

CHAPTER 4. FUTURE VISIONING

The purpose of this chapter is to outline the goals and objectives of this RSWMP document. Based on stakeholder input, analysis results, and a review of existing programs and practices related to regional solid waste management, a series of goals and subgoals was created to guide the TCOG Region over the next twenty years. These goals were periodically reviewed with the NRAC, TCOG staff and were further refined based on feedback received. A particular focus on waste minimization, cooperative commitment, public education, and outreach, and recommendations for a compost program were a primary focus during the development of these goals.

Goals

In total, there are four primary goals intended to guide the Region’s solid waste management practices over the next twenty years. Each primary goal is also supported by a series of corresponding subgoals, which outline more specific recommendations to incrementally achieve primary goals. Primary goals include the following:

1. Ensure adequate levels of transportation and disposal capabilities throughout the region.
2. Develop local programs in source reduction, waste minimization, reuse, recycling, and composting in order to conserve disposal capacity and resources.
3. Develop programs to assist regional and local entities in controlling and stemming illegal and improper disposal practices.
4. Develop cost-effective, efficient, and environmentally suitable solid waste management systems throughout the region.

These four functional goals have served as the guiding principles for the Region since the original RSWMP was adopted in 1993. Upon review of stakeholder feedback and analysis results, these goals were deemed appropriate to continue functioning as guiding principles for the Region. Subgoals are listed in **Table 4.1** and have been assigned planning periods as follows:

- Current;
- Short-Term (1 to 5 years);
- Intermediate-Term (6 to 10 years); and
- Long-Term (11 to 20 years).

Table 4.1. TCOG Region Solid Waste Management Goals

GOAL 1	Ensure adequate levels of transportation and disposal capabilities throughout the region.	Planning Period
Subgoal 1.1	Consider integrated waste management options, as well as the use of Type IV landfills, to ensure the availability of Type I disposal capacity.	Intermediate-Term
Subgoal 1.2	Promote integrated solid waste management practices that provide adequate and accessible collection and disposal options for rural and underserved areas.	Current
Subgoal 1.3	Facilitate local, regional, and state partnerships to address sites listed on the Closed and Abandoned Landfill Inventory (CLI).	Long-Term
Subgoal 1.4	Establish voluntary pre-application review and public participation procedures through existing solid waste advisory committees.	Short-Term
Subgoal 1.5	Establish clearly defined processes for how conformance recommendations will be made to the TCEQ.	Intermediate-Term

Subgoal 1.6	Encourage and support local governments in adopting "Don't Bag It" programs for lawn clippings.	Long-Term
Subgoal 1.7	Evaluate the need to adjust HHW collection schedules and collection methodologies. This includes evaluating the need for a centralized HHW collection facility within the region.	Long-Term
GOAL 2	Develop local programs in source reduction, waste minimization, reuse, recycling, and composting in order to conserve disposal capacity and resources.	
Subgoal 2.1	Initiate a study to evaluate regional collection, transportation, processing, and marketing options.	Intermediate-Term
Subgoal 2.2	Provide technical assistance to local governments, businesses and institutions in identifying and implementing source reduction, waste minimization, reuse, and recycling strategies, including use of drop off recycling centers.	Current
Subgoal 2.3	Encourage local governments and school districts to adopt internal source reduction, reuse, recycling, and recycled content procurement programs.	Short-Term
Subgoal 2.4	Host education/awareness programs targeting proper methods of preparing recyclables, as well as encouraging consumers to "precycle" and "buy recycled".	Current
Subgoal 2.5	The amount of MSW diverted from disposal through source reduction, waste minimization, reuse and recycling programs in the Texoma region should be estimated on an annual basis and publicized.	Intermediate-Term
Subgoal 2.6	Consider facilitating cooperative contracting agreements between local governments to help collect & recycle a wider variety of materials.	Long-Term
GOAL 3	Develop programs to assist regional and local entities in controlling and stemming illegal and improper disposal practices.	
Subgoal 3.1	Coordinate education/awareness for citizens discouraging illegal dumping, open burning, and other improper disposal practices.	Current
Subgoal 3.2	Coordinate education/awareness programs to inform residents about alternatives to hazardous home products.	Current
Subgoal 3.3	Coordinate education/awareness programs to improve practices of small quantity generators.	Intermediate-Term
Subgoal 3.4	Assist local governments in developing plans for management of special waste.	Short-Term
Subgoal 3.5	Continue utilizing the regional "dumpstoppers" hotline and reward system and track costs of illegal dumping.	Current
GOAL 4	Develop cost-effective, efficient, and environmentally suitable solid waste management systems throughout the region.	
Subgoal 4.1	Assess for and coordinate with areas in need of a locally tailored solid waste management with community specific goals.	Short-Term
Subgoal 4.2	NRAC should periodically report on the status of implementing their regional plans, through biennial reports to the TCEQ.	Short-Term
Subgoal 4.3	Establish priorities for use of solid waste grant funds, which, once approved, will form the basis for regional solid waste grant funding decisions.	Current

