

- ☒ Assessment of current source reduction and minimization efforts, including activities to reduce sludge, and efforts to reuse or recycle waste is provided as *Attachment III.E.*

### III.F. Identification of Additional Opportunities for Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, and Reuse or Recycling of Waste

[Ref. 30 TAC §330.643(a)(3)(F)]

*In the table, identify new and additional opportunities for source reduction and waste minimization, including waste reuse or recycling programs. Add or remove rows as needed. Refer to Regional Plan Instructions for more information on III.F. Identification of Additional Opportunities for Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, and Reuse or Recycling of Waste.*

**Table III.F.I Additional Opportunities for Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, Reuse and Recycling of Waste**

<b>Category of Activity (Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, Reuse or Recycling of Waste)</b>	<b>Opportunity Name</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
Recycle	Cardboard Recycling	Encourage cities and counties to offer free cardboard recycling at workplaces ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Recycle	Clothing/textiles recycling	Educate residents about where to take their textiles to be recycled <i>or</i> consider creating recycling opportunities for textiles ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Recycle	Electronics Challenge	Encourage businesses to join the EPA SMM Electronics Challenge to increase accountability and increase electronics recycled ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Recycle	Glass recycling	Consider implementing dumpsters specifically for glass recycling to cut down on contamination in curbside glass collection and to allow communities without glass collection to recycle ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Reuse	Donate materials	Encourage businesses and offices to donate products or usable materials to local charities or non-profits ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Reuse	Landfill reuse centers	Establish centers for drop-off and check-out of hazardous materials ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Reuse	Paint reuse	Start a paint reuse program ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Reuse	Reuse in hospitals	Encourage hospitals to replace disposable items with reusable items where possible, such as waterproof mattresses, cloth diapers, or reusable sharps containers ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Reuse	Reuse office materials	Encourage businesses and offices to reuse materials such as boxes, shipment packaging, office furniture ( <a href="#">source</a> )

<b>Category of Activity (Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, Reuse or Recycling of Waste)</b>	<b>Opportunity Name</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
Reuse	Shingles in pavement	Consider using recycled shingles in pavement ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Reuse/Recycle	C&D recycling	Update policy to incentivize recycling of C&D materials and on-site reuse/recycling ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Reuse/Recycle	Encourage C&D recycling through refundable deposits	Consider charging a deposit on permitted C&D projects, it will be refunded if the permittee demonstrates a preset level of materials were recovered ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	Black soldier flies	Promote cultivation of black soldier fly larvae to upcycle food waste ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	Business, government, school paper reduction	Encourage businesses, governments, and schools to adopt paper-reduction policies, such as printing double-sided and printing only when absolutely necessary ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	City wide recycling ordinance	Create a city-wide recycling ordinance for businesses and multifamily to offer recycling ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	Community composting	Encourage establishment or expansion of community compost centers ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	Compost agricultural waste	Encourage agricultural waste generators to compost, which could reduce the demand for chemical fertilizers ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	Compost education	Develop programs or promote existing programs that educate residents and businesses about composting ( <a href="#">source</a> )



<b>Category of Activity (Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, Reuse or Recycling of Waste)</b>	<b>Opportunity Name</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	Don't Bag It	Promote the Don't Bag It program in order to reduce the amount of yard waste being landfilled ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	Food Recovery Challenge	Encourage the restaurant industry and other interested organizations to join the EPA Food Recovery Challenge ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	Food waste in hospitals	Encourage hospitals to reduce their food waste by donating unused food, composting, or reevaluating their services and menus so that less food is uneaten ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	Food waste in prison system	Encourage prison systems and other correctional facilities to compost their food waste with in-vessel systems ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	Give food waste to farmers	Encourage partnerships between food generating business and industry and the agricultural industry so that food scraps can feed livestock. This reduces waste disposal costs for the business and reduces animal feed costs for the farmer ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	Reduce food waste in schools	Encourage schools to create share tables during lunch times so that unopened/untouched foods can be donated or provide an extra serving to other students ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	Reduce toxicity	Encourage business and industry to reduce the amount and toxicity of their waste by joining the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory Program ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	Restaurant waste minimization	Encourage restaurants to adopt waste minimization policies, such as only provide condiments and plasticware when requested ( <a href="#">source</a> )

<b>Category of Activity (Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, Reuse or Recycling of Waste)</b>	<b>Opportunity Name</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	Sludge composting	Encourage WWTPs to compost sludge instead of sending it the landfill ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	Styrofoam densification	Promote use of Styrofoam densifiers to reduce the volume of discarded Styrofoam ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	Vermicomposting food scraps	Promote vermicomposting, specifically in multifamily complexes ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	Waste tracking	Encourage businesses to track their waste generation for easier management ( <a href="#">source</a> )
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	WasteWise	Encourage businesses, governments, and nonprofits to join EPA's WasteWise for the opportunity to receive recognition for achievements in good waste practices, free educational materials, and more ( <a href="#">source</a> )
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check box if additional information of opportunities and source reduction and waste minimization, reuse and recycling of waste is provided in <i>Attachment III. F.</i>		

### **III.G. Recommendations for Encouraging and Achieving a Greater Degree of Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, and Reuse or Recycling of Waste**

*[Ref. 30 TAC §330.643(a)(3)(G)]*

*In the table, provide a list of recommendations for encouraging and achieving a great degree or source reduction and waste minimization, and reuse and recycling of waste in the planning region. Add or remove rows as needed.*

**Table III.G.I. Recommendations for Greater Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, and Reuse or Recycling of Waste**

<p><b>#1</b></p>	<p><b>Collaboration</b></p> <p>Collaborating between jurisdictions, private entities, and other regional institutions such as schools will foster a better sense of community and encourage broad participation while also reducing the need for one entity to do everything by themselves. For example, collaboration can mean partnering with entities with common interests to share costs. This is a way to stretch limited funding and expand community buy-in.</p>
<p><b>#2</b></p>	<p><b>Communication</b></p> <p>Communication goes together with many of these recommendations but is worth recommending separately. Communication must be exceptional between groups and within groups. For example, local managers should have excellent communication with other local managers as well as the with the local residents and businesses. This communication needs to be consistent and at the appropriate level of detail for the intended audience. Without communication, the other recommendations will be harder to achieve. In some cases, to facilitate communication, this may require setting up new lines of communication between and within groups.</p>
<p><b>#3</b></p>	<p><b>Education</b></p> <p>Naturally, educating residents and businesses is critical to successful solid waste management. In addition, continuing education of solid waste managers in the region is critical to ensure that public education is effective as solid waste management best practices change and are refined. This education should be extended to include decision-makers in the region as well to ensure a well-educated array of policy makers, policy implementers, and public participants.</p>

**#4 Information tracking**

Throughout the development of this plan, many data gaps prevented more narrow, focused assessments of solid waste management aspects. Leveraging existing data and identifying new data collection opportunities are critical to understanding how policy impacts implementation, and where new initiatives should be focused to maximize source reduction and waste minimization. Without tracking mechanisms, it is very difficult to understand how effective management in the region is.

**#5 Leadership**

Without leadership, many of the other recommendations in this section will not be successful. Similarly, without the other four recommendations in this section, leadership will be challenging. It is recommended the region take an active leadership role in managing solid waste at the regional level. Most solid waste management is currently done at the local level—as it needs to be. Still, there is significant opportunity to regionalize understanding of solid waste capabilities and understanding the relationship with other regions' solid waste management planning. Leading collaboration, communication, education, and information tracking makes sense at the regional level and will lead to success at the local level.

☒ Check box if additional details are provided in *Attachment III.G.*

### **III.H. Identification of Public and Private Management Agencies and Responsibilities**

[Ref. 30 TAC §330.643(a)(3)(H)]

- ☒ A list of public and private solid waste management agencies and their responsibilities that affect and impact solid waste management in the planning region is provided as ***Attachment III.H.***

### **III.I. Identification of Solid Waste Management Concerns and Establishment of Priorities for Addressing Those Concerns**

[Ref. 30 TAC §330.643(a)(3)(I)]

*In the table, list solid waste management concerns for the planning area and the priorities to address those concerns. Add or remove rows as needed.*

**Table III.I Solid Waste Management Concerns and Priorities**

<b>Solid Waste Management Concern</b>	<b>Priorities to Address the Concern</b>
Solid waste literacy	Improve community participation, provide education

Solid Waste Management Concern	Priorities to Address the Concern
Illegal dumping	Collect data, improve access, improve community participation, increase illegal dumping enforcement, increase illegal dumping prevention, provide education
Problematic wastes (including HHW)	Collect data, improve access, provide education
Landfill capacity	Collect data, lead, provide education
Disaster waste	Collect data, improve access, provide education
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check box if additional details are provided in <i>Attachment III.I</i>	

### III.J. Planning Areas and Agencies with Common Solid Waste Management Concerns that Could be Addressed Through Joint Action

[Ref. 30 TAC §330.643(a)(3)(J)]

*In the table below, list planning areas and agencies that may provide solutions and support to the established priorities for the concerns identified in III. I. Add or remove rows as needed.*

**Table III.J.I Planning Areas and Agencies with Common Solid Waste Management Concerns**

Solid Waste Management Concern	Names of Planning Areas and Agencies that Could Address the Concern via Joint Action(s)
Solid waste literacy	EPA, TCEQ, Keep Texas Beautiful
Problematic wastes (including HHW)	Waste Management (At Your Door)
Local solid waste plans	Cuero, Port Lavaca, Victoria
Source reduction and recycling	Local governments, waste haulers
Illegal dumping	Keep Texas Beautiful

**Note:** This list does not represent an exhaustive list of potential partners, but rather identifies some likely partners. For a more complete list of possible partners, see Attachment III.H. Identification of Public and Private Management Agencies and Responsibilities.

### **III.K. Identification of Incentives and Barriers for Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, and Resource Recovery, Including Identification of Potential Markets**

*[Ref. 30 TAC §330.643(a)(3)(K)]*

*In the table, identify incentives and barriers for source reduction and waste minimization and resource recovery including potential markets and strategies. Describe incentives and barriers impacting source reduction and waste minimization, and resource recovery. Identify public and private incentives and markets available to assist in meeting goals and objectives. Add or remove rows as needed for each section. Refer to Regional Plan Instructions for more information on III.K. Identification of Incentives and Barriers for Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, and Resource Recovery, Including Identification of Potential Markets.*

**Table III.K.I Incentives and Barriers for Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, and Resource Recovery**

Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	
<i>Incentive:</i> Reduced costs	Offering smaller trash bins at a lower cost to residents encourages source reduction and waste minimization.
<i>Incentive:</i> Recognition	Provide businesses with tools to showcase their participation in source reduction and waste minimization best practices.
<i>Barrier:</i> Difficult to change behavior	It is difficult to change the behavior of those who control product packaging, and to change consumer behavior related to buying products that are designed to minimize waste but may be more expensive or less convenient.

<b>Resource Recovery</b>	
<i>Incentive:</i> Reduce effects of climate change	Recycling and reuse lessen effects of climate change because new materials are not used, according to the EPA.
<i>Incentive:</i> Save money	Buying used products and materials can save money.
<i>Barrier:</i> Cost	The cost to construct and procure recycling infrastructure is significant.
<i>Barrier:</i> Contamination/ lack of education	Recycling contamination can significantly impact the processes at a recycling facility, reducing resource recovery, and the value of recycling commodities. Contamination can also have significant financial implications for cities collecting the recyclable materials that may impact decisions to offer such services.
<b>Potential Markets</b>	
Cardboard	There is consistent demand for cardboard.
Scrap metal	There is consistent high value for scrap metal.
<b>Note:</b> Market evaluation is extremely important. Due to the fluctuations of materials markets, an ongoing analysis of potential markets for recycled materials is recommended.	

### **III.L. Regional Goals and Objectives, Including Waste Reduction Goals**

*[Ref. 30 TAC §330.643(a)(3)(L)]*

*In the table, list the regional goals and corresponding objectives for the proper management of solid waste in the planning region. Identify the timetable for achieving each goal and objective using the established planning periods. Add rows as needed. The regional goals and objectives listed should match the goals and objectives provided in Volume I, per 30 TAC §330.635(A)(2)(A).*

**Note:** An attachment related to Regional Goals and Objectives is not called for in the original Volume II form but is nonetheless included. It is also noted at the beginning of the relevant section of the attachments that this information is included.

**Table III.L.I Regional Goals and Objectives**

<b>Goal #1 Maximize Beneficial Resource Use</b>	<b>Objective 1.A.</b> Improve access to diversion opportunities <b>Objective 1.B.</b> Improve community participation <b>Objective 1.C.</b> Provide education
<b>Goal #2 Responsibly Manage Problematic Waste</b>	<b>Objective 2.A.</b> Improve access to problematic waste collection <b>Objective 2.B.</b> Provide education <b>Objective 2.C.</b> Collect data
<b>Goal #3 Maximize Proper Disposal</b>	<b>Objective 3.A.</b> Improve access to solid waste drop-off opportunities <b>Objective 3.B.</b> Improve community participation <b>Objective 3.C.</b> Provide education <b>Objective 3.D.</b> Collect data <b>Objective 3.E.</b> Increase illegal dumping prevention efforts <b>Objective 3.F.</b> Increase illegal dumping enforcement
<b>Goal #4 Lead Regional Planning</b>	<b>Objective 4.A.</b> Collaborate <b>Objective 4.B.</b> Optimize funding decisions <b>Objective 4.C.</b> Oversee facility planning <b>Objective 4.D.</b> Review and update solid waste management plans <b>Objective 4.E.</b> Make continuous improvements <b>Objective 4.F.</b> Collect data <b>Objective 4.G.</b> Plan for disaster waste

**III.M. Advantages and Disadvantages of Alternative Actions**

[Ref. 30 TAC §330.643(a)(3)(M)]

<b>Are alternative actions being considered in this plan for the regional area?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes.</b> Provide details in <i>Attachment III.M.</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No.</b> No further action required.
---	--



### III.N. Recommended Plan of Action and Associated Timetable for Achieving Specific Goals and Objectives

[Ref. 30 TAC §330.643(a)(3)(N)]

*In the table, provide the plan of action and anticipated timetable for achieving the goals and objectives identified in Section III.L. Identify and describe action plans, the corresponding timetables and, where available, implementation milestones. Include brief descriptions of action plans, timetables, and milestones. Milestone dates may include specific years or planning periods; short-term planning period (1-5 years), intermediate planning period (6-10 years), and/or long-range planning period (11-20 years or longer). Refer to Regional Plan Instructions for more information on III.N. Recommended Plan of Action and Timetable for Achieving Regional Goals and Objectives, Including Specified Goals and Objectives.*

**Table III.N.I Plan of Action and Timetable for Achieving Specific Goals and Objectives**

Goal/Objective	Plan of Action	Milestone Dates
Waste Reduction	A series of actions have been developed that will increase access to waste reduction opportunities, improve the community's use of those opportunities, and educate the public about the importance of waste reduction.	Entire planning period
Composting Programs for Yard Wastes and Related Organic Wastes	Our plan includes exploration of innovative ways to compost food wastes and expand the composting of biosolids.	Intermediate range
Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal Programs	A series of actions have been developed that will increase access to Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection and disposal, educate participants and the community about the importance of responsible HHW management, and collect data to continually improve collection and programs.	Entire planning period

Goal/Objective	Plan of Action	Milestone Dates
Public Education Programs	<p>Our plan is to ensure broad public awareness of all solid waste management related best practices using cost-effective communication tools.</p> <p>Additionally, we will educate and engage targeted members of the community who are responsible for specific aspects of solid waste management.</p> <p>Finally, we will acknowledge cities, counties, businesses, and individuals within the region who show exceptional commitment to proper solid waste management.</p>	Entire planning period
The Need for New or Expanded Facilities and Practices	More than 20 of this plan's 50 action steps relate to the need for new or expanded practices in the region. In addition, where access can be improved or landfill life is an issue, new facilities may be required in the planning period.	Entire planning period
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check box if additional details are provided in <i>Attachment III.N.</i>		

### **III.O. Identification of the Process that Will be Used to Evaluate Whether a Proposed Municipal Solid Waste Facility Application Will be in Conformance with the Regional Plan**

[Ref. 30 TAC §330.643(a)(3)(O)]

- ☒ The process that will be used to evaluate whether a proposed municipal solid waste facility application will be in conformance with the regional plan is identified in *Attachment III.O.*

## Section IV. Required Approvals

Table IV.I Required Approvals

<b>Solid Waste Advisory Committee</b>	Enter approval date by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.
<b>Public Meeting Dates</b>	July 13, 2021
<b>Executive Committee</b>	Enter approval date by the Executive Committee.

- ☐ Check box if local government and jurisdiction resolutions, and letters of support are included in **Attachment IV.A.**
- ☒ Public notice, agenda, public comments, and the transcript of the required public meeting are included as **Attachment IV.B.**

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# **Attachment I. Geographic Scope**

## **Introduction**

To properly contextualize this solid waste management plan, TCEQ requires the identification of the geographic scope of the plan and the different geographic planning units used within the plan.

It is critical to establish a geographic scope to understand the unique solid waste issues faced by the region and the approach to addressing those issues.

At times in this plan, different geographic units are used to analyze different aspects of solid waste management in the region based on the available data and the scope of the issue being examined.

The purpose of this attachment is to provide additional context and detail to the decisions made around the geographic planning units used in the plan.

Ultimately, this plan is for the entire planning region. However, to develop this plan, it was common to review county, city, and census tract data. These instances will be clarified in the attachments of the appropriate sections.

The remainder of this attachment will present our methods for determining the use of different geographic data, the most used geographic units, and a discussion of the implications of these decisions.

## **Methods**

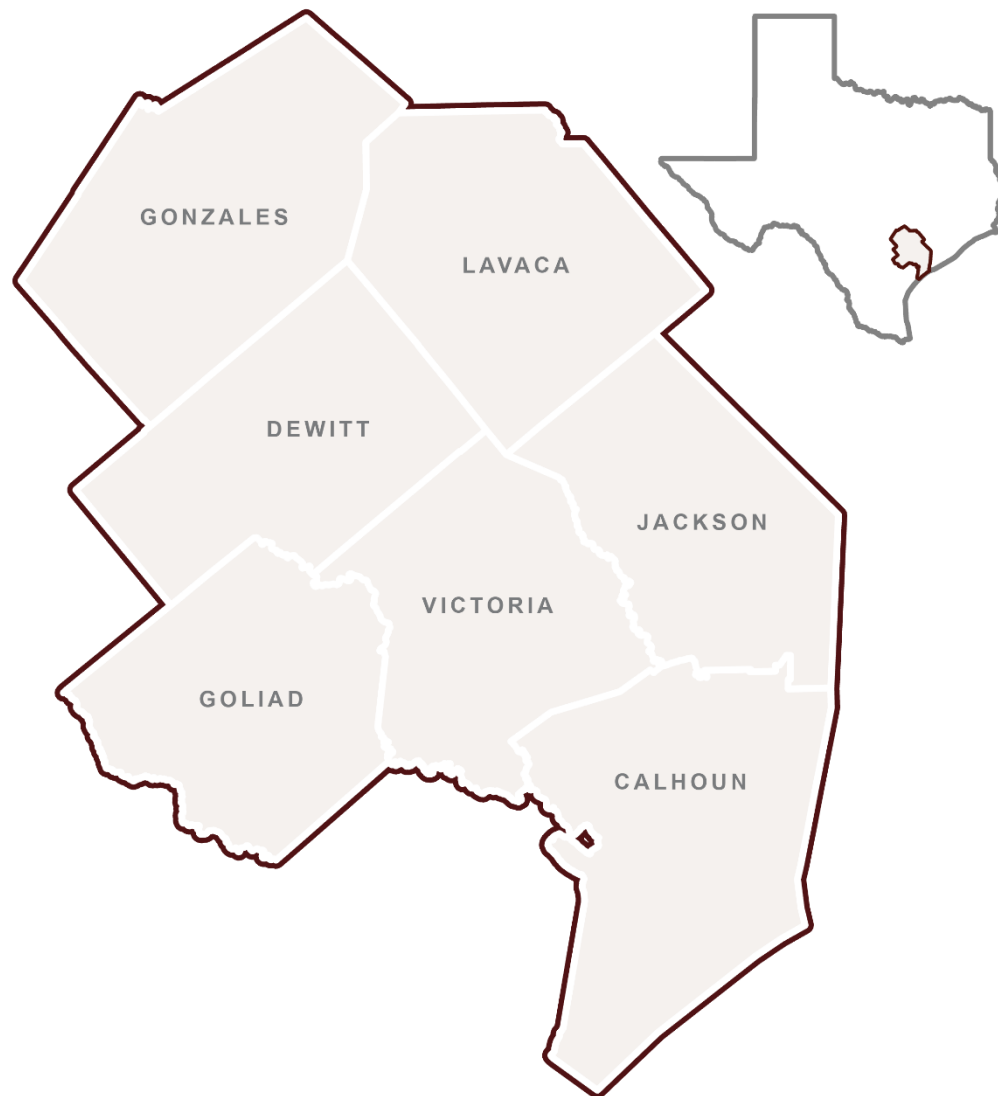
Because the plan is region-wide, the preferred geographic units for analysis were the entire region. When data were not available at the regional level, county data were preferred. Additionally, because of the critical role cities play in solid waste management, municipal data were often evaluated. Finally, to understand population at the finest level of detail, census tracts were used occasionally.

At times, city boundaries may extend outside of the region or cities primarily situated in other regions may extend into the region. To associate specific cities with the region, the center of each city was found. Those cities with a geometric center within the region were considered part of the region.

## Results

The primary results of our geographic scoping decisions are presented in Volume II, Table I.I. Geographic Scope.

The most useful representation of the geographic scope is an understanding of where the region is within Texas.



**Figure 1.** Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission Planning Region and Counties

Also, critically important are the cities within the region.

Cuero	Edna	Ganado
Goliad	Gonzales	Hallettsville
La Ward	Moulton	Nixon
Nordheim	Point Comfort	Port Lavaca
Seadrift	Shiner	Smiley
Victoria	Waelder	Yoakum
Yorktown		

## Discussion

Ideally the data informing this regional plan could be aggregated from the smaller geographic units within the region. When data could be summarized in this way, we made our best effort to do so. Coordinating sub-regional geographies and centralizing data collection in a way that supports future regional planning efforts would support sub-regional planning. There is extreme variance in population across the cities within the region, so sub-regional planning informed by regional planning and vice versa would likely lead to the best regional solid waste management.

## Conclusion

Ultimately, this plan is for the entire planning region, and it is the most important geographic unit used in the plan, though other smaller geographic units were required to make generalized statements about the region.

Understanding the geographic scope is critical to understanding the unique issues faced by the region and the approach to addressing those issues.

In the future, standardized data collection by sub-regional areas in the region could facilitate more effective regional planning and sub-regional planning.

## Attachment II. Planning Periods

### Introduction

As part of the 20-year planning process, TCEQ requires the establishment of short, intermediate, and long-term planning periods.

The planning periods are defined by Texas Administrative Code. The short-range planning period is one to five years, with specific information, the intermediate planning period is six to ten years, with information in less detail, and the long-range planning period is 11 to 20 years or longer, with information in the least detail.

The planning periods are an important piece of this plan. Ultimately, these create the foundation for setting milestone dates for goals, objectives, and actions.

The purpose of this attachment is to add detail and context to Volume II, Table II.I. Planning Periods. Specifically, we will explain instances where we used *current* data that was not from 2021.

Although Table II.I. Planning Periods indicates historical information is from the year 2021, it is important to note that data were often not available for 2021 so we used the most recent data available. These instances are clearly noted within this document and are not expected to significantly impact the plan.

The remainder of this attachment will present our methods for determining the use of current data from years other than 2021, a list of those instances, and a discussion of the implications of these decisions.

### Methods

To facilitate the preparation of this plan, TCEQ provided landfill and processing facility data. These data are reported annually by solid waste-related facility operators. For this plan, the data available from TCEQ at the outset of the planning process were from 2019. This fact influenced the decisions related to all other data sourcing decisions.

When data were available from multiple years, 2019 was the preferred. When data was not available from 2019, the most recent year of data was selected.

## Results

The planning periods are defined in Volume II, Table II.II.

The results of our data-sourcing decisions related to data available for specific time periods will be presented alphabetically to ease identification of relevant sources.

**Table 1.** Data Sources for Residential Waste Generation Analysis

Data Source	Data Year
Census Population Data	2019
TCEQ Landfill Data	2019
TCEQ Waste Processor Data	2019
TCEQ Municipal Solid Waste Facilities (NOIs)	2021
TCEQ HHW Contacts	2021
Texas Workforce Commission Employment Data	2018

## Discussion

The most important consistency was making sure population data was from the same year as disposal data because of its implications related to Volume II, Table III.A.I. Residential Waste Generation. Similarly important was the relationship between employment data and disposal data, which was not available for 2019 as it relates to Volume II, Tables III.A.II. Commercial Waste Generation and III.A.III Industrial Waste Generation. This limitation will be discussed further in Attachment III.A. Demographic Information.

Another consideration in the interpretation of these data is related to the COVID-19 pandemic throughout most of 2020 and ongoing through the development of this plan. Solid waste management was significantly affected by the disruptions of the pandemic. Although the implications of these effects will not be well represented in this plan, it will be critical to watch trends in the short-term planning range to ensure landfills are not significantly impacted by the boom in home renovation projects, year-long spring cleaning, and increased usage of single-use packaging that likely took place. Moreover, the shift away from brick-

and-mortar retail towards delivery-based retail will offer many lessons to be learned. Understanding these changes, as they are likely to continue beyond the pandemic, will ensure solid waste management is meeting the waste where it is generated as best as possible.

## **Conclusion**

Although Volume II, Table II.I. Planning Periods indicates historical information is from the year 2021, it is important to note that data were often not available for 2021. All instances where data is from something other than 2021 are clearly noted within this document.

The planning periods are an important piece of this plan. Ultimately, these create the foundation for setting milestone dates for goals, objectives, and actions.

To mitigate the gaps in available data, regular analyses and updates to projections throughout the entire plan period will help familiarize solid waste managers with the relevant data and could improve the data that is collected to make sure it is relevant to the decisions being made.

## Attachment III.A. Demographic Information

**Note:** This attachment is not called for in the original Volume II form but is nonetheless included. It is similarly noted at the beginning of the relevant section of Volume II that this attachment has been included.

### Introduction

As part of the 20-year planning process, TCEQ requires an evaluation of population projections and significant commercial and industrial economic activity.

Understanding expected population growth is critical for solid waste management planning. Furthermore, understanding the rate of growth can provide insight into the rate at which solutions to solid waste management issues must be developed. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “Waste generation increases with population expansion and economic development.”<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of this attachment is to provide additional details and commentary related to residential, commercial, and industrial demographics required in Volume II, Table III.A.I. Residential Waste Generation.

This attachment will evaluate the expected impact of residential, commercial, and industrial demographics on waste generation over the 20-year planning period in 5-year increments for the region.

Residential waste, as the name implies, is the waste related to households. The residential section of this attachment will evaluate population projections and their expected impact on waste generation.

Commercial waste is the waste related to commercial activities like trade and business.<sup>2</sup> The commercial section of this attachment will evaluate commercial employment projections and their expected impact on waste generation.

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<sup>1</sup> What Is Integrated Solid Waste Management? (No. EPA530-F-02-026). (2002). United States Environmental Protection Agency, Solid Waste and Emergency Response. <https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPURL.cgi?Dockkey=P1000L3W.txt>

<sup>2</sup> 71st Legislature. (1989, September). Health and Safety Code. Title 5. Sanitation and Environmental Quality, Subtitle B. Solid Waste, Chapter 361. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Subchapter A. General Provisions. <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.361.htm>

Industrial waste is the waste that results from operations of industry: manufacturing, mining, or agriculture.<sup>3</sup> The industrial section of the attachment will evaluate industrial employment projections and their expected impact on waste generation.

This attachment will not consider commercial or industrial waste by sector or waste type, nor the magnitude of each categories' contribution to the region's waste stream. More information about waste generation, including the magnitude of each categories' contribution is available in Attachment III.C. Solid Waste Management Activities.

While the subject of this attachment is “waste generation,” it is important to recognize this term may not be entirely appropriate. Ultimately, the figures being calculated as waste generation represent something akin to the resources that remain after the consumption of those materials that were originally needed. Notably, the materials that remain beyond those that were needed are not waste until they are wasted. Many possibilities exist that can avoid turning these materials into *waste*, most notably reuse. With that said, this attachment and subsequent attachments, for consistency's sake, will continue to refer to these calculations as waste generation.

Although there are significant limitations to the calculated waste generation figures across all three critical categories (residential, commercial, and industrial), it is undeniable that waste generation in the region is expected to significantly increase based on projected increases across all three populations.

The rest of this attachment will outline the methods we used to make these calculations, present the results of those calculations, provide a discussion of key points, and offer a conclusion. For ease of reading, each section in this attachment will include subheadings that announce whether the information pertains to residential, commercial, or industrial activities.

The Demographic Information portion of the Volume II form includes three tables of information:

- Table III.A.I. Residential Waste Generation,
- Table III.A.II. Commercial Waste Generation, and

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<sup>3</sup> 71st Legislature. (1989, September). Health and Safety Code. Title 5. Sanitation and Environmental Quality, Subtitle B. Solid Waste, Chapter 361. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Subchapter A. General Provisions. <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.361.htm>



- Table III.A.III. Industrial Waste Generation

Each table will be addressed in separate sub-sections of this attachment (methods, results, discussion).

## Methods

While similar, each critical group's (residential, commercial, and industrial) methods will be detailed in a separate section of the methods to clarify any differences.

### RESIDENTIAL WASTE GENERATION

Table III.A.I. Residential Waste Generation of Volume II has eight columns. To facilitate understanding, each column will be explained in detail. At the highest level, waste generation equals disposal plus diversion. Disposal data was supplied by TCEQ in the form of landfill disposal by tons. Diversion data was not available. To approximate the amount of waste diversion, we estimated the region's residential recycling rate as detailed in the *Recycling Rate* section below. We are defining the recycling rate the same way that Burns & McDonnell did in their statewide recycling report for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).<sup>4</sup> The recycling rate is essentially the rate of materials diverted from the landfill per person per day, excluding source reduction activities, refurbishment or reuse, energy conversion, land reclamation, or on-site use of material at the landfill. Using Recycling as a percent of the waste generated and the tonnage of waste sent to the landfill allowed us to calculate the total residential waste generation.

The remainder of this section is laid out to correspond with Volume II, Table III.A.I. Residential Waste Generation.

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<sup>4</sup> Burns & McDonnell. (2017, July). Study on the Economic Impacts of Recycling. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.  
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/assistance/P2Recycle/study/TheStudyontheEconomicImpactsofRecycling.pdf>

### 1. Year

The first row of the year column begins with the *Current Year*. In this case, the current year was based on TCEQ-provided landfill disposal for 2019.<sup>5</sup> To ensure a relevant comparison, population data from the Texas Demographic Center<sup>6</sup> from 2019 was used for the current year. Therefore, for the purposes of this table, the current year was 2019.

The remaining rows are for projections of future disposal in five-year increments from the plan start year of 2022, i.e., 2022, 2027, 2032, 2037, and 2042.

### 2. Growth rate

The growth rate for the Current Year was written as N/A. All other growth rates were calculated using the Texas Demographic Center's population projections for a given year and the previous year to find the percent change.

#### Equation 1. Growth Rate Calculation

$$\frac{\text{Projection Year Population} - \text{Previous Year Population}}{\text{Previous Year Population}} = \text{Growth Rate}$$

### 3. Current Population/Population Projection

Current population and population projections were acquired from the Texas Demographic Center.

### 4. Landfill Disposal (Tons)

For the current year, landfill disposal data was supplied by TCEQ from 2019. Landfill Disposal (tons) represents the sum of all reported waste disposed in landfills within the region. Any disposal of waste that was generated *inside* the region but was disposed in a landfill *outside* the region is not included in this calculation. Conversely, any disposal of waste that was generated *outside* the

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<sup>5</sup> MSWlandfills-Monofills\_Active\_2019(Public Data). (2019). [Dataset]. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<sup>6</sup> 2018 Sex and Race/Ethnicity Total Population. (2009). [Dataset]. Texas Demographic Center. <https://demographics.texas.gov/Data/TPEPP/Projections/>

region but was disposed of *inside* the region is included in this calculation due to the nature of the data provided.

For projections, landfill disposal was calculated by applying the calculated growth rate to the landfill disposal from the previous year.

#### 5. Disposal Rate (pounds per person per day)

Disposal rate was calculated by using the three-step, TCEQ-provided formula.

**Equation 2.** Disposal Rate Calculation (Step 1)

$$\text{Landfill Disposal (Tons)} \times 2,000 \text{ (Pounds)} = \text{Landfill Disposal (Pounds)}$$

**Equation 3.** Disposal Rate Calculation (Step 2)

$$\frac{\text{Landfill Disposal (Pounds)}}{\text{Population}} = \text{Annual Pounds per Person}$$

**Equation 4.** Disposal Rate Calculation (Step 3)

$$\frac{\text{Annual Pounds per Person}}{365 \text{ (Days)}} = \text{Pounds per Person per Day}$$

#### 6. Recycling (Tons)

We estimated the recycling tonnage because there were no available data reporting the amount of material recycled in the region. As a result, this explanation will include reference to upcoming columns in the table that were required to estimate Recycling (Tons). In short, we began with the waste disposed tonnage, calculated a recycling rate, then estimated a recycling tonnage, which was then added to the waste tonnage to represent total waste disposed. Details regarding these calculations follow.

First, we estimated recycling as a percent of the waste generated. Recycling as a percent of the waste generated is similar to *Recycling Rate*, but, for the purposes of this plan, was only an intermediate variable to estimate recycling tonnage and does not represent recycling rate. We started with the Recycling Rate published in TCEQ's Study on the Economic Impacts of Recycling

prepared by Burns & McDonnell<sup>7</sup> as a baseline for the percent of generated waste that is recycled. Because that percentage represents the statewide average, we customized it for the region by applying a weight based on Esri recycling survey data known as their Market Potential Index (MPI).<sup>8</sup> The MPI encodes the market potential for recycling based on a count of adults expected to have recycled products in the last 12 months. This allowed us to adjust the statewide average with the indexed potential of recycling in the region. Using this adjusted percentage based on the TCEQ statewide average gives us an approximation for recycling tonnage in the region. However, it is only an approximation.

We then used that percentage with landfill tonnage to estimate total residential waste generated. Finally, we subtracted the landfill tonnage from the residential waste generation to obtain the recycling tonnage.

**Equation 5. Recycling (Tons) Calculation (Step 1)**

$$\frac{\text{Landfill Disposal (Tons)}}{100\% - \text{Recycling Rate (\%)}} = \text{Residential Waste Generation (Tons)}$$

**Equation 6. Recycling (Tons) Calculation (Step 2)**

$$\text{Residential Waste Generation (Tons)} - \text{Landfill Disposal (Tons)} = \text{Recycling (Tons)}$$

**7. Recycling Rate (pounds per person per day)**

We estimated the recycling rate of the region because there is not one available.

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<sup>7</sup> Burns & McDonnell. (2017, July). Study on the Economic Impacts of Recycling. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.  
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/assistance/P2Recycle/study/TheStudyontheEconomicImpactsOfRecycling.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> 2020 USA Recycling Habits. (2020, June). [Dataset]. Esri Demographics.  
[https://demographics5.arcgis.com/arcgis/rest/services/USA\\_MPI\\_1\\_2020/MapServer](https://demographics5.arcgis.com/arcgis/rest/services/USA_MPI_1_2020/MapServer)

To calculate Recycling Rate, we performed the same three steps as we did to calculate *Disposal Rate (pounds per person per day)* but substituted Recycling (Tons) for Landfill Disposal.

**Equation 7.** Recycling Rate Calculation (Step 1)

$$\text{Recycling (Tons)} \times 2,000 \text{ (Pounds)} = \text{Recycling (Pounds)}$$

**Equation 8.** Recycling Rate Calculation (Step 2)

$$\frac{\text{Recycling (Pounds)}}{\text{Population}} = \text{Annual Pounds per Person}$$

**Equation 9.** Recycling Rate Calculation (Step 3)

$$\frac{\text{Annual Pounds per Person}}{365 \text{ (Days)}} = \text{Pounds per Person per Day}$$

**8. Residential Waste Generation (Tons)**

Residential waste generation was calculated by adding *Landfill Disposal* and *Recycling*.

**Equation 10.** Residential Waste Generation Calculation

$$\text{Landfill Disposal (Tons)} + \text{Recycling (Tons)} = \text{Residential Waste Generation (Tons)}$$

## COMMERCIAL WASTE GENERATION

Table III.A.II. Commercial Waste Generation of Volume II has two columns:

- Descriptions of significant commercial activities affecting waste generation and disposal in the area (*Descriptions*) and
- Expected Increase or decrease to Commercial Waste Generation (*Expectations*).

The methods used for each column were different. To facilitate understanding, each column will be explained in detail.

The *Descriptions* column asks for a description of commercial activities affecting waste generation and disposal in the area. Here, the methods section outlines how

we obtained employment data for the commercial sector. This was done for each five-year increment as requested in Volume II.

The *Expectations* column asks for the expected increase or decrease to commercial waste generation. Here, we replicated the table that TCEQ created for the Residential Waste Generation section in Volume II, Table III.A.I. Residential Waste Generation but substituted number of employees in commercial sectors for population data.

### **Descriptions of significant commercial activities affecting waste generation and disposal in the area**

We employed the methodology outlined in this section to provide summaries of projected significant commercial and industrial economic changes in the area from the base year to the end of the long-range planning period in 5-year increments, as per the TCEQ instructions for this section. Our method was divided into three steps.

**Step 1.** The first part of our process was to obtain commercial activity data in the region for the first two planning periods: 2022 and 2027. For years 2022 and 2027, we used Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) employment projections.<sup>9</sup> The TWC dataset provided us the number of people employed in each sector coded by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code. NAICS codes classify economic activity into categories. We obtained data from TWC that was in the form of 2-digit NAICS codes. The 2-digit codes are referred to as sectors and represent the highest level of NAICS organization and consequently are the broadest.

The TWC organizes geographic areas by Workforce Development Area (WDA). The Golden Crescent WDA perfectly aligns with GCRPC.<sup>10</sup> It should be noted that the most recent employment data published by TWC is for 2018 and is projected to 2028. Thus, we used 2018 employment for the year 2022 and 2028 employment data for 2027.

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<sup>9</sup> Texas Workforce Commission. (2018–2028). Golden Crescent Projected Employment for the years 2018 – 2028 [Major level occupations, subsection (3 digit) industries]. Labor Market Information. <https://texaslmi.com/LMIbyCategory/Projections>

<sup>10</sup> Texas Workforce Commission. (2021, April). Workforce Development Area Profiles (Golden Crescent). Labor Market Information. <https://texaslmi.com/EconomicProfiles/WDAProfiles>

**Step 2.** Next, we collected employment data for the years 2032, 2037, and 2042. TWC had not yet projected employment beyond 2028. So, we turned to The Perryman Group’s long-term economic forecasts.<sup>11</sup> The Perryman Group is an economic research firm based in Texas that specializes in long-term economic forecasts. The Perryman Group uses a proprietary forecasting system known as their Texas Econometric Model. According to The Perryman Group, their model is “The result of more than three decades of continuing research in econometrics, economic theory, statistical methods, and key policy issues and behavioral patterns, as well as intensive, ongoing study of all aspects of the global, US, and Texas economies. It is extensively used by scores of federal and State governmental entities on an ongoing basis, as well as hundreds of major corporations.”

