

## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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

Name of Council of Governments: Deep East Texas Council of Governments  
210 Premier Drive  
Jasper, TX 75951

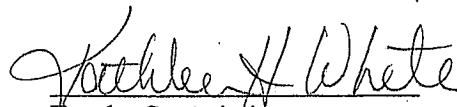
Regional Solid Waste Management Plans provide the structure for implementing regional and local solid waste management programs. The requirements and contents of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are specified in Texas Health & Safety Code, Section 363.064.

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

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

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

ADOPTION DATE: MAY 31 2007

  
For the Commission

## VOLUME I: REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

### SECTION I – NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

- A. This Regional Plan pertains to Deep East Texas Council of Governments (hereafter called DETCOG). The counties covered under this plan include Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler.
- B. This Regional Plan is based on the materials dated January 23, 2003, as revised on October 4, 2006. These materials are incorporated into this Regional Plan as if fully set out herein.

### SECTION II – REGIONAL PLAN

#### A. Regional Goals

Goal #1: Promote the proper management and disposal of municipal solid waste.

Objective 1A: The DETCOG should assess disposal capacity needs in its regional solid waste management plan and should target local areas with less than 10 years of capacity for development of plans or technical studies to identify the best approach to meet those capacity needs. When such options are possible, DETCOG should consider establishing long-term agreements with private disposal service providers, cooperative agreements with other local governments, or other mechanisms to assure long-term availability of disposal capacity.

Objective 1B: In its regional solid waste planning, the DETCOG should identify those subregional areas which lack adequate collection services and/or access to available disposal facilities, and identify actions to ensure that those needs are met. The regional solid waste management plans should include regional and multi-regional solutions for providing services, and should encourage use of citizens' collection stations and transfer stations where appropriate.

Objective 1C: The DETCOG should identify those areas with litter and illegal dumping problems, and identify entities that should establish a local enforcement program, with an emphasis on regional cooperation. Based on the priorities established in the regional plan, DETCOG should use the solid waste grant funding programs to support development of local enforcement programs, and those programs should be standardized to ensure that the grant funding is effectively utilized.

Goal #2: Promote the proper and safe management of solid waste and the availability of management alternative through development and implementation of regional and local plans.

Objective 2A: The *Plan's* goal for the TCEQ was that it clarify and then implement the role of regional plans and local Councils of Governments in municipal solid waste permitting decisions. The goal for the DETCOG was that its regional solid waste management plan should identify the factors that should be used to evaluate a permit application for conformance with the regional plan and that

DETCOG should establish clearly defined internal processes for how conformance recommendations will be made to the TCEQ.

Objective 2B: Use the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program as a tool to implement the regional solid waste management plans. The DETCOG should include priorities for use of solid waste grant funds in its regional solid waste management plan which, once approved, will form the basis for regional solid waste grant funding decisions.

Objective 2C: The DETCOG should target areas with critical needs to develop a local solid waste management plan or a specific technical study to identify how those needs can be addressed.

Objective 2D: After completing its regional inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill sites, the DETCOG should establish a process to maintain that inventory. The regional solid waste management plan should address whether further assessments of the potential risks posed by closed landfill sites in the region are needed.

Goal #3: Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste generated and disposed of in Texas, through source reduction and recycling, to the extent feasible through voluntary approaches.

Objective 3A: The DETCOG should identify the status of local governmental entities' compliance with requirements to establish programs for the separation and collection of recyclables from governmental facilities.

Objective 3B: The DETCOG and other regional and local entities should consider establishing cooperative purchasing and market development programs to support markets for recyclable materials and for products made from those materials.

Objective 3C: The DETCOG should continue to use outreach and education programs to support program initiatives and to facilitate long-term changes in attitudes about source reduction and recycling. The DETCOG should establish a regional outreach and education program under the regional coordination activities conducted with solid waste grant funds.

Objective 3D: The DETCOG should target waste reduction activities to the major components of waste disposal. The DETCOG's regional solid waste management plan should identify programs to target source reduction and diversion of paper, yard trimmings, and construction and demolition debris.

Objective 3E: The DETCOG should target waste reduction activities to certain components of the waste stream that may pose special risks or problems. The DETCOG and local governments should emphasize source reduction of household hazardous waste in education and outreach programs, in conjunction with programs to collect these materials. The DETCOG should consider facilitating cooperative contracting agreements between local governments to help collect and recycle these materials.

Objective 3F: The DETCOG should identify where the greatest benefits can be achieved through waste reduction, and local implementation efforts should focus on those activities that will achieve the greatest results. DETCOG's solid waste grant funding decisions should be directly tied to implementation of the regional solid waste management plans.

B. Waste Minimization, Waste Reuse, Recycling & Education

- (1) Reuse and recycling efforts are market-driven. If there is no market, then recycling and reuse cannot be effective. Input from area recycling centers indicates that the markets for most recycled items are currently sufficient to encourage efforts in recycling and reuse. Regional efforts will focus on the recycling of solid waste. Short term efforts generally incorporate volunteer recycling with emphasis on education to encourage the general public to recycle. Long term efforts generally work toward bio-processing to incorporate commingled household and commercial solid waste, municipal sludges, grit, septic tank and grease trap wastes. The bio-processing will convert all elements that will decompose into compost. Separation of compost, inerts, and recyclables will follow decomposition. This compost can then be processed, cured, and possibly screened for sale. The inerts from the process can be landfilled and the recyclables can be transported to the regional recycling center for processing and sale.

