

## 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 Resource Recovery 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 and 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.A.6.             | Does your proposal encourage the expansion of the ReWorksSA Certification Program throughout the region, including encouraging waste reduction?  |               |
|   |   | 1.A.7.             | Does your proposal explore innovative ways to increase the volume of materials diverted?   |               |
|   |   | 1.A.8.             | Does your proposal encourage exploration of opportunities to divert construction and demolition materials from landfills?  |               |
| 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 explore the potential for an online network to foster business-to-business connections to match by-products or surplus materials with opportunities for reuse or recycling?   |               |
|   |   | 1.B.3.             | 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? |               |

| <b>Goal 1: Maximize beneficial resource use</b> |  |                    |  |               |
|---|--|--------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>Objective</b>                                |  | <b>Action step</b> |  | <b>Yes/No</b> |
|   |  | 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 organize a region-wide scrap tire collection initiative?  |  |               |
|   |  | 2.A.4.             | 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 and expand 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.A.3.             | Does your proposal explore ways to expand curbside trash collection in currently underserved areas?   |               |
| 3.B.                                    | Improve 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?  |               |

| <b>Goal 3: Maximize proper disposal</b> |   |                    |   |  |               |
|---|---|--------------------|---|--|---------------|
| <b>Objective</b>                        |   | <b>Action step</b> |   |  | <b>Yes/No</b> |
| 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 dumping enforcement         | 3.F.1.             | Does your proposal outreach to prosecutors and judges to increase their support of illegal dumping enforcement?   |  |               |
|   |   | 3.F.2.             | Does your proposal continue exploring 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?  |
|                                       |  | 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 continue to use COG pass-through grant funding criteria that encourages participation in committee activities and ensures alignment with regional waste management priorities?                           |
|                                       |  | 4.B.2.              | Does your proposal apply for external grant funding to supplement available TCEQ funds to enable broader implementation of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan?  |
| 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?   |

| <b>Goal 4: Lead Regional Planning</b> |                              |                     |   |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| <b>Objective</b>                      |                              | <b>Action steps</b> |   |
| 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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