The Perryman Group model does not classify employment by NAICS code, but instead groups economic sectors into broader categories. Because these broader categories are different than the NAICS codes it prevented cross-comparison to the TWC model. To allow for comparison between the two models, we reclassified the 24 NAICS codes into the 11 economic divisions used by the Perryman Group. This was done in the manner shown in Table 2. Moreover, the Perryman Group does not use WDAs but instead wider geographic areas. For GCRPC, we used the Perryman Group region known as the Alamo Region. GCRPC sits entirely within the Alamo Region but also included in the Perryman Group Alamo Region are all the counties within the Alamo Area Council of Governments (Atascosa County, Bandera County, Bexar County, Comal County, Frio County, Gillespie County, Guadalupe County, Karnes County, Kendall County, Kerr County, McMullen County, Medina County, Wilson County).

**Step 3.** In the third and final step, we sorted each economic sector by number of people employed, from highest to lowest. This list became the top commercial sectors for 2022 as shown on the corresponding Volume II table. For the years after 2022, we found the percent change between the current year (e.g., 2032) and the previous year (e.g., 2027). This formed the basis for our remarks on how the sectors changed over time.

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<sup>11</sup> Tables for the Alamo Region (No. 153–158). (2016, June). Perryman Long-Term Economic Forecast. <https://www.perrymangroup.com/home/>

### Expected Increase or Decrease to Commercial Waste Generation

In the instructions for Volume II for this section, TCEQ instructed us to repeat the steps taken in the residential section of this attachment. We therefore recreated Volume II, Table III.A.I. Residential Waste Generation and inserted it into the second column of this section, Table III.A.II. Commercial Waste Generation. We then populated the table with commercial data to match the table to this section. To incorporate the table in the Volume II format, the table was transposed to have a vertical orientation.

Commercial waste generation was treated in the exact same way as residential waste generation with 3 exceptions:

- **Year**

Unlike the Residential table which begins with the Current year, the first row of the year column begins with 2022.

- **Current Population**

To make this section specific to commercial waste, the number of employees engaged in commercial activities was substituted for the population of the region. In other words, the population here includes only people employed in commercial enterprises. For years 2022 and 2027, Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) employment numbers were used.<sup>12</sup> TWC only gives employment data for the years 2018 and 2028. We calculated the employment data for 2022 by finding the interpolated value between 2018 and 2028. To do so, we plugged the years and employment numbers for 2018 and 2028 into the formula for linear interpolation.

**Equation 11.** Significant Commercial Activities Calculation (Step 4)

$$2018 \text{ Employment} + \frac{(2022 - 2018)(2022 \text{ Employment} - 2018 \text{ Employment})}{2022 - 2018} = 2022 \text{ Employment}$$

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<sup>12</sup> Texas Workforce Commission. (2018–2028). *Golden Crescent Region Projected Employment for the years 2018 - 2028* [Major level occupations, subsection (3 digit) industries]. Labor Market Information. <https://texaslmi.com/LMIbyCategory/Projections>



We used 2028 TWC employment data for the year 2027. Because TWC only projected employment to 2028, for years 2032, 2037, and 2042, Perryman Group employment projections were used.<sup>13</sup>

- **Recycling Rate (pounds per person per day)**

We estimated the commercial recycling rate of the region because there is not one available. First, we used the 23.6% rate from North Central Texas Council of Government's recycling rate published in their Regional Recycling Rate Update from August 2011.<sup>14</sup> The recycling rate refers to Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional sources (ICI). Because that rate represents NCTCOG's local recycling rate, we then customized that rate for the region by applying a weight based on Esri recycling survey data known as their Market Potential Index (MPI). The MPI encodes the market potential based on a count of adults expected to have recycled products in the last 12 months.

## INDUSTRIAL WASTE GENERATION

In the instructions for Volume II for this section, TCEQ instructed us to repeat the steps taken in the residential section of this attachment. We therefore recreated Volume II, Table III.A.I. Residential Waste Generation and inserted it into the second column of this section, Table III.A.III. Industrial Waste Generation. We then populated the table with industrial data to match the table to this section. To incorporate the table in the Volume II format, the table was transposed to have a vertical orientation.

Industrial waste generation was treated in the exact same way as commercial waste generation with one exception. This applies to both the *Descriptions* and *Expectations* sections.

- **Current Population**

To make this section specific to industrial waste, the number of employees engaged in industrial activities was substituted for the population of the

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<sup>13</sup> Tables for the Alamo Region (No. 153–158). (2016, June). Perryman Long-Term Economic Forecast. <https://www.perrymangroup.com/home/>

<sup>14</sup> North Central Texas Council of Governments. (2011, August). Regional Recycling Rate Update. [https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Environment-and-Development/Documents/Materials%20Management/NCTCOG\\_Regional\\_Recycling\\_Update\\_FINAL\\_1.pdf](https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Environment-and-Development/Documents/Materials%20Management/NCTCOG_Regional_Recycling_Update_FINAL_1.pdf)

region. See Table 2 in the Addendum to this Attachment for the list of TWC sectors that we categorized as Industrial.

## Results

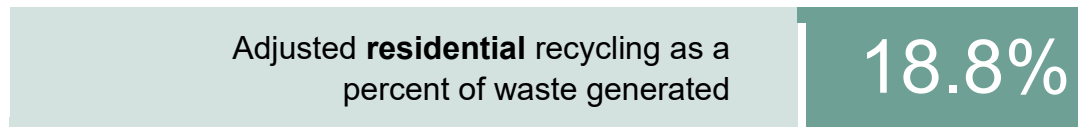
The purpose of this Results section is to provide space for additional information that adds relevant details and context to the summary we provided in Volume II.

This section is divided into three subsections, one for each critical group. In each section (residential, commercial, industrial), we present two results not shown in Volume II. First, the adjusted recycling rate as percentage. Second, a graph we made that serves as a visual summary of the information provided in Attachment III.A. Demographic Information, Volume II, Tables III.A.I. Residential Waste Generation, III.A.II. Commercial Waste Generation, and III.A.III. Industrial Waste Generation. The graphs display the relationship among population, recycling, and landfill disposal. For a more complete picture of waste generation in the area, please refer to the Generation sections of Attachment III.C. Solid Waste Management Activities.

### RESIDENTIAL WASTE GENERATION

The primary results of the residential waste generation analysis are presented in Volume II, Table III.A.I. Residential Waste Generation.

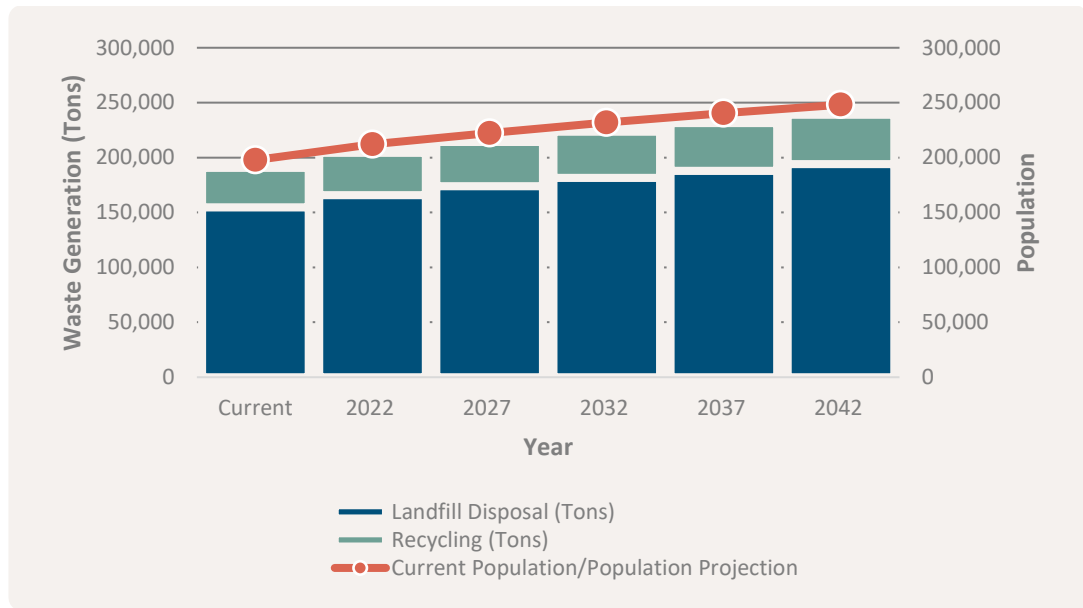
The statewide percentage of waste generated that is recycled is 22.7%.<sup>15</sup> After adjusting the statewide rate for the GCRPC region, recycling as a percent of waste generated is 18.8%.



To facilitate a quick understanding of the relationship between waste generation and disposal, Figure 2 is included. Assuming a perfectly linear relationship between population and waste generation shows that annual waste generation between 2022 and 2042 is expected to increase by about 35 thousand tons.

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<sup>15</sup> Study on the Economic Impacts of Recycling - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - [www.tceq.texas.gov](http://www.tceq.texas.gov)



**Figure 2.** Estimated Current and Future Waste Generation (Landfill Disposal and Recycling) and Population

## Recycling Rate Goal

We could not set a recycling rate goal without first understanding the current recycling rate. Because no established regional recycling rate exists, we estimated one based on the statewide recycling rate.

The recycling rate goal is really a measure of the region's success diverting material from the landfill. The established recycling rate for Texas prepared by Burns & McDonnell for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) defined the recycling rate as essentially any material that was discarded but not sent to the landfill. It excluded source reduction activities, refurbishment or reuse, energy conversion, land reclamation, or on-site use of material at the landfill. To make measuring and reaching the recycling rate goal attainable, for the purposes of this plan any material diverted from the landfill may be included in the recycling rate.

The most recent analysis of the statewide recycling rate was conducted by Burns & McDonnell in 2015 and was found to be 22.7%.<sup>16</sup> After adjusting the statewide rate to the region, we found the regional recycling rate to be 18.8%. For our complete methods refer to Residential Waste Generation, page A14. Based on this current rate, **the recycling rate goal for the region is to achieve a regional average of 40% by 2042—the end of this plan.**

Achieving a 40% recycling rate over the course of this 20-year plan amounts to an average increase of about 1% each year. In other words, were the region to increase recycling by 1% each year, they will have reached the goal by the end of the plan. The recycling rate goal is ambitious and achievable. It is based on other waste management plans in Texas. The City of San Antonio plan is to increase recycling 4% every year to reach their goal of 60% by the end of 2025.<sup>17</sup> The City of New Braunfels plan is to increase their annual recycling rate by 1.6% to reach their goal of 38% by 2030.<sup>18</sup>

Because the regional recycling rate goal is the *average* rate for the region, the 1% yearly growth rate accounts for both city and rural areas, and their varied recycling capabilities. Cities and rural communities are not expected to reach the same recycling level, but together they should strive to average 40% by 2042.

This brings us to the reality that the region will need to be able to measure their recycling rate in order to assess their progress reaching the regional goal. Developing a process to measure the region's diversion activities is critical to the success of this goal. Collecting data on waste diversion helps improve those diversion efforts. Waste audit data like that collected and analyzed by San

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<sup>16</sup> Burns & McDonnell. (2017, July). Study on the Economic Impacts of Recycling. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/assistance/P2Recycle/study/TheStudyontheEconomicImpactsofRecycling.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> Recycling and Resource Recovery Plan. (2020). City of San Antonio Waste Management Department. <https://www.sanantonio.gov/Portals/0/Files/SWMD/AnnualReport/SWMD-RRRP-FY2020-Update.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> SCS Engineers. (2019, July). Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. City of New Braunfels Solid Waste and Recycling Division. <https://www.nbtexas.org/DocumentCenter/View/15837/New-Braunfels-Solid-Waste-Management-Plan-FINAL-7-8-2019>

Antonio in their Recycling and Resource Recovery Plan<sup>19</sup> helped them boost recycling efforts. Data driven decision making is crucial to achieving not just the recycling goal but to improve outcomes for many of the goals listed in this plan.

## COMMERCIAL WASTE GENERATION

The primary results of the commercial waste generation analysis are presented in Volume II, Table A.III.II. Commercial Waste Generation.

The statewide percentage of Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (ICI) waste generated that is recycled is 23.6%.<sup>20</sup> After adjusting the statewide rate, the adjusted recycling as a percent of waste generated is 19.5%.

Adjusted **commercial** recycling as a  
percent of waste generated

**19.5%**

Assuming a perfectly linear relationship between employment and waste generation shows that annual waste generation between 2022 and 2042 is expected to increase by about 49 thousand tons.

For more information about waste generation related to industrial activities, see the generation sections of Attachment III.C. Solid Waste Management Activities.

## INDUSTRIAL WASTE GENERATION

The primary results of the commercial waste generation analysis are presented in Table III.A.III. Industrial Waste Generation of the Demographic Information of Volume II.

The statewide percentage of Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (ICI) waste generated that is recycled is 23.6%. After adjusting the statewide rate, the adjusted recycling as a percent of waste generated is 19.5%. The industrial recycling rate is

<sup>19</sup> Recycling and Resource Recovery Plan. (2020). City of San Antonio Waste Management Department. <https://www.sanantonio.gov/Portals/0/Files/SWMD/AnnualReport/SWMD-RRRP-FY2020-Update.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> North Central Texas Council of Governments. (2011, August). Regional Recycling Rate Update. [https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Environment-and-Development/Documents/Materials%20Management/NCTCOG\\_Regional\\_Recycling\\_Update\\_FINAL\\_1.pdf](https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Environment-and-Development/Documents/Materials%20Management/NCTCOG_Regional_Recycling_Update_FINAL_1.pdf)

the same as the commercial recycling rate because using an ICI rate was the best data available.

Adjusted **industrial** recycling as a  
percent of waste generated

**19.5%**

Assuming a perfectly linear relationship between employment and waste generation shows that annual waste generation between 2022 and 2042 is expected to increase by about 12 thousand tons.

For more information about waste generation related to industrial activities, see the generation sections of Attachment III.C. Solid Waste Management Activities.

## Discussion

The key question TCEQ sought to answer in this section was how the region's waste generation will change due to population growth and economic development. The answer is that waste generation will markedly increase over the 20-year period due to substantial increases to the region's population and economy. It is important to note these projections assume surrounding populations, in areas outside the region, follow similar growth patterns. This is because some of the waste being disposed of in regional landfills is imported from those outside regions. Similarly, some of the region's waste is exported to other regions and these projections assume those landfills will continue to accept increasing amounts of waste.

For each critical group (residential, commercial, and industrial) we used a similar approach to estimate waste generation changes between 2022 and 2042. The variation came from using different sources for recycling rate customized for each group. The method was straightforward and based on TCEQ instructions. We calculated residential waste generation based on population, landfill tonnage, and recycling tonnage. For commercial and industrial, we used employment estimates instead of population estimates. The constraints of this approach are outlined in the next section, along with key takeaway points.

## RESIDENTIAL WASTE GENERATION

Residential waste generation will markedly increase over the 20-year period because of substantial increase to the region's population. The population is projected to increase 17.0% from 2022 to 2042. The amount of waste generated is

thus projected to increase by the same amount. Although the recycling rate is similarly held constant, efforts to reduce and divert additional waste from the landfill could, and hopefully will, increase this percentage over time. The rapid growth of the population, and the amount of material landfilled and recycled, is a key feature of the region's waste ecosystem.

Of the three approaches (residential, commercial, and industrial), we believe that the Residential waste data is the most reliable. Although there are several drawbacks to the formulation of the Residential numbers—which will be discussed fully in the next section—it best represents the big picture of the region. We believe this is the case because it is the sole table that uses the full population of the region in its calculations. By using the entire population, along with the entire amount of waste disposed in the region's landfills, the waste numbers are most consistent. To be clear, the Residential model's best use is in gauging the *total* waste generation of the region because it uses total population and the landfill waste from all three critical groups.

For this reason, the graph we developed (Figure 2) for the Residential section is most useful. As shown there, waste generation and disposal increase linearly with population. In effect, the higher the population growth the higher the amount of generation and disposal. The graphic also shows a near uniform rate of growth through time. That is, population and residential waste are projected to grow steadily during the 20-year period.

There is, however, reason for caution when interpreting the results of the Residential section. The main constraint projecting current and future residential waste generation, and thus completing Volume II, Table III.A.I. Residential Waste Generation, was limited amount of available data. As a result, there are several reasons for uncertainty as it relates to the numbers presented in the Table.

First, the data suggests 35 thousand tons more waste will be produced in 2042 than in 2022. That amount is less than the change in landfill disposal tonnage for Commercial (49 thousand tons) but higher than Industrial (12 thousand tons) related waste. But the table does not solely consider residential waste. By using the total tonnage that went to the landfill, this table includes non-residential sources of waste such as commercial and some industrial generation. In fact, each critical groups' calculations represent total regional waste generation rather than the generation attributable to one of the groups. This flaw is the reason for our recommendation that the Residential data is the most credible model and ought to be the critical group consulted in waste management planning. Again, the

Residential model ought to be interpreted as the *total* waste generation of the region.

Second, there is margin for error in the recycling rate because it was deduced from a calculation rather than taken from a local waste study. It was a best guess of the local recycling rate, but it was based off a study from a different region and scaled by a marketing coefficient retrofitted for our purpose. Furthermore, we kept the Recycling Rate constant throughout the 20-year period, though in reality the Recycling Rate will not be constant. In fact, the success of efforts to improve the diversion rate could have a significant impact on total disposal.

Third, the landfill tonnage represents only the amount of solid waste disposed of inside the region. Such a number does not consider the material that has been imported from other COGs, states, or Mexico, or exported to other COGs or states (which is not required to be reported).

Fourth, the future Landfill (Tons) and Recycling (Tons) were calculated by using growth rate of the population. By using this approach, the columns are calculated in a way that assumes there is a linear relationship between population growth and waste disposal. This is a prudent assumption but may not necessarily be accurate.

Fifth, the Table as TCEQ has it set up calculates generation as the sum of the waste disposed and recycled. This formulation excludes waste that was generated but disposed of by means other than at the landfill or through recycling. Waste that was otherwise diverted by being reused, buried, burned, or illegally dumped is not included as waste that had been generated. As a result, the Landfill Disposal (Tons) may not capture the true amount of waste generated in the region.

There is no such thing as perfect data, but the calculations provided here represent reasonable estimates for planning purposes.

## **COMMERCIAL WASTE GENERATION**

Commercial waste generation will markedly increase over the 20-year period as a result of substantial increase to the region's commercially employed population. Commercial employment is projected to increase 24.6% from 2022 to 2042. The amount of waste generated is thus projected to increase by the same.

We used the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) projections for the first five-year planning period and then Perryman Group projections for the remaining planning periods because TWC employment projections stopped at 2028. We chose to use



TWC instead of Perryman Group projections for the first planning period because they came from state agency projections using Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

It is our assessment that the commercial waste table is not as reliable a gauge of waste generation than the residential waste table. Still, we believe waste generation as a result of commercial activities in the region will increase. The Commercial table suffers from the same lack of data issues discussed in the Residential waste Discussion section, but with one more drawback. The Commercial table used in its calculations the full amount of tonnage disposed in the landfill, yet only looks at a portion of the population – the commercial population. Basically, we compared apples to oranges. As a result, the disposal rate and recycling rate are inflated relative to what we would expect. In order to make an apples-to-apples comparison, the tons of waste disposed of at the landfill for *only* commercial activities is needed. Or more simply, the necessary data could come from the audit of a sample of the commercial waste stream. The best way to more accurately gauge both the commercial waste generation and recycling rate would be through a targeted study, which can be costly.

## **INDUSTRIAL WASTE GENERATION**

Industrial waste generation will increase over the 20-year period as a result of an increase to the region's industrially employed population. Industrial employment is projected to increase 6.3% from 2022 to 2042. The amount of waste generated is thus projected to increase by the same amount.

All other relevant discussion can be found in the Commercial section of this Discussion as it applies to industrial waste generation as well.

## **Conclusion**

Population in the region is rising substantially and resulting in higher quantities of waste. Residential, commercial, and industrial waste generation are projected to increase throughout the 20-year period. For each critical group, the fastest growth in waste generation is likely to occur in the first half of the 20-year plan. In the context of this Attachment, we believe the Residential findings give the best picture of overall waste generation in the region.

The region's recycling rate is below average for the State of Texas. Understanding the region's recycling rate helps create targets for future improvement.

Waste generation and waste disposal are the beginning and end of the waste management lifecycle. Analysis of the amount of waste generated and disposed of is critical for assessing waste management solutions.

## Addendum | Attachment III.A. Demographic Information

**Table 2.** Perryman Group Employment Category Assignments

NAICS	Type	Texas Workforce Commission Industry	Perryman Group Industry
11	Industrial	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	Agriculture
21	Industrial	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	Mining
22	Commercial	Utilities	Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities
23	Commercial	Construction	Construction
31	Industrial	Manufacturing (food, beverage, tobacco, leather, apparel, textile)	Non-Durable MFG
32	Industrial	Manufacturing (wood, paper, printing, plastic, chemical, nonmetallic, petroleum, coal)	Durable MFG
33	Industrial	Manufacturing (metal, machinery, computer, electrical, transportation, misc.)	Durable MFG
42	Commercial	Wholesale Trade	Trade
44	Commercial	Retail Trade (store)	Trade
45	Commercial	Retail Trade (non-store)	Trade
48	Commercial	Transportation	Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities

NAICS	Type	Texas Workforce Commission Industry	Perryman Group Industry
49	Commercial	Warehousing	Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities
51	Commercial	Information	Information
52	Commercial	Finance and Insurance	Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate
53	Commercial	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate
54	Commercial	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	Services
55	Commercial	Management of Companies and Enterprises	Services
56	Commercial	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	Government
61	Commercial	Educational Services	Services
62	Commercial	Health Care and Social Assistance	Services
71	Commercial	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	Services
72	Commercial	Accommodation and Food Services	Services
81	Commercial	Other Services	Services
92	Commercial	Public Administration	Government

## Attachment III.B. Estimates of Current and Future Solid Waste Amounts by Type

### Introduction

As part of the 20-year planning process, TCEQ requires reporting of current waste and projections of future waste amounts in five-year increments by type.

Understanding expected amounts of waste by type is important for future landfill and waste processing plans, and understanding where to focus source reduction, reuse, and recycling efforts.

This attachment is related to waste disposal in the region. Waste disposal includes the materials that are landfilled and not otherwise diverted through reuse or recycling. This attachment is not related to waste generation.

Waste categorization is done by landfill operators based on statewide requirements,<sup>21</sup> which include 20 different waste types. Landfill operators provide their data to TCEQ on an annual basis.

The purpose of this attachment is to provide additional details and commentary on Volume II Table III.B.1. Current and Future Solid Waste Amounts by Type.

Because there is projected population growth in the region, there is also projected growth in the amounts of each waste type. Evaluating the amounts of waste by type is made difficult by the categories. Most of the waste is categorized as *Municipal Solid Waste* and likely includes many types of waste that could be diverted from the landfill. Still, planning for this projected increase in waste is important to maintain landfill capacity.

The rest of this attachment will describe the methods IGI used in Table III.B.1. Current and Future Solid Waste Amounts by Type, show the results of the findings, offer a discussion of those results, and provide a conclusion.

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<sup>21</sup> Office of the Secretary of State. (2006). *Texas Administrative Code*. Texas Secretary of State. [https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=T&app=9&p\\_dir=N&p\\_rloc=124133&p\\_tloc=&p\\_ploc=1&pg=11&p\\_tac=&ti=30&pt=1&ch=330&rl=671](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=T&app=9&p_dir=N&p_rloc=124133&p_tloc=&p_ploc=1&pg=11&p_tac=&ti=30&pt=1&ch=330&rl=671)

## Methods

The process for calculating waste projections was provided by the TCEQ. Table III.B.1. Current and Future Solid Waste Amounts by Type includes 20 different waste types and requires the number of landfills accepting each type, the percent of total tons disposed for each type, the tons disposed in the current year, and projections for the next 5-, 10-, 15-, and 20-years. The columns in Table III.B.1. Current and Future Solid Waste Amounts by Type will be explained here in greater detail.

### 1. Waste type

TCEQ listed 20 types of waste (presented in alphabetical order):

- Brush
- Class 1 Non-hazardous
- Classes 2 and 3 Non-hazardous
- Construction or Demolition
- Contaminated soil
- Dead Animals
- Grease Trap Waste
- Incinerator Ash
- Litter
- Municipal
- Municipal Hazardous Waste from CESQGs
- Non-RACM
- Pesticides
- Regulated Asbestos-containing Material (RACM)
- Septage
- Sludge
- Tires (split, quartered, shredded)
- Treated Medical Waste
- Used Oil Filter
- Other

In the TCEQ-provided data, *Other* is a specific category reported by landfills and is explained by note in the data. To ensure comparability between the waste disposal totals in Attachment II.A. Demographic Information and the *TCEQ Municipal Solid Waste in Texas: A Year in Review report from 2019*, Grit Trap Waste was also included in this category and will be noted in the results.

### 2. Number of landfills accepting waste type

IGI used 2019 TCEQ-provided landfill disposal data to count the number of landfills that accepted each type of waste. There is only one landfill in the region, so if it recorded accepting a waste type, we marked the number of accepting landfills as ‘one.’ For types of waste that did not have any records of disposal, we marked the number of accepting type as “zero.” These zeroes do not necessarily mean that the landfill in the region is not allowed to accept these certain types of waste, only that it did not report it in 2019.

### 3. Percent of total tons disposed

IGI used 2019 TCEQ landfill data as the “Current Year” disposal weight. To find the Current Year disposal, we first found the sum of each waste type disposed in all of the region’s landfills. Next, we summed all 20 waste types to find the total tons disposed of in the region (Current Year). We then divided each waste type by the Current Year total and multiplied by 100 to find the percentage for each type. In the tables, percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

**Equation 12.** Percent of Total Tons Disposed Calculation

$$\frac{\text{Waste type (tons)}}{\text{Current Year (total tons disposed)}} \times 100 \\ = \text{Percent of total tons disposed}$$

### 4. Current year

The Current Year column contains the sum of recorded disposal for each waste type in all of the region’s landfills. IGI used TCEQ-provided data on landfill disposal for this, and because 2019 is the most recent data available, 2019 is used as the current year. This data is limited because it is not possible to identify how many tons of waste generated in the region may have been disposed of in a landfill outside of the region.

### 5. Disposal projections

The estimated population growth rates per year in Volume II, Table III.A. Demographic Information were used to calculate the projected increase or decrease of waste amounts by multiplying the current year waste amounts by the growth factor. In the tables, tons are rounded to the nearest whole number.

**Equation 13.** Disposal Projection Calculation

$$(Landfill\ disposal\ [tons] \times Growth\ rate) + Landfill\ disposal\ [tons] \\ = Disposal\ projection$$

## Results

The primary results of the estimates of current and future solid waste amounts by type are presented in Volume II, Table III.B.1. Current and Future Solid Waste Amounts by Type.

Table III.B.1. Current and Future Solid Waste Amounts by Type did not include a column to project the current 2019 data forward to 2022 before completing the 5-, 10-, 15-, and 20-year projections. As a result, the 2022 disposal projections are shown here instead of in the Volume II table to avoid altering the original TCEQ table. For context, Current Year (2019) data was recreated alongside the projection to 2022 in Table 3. Table 3.

**Table 3.** Current and 2022 Solid Waste Amounts by Type

**Note:** Tons disposed are rounded to the nearest whole number.

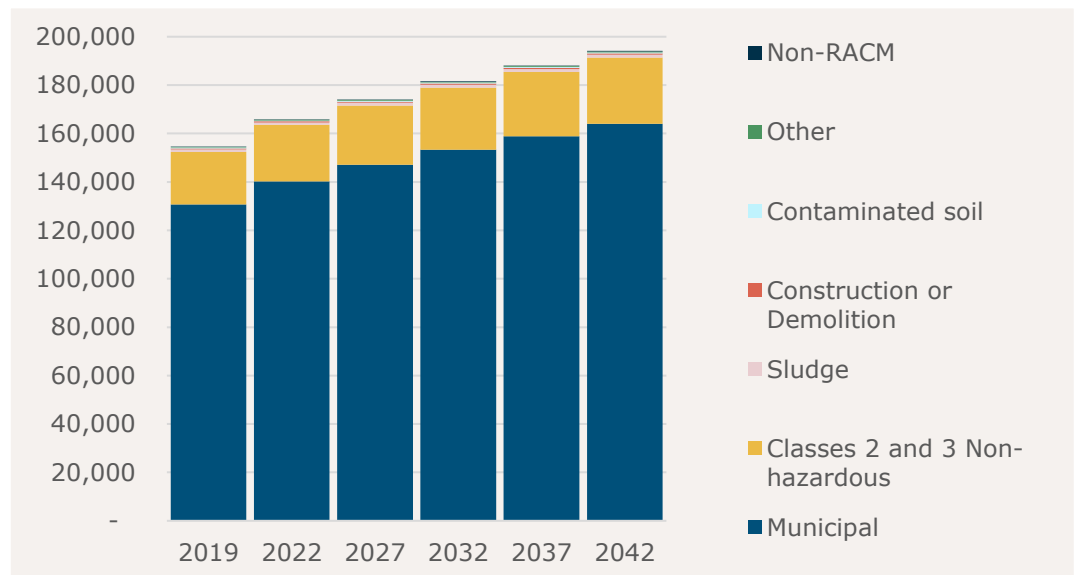
Waste Type	Number of Landfills Accepting Waste Type	Percent of Total Tons Disposed	Current Year (2019)	2022 Projection
Municipal	1	84%	130,649	140,186
Brush	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Construction or Demolition	1	0%	418	449
Litter	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Class 1 Non-hazardous	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Classes 2 and 3 Non-hazardous	1	14%	21,797	23,388
Incinerator Ash	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

Waste Type	Number of Landfills Accepting Waste Type	Percent of Total Tons Disposed	Current Year (2019)	2022 Projection
Treated Medical Waste	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Municipal Hazardous Waste from CESQGs	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Regulated Asbestos-containing Material (RACM)	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Non-RACM	1	0%	164	176
Dead Animals	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Sludge	1	1%	1,006	1,006
Grease Trap Waste	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Septage	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Contaminated soil	1	0%	326	350
Tires (split, quartered, shredded)	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Pesticides	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Used Oil Filter	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-



Waste Type	Number of Landfills Accepting Waste Type	Percent of Total Tons Disposed	Current Year (2019)	2022 Projection
Other <sup>22</sup>	1	0%	317	340
Total		100%	154,677	165,895

Additionally, to visualize the results presented in Volume II, Table III.B.1. Current and Future Solid Waste Amounts by Type, we developed a graph to quickly see growth in expected wastes by type for the seven reported wastes in the region.



**Figure 3.** Seven Current and Estimated Future Solid Waste Amounts by Type

<sup>22</sup> The City of Victoria Landfill recorded disposal in the 'other' category, which was reported as "food waste, off spec material." The City of Victoria Landfill recorded disposal of Grit Trap waste. We included this in the 'other' category. Grit Trap waste makes up roughly 20% of the 'other' category.

## Discussion

In general, projected waste is expected to increase. Notably, these figures assume no changes to practices that could divert waste from landfills. Operating under this assumption can help for planning to maintain adequate landfill disposal capacity in the region long-term. In other words, future disposal capacity should consider these projections. For more information about disposal, including disposal capacity, see the Disposal sections of Attachment III.C. Solid Waste Management Activities.

It is important to recognize the nature of landfill tonnage reports may impact the results of this analysis. If pesticides, for example, were placed in a curbside receptacle in bagged trash and disposed of at a landfill, it very likely would be recorded as *Municipal* rather than *Pesticides*.

Still, one of the most useful features of Volume II, Table III.B.1. Current and Future Solid Waste Amounts by Type is the Percent of Total Tons Disposed. Municipal waste is projected to be the largest amount in the region, representing roughly 84% of total disposal. This waste type is a likely candidate for intervention and diversion efforts to extend landfill life in the region. However, the Municipal category likely represents a wide variety of different waste types.

Unfortunately, the data are not available to further categorize the *Municipal* waste stream. This is likely because it would be prohibitively expensive to consistently audit the largest part of the waste stream that is often bagged trash. However, periodic audits may help better understand this significant part of the waste stream.

Furthermore, because waste may have been exported from the region and imported to the region, these projections assume there will be no changes to the rate of those imports and exports. However, if a landfill in another region is close to the end of its life, it may significantly impact where waste is disposed in the future.

## Conclusion

Population is growing in the region, so amounts of waste types are growing also. The region should carefully analyze its landfill capacity and diversion rates to be prepared for the increase in disposal.

Understanding how much of each waste type is expected in the region can help decide where to focus diversion efforts and inform planning for adequate disposal capacity. The region should explore every opportunity to reduce its disposal, especially in its largest streams.

In order to better understand its disposal and how to reduce it, the region should consider periodically collecting and reviewing more specific disposal data to inform planning and decisions.

## **Attachment III.C. Solid Waste Management Activities**

### **Introduction**

As part of the 20-year planning process, TCEQ requires a description of current and planned solid waste management activities in the region.

Understanding these current and already planned activities are critical to setting a foundation for the region's plan and developing a plan that considers what is already happening in the region and builds on these existing resources.

The purpose of this attachment is to provide additional details and commentary on Volume II, Tables III.C.I. Current Solid Waste Management Activities in the Region and III.C.II. Planned Solid Waste Management Activities in the Region.

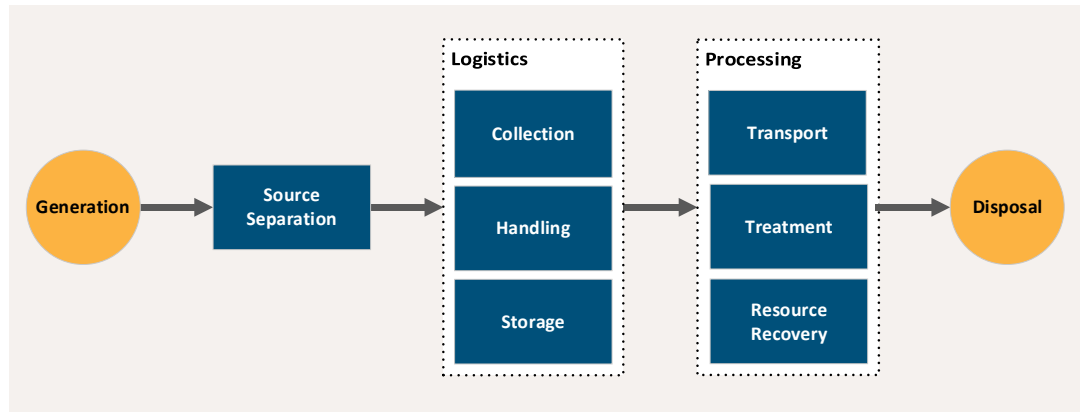
The accounts of each activity in the waste lifecycle help support prioritization of waste management policies. The approach taken here leverages available data, spatial analysis, and data visualization to map the current activities into a cohesive view of the region's waste management systems. By linking activities from waste generation to disposal, this section provides a better understanding from beginning to end, helping to identify opportunities for material reduction or recovery. However, data limitations significantly impact the analysis and will make it difficult to create specific goals and objectives, such as reducing a specific waste type by a specific amount over the next 20 years. The most useful plan will be considerate of the data limitations and will therefore need to be broader and more general, rather than narrow and specific.

This attachment includes additional information related to Table III.C.I. Current Solid Waste Management Activities in the Region and III.C.II. Planned Solid Waste Management Activities in the Region and has been similarly organized.

The nature of collecting and managing trash and recyclables is complex and often unseen. Per TCEQ Volume II, there are 10 key waste management activities. To facilitate understanding of how each fit into the waste management lifecycle, a brief description of each will be provided.

Solid waste management activities have been organized into 10 distinct actions. To put these activities into a larger context, we developed a diagram (Figure 4). The term 'Logistics' was added to group related activities but was not an official

activity. Similarly, ‘Processing’ was an official activity that we used to group all processing related activities.



**Figure 4.** Solid Waste Activities Flowchart

In the *Solid Waste Activities Flowchart*, Generation is the beginning and disposal is the end. The goal is to dispose of less material than is generated and to implement source reduction activities to reduce the amount of material generated.

*Generation* happens at residences and businesses. So does *source separation*, for example separating trash and recycling. We have grouped the next three activities under the heading logistics, and these are all about getting the waste away from those residences and businesses. Logistics includes curbside *collection*; *handling* (such as drop-off centers or collection events) when curbside collection is not available; and *storage* at those drop-off centers or transfer stations before processing. Processing includes *transportation*, typically via a transfer station; *treatment*, for example reducing hazards associated with medical waste; and *resource recovery*, for example, composting. All that remains is then *disposed* of in landfills. Although these activities appear as separate and discrete tasks, we will show that there are some entities which perform multiple functions.

Each activity will be further described in the following sections.

## GENERATION

Solid waste generation is the creation of waste by human activity. It is the beginning of the waste lifecycle. The waste that is generated needs to be managed. Knowledge of a region’s solid waste generation is important in the planning and operation of a successful solid waste management system. Waste generation occurs predominantly at residences and businesses. To get a comprehensive

picture of waste generation in the region, this section endeavors to describe waste generated by residences, commercial enterprises, and industrial enterprises. Together they make up what we refer to as the three critical waste generators.

Residential waste, as the name implies, is the waste related to households. The residential section of this attachment will describe the types and amounts of waste generated by households.

Commercial waste, as the name implies, is the waste related to commercial activities like trade and business. The commercial section of this attachment will describe the types and amounts of waste generated by businesses.

Industrial waste, as the name implies, is the waste that results from operations of industry: manufacturing, mining, or agriculture. The industrial section of the attachment will describe the types and amounts of waste generated by industry.

Unlike Attachment III.A. Demographic Information, this Attachment will consider commercial and industrial waste by sector and waste type, along with the magnitude of each categories' contribution to the region's waste stream. The idea for this section is to add depth to the landfill disposal data discussed in Attachments III.A. Demographic Information and III.B. Estimates of Current and Future Solid Waste Amounts by Type that will allow for greater understanding of the region's waste generation.

## SOURCE SEPARATION

Source separation is the act of separating materials at the point of generation in preparation for moving the waste away from the home or business where it was generated. Because of the wide variety in source separation activities at commercial and industrial generators and the lack of relevant data, we will focus on source separation for residential waste.

## LOGISTICS

Logistics is a category of activities which includes *Collection*, *Handling*, and *Storage*. This category is not part of the original form but has been included to group similar activities and simplify the solid waste management process at a high level.

**Collection** is the process by which residents' and businesses' source separated materials are collected either curbside or by drop-off so that the waste can be processed and, if necessary, disposed. For residential customers, this is commonly

referred to as curbside collection. Curbside collection is the easiest and most convenient way for residents to dispose of their solid waste. As a result, this section focuses on residential curbside collection. Like the consideration of variance and lack of data related to commercial and industrial entities' source separation, an analysis of collection management for these generators is not included. Additionally, collection can occur at facilities where drop-offs are accepted.

