



Managing Scrap Tires Through Recycling, Initiatives, and Enforcement

Marissa Gibbs- Work Lead

Melissa Harrison- Team Lead

TCEQ Scrap Tire Program

Overview



The Scrap Tire Problem in Texas

Successful Programs and Diversions

Enforcement Strategies

SEP: Turning Fines into Cleanups

Challenges with Site Applications

How You Can help

Why Scrap Tire Management Matters

- The U.S. generates more than 300 million scrap tires annually.
- Improper disposal leads to illegal dumping, fire hazards, and environmental contamination.
- Piles of scrap tires become breeding grounds for mosquitos, raising public health risks.



Unauthorized Scrap Tire Sites in Texas

13 million tires across 116 known sites

Sizes range from a few hundred to over a million

Risks include fire and mosquito borne illness

Clean up challenges include:

- costs for transportation and disposal
- condition of site
- condition of tires

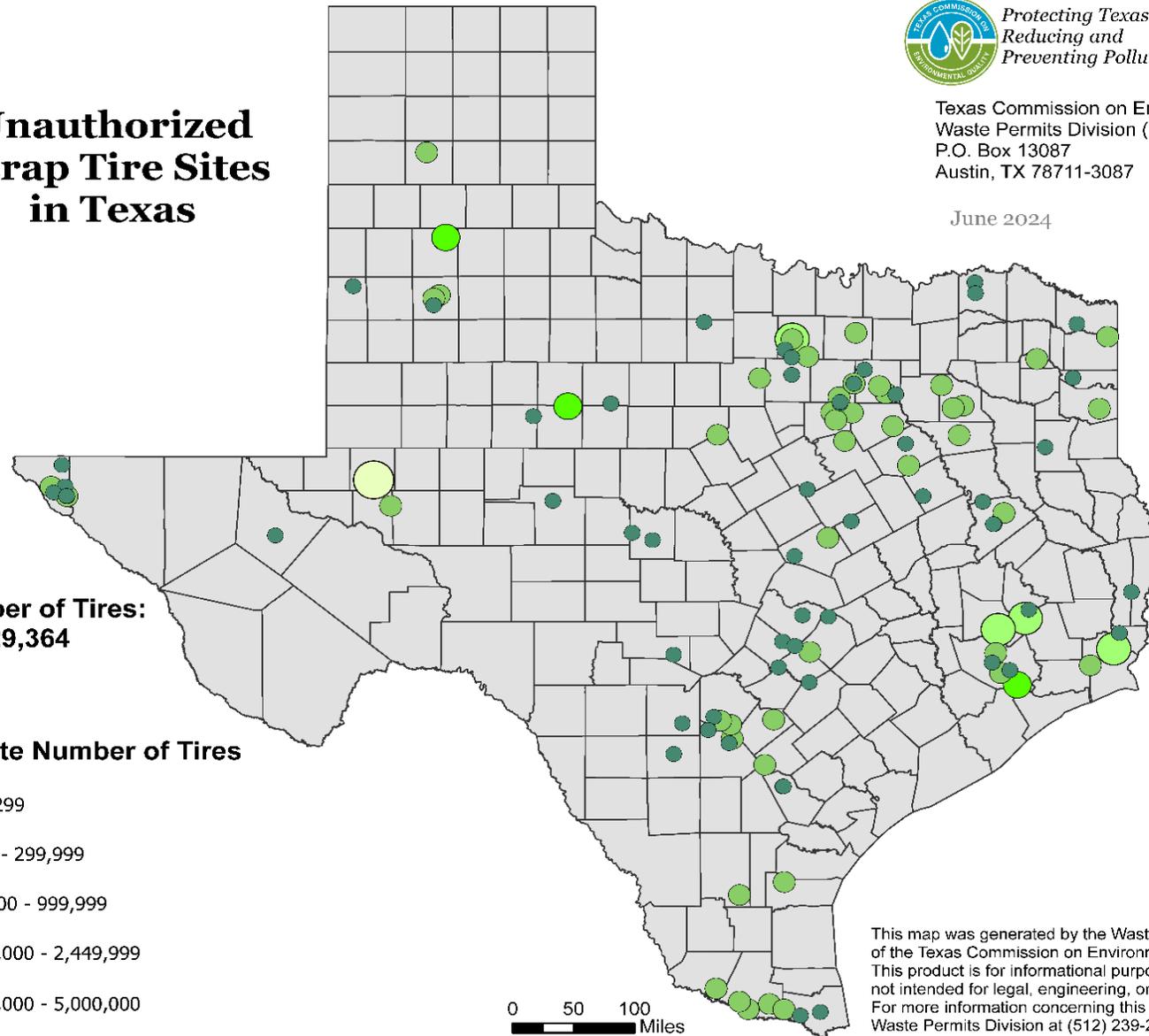


Protecting Texas by
Reducing and
Preventing Pollution

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Waste Permits Division (MC 126)
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