Several cities in the DETCOG region have recycling programs in place. In the past, recycling markets have been a problem for the more rural areas of the region, along with the inability to generate sufficient amounts of recycled materials to attract a recycling vendor to the smaller and more remote areas of the region. Transportation costs can also have an inhibiting effect on the regional approach to recycling. However, it should also be noted that the City of Lufkin Recycling Center reports that they currently have no problem finding vendors for their recycled materials. The Lufkin facility is one of the largest in the region and is currently in the process of increasing public education programs and attempting to forge a partnership with private haulers to enable curbside recycling efforts in rural areas. Through those measures, the Lufkin Recycling Center hopes to double its intake of recyclable materials by the end of the next fiscal year.

One of the main goals stated in the original 1992 Plan was to reduce by 40% the amount of solid waste produced or introduced into the waste stream and landfills by January 1, 1994. Out of that reduction in solid waste, 15% was expected to be reduced by composting. Similarly, the extended goal was to further reduce the amount of solid waste by 5% over the intermediate planning period and by 25% over the long range planning period. However, in the Year 2000 update to the plan, it was stated that *"the 40% reduction goal for the immediate planning period has not yet been met and is unlikely to be met in the near future"* and that *"it is highly unlikely that the long range planning goal of 70% will be met by 2010."* At that time it was stated that *"one possible amendment [to the initial plan] would involve reducing the region's waste reduction goals to a more realistic level."*

- (2) It is the goal of the DETCOG:

- To reduce the amount of solid waste produced or introduced into the waste stream and landfills.
- To provide and support incentives for waste reduction and reuse programs by individuals, private organizations, industry or commercial retailers, and government agencies.
- To establish public education programs that educate the public in all aspects of solid waste reduction and reuse programs that can be implemented by individuals, private organizations, industry or commercial retailers, and government agencies.
- At this time, the current efforts in the DETCOG planning region to minimize municipal solid waste, sludge, and to reuse and recycle waste appear to be adequate.

A. Recycling objectives

- Support all legislation that will make recycling an effective solid waste management practice.
- Support the establishment of tax incentives to encourage market development.
- Promote educational programs that inform the public about which materials are recyclable and the details of how to recycle items which will be acceptable to the various markets.
- Support cooperative marketing arrangements for the public and private sectors.
- Encourage government agencies to buy products made from recycled materials and to recycle their own internal waste.
- Investigate grant programs for recycling activities and inform all recyclers of such programs.
- Provide workshops and seminars to support the development and implementation of local community recycling programs.
- Develop and maintain market information for local government use.

B. Composting Objectives

- Support legislation that will make composting an effective solid waste management practice.
- Educate the consumers on what "composting" is and how it can be beneficial.
- Create compost programs that focus on yard waste and other organic materials that are common in the waste stream.
- Educate the private and public entities as to requirements for siting and operation requirements for composting facilities.
- Encourage government agencies to use compost materials whenever possible and to establish their own composting facilities to compost yard waste and wastewater treatment sludge.
- Support the development of composting programs that beneficially use compostable materials.
- Support the development of compostable packaging and products.

C. Sludge Objectives

- Promote source reduction by reducing infiltration and inflow (I/I) of surface runoff into Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) head works and reducing industrial discharges of heavy metals and toxins.
- Utilize treatment to reduce pathogens and to encourage bio-processing to produce a beneficial by-product.
- Market the composted product from bio-processing and work with timber industry to run pilot project to determine effects of compost on timber growth.
- Market the fact that the bio-process produces an EPA approved product.
- Continue land application until implementation of bio-processing.  
Do not utilize land treatment unless it is proven beneficial for specific purposes.
- Reduce landfilling of sludge which is currently only about 0.2% of total solid waste disposed. The DETCOG planning region currently does not have a sludge facility in place, but encourages the development of such a facility.

D. Incineration

At the present time the use of incineration in the DETCOG region is very limited. This is mainly due to environmental/air quality issues.

- (3) Household Hazardous Waste produced in the region is transported out of the region for disposal. Area landfills do not accept hazardous wastes. Producers of hazardous waste are responsible for disposal. Existing programs for the collection of HHW appear to be adequate for the DETCOG planning region at this time.
- (4) DETCOG will establish a recycling rate goal appropriate to the region.
- (5) DETCOG recommends composting programs for yard waste and related organic wastes that may include:
  - (A) Creation and use of community composting centers;
  - (B) Adoption of the "Don't Bag It" program for lawn clippings developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service; and
  - (C) Development and promotion of education programs on home composting, community composting, and the separation of yard waste for use as mulch.
- (6) DETCOG's solid waste program includes a public education/outreach component.

C. Municipal Solid Waste Facilities - DETCOG will:

- (1) encourage cooperative efforts between local governments in the siting of landfills for the disposal of solid waste;
- (2) assess the need for new waste disposal capacity;
- (3) consider the need to transport waste between municipalities, from a municipality to an area in the jurisdiction of a county, or between counties, particularly if a technically suitable site for a landfill does not exist in a particular area;
- (4) allow a local government to justify the need for a landfill in its jurisdiction to dispose of the solid waste generated in the jurisdiction of another local government that does not have a technically suitable site for a landfill in its jurisdiction;
- (5) complete and maintain an inventory of closed municipal solid waste landfill units and update it as needed; provide one copy to the TCEQ and to the chief planning official of each municipality and county in which a unit is located; and
- (6) develop a guidance document to review municipal solid waste registration and permit applications to determine conformance as outlined in *Volume II: Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Guideline*.