**Handling** is performed by all haulers that collected waste and all facilities that accepted drop-off materials, transferred waste, processed waste (including resource recovery), or disposed of waste.

**Storage** facilities include all locations that accepted drop-off materials, transferred waste, processed waste (including resource recovery), or disposed of waste.

## PROCESSING

Processing is a category of activities which includes *Transportation*, *Treatment*, and *Resource Recovery*.

**Transportation** is the large-scale movement of collected, handled, and stored waste to the material's next location in the management process.

**Treatment** can include reducing the hazards associated with a specific type of waste.

**Resource Recovery** includes processing that results in a waste material being diverted from disposal in a landfill, such as recycling or composting.

## DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE

After solid waste is collected, transported, and treated, it must be disposed of in a landfill if no other option is available. Disposal at landfills is the last step in the region's waste management process. In this section we will present information on the number of landfills in the region, detail the estimated capacity remaining in those landfills, and show the likely composition of the disposed waste in the region.

The remainder of this attachment will describe the methods we used to describe each activity, the results of those methods, and then discuss those results before concluding. Each section (methods, results, etc.) will have a specific subsection related to each solid waste management activity.

## Methods

A variety of methods were used to better understand the various current and planned solid waste management activities depending on the availability of data.

### GENERATION

Two related but distinct methods were used to evaluate current waste generation and planned waste generation.

#### Current

While waste *disposal* data is provided by TCEQ, there is no singular source of data for *generation* in Texas. As a result, we used three secondary data sources to analyze waste generation.

- California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) Estimated Solid Waste Generation Rates<sup>23</sup>
- CalRecycle Residential Disposal Compositions for California Regions<sup>24</sup>
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Commercial Waste National Totals by NAICS and US Satellite Tables for USEEIO<sup>25</sup>

CalRecycle's Estimated Solid Waste Generation Rates were used to compare the amount of waste generation by residential, commercial, and industrial sources. CalRecycle's Residential Disposal Compositions for California Regions were used to identify the types and amounts of waste generated by *residential* sources. The EPA's Commercial Waste National Totals by NAICS and US Satellite Tables for USEEIO (US Environmentally Extended Input Output) were similarly used to identify the types and amounts of waste generated by *commercial and industrial*

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<sup>23</sup> Estimated Solid Waste Generation Rates. (n.d.). California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle). Retrieved August 5, 2021, from <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/WasteCharacterization/General/Rates#:~:text=Residential%20Sector%20Generation%20Rates%20%20%20Waste,%20Cor%20.%20%208%20more%20rows%20>

<sup>24</sup> Residential Disposal Compositions for California Regions. (2014). California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle). <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/WasteCharacterization/ResidentialRates>

<sup>25</sup> Commercial Waste National Totals by NAICS and US Satellite Tables for USEEIO. (2020, November 12). [Dataset]. U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD). <https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/commercial-waste-national-totals-by-naics-and-us-satellite-tables-for-useeio>



sources. In other words, we looked at each groups' contribution to total generation in the region, then we looked at the waste that makes up each groups' generation.

In the following sections we will explain the reason we used each approach and provide a stepwise walkthrough of each procedure.

#### COMPARISON OF RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE GENERATION

The first approach was used for all three critical generators (residential, commercial, industrial). This method was used to estimate the amount of waste each group is expected to generate. We used CalRecycle generation rates as the data source.

In the following paragraphs we will describe why the generation rates we focus on are categorized into residential, commercial, and industrial categories. Next, we will explain the generation rate of each category (residential, commercial, and industrial). Finally, we will show how much each category contributes to the overall waste that is generated before examining each category individually.

For the purposes of this section and consistency with other portions of this regional plan, we divided waste generation into three categories: residential, commercial, and industrial. Each has a different rate of generation and together these categories make up most, if not all of the waste generated in the region. Commercial and industrial sectors are separated into different categories because this form divides business activity this way, and so the same will be done here for consistency. TCEQ defines industrial waste as waste that results from operations of industry: manufacturing, mining, or agriculture. Unlike industrial waste, commercial waste derives from trade and business. Residential waste is the waste created within households. In the Residential section, we will explore the differences in waste between single-family homes and multi-family homes. Single-family homes have one housing unit and multi-family homes have two or more housing units.

The estimated generation rates we used are based on a 2006 waste audit study provided by California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery

(CalRecycle).<sup>26</sup> We chose to use the CalRecycle generation rates instead of the Residential Rate Generation that was calculated in Volume II, Table III.A.I. Residential Waste Generation. The CalRecycle generation rates were established from a reputable source directly inspecting household waste,<sup>27</sup> whereas the Residential Rate from Table III.A.I. Residential Waste Generation was a calculation we made based on municipal landfill and recycling data that combines commercial, industrial, and residential wastes. The CalRecycle generation rates for each category were as follows: residential (12.23 lbs./household/day), commercial (36.31 lbs./employee/day), and industrial (8.93 lbs./employee/day). Also, note that the commercial rate as listed by CalRecycle is 10.53 but excludes construction and demolition (C&D) waste. To get a rate which includes C&D waste, we calculated the percent of C&D in the commercial waste stream based on an EPA table of commercially produced waste and added it into the CalRecycle rate to get 50.14 lbs./employee/day. The last step we took to make the numbers easier to understand was to convert waste rates to total waste. To this effect, the residential waste rate was converted to total residential waste using the number of households in the region based on U.S. Census data. The commercial and industrial waste rates were converted to total wastes using the number of people employed in each sector based on Texas Workforce Commission data.

Converting generation rates to total waste enables us to compare how much each category contributes to the overall waste stream.

#### RESIDENTIAL WASTE GENERATION

The approach taken here was used to understand the composition of residential waste. We used CalRecycle's Residential Disposal Compositions to get the amount of each waste type found in the residential waste stream.<sup>28</sup> Although just an

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<sup>26</sup> City of Los Angeles. (2006). L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide: Your Resource for Preparing CEQA Analyses in Los Angeles (Page M.3-2).  
<https://planning.lacity.org/eir/CrossroadsHwd/deir/files/references/A07.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> City of Los Angeles. (2006). L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide: Your Resource for Preparing CEQA Analyses in Los Angeles (Page M.3-2).  
<https://planning.lacity.org/eir/CrossroadsHwd/deir/files/references/A07.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> Residential Disposal Compositions for California Regions. (2014). California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).  
<https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/WasteCharacterization/ResidentialRates>

estimate, this breakdown was very similar to what we would expect to find in this region.

Specifically, we exported the waste characterization breakdown from CalRecycle's webpage ([Residential Disposal Compositions for California Regions](#)). This gave us the percent of each material type found in the average single-family home (Table 14). We then recoded the material types into broader categories so they would be in a format suitable for a pie chart. The only changes to their categorization were in the Other Organics category because of the potential to identify specific types of organic waste that could be potentially composted in the region. This was done in the manner shown in the Addendum to this attachment.

### COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE GENERATION

We used EPA's USEEIO waste model as the data source combined with employment data to estimate the contribution made by each commercial and industrial sector to the waste stream. This methodology gave us detailed estimates into the amount and type of waste generated by each commercial sector in the region.

We used a three-step process to understand the impact of economic activity on waste generation in the region. We used this process because there is no existing data on the waste generated by the local economy. As a substitute, we developed a system that estimates the waste generated from each economic sector based on the number of employees in that sector. The next few sections will outline how we collected employment data by sector, collected waste generation data by sector, and finally, calculated the types and amount of waste generated by each economic sector.

**Step 1.** The first part of our process was to obtain solid waste generation data from the EPA. We downloaded the EPA's Commercial Waste National Totals by NAICS and US Satellite Tables for USEEIO. This dataset contained the national average of waste generated by each economic sector. It enumerated the amount and type of waste generated by each North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code. NAICS codes classify economic activity into categories. Next, we converted the NAICS codes listed on the EPA waste table from six digits to two digits. This was done to broaden the economic categories—we used 24 categories, matching the 2-digit NAICS codes structure used in the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) dataset. Next, we recategorized the waste types into broader categories that align with the way in which we present waste types in this document. This process can be seen in the Addendum of this Attachment (Table

15). We recoded the wastes from the “CHW\_National\_Totals\_by\_NAICS” tab of the USEEIO spreadsheet as Hazardous. CHW is defined as commercial hazardous waste. In other words, the USEEIO model already classified these waste types as hazardous; we took the next step to recode them Hazardous. The model lists the wastes by weight.

In addition to calculating waste generation by weight, we identified conversion factors<sup>29</sup> that allowed us to convert the waste to volume. Understanding volumes is important because landfills fill up by volume, not by weight. Weight can also have an impact on the cost to transport materials and is often how disposal costs are calculated.

The recoded waste types and volume conversions are found in Table 15. **Recoded Waste Types and Volume Conversions** Table 15. We did not convert liquids to volumes because conversion factors were unavailable. We also noted which wastes the model considered hazardous and which were non-hazardous. Next, we categorized each NAICS code by whether it was a commercial or industrial enterprise according to the Texas Health and Safety Code definition, also used by TCEQ, as shown in Table 13. With the prepared data, we divided the total waste generated nationally from each sector by the number of national employees in that sector. This resulted in the national average of waste produced by each employee in each sector. This figure became the multiplier we used to go from the waste generated nationally to the waste generated by the COG.

In summary, we organized the data so they were easier to work with, and then performed the following calculation for each economic sector (i.e., each 2-digit NAICS code) and each waste type (e.g. food, aluminum cans).

**Equation 14.** Significant Commercial Activities Calculation (Step 1)

$$\frac{\text{National Average of Waste Generated Per Year (Tons)}}{\text{National Number of Employees}} \\ = \text{Annual Waste Generated per Employee (Tons per Employee per Year)}$$

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<sup>29</sup> Cascadia Consulting Group. (2018, May). 2018 Facility-Based Characterization of Solid Waste in California (DRRR-2020-1666). California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery. <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/Publications/Details/1666>

**Step 2.** The second part of our process was to project commercial activity in the region for each five-year period beginning in 2022 and ending in 2042. We did this by using employment projections grouped by economic sector. For years 2022 and 2027, we used Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) employment projections. The TWC dataset provided us the number of people employed in each sector coded by NAICS code.

The TWC organizes geographic areas by Workforce Development Area (WDA). The Golden Crescent WDA perfectly aligns with GCRPC.<sup>30</sup> It should be noted that the most recent employment data published by TWC is for 2018 and it is projected to 2028.

In summary, in the second step of the four-part process we collected TWC data on the number of employees for each NAICS sector for 2022 and 2027.

**Step 3.** The third and final step was to find the total amount and type of waste generated by each economic sector in the COG. To this end, we multiplied two numbers we derived in the previous sections: the amount of waste generated per employee in each sector (Step 1) and the number of people in the COG employed in that sector (*Step 2*).

This gave us the relationship between commercial and industrial activity in the region and the types and amount of waste generated by those activities. Formally speaking, we performed the following equation for each economic sector (i.e., each NAICS code) and each waste type (e.g., food, aluminum cans).

**Equation 15.** Significant Commercial Activities Calculation

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Annual Waste Generated per Employee} \times \text{Employees in COG} \\ = \text{Waste Generated by COG} \end{aligned}$$

### Planned

Separate methods were similarly used for planned generation for each of the current methods:

- Comparison of residential, commercial, and industrial waste generation,
- Residential waste generation, and

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<sup>30</sup> Texas Workforce Commission. (2021, April). Workforce Development Area Profiles (Golden Crescent Region). Labor Market Information. <https://texaslmi.com/EconomicProfiles/WDAProfiles>

- Commercial and industrial waste generation.

#### COMPARISON OF RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE GENERATION

The method used to create the comparison among residential, commercial, and industrial waste streams was identical to the method used to make the current comparison, except we used projected populations. We used the same generation rates for each critical group, but used 2027 population for short-range projections, 2032 population for intermediate range projections, and 2042 for long-range projections. Multiplying the generation rates by the relevant population segment gave us the total projected waste generation.

We used the population given by the Texas Demographic Center for the projected residential population. We used Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and Perryman Group employment projections for the commercial and industrial populations. As a reminder, the generation rate for these critical groups is per employee. These were the best available data sources.

#### RESIDENTIAL WASTE GENERATION

The same method that was used to estimate current residential waste generation was used to project future residential waste generation. We used the same residential generation rate and multiplied it by the projected population in 2027, 2032, and 2042, using the 2018 U.S. Census projections. Because the waste generation rate is based on number of households, we divided the 2027 projected population by the average household size in 2018.

#### COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE GENERATION

Due to the difficulty in ascertaining planned waste generation, we extrapolated waste generation based on population growth and forecasted economic activity. Put simply, we analyzed changes in generation for each waste type. For this section, we converted the current waste being generated to the expected waste generated in the mid- and long-range. To do so, we applied the same methodology as we did for the previous section of this attachment: the Generation section of the Current Solid Waste Management. Please refer to that section for more insight into our methodology.

In this section, we changed the source for employment projections. Because TWC only forecasts employment out to 2028, for this section, we used employment projections from the Perryman Group. This became Step 3 in our methodology. To

summarize, we used the same methodology as we did in the Current Generation section but inserted a third step which incorporated economic projections out to 2040.

**Step 1.** Same as Current Generation

**Step 2.** Same as Current Generation

**Step 3.** In the third step we collected employment data for the years 2032, 2037, and 2042. TWC does not project employment beyond 2027, so we turned to The Perryman Group’s long-term economic forecasts. The Perryman Group is an economic research firm based in Texas that specializes in long-term economic forecasts. The Perryman Group uses a proprietary forecasting system known as their Texas Econometric Model. According to The Perryman Group, their model is “The result of more than three decades of continuing research in econometrics, economic theory, statistical methods, and key policy issues and behavioral patterns, as well as intensive, ongoing study of all aspects of the global, US, and Texas economies. It is extensively used by scores of federal and State governmental entities on an ongoing basis, as well as hundreds of major corporations.”<sup>31</sup>

The Perryman Group model does not classify employment by NAICS code, but instead groups economic sectors into broader categories. Because these broader categories are different than the NAICS codes, it prevented cross-comparison to the USEEIO model. To allow for comparison between the two models, we reclassified the 24 NAICS codes into the 11 economic divisions used by the Perryman Group. This was done in the manner shown in the Addendum to this Attachment, Table 13. Moreover, the Perryman Group does not use Workforce Development Areas but instead uses wider geographic areas. For GCRPC, we used the Perryman Group region known as the Alamo Region. GCRPC sits entirely within the Alamo Region, but also included in the Perryman Group Alamo Region are all the counties within the Alamo Area Council of Governments (Atascosa County, Bandera County, Bexar County, Comal County, Frio County, Gillespie County, Guadalupe County, Karnes County, Kendall County, Kerr County, McMullen County, Medina County, Wilson County).

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<sup>31</sup> Tables for the South Texas Region (No. 159-164). (2016, June). Perryman Long-Term Economic Forecast. <https://www.perrymangroup.com/home/>

In these sections we also cite population projections to get a sense of future waste generation. These projections come from the Texas Demographic Center. In summary, in the second step of the four-part process we collected Perryman Group data on the number of people employed by each economic sector for 2032, 2037, and 2042.

**Step 4.** Same as *Step 3* in Current Generation.

## SOURCE SEPARATION

Two separate methods were used to understand current and planned source separation activities which will be explained in the following sections.

### Current

**Residential Source Separation.** To understand residential source separation in the region, we did an internet survey of the City of Victoria’s website to learn about its services. For source separation, we only looked at services offered in Victoria because they have the largest population in the region, so their services affect the largest amount of people, and the services likely represent the benchmark to which other cities might aspire.

To get an idea of how common residential waste types are separated in Victoria, we used the same material types from the CalRecycle study described in the *generation* section of this attachment:

- Food,
- Paper,
- Other Organic,
- Plastics,
- Inerts and Other,
- Special Waste,
- Metals,
- Mixed Residue,
- Glass,
- Yard Waste,
- Electronics, and
- Household Hazardous Waste.

For each material type, we determined the most preferred management method available to the resident and assigned the waste type to a *source separation category*. For example, because curbside brush pickup is available to residents of



Victoria, brush was assigned to the Brush category. This was done for each waste type. For waste types that represented categories made up of multiple types of waste, we used the individual waste type that represented the greatest amount of the group as the waste to be separated. For example, *special waste* included ash (0.1%), treated medical waste (0.7%), bulky items (2.8%), tires (0.0%), and remainder/composite waste (0.0%). In this case, special waste was considered *bulky waste*.

To describe source separation, we counted the number of necessary streams based on the handling method for a typical household to participate in waste management most effectively. Additionally, for each of the separation groups, we summed the percent of the waste stream represented by all of the included material types to understand the practical effects of source separation as it relates to diversion—the ultimate goal of successful solid waste management.

The results of these methods are limited by their specificity. More specific waste types could require additional separation. However, to avoid a false sense of accuracy, these methods were used to give a summary understanding of the best-case scenario in the region.

**Commercial and Industrial Source Separation.** For residential wastes, there are more regulations and requirements regarding collection services, and many of the services are operated publicly. For commercial and industrial wastes, the majority of the services are privately operated, so source separation details are mostly unknown, though it is assumed there is some level of source separation occurring. As a result, a useful description of commercial and industrial source separation is not included.

### Planned

To understand planned changes to source separation, feedback from the Advisory Committee members via regular meetings and a survey were used.

## LOGISTICS

Logistics is a category of activities which includes *Collection*, *Handling*, and *Storage*. This category is not part of the original form but has been included to group similar activities and simplify the solid waste management process at a high level.

## Collection

Two separate methods were used to understand current and planned collection activities, which will be explained in the following sections. Additionally, two different types of collection were evaluated: curbside and drop-off.

### CURRENT

Separate methods were used to understand current curbside collection and drop-off collection.

#### Curbside Collection

First, to understand where curbside collection services were offered, we did an internet survey of municipal websites and available online ordinances for each city in the region. For each city, we recorded the availability of curbside collection. This was done for multiple waste streams:

- Bulk,
- Brush,
- Organics,
- Recycling,
- Trash, and
- Yard Waste.

For reference, *Bulk* items are large, hard to handle items such as furniture or appliances, *Brush* is large yard waste like branches and stumps, *Organics* are food scraps and food-soiled paper, *Recycling* is for items in the region that are accepted as recyclable, *Trash* includes any material that is not otherwise diverted from the landfill, and *Yard Waste* are leaves, grass, prunings, and trimmings.

We researched 19 cities in the region based on the cities included in the dataset of Texas Cities from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).<sup>32</sup> The center of each city boundary was found, and the city was assigned to the COG if its center was within the regional boundary.

Using what was publicly available online, we identified the cities that provided curbside collection service.

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<sup>32</sup> TxDOT City Boundaries. (2021). [Dataset]. Texas Department of Transportation. <https://gis-txdot.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/TXDOT::txdot-city-boundaries/about>

For each city, if a curbside service was provided, we added the total population of that city to our estimate. Based on the results of the survey, we were able to estimate the number of people in the region that have access to municipally provided (either through City staff or municipal coordination with private haulers) curbside collection. We took that number of people and divided it by the total population of the region. This gave us the *percent* of people that live in cities with city-provided curbside collection. *City-provided collection service* includes services provided by either city employees or private firms contracted by the city to perform collection services. For trash collection, because it is mandated by the state that municipalities provide curbside trash collection, it was assumed all municipalities provided service.

The scope of our data collection is limited to cities and towns in the region. This was done because, with few exceptions, collection services are under the charge of cities and towns. Counties or COGs, as administrative units, do not have jurisdiction over collection services. Counties, in limited circumstances, may have some jurisdiction over collection services.

Our internet survey only included residential collection services. Our survey did not include collection at commercial or industrial entities because these services are handled through private contracts.

Most ordinances and websites in our survey did not distinguish between single-family and multi-family homes. Therefore, the numbers we present in the Results section likely overestimate access to curbside collection services as multi-family homes are expected to have fewer curbside services.

### **Drop-off Collection**

To describe current drop-off collection activities, we summed the number of facilities involved in waste handling activities. We used TCEQ-provided waste data and validated this data with Advisory Committee members. This data was from 2021. We also performed an internet survey to find additional drop-off centers. We counted each permit as its own facility.

### **PLANNED**

### **Curbside Collection**

To understand planned changes to curbside collection, feedback from Advisory Committee members via regular status meetings and a survey were used. TCEQ

Notice of Intent (NOI) reports were also used to add any planned handling, storage, transportation, treatment, recovery, or landfill facilities.

### **Drop-off Collection**

To understand planned drop-off collection activities, the publicly available TCEQ MSW Solid Waste Facilities data from 2021 were used to identify any facilities that were permitted but not yet constructed, as well as any pending permits.

### **Handling**

Two separate methods were used to understand current and planned handling activities which are explained in the following sections.

#### **CURRENT**

To describe current handling activities, we summed the number of facilities involved in handling. We used TCEQ-provided waste data and validated this data with Advisory Committee members. This data was from 2021. We counted each permit as its own facility. We also included an estimation of waste haulers operating in the region. See Attachment III.H. Identification of Public and Private Management Agencies and Responsibilities for the methods we used to identify haulers.

#### **PLANNED**

To understand planned handling activities, the publicly available TCEQ MSW Solid Waste Facilities data from 2021 were used to identify any facilities that were permitted but not yet constructed and any pending permits. We counted each permit as its own facility.

### **Storage**

Two separate methods were used to understand current and planned storage activities which will be explained in the following sections.

#### **CURRENT**

To describe current storage activities, we summed the number of facilities involved in waste storage activities. We used TCEQ-provided waste data and validated this data with Advisory Committee members. This data was from 2021. We counted each permit as its own facility.

**PLANNED**

To understand planned storage activities, the publicly available TCEQ MSW Solid Waste Facilities data from 2021 were used to identify any facilities that were permitted but not yet constructed, as well as any pending permits. We counted each permit as its own facility.

**PROCESSING****Transportation**

Two separate methods were used to understand current and planned transportation activities which will be explained in the following sections.

**CURRENT**

To describe current transportation activities, we summed the number of facilities involved in waste transportation activities. We used TCEQ-provided waste data and validated this data with Advisory Committee members. This data was from 2021. We counted each permit as its own facility. We also included an estimation of waste haulers operating in the region. See Attachment III.H. Identification of Public and Private Management Agencies and Responsibilities for the methods we used to identify haulers.

Additionally, we evaluated the distance between where waste is generated and where it is disposed. According to the EPA, if a landfill is more than 34 miles away round trip, it makes economic sense to add a transfer station to aid in waste transportation. So, to evaluate transportation distance, 17-mile rings around each landfill were created and the 2019 Census Population within those rings was summed. The population within 17 miles of a landfill was calculated as a percent of total population in the region. Next, the same process was done for transfer stations. Finally, based on our independent research, any collection center that was identified where trash was known to be accepted as a drop-off material had the same process applied. For both transfer stations and other collection centers, the overlap with a previous ring was removed to avoid double-counting block groups.

**PLANNED**

To understand planned transportation activities, the publicly available TCEQ MSW Solid Waste Facilities data from 2021 were used to identify any facilities that were permitted but not yet constructed, as well as any pending permits. We counted each permit as its own facility.

## **Treatment**

Two separate methods were used to understand current and planned processing and treatment activities which will be explained in the following sections.

### **CURRENT**

To understand current processing and treatment activities, we focused on three key factors:

- Where waste processing/treatment occurs,
- What processing/treatment methods are used, and
- The amount of waste processed/treated.

To understand all of these features of waste treatment in the region, we used TCEQ-provided landfill and facility data and validated this data with Advisory Committee members. The treatment amounts were from 2019 and the number of facilities were as of 2021. We counted each permit as its own facility.

### **PLANNED**

To understand planned changes to processing and treatment, feedback from Advisory Committee members via regular meetings and a survey were used. In addition, the publicly available TCEQ MSW Solid Waste Facilities data from 2021 were used to identify any facilities that were permitted but not yet constructed, as well as any pending permits. We counted each permit as its own facility.

## **Resource Recovery**

Two separate methods were used to understand current and planned resource recovery activities which will be explained in the following sections.

### **CURRENT**

To describe current resource recovery activities, we summed the number of facilities involved in resource recovery activities. We used TCEQ-provided landfill data and validated this data with Advisory Committee members. This data was from 2019. We counted each permit as its own facility.

### **PLANNED**

The publicly available TCEQ MSW Solid Waste Facilities data from 2021 were used to identify any facilities that were permitted but not yet constructed and any pending permits. We counted each permit as its own facility.

## DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE

Two separate methods were used to understand current and planned disposal activities, which will be explained in the following sections.

### Current

To understand current disposal activities, we focused on three key factors:

- Where waste disposal occurs,
- What waste types are disposed, and
- The expected remaining capacity of those disposal locations in years.

To understand where waste disposal occurs, we used TCEQ-provided landfill data and validated this data with Advisory Committee members. This data was from 2019.

To understand what waste types are disposed, we similarly referred to TCEQ-provided landfill data and summarized individual landfill reports for the region.

Finally, to understand the expected remaining capacity of the landfills, we reviewed the 2019 Municipal Solid Waste in Texas: A Year in Review<sup>33</sup> where remaining years are reported. We also compared these reported remaining years to the reported remaining years in the 2015 Municipal Solid Waste in Texas: A Year in Review.<sup>34</sup>

### Planned

To understand planned changes to disposal, feedback from Advisory Committee members via regular meetings and a survey were used.

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<sup>33</sup> Waste Permits Division. (2020, November). Municipal Solid Waste in Texas: A Year in Review (2019 Data Summary and Analysis). Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.  
[https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm\\_exec/pubs/as/187-20.pdf](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/as/187-20.pdf)

<sup>34</sup> Waste Permits Division. (2016, October). Municipal Solid Waste in Texas: A Year in Review (2019 Data Summary and Analysis). Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.  
[https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm\\_exec/pubs/as/187-16.pdf](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/as/187-16.pdf)

## Results

The results of our analysis from each solid waste activity will be presented in the following sections.

### GENERATION

The results of our efforts to understand current and planned generation are presented here separately.

#### Current

A summary of the results of our generation analysis are found in Volume II, Table III.C.I. Current Solid Waste Management Activities in the Region. This section is dedicated to enhancing the understanding of generation in the region and provides insight and analysis not found in Volume II.

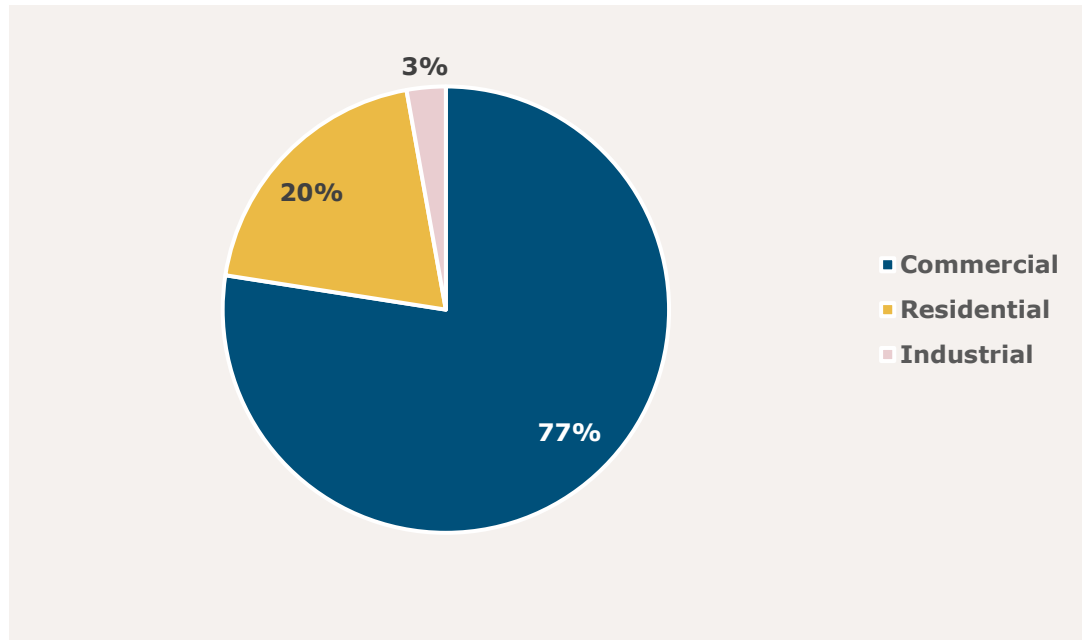
Before detailing the results of our analysis, we will lay out a structure for this section of the Attachment. We will begin with a region-wide look at generation totals and the contribution made by each critical group. Next, we will zoom in to each critical group in order to understand how they individually generate waste. We begin with the Residential group. Then, we delve into the Commercial group, followed by the Industrial group. In those sections, we show generation by the whole economy before we zoom in again to explore the waste generated by each sector of the economy. This discussion of generation will be confined to the present day. For information regarding future generation, please see the Generation section of Table. III.C.II. Planned Solid Waste Management Activities in the Region regarding planned solid waste management activities.

#### COMPARISON OF RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE GENERATION

In the aggregate, according to our methods, the region generated 794 thousand tons of waste in 2018. That is the total combined waste from all three categories—residents, commerce, and industry. Individually, commercial enterprises generated 615 thousand tons, residents generated 157 thousand tons, and industrial enterprises generated 22 thousand tons of solid waste. To be clear, these raw numbers are estimates only. It is also important to note, these numbers are significantly higher than that reported in Attachment III.A. Demographic Information. These numbers are provided to offer a sense of the scale of the waste in the region, help compare waste across categories, and give insight into where better reporting data is needed.



With that in mind and having found the total waste produced by each category, we can see in Figure 5 **Figure 5. Comparison of Estimated Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Waste** what percentage each category comprises of the total waste generated in the region: 77% by commercial enterprises, 20% by residences, and 3% by industrial enterprises. In other words, 77% of all waste generated in the region in one year is generated by commercial activities, 20% by households, and 3% by industrial activity.



**Figure 5.** Comparison of Estimated Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Waste Generation

We researched other local solid waste reports to validate our results and to see if they were in line with other cities. Our comparison of waste generation of each critical group aligns with what was reported in Houston in 2019, where 67% of waste disposed was commercial waste and 33% was residential.<sup>35</sup> Although Houston reported disposal numbers, waste generation and disposal do not match exactly because of diversion efforts. Still, it was reassuring to see this similarity. What's more, we calculated the generation makeup using an alternative method—

<sup>35</sup> Waste Generation Report (City of Houston 20 Year Long Range Draft Plan). (2020, September). City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department.  
<http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/longrange/plan/WasteGenReportv04252019.pdf>

making use of CalRecycle’s generation rates—and found the results using that data source to be nearly identical to our process.

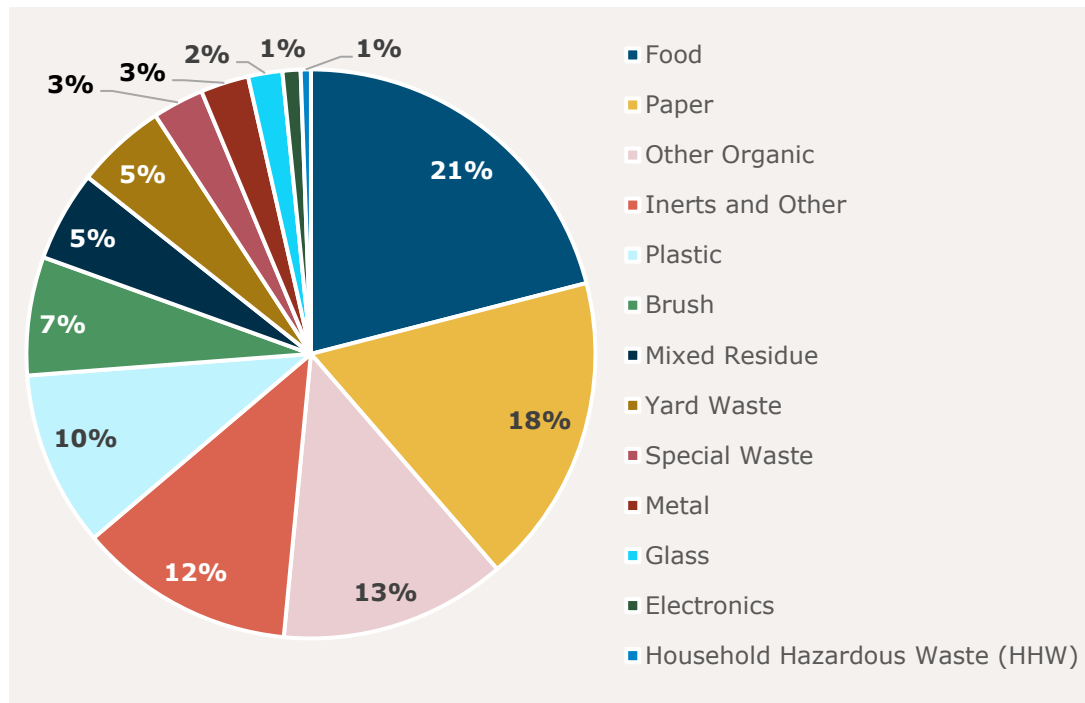
### **Residential Generation**

According to the 2018 U.S. Census,<sup>36</sup> in the Golden Crescent region 87% of homes were single-family and 13% were multi-family homes.

In the 2014 California study, the breakdown of the residential waste stream for single-family homes was as follows: 21% Food, 18% Paper (composite paper, cardboard, newspaper, etc.), 13% Other Organic (manures, textiles, carpet, composite organics), 12% Inerts and Other (wood waste, rock, soil, fines, etc.), 10% Plastics, 7% Brush (branches, stumps, prunings, trimmings), 5% Mixed Residue (kitty litter, cosmetics, etc.), 5% Yard Waste (leaves, grass), 3% Special Waste (bulky items, medical waste, ash, etc.). The remaining 5% is comprised of Metals, Glass, Electronics, and Household Hazardous Waste (paint, batteries, etc.) (Figure 6Figure 6. **California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) Estimated Single-family Residential Waste Generation** ).

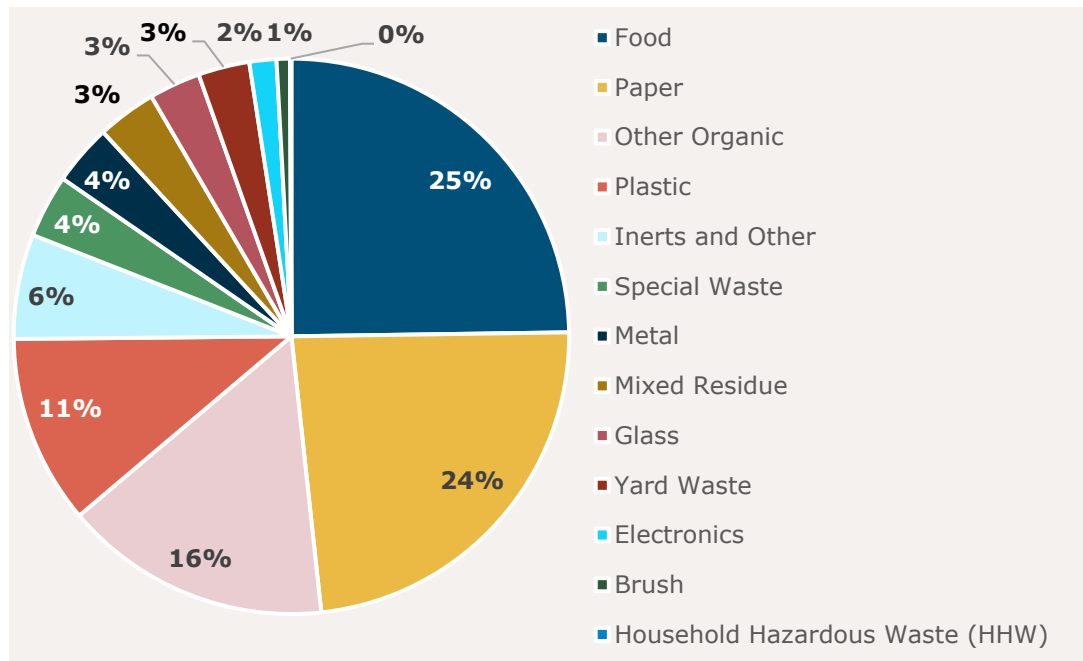
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<sup>36</sup> American Community Survey. (2018). *Selected Housing Characteristics* [2018: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles]. United States Census Bureau.



**Figure 6.** California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)  
Estimated Single-family Residential Waste Generation by Percent of Waste Type

In the same study, multi-family homes had a somewhat different waste stream: 25% Food, 24% Paper, 16% Other Organic, 11% Plastics, 6% Inerts and Other, 4% Special Waste, 4% Metals. The remaining 12% is comprised of Mixed Residue (3%), Glass (3%), Yard Waste (3%), Electronics (2%), and Household Hazardous Waste (<1%) (Figure 7. **California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) Estimated Single-family Residential Waste Generation by Percent of Waste Type.**



**Figure 7.** California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)  
Estimated Single-family Residential Waste Generation by Percent of Waste Type

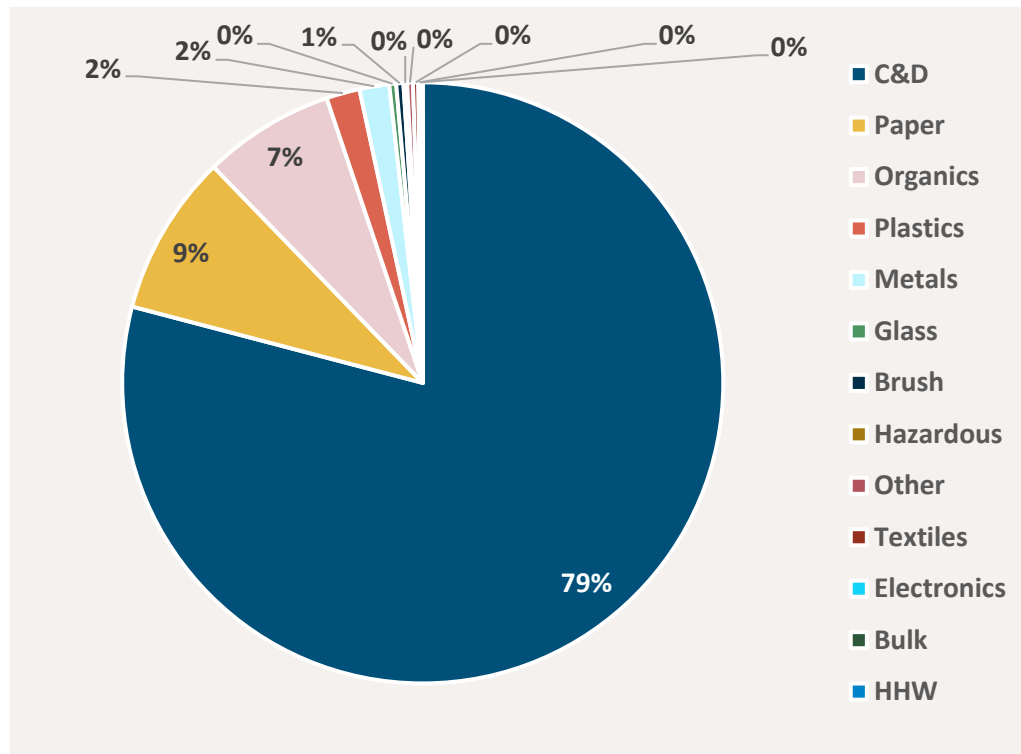
### **Commercial Generation**

Turning our attention to businesses, to get a sense of employment in the region, we reviewed the top five commercial sectors in the region by employment, according to the latest employment numbers from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) in 2018:

- 1) Health Care and Social Assistance,
- 2) Management of Companies and Enterprises,
- 3) Accommodation and Food Services,
- 4) Construction, and
- 5) Educational Services.