June 2024

Unauthorized Scrap Tire Sites in Texas



**Total Number of Tires:
13,829,364**

**Legend:
Approximate Number of Tires**

- 0 - 7,299
- 7,300 - 299,999
- 300,000 - 999,999
- 1,000,000 - 2,449,999
- 2,450,000 - 5,000,000

0 50 100
Miles

This map was generated by the Waste Permits Division of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This product is for informational purposes and is not intended for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. For more information concerning this map, contact the Waste Permits Division at (512) 239-2335.

Active Registrations in Texas

Type of Registered Entity	Number of Registrations
Generator	11,337
Transporter	500
Scrap Tire Facility—Processing	150
Scrap Tire Facility—Recycling	8
Scrap Tire Facility—Energy Recovery	8
Scrap Tire Storage Site	13
LRPUT	17

End Use or Disposition of Tires 2023

End-Use or Disposition	Approximate Scrap Tire Units Utilized or Disposed	Percent of Utilization
Crumb Rubber	18,752,455	33%
TDF	17,580,994	31%
Landfill	10,447,266	18%
Processing & Recycling	7,312,805	13%
LRPUT	2,995,474	5%
Beneficial Use	105,508	0.02%
Total	57,194,502	100%

Diversion Options

Recycling Processes & Technologies

- Tire Derived Fuel
 - Cement Kilns & paper mills for energy
- Crumb Rubber
 - Playground
 - Sports Fields
 - Garden Mulch

Reuse: infrastructure & construction

- Road Construction
- Retaining Walls & embankments
- Erosion Control

Successful Diversion

- TxDOT use of rubber- Modified asphalt
- DART Silver Line Project- Tire derived aggregate to reduce vibration
- Cement Kilns- Tire Derived fuel
- Oil field use- Vibration control mats for large scale equipment

State and Local Initiatives

5 Year Plan for Scrap Tire Management in Texas

- Improve compliance with reporting requirements
- Reduce known unauthorized scrap tire sites
- Public outreach

Funding opportunities and grants

- Regional Solid Waste Management Grants Program
- Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP)

Scrap Tire Management Five-Year Plan

- Focuses on five categories:
 - Annual reporting
 - Registered generators
 - Unauthorized scrap tire sites
 - Developing and coordinating partnerships
 - Resources for the public and local governments



Scan this QR Code to read
the Scrap Tire Management
5-Year Plan

Model Local Ordinance

- Available through the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)
- Developed to help local governments regulate scrap tire management
- Provides guidelines for registration, storage, and disposal
- Encourages enforcement measures to prevent illegal dumping



Scan this QR Code to find the NCTCOG model scrap tire ordinance

Regional Solid Waste Management Grants Program

- Provide grants to local governments through regional councils of governments (COGs) to fund solid waste management activities.
- Funding is appropriated by the Texas Legislature.
- Funds allocated based on a formula that considers population, area, solid waste fee generation, and public health needs.

Central Texas Council of Governments

CTCOG administered grant funding for seven HHW collection events where **13,000 scrap tires were collected.**



Brazos Valley Council of Governments

BVCOG administered grant funding for a scrap tire collection event in Washington County.

6,800 scrap tires were collected.



Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission

The Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission area collected **48,000 pounds of tires.**



South Plains Association of Governments

The City of Amherst was awarded \$9,600.92 and **purchased a 14-foot, low-profile dump trailer.**

Savings in fuel, employee time, and depreciation of vehicles.



South Texas Development Council- Webb County

- Three tire clean up campaigns collecting 23,650 tires for proper disposal.



West Central Texas Council of Governments



West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG) managed scrap tire recycling events and collected 322,880 pounds of scrap tires.

In addition, WCTCOG provided a class on scrap tires to educate on the effects of illegal dumping of scrap tires.

South East Texas Regional Planning



- SETRCP collected more than 7,210 scrap tires, including passenger, truck, and large machine tires for disposal.

Local Enforcement Strategies

TCEQ's Enforcement Framework

- Inspections & Penalties
- Regulations on generation, transportation, processing, and disposal

Local Strategies

- Surveillance cameras (COGs funding)
- Stricter local ordinances (NCTCOG model ordinance)

Investigation Checklist

Criteria used by TCEQ investigators during site visits.