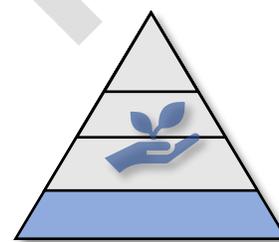
Subgoal 4.4	TCOGs' solid waste grant funding decisions should be directly tied to implementation of the regional solid waste management plans.	Current
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Objectives

As briefly mentioned in Chapter 1, the EPA has developed the non-hazardous materials and waste management hierarchy in an effort to recognize the limitations of single stream waste management. A single stream approach is not suitable for managing all categories of materials and waste streams in all circumstances. For example, potentially hazardous materials like batteries are very difficult to recycle and very few facilities are equipped to properly process them. More often, they require treatment before proper disposal by a household hazardous waste processing facility. This hierarchy is organized from most to least environmentally preferred, with an emphasis on the reduction, reuse, and recycling of materials as the key to sustainable materials management. The objective of this Plan is to encourage source reduction and reuse and other more environmentally preferred methods through the implementation of recommendations and ultimate achievement of Plan goals.

Source Reduction and Reuse

Source reduction and reuse is the most environmentally preferred method of waste management because often times, this method prevents waste from entering the waste stream altogether. Several subgoals align with this objective. More commonly referred to as waste prevention, the primary goal of source reduction, is to reduce waste at the source. Source reduction and reuse practices can save on natural resources, support conservation of energy, reduce pollution, and can support cost savings to businesses. Examples of source reduction and reuse include; avoiding use of natural resources, reducing packaging materials, conserving energy, reducing pollution and harmful byproducts, and reducing toxicity of waste.



Subgoals Aligned with Source Reduction and Reuse Objectives	
1.7	<i>Evaluate the need to adjust HHW collection schedules and collection methodologies. This includes evaluating the need for a centralized HHW collection facility within the region.</i>
	Regular and accessible HHW collection events or facilities may lead to increases in total HHW collected. This includes ensuring proper treatment, recycling, or disposal.
2.1	<i>Initiate a study to evaluate regional collection, transportation, processing, and marketing options.</i>
	Such a study would seek improved processes and practices to conserve energy, maximize efficiency, and reduce pollution.
2.2	<i>Provide technical assistance to local governments, businesses and institutions in identifying and implementing source reduction, waste minimization, reuse, and recycling strategies, including use of drop off recycling centers.</i>
	Trainings offered to various organizations may lead to improved practices to minimize waste, improve recycling, and increase participation and accessibility of recycling programs.
2.4	<i>Host education/awareness programs targeting proper methods of preparing recyclables, as well as encouraging consumers to "precycle" and "buy recycled".</i>
	Trainings offered to participants of recycling programs may lead to an increase in the amount of recycled materials completing the recycling cycle and reduce the amount of contaminated recycled materials diverted into the waste stream.