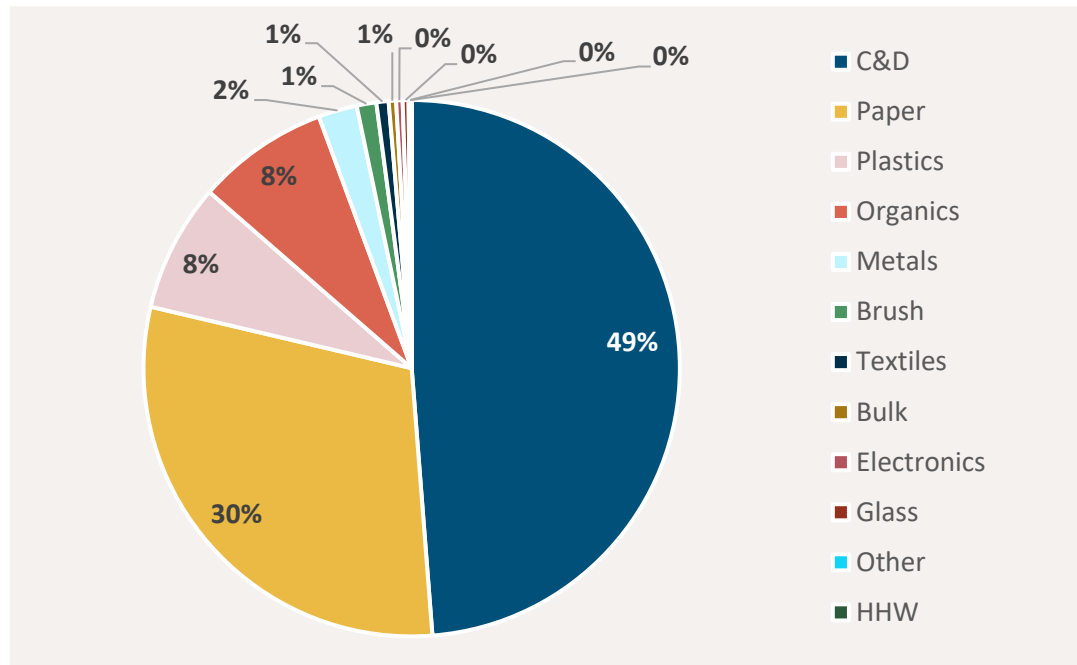
To understand how businesses generate waste, we looked at the waste produced by all commercial sectors, not just the top five. We were able to roughly approximate the types of waste generated by these commercial enterprises to not only understand who is generating waste, but what types of waste they are generating. We calculated this using an EPA table of commercially produced waste. This is the same method we used for Volume II, Tables III.A.II. Commercial Waste Generation and III.A.III. Industrial Waste Generation. The waste products

generated by commercial entities in the region as a percentage of total weight in 2018 are as follows: 79% Construction and Demolition waste (pallets, crates, wood, etc.), 9% Paper, 7% Organics, 2% Plastics, 2% Metals, and the remaining 2% is comprised of Brush, Glass, Hazardous, Textiles, Electronics, Bulk, Household Hazardous Waste and Other (Figure 8. **Estimated Commercial Waste Generation by Percent of Waste Type (tons)**).



**Figure 8.** Estimated Commercial Waste Generation by Percent of Waste Type (tons)

Solid waste management typically deals with tonnages (which can affect transport and pricing), but it is also important to understand volume because it affects landfill capacity. We have provided the same breakdown of commercially generated waste products by volume: 49% Construction & Demolition waste, 30% Paper, 8% Plastics, 8% Organics, 2% Metals, 1% Brush, and the remaining 2% is comprised of Textiles, Bulk, Electronics, Glass, Household Hazardous Waste, and Other (Figure 9. **Estimated Commercial Waste Generation by Percent of Waste Type (volume)**).



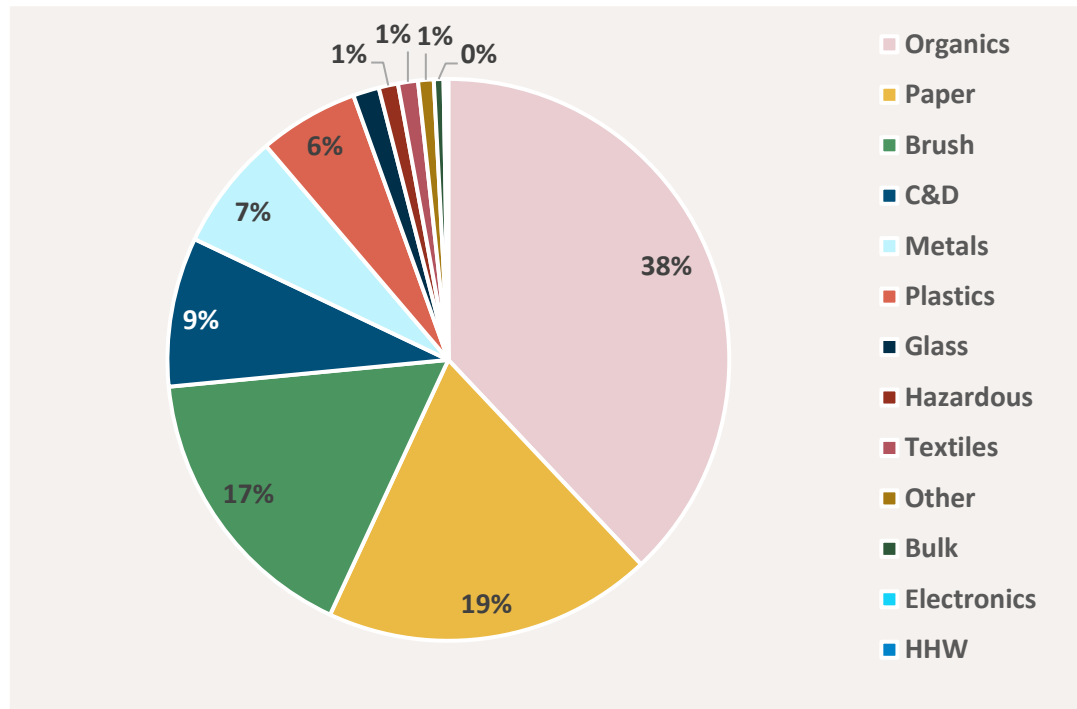
**Figure 9.** Estimated Commercial Waste Generation by Percent of Waste Type (volume)

#### INDUSTRIAL GENERATION

To get a sense of the industrial sector—the third and final category—below are the top five industrial sectors in the region by employment, according to the TWC:

1. Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting,
2. Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction,
3. Manufacturing (food, beverage, tobacco, leather, apparel, textile),
4. Manufacturing (metal, machinery, computer, electrical transportation, misc.), and
5. Manufacturing (wood, paper, printing, plastic, chemical, nonmetallic, petroleum, coal).

We used the same type of waste conversion that was performed for the commercial sector in order to determine the largest waste products generated by the industrial sector. By weight they are as follows: 38% Organics, 19% Paper, 17% Brush, 9% Construction and Demolition waste, 7% Metals, 6% Plastics, 2% Glass, and the remaining 4% is comprised of Hazardous (leachate, aqueous waste, benzene, etc.), Textiles, Bulk, Electronics, Household Hazardous Waste, and Other (Figure 10. **Estimated Industrial Waste Generation by Percent of Waste Type (tons)**).



**Figure 10.** Estimated Industrial Waste Generation by Percent of Waste Type (tons)

We cannot display a breakdown of industrial waste by volume as we did for commercial waste because much of the Hazardous waste is liquid, and the conversions were not available.

### Planned

To describe “planned” or expected generation in the region, we forecasted the types and amounts of material likely to be generated from the residential waste stream as well as from each sector of the commercial and industrial economy in the region. Throughout this section of the Attachment, we will substitute planned for words like future or projected.

The results were developed using the second approach detailed in the Methods section of this Attachment. The process for forecasting commercial and industrial waste was the same process we used in the Current section, only extrapolated into the future using employment projections. We offer the results of our analysis next, first on residential waste, then commercial waste, and last industrial waste generation.

### COMPARISON OF RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE GENERATION

A projected waste generation comparison was done for the short-range, intermediate range and long-range planning periods.

Table 4 lists the projected amount of waste generated (in tons) for the last year of each planning period.

As is shown in the table, the percent of total waste by each group changes very little throughout the entire plan period.

**Table 4:** Comparison of Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Waste Generation in Thousand Tons and Percent

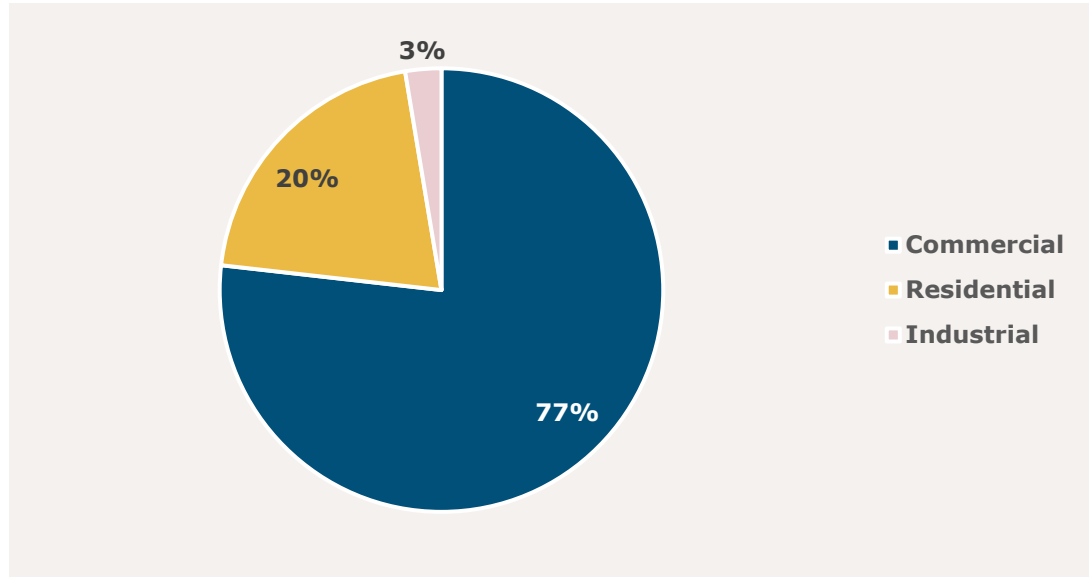
	2027	2032	2042
<b>Residential</b>			
Thousand tons	180	188	201
Percent	20%	20%	19%
<b>Commercial</b>			
Thousand tons	672	731	824
Percent	77%	77%	78%
<b>Industrial</b>			
Thousand tons	23	24	25
Percent	3%	3%	3%
<b>Total</b> (Thousand tons)	876	943	1,005

This table means that the region is projected to generate 876 thousand tons of waste in the short-range (2027). That is the total combined waste from all three categories—residents, commerce, and industry. Individually, residents are forecast to generate 180 thousand tons, commercial enterprises 672 thousand tons, and industrial enterprises 23 thousand tons of solid waste. To be clear, these raw numbers are estimates only. They are to give a sense of the scale of the waste in



the region, help compare waste across categories, and give insight into where better reporting data is needed.

The percent contribution of each group is shown in Figure 11. This is the 2027 projection. It is clear to see 77% of projected waste will be commercial, 20% residential, and 3% industrial.



**Figure 11.** Projected Percent of Waste Generated by Commercial, Residential, and Industrial in 2027

#### RESIDENTIAL GENERATION

Due to limited residential waste generation projections, we were unable to describe any changes to the *makeup* of residential waste in the future. As a result, the assumption to be made is that the composition of future residential waste will not differ from its current composition. See the Residential Waste Generation subsection of the Current Generation section Attachment for more detail (Table III.C.I. Current Solid Waste Management Activities in the Region).

Projected residential waste generation *amounts* were done for the short-range, intermediate range and long-range planning periods.

**Short-Range.** In the short-range, we estimated that annual residential waste generation between 2018 and 2027 will increase by 15%. 180 thousand tons of residential waste were forecasted to be generated. This is different from the amount calculated in the Residential Waste Generation section of Attachment A

(Volume II, Table III.A.I. Residential Waste Generation), where 222 thousand tons were forecasted and a 12% increase during this time frame. This was a result of using different methods to calculate waste generation. This will apply to every waste generation number we present in this section. We believe the generation numbers given here are more reliable than those given in Attachment A. Demographic Information, the reasons for which will be explained in the Discussion section.

**Intermediate Range.** We estimated that annual residential waste generation between 2027 and 2032 will increase by 4%. In 2032, 188 thousand tons of residential waste were forecasted to be generated.

**Long-Range.** We estimated that annual residential waste generation between 2032 and 2042 will increase by 7%. In 2042, 201 thousand tons of residential waste were forecasted to be generated.

#### COMMERCIAL WASTE GENERATION

Projected commercial waste generation was done for the short-range, intermediate range and long-range planning periods.

**Short-Range.** Although Health Care and Social Assistance is the largest employer, it is not the largest waste producer. Construction is the largest waste producer and sixth largest employment sector.

The Construction industry accounts for nearly 82% of waste when calculated by weight, and 59% by volume. The primary waste product of the construction industry in this region is construction and demolition waste (C&D). The C&D waste in this region is composed of concrete (63%), asphalt (15%), and wood (7%).

The next largest commercial generator of waste is Retail (store) accounting for approximately 18% of the region's waste. Although the fourth most employed sector, Retail Stores produce an outsized amount of waste. Waste discarded by the retail sector is mostly composed of paper (46%), organics (39%), and plastics (8%).

The third largest producer of waste is the Accommodation and Food Services sector, accounting for 3% of the region's commercial waste by weight. The types of waste disposed by this business activity is organics, mostly food (45%), followed by paper (28%), and plastics (11%).

Including all commercial enterprises in the region, the largest waste types by weight, as a percentage of the total commercial waste, are:

1. C&D (79%)
2. Paper (9%)
3. Organics (7%)
4. Plastics (2%)
5. Metals (2%)
6. Brush (<1%)
7. Glass (<1%)
8. Other (<1%)
9. Textiles (<1%)
10. Hazardous (<1%)

**Intermediate Range.** Waste across all commercial activity is projected to grow by 13% by 2027. The key takeaway is that while most types of waste are projected to grow, the rates of recyclable and compostable waste (plastics, paper, organics) will grow faster than the rates of material disposed at the landfill (C&D, metals).

Construction and demolition waste is projected to remain the largest waste product, both by weight and volume. Employment in the construction industry – the largest generator of C&D waste – is projected to increase by about 14%. As a result, disposal of concrete, asphalt, wood, and other products of the construction industry are projected to grow.

Retail store waste is projected to remain the second largest source of waste. Employment in the industry is expected to grow by 5%. As a result, the largest components of waste from this industry – paper, organics, plastic – are expected to grow. The increase in compostable material is a trend across all industry in this region.

The third largest source of waste will be the Accommodation and Food Services sector at an increase of approximately 10%. As a result, the disposal of organics will increase. These organics, including food, cardboard, and leaves and grass, constitutes nearly 50% of the waste stream. Paper and plastics combine to make up 39%. Glass comprises 6% of the sector's waste stream.

**Long-Range.** In the last 10 years of the 20-year plan, commercial waste of all types in the region is projected to grow. Moreover, the population of the region is expected to grow about 7% from 2032 to 2042, an indicator of increased waste generation and disposal.

The Services industries are slated to grow more rapidly than any other sector. The waste streams from those enterprises are principally compostable and recyclable material (paper, organics, plastics). Therefore, generation of compostable and recyclable materials will increase most rapidly during this time period.

### **Industrial Generation**

Projected industrial waste generation was done for the short-range, intermediate range and long-range planning periods.

**Short-Range.** Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting industry is the largest employer, and it is in the largest producer of waste, accounting for nearly 90% of waste by weight and 91% of waste by volume. The primary waste product of the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting industry in this region is mostly organics (food, leaves, grass), paper (cardboard), brush (pruning and trimmings), and construction and demolition waste (wood, pallets, crates, rock, soil, fines).

The next largest industrial generator of waste is Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction, accounting for approximately 5% of the region's waste. The types of waste disposed by this industrial activity are organics, paper products, brush, and construction and demolition waste.

The third largest producer of industrial waste is Manufacturing, accounting for 5% of the region's industrial waste. Waste disposed of by the manufacturing process is varied. The largest amount of waste, by weight, is categorized as hazardous. The next largest waste stream is metals, followed by paper.

Including all industrial enterprises in the region, the largest waste types by weight, as a percentage of the total industrial waste, are:

1. Organics (38%)
2. Paper (19%)
3. Brush (17%)
4. C&D (8%)
5. Metals (7%)
6. Plastics (6%)
7. Glass (2%)
8. Hazardous (1%)
9. Textiles (1%)
10. Other (1%)

**Intermediate Range.** The agricultural industry is projected to remain the largest industrial producer of waste, by weight. However, due to the projected decrease in this industry, waste products such food, leaves, grass, paper (cardboard), brush (pruning and trimmings), and construction and demolition waste (wood, pallets, crates, rock, soil, fines) will decrease.

Growth in the Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction field means this field will produce about 6% of the total waste industrial waste stream. As a result, organics, paper products, brush, and construction and demolition waste from these operations will increase.

Manufacturing waste is projected to remain the third largest source of waste. As a result of the growth in the industry, the largest components of waste from this industry – paper, organics, plastic – are expected to grow. The increase in compostable material is a trend across all industry in this region.

**Long-Range.** In the last 10 years of the 20-year plan, industrial waste in the region is projected to grow. Moreover, the population of the region is expected to grow about 7% from 2032 to 2042, an indicator of increased waste generation and disposal.

Job gains through this planning period are projected to be concentrated in the Mining and Manufacturing industries.

The Agriculture industry is expected to shrink.

## **SOURCE SEPARATION**

The results of our efforts to understand current and planned source separation activities are presented in this section separately.

### **Current**

The 13 waste type categories identified by CalRecycle, based on the services offered to residents of the City of Victoria, can be separated into 6 different streams: Recycling, Trash, Brush, Yard Waste, Bulky, and Problematic (Table 5). For each of these streams, we found the total percentage of each category.

**Table 5.** Source Separation Example for the City of Victoria

Waste Type	Waste Type Percent of Generation	Separation Category	Separation Category Percent of Generation
Paper	18%	Recycling	31%
Plastic	10%		
Metal	3%		
Food	21%	Trash	53%
Other Organic	13%		
Inerts and Other (primarily C&D)	12%		
Mixed Residue	5%		
Glass	2%		
Brush	7%	Brush	7%
Yard Waste	5%	Yard Waste	5%
Special Waste (primarily bulky waste)	3%	Bulky	3%
Electronics	1%	Problematic	2%
Household Hazardous Waste	1%		

**Note:** Due to rounding, percentages will not add up to exactly 100%

Without considering source reduction or reuse, members of a typical household in Victoria could, conservatively, divert more than 40% of the waste they generate by properly separating their recyclables, brush, yard waste, hazardous household waste and electronics.

### Planned

There are no known planned changes to source separation at this time.

## LOGISTICS

Logistics is a category of activities which includes *Collection, Handling, and Storage*. This category is not part of the original form but has been included to group similar activities and simplify the solid waste management process at a high level.

### Collection

It is important to understand, before presenting our findings, exactly what the numbers we have presented represent. When we give a percentage that reads, for example, 63% of people in the region have access to city provided curbside Trash collection, that is the percent of the total population of residents that live in a municipality that has municipal access to curbside collection. In other words, 63% of people live in a location in which there is an ordinance or other public information indicating availability of service. This figure does not represent whether these residents may opt-in to a given service or if it is compulsory.

This then leaves open the question of what the remaining 37% figure represents. It would not be true to say 37% of the population does not have curbside trash collection. Rather, 37% of people in the region live in an area of the COG where they are personally responsible for managing their solid waste and, depending on their location, may choose to contract with a private hauler, burn or bury their waste.

In summary, the results we provide in this section represent the percent of people for whom their city or town provides for and communicates about access to curbside collection services.

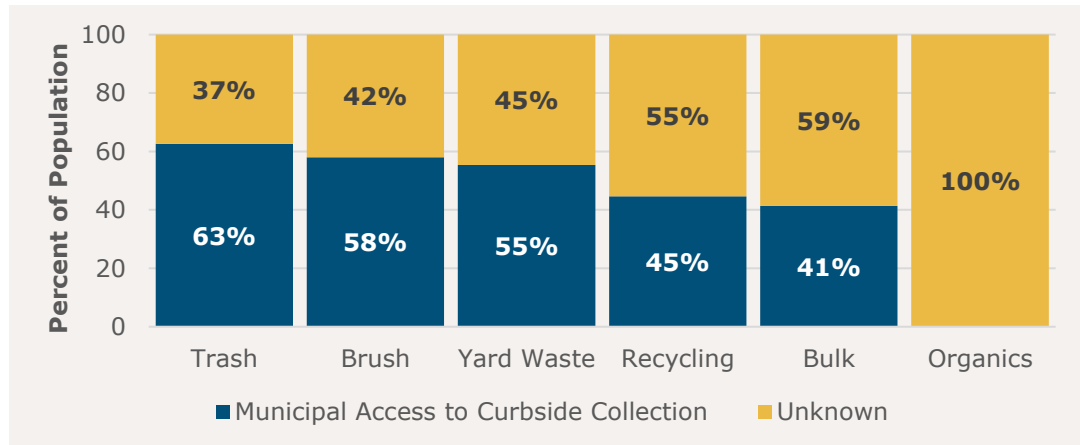
### CURRENT

The results of our analyses are organized by curbside collection and drop-off collection.

#### Curbside Collection

We developed a chart to summarize the data gathered from our internet survey of city-provided solid waste collection services (Figure 12. **Estimated Percent of Population with Access to City-Provided Curbside Trash, Brush, Bulk, Recycling, Yard Waste, and Organics Collection**). This chart shows the percent of people in the region who have access to city-provided curbside collection for six types of waste including trash, brush, bulky waste, recycling, yard waste, and organics.

As a reminder, it is not known whether the remaining percentage of residents (shown in yellow in the chart) have access to curbside collection services.



**Figure 12.** Estimated Percent of Population with Access to City-Provided Curbside Trash, Brush, Bulk, Recycling, Yard Waste, and Organics Collection

To further contextualize the results of our internet survey, we have also combined the results with the results of our source separation analysis to compare the significance of a given waste stream with the relative availability of communicated curbside access. Notably, organics represents the second largest expected waste in residential waste and is also expected to have the least access to curbside collection.

**Table 6.** Comparison of Source Separated Waste Amounts as a Percent and Curbside Availability for Single Family Homes

Separation Category	Separation Category Percent of Generation	Curbside Availability Percentage
Recycling	31%	45%
Trash*	53%	63%
Brush	7%	58%
Yard Waste	5%	55%
Bulk	3%	41%



Separation Category	Separation Category Percent of Generation	Curbside Availability Percentage
Problematic**	2%	Unknown

\* Construction and Demolition (12%) is included in the total Trash percentage. Though it is included, it is often too large for curbside pickup and may require special arrangements.

\*\* Some areas of the region have access to At Your Door, an on-demand curbside collection service that collects household hazardous waste and electronics.

### **Drop-off Collection**

We developed an extensive database of all the existing waste-related facilities in the region. This was done to provide insight into the extensive network of facilities involved in the solid waste pipeline. The entire list is presented in the addendum to this attachment (Table 17). We considered any facility that accepts solid waste drop-offs to participate in handling.

Handling in the region occurred at landfills, transfer stations, citizens collection stations, and resource recovery centers.

There were 15 facilities in 2021 that accepted drop-offs, and another 9 facilities that did not publicly list whether they accept drop-offs.

### **PLANNED**

#### **Curbside Collection**

Many collection services are privately run and so details about their collection services and planning are limited. There are no known planned changes at this time.

#### **Drop-off Collection**

There were no planned permits or facilities identified in the TCEQ facilities data.

### **Handling**

The results of our efforts to understand current and planned handling activities are presented here separately.

### CURRENT

We developed an extensive database of all the waste facilities in the region to try to validate the aspects of waste handling in the region. This was done to provide insight into the extensive network of facilities involved in the solid waste pipeline. The entire list is presented in the addendum to this attachment in Table 17.

In addition to the list of facilities, we developed a list of all haulers expected to handle waste in the region.

We considered all haulers that collected waste and all facilities that accepted drop-off materials, transferred waste, processed waste (including resource recovery), or disposed of waste to perform handling.

Handling was done at 26 facilities and by 8 haulers in the region in 2021.

Critically, data are not available to characterize the total amounts of waste that were handled or the capacity of these facilities or haulers.

### PLANNED

There were no planned permits or facilities identified in the TCEQ facilities data.

### Storage

The results of our efforts to understand current and planned storage activities are presented here separately.

### CURRENT

We developed an extensive database of all the waste facilities in the region to try to validate the aspects of waste storage in the region. This was done to provide insight into the extensive network of facilities involved in the solid waste pipeline. The entire list is presented in the third addendum in Table 17. **Current Handling, Storage, Transportation, and Resource Recovery.** We considered any facility that stores waste before its final disposition, whether that be disposal or recovery.

All facilities that accepted drop-off materials, transferred waste, processed waste (including resource recovery), or disposed of waste are considered storage facilities.

There were 26 facilities that stored waste in 2021.

Critically, data are not available to characterize the total amounts of waste that were stored, the length of storage, or total storage capacity for the facilities.

#### PLANNED

There were no planned permits or facilities identified in the TCEQ facilities data.

### PROCESSING

#### Transportation

The results of our efforts to understand current and planned transportation activities are presented here separately.

#### CURRENT

We developed an extensive database of all the waste facilities in the region to try to validate the aspects of waste transportation in the region. This was done to provide insight into the extensive network of facilities involved in the solid waste pipeline. The entire list is presented in the addendum of this attachment (Table 17). We considered any facility that transports waste before its next stage as transportation.

Transportation in the region was done by haulers and occurred at transfer stations, citizens collection stations, and tire transporters.

There were 19 entities that transported waste in 2021. In the region there were 8 haulers, 3 transfer stations, 2 citizens collection stations, and 3 tire transporters in the region.

The EPA estimates residents should be no more than 34 miles round-trip from a disposal facility. Otherwise, an intermediate facility should be available. Therefore, we evaluated the distance between where waste is generated and where it is disposed. About 44% of the region's population is within 17 miles one-way of a landfill. Of the remaining 56%, more than 15% is not within 17 miles one-way of a transfer station or other drop-off location (Table 7).

**Table 7.** Population Proximity to Waste Disposal Transportation Network

Location Type	Population within 17 Miles (count)	Population within 17 Miles (percent)
Landfills	86,951	44.1%

Location Type	Population within 17 Miles (count)	Population within 17 Miles (percent)
Transfer Stations	51,820	26.3%
Other	28,585	14.49%
No Location	29,894	15.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>197,250</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### PLANNED

There were no planned permits or facilities identified in the TCEQ facilities data.

#### Treatment

The results of our efforts to understand current and planned treatment activities are presented here separately. There are several different types of processors that perform treatment, including those who process liquid waste, scrap tires, compost, and medical waste.

#### CURRENT

There were 5 facilities that processed or treated solid or liquid waste in the region in 2021 according to TCEQ-provided processor/treatment data. The region had 3 solid waste treatment facilities and 2 liquid waste treatment facilities. The 3 solid waste facilities were compost facilities. We did not identify any tire processors or medical waste processors in the region.

**Table 8.** Active Waste Processing Facilities in 2021

Permit	Facility Name	Facility Type	Waste Type	County
47010	DOONERS ORGANICS INCORPORATED COMPOSTING FACILITY	5RC – Composting Facility	Solid	Gonzales
47029	GONZALES PROCESSING	5RC – Composting Facility	Solid	Gonzales

Permit	Facility Name	Facility Type	Waste Type	County
42034	VICTORIA COMPOST FACILITY	5RC – Composting Facility	Solid	Victoria
2330	VICTORIA ENVIRONMENTAL	5GG – Liquid Waste Processor	Liquid	Victoria
2366	VICTORIA REGIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT	5GG – Liquid Waste Processor	Liquid	Victoria

Processing facilities reported using one method to treat different waste streams. While other treatments may have been used, there were no available data to describe them.

In the facilities that treated solid waste, composting was the only treatment method used (Table 9).

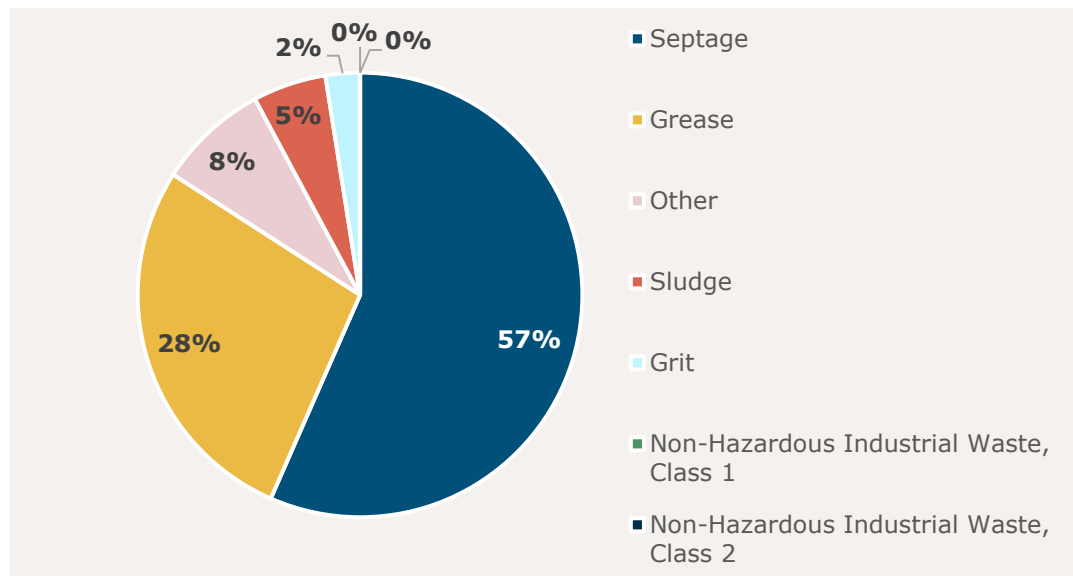
**Table 9.** Solid Waste Treatment Types by Amount (tons)

Treatment Type	Amount (tons)
Composting	20,927
Autoclave	0
Chipping/Grinding	0
Incineration	0
Digestion	0
Chemical Disinfection	0
Other	0
Total	20,927

Of the facilities that treated liquid waste, septage was the most treated by tons (Table 10).

**Table 10.** Liquid Waste Treatment Types by Amount (tons)

Type	Amount (tons)
Septage	17,836
Grease	8,676
Other	2,539
Sludge	1,682
Grit	788
Non-Hazardous Industrial Waste, Class 1	0
Non-Hazardous Industrial Waste, Class 2	0
Total	31,521



**Figure 13.** Liquid Waste Treatment by Percent Tons of Treatment Method

**PLANNED**

There were no planned permits or facilities identified in the TCEQ facilities data.

**Resource Recovery**

The results of our efforts to understand current and planned resource recovery activities are presented here separately.

**CURRENT**

We developed an extensive database of all the waste facilities in the region to try to validate all the aspects of resource recovery in the region. This was done to provide insight into the extensive network of facilities involved in the solid waste pipeline. The entire list is presented in the addendum of this attachment, in Table 17. We considered any facility that diverts waste from the landfill as a resource recovery facility, including some tire handlers and material recovery centers. We also included landfill gas recovery sites, though they do not actually divert materials.

There were 13 facilities that engaged in resource recovery as of 2021. There may be other facilities that also participate in resource recovery but data in this area was unreliable. An example of this may be a citizens collection station that accepts source separated material or a landfill that diverts certain waste types. But, as we mentioned previously, data about recycling tonnage is not available for the vast majority of facilities.

**PLANNED**

There were no planned permits or facilities identified in the TCEQ facilities data.

**DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE**

The results of our efforts to understand current and planned disposal activities are presented here separately.

**Current**

In this section, we will present where waste is disposed in the region, the waste that was disposed in the landfill, and detail the capacity remaining in that landfill.

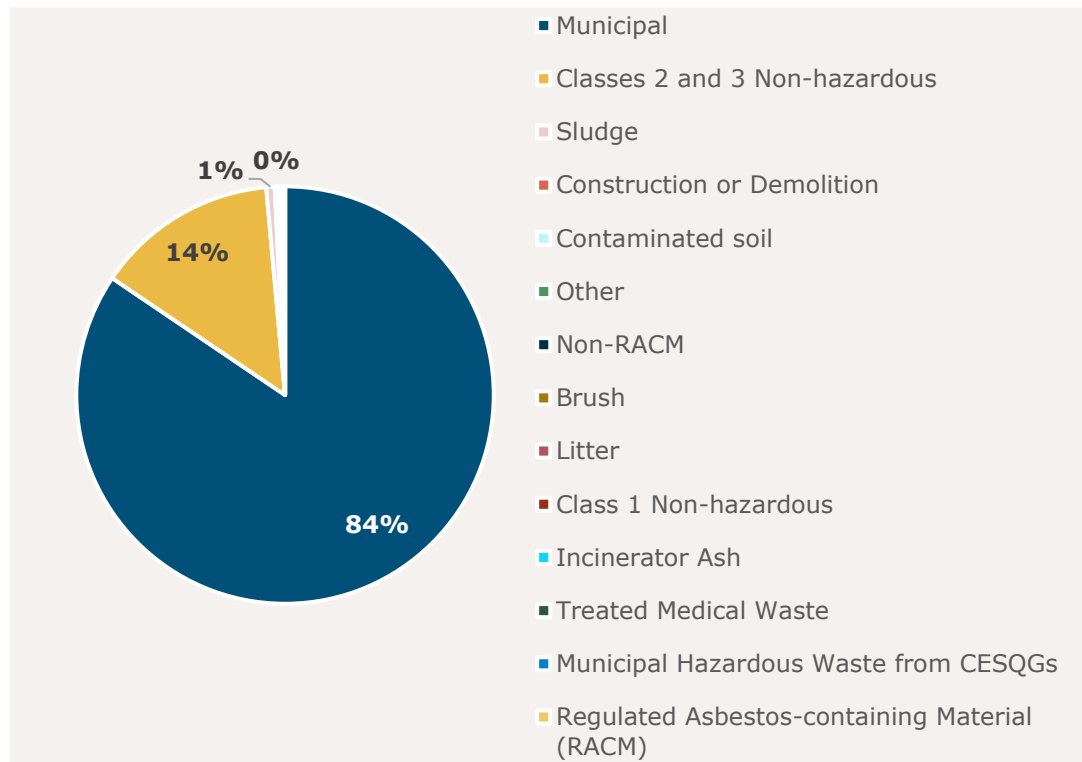
In 2019, disposal occurred at one landfill in the region (Figure 14). That one landfill was a type I landfill:

- **Type I landfills**

There is one (1) Type I landfill which may accept all types of municipal solid waste and some nonhazardous industrial waste.

In addition to the landfill within the region, eight landfills outside the region are permitted to accept waste from within the region. The one landfill within the region is not permitted to accept waste generated from outside the region. The volume of waste from the GCRPC that is deposited in a landfill outside the region is unknown.

In 2019, a total of 155 thousand tons of different waste types were disposed in the region's landfill (Figure 14 **Materials Disposed in Regional Landfills**). It is important to note here that the amount of material disposed represents actual waste disposed and may differ significantly from the estimated volume of waste generated because of different sources and calculation methods.



**Figure 14.** Materials Disposed in Regional Landfills by Percent Tons of Type



Most of the waste disposed of in the landfills was classified as Municipal Solid Waste (84%), followed by Nonhazardous Industrial Class 2 and 3 (14%). These two categories represent more than 98% of all disposed waste.

TCEQ reported that as of 2019 there were 23 years remaining in the region's landfill. The RERAC estimates the landfill to have fewer than 23 years of remaining capacity.

**Table 11.** Landfills and Remaining Capacity (2019)

Permit	Landfill Name	Landfill Type	County	Remaining Tons	Remaining Years
1522A	City of Victoria Landfill	1	Victoria	3,587,771	23

It is worth considering how the region's estimated landfill capacity changes over time because unexpected changes or disaster events can dramatically affect the expected life of a landfill. Each landfill operator creates their own estimate, and the procedures for these estimates may result in variance between methods.

To get a sense of these effects, we compared the remaining years reported for landfills in 2019 and 2015 (Table 12). We would expect the Remaining Years to decrease by approximately four years since that is the amount of time elapsed between the data points. The City of Victoria Landfill had 23 remaining years in 2019 and 30 remaining years in 2015. The landfill reported a decrease of 7 years in a span of four years. If that pattern holds—meaning the landfill capacity decreases at a rate two times faster than the landfill had been reporting—then it will be depleted in about 11 years, not 23.

**Table 12.** Comparison of 2015 and 2019 Landfills Remaining Capacity (2015)

Permit	Landfill Name	Remaining Years (2015)	Remaining Years (2019)	Change in Remaining Years
1522A	City of Victoria Landfill	30	23	7

### Planned

There is one planned disposal activity. It is an expansion to the disposal capacity of the City of Victoria Landfill. The region is seeking a 244-acre expansion to the landfill which will add about 90 years of landfill life.

## Discussion

A discussion of the results of each solid waste activity analysis will be presented in the following sections.

### GENERATION

There is no simple way to describe the waste that is generated in the region. Waste is varied and comes in many types and amounts. What we do know is that commercial waste is the largest source of waste in the region, accounting for nearly 77% of all waste generation. Residential waste makes up almost 20%, and industrial waste contributes very little but tends to be hazardous.

Each critical group—residential, commercial, and industrial—generates different types of waste. Residential waste is mostly food, paper, and other organics. In effect, the waste generated by households is the type of waste that is mostly recyclable or compostable. On the other hand, commercial and industrial waste is primarily created by the Construction and Retail industries, of which the main waste product is classified as Construction and Demolition waste, followed by Paper, and Organics.

### Current

Our analysis provided detail into the types of materials that are generated by commercial and industrial activities. This type of accounting can aid policymakers in prioritizing the types, amount, and sources of waste that are suitable for waste reduction, reuse, or diversion. By having an analysis of both solid waste generation rates and composition, decision makers have the first step in linking waste generation with waste diversion (recycling, composting, etc.).

Waste is generated from many sources and at different rates. The waste itself is heterogenous. Our description of waste generation made sense of this complexity by organizing waste generation in the region into levels (region, critical group). We will mimic that organization in this section. Specifically, we will share key takeaways for each level we examined. By the end of the section, the full picture of generation in the region will have emerged.