Item No	Description	Answer	Citations
1	If the entity processes, conducts energy recovery, or recycles, has it obtained a scrap tire facility registration?		328.63(c)
2	Is a copy of the commission registration notice maintained at the designated place of business?		328.55(3)
3	Has a written notice been provided to the executive director, within 15 days, if any of the conditions of 328.55(4)(A) - (D) are met?		328.55(4) 328.55(4)(D) 328.55(4)(C) 328.55(4)(B) 328.55(4)(A)



Scan this QR Code to
find TCEQ Investigation
Checklists

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/compliance/investigation/checklists/wastechecklists>

Texas Code Enforcement

State Statutes

HSC- Health and Safety Code

TWC- Texas Water Code

HSC Chapter 341 – Tire storage creating insect breeding or pollution

HSC Chapter 343 – Tires as public nuisance in rural/unincorporated areas

HSC Chapter 365 – Illegal dumping of scrap tires, criminal penalties

TWC Chapter 7 – Enforcement for pollution from tire-related waste

Penalties for Illegal Tire Storage & Dumping

“Each day is a separate violation” = compounded penalties

HSC 341.013(c):
\$10–\$200/day for
mosquito-breeding
tire storage

HSC 343.011:
Declares scrap tires
a public nuisance in
rural zones

HSC 365.012:

Class B
Misdemeanor for
<500lbs or <100 cu.
ft

Class A
Misdemeanor for
500–1,000lbs

State Jail Felony for
>1,000lbs or repeat
offenses

Turning Enforcement into Community Impact

- Enforcement penalties can become positive change through SEP funding:
 - Community cleanups
 - Tire events
 - Recycling education

Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs)

What is a SEP?

- A voluntary program allowing respondents to offset administrative penalties in TCEQ enforcement matters by contributing to or performing environmental enhancement projects.

How SEPs Support Tire Cleanup:

- **Custom SEPs:** Entities perform tire cleanup or collection events to offset penalties.
- **Contribution SEPs:** Entities contribute to approved tire remediation projects.
- **Third-Party Administrators:** Receive contributions to fund tire SEPs.

Successful Custom SEPs

- **City of Rockdale:** Collected 100,720 lbs. of dumped tires and hosted a free collection event for residents.
- **San Antonio River Authority:** Held a HHW, e-waste, and tire collection event, recycling 30,500 lbs. of used tires.



Contribution SEPs



Texas A&M - Corpus Christi's AutoCheck, above, and Gulf Coast Authority's Trash Bash, Below
(SEP No. 2011-34 and SEP No. 2010-002)

- **Texas Association of Resource Conservation and Development:** Conducted tire collection and cleanup events across Texas; new agreement in progress.
- **Gulf Coast Authority:** Annual event cleaning up trash, pollutants, and tires from Galveston Bay and San Jacinto watershed, removing approximately 729 abandoned tires annually.

TCEQ Future Strategies for Improving Collaboration

- Pre-application meetings with applicants and TCEQ
- Site plan checklists for applicants
- Fire marshal and code enforcement trainings
- Facilitate scrap tire programs work group
- Partnerships with scrap tire cleanup operations

How Local Governments Can Help

- Code Enforcement:
 - Identify inactive tire shops
 - Enforce proper tire storage rules
 - Coordinate inspections with fire marshals
- Ordinances & Permits:
 - Adopt a scrap tire ordinance like NCTCOG's model ordinance.
 - Use zoning to manage site placement

How Local Governments Can Help

Outreach & Education:

- Host events on dumping prevention
- Engage the public through local affiliates
- Share tire program info on city platforms



How Local Governments Can Help



Unauthorized Scrap Tire Sites:

- Report suspected dumping to TCEQ
- Assist with site access and property info
- Support cleanups with city resources

Conclusion

Diversion is Key
– Recycling,
reuse, and
cleanup efforts

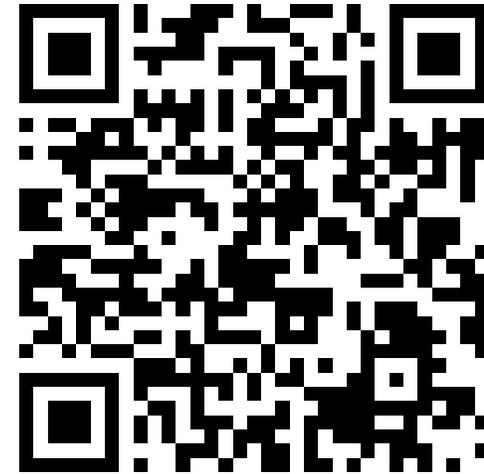
**State &
Local Support –
Funding &
enforcement
strategies**

**Stakeholder
Collaboration –
Govts., nonprofits
& businesses
working together**

Questions?

Contact Information

- Marissa Gibbs- TCEQ
- Tires@tceq.texas.gov
- 512-239-2335, option 4



Scan this QR Code to visit the
TCEQ Scrap Tire Program
Website