

## RECYCLING SURVEY

State Name: Texas

Agency Name: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Contact Name and Information: Mike Lindner 512-239-3045

**1. Please indicate whether recycling of household or residential recyclables is mandatory, voluntary or perhaps both (mandatory for some materials and voluntary for others) in your state.**

*Voluntary*

**2. Is there a State Law(s) that mandates, encourages, or otherwise facilitates the recycling system or programs in your state and what is the reference for that section of your state code?**

*Yes, see attachment and for the statutes themselves  
<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/hstoc.html>*

**3. Does your state law (or other directive) mandate, encourage or otherwise specify a state goal for the rate of recycling or diversion (e.g. percentage of overall waste stream, etc.) If so, what is the statutory reference?**

*Yes, see attachment, first row.*

**4. Please indicate how your state measures recycling rates? (Are there reporting requirements? who reports and how frequently?) What wastes are captured in the measurement of your recycling/diversion rate? (e.g. residential garbage? yard waste? commercial and industrial wastes? waste tires? white goods? automobiles? etc?).**

*We don't. There are regulatory provisions for entities to report on recycling if they so choose to do so, but no one has ever chosen to do so.*

**5. What association does commercial, institutional, and industrial recycling have with the household or residential recycling in your state? Are recycling activities from these sectors factored into your overall state recycling rate?**

*We actively encourage and facilitate all of the above. NA on the second question.*

**6. What is your most recently measured rate of recycling or diversion for your state? (Please indicate the time frame for this measurement. e.g. calendar year, fiscal year, etc.)**

*A consultant in '97 said our diversion rate was at 30% (down from the amount disposed of in '91).*

**7. What are the most commonly employed systems in your state for collecting residential recyclables. Are different sized communities required or encouraged to meet a certain standard of recycling services?**

*Do not know. No.*

**8. Do you have rural communities in your state that have developed and are maintaining successful residential recycling programs? What type of "system" are these successful communities employing?**

*Yes. Do not know.*

**9. What incentives (grants, loans, tax incentives, etc.) are offered in your state for recycling and to whom are these incentives available? (state government, local governments, private companies, universities and institutions, etc.) How are these grants or loans funded?**

*24 Councils of Government around the state delve out grants for improving solid waste services including recycling to county or city governments.*

*Through a \$1.25 fee per ton of garbage disposed, of which half goes to the Councils of Government to give out as and administer grants. (The other half goes to funding my agency's work.)*

**10. Does your agency or state have a "recycling program," In what agency is the program housed and how many full time employees are dedicated to recycling program activities?**

*The state's "recycling program" is housed in my agency, the TCEQ. The approximate equivalent of five full-time employees are dedicated to recycling activities. State's population is 22 million.*