We began at the highest level which is region-wide generation. This gave us an account of the total amount of waste generated in the region. The result of our analysis was that about 794 thousand tons of waste were generated in 2018. The main takeaway was that waste generation was much greater than waste disposal. Typically, waste generation includes all the materials that were discarded, whether

they were recycled, composted, or disposed of in a landfill. The gap between the amount of waste generated compared to what was discarded is complicated. It has to do with many factors, including the methodology we used to arrive at the generation number. We detail this disparity within the larger context of our methodology in a subsequent section called *Limitations of our Approach*.

We then stepped one level down and asked what made up that immense amount of tonnage being generated. To answer we went back to our three critical groups: residential, commercial, and industrial. We learned that waste generation in the region was mostly generated by commercial activities. In fact, about two-thirds of the waste generated came from commerce and about one-third came from residences. Industrial waste generation in the region was relatively negligible. A key takeaway is that although these numbers are estimates, they give a sense of the scale of the waste in the region, help compare waste across categories, and give insight into where better reporting data is needed. To that end, we will next compare waste across the categories, or critical groups. The need for better reporting data will be discussed in the next section on *Limitations of our Approach*.

#### RESIDENTIAL WASTE GENERATION

The *composition* of waste generated by residential households is integral for understanding a region's waste profile. This process of waste characterization helps in planning how to reduce waste, set up recycling programs, and conserve money and resources. So too is the *amount* of waste generated important for understanding the residential group's impact on the overall waste stream.

Three types of wastes make up the majority of the waste produced at residential households. They are Food, Paper, and Other Organic (see definitions of waste types in the Results section). Any waste management program with sights on maximizing waste diversion or minimization ought to account for the outsized effect of these waste types on the residential waste stream. Moreover, the makeup of the Residential waste stream is important when considering waste diversion and reuse programs. After all, most of the waste produced by residents can be recycled or composted.

As it relates to single-family and multi-family homes, we can draw three key takeaways from the data:

1. It is evident from comparing the breakdown in waste products from single- and multi-family homes that there are differences in the types and amounts of solid waste produced by each;
2. Single-family homes have a higher rate of generation than multi-family homes (9.8 vs. 5.31 lbs./dwelling unit/day); and
3. Most of the residential waste generation in the region is produced by single-family homes (93% of residential waste in the region comes from single-family homes). These takeaways are important because they help inform where efforts and resources should be applied in service to the region's goals.

### COMMERCIAL WASTE GENERATION

Similarly important to understanding the waste profile of the region is the makeup of commercially generated waste. The largest waste products of the commercial group were, by weight, Construction and Demolition waste (C&D), Paper, and Organics. By volume, the top three are C&D waste, Paper, and Plastics. The makeup of the Commercial waste stream is important for waste management decision making, especially when considering business programs that target recycling and composting. It is also important for the systems and processes that collect, transport, process, and dispose of that waste to account for the composition of the waste.

For further insight, we divided the commercial economy into 19 sectors and analyzed the waste amounts and types produced by each. A takeaway was that the largest sectors of the commercial economy are not the largest generators of waste. As was stated in the Results section, Health Care and Social Assistance was the largest employer but sixth largest waste producer. Construction was the largest waste generator, but sixth largest employer. Such analysis allows solution makers to focus their attention on the sectors contributing most to the waste stream.

The makeup of the current commercial waste stream is also important because it allows for strategic and targeted action upon different types of wastes. By looking at waste generation through this lens, intervention on the entire waste stream of a sector may be considered. Or intervention can be taken on common waste products across multiple sectors. For example, construction site waste includes plastics. Plastic materials generated at construction sites are no different than plastic materials (of the same polymer) that can be found in other municipal solid waste. Precisely because they are the same, the recommendations for how to sustainably manage these materials can be consistent.

### INDUSTRIAL WASTE GENERATION

The benefits and takeaways of the analysis we performed for the industrial sector were similar to commercial waste generation. A difference is that the industrial group makes up little of the overall waste stream.

### LIMITATIONS OF OUR APPROACH

We used two different approaches to answer questions about generation in the region and complete the generation section of the required table. The constraints of both approaches are detailed in the following sections.

One approach was for residential waste and the other was for commercial and industrial waste. Our first approach, used for residential waste, was straightforward and based on the residential rate of generation. We called it the Generation Rates Methodology. Our second approach, used for commercial and industrial waste, was more sophisticated. We chose it because it gave us detailed information regarding employment within each economic sector and the amounts and types of waste they produce. In the aggregate, it gives us details about where the generation is happening and what changes we can expect in the future. This level of detail is useful for planning. We called this approach the Commercial & Industrial Tables Methodology.

#### **Generation Rates Methodology**

Because local generation rates were not available, the waste generated by Golden Crescent households was assumed to be similar to the waste generated in the landmark waste characterization study from California in 2014. Though it is expected that the waste between California homes and GCRPC homes is similar, there are likely differences that could be better understood by more local waste generation studies.

We will take a moment here to further explain the uncertainty in our waste generation totals and expound on the need for better reporting data. By generation totals, we are referring to the overview pie chart (Figure 11) made up of the generation totals of each critical group. As a reminder, these generation totals are estimates we calculated based on an EPA list of waste generation rates by the commercial and industrial groups. To determine residential waste, we used residential rates taken from a waste characterization study undertaken in California. We then totaled the residential, commercial, and industrial groups to get one number representing total waste generation in the region.

The result is that the total tons of waste generated in the region is much greater than the total tons of waste disposed of at landfills. During 2018, 155 thousand tons of waste was disposed of at landfills, according to annual landfill reporting data kept by TCEQ. The gap between the estimated waste generated in the region (794 thousand tons) compared to the waste disposed of at landfills (155 thousand) can be explained by many factors. These factors include, but are not limited to, the tonnage of waste diverted away from the landfill predominantly by recycling and composting, waste that was burned or buried, and inconsistent or missing data. Some examples of inconsistent or missing data are the lack of information regarding the amount of waste disposed of in landfills outside of the COG, no record of the amount of waste recycled, no rates of generation local to the region, and unreliable data coming from landfills.

It is not clear how much of the difference between waste generated and waste disposed of is explained by some or all these issues. Therefore, we have not focused on the raw totals and have only included them to elucidate data quality issues that might affect regional planning. However, in our estimation, the calculations we performed are still beneficial. We are confident that the ratio of waste generation between categories is useful and should be considered when developing waste management solutions in the region.

### **Commercial & Industrial Tables Methodology**

We used a methodology that allowed us to discover the commercial and industrial waste generated by each sector. This gave us a good idea of the types of waste being produced in the commercial economy and which sectors were producing them. The other methods we considered to complete this section did not give us that type of specificity. However, there are some assumptions built into this way of modeling commercial waste generation. It is important to understand the assumptions and uncertainty inherent in the data that belie the certainty with which we have conveyed the employment and generation numbers. In effect, the commercial waste figures ought to be understood as estimates used to communicate comparisons among the waste types and producers in the region.

Our first assumption was using for this region a nationally averaged waste generation total from the EPA waste table. We do believe, however, there is little downside to this assumption because the underlying data was taken from a waste characterization study from California in 2014. Analysis of the California study confirmed that there is little difference between the waste generated there and

other cities and states around the country.<sup>37</sup> Therefore, this is a safe assumption to make.

Secondly, for the purposes of this Attachment, we assumed the waste generated from each profession correlates with its number of employees. The USEEIO model itself makes a similar assumption.

Our third assumption was that waste generation per employee does not change over time. Unfortunately, due to a lack of data, both historical and forward looking, the most prudent methodological approach was to not change the generation per employee rate as we marched forward in time.

Moreover, our calculated totals, to some degree, suffer from a lack of internal consistency that arises out of our methodology which integrates data from multiple sources (EPA, CalRecycle) at multiple levels of geography (national, state).

We verified that the numbers we presented using this method were rooted in reality, and thus useful for the region to know. We did this by first summing the commercial waste generated by each sector. This gave us the total commercial waste generated in the region over one year. We then compared that total to the same total derived from the Generation Rates Methodology approach. The commercial totals, calculated differently, led to nearly the same result, diverging by only 6%. Such close results from two methods, one using state-wide generation rates (CalRecycle) and the other using national generation rates by employee (USEEIO), buoys confidence in what has been presented in this attachment.

### **Planned**

Our analysis compared the amounts of waste generated by residential, commercial, and industrial groups. We provided detail into the future types of material that are projected to be generated by commercial and industrial activities. This type of accounting can aid policy makers in prioritizing the types, amounts, and sources of waste that are suitable for waste reduction, reuse, or diversion. By having an analysis of both solid waste generation rates and

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<sup>37</sup> Meyer, D. E., Li, M., & Ingwersen, W. W. (2020, February). Analyzing Economy-Scale Solid Waste Generation Using the United States Environmentally-Extended Input-Output Model. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0921344920301166?via%3Dihub>

composition, decision makers have the first step in linking waste generation with waste diversion (recycling, composting, etc.).

Future waste, analogous to current waste, will be generated from many sources and at different rates. The waste itself will be heterogenous. The types of waste will be similar to how they are constituted now, there will just be more of it. The largest source of waste in the region will still be from commercial activities. Most of the waste that is generated from households will remain waste that can be recycled or composted.

The amounts of waste projected to be generated was different than in Attachment A. In Attachment A, we were limited by the structure of the tables. There, we concluded that the residential waste generation was really *total* waste generation, and that the commercial and industrial waste generation figures were imprecise, mostly because it was based on imprecise *disposal* data. Therefore, we set out to develop better generation estimates in this Attachment using a different formulation and sourced from different datasets. For this reason, the generation figures we present deviate from the prior generation results given in Attachment A. This applies to all three critical groups. We believe these to be a truer representation of generation in the area.

### **Residential Waste Generation**

The *types* of residential waste in 2027 are projected to be similar to 2018. We expect there to be slightly greater proportion of residential waste and slightly less proportion of commercial waste. This is due to a greater projected rise in total population than to the workforce. Furthermore, in the future, waste coming from households will mostly be recyclable and compostable.

As for the *amount* of waste, we project a 15% growth in residential waste generation between 2018 and 2027.

### **Commercial Waste Generation**

Commercial waste is projected to increase throughout the 20-year plan. Though the types of waste will be similar to what is being generated currently, the amount of waste will go up. Because job growth is centered primarily in the Services sectors, waste generated by those sectors is forecasted to increase the most. As a result, the rates of recyclable and compostable waste (plastics, paper, organics) will grow faster than the rates of material typically discarded at the landfill.



The makeup of the future commercial waste stream is important because it allows for strategic and targeted action upon different types of wastes. By looking at waste generation through this lens, intervention on the entire waste stream of a sector may be considered. Or intervention on common waste products across multiple sectors. For example, construction site waste includes plastics. Plastic materials generated at construction sites are no different than plastic materials (of the same polymer) that can be found in other municipal solid waste. Precisely because they are the same, the recommendations for how to sustainably manage these materials can be consistent.

### **Industrial Waste Generation**

Industrial waste is projected to increase throughout the 20-year plan. Though the types of waste will be similar to what is being generated currently, the amount of waste will go up.

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting will remain the industrial economy's largest employer and waste producer over the next 20 years. However, because job growth is centered primarily in the Manufacturing sectors, waste generated by those sectors is forecasted to increase the most. As a result, the rates of Hazardous materials, Metals, and Paper are forecast to grow the fastest.

Other than having different waste products, the same takeaways apply to Industrial waste generation as was written for Commercial waste generation.

### **LIMITATIONS OF OUR APPROACH**

Each of our methods had limitations that are important to contextualizing any conclusions that might be drawn from the results.

### **Generation Rates Methodology**

As was the case in the Current Generation section, because local generation rates were not available, the predicted waste generated by GCRPC households in 2028 was again assumed to be similar to the waste generated in the waste characterization study from California in 2014. In terms of the geographic difference, it is expected the waste between California homes and GCRPC homes is similar. In terms of the time difference, it is assumed residential waste generation is similar between 2014 and 2028. Such is the case for two reasons. First, municipal waste generation per capita has changed very little since 2000. This historical record gives confidence that this rate is not liable to change substantially. Second, in reviewing other cities' waste management plans, it is

common to project residential waste generation by keeping the current generation rate fixed and scaling the total waste generated by the region's population change. This the same method we used. It should be noted, however, that there is inherent uncertainty in forecasting waste generation, and given these geographic and time-bound constraints, it is appropriate to view these projections as estimates only, subject to shifts in technology. A current and local waste study should be performed for a more accurate assessment of future generation activities.

### **Commercial & Industrial Tables Methodology**

The same limitations that were discussed in the corresponding section of Current Generation apply here.

Though, we ought to say one final point that concerns the uncertainty of long-term projections. Forecasts that stretch beyond five years have a substantial degree of unreliability due to the unpredictability of markets and technology. This is especially the case for our forecasts which tie economic projections to future waste generation. Hence, the data we provide are strictly estimates only. We are confident in our descriptions for base year 2022; but confidence in the predictions for future planning period significantly decreases over time.

Understanding the types and amounts of waste in the region can provide a better understanding of the resources in the region and to identify opportunities for material reduction or recovery. **The region should explore every opportunity to reduce and divert its generated materials, especially in its largest streams.**

In order to better understand its generation and how to divert and reduce it, the region should consider collecting and reviewing its own data to inform decisions.

### **SOURCE SEPARATION**

We looked at source separation in Victoria because they have the highest population in the region, but we also assume they have the highest level of service available compared to other cities in the region. Because we expect the other cities to offer fewer services, we also expect that they require a higher amount of source separation into different streams. As the level of separation required increases, we assume it is less likely for residents to participate, so more materials will be disposed of in landfills rather than will be diverted.

Our results offer a broad estimation of the different categories residential wastes must be separated into. However, there are some other common residential items that do not necessarily fit into those categories. These include materials such as:

- Medical waste, which for residents includes things like unused prescriptions,
- Plastic bags,
- Organic items like manures, and
- Tires.

Ideally these waste types would also be separated into unique streams. For example, unused prescriptions could be taken to some drug stores and plastic bags could be taken to some grocery stores. However, it is unlikely that this high level of separation often occurs, especially in cities outside of Victoria that may not have the same options available. This likely results in these materials ending up in the trash or otherwise improperly disposed of.

We also did not take into account any reuse activities that could be occurring, and according to the EPA hierarchy, reuse is preferred above recycling.<sup>38</sup> Textiles, which fall into the “other organics” waste type, can be taken to reuse shops or donated instead of thrown away. This would further divert materials from landfills.

Although residents of the City of Victoria have access to a high level of service that requires a high level of separation, it is unknown how much separation actually occurs.

While it is entirely possible that residents of Victoria could divert 30% of the waste they generate by properly source separating, if brush is composted and beneficially reused, residents could divert more than 40% of the waste they generate. Notably, food waste makes up a large percentage of the waste stream that is currently going to landfills in the region. If diversion opportunities for food waste are made available, residents could divert over 60% of the waste they generate. Including reuse opportunities, this figure could increase more.

## LOGISTICS

Logistics is a category of activities which includes *Collection*, *Handling*, and *Storage*. This category is not part of the original form but has been included to

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<sup>38</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2021, April 15). *Sustainable Materials Management: Non-Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Hierarchy*. US EPA.  
<https://www.epa.gov/smm/sustainable-materials-management-non-hazardous-materials-and-waste-management-hierarchy>

group similar activities and simplify the solid waste management process at a high level.

### Collection

This section has been separated by the two types of collection: curbside and drop-off.

#### CURBSIDE COLLECTION

Residents of the region have varying access to curbside collection services depending on the area in which they live. We know that residents of cities have greater access to curbside services than residents living in rural areas. Because data relating to curbside collection was hard to come by for these rural regions, we do not know whether more than a third of the population has access to curbside trash pickup and whether upwards of 50% have access to other curbside collection services or not. To bridge the gap of missing data, the COG may encourage cities and counties to provide local collection data, and store that information on a regional data sharing platform. Centralizing the curbside collection data into one regional database allows regional leaders to make informed decisions and minimizes gaps in data in local and regional reports.

The first key takeaway relates to the fact that our results don't distinguish between curbside collection for multi-family housing or single-family housing. Multi-family homes typically experience lower levels of access to recycling services than residents of single-family homes because multifamily properties are commonly treated as commercial businesses, which are often ineligible to receive public recycling services.<sup>39</sup> This means that multi-family homes likely have less curbside collection for Brush, Bulk, Recycling, and Yard Waste. As a result, a limitation that arises in our results is that they overrepresent the actual percentage of people that have their non-trash waste collected curbside. To put it in another way, our statistics likely inflate the number of people with access to curbside collection because of those living in multi-family units.

With that said, using Victoria as an example, in theory, 100% of residential waste for residents in single family homes in the city could be picked up curbside

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<sup>39</sup> Schwartz, L. (2018, December 7). Moving Forward with Multifamily Recycling. UNC School of Government Environmental Finance Center. <https://efc.web.unc.edu/2018/12/07/moving-forward-with-multifamily-recycling/>

because the city offers collection for Trash, Recycling, Brush, Yard Waste, Bulk, and due to the availability of At Your Door collection services in the City of Victoria, Problematic wastes are also included. However, the 100% includes Construction and Demolition waste (12%), which likely would require special arrangements to transport to a landfill. Excluding Construction & Demolition, 88% of residents' waste is expected to be collected curbside.

It is expected that the greater the access to curbside services, because of their convenience, the more likely residents are to participate in responsible waste management. However, contamination of waste streams is a serious concern that can quickly derail curbside collection programs because of cost to mitigate contamination.

The most likely expansion of municipally provided curbside services is for the collection of organics. This waste represents the second-largest portion of the residential stream and has the least known access. Looking at successful models in the state could help municipalities offer this service which could improve diversion in the region significantly.

#### DROP-OFF COLLECTION

We created a master list of waste facilities in the region in order to get a comprehensive view of waste capabilities in GCRPC. We believe that not only is this the best way using the available data to describe each waste activity in the region, but it may serve as the backbone of any region-wide facility database.

We found that the TCEQ-provided municipal solid waste (MSW) facility data was incomplete for the region. We supplemented that list of facilities by adding in TCEQ NOI facilities and those we found through our internet survey. In this way, we believe the master list presented in the Addendum is a thorough accounting of waste facilities in the region in 2021.

#### Handling

We created a master list of waste facilities in the region in order to get a comprehensive view of waste handling capabilities in the region. We believe that not only is this the best way using the available data to describe each waste activity in the region but may serve as the backbone of any region-wide facility database.

We found that the TCEQ-provided municipal solid waste (MSW) facility data was incomplete for the region. We supplemented that list of facilities by adding in

TCEQ publicly maintained municipal solid waste facilities data and those we found through our internet survey. In this way, we believe the master list presented in the Addendum is a thorough accounting of waste facilities in the region in 2021.

We did not provide the type of sophisticated analysis for waste handling that we did for generation or disposal. We believe such analysis of waste handling would be unjustified. Moreover, TCEQ does not include any data about handling in their data. For this section on handling, we presented only the name and type of each facility, its location, and whether it accept drop-offs. For drop-offs, we noted which facilities definitively accepted drop-offs and for which facilities that was unknown.

TCEQ does not designate which facilities engage in the activity they call handling. All haulers that collected waste and all facilities that accepted drop-off materials, transferred waste, processed waste (including resource recovery), or disposed of waste were considered handlers. Given these considerations we believe we have presented the best available description of waste handling in the region.

### Storage

We created a master list of waste facilities in the region in order to get a comprehensive view of waste capabilities in the region. We believe that not only is this the best way using the available data to describe each waste activity in the region but may serve as the backbone of any region-wide facility database.

We found that the TCEQ-provided municipal solid waste (MSW) facility data was incomplete for the region. We supplemented that list of facilities by adding in TCEQ publicly maintained municipal solid waste facilities data and those we found through our internet survey. In this way, we believe the master list presented in the Addendum is a thorough accounting of waste facilities in the region in 2021.

We did not provide the type of sophisticated analysis for waste storage that we did for generation or disposal. We believe such analysis of waste storage would be unjustified. Moreover, TCEQ does not include any data about storage in their data. Therefore, we did not provide the type of detailed analysis that we do in the upcoming treatment section. For this section on storage, we presented only the name and type of each facility, its location, and whether it accept drop-offs.

TCEQ does not designate which facilities engage in the activity they call storage. All facilities that accepted drop-off materials, transferred waste, processed waste (including resource recovery), or disposed of waste were considered storage

facilities. Given these considerations, we believe we have presented the best available description of waste storage in the region.

## **PROCESSING**

Processing is a category of activities which includes *Transportation*, *Treatment*, and *Resource Recovery*. This category is part of the original form, but also used to group similar activities and simplify the solid waste management process at a high level.

### **Transportation**

We created a master list of waste facilities in the region in order to get a comprehensive view of waste capabilities in the region. We believe that not only is this the best way using the available data to describe each waste activity in the region but may serve as the backbone of any region-wide facility database.

We found that the TCEQ-provided municipal solid waste (MSW) facility data was incomplete for the region. We supplemented that list of facilities by adding in TCEQ NOI facilities and those we found through our internet survey. In this way, we believe the master list presented in the Addendum is a thorough accounting of waste facilities in the region in 2021.

We did not provide the type of sophisticated analysis for waste transportation that we did for generation or disposal. We believe such analysis of waste transportation would be unjustified. Moreover, TCEQ does not include in their data any tonnages related to the transportation of waste by each facility or the region as a whole. Therefore, neither did we provide the type of detailed analysis that we do in the upcoming treatment section. For this section on transportation, we presented only the name and type of each facility, its location, and whether it accept drop-offs.

TCEQ does not designate which facilities engage in the activity they call transportation. We considered transfer stations, citizens collection stations, and tire transporters to be transportation facilities. Given these considerations we believe we have presented the best available description of waste transportation in the region.

**Proximity to disposal facility network.** The EPA<sup>40</sup> estimates residents should be no more than 34 miles round-trip from a disposal facility. Otherwise, an intermediate facility should be available. This would not only help residents who need access to drop-off locations, but it would also make large-scale disposal more affordable because of the consolidation of curbside collection efforts to a network of integrated facilities. At present, nearly 30,000 residents are not within a 34-mile round-trip to a drop-off facility.

This analysis did not consider capacity of facilities. Moreover, as population grows, it will be important to watch where the growth occurs to ensure capacity of facilities or the potential for new intervening facilities. This analysis also assumes waste is taken to the nearest location by straight line distance. Incorporating the road network's impact on this analysis would likely reduce the total population within 17 miles of a location based on drive distance rather than straight line distance. Haulers in the region may also own landfills within the region or nearby outside the region. In some cases, it may be economically beneficial to those businesses to drive further distances to dispose of waste they have collected rather than drop it at a competitor's landfill, for example. It is also possible that residents live within 17 miles of a facility in another region. Finally, with more data about other drop-off facilities and their capacities, similar analyses should be executed to understand the convenience of non-disposal options to encourage more diversion and ensure the infrastructure supports diversion.

### **Treatment**

We created a master list of waste facilities in the region in order to get a comprehensive view of waste capabilities in the region. This list included treatment facilities. This catalog may serve as the backbone of any region-wide facility database.

We documented the amount of waste treated by each method. This was done for both solid and liquid wastes. We also totaled the amount of waste treated in the

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<sup>40</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2002, June). *Waste Transfer Stations: A Manual for Decision-Making*. archive.epa.gov.  
<https://archive.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/web/pdf/r02002.pdf>



region. Given the limited data available, we believed this was the best way to describe waste treatment in the region.

### **Resource Recovery**

We created a master list of waste facilities in the region in order to get a comprehensive view of waste capabilities in the region. Given the lack of available data, we believed this was the best way to describe resource recovery activities in the region. This catalog may serve as the backbone of any region-wide facility database.

We found that the TCEQ-provided municipal solid waste (MSW) facility data was incomplete for the region. We supplemented that list of facilities by adding in TCEQ-maintained public list of municipal solid waste facilities, including those not required to be permitted but that must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) and those we found through our internet survey. In this way, we believe the master list presented in the Addendum is a thorough accounting of waste facilities in the region in 2021.

We did not provide the type of sophisticated analysis for resource recovery that we did for generation or disposal. We believe such analysis of resource recovery is not possible at this time because of a lack of data. Moreover, TCEQ does not include in their data any tonnages or rates related to recycling. For this section on resource recovery, we presented only the name and type of each facility, its location, and whether it accept drop-offs. TCEQ does not designate which facilities engage in the activity they call resource recovery, so we considered any facility that recycles, composts, recovers energy or gas, or otherwise diverts material from the landfill to be resource recovery. Given these limitations across multiple data sources, we believe we have presented the best available description of where resource recovery occurs in the region. However, we do not present the tonnages for recovery, or diversion, because that data is not available. With better data on diversion, the region would know their diversion rate and then would be able to set more specific diversion goals and have a better understanding of the amount of resources they are throwing away.

### **DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE**

Our discussion of solid waste disposal is organized by two major topics: landfill capacity and the types of waste disposed.

### Landfill Capacity

All waste that is generated and not beneficially reused or recycled, or improperly disposed of, ends up disposed of in landfills. Based on our generation estimate, nearly 794 thousand tons of waste would have been generated in the region in 2019 and roughly 155 thousand tons were disposed in the region's landfills. This gap cannot be easily explained, but there are many possibilities that could help explain some of the difference.

Of those 794 thousand tons, we have assumed nearly 149 thousand tons were recycled based on the estimated recycling rate of 18.8% and we have a record of 155 thousand tons being disposed. This leaves a gap of around 490 thousand tons. Plausible explanations for some of that waste is that it was reused, illegally dumped, burned, or buried. Moreover, it is possible the recycling rate is actually higher, but data are not available to evaluate that.

Because of the lack of data around importing and exporting of waste in the region, it is possible that the region exported more waste than it imported. 8 landfills outside of the region are permitted to take in GCRPC waste, but the landfill inside the region was not permitted to take in waste from outside the region. We have no idea the proportion of waste these transfers represent. Not knowing how much waste flows out of the region is a concern because it skews the comparison between the amount of waste disposed versus amount of waste generated inside the region. Because the region's waste is exported but no waste is imported into the region, it may explain why our calculated total generation is higher than the total disposed. A more important consequence of not understanding waste import and export is that changes outside of the region may impact landfill capacity inside the region. If an outside landfill that currently takes in GCRPC waste stops accepting that waste, maybe because of their own capacity concerns, then that waste may have to be redirected to the GCRPC landfill. This of course will impact GCRPC's capacity to dispose of its own waste. The result of any disruption to the import or export of regional waste cannot be assessed.

It is also possible that varying practices at landfills can lead to inconsistent data reporting. However, with all of those considerations, the most important conclusion to draw is that the data to adequately assess disposal activities is not available. This is important because setting specific reuse and recycling goals to reduce disposal is difficult without adequate data. Moreover, it may appear efforts to reduce disposal as much as possible are an overwhelming success because only 20% of generated waste is making its way to regional landfills, though it would not

be responsible without additional data to jump to that conclusion. That is because, for example, if significant waste is being illegally dumped and future efforts reduce that behavior and more waste makes it to the landfill, it could significantly impact landfill life projections.

Ultimately, the biggest question when it comes to disposal is whether the region has sufficient capacity in its landfills. According to the region-wide estimate of remaining landfill life and considering the expansion to the region's landfill, the region has sufficient landfill capacity through the entire planning period. However, a regional measure of capacity has limitations.

Considerations for using the Remaining Years (reserve capacity) of the region:

- TCEQ Estimated Total Remaining Landfill Years gives unequal view of capacity
- Issues with landfill-reported data
- Inconsistent year-to-year changes in reported Remaining Years

**TCEQ Estimated Total Remaining Landfill Years** is a poor measure of landfill life because residents do not have access to *all* landfills. The landfill life of a resident's closest landfill or transfer station is most important. This idea mirrors the analysis we presented in the Transportation section. In effect, when TCEQ estimates that the 1 landfill in the region has 23 years of remaining capacity, it must be understood as a summary figure. When analyzing the region's landfill capacity, the landfill life estimation ought to consider the landfill's proximity to each city and transfer station. This will allow decision makers to ensure every resident has access to a landfill with sufficient capacity.

**Landfill reported data.** The landfills themselves report the reserve capacity of the landfill. According to TCEQ, it is based on the permitted volume for waste capacity and facility operations. However, this means the combined Remaining Years figure is based on inconsistent reporting data, and thus embedded with uncertainty. For one, each landfill calculates their Remaining Years differently. Because of the lack of visibility into the landfills' reporting process, we cannot know whether their figure accounts for population growth, changes to the amount of waste imported or exported, changes to the compaction rate, and so forth.

**Inconsistent Year-to-Year Capacity Estimates.** There is a similar blind spot that results from comparing the Remaining Years as it was reported in 2015 compared to 2019. This is evidenced by the fact that the City of Victoria Landfill reported a decrease of 7 Remaining Years over a 4-year time period, as detailed in the Results

section. The landfill has been depleted 2 times faster than expected, indicating there was some change in either capacity or disposal during that time frame. This implies that moving forward, the Remaining Years for that landfill may be shorter than what is being reported. It is imperative that the region closely monitor the landfill's capacity in particular, but also evaluate year-over-year estimates to provide context to annual reports.

### **Types of Waste Disposed**

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) represents the greatest proportion of waste disposed, but unfortunately, we do not know exactly what comprises it. The Texas Administrative Code defines MSW very broadly. It says MSW is “Solid waste resulting from or incidental to municipal, community, commercial, institutional, and recreational activities, including garbage, rubbish, ashes, street cleanings, dead animals, abandoned automobiles, and all other solid waste other than industrial solid waste.” An audit of each landfill is needed to tell us what the region's MSW is comprised of.

The major consequence to landfills labelling most waste as MSW is that it becomes difficult to give a comprehensive conclusion about disposed material in the region.

The final section of this Discussion will focus on resolving gaps in the region's disposal data. As was the case with many core waste management activities, comprehensive disposal data is not available. Detailed disposal data helps make detailed assessments that could, in turn, be useful for making specific recommendations in the regional action plan. Such data improves the development of future strategic plans and supports sustainability efforts.

An example of this type of effort is from the waste characterization study undertaken by San Antonio in 2019.<sup>41</sup> Region-wide data like that collected by San Antonio would help the Golden Crescent region set targets and prioritize waste streams for diversion. After all, San Antonio's report “indicated approximately 33 percent of the material placed in the brown carts was actual garbage material and not accepted in the City's blue recycling cart or green organics cart programs. The remaining 67 percent were materials that could theoretically have been recycled

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<sup>41</sup> Waste Characterization Study (SW-M00801a). (2020, May). City of San Antonio Waste Management Department. <https://www.sanantonio.gov/Portals/0/Files/SWMD/AnnualReport/SWMD-Waste-Characterization-Study-FY2019.pdf?ver=2020-06-19-091259-460>

(21.2 percent), composted (45.1 percent), or recovered from household hazardous waste (0.8 percent).”

In summary, disposal capacity is adequate for the region but should be monitored closely. It is recommended that when planning for future landfills, decision makers not rely solely on the combined landfill capacity but consider travel distances to landfills or transfer stations. Furthermore, it is recommended that the region collect detailed disposal data, including origin and destination data. By doing so, the COG can support local governments in disposing of materials in a responsible manner.

## Conclusion

Outlining current and future facilities and activities in the region helps visualize the waste stream from start to finish and also allows for identifying gaps in the process. Data limitations exist, making it difficult to analyze the full spectrum of operations and create specific goals and objectives.

The compiled data shows gaps, strengths, and weaknesses within the COG. Solid waste management activities in the region are typically focused around the high-population areas of the region with fewer resources in the more rural areas.

Ultimately, the specificity, or lack of specificity, of the data will influence the specificity of the goals, objectives, and action steps.

## Addendum | Attachment III.C. Solid Waste Management Activities

**Table 13.** Perryman Group Employment Categories Reclassification

NAICS	Type	Texas Workforce Commission Industry	Perryman Group Industry
11	Industrial	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	Agriculture
21	Industrial	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	Mining
22	Commercial	Utilities	Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities

NAICS	Type	Texas Workforce Commission Industry	Perryman Group Industry
23	Commercial	Construction	Construction
31	Industrial	Manufacturing (food, beverage, tobacco, leather, apparel, textile)	Non-Durable MFG
32	Industrial	Manufacturing (wood, paper, printing, plastic, chemical, nonmetallic, petroleum, coal)	Durable MFG
33	Industrial	Manufacturing (metal, machinery, computer, electrical, transportation, misc.)	Durable MFG
42	Commercial	Wholesale Trade	Trade
44	Commercial	Retail Trade (store)	Trade
45	Commercial	Retail Trade (non-store)	Trade
48	Commercial	Transportation	Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities
49	Commercial	Warehousing	Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities
51	Commercial	Information	Information
52	Commercial	Finance and Insurance	Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate
53	Commercial	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate
54	Commercial	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	Services
55	Commercial	Management of Companies and Enterprises	Services
56	Commercial	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	Government

NAICS	Type	Texas Workforce Commission Industry	Perryman Group Industry
61	Commercial	Educational Services	Services
62	Commercial	Health Care and Social Assistance	Services
71	Commercial	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	Services
72	Commercial	Accommodation and Food Services	Services
81	Commercial	Other Services	Services
92	Commercial	Public Administration	Government

**Table 14.** Residential Generation Material Type Reclassification<sup>42</sup>

Material Type	Material Type Category	Recategorized	Single Family: Statewide
Bulky Items	Special Waste	Special Waste	2.70%
Tires	Special Waste	Special Waste	0.10%
Remainder / Composite Special Waste	Special Waste	Special Waste	0.10%
Ash	Special Waste	Special Waste	0.00%
Treated Medical Waste	Special Waste	Special Waste	0.00%
Remainder / Composite Plastic	Plastic	Plastic	2.20%
Other Film - Other	Plastic	Plastic	1.90%

<sup>42</sup> Residential Disposal Compositions for California Regions. (2014). California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).  
<https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/WasteCharacterization/ResidentialRates>

Material Type	Material Type Category	Recategorized	Single Family: Statewide
Durable Plastic Items - Other	Plastic	Plastic	1.40%
Plastic Trash Bags	Plastic	Plastic	1.20%
Plastic Grocery and Other Merchandise Bags	Plastic	Plastic	0.80%
PETE Plastic Containers	Plastic	Plastic	0.70%
Miscellaneous Plastic Containers	Plastic	Plastic	0.60%
Durable Plastic Items - #2 and #5 Bulky Rigid	Plastic	Plastic	0.60%
HDPE Plastic Containers	Plastic	Plastic	0.50%
Non-Bag Commercial and Industrial Packaging Film	Plastic	Plastic	0.10%
Film Products	Plastic	Plastic	0.00%
Remainder / Composite Paper - Compostable	Paper	Paper	8.40%
Other Miscellaneous Paper - Other	Paper	Paper	4.10%
Uncoated Corrugated Cardboard	Paper	Paper	1.40%
Newspaper	Paper	Paper	1.20%
Remainder / Composite Paper - Other	Paper	Paper	0.80%
Magazines and Catalogs	Paper	Paper	0.70%
Other Office Paper	Paper	Paper	0.40%
Paper Bags	Paper	Paper	0.20%
White Ledger Paper	Paper	Paper	0.20%



Material Type	Material Type Category	Recategorized	Single Family: Statewide
Other Miscellaneous Paper - Compostable	Paper	Paper	0.20%
Phone Books and Directories	Paper	Paper	0.10%
Food	Other Organic	Food	21.00%
Remainder / Composite Organic	Other Organic	Other Organic	6.30%
Leaves and Grass	Other Organic	Yard Waste	5.10%
Prunings and Trimmings	Other Organic	Brush	4.80%
Textiles	Other Organic	Other Organic	4.80%
Branches and Stumps	Other Organic	Brush	1.90%
Carpet	Other Organic	Other Organic	1.80%
Manures	Other Organic	Other Organic	0.00%
Mixed Residue	Mixed Residue	Mixed Residue	5.10%
Tin/Steel Cans	Metal	Metal	0.80%
Other Ferrous	Metal	Metal	0.60%
Remainder / Composite Metal	Metal	Metal	0.50%
Other Non-Ferrous	Metal	Metal	0.40%
Major Appliances	Metal	Metal	0.30%
Aluminum Cans	Metal	Metal	0.20%
Used Oil Filters	Metal	Metal	0.00%
Other Wood Waste	Inerts and Other	Inerts and Other	4.00%

Material Type	Material Type Category	Recategorized	Single Family: Statewide
Rock, Soil and Fines	Inerts and Other	Inerts and Other	2.30%
Clean Dimensional Lumber	Inerts and Other	Inerts and Other	1.90%
Clean Engineered Wood	Inerts and Other	Inerts and Other	1.10%
Remainder / Composite Inerts and Other	Inerts and Other	Inerts and Other	0.90%
Concrete	Inerts and Other	Inerts and Other	0.90%
Asphalt Roofing	Inerts and Other	Inerts and Other	0.60%
Clean Pallets & Crates	Inerts and Other	Inerts and Other	0.30%
Gypsum Board	Inerts and Other	Inerts and Other	0.20%
Asphalt Paving	Inerts and Other	Inerts and Other	0.00%
Remainder / Composite Household Hazardous	Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)	Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)	0.30%
Paint	Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)	Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)	0.20%
Batteries	Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)	Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)	0.10%
Used Oil	Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)	Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)	0.00%
Vehicle and Equipment Fluids	Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)	Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)	0.00%

Material Type	Material Type Category	Recategorized	Single Family: Statewide
Clear Glass Bottles and Containers	Glass	Glass	1.00%
Brown Glass Bottles and Containers	Glass	Glass	0.40%
Green Glass Bottles and Containers	Glass	Glass	0.40%
Remainder / Composite Glass	Glass	Glass	0.10%
Other Glass Colored Bottles and Containers	Glass	Glass	0.00%
Flat Glass	Glass	Glass	0.00%
Other Small Consumer Electronics	Electronics	Electronics	0.40%
Brown Goods	Electronics	Electronics	0.20%
Video Display Devices	Electronics	Electronics	0.20%
Computer-related Electronics	Electronics	Electronics	0.20%

**Table 15.** Recoded Waste Types and Volume Conversions

Waste Type	Recoded Waste Type	Volume	Cubic Yards	Weight	Weight Conversion to Convert kg to yd3
Prunings and Trimmings	Brush	Cubic yard	1	127	127
Branches and Stumps	Brush	Cubic yard	1	127	127
Bulky Items	Bulk	Cubic yard	1	80	80
Major Appliances	Bulk	Cubic yard	1	145	145
Tires	Bulk	One	0.12	22.5	182.3

Waste Type	Recoded Waste Type	Volume	Cubic Yards	Weight	Weight Conversion to Convert kg to yd3
Concrete	C&D	Cubic yard	1	860	860
Clean Pallets & Crates	C&D	Cubic yard	1	169	169
Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement	C&D	Cubic yard	1	773	773
Other Wood Waste	C&D	Cubic yard	1	329.5	329.5
Wood	C&D	Cubic yard	1	169	169
Rock, Soil, and Fines	C&D	Cubic yard	1	999	999
Carpet	C&D	Cubic yard	1	147	147
Fines	C&D	Cubic yard	1	2700	2700
Clean Dimensional Lumber	C&D	Cubic yard	1	169	169
Clean Engineered Wood	C&D	Cubic yard	1	268	268
Gypsum Board	C&D	Cubic yard	1	467	467
Gypsum Drywall	C&D	Cubic yard	1	467	467
Asphalt Shingles	C&D	Cubic yard	1	418.5	418.5
Bricks	C&D	Cubic yard	1	3024	3024
Asphalt Roofing	C&D	Cubic yard	1	731	731
Asphalt Paving	C&D	Cubic yard	1	773	773
Flat Glass	C&D	Cubic yard	1	1400	1400

Waste Type	Recoded Waste Type	Volume	Cubic Yards	Weight	Weight Conversion to Convert kg to yd3
Video Display Devices	Electronics	Cubic yard	1	67	67
Computer-related Electronics	Electronics	Cubic yard	1	354	354
Brown Goods	Electronics	Cubic yard	1	343	343
Other Small Consumer Electronics	Electronics	Cubic yard	1	438	438
Other Ferrous	Metals	Cubic yard	1	225	225
Food	Organics	Cubic yard	1	463	463
Clear Glass Bottles and Containers	Glass	Cubic yard	1	380	380
Green Glass Bottles and Containers	Glass	Cubic yard	1	380	380
Brown Glass Bottles and Containers	Glass	Cubic yard	1	380	380
Remainder/Composite Glass	Glass	Cubic yard	1	1400	1400
Glass	Glass	Cubic yard	1	380	380
Other Glass Colored Bottles and Containers	Glass	Cubic yard	1	380	380
Remainder/Composite Household Hazardous	HHW	Cubic yard	1	1671	1671

Waste Type	Recoded Waste Type	Volume	Cubic Yards	Weight	Weight Conversion to Convert kg to yd3
Vehicle and Equipment Fluids	HHW	Cubic yard	1	1671	1671
Paint	HHW	1 gal	0.005	10.9	2201.5
Treated Medical Waste	HHW	Cubic yard	1	140	140
Batteries	HHW	55 gal drum	0.27	600	2203.45
Used Oil Filters	HHW	Drum	0.27	437.5	1606.68
Used Oil	HHW	Gallon	0.005	7.4	1494.61
Remainder/Composite Metal	Metals	Cubic yard	1	143	143
Metal	Metals	55 gal	0.27	226.5	831.80
Tin/Steel Cans	Metals	Cubic yard	1	850	850
Aluminum Cans	Metals	Cubic yard	1	46	46
Remainder/Composite Plastics	Plastics	Cubic yard	1	364	364
Durable Plastic Items - Other	Plastics	Cubic yard	1	50	50
PETE Plastic Containers	Plastics	30"x42"x48"	1.30	577.5	445.50
HDPE Plastic Containers	Plastics	30"x42"x48"	1.30	612.5	472.50
Miscellaneous Plastic Containers	Plastics	Cubic yard	1	40.4	40.4

Waste Type	Recoded Waste Type	Volume	Cubic Yards	Weight	Weight Conversion to Convert kg to yd3
Durable Plastic Items - Number 2 and 5 Bulky Rigid	Plastics	Cubic yard	1	50	50
Plastic	Plastics	30"x42"x48"	1.30	577.5	445.50
Remainder/Composite Paper - Compostable	Paper	Cubic yard	1	138	138
Other Miscellaneous Paper - Other	Paper	Cubic yard	1	50	50
Remainder/Composite Paper - Other	Paper	Cubic yard	1	682.5	682.5
White Ledger Paper	Paper	Cubic yard	1	682.5	682.5
Other Office Paper	Paper	Cubic yard	1	682.5	682.5
Newspaper	Paper	Cubic yard	1	925	925
Magazines and Catalogs	Paper	Cubic yard	1	428	428
Other Miscellaneous Paper - Compostable	Paper	Cubic yard	1	138	138
Paper Bags	Paper	50# dry goods	1	50	50
Phone Books and Directories	Paper	Cubic yard	1	428	428

Waste Type	Recoded Waste Type	Volume	Cubic Yards	Weight	Weight Conversion to Convert kg to yd3
Other Non-Ferrous	Metals	Cubic yard	1	225	225
Leaves and Grass	Organics	Cubic yard	1	375	375
Remainder/Composite Organics	Organics	Cubic yard	1	250	250
Organics (e.g., Land Clearing Debris)	Organics	Cubic yard	1	135	135
Manures	Organics	Cubic yard	1	675	675
Remainder/Composite Inerts and Others	Other	Cubic yard	1	860	860
Mixed Residue	Other	Cubic yard	1	999	999
Ash	Other	Cubic foot	0.04	42.5	1147.50
Remainder/Composite Special Waste	Other	Cubic yard	1	140	140
Uncoated Corrugated Cardboard	Paper	Cubic yard	1	100	100
Cardboard	Paper	Cubic yard	1	100	100
Other Film - Other	Plastics	Cubic yard	1	150	150
Plastic Trash Bags	Plastics	Cubic yard	1	35	35



Waste Type	Recoded Waste Type	Volume	Cubic Yards	Weight	Weight Conversion to Convert kg to yd3
Non-Bag Commercial and Industrial Packaging Film	Plastics	Cubic yard	1	32	32
Plastic Grocery and Other Merchandise Bags	Plastics	Cubic yard	1	35	35
Film Products	Plastics	Cubic yard	1	150	150
Textiles	Textiles	Cubic yard	1	150	150

**Table 16.** Complete Curbside Collection Service Availability Internet Survey Results

City	Brush	Bulk	Organics	Recycling	Trash	Yard Waste
Cuero	Yes	None	Not Found	Yes	Yes	Yes
Edna	Yes	Yes	Not Found	Not Found	Yes	Yes
Ganado	Yes	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Yes	Not Found
Goliad	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Yes	Not Found
Gonzales	Yes	Yes	Not Found	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hallettsville	Yes	Not Found	Not Found	Yes	Yes	Yes
La Ward	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Yes	Not Found

City	Brush	Bulk	Organics	Recycling	Trash	Yard Waste
Moulton	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Yes	Yes	Not Found
Nixon	Yes	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Yes	Not Found
Nordheim	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Yes	Not Found
Point Comfort	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Yes	Not Found
Port Lavaca	Yes	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Yes	Yes
Seadrift	None	Yes	Not Found	Not Found	Yes	Not Found
Shiner	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Yes	Yes	Not Found
Smiley	Yes	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Yes	Not Found
Victoria	Yes	Yes	Not Found	Yes	Yes	Yes
Waelder	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Yes	Not Found
Yoakum	Yes	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Yes	Yes
Yorktown	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found

**Table 17.** Current Handling, Storage, Transportation, and Resource Recovery Permits, Registrations, Notices of Intent, and Other Identified Facilities

Source	Site Name	Recoded Type	County	Drop-off
TCEQ-NOI	CITY OF NIXON WWTP	Citizens Collection Station	GONZALES	Unknown
TCEQ-NOI	CUERO COLLECTION	Citizens Collection Station	DEWITT	Yes
TCEQ-NOI	DOONERS ORGANICS INCORPORATED COMPOSTING FACILITY	Compost	GONZALES	Unknown
TCEQ-NOI	GONZALES PROCESSING	Compost	GONZALES	Unknown
TCEQ-MSW	VICTORIA COMPOST FACILITY	Compost	VICTORIA	Yes
TCEQ-MSW	CITY OF VICTORIA LANDFILL	Landfill (Type 1)	VICTORIA	Yes
TCEQ-MSW	CITY OF VICTORIA LANDFILL GAS TREATMENT FACILITY	Landfill Gas Recovery	VICTORIA	No
TCEQ-MSW	VICTORIA ENVIRONMENTAL	Liquid Waste Processor	VICTORIA	Unknown

Source	Site Name	Recoded Type	County	Drop-off
TCEQ-MSW	VICTORIA REGIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT	Liquid Waste Processor	VICTORIA	No
IGI	CALHOUN COUNTY RECYCLING CENTER	Recycling & Material Recovery	CALHOUN	Yes
IGI	GOLIAD RECYCLING CENTER	Recycling & Material Recovery	GOLIAD	Yes
IGI	WASTE MANAGEMENT RECYCLING CENTER	Recycling & Material Recovery	VICTORIA	Yes
TCEQ-NOI	DAM WASTE & RECYCLING	Recycling & Material Recovery	GONZALES	Yes
IGI	TEXAS PORT RECYCLING	Recycling & Material Recovery	VICTORIA	Yes
IGI	CROSSROADS RECYCLING CENTER	Recycling & Material Recovery	VICTORIA	Unknown
IGI	PRECINCT 1 COURTESY STATION	Recycling & Material Recovery	VICTORIA	Yes

Source	Site Name	Recoded Type	County	Drop-off
IGI	PRECINCT 3 COURTESY STATION	Recycling & Material Recovery	VICTORIA	Yes
IGI	PRECINCT 3 RECYCLING STATION	Recycling & Material Recovery	VICTORIA	Yes
IGI	PRECINCT 4 COURTESY STATION	Recycling & Material Recovery	VICTORIA	Yes
IGI	PRECINCT 4 RECYCLING STATION	Recycling & Material Recovery	VICTORIA	Yes
TCEQ-Tires	4A TIRE RECYCLERS	Tire Transporter	GONZALES	Unknown
TCEQ-Tires	CHANOS SCRAP TIRES	Tire Transporter	DEWITT	Unknown
TCEQ-Tires	YEARWOOD TIRE	Tire Transporter	VICTORIA	Unknown
TCEQ-MSW	CITY OF HALLETTSVILLE TRANSFER STATION FACILITY	Transfer Station	LAVACA	Unknown
TCEQ-MSW	CITY OF YOAKUM TRANSFER STATION FACILITY	Transfer Station	DEWITT	Yes

Source	Site Name	Recoded Type	County	Drop-off
TCEQ-MSW	JACKSON COUNTY TRANSFER STATION FACILITY	Transfer Station	JACKSON	Yes

## **Attachment III.D. Description and Assessment of the Adequacy of Existing Solid Waste Management Facilities & Practices, and Household Hazardous Waste Programs**

**Note:** This attachment is not called for in the original Volume II form but is nonetheless included. It is similarly noted at the beginning of the relevant section of Volume II that this attachment has been included.

### **Introduction**

As part of the 20-year planning process, TCEQ requires an assessment of the adequacy of existing facilities and practices.

Both facility and practices adequacy are important to ensure the region's facilities are able to properly manage solid waste.

The purpose of this section is to explain how we assessed the region's facility and practices adequacy.

Out of all facilities and practices in the region, none were deemed inadequate due to violations and TCEQ investigations in 2019.

This attachment will detail how we determined adequacy.

### **Methods**

IGI used TCEQ landfill and processor data which was then analyzed according to their rating calculated by the agency. IGI searched the TCEQ Municipal Solid Waste Disposal page and analyzed the table with facility offenses under Effective Enforcement Orders. The formal criteria TCEQ has developed were used to determine if any facilities were inadequate. Citizen complaints were not used in this analysis because formal investigations would be necessary to validate or invalidate those complaints.

Surveys and regular meetings were also used to elicit feedback related to all aspects of solid waste management in the region, including facilities and practices.

## Attachment III.E. Assessment of Current Source Reduction and Waste Minimization Efforts, Including Sludge, and Efforts to Reuse or Recycle Waste

### Introduction

As part of the 20-year planning process, TCEQ requires an assessment of current efforts related to source reduction and waste minimization, including efforts to reduce sludge, and efforts to reuse and recycle.

The EPA defines source reduction as

“Reducing waste at the source, and is the most environmentally preferred strategy. It can take many forms, including reusing or donating items, buying in bulk, reducing packaging, redesigning products, and reducing toxicity.”<sup>43</sup>

Waste minimization is defined as “the use of source reduction and/or environmentally sound recycling methods prior to energy recovery, treatment, or disposal of wastes.”<sup>44</sup> TCEQ defines sludge as “semi-solid residues from industrial or water treatment processes.”<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2021, April 15). *Sustainable Materials Management: Non-Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Hierarchy*. US EPA.  
<https://www.epa.gov/smm/sustainable-materials-management-non-hazardous-materials-and-waste-management-hierarchy>

<sup>44</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2016, February 22). *Frequent Questions | Waste Minimization | Wastes | US EPA*. US EPA.  
<https://archive.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/wastemin/web/html/faqs.html#:~:text=Waste%20Minimization%20refers%20to%20the,treatment%2C%20or%20disposal%20of%20wastes.&text=For%20example%2C%20compacting%2C%20neutralizing%2C,typically%20considered%20waste%20minimization%20practices.>

<sup>45</sup> Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. (n.d.). *Terms and Definitions*.  
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/remediation/superfund/glossary.html>



EPA defines recycling as “the process of collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away as trash and turning them into new products.”<sup>46</sup>

This attachment will assess the availability of source reduction, waste minimization, reuse, recycling, and sludge reduction efforts based on the existence of programs or mention of activities on municipal websites. Assessing the effectiveness of those programs or activities, however, is beyond the scope of this report.

Understanding current efforts and their potential impacts is critical to making decisions about where to focus future efforts. All the current activities have the potential to extend the life of the region’s landfills, as well as reduce the effects of climate change. Further, sludge recycling can present numerous agricultural benefits.

The purpose of this section is to assess the region’s efforts related to source reduction and waste minimization and recycling or reuse.

In the region, while there is always room for improvement, reuse and recycling efforts are widespread and most residents in the region have access to some reuse and recycling opportunities. Source reduction and waste minimization efforts are much less common throughout the region. Recycling of sludge biosolids is also present in the City of Victoria.

The rest of this attachment will outline the methods we used to make these assessments, show the results of our data collection (including a table showing efforts by county), provide a discussion of those results, and offer a conclusion.

## Methods

We used internet research, and in some cases followed up via telephone, to gather information regarding the availability of programs to minimize the materials going to the landfill. We conducted this research for the county seats in each county in the region as an indicator of the availability of efforts within each county.

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<sup>46</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2020, November 12). *Recycling Basics*. US EPA. <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/recycling-basics>

## **SOURCE REDUCTION, WASTE MINIMIZATION, RECYCLING, AND REUSE**

To assess current source reduction and waste minimization efforts, and efforts to reuse or recycle waste in the region, we performed a search of city websites for each county seat of the region's seven counties. Searches were not exhaustive and included only programs and activities listed on city websites. If the city's website did not mention any programs or activities, we assumed there were none. Because there could be efforts occurring that were not on websites, this assessment likely underrepresents the actual efforts. Many county seat websites do not have information about solid waste activities, so we also looked at TCEQ- and COG-provided facility data to find facilities that participate in recycling or reuse in the county seats.

## **SLUDGE**

Regional efforts to reduce and reuse sludge were evaluated using a variety of methods. We identified composting entities that were listed within TCEQ-maintained publicly available Municipal Solid Waste Facilities data and performed internet research to find information on entity websites regarding the usage of sludge in their composting process. We also made calls to composting facilities.

## **Results**

Based on the distinct methods for these assessments, the results for source reduction, waste minimization, recycling and reuse are presented separately from sludge.

## **SOURCE REDUCTION, WASTE MINIMIZATION, RECYCLING, AND REUSE**

**Source reduction and waste minimization.** We were unable to find source reduction and waste minimization programs for any of the county seats.

**Recycling and reuse.** We were able to find programs or facilities for all seven county seats. These counties represent 100% of the region's 2019 population,<sup>47</sup> though again, looking at programs listed on the county seat's website may

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<sup>47</sup> 2018 Sex and Race/Ethnicity Total Population. (2018). [Dataset]. Texas Demographic Center. <https://demographics.texas.gov/Data/TPEPP/Projections/>

underrepresent activities occurring in the entire county. Though, for those identified activities, we overestimate the number of people affected by them because we took the entire county's population, not only the county seat. For the county seats involved in reuse or recycling efforts, there was an average of two programs or activities in each city. According to this search, the county seats of DeWitt and Victoria counties are involved in the highest number of efforts, and those two counties represent 106,890 people, or about 58% of the region's population. Although we grouped recycling and reuse efforts together, we primarily found efforts related to only recycling. This could be because most reuse opportunities are not typically handled by cities or counties and are done through entities such as Goodwill or Salvation Army.

**Table 18.** Recycling or Reuse Efforts by County Seat

County	County seat	Recycling or Reuse Efforts
Calhoun	Port Lavaca	Operates recycling center
DeWitt	Cuero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chips green waste and offers free mulch</li> <li>• Offers curbside recycling</li> <li>• Operates recycling center</li> <li>• Operates resale shop</li> </ul>
Goliad	Goliad	Operates recycling center
Gonzales	Gonzales	Offers curbside recycling (through Frontier Waste Solutions)
Jackson	Edna	Offers recycling center
Lavaca	Hallettsville	Offers curbside recycling
Victoria	Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offers curbside recycling</li> <li>• Operates composting site</li> <li>• Operates recycling center</li> <li>• Partners with Victoria Independent School District in school recycling</li> </ul>

## SLUDGE

Internet research led to phone calls with an employee of Garden-Ville, a subsidiary of Texas Disposal Systems that the City of Victoria partners with. According to a

sales representative, Garden-Ville recycles roughly 100% of biosolids generated by City of Victoria residents.

Based on discussions with employees of composting entities in the State, many bureaucratic and financial challenges present themselves upon establishing a composting operation, which is likely why reuse of biosolids is often concentrated in urban areas. Compost sites are highly capital-intensive to start up and require ironclad stormwater plans alongside extensive permits to accept and treat sludge. Further, there are societal constraints around this process due to concerns amongst members of the public related to the safety of biosolid compost.

## **Discussion**

This section of the attachment provides an analysis of the results organized by source reduction and waste minimization, recycling and reuse efforts, and sludge reduction efforts.

### **SOURCE REDUCTION, WASTE MINIMIZATION, RECYCLING, AND REUSE**

Source reduction and waste minimization efforts are not occurring. Because the region will have increased population growth in the next 20 years, it is important that the COG increase efforts to minimize the amount of waste going to landfills. However, because we recorded programs and activities found only on city websites, some efforts towards source reduction and waste minimization were likely not noted. Compiling consistent data across the region could create a more accurate assessment of these efforts because it would not rely solely on city websites to convey the information. Ensuring that all available waste diversion activities are publicized broadly and consistently is essential to increase participation and the diversion rate.

In general, current reuse and recycling efforts are widespread. Again, this characterization is based on the presence or the number of programs and activities occurring, not the actual effectiveness or results of them. There is a high level of recycling availability, either through curbside collection or drop-offs, with all seven county seats having at least one of those options. Along with recycling collections and drop-offs, there are additional efforts occurring within the most populous counties, such as composting yard waste and educational programs.

## **SLUDGE**

Composting of sludge biosolids is occurring in the City of Victoria through a partnership with a private entity, though it is unclear if it is happening throughout the entire region. Still, roughly 100% in the largest population area of the region is significant.

## **Conclusion**

In the region, there are reuse and recycling opportunities available to most residents, but there are no opportunities indicated for source reduction and waste minimization. Sludge composting is available to residents of the City of Victoria.

Although the recycling efforts in the region are comprehensive based on the amount of population with access to recycling programs, there is still room for improvement, especially for reuse. Counties that have fewer programs and activities can look to the counties that participate in more efforts as an example. Using these models in the region could help counties implement or expand their own programs and activities. Population growth in the region will lead to more waste generation, so reuse and recycling efforts need to continue and expand where needed so that less waste is landfilled. Additionally, source reduction and waste minimization efforts need to increase so that less trash is generated. Composting of biosolids should also increase to include additional municipalities.

In the future, creation of a regional data sharing platform would benefit the region. This platform could provide a place for different jurisdictions to share ideas and best practices they have learned. Also, a regional platform including all active programs and activities would make an assessment such as this one easier in the future.

## **Attachment III.F. Identification of Additional Opportunities for Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, and Reuse or Recycling of Waste**

### **Introduction**

In addition to the requirement to assess current source reduction and waste minimization efforts in Volume II, III.E. Assessment of Current Source Reduction and Waste Minimization Efforts, Including Sludge, and Efforts to Reuse or Recycle Waste, as part of the 20-year planning process, TCEQ requires the identification of new opportunities for source reduction and waste minimization, and for reuse and recycling.

As opposed to the current efforts in the region, this attachment will address source reduction and waste minimization and reuse or recycling opportunities that could potentially improve current efforts.

All the opportunities identified have the potential to extend the life of the region's landfills by reducing waste generated and landfilled. The broad categories also fit into the EPA's Waste Management Hierarchy, with Source Reduction and Reuse being the most preferred management methods, followed by Recycling/Composting. According to the EPA, "Source reduction can reduce the generation of methane"<sup>48</sup> and can "save natural resources, conserve energy, [...] and save money for consumers and businesses," and recycling can contribute to "supplying valuable raw materials to industry, creating jobs, stimulating the

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<sup>48</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2002). *What is Integrated Solid Waste Management*. US EPA. <https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPURL.cgi?Dockkey=P1000L3W.txt>

development of greener technologies, [...] and reducing the need for new landfills and combustors.”<sup>49</sup>

The purpose of this attachment is to provide additional details and commentary related to the identification of additional opportunities required in Volume II, Table III.F.I Additional Opportunities for Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, Reuse and Recycling of Waste.

As shown in Attachment III.E. Assessment of Current Source Reduction and Waste Minimization Efforts, Including Sludge, and Efforts to Reuse or Recycle Waste, there is room for improvement in the region regarding its efforts in both source reduction and waste minimization, and reuse and recycling. However, we primarily identified additional opportunities for source reduction and waste minimization because of the limited efforts in those areas.

In the rest of this attachment, we will cover the methods we used to identify additional opportunities, the results of what we found, and provide a brief discussion of what the results mean.

## Methods

To identify additional opportunities for source reduction and waste minimization, and reuse or recycling, IGI talked to subject matter experts and conducted internet research. The majority of opportunities we identified are related to source reduction and waste minimization because we also considered the limited opportunities identified in Attachment III.E. Assessment of Current Source Reduction and Waste Minimization Efforts, Including Sludge, and Efforts to Reuse or Recycle Waste.

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<sup>49</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2021, April 15). *Sustainable Materials Management: Non-Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Hierarchy*. US EPA.  
<https://www.epa.gov/smm/sustainable-materials-management-non-hazardous-materials-and-waste-management-hierarchy#:~:text=EPA%20developed%20the%20non-hazardous%20materials%20and%20waste%20management,management%20strategies%20from%20most%20to%20least%20environmentally%20preferred.>

## Results

The primary results of the research are presented in Volume II, Table III.F.I. Additional Opportunities for Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, Reuse and Recycling of Waste.

As a summary, opportunities were identified for three categories with a focus on source reduction and waste minimization. In some instances, the opportunities were relevant to both reuse and recycling.

**Table 19.** Number of Opportunities for Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, and Reuse or Recycling of Waste Identified for Each Activity Type

Category of Activity	Number of Opportunities Identified
Source Reduction and Waste Minimization	16
Reuse	6
Recycle	4
Reuse/Recycle	2
Total Opportunities	28

## Discussion

The opportunities for each category of activity typically relate to specific types of materials that could be diverted or specific institutions and industries that may generate large amounts of waste that could be diverted.

**Source reduction and waste minimization.** The source reduction and waste minimization opportunities are wide-ranging. Some opportunities focus on specific waste types and others focus on specific institutions and industries. The institutions and industries that are identified are hospitals, prisons, restaurants, businesses, government, and schools. In general, most of the opportunities are related to food waste, which based on the CalRecycle research cited in the



Generation section of Attachment III.C. Solid Waste Management Activities,<sup>50</sup> represents a large proportion of the *Municipal* solid waste. Additionally, city-wide recycling ordinances have been identified as an opportunity.

**Reuse.** The reuse opportunities are about specific waste types, but also specific industries. The materials are paint, shingles, and construction and demolition debris. The industries that could engage in more reuse are construction, hospitals, and general offices.

**Recycling.** The recycling opportunities are similarly about specific materials: clothing/textiles, electronics, glass, and construction and demolition debris.

## Conclusion

With room for improvement in source reduction and waste minimization, reuse, and recycling, the opportunities that have been identified provide multiple approaches from focusing on specific materials, like construction and demolition waste, or specific industries, like the restaurant industry.

As source reduction and reuse are the most preferred methods in the solid waste management hierarchy, these opportunities represent some of the best ways to manage waste in the region.

As specific waste types are reduced or significant reuse opportunities develop, the opportunities for source reduction will become more and more focused. Focusing on the most frequently generated and disposed of wastes first would be aided by more accurate disposal data.

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<sup>50</sup> City of Los Angeles. (2006). L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide: Your Resource for Preparing CEQA Analyses in Los Angeles (Page M.3-2).  
<https://planning.lacity.org/eir/CrossroadsHwd/deir/files/references/A07.pdf>

## **Attachment III.G. Recommendations for Encouraging and Achieving a Greater Degree of Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, and Reuse or Recycling of Waste**

### **Introduction**

As part of the 20-year planning process, TCEQ requires recommendations that would achieve a greater degree of source reduction and waste minimization, and reuse or recycling.

These recommendations are about improving leadership and project implementation. They differ from the recommendations in Volume II, Table III.F.I. Additional Opportunities for Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, Reuse and Recycling of Waste because they are broad management best practices rather than specific ideas.

In this section we have identified recommendations that could improve all areas of the region's solid waste project management.

The purpose of this attachment is to provide additional commentary and details about the recommendations to achieve a greater degree of source reduction and waste minimization.

The solid waste field is very interconnected, so our recommendations promote broad practices that can be utilized to achieve better results in all areas of solid waste management.

In the rest of this attachment, we will describe the methods we used to come up with the recommendations, show the results of those methods, and discuss key points.

### **Methods**

We used two methods to come up with recommendations, both of which will be described separately.

**Previous goals survey.** We created a simple survey that presented each objective of the previous Regional Solid Waste Management Plan and sent it to the members of the Regional Environmental Resources Advisory Committee (RERAC). They were asked to give themselves a letter grade (A, B, C, D, or F) on each objective and were provided a place to give additional feedback.

**Best practices research.** We were principally involved in the development of eight RSWMPs for 2022 – 2042, including the GCRPC. We used our access to multiple planning committees to identify best practices for implementing a region-wide solid waste management plan.

## Results

The primary results are shown in Volume II, Table III.G. Recommendations for Encouraging and Achieving a Greater Degree of Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, and Reuse or Recycling of Waste.

We will not show the overall grade that each individual objective received. Instead, we will only show the grade that each goal received, based on its objectives' grades. Additionally, we will also show the objectives that received the best and worst grade to better understand problems the region may have run into during the previous 20 years. It is important to note that three out of 19 members of the RERAC responded to this survey, so it does not fully represent the entire committee, but instead gives a general idea of the region's accomplishments during the previous planning period.

**Table 20.** Previous Regional Solid Waste Management Goals and Corresponding Grade based on Survey Results

Goal	Goal Description	
Goal 1	Reduce the region's volume of municipal solid waste disposed of at landfills through source reduction, waste minimization/diversion, reuse, composting, and recycling.	C-
Goal 2	Ensure that the region has sound, cost-effective and efficient MSW disposal options, and ensure sufficient disposal capacity in the region for at least 15 years.	B+
Goal 3	Develop strategies to better handle the amounts of construction/demolition debris produced in the region.	C+

Goal	Goal Description	
Goal 4	Provide sound, cost-effective and efficient collection, storage, transfer, and transport systems for municipal solid waste in the region.	C+
Goal 5	Control illegal dumping and littering in the region.	C
Goal 6	Manage household and farm hazardous waste in a cost-effective, efficient, and environmentally sound manner throughout the region.	B
Goal 7	The RERAC should review and comment on all permit applications for MSW management facilities in the region	B-
Goal 8	Maximize the reuse and beneficial use of the region's special wastes	B-
Goal 9	GCRPC and all entities involved with solid waste management in the region must coordinate and cooperate to implement this plan effectively and efficiently	B
<b>Cumulative Grade</b>		<b>C+</b>

**Table 21.** Previous Regional Solid Waste Management Objective with the Highest Grade based on Survey Results

Objective	Objective Description	Grade
Goal 2, Objective 2.A	Pursue balanced and cooperative public/private programs for solid waste disposal in the region.	A-

**Table 22.** Previous Regional Solid Waste Management Objective with the Lowest Grade based on Survey Results

Objective	Objective Description	Grade
Goal 1, Objective 1.D	Aggressive waste diversion programs should be implemented to meet regional goals to the extent they are technologically and economically feasible.	D+

Objective	Objective Description	Grade
Goal 1, Objective 1.E	Develop and implement aggressive waste diversion programs in addition to composting to reduce the region's volume of municipal solid waste disposed of at landfills, with emphasis on achieving the greatest possible benefits.	D+
Goal 1, Objective 1.F	Promote cost-effective, innovative technologies designed to reduce waste.	D+

## Discussion

Based on the cumulative grade of a C+ shown in Table 20, the RERAC “passed” on achieving their previous objectives but did not excel at them. However, we again want to stress that the three respondents do not represent the entire committee.

The highest graded goal was Goal 2, which mostly involved required regulatory maintenance, so it was something the COG had to do as part of TCEQ requirements.

The highest graded objective involved public and private programs addressing solid waste disposal. Based on this success, we included action steps involving other types of programs.

The three lowest graded objectives were in Goal 1 and involved waste diversion programs and innovative technology to reduce waste. We have offered action steps related to improving waste diversion.

Finally, the survey of committee members did illuminate some of the committee's strengths and weaknesses, but we were not able to identify all of them based on their previous actions. This was due, in part, to the fact that many committee members were not a part of the development of the previous plan and were not necessarily there throughout the entire planning period. As a result, we developed our recommendations based on our experiences and conversations with the GCRPC Advisory Committee and the committees of seven additional COGs. Through this access to multiple planning committees, we identified five best practices for implementing a region-wide solid waste management plan. These principles are not related to only source reduction and waste minimization and recycling or reuse, but instead are key to successful solid waste management.

These recommendations also influenced the priorities to address concerns in Volume II, Table III.I. Solid Waste Management Concerns and Priorities and the goals, objectives, and action steps in Volume II, Tables III.L. Regional Goals and Objectives and III.N. Plan of Action and Timetable for Achieving Specific Goals and Objectives.

## **Conclusion**

Separate aspects of solid waste management are connected, with some entities that perform more than one function or have more than one role. Because of that connectedness, broad recommendations or practices are effective in improving overall waste management, as well as individual aspects of management.

These recommendations influenced the regional action plan, particularly the objectives and action steps.

In the future, the COG should continue to apply these recommendations and practices to its solid waste management. They should also remain open to accepting and trying new practices as technology progresses and new opportunities become available.

## **Attachment III.H. Identification of Public and Private Management Agencies and Responsibilities**

### **Introduction**

As part of the 20-year planning process, TCEQ requires identification of public and private entities involved in solid waste management. The culmination of these activities represents the larger picture of solid waste management in the region.

TCEQ does not provide specific parameters or guidelines for the entities, so we identified entities with a wide range of responsibilities.

We categorized entities into several different groups and considered the role each could play. Examples of such roles could be partners to the COG, educators to residents or businesses, or solid waste facility operators.

The purpose of this attachment is to provide lists of public and private entities involved in waste management, as well as a broad categorization of the type of responsibility each has. It will also provide additional details and commentary related to the identification of public and private entities.

Entities such as the ones we have identified will play a critical role in the region's waste management in the next 20 years. These entities could be an active part of partnerships, educational programs, and efforts to reduce waste in the region.

In the rest of this attachment, we will explain the methods we used to identify the entities, provide comprehensive lists of each entity type in the results, and provide a discussion of those results.

### **Methods**

IGI gathered information about the entities involved in waste management within the COG region using a variety of methods, including use of multiple TCEQ data sources and online searches for additional relevant groups. We grouped the entities and facilities we identified into 10 broad categories, which are listed alphabetically. We will briefly describe the reason we chose the categories we did and explain how we found the agencies within them. We also used data we

collected about the region to provide summary numbers of how many large volume commercial generators there are.

**Citizens Collection Stations.** We included citizens collection stations because of their role in solid waste management providing collection options for local residents.

IGI used TCEQ provided data on citizen collection stations that have submitted a Notice of Intent to Operate (NOI).

**Composting Facilities.** We included composting facilities because of their role in transforming organic waste into a beneficial material.

IGI used TCEQ provided data on composting facilities that have submitted an NOI, as well as TCEQ provided processor data.

**Environmental Stakeholders.** In this group, we included agencies that may be involved with goals and projects that relate closely to solid waste management, making them potential partners in clean up events or educational campaigns.

IGI used a list of Keep Texas Beautiful<sup>51</sup> affiliates to find members in the region. We also did internet searches to find environmental non-profits within the region.

**Haulers.** We included agencies involved with waste hauling because they could have a direct impact on their customers through cart tagging or waste audits. They also have a large role in the transport of waste.

IGI performed extensive internet searches to find private haulers and municipally operated public services. We included both small and large-scale private operators.

**Landfills.** Agencies operating landfills in the region were included because of their significant role in solid waste management.

IGI used TCEQ landfill data from 2019. We included the agencies owning each landfill, not the facility name.

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<sup>51</sup> Keep Texas Beautiful. (n.d.). *Affiliate List*.

[https://ktb.org/images/programs/affiliatenetwork/Affiliate\\_list\\_WEB.pdf](https://ktb.org/images/programs/affiliatenetwork/Affiliate_list_WEB.pdf)



**Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs).** We included MUDs in the region because of their potential to administer some utility services and provide some environmentally related services.

IGI used a map<sup>52</sup> created by the TCEQ to find MUDs in the region.

**Processors.** Processors were included because of the large roles they play in waste diversion and waste treatment, as well as an educational role they could play, such as offering tours of their facilities to aid public understanding.

IGI used TCEQ processor data from 2019. We also performed supplemental internet searches.

**Recyclers.** Recyclers were included because of the large roles they play in waste diversion, as well as an educational role they could play, such as offering tours of their facilities to aid public understanding.

TCEQ does not provide much data on recycling, so the majority of these were found from internet searches. We included a range of agencies that perform recycling services. These are mostly private entities and vary in size.

**Recycling Facilities.** We included recycling facilities because of their role in solid waste management through maximizing resource use.

IGI used TCEQ-provided data on recycling facilities that have submitted an NOI.

**Tire Handlers.** We included registered scrap tire handlers because of the problems associated with tire disposal. These handlers could play a role in tire reduction efforts or efforts to beneficially reuse tires.

We used TCEQ active scrap tire registration data from 2019 to find tire handlers.

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<sup>52</sup> Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. (n.d.). *Water Districts Viewer*. Retrieved July 19, 2021, from <https://tceq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=04bbf8b322b34d8abaea7b06996d3775>

## Results

We have included the total number of entities we identified for each type in Table 23. The rest of this section will list each entity, as well as provide a short description of each type. Because some entities perform more than one function, some of them will show up in more than one category. These entities will be marked by asterisks if they appear more than once. The number of asterisks indicates the number of times an entity appears across all lists. Table 24 shows the entities that appear three or more times to give an idea of the larger entities in the region.

**Table 23.** Total Number of Solid Waste Management Entities by Type

Entities	Number Identified
Citizens Collection Stations	1
Composting Facilities	3
Environmental Stakeholders	9
Haulers	8
Landfills	1
Municipal Utility Districts	4
Processors	11
Recyclers	9
Recycling Facilities	1
Tire Handlers	3

**Table 24.** Solid Waste Management Entities with Three or More Responsibilities

Entity	Category Type	Total
Republic Services	Haulers, landfills, processors, recyclers	4

## **CITIZENS COLLECTION STATIONS**

These facilities have submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to operate a Citizens Collection Station to TCEQ. Citizens Collection Stations are drop-off sites, typically in rural areas, where waste is brought before being transported to a facility. These stations are not permitted or registered, so there is very little information about them other than the fact that they have submitted an NOI.

- Cuero Collection
- City of Nixon Wastewater Treatment Plant

## **COMPOSTING FACILITIES**

These facilities have submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to operate a composting facility to TCEQ. These facilities are not permitted or registered, so there is very little information about them other than the fact that they have submitted an NOI. Compost facilities use organic materials to create soil amendments, fertilizers, or similar products.

- Dooners Organics Incorporated Composting Facility
- Gonzales Processing
- Victoria Compost Facility

## **ENVIRONMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS**

Environmental stakeholders include entities that may have solid waste related interests, making them potential partners. All cities in the region are considered environmental stakeholders, but we do not include them in this list. See Attachment I. Geographic Scope for the full list of cities.

- Calhoun County \*\*<sup>53</sup>
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Goliad County GCD
- Jackson County
- Keep Cuero Beautiful (Gold Star Affiliate), Keep America Beautiful Affiliate
- Keep Victoria Beautiful
- Keep Yorktown Beautiful
- Lavaca-Navidad River Authority
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

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<sup>53</sup> \* Indicate an entity is involved with more than one category, with each \* representing the total number of times it shows up

## HAULERS

Haulers includes trash and junk transporters that operate in the region.

- ASAP Site Services
- Easy Dumpster Rental
- Frontier Waste Solutions
- Legacy Disposal & Sanitation
- Republic Services \*\*\*\*
- Waste Management
- White Trash Services
- Zters

## LANDFILLS

Landfills includes the operators of TCEQ permitted landfills. It does not include the name of each landfill, only the owner/operator.

- Republic Services \*\*\*\*

## MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICTS (MUD)

Municipal Utility Districts are political subdivisions that can provide utility related services.

- Calhoun County MUD 1
- Lavaca County Flood Control District 3
- Port O'Connor MUD
- Quail Creek MUD

## PROCESSORS

Processors includes entities or facilities involved in processes that transport materials, reduce hazards associated with certain materials, or are involved with resource recovery. In some cases, it may be the name of a facility, but in most cases it is the name of the company.

- A & S Recycling \*\*
- City of Hallettsville
- City of Victoria
- City of Yoakum
- Garden-ville Compost Facility \*\*
- Jackson County
- Omnisource LLC \*\*
- Republic Services \*\*\*\*
- Texas Landfill Management
- Texas Port Recycling \*\*
- Victoria Environmental

## RECYCLERS

Recyclers includes entities involved in reuse or recycling of materials. Again, this could include the name of facilities, but mostly is the company or owner.

- A & S Recycling \*\*
- A+ Metal Recycling, LLC
- Calhoun County \*\*
- Crossroads Recycling Center
- Garden-Ville Compost facility \*\*
- Omnisource LLC \*\*
- Republic Services \*\*\*\*
- Rodgers Recycling CTR Inc
- Texas Port Recycling \*\*

## RECYCLING FACILITIES

These facilities have submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to TCEQ to operate a recycling facility. These facilities are not permitted or registered, so there is very little information about them other than the fact that they have submitted an NOI.

- Dam Waste & Recycling

## TIRE HANDLERS: TRANSPORT

These companies are listed as tire handlers involved with transportation, classified by TCEQ.

- 4A Tire Recyclers
- Chanos Scrap Tires
- Yearwood Tire

We have included the number of four large volume generators to give a general idea of potential areas for partnerships. For example, outreach about source reduction in schools could have a large impact and reach a large amount of people. While there are certainly other large volume generators in the region, these may represent potential partners for waste reduction and communication initiatives.

**Table 25.** Number of Select Large-Volume Institutions in the Region

Institution	Number in Region
Colleges and Universities <sup>54</sup>	4
Hospitals <sup>55</sup>	12
Military bases <sup>56</sup>	0
Schools <sup>57</sup>	99

## Discussion

There are many entities in the region with solid waste related responsibilities. Some entities perform multiple functions, for example landfills. The list we provide is likely not exhaustive because we included entities that we found in TCEQ data or through internet searches. If an entity did not put any of its information online, we did not include it. Our list shows a large number of entities that the COG could approach for specific projects. For example, if the region is cleaning up illegally dumped waste, they have a starting list of environmental stakeholders to work with.

Although we note that we included entities of varied size, we give no indication of which ones are small or large scale. We also give no indication of the scope of responsibilities each entity is involved in. However, we did note entities that play a role in more than one category of waste activities, marked by asterisks in the Results. These asterisks give an idea of the larger stakeholders in the region. Of

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<sup>54</sup> U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (n.d.). *Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD)*. HIFLD Open Data. Retrieved August 12, 2021, from <https://hifld-geoplatform.opendata.arcgis.com/>

<sup>55</sup> Texas Department of State Health Services. (n.d.). Center for Health Statistics. Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved August 12, 2021, from <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/chs/default.shtm>

<sup>56</sup> Texas Department of Transportation. (n.d.). *TxDOT Open Data Portal*. TxDOT Open Data Portal. Retrieved August 12, 2021, from <https://gis-txdot.opendata.arcgis.com/>

<sup>57</sup> Texas Education Agency. (n.d.). *Texas Education Agency Public Open Data Site*. Texas Education Agency Public Open Data. Retrieved August 12, 2021, from <https://schoolsdata2-tea-texas.opendata.arcgis.com/>

these entities, one of them is involved in three or more different categories, shown in Table 24. **Table 24. Solid Waste Management Entities with Three or More Responsibilities**Error! Reference source not found. This entity is Republic Services, a large private company not only prominent in the region, but also across the entire state.

Building relationships and increasing collaboration with these entities will help the region better understand its regional solid waste activities, as well as help achieve action plan goals.

## Conclusion

We have identified many entities that perform a variety of solid waste related tasks. These entities could play a large role in helping the region meet its plan goals and find solutions for its solid waste related problems.

The wide range of entities chosen reinforces the idea that the solid waste field is large and interconnected, making it important to consider the unique roles of all players.

In the future, the region should maintain and update this list of entities, along with trying to develop contacts within these entities. Continually collaborating with a wide range of people involved in solid waste management will allow the region to be able to better tackle its issues.

# **Attachment III.I. Identification of Solid Waste Management Concerns and Establishment of Priorities for Addressing Those Concerns**

## **Introduction**

As part of the 20-year plan update, TCEQ requires identification of concerns related to solid waste management, as well as priorities or actions to address those concerns.

Identification of these concerns and priorities were critical to developing the goals, objectives, and action steps for the region.

Concerns in the region are related to broad solid waste related topics. The priorities to address those concerns are general actions that the region can take to help with management of its concerns.

The purpose of this attachment is to provide additional details and commentary about the reasoning behind the concerns and priorities identified in Volume II, Table III.I.I. Solid Waste Management Concerns and Priorities.

Because the concerns and priorities heavily influenced the region's solid waste management plan, it is important that the COG understand the context and reasoning behind them.

The rest of this attachment will describe the methods we used to identify concerns and priorities, show the results of the methods used, provide a discussion, and give a conclusion.

## **Methods**

We identified regional concerns using a variety of techniques, each of which will be further explained.

### **SURVEY**

At the beginning of this project, we created and distributed a survey to the region's Regional Environmental Resources Advisory Committee (RERAC) members to understand their current solid waste activities and priorities. This



Solid Waste Current Activities and Priorities Survey played a large role in determining concerns and how we prioritized them. In this survey, we divided the content into six sections that were influenced by TCEQ grant categories. The sections were

- Recycling and Waste Reduction,
- Illegal Dumping,
- Solid Waste Plans,
- Household Hazardous Waste Management,
- Technical Studies, and
- Education and Training.

In each section we asked questions about current activities in the region, as well as future activities members would be interested in. At the end of the survey, we asked respondents to rank all six of the sections in order of importance. The results of the combined ratings of all respondents played a role in the order of what we referred to as Areas of Concern which were key to developing the 2022 – 2042 Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. Responses to individual survey questions also influenced the concerns. It is important to note that 5 of 19 RERAC members responded to the survey, so not all members are represented in our results.

## **INTERVIEWS**

We conducted subject matter expert interviews to better understand common concerns across the solid waste field. We also facilitated multiple discussions during RERAC meetings to understand issues specifically related to the region.

## **DATA ANALYSIS**

We considered all of the data we collected as part of the creation of this plan and used relevant parts of that data to inform these concerns. We analyzed several relevant data sources, including TCEQ provided landfill, facility, and funding data, municipal ordinances, and the Census.

## **Results**

We present the final results of each method (e.g., survey, interview) separately. First, we will show relevant survey results. Next, we will describe key takeaways from our interviews and RERAC meetings. Then, we will touch on relevant aspects

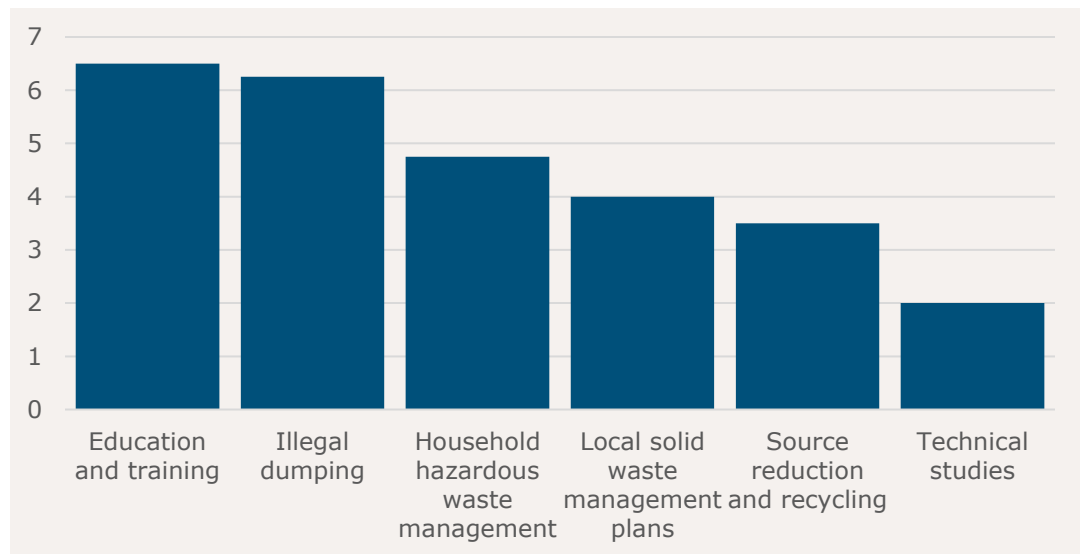
of the data collected during other parts of this plan, and finally we will show a table with all the concerns and priorities.

## SURVEY

The survey we developed was customized for every respondent who received it to eliminate irrelevant questions and make the best use of respondents' time. One example of how the survey was customized was based on what entity the respondent represented. For example, on questions that ask about "your entity," such as in Figure 19, respondents would not have seen "your entity." Instead, they would have seen the name of the city, county, or organization they represent.

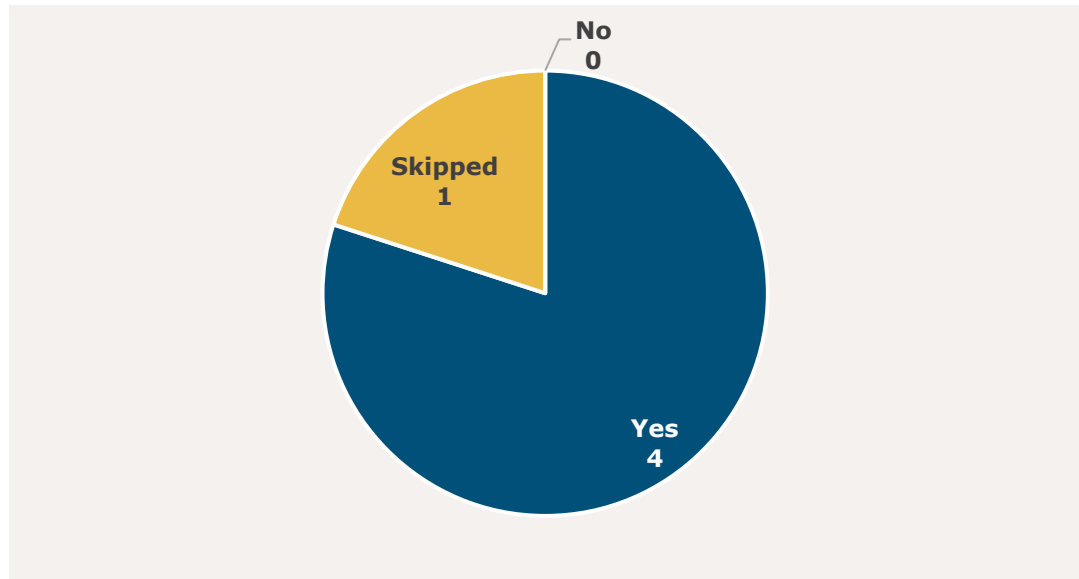
We will not show all of the results of the survey but will only show results that were the most relevant to the development of the concerns. These results also show some questions where a high number of respondents chose the same answer, such as in Figure 16 **Error! Reference source not found.** Figure 19 where 4 out of 4 chose the same answer (one respondent skipped the question). Agreement among the respondents helps reveal what issues are the most important in the region.

Figure 15 shows Education and Training as the most agreed upon priority.



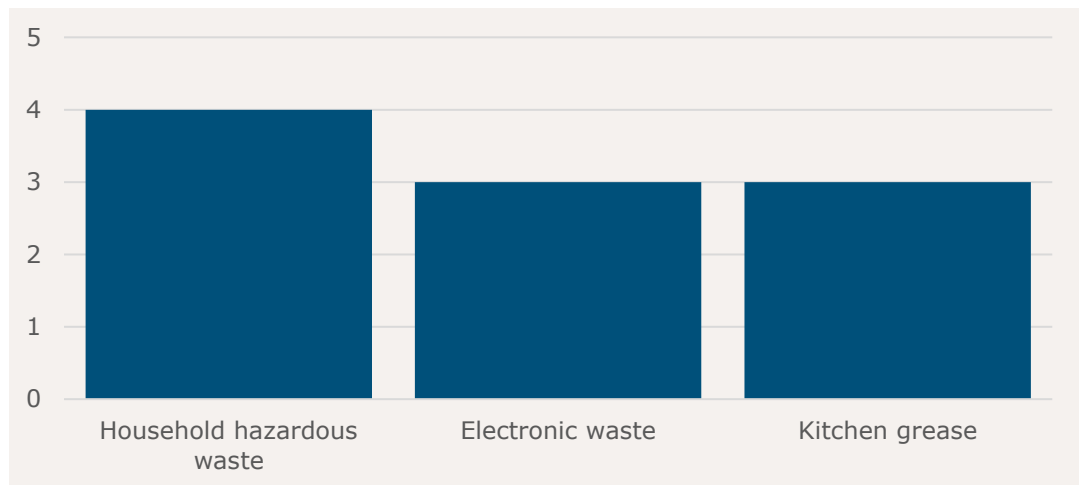
**Figure 15.** Survey Responses of Regional Priorities

Figure 16 shows that four out of four respondents were interested in holding more HHW collection events. One respondent skipped this question



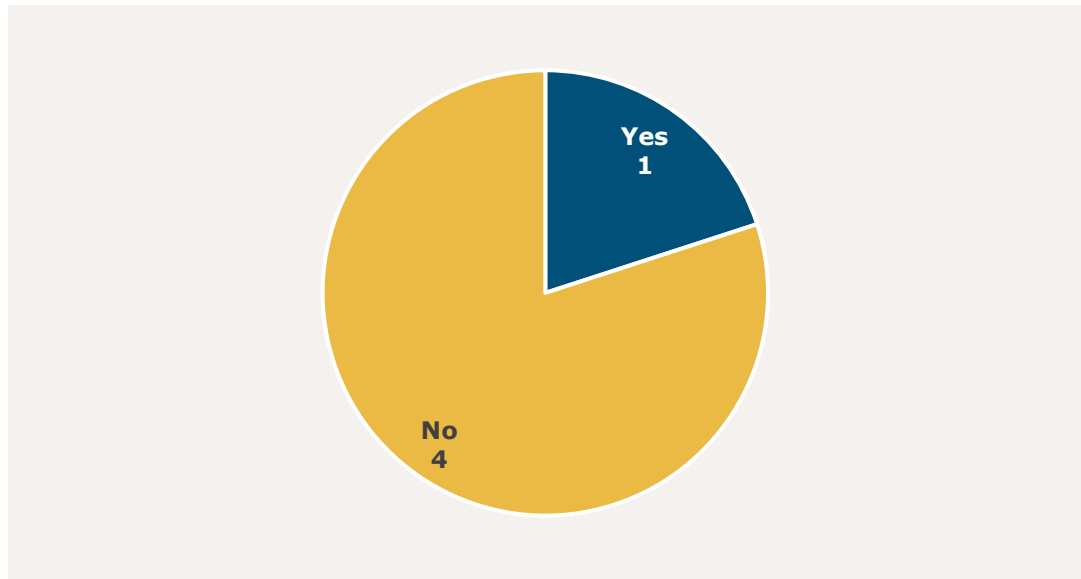
**Figure 16.** Survey Responses to Question: Would you like to offer more HHW collection events?

Figure 17 shows specific items that respondents were interested in increasing diversion opportunities for, all of which we consider problematic wastes.



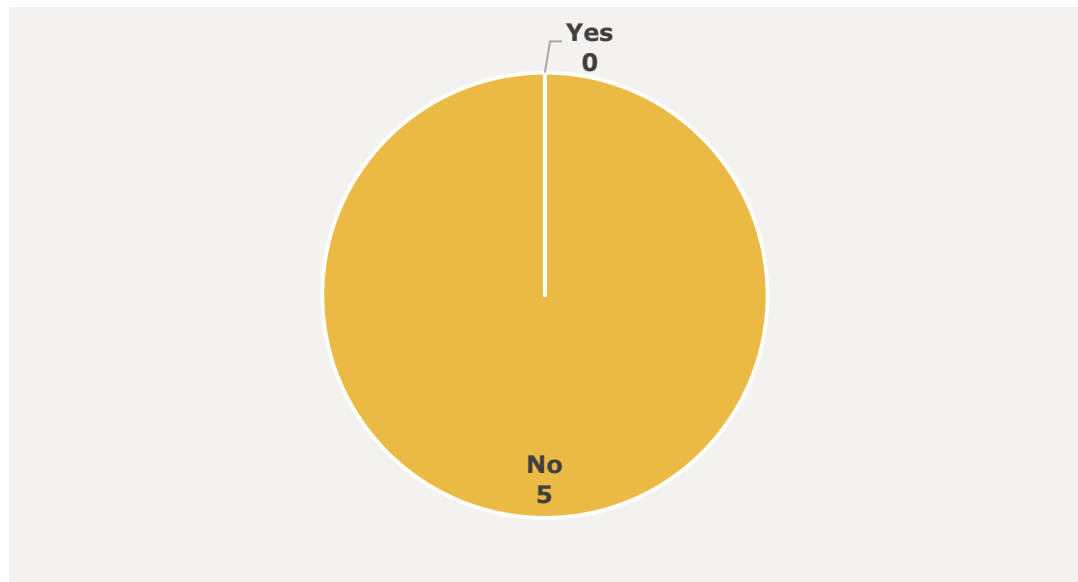
**Figure 17.** Survey Responses to Question: Would you like to expand waste diversion opportunities for these specific items?

Figure 18 shows that 80% of respondents were unaware of community clean up events for illegal dumping within their community.



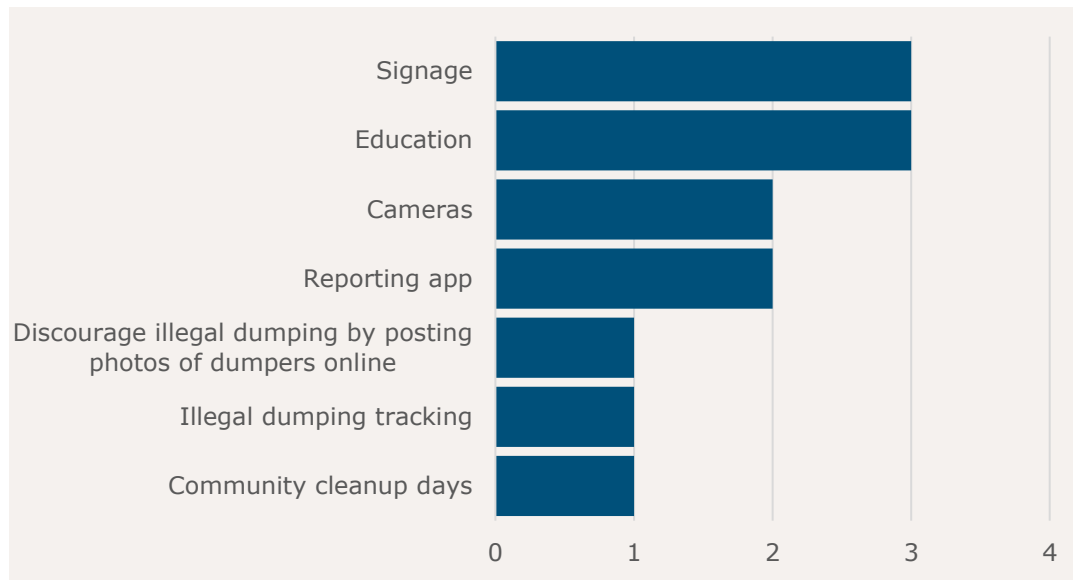
**Figure 18.** Survey Responses to Question: Does your entity hold community clean up events for illegal dumping?

Figure 19 shows that no respondents were aware of illegal dumping coordination in their city or county.



**Figure 19.** Survey Responses to Question: Are you aware of any illegal dumping coordination within your entity?

Four respondents answered that they would like to explore other options to address illegal dumping. Figure 20 shows these other options, including prevention and enforcement measures. Signage and education were the top two choices.



**Figure 20.** Survey Responses to Question: Would you like to explore other actions to address illegal dumping in the area?

## INTERVIEWS

IGI conducted several interviews with industry experts. In one of these interviews, we learned from a landfill engineer that a 35–50-mile roundtrip is the maximum economical distance garbage trucks can drive to drop off their wastes at either a landfill or transfer station.

During regular advisory committee meetings, IGI gave presentations regarding the plan update and used the meetings as a place to facilitate discussion. In these meetings we learned of specific concerns, including the significant amount of waste that is exported out of the region and issues with problematic wastes (electronic waste, HHW, tires).

## DATA ANALYSIS

We have noted several things we came across during our research and data collection that directly influenced the Areas of Concern. Each of these specific points are described below.

During our research, we frequently visited city and county websites of members of the region. Through this, we concluded that many of these government websites do not have adequate information about solid waste related activities, such as where to dispose of certain materials within the region. We believe that these

websites should have accurate and timely solid waste related information readily available to residents.

Based on the drop-off facilities we identified as part of Attachment III.C. Solid Waste Management Activities, we performed specific geographic analysis for the region to determine residents' proximity to landfills, transfer stations, or other drop-off locations to dispose of their wastes.

In Attachment III.E. Assessment of Current Source Reduction and Waste Minimization Efforts, Including Sludge, and Efforts to Reuse or Recycle Waste, we briefly touched on the benefits of local solid waste management plans. No cities in the region have a sub-regional plan. It is helpful to have local plans since there is a lot of variability in the region.

As described in Attachment III.E. Assessment of Current Source Reduction and Waste Minimization Efforts, Including Sludge, and Efforts to Reuse or Recycle Waste, the efforts related to source reduction and recycling are comprehensive, but there is still room for improvement, particularly in parts of the region that have no existing recycling or other diversion programs. These more rural areas of the region would benefit from improved access to waste minimization or recycling opportunities.

There are no permanent household hazardous waste drop-off centers, though there have been a few collection events throughout the region in the past. Although HHW makes up a small percentage of the waste stream, those materials could have a harmful impact, increasing the importance of providing safe ways to dispose of them.

As mentioned in several other Attachments, a regional data sharing platform would help the region with future data collection activities, as well as keep track of their current data and facilities.

## **CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES**

From all of our analyses we identified five primary concerns. Table 26 shows the concerns and priority methods to address the concerns. Both the concerns and priorities will be explained in detail in the Discussion.

**Table 26.** Concerns and Priorities to Address Concerns

Concerns	Priorities to Address Concerns
Solid waste literacy	Improve community participation, provide education
Illegal dumping	Collect data, improve access, improve community participation, increase illegal dumping enforcement, increase illegal dumping prevention, provide education
Problematic wastes (including HHW)	Collect data, improve access, provide education
Landfill capacity	Collect data, lead, provide education
Disaster waste	Collect data, improve access, provide education

## Discussion

This section will be separated by concerns and priorities. We will provide context and details about both.

### CONCERNS

Based on the data described in Results, we have identified five regional concerns which are described below in more detail. Refer to Table 26 to see all concerns with their corresponding priorities.

**Solid waste literacy.** The Education and Training topic was ranked the highest in the survey, showing its importance to the RERAC. We also noted the overall lack of timely, useful information on municipal websites. Solid waste literacy is unique because it also influences the rest of the concerns, which were addressed in the new objectives and action steps.

**Illegal dumping.** This section was ranked the second highest in the survey. Figure 18Figure 19 shows that no respondents were aware of illegal dumping coordination within their city/county/COG. Figure 20Figure 20. **Survey Responses to Question: Would you like to explore other actions to address illegal dumping in the area?** shows committee interest in expanding illegal dumping prevention and enforcement through a variety of methods.



**Problematic wastes (including HHW).** The Household Hazardous Waste Management topic was ranked third in the survey. Figure 16 shows responses that reflect an interest in expansion of HHW collection activities. In Figure 17. **Survey Responses to Question: Would you like to expand waste diversion opportunities for these specific items?** respondents chose items they would like to expand diversion for. Household hazardous waste, electronics, and kitchen grease were the top choices. Electronic waste poses unique disposal issues, which is why we broadened this concern to Problematic Wastes. We also considered the overall shortage of known drop-off centers and collection events for these wastes in the region and the extra environmental problems resulting from improper handling of problematic wastes.

**Landfill capacity.** In 2019, TCEQ estimated the region’s one landfill to have 23 years of remaining capacity. However, based on feedback from the RERAC, the 2019 capacity was expected to be less than the estimated 23 years. Though there is a planned expansion for the region’s landfill that would add 90 years of capacity, until that expansion happens, low landfill capacity is still a concern.

**Disaster waste.** Due to the region’s coastal proximity, it is prone to hurricanes and flooding. In particular, the RERAC expressed issues that arose with 2017 Hurricane Harvey, highlighting the need for disaster waste planning.

## PRIORITIES

For each of the concerns identified, we developed seven broad priorities. This was not necessarily a linear process—we often synthesized the information from multiple sections of the Volume II form, related attachments, other sources, and discussions which helped to see what the region ought to prioritize to address their concerns. The priorities are very similar to the objectives for the same reason. We listed the priorities alphabetically. In some cases, these priorities are repeated across multiple concerns. Refer to Table 26Table 25to see all concerns with their corresponding priorities.

**Collect data.** Data collection is a priority to address Illegal Dumping, Problematic Wastes, Landfill Capacity, and Disaster Waste concerns. Continually collecting and updating data allows for informed decision making. Examples of where to focus data collection are included in Attachment III.N. Recommended Plan of Action and Associated Timetable for Achieving Specific Goals and Objectives.

**Increase illegal dumping enforcement.** This priority is only for the Illegal Dumping concern. It involves communication between members of the solid waste

field and law enforcement officers so that illegal dumping crimes receive adequate attention. More details are in Attachment III.N. Recommended Plan of Action and Associated Timetable for Achieving Specific Goals and Objectives.

**Increase illegal dumping prevention.** This priority is only for the Illegal Dumping concern and includes implementation of common illegal dumping deterrents based on data collection as a related priority.

**Improve access.** This priority shows up in three of the concerns, with customization for each. In the Problematic Wastes concern, the specific objective is to *improve access to responsible disposal options*, and for Illegal Dumping it is to *improve access to solid waste drop-off opportunities*. The Disaster Waste concern is unique because improved access generally will also help improve access to disposal following a disaster event. Improving access is essential because education about good solid waste practices is less useful if residents have no opportunity to participate in them. Details about where to focus efforts to improve access are in Attachment III.N. Recommended Plan of Action and Associated Timetable for Achieving Specific Goals and Objectives.

**Improve community participation.** To address the Solid Waste Literacy and Illegal Dumping concerns, we recommend improving community participation by expanding the number and diversity of people and groups involved. More specific ideas about how to improve community participation are in Attachment III.N. Recommended Plan of Action and Associated Timetable for Achieving Specific Goals and Objectives.

**Lead.** Strong leadership at the COG level could encourage cities and counties to create their own plans and ultimately divert more materials from the landfill.

**Provide education.** Providing education addresses all of the concerns. In some instances, the education should be broad, and in others it should target a specific audience. Consistent messaging about the specific concerns in solid waste management is necessary to keep residents informed about their opportunities and best practices. Details about providing education are in Attachment III.N. Recommended Plan of Action and Associated Timetable for Achieving Specific Goals and Objectives.

## **Conclusion**

A lot of different research components influenced the identification of concerns and priorities to address the concerns.

These concerns and priorities heavily influenced the action plan for the region, making them an important starting point to fully understand the action plan.

In the future, the region should closely monitor its committee member feedback, solid waste data, and success of the scheduled activities to determine if the concerns identified here require changes. As certain parts of this plan are implemented, we expect that the region's specific concerns will change accordingly. Also, as mentioned in previous attachments, a regional platform including all active programs, activities, and solid waste data would allow for the region to make data driven decisions about its concerns and priorities.

## **Attachment III.J. Planning Areas and Agencies with Common Solid Waste Management Concerns that Could be Addressed Through Joint Action**

Per the Volume II form, no additional information is required in this attachment.

## **Attachment III.K. Identification of Incentives and Barriers for Source Reduction and Waste Minimization, and Resource Recovery, Including Identification of Potential Markets**

Per the Volume II form, no additional information is required in this attachment.

## **Attachment III.L. Regional Goals and Objectives, Including Waste Reduction Goals**

**Note:** This attachment is not called for in the original Volume II form but is nonetheless included. It is similarly noted at the beginning of the relevant section of Volume II that this attachment has been included.

### **Introduction**

As part of the 20-year planning process, TCEQ requires COGs to establish regional goals and objectives meant to be accomplished during the 20-year planning period.

The goals and objectives are a large part of the regional action plan, which is an important tool for the COG to use as it navigates the next 20 years. The action plan provides a roadmap for the region to follow and to gauge its accomplishments. Understanding the goals and objectives and the reasoning behind them will make it easier for the region to fully implement them.

The purpose of this attachment is to provide the additional details, background, and rationale that informed the creation of the goals and objectives.

The goals and objectives are an important tool for the COG, so it is equally important to understand the data and reasoning behind them.

The rest of this document will describe the methods we used to create the goals and objectives, touch on the results, and provide a discussion of key points.

### **Methods**

All of the data collection and research that went into the creation of this plan influenced the goals and objectives.

An initial draft of the goals, objectives, and action steps were shared with the Regional Environmental Resources Advisory Committee (RERAC) in order to gain feedback on the regional action plan. Any comments and feedback were integrated into the action plan to ensure the best possible plan.

Additionally, a draft of the goals, objectives, and action steps were shared with the public to further elicit feedback.

## Results

The primary results are in Volume II, Table III.L. Regional Goals and Objectives. This section will contain a summary of those results.

A total of four goals and 19 objectives were developed with an average of about five objectives per goal. All four goals are intended to occur throughout the entire planning period. More specific timetables will be associated with action steps in Attachment III.N. Plan of Action and Timetable for Achieving Specific Goals and Objectives.

Three of the four goals center on integrated solid waste management with the fourth goal highlighting the importance of leadership and collaboration to ensure plan success.



**Figure 21.** Diagram of Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Goals

There are some objectives that are repeated in multiple goals. This was done purposefully—to make them easier to remember, as well as hopefully easier to accomplish—because of their synergy. Once the region makes progress towards a particular objective the first time, it will be easier to successfully implement that same objective in other goals.

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

**Goal 1.** Maximize Beneficial Resource Use. This goal includes ideas like recycling, composting, reusing, and waste reduction. For this goal, there are three objectives.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

1.A. Improve access to diversion opportunities

1.B. Improve community participation

1.C. Provide education

**Goal 2.** Responsibly Manage Problematic Wastes. There are three objectives for this goal.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

2.A. Improve access to problematic waste collection (includes HHW, tires, electronics)

2.B. Provide Education

2.C. Collect data



**Goal 3.** Maximize Proper Disposal. It is primarily related to illegal dumping and has six objectives.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

3.A. Improve access to solid waste drop-off opportunities

3.B. Increase community participation

3.C. Provide education

3.D. Collect data

3.E. Increase illegal dumping prevention efforts, and

3.F. Increase illegal dumping enforcement

**Goal 4.** Lead Regional Planning. There are seven objectives.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

4.A. Collaborate

4.B. Optimize funding decisions

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

## **Discussion**

The goals and objectives are intentionally short, broad, and easy to read and understand. They are short so that they are easier to remember, and they are broad so the region will be able to adapt the goals and objectives to fit changes that may come in the future or to tailor to specific problems.

## **GOAL 1**

The Goal 1 objectives fit together and build on each other. 1.A. is about improving access to diversion opportunities, making it easier for residents and businesses to participate. 1.B. is about improving that community participation and getting more people involved, and 1.C. is about providing education to ensure people understand how and why they should participate in diversion activities. It is crucial that these objectives build on and reinforce each other to fully accomplish the goal. For example, educating people on the correct way to recycle is not useful if there are minimal opportunities available for recycling.

## **GOAL 2**

There are some consistencies between the objectives in these goals, for example, 1.A. is similar to 2.A., and 1.C. to 2.B. This consistency shows that improving access and education are core activities that need to occur consistently, and the repetition encourages holistic thinking. Increased collection events or drop-offs would improve access, as well as offer a place for education. Educational information should be offered to event participants or drop-off visitors, as well as published on municipal and COG websites. Frequent data collection at events or drop-off centers would allow the region to make informed decisions about problematic waste management. See Attachment III.N. Recommended Plan of Action and Associated Timetable for Achieving Specific Goals and Objectives for more details.

## **GOAL 3**

Again, there is repetition between the first four objectives and objectives in previous goals. That repetition not only makes it easier to remember the objectives, but also creates synergy between the different goals.

These objectives follow a logical progression and build on each other. Illegal dumping is often caused because of limited access to a proper disposal option. 3.A. aims to reduce dumping by giving more people convenient and affordable access to proper disposal. Next, 3.B. and 3.C. are about getting the community involved and educated through clean-up events or other avenues. 3.D. involves data collection about common dumping points, what kinds of materials are dumped, among others. Once the region has adequate data, they can identify regional dumping trends and then establish targeted prevention efforts as part of 3.E. Finally, 3.F. is meant to come as a last resort. Preventing illegal dumping is more desirable than cleaning up dumping that has already occurred or punishing

people or businesses that have dumped. This approach promotes proactive action rather than reactive.

## **GOAL 4**

This goal includes objectives related to strong leadership and project management. Goal 4 is meant to maximize the impact of the rest of the plan. For the most part, Goals 1 – 3 are actions that need to be taken, and Goal 4 emphasizes collaboration between multiple entities in the region in order to successfully and more easily complete those actions. This goal also contains other solid waste related tasks the COG has to do as part of TCEQ requirements.

Objective 4.A. encourages the COG to collaborate between cities, counties, and other COGs. 4.B. suggests the COG optimize their budget in order to make well informed financial decisions according to the events and activities that fit into their 20-year plan. 4.C. incorporates facility planning that the COG is required to do according to TCEQ regulations. 4.D. suggests the COG update their solid waste management plans regularly and record successes and goal progress. 4.E. allows for the COG to evolve throughout the 20-year period and advance their practices and technologies. 4.F. encourages the COG to gather data to help plan and improve for the future. Lastly, 4.G. allows for the COG to plan for disaster waste in case of a flood, hurricane, or other natural or man-made disaster. This waste can heavily impact landfill life, so it is important for the region to have plans in place that detail how to handle the wastes.

## **Conclusion**

The goals and objectives described here are the backbone of GCRPC's regional action plan. This action plan, informed by all of the data IGI collected for the region, will play a crucial role in future solid waste related decisions the COG makes.

In the future, the region should ensure that the action plan is updated as needed and that they collect and share data about their accomplishments and challenges related to plan implementation.

## **Attachment III.M. Advantages and Disadvantages of Alternative Actions**

Per the Volume II form, no additional information is required in this attachment.

## **Attachment III.N. Recommended Plan of Action and Associated Timetable for Achieving Specific Goals and Objectives**

### **Introduction**

As part of the 20-year planning process, TCEQ requires a plan of action for goals and objectives, along with milestone dates for each.

This Recommended Plan of Action is shown in the Volume II Form. It includes the goals and objectives identified in Volume II, Table III.L. Regional Goals and Objectives. It also provides more detail about each objective through the action steps. Each action step has a corresponding milestone date, which is either short-range (1 – 5 years), intermediate (6 – 10 years), long-range (11 – 20 years or more), or entire planning period.

The Recommended Plan of Action is influenced by the data presented in every previous section in the Volume II form. Understanding the processes and data that led to the creation of this Plan of Action will ensure that members of the region are working in the same direction towards the same goals.

The purpose of this attachment is to offer additional details and commentary about the rationale that influenced the plan of action.

This attachment will briefly describe each goal and the objectives and action steps within each goal. It will also provide additional detail about specific steps the region might take to accomplish each action step.

The rest of this document will describe the rationale IGI used to form the action plan and provide a discussion.

### **Methods**

The action steps were influenced by the areas of concern IGI identified in the region. These concerns are explained in detail in Attachment III.I. Solid Waste Management Concerns and Priorities. All of the data collection and analysis that were in the other parts of this plan influenced the concerns, and therefore largely influenced each action step.

## Results

There are four goals for the region, and within these goals there are 19 total objectives, some of which are repeated across multiple goals. There are 44 total action steps, with an average of about 11 steps in each goal. 15 steps are short-range, 9 are intermediate term, one is long-range, and 19 are across the entire planning period. In this section we will show the entire action plan.

A summary of the results of this analysis are presented in Vol. II, Table III.N.I Plan of Action and Timetable for Achieving Specific Goals and Objectives. The action steps have been published here alongside the goals and objectives to create an at-a-glance, go-to version of the plan.

**Goal 1: Maximize beneficial resource use**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action step</b>	<b>Milestones</b>
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-range
	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)	Intermediate
	1.A.5. Encourage cities 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)	
1.B. Improve community participation	1.B.1. Outreach to large-volume generators with existing programs to consider accepting community-generated materials	Intermediate
	1.B.2. Outreach to community, civic, and school/university groups to provide volunteers for collection event activities	Entire period
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)	Entire period
	1.C.2. Support sharing audience-specific information to educate target audiences on source reduction, recycling, reuse, or composting opportunities	

**Goal 2: Responsibly manage problematic waste**

Objective	Action step	Milestones
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-range
	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)	Entire period
2.B. Provide education	2.B.1. Identify businesses where problematic wastes can be dropped off throughout the region (e.g., Walgreens, Best Buy, Automotive Shops) and post online on all websites	Short-range
	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	Entire period
	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., household hazardous waste source reduction, 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)	Intermediate



**Goal 3: Maximize proper disposal**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action step</b>	<b>Milestones</b>
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-range
	3.A.2. Promote establishment of additional municipal and county collection centers and transfer stations (e.g., Cuero center)	Intermediate
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-range
	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	Entire 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	Entire period
	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	
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)	Intermediate
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-range
3.F. Improve illegal dumping enforcement	3.F.1. Outreach to prosecutors and judges to increase their support of illegal dumping enforcement	Short-range
	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)	Intermediate
	3.F.3. Support training for enforcement officers and judges (e.g., Ark-Tex COG training model)	Entire period

**Goal 4: Lead regional planning**

Objective	Action step	Milestone
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-range
	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 the development of local solid waste management plans for cities and counties to implement the relevant goals 1-3 in this plan for their communities	
	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)	Entire period
4.B. Optimize funding decisions	4.B.1. Seek out actively engaged Advisory Committee members representing a diverse cross-section of solid waste activities	Short-range
	4.B.2. Establish COG pass-through grant funding criteria that encourages 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	Entire period
	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	Entire period
	4.D.2. Publish biennial status reports of regional solid waste management plan goal progress and accomplishments	
4.E. Make continuous improvements	4.E.1. Stay informed about changing solid waste management best practices and technologies	Entire period
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	Intermediate
4.G. Plan for disaster waste	4.G.1. Encourage development of local disaster debris management plans	Intermediate
	4.G.2. Create peer exchange opportunities to share best practices and existing resources for local disaster debris managements plans	Entire period

## Discussion

In this discussion, we will review the purpose of the goals and objectives at a high level (for more information see Attachment III.L.). Then we will provide additional information related to action steps.

The action steps are purposefully general to be meaningful for a 20-year plan and allow for customization and changes as conditions evolve. Additionally, the data available did not allow for creating overly specific actions such as increasing the number of diverted materials by a specific percent or amount.

Another benefit of broadly applicable action steps is to allow individual cities or counties to identify which steps directly apply to their situations and tailor their own local plans accordingly to fit the needs of their community.

### GOAL 1: MAXIMIZE BENEFICIAL RESOURCE USE

This goal addresses source reduction, recycling, and composting, as well as community involvement and educational outreach components. We created this goal based on concerns related to source reduction and recycling, as well as the statewide interest in increasing source reduction and waste minimization.

#### OBJECTIVE 1.A. IMPROVE ACCESS TO DIVERSION OPPORTUNITIES

Increasing access is the first objective in Goal 1 because we recognize that the region cannot divert materials from the landfill if there are no opportunities to do so. There are five action steps for this objective.

##### **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)**

There are already options for waste diversion in the region, but there is not adequate information available for all of them. Having a comprehensive, region-wide list detailing the existing options for diversion and ensuring that the list is posted on the COG website as well as on every city and county website will inform residents about their diversion opportunities. This step should be completed in the short-range, with updates to the list occurring as needed.

**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)**

We encourage the leadership of governmental agencies, following the Texas Administrative Code’s recommendations for government offices, to have recycling programs and to buy recycled products.<sup>58</sup> This encouragement should happen in the short-range.

**1.A.3. Explore innovative waste collection and processing methods (e.g., Recyclops collection services, and black soldier fly larvae for food waste)**

To keep up with changing technologies, we advise the region to explore innovative waste collection or processing methods. We offer two examples, but the region is encouraged to explore any options that would allow them to achieve higher levels of diversion. The region should explore measures in the short-range.

**1.A.4. Continue and expand the composting of biosolids and organic wastes, following local successful models (e.g., City of Victoria Composting Center)**

There is already some composting of biosolids and other organic wastes in the region, so these efforts should continue and expand where possible. The plans for new facilities or expansion plans of existing ones should be completed in the intermediate period.

**1.A.5. Encourage cities and counties to explore free recycling of cardboard and additional high-value commodities at other large-volume generators (e.g., City of McAllen free workplace recycling program)**

Cardboard consistently has high market value, so we encourage the region to explore offering free cardboard recycling at its businesses and other large generators. Free recycling will incentivize employees to do so, as well as generate revenue from cardboard sales. Once cardboard recycling is established, the region is encouraged to further expand its efforts to include other high value recyclables. We offer the City of McAllen’s free workplace cardboard recycling program as a

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<sup>58</sup> Office of the Secretary of State. (2020, July 2). *Texas Administrative Code, Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 328, Subchapter K, Rule 328.202*. Texas Secretary of State.  
[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p\\_dir=&p\\_rloc=&p\\_tloc=&p\\_ploc=&pg=1&p\\_tac=&ti=30&pt=1&ch=328&rl=202](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=30&pt=1&ch=328&rl=202)

model because it is an example we have found in our research. The region should explore this program and the creation of their own in the intermediate period.

#### **OBJECTIVE 1.B: IMPROVE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

Active community participation is necessary to achieve the goals in this plan. The steps within this objective aim to bring together all members and sectors of the region to work towards maximizing beneficial use. Solid waste related issues do not only affect the entities that directly deal with them. They affect the entire region, requiring participation from everyone.

##### **1.B.1. Outreach to large-volume generators with existing programs to consider accepting community-generated materials**

Within large generators in the region, there is likely already some recycling occurring. We recommend that the region outreach to these generators to see if they will consider accepting materials generated within the community. Partnering within the community could be beneficial for all the players involved. The large volume generators could create community good will for their business, and other eager recyclers could have a convenient place to take their materials within the community. The region should address this effort in the intermediate period.

##### **1.B.2. Outreach to community, civic, and school/university groups to provide volunteers for collection event activities**

There are already regular collection events taking place in the region for varied items. The region should outreach to interested groups in the community to recruit volunteers for these events. This maximizes funding resources in the region because volunteers provide free staff. Ideas for potential partners can be found in Attachment III.H. Identification of Public and Private Management Agencies and Responsibilities. This outreach should take place across the entire planning period anytime there is an event.

#### **OBJECTIVE 1.C: PROVIDE EDUCATION**

Education is an important part of achieving these goals. Members of the region cannot maximize their resource use and achieve more waste reduction if they are not educated on how to do so. We also created this objective in response to Advisory Committee members prioritization of education as their highest need.

**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; and on the availability of recycled/processed materials, such as mulch)**

There are disjointed efforts towards educating members of the region occurring throughout the region. These efforts should not be forgotten, but the COG should ensure that everyone in the region has access to consistent, accurate information about disposal or recycling efforts, and more. We specifically recommend utilization of social media, COG and municipal websites, and print materials where appropriate, such as at a collection event. This information needs to be updated and maintained throughout the entire planning period.

**1.C.2. Support sharing audience-specific information to educate target audiences on source reduction, recycling, reuse, or composting opportunities**

The region should share information about source reduction, recycling, reuse, and composting opportunities that are customized to the specific target audience. For example, government offices should not receive the same information that elementary school children do. Again, this information needs to be maintained throughout the planning period.

## **GOAL 2: RESPONSIBLY MANAGE PROBLEMATIC WASTE**

This goal addresses household hazardous waste (HHW) and other wastes that are problematic to collect or dispose of, such as tires and electronic waste. We created this goal based on committee member concerns related to the difficulty of handling these wastes.

### **OBJECTIVE 2.A: IMPROVE ACCESS TO PROBLEMATIC WASTE COLLECTION**

This objective is similar to the first objective of the previous goal. Improving access is an important first step to managing wastes. Problematic wastes are potentially harmful to people and to the environment if they are thrown away, so it is important that there is widespread access to proper collection opportunities.

**2.A.1. Encourage cities and counties to request information about on-demand curbside special waste collection (e.g., Waste Management At Your Door)**

Cities and counties are encouraged to request information on At Your Door, an on-demand curbside collection of HHW, offered by Waste Management. Curbside

collection is the most convenient way for residents to handle the disposal of their HHW and electronics. Cities and counties should consider At Your Door in the short-range.

**2.A.2. Explore creating reuse opportunities (e.g., paint reuse program)**

The region should explore creating reuse opportunities for common household hazardous wastes. We specifically mention a paint reuse program because it is the most common item collected at HHW events. Also, paint collection and re-blending can be done by volunteers without specialized training. Exploration and possible implementation of these should be done in the short-range.

**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)**

We recommend that the COG supports cities and counties if they hold their own problematic waste collection events. This support could take the form of financial aid, or just sharing best practices. We also recommend region wide collection events, such as through multiple cities holding an event on the same day, or a COG event that rotates through the region. Events should take place throughout the entire planning period.

**OBJECTIVE 2.B: PROVIDE EDUCATION**

Education is an important aspect of proper disposal for problematic wastes. Residents of the COG need to not only understand that these wastes cannot be thrown away with regular trash, but also understand what to do with them.

**2.B.1. Identify businesses where problematic wastes can be dropped off throughout the region (e.g., Walgreens, Best Buy, Automotive Shops) and post online on all websites**

The COG, cities, and counties should identify businesses in the region that accept problematic wastes, such as Best Buy, Walgreens, Home Depot, etc., and list them on all municipal and COG websites. Consistent information across the region will help ensure that all residents know where to take some of their wastes. Identification and listing of these businesses should be completed in the short-range

**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**

Similar to step 1.C.1. in the previous goal, we recommend that the COG ensure access to consistent, accurate information related to problematic waste for everyone in the region. Again, we specifically recommend social media, COG and municipal websites, and print materials at collection events. Information should be updated throughout the entire planning period.

**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., household hazardous waste source reduction, collection events, environmental impacts, and where to take problematic materials)**

The region should use its collection events as an opportunity to educate participants, as well as use various forms of media to advertise the events. This should be done throughout the entire planning period any time there is an event.

**OBJECTIVE 2.C: COLLECT DATA**

Data collection is crucial to better understand the materials and participants at collection events and to better plan for the future.

**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)**

At every collection event, organizers should collect data points such as participant zip code, the materials collected, and cost of disposal. This data should be shared with others in the COG so that future events can be improved. The region should complete an initial data collection in the intermediate period.

**GOAL 3: MAXIMIZE PROPER DISPOSAL.**

This goal addresses illegal dumping and the problems associated with it. We created this goal in response to committee member concerns and because of statewide issues related to dumping.

**OBJECTIVE 3.A: IMPROVE ACCESS TO SOLID WASTE DROP-OFF OPPORTUNITIES**

Illegal dumping often occurs because access to proper disposal is not affordable or convenient. Improving that access could reduce the amount of dumping.



**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)**

The region should support reduced cost options for disposal, such as free landfill days or landfill vouchers based on income. Having more options for proper disposal will lessen the need to illegally dump. The region should explore these reduced cost options in the short-range.

**3.A.2. Promote establishment of additional municipal and county collection centers and transfer stations (e.g., Cuero)**

There are already some municipal and county collection centers in the region. These should expand where possible, and the region should work towards establishing more centers so that residents in rural areas have a convenient option for disposal. Establishment of new centers should be done in the intermediate period.

**OBJECTIVE 3.B: INCREASE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

Community involvement can help reduce dumping incidents. For example, if someone volunteers at an illegal dumping clean up event, they are less likely to ever dump because they understand the work that goes into cleaning it up. Also, these volunteers gain a better understanding of illegal dumping and are more likely to report it if they see it happening.

**3.B.1. Support programs that encourage and enable community reporting (e.g., illegal dumping reporting app, phone line)**

The region should support programs that enable community reporting of illegal dumping, such as a phone line or reporting app. Having a consistent method for community members to report dumping allows for a better chance of finding the perpetrator. Community reporting methods should be explored in the short-range.

**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**

There are regular clean up events in the region. These event organizers should share best practices and funding tips throughout the region. All future events

should recruit volunteers from schools and other community groups to reduce costs. These practices should occur throughout the planning period for all events.

#### OBJECTIVE 3.C: PROVIDE EDUCATION

Education is crucial so that members of the region understand why they should not dump and understand where to properly dispose of their materials.

##### **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**

As in the previous two goals, broad public awareness ensures that everyone in the region has access to consistent and accurate information related to illegal dumping. This information should be maintained throughout the planning period.

##### **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)**

During clean up events, organizers should provide educational information to participants, including information such as where to take commonly dumped materials and the penalties of dumping. Event organizers should also use media to advertise the events. These should be done anytime there is an event.

##### **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**

The region should provide targeted information to groups such as businesses, residents, and construction companies so that common generators of waste understand illegal dumping related issues. Information should be provided throughout the planning period.

#### OBJECTIVE 3.D: COLLECT DATA

Data collection is an important step in understanding unique activities in the region and for planning for the future.

**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)**

The region should collect and analyze its own illegal dumping data, such as dumping locations, costs of clean up by government employees and for volunteer events, and effectiveness of reduced cost options. Data collection should be done in the intermediate period.

**OBJECTIVE 3.E: INCREASE ILLEGAL DUMPING PREVENTION EFFORTS**

Preventing illegal dumping is easier and more cost-effective than cleaning up areas where dumping has already occurred. It is also a part of a comprehensive illegal dumping strategy that includes prevention, abatement, education, and enforcement.

**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**

The region should use the data collected in 3.D.1. to determine where it should focus prevention efforts. Common prevention efforts include signage, fencing, cameras, and beautification. Data should be analyzed, and prevention efforts implemented in the long-range.

**OBJECTIVE 3.F: IMPROVE ILLEGAL DUMPING ENFORCEMENT**

Consistent enforcement of illegal dumping laws sends the message that future dumping will not be tolerated. Proper enforcement requires participation and support from a diverse array of stakeholders.

**3.F.1. Outreach to prosecutors and judges to increase their support of illegal dumping enforcement**

The region should outreach to its prosecutors and judges to gain their support in prosecuting illegal dumping crimes. The region should conduct this outreach in the short-range.

**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)**

The region should explore a Regional Environmental Task Force so that best practices and illegal dumping information can be shared throughout the region. Exploration should be completed in the intermediate period.

**3.F.3. Support training for enforcement officers and judges (e.g., Ark-Tex COG training model)**

The region should support specialized training for its law enforcement officers and judges so that they understand illegal dumping crimes and penalties. Proper enforcement can only happen after enforcers have been educated. We offer an example of training through the Texas Illegal Dumping Resource Center. Training should occur throughout the entire planning period.

**GOAL 4: LEAD REGIONAL PLANNING**

We created this goal to acknowledge the important leadership role members of the COG's Advisory Committee play in the successful implementation of this plan. To have a single source of solid waste management related actions for the COG, other periodic tasks required by TCEQ are included.

**OBJECTIVE 4.A: COLLABORATE**

Collaboration between all sectors in the region is necessary to implement this plan and to ensure that all members of the region, not just solid waste related industries, are moving in the same direction.

**4.A.1. Initiate annual Solid Waste Management Award program for cities, counties, businesses, and individuals within the region (e.g., BVCOG)**

The region should explore implementation of a solid waste award program to acknowledge good existing efforts. This also brings more community awareness to solid waste related activities. This program should be explored in the short-range.

**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)**

The COG should share the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan with other relevant entities in the region, such as cities, counties, and school districts.

Sharing the plan helps maximize benefits and increases community involvement. The plan should be shared in the short-range.

**4.A.3. Encourage the development of local solid waste management plans for cities and counties to implement the relevant goals 1-3 in this plan for their communities**

The COG should encourage cities and counties to create their own solid waste management plans that implement the relevant parts of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. Localized plans allow for more specific data and specialized efforts. Encouragement of local plans should happen in the short-range.

**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**

The region should compile one master list with all materials collected for recycling or composting in each city in the region. Using this list, the region should look for opportunities to harmonize collection where possible to minimize confusion and contamination. This list should be completed in the short-range.

**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)**

Where possible, the COG should utilize existing communication resources instead of creating new materials from scratch. Many TCEQ and other COG developed materials can be applied to this region, so using these materials saves money. The region should look for these resources to use throughout the planning period.

**OBJECTIVE 4.B: OPTIMIZE FUNDING DECISIONS**

Most of the steps in this plan's goals require some level of funding to complete. It is important that the COG make decisions that efficiently use available funding, and that they ensure projects align with regional goals.

**4.B.1. Seek out actively engaged Advisory Committee members representing a diverse cross-section of solid waste activities**

The region should reach out to possible committee members that represent a wide array of solid waste activities and are engaged in Committee discussions. Active, engaged members are what make a successful Advisory Committee. This should be done in the short term.

**4.B.2. Establish COG pass-through grant funding criteria that encourages participation in committee activities and ensures alignment with regional waste management priorities (e.g., Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council criteria)**

The Advisory Committee should establish COG pass-through grant criteria so that each funding request can be evaluated on its alignment with regional goals. These criteria also encourage committee participation. We offer an example of criteria from the Lower Rio Grande Development Council. Criteria should be established in the short term.

**OBJECTIVE 4.C: OVERSEE FACILITY PLANNING**

Overseeing facility planning includes TCEQ required steps.

**4.C.1. Evaluate Municipal Solid Waste facility permit applications**

Throughout the planning period, as needed, the region should evaluate its Municipal Solid Waste facility permit applications.

**4.C.2. Ensure adequate regional waste disposal capacity**

Throughout the planning period, the region should ensure adequate disposal capacity.

**4.C.3. Maintain closed landfill inventory**

Throughout the planning period, as needed, the region should maintain the Closed Landfill Inventory.

**OBJECTIVE 4.D: REVIEW AND UPDATE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Reviewing and updating the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, as well as any existing local plans, will help keep plans up to date and relevant.

**4.D.1. Update Regional Solid Waste Management Plan as necessary**

The COG should update the regional plan more often than every 20 years so that information is as useful as possible. Also, frequent updates will make the next 20-year plan easier to complete. Members of the region with local plans should update their plans as needed. Updates to both should occur throughout the planning period.

**4.D.2. Publish biennial status reports of regional solid waste management plan goal progress and accomplishments**

The COG should publish biennial progress reports to share accomplishments and progress on achieving goals. These reports are required by TARC and TCEQ, but they could also help keep members of the region up to date. Biennial reports should continue throughout the planning period.

**OBJECTIVE 4.E: MAKE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENTS**

In order to keep the recommendations and plans within the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan relevant, there needs to be continuous improvement that matches new and changing technologies.

**4.E.1. Stay informed about changing solid waste management best practices and technologies**

Throughout the planning period, the region should take steps to ensure it is continually informed about solid waste management practices, such as by attending conferences or performing technical studies.

**OBJECTIVE 4.F: COLLECT DATA**

As mentioned in previous goals, data collection is an important aspect of planning for the future.

**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**

The region should create a region wide data sharing platform that cities, counties, and others could add to and learn from. Having a centralized location for data allows for consistent, better-informed decision making. This platform should be created in the intermediate period.

**OBJECTIVE 4.G: PLAN FOR DISASTER WASTE**

The region's coastal proximity leaves it vulnerable to hurricanes and flooding. Additional disasters such as strong storms could affect all regions. Planning for disaster waste in advance will help the region the next time it is faced with a disaster.

**4.G.1. Encourage development of local disaster debris management plans**

All cities and counties within the region are encouraged to create their own disaster debris management plans so that they have a place to share localized,

specific knowledge related to disaster waste. Plans should be made in the intermediate period.

**4.G.2. Create peer exchange opportunities to share best practices and existing resources for local disaster debris managements plans**

The region should share best practices and resources related to disaster debris planning. This collaboration could improve existing plans and help cities or counties create their own, and it should be done throughout the planning period.

**Conclusion**

The regional action plan described here is the culmination of the data collection that was a part of creating the other sections of this plan. Understanding the background and rationale behind the action plan is important to ensure full implementation.

In the future, the COG should maintain data on how much of the action plan they have accomplished so that they can update when necessary. They should also make note of beneficial partners they may have found, as well as note which steps they accomplished easily or struggled with. Keeping this sort of data will help improve future action steps the COG may develop, as well as future Regional Solid Waste Management Plans.



## **Attachment III.O. Identification of the Process that Will be Used to Evaluate Whether a Proposed Municipal Solid Waste Facility Application Will be in Conformance with the Regional Plan**

### **Introduction**

As part of the 20-year planning process, TCEQ requires an explanation of the process and mechanism that the regional organization will use to evaluate whether a proposed municipal solid waste facility application will be in conformance with an organization's regional plan.

It is the COG's responsibility to evaluate proposed municipal solid waste facilities. Part of the evaluation is to ensure, per TCEQ requirement, that all municipal solid waste facilities conform with the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

A clear and efficient review process is important for making consistent, well-reasoned decisions that ensure new waste facilities align with the goals and objectives of the region.

The purpose of this section is to identify and explain the process and mechanism that the COG uses to evaluate whether a proposed municipal solid waste facility application will be in conformance with the 2022 – 2042 Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP).

The region's current process to evaluate proposed facilities includes a conformance review application. Because the conformance review is based on the previous 2002 – 2022 RSWMP, we developed a new conformance review checklist to include the updated 2022 – 2042 RSWMP goals, objectives, and action steps.

The remainder of this section will outline the methods we used to identify and update the region's application process, present the results of those findings, provide a discussion of key points, and offer a conclusion.

## Methods

We searched the region’s website to locate information on the *existing* process the region uses to review applications for municipal solid waste facilities. We found the pertinent information in the region’s previous Regional Plan (2002 – 2022).

To create an *updated* process, we developed a regional goal conformance form. The creation of the new conformance review form was based on facility conformance review best practices, with special consideration given to the study of COG facility review applications commissioned by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and authored by R.W. Beck.<sup>59</sup>

## Results

This section will be divided into two parts. The first part will detail the existing process the COG uses to review facility applications. The second part will describe the new conformance review form, which can be found in the Addendum to this attachment.

### EXISTING FACILITY APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

The region’s protocol for evaluating applications is found in the region’s previous Regional Plan (2002-2022), Appendix E. For a facility to be approved for a permit, the applicant must submit an application for review by the COG. Proposals will be reviewed by the Regional Environmental Resources Advisory Committee (RERAC) and the GCRPC board of directors to determine if proposed projects are compatible with the Golden Crescent Regional Solid Waste Plan

Relevant to this Attachment is the conformance review packet, specifically the regional plan conformance checklist. That section asks the proposed facility to describe the extent to which the facility supports the goals and objectives of the RSWMP. The conformance review checklist ensures that new facilities are in alignment with the region’s goals and objectives, as well as with local regulations such as zoning and siting.

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<sup>59</sup> R.W. Beck, Inc. (2005, August). Regional and Local Review of MSW Facility Applications. North Central Texas Council of Governments. [https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Environment-and-Development/Documents/Materials%20Management/NCTCOG-MSW\\_Facility\\_Applications\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Environment-and-Development/Documents/Materials%20Management/NCTCOG-MSW_Facility_Applications_Final_Report.pdf)

## UPDATING THE FACILITY APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Since GCRPC already has a process in place to review solid waste facility permit or registration applications, the purpose of this section is to develop an update to the existing process that ensures compliance with the new goals, objectives, and actions steps enumerated in the 2022 – 2042 RSWMP.

**The updated conformance review form is in the Addendum to this attachment.**

This makes it easy to extract and integrate the form into the region's full conformance review document and process. It also makes it easy to print.

The structure of the form has changed. It consists of three components:

1. Plan Conformance Review Instructions
2. Conformance Questionnaire
3. Description of Conformance Activities

The **Plan Conformance Review Instructions** assist the applicant by providing instructions for filling out the form.

The **Conformance Questionnaire** lists the goals, objectives, and actions steps in a yes or no question format for the applicant to answer. It ensures that the applicant takes the time to think about each action step and whether their facility can help address it. Accompanying the questionnaire is a brief explanation of the goal and its objectives. Using this questionnaire will help educate facility applicants about the goals contained in the plan, which is paramount to promoting facility compliance.

The **Description of Conformance Activities** section asks the applicant to describe in detail how they will address each action step for which they answered *Yes*. This was a best practice detailed in the R.W. Beck study on facility applications<sup>60</sup> which asked the applicant to describe the services or activities that the facility will provide to assist in meeting the region's goals.

Adding the Questionnaire and Descriptions to the conformance review is important because the facility review document plays a role in widely sharing the Regional Plan and provokes facility applicants to comply with action steps across

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<sup>60</sup> R.W. Beck, Inc. (2005, August). Regional and Local Review of MSW Facility Applications. North Central Texas Council of Governments. [https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Environment-and-Development/Documents/Materials%20Management/NCTCOG-MSW\\_Facility\\_Applications\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Environment-and-Development/Documents/Materials%20Management/NCTCOG-MSW_Facility_Applications_Final_Report.pdf)

multiple goals. For instance, a recycling facility may ostensibly only comply with Goal 1, but their facility and influence can help address parts of Goals 2 and 3. The conformance checklist is designed to ensure alignment with the region's goals.

Finally, the conformance review *process* is a good chance for the COG to exert its influence to achieve the region's goals. Encouraging stakeholders and committee members to work together through this process will help maximize results. Individual facilities alone cannot achieve these regional goals, but they are an important component of the integrated solid waste management system in the region.

## Discussion

The region has a process for reviewing waste facility applications that ensures proposed facilities conform to the Regional Plan. This is evidenced by the application and review process which the region uses to gauge the facility's consistency with the RSWMP. The application and conformance review checklist are integral to ensuring the facility's alignment with the RSWMP.

It is important to note that the review process is not a regulatory technical review of the application and that the regional does not approve or deny permit applications. Approval of municipal solid waste management permit applications are the responsibility of TCEQ.<sup>61</sup>

We developed the region's conformance review checklist in the manner we have outlined. This was motivated by two important reasons. First, it was important that the conformance checklist included the entire plan, namely the 2022-2042 goals, objectives, and action steps. This was a best practice that ensures the plan is shared widely. Sharing the plan with facilities and waste management leaders helps to get important players in the region onto the same page and aligned to the same vision. Second, on the conformance checklist we turned each action step into a yes or no question and asked for descriptions about the role they will play in meeting those action items.

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<sup>61</sup> Instructions for the Regional Solid Waste Management Implementation Plan (Volume II) (TCEQ-20880b/instr (rev. 09-22-2020)). (2020, September). Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/permitting/waste/wasteplan/TCEQ-20880b.instr\(Instructions\)RSWMP\\_VolumeII.pdf](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/permitting/waste/wasteplan/TCEQ-20880b.instr(Instructions)RSWMP_VolumeII.pdf)

Asking the applicant to take these steps forces them to think through each action step and what their facility might do to achieve them. For example, an applicant that applies for a permit to create a recycling drop-off center may believe their facility conforms only to Goal 1 – Maximize Beneficial Resource Use. Yet, that facility may play a part in educating the community about illegal dumping by hanging educational signage at their facility.

The changes to the conformance checklist are important for aligning new facilities to the philosophy of collaboration, education, and community participation which are so important to the success of the new plan. Any change to the conformance *review* process ought to act in the same way.

It is important to note that the review process is not a regulatory technical review of the application, and that the region does not approve or deny permit applications. Approval of municipal solid waste management permit applications are the responsibility of TCEQ.<sup>62</sup>

## Conclusion

TCEQ requires that all MSW waste facilities must conform with the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

The region has a clear process in place that ensures applicants for proposed municipal solid waste facilities conform to the Regional Plan. This is evidenced by the region's application and review process which asks applicants to meet certain criteria in support of the goals and objectives listed in the Regional Plan.

We created a regional goal conformance form as part of the conformance review checklist to include the new goals and themes contained in the 2022 – 2042 RSWMP. The checklist aims to assist the COG in attaining their regional goals.

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<sup>62</sup> Instructions for the Regional Solid Waste Management Implementation Plan (Volume II) (TCEQ-20880b/instr (rev. 09-22-2020)). (2020, September). Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/permitting/waste/wasteplan/TCEQ-20880b.instr\(Instructions\)RSWMP\\_VolumeII.pdf](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/permitting/waste/wasteplan/TCEQ-20880b.instr(Instructions)RSWMP_VolumeII.pdf)

**Addendum | Attachment III.O. Identification of the Process that Will be Used to Evaluate Whether a Proposed Municipal Solid Waste Facility Application Will be in Conformance with the Regional Plan**

This addendum includes a printable form that can be used in the conformance review process.

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## PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS

**Note:** This process is not a regulatory technical review of the application, and the COG does not approve or deny permit applications. Approval of municipal solid waste management permit applications are the responsibility of the TCEQ.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has directed the COG to evaluate whether a proposed municipal solid waste facility application is in conformance with the COG's regional plan. The regional plan is the 2022 – 2042 Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP). It outlines the region's solid waste goals, objectives, and action steps during this 20-year period. The region's plan encourages collaboration, communication, education, information tracking, and leadership.

The purpose of this Regional Goal Conformance form is to provide guidance to the Advisory Committee for their review process. The proposed facility's compliance to the region's plan will be based on the factors identified in this form.

The applicant is required to complete two sections:

- For each goal, the Conformance Questionnaire first describes each regional goal and objective. Then, there is a table for the goal, objectives, and action steps, each in the form of a yes or no question. Next to each action step write *Yes* if the proposed facility will help address that action item or *No* if it will not.
- In the Description of Conformance Activities section, for each action step where *Yes* was indicated, provide a description of how the proposed facility will contribute to that action step, keeping in mind the region's encouragement of collaboration, communication, education, information tracking, and leadership.

## CONFORMANCE QUESTIONNAIRE

### Goal 1: Maximize Beneficial Resource Use

The regional goal for Maximize Beneficial Resource Use includes ideas like recycling, composting, and reusing. For this goal, there are three objectives:

- **1.A.** Improve access to diversion opportunities,
- **1.B.** Improve community participation, and
- **1.C.** Provide education.

To help you understand these objectives: (1A) is about improving access, making it easier to participate, (1B) is about improving that community participation and getting more people involved, and (1C) is about providing education to ensure people understand how and why they should participate. These objectives build on and reinforce each other. For example, there is not much use to educating people on how to recycle if there are minimal opportunities to recycle.

<b>Goal 1: Maximize beneficial resource use</b>				
<b>Objective</b>		<b>Action step</b>		<b>Yes/No</b>
1.A.	Improve access to diversion opportunities	1.A.1.	Does your proposal identify and share a comprehensive list of locations to divert materials from the landfill?	
		1.A.2.	Does your proposal encourage government agencies to lead by example in waste diversion and environmentally friendly procurement practices?	
		1.A.3.	Does your proposal explore innovative waste collection and processing methods?	
		1.A.4.	Does your proposal continue or expand the composting of biosolids and organic wastes?	
		1.A.5.	Does your proposal 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?	
1.B.	Improve community participation	1.B.1.	Does your proposal outreach to large-volume generators with existing programs to consider accepting community-generated materials?	
		1.B.2.	Does your proposal outreach to community, civic, and school/university groups to provide volunteers for collection event activities?	
1.C.	Provide education	1.C.1.	Does your proposal 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?	
		1.C.2.	Does your proposal support sharing audience-specific information to educate target audiences on source reduction, recycling, reuse, or composting opportunities?	



For each action step in Goal 1 for which you checked *Yes*, describe the services you can provide to assist with meeting this regional goal:

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<b>Goal 2: Responsibly manage problematic waste</b>				
<b>Objective</b>		<b>Action step</b>		<b>Yes/No</b>
2.A.	Improve access to problematic waste collection	2.A.1.	Does your proposal encourage cities and counties to request information about on-demand curbside special waste collection?	
		2.A.2.	Does your proposal explore creating reuse opportunities?	
		2.A.3.	Does your proposal support local problematic waste collections events and explore developing region-wide collection events?	
2.B.	Provide education	2.B.1.	Does your proposal identify businesses where problematic wastes can be dropped off throughout the region?	
		2.B.2.	Does your proposal 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?	
		2.B.3.	Does your proposal 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?	
2.C.	Collect data	2.C.1.	Does your proposal collect, analyze, and share data to improve future events?	

For each action step in Goal 2 for which you checked *Yes*, describe the services you can provide to assist with meeting this regional goal:

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<b>Goal 3: Maximize proper disposal</b>				
<b>Objective</b>		<b>Action step</b>		<b>Yes/No</b>
3.A.	Improve access to solid waste drop-off opportunities	3.A.1.	Does your proposal support reduced-cost options for waste disposal?	
		3.A.2.	Does your proposal share best practices for and promote establishment of additional municipal and county collection centers?	
3.B.	Increase community participation	3.B.1.	Does your proposal support programs that encourage and enable community illegal dumping reporting?	
		3.B.2.	Does your proposal 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?	
3.C.	Provide education	3.C.1.	Does your proposal 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?	
		3.C.2.	Does your proposal 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?	
		3.C.3.	Does your proposal educate and engage targeted segments of the community on proper disposal methods and the impact of illegal dumping?	
3.D.	Collect data	3.D.1.	Does your proposal encourage collection and analysis of illegal dumping data?	
3.E.	Increase illegal dumping prevention efforts	3.E.1.	Does your proposal 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?	
3.F.	Improve illegal	3.F.1.	Does your proposal outreach to prosecutors and judges to increase their support of illegal dumping enforcement?	

<b>Goal 3: Maximize proper disposal</b>				
<b>Objective</b>		<b>Action step</b>		<b>Yes/No</b>
	dumping enforcement	3.F.2.	Does your proposal explore establishment of a Regional Environmental Task Force to share emerging illegal dumping issues, lessons learned, and best practices?	
		3.F.3.	Does your proposal support training for enforcement officers and judges?	

For each action step in Goal 3 for which you checked *Yes*, describe the services you can provide to assist with meeting this regional goal:

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**Note:** To make sure you are familiar with the entire plan, Goal 4 has been similarly adapted for this form for informational purposes only.

<b>Goal 4: Lead Regional Planning</b>				
<b>Objective</b>		<b>Action steps</b>		
4.A.	Collaborate	4.A.1.	Does your proposal initiate annual Solid Waste Management Award program for cities, counties, businesses, and individuals within the region?	
		4.A.2.	Does your proposal 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.3.	Does your proposal share the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan with relevant local decision makers to increase awareness, encourage participation, and maximize benefits?	
		4.A.4.	Does your proposal encourage the development of local solid waste management plans for cities and counties to implement the relevant goals 1-3 in this plan for their communities?	

<b>Goal 4: Lead Regional Planning</b>			
<b>Objective</b>		<b>Action steps</b>	
		4.A.5.	Does your proposal utilize and customize existing resources and tools where possible to create consistency and save time and money?
4.B.	Optimize funding decisions	4.B.1.	Does your proposal seek out actively engaged Advisory Committee members representing a diverse cross-section of solid waste activities?
		4.B.2.	Does your proposal establish COG pass-through grant funding criteria that encourages participation in committee activities and ensures alignment with regional waste management priorities?
4.C.	Oversee facility planning	4.C.1.	Does your proposal evaluate Municipal Solid Waste facility permit applications?
		4.C.2.	Does your proposal ensure adequate regional waste disposal capacity?
		4.C.3.	Does your proposal maintain the closed landfill inventory?
4.D.	Review and update solid waste management plans	4.D.1.	Does your proposal update the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan as necessary?
		4.D.2.	Does your proposal publish biennial status reports of regional solid waste management plan goal progress and accomplishments?
4.E.	Make continuous improvements	4.E.1.	Does your proposal stay informed about changing solid waste management best practices and technologies?
4.F.	Collect data	4.F.1.	Does your proposal explore developing a regional data sharing platform which could be used by cities and counties within the COG to help with solid waste planning?

4.G.	Plan for disaster waste	4.G.1	Does your proposal encourage development of local disaster debris management plans?
		4.G.2.	Does your proposal create peer exchange opportunities to share best practices and existing resources for local disaster debris managements plans?

Please provide any additional details you would like the Committee to consider:

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## **Attachment IV.A. Required Approvals | Letters of Support**

## Attachment IV.B. Required Approvals | Public Meeting

This attachment includes the public notice, agenda, and the transcript of the required public meeting. No public comments were received related to the plan.

### Public Notice

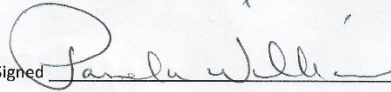
STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF VICTORIA

Before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, this day personally appeared PAMELA WILLIAMS, Multi Media Sales Assistant for the VICTORIA ADVOCATE published by the VICTORIA ADVOCATE, which has general circulation in VICTORIA County, Texas and distributed in other surrounding Counties (Calhoun, Dewitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Karnes, Lavaca, Matagorda, Refugio and Wharton); and who, after being duly sworn, did dispose and say that the following clipping of an advertisement was published in the above named paper on the following dates:

Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

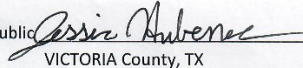
Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Signed



Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July 2021.

Notary Public



VICTORIA County, TX

[place notary seal here]



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE 20-YEAR REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN	
The Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC) will hold a public hearing regarding the 20-Year Regional Solid Waste Management Plan on July 22, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m. in person at 1908 N. Laurent Suite 600 or attendees may also join virtually via TEAMS.	
This hearing provides citizens the opportunity to offer comments and/or additional input to the 20-Year Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. GCRPC encourages citizens to provide comments and recommendations for this plan.	
For further information or questions regarding this hearing please contact GCRPC at 361-678-1587, extension 218.	
PUBLIC HEARING	
DATE:	July 22, 2021
TIME:	1:00 PM
ADDRESS:	1908 N. Laurent Suite 600 Victoria, TX 77901
Please use the information below to join the meeting virtually:	
Microsoft Teams meeting	
Join on your computer or mobile app	
Click here to join the meeting	
Or call in (audio only)	
+1 806-503-5127, 831 675 703# United States, Lubbock	
Phone Conference ID: 831 675 703#	

## Agenda

GOLDEN CRESCENT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(RERAC)

FY21 Q4 PUBLIC MEETING  
THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021  
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

### JOIN IN-PERSON

1908 N. Laurent St.  
Ste. 600 Board Room  
Victoria, TX 77901

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## AGENDA

Agenda Item 1. Welcome – Open Public Meeting

Agenda Item 2. Open Forum

*Opportunity for citizens to address the RERAC. Should citizen comments include complaints or charges against a GCRPC officer or employee, the RERAC may adjourn to a closed meeting, under Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, to hear such complaints or charges. This closed meeting may occur at any point during the meeting.*

Agenda Item 3. Texas State Presentation of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan

*Public comment period will be open for 30 days following this meeting.*

Agenda Item 4. Close Public Meeting and Call the RERAC Meeting to Order

Agenda Item 5. Approve Previous RERAC Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2021- Action Item

Agenda Item 6. Regionwide Tire Event Update

Agenda Item 7. FY 2022 Strategic Plan and RERAC Workplan Discussion

Agenda Item 8. RERAC Annual Feedback Survey

Agenda Item 9. Adjourn



## Transcript

GOLDEN CRESCENT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



### GOLDEN CRESCENT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

### REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RERAC)

#### FY2021 – MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 22, 2021

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

1908 N. Laurent  
6th Floor Board Room  
Victoria, Texas 77901

#### **Agenda Item 1. Welcome and Open Public Meeting**

*Committee Chair Steven Bone called the Public Meeting to order at 1:02 PM*

#### **Agenda Item 2. Open Forum**

*Opportunity for citizens to address the RERAC. Should citizen comments include complaints or charges against a GCRPC officer or employee, the RERAC may adjourn to a closed meeting, under Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, to hear such complaints or charges. This closed meeting may occur at any point during the meeting.*

#### **Agenda Item 3. Texas State Presentation of the 20 – Year Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.** *Public comment period will be open for 30 days following this meeting.*

*Dr. Rebecca Davio and her staff presented the 20-Year Regional Solid Waste Management Plan to the Regional Environmental Advisory Committee and any public that was present in person or online.*

*After the presentation Hannah Crone wanted everyone present to know that the 20-Year Regional Solid Waste Management Plan would be available on the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission Website and instructions to submit a comment would be posted as well. The Public Comment Period will end on August 21<sup>st</sup>.*

## GOLDEN CRESCENT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



**Agenda Item 4. Close Public Meeting and Call the Regional Environmental Resources Advisory Committee Meeting to order**

*Hearing no public comments from the floor, Chairperson Steven Bone Closed the Public Meeting at 1:44 p.m. and then called the RERAC meeting to order.*

**Members Present:**

Steven Bone- Chairperson  
Darryl Lesak- Vice Chairperson  
Wayne Shaffer  
Vern Lyssy

Tim Dent  
Wayne Bubela  
Blake Petrash  
Christy Youker

**Texas State Guests:**

Dr. Davio  
Haley Tacker  
Haley Johnson

Molly Allred  
Eric Alper

**Golden Crescent Regional Planning Staff:**

Michael Ada  
Hannah Crone

Stacey Frazer

*Quorum was not met*

**Agenda Item 5. Approve Previous RERAC Minutes from June 3, 2021**

*Because quorum was not met meeting minutes will be held and approved at the next meeting where quorum is present.*

**Agenda Item 6. Regionwide Tire Event Update**

*Stacey Frazer presented that the Regional Tire Event is going well. The City of Moulton was unable to have their event due to not enough staff to help with the event, so the Lavaca County Event has been rescheduled and relocated to Hallettsville on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Also, Goliad has declined a trailer so there is funding for an additional trailer if any county or city is interested in hosting an additional event, please let Stacey or Hannah know so that we can get that scheduled. Vern Lyssy asked if there was any way that the Tire Vendor could delay picking up the trailer until Wednesday July 28<sup>th</sup> that way if City had any additional tires to dispose of, they have plenty of time to get them to the recycle center. Stacey responded that should not be a problem and will get with the vendor first thing in the morning and let everyone know.*

**Agenda Item 7. FY 2022 Strategic Plan and RERAC Workplan Discussion**

*Stacey Frazer called the RERAC attention to the FY 2022 Strategic Plan and the RERAC Workplan that was provided in the meeting packet. Stacey asked that members please look through both documents and if anyone has any comments, questions, or additions to please let staff know and we will get those answered or added. There was discussion on having a*

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*Region wide Household Hazardous Waste Event with the next Biennium funding from the Texas Commission for Environmental Equality. Also, there was discussion and the region purchasing a tire cutter that would then be shared throughout the region and how that could benefit the region as a whole.*

**Agenda Item 8. RERAC Annual Feedback Survey**

*Hannah Crone informed the RERAC that GCRPC staff will be sending out a link to the RERAC Annual Feedback Survey after the meeting. The purpose of this survey is for the members to not only let GCRPC staff know any improvements that need to be made but also if there is anything that members feel staff as doing well so that can continue. Darryl Lesak asked if this was where he can suggest staff get raises and promotions. Michael Ada responded that all feedback would be taken into consideration.*

**Agenda Item 9. Adjourn**

*There being no further business to be discussed Chairperson Steven Bone Adjourned the meeting at 2:11 p.m.*