

CASE STUDIES



Perseverance & Community Pride

TEXAS GULF COAST

- Palacios, TX | Matagorda County
- Population: 5,153
- Program Established: 2000
- Total Tonnage Since 2000: 1,356 tons
- Total Revenue: \$108,785

Situation: In 2000, the Palacios Recycle Center almost didn't happen. Despite an implementation grant to pay for the construction of the center, the location(s) chosen were met with opposition by residents concerned with traffic, dumping and smell, in the more convenient residential areas chosen.

Solution: City staff worked hard to overcome the obstacles and make recycling happen for the City of Palacios. A site was chosen close to the airport that wasn't too far from the center of town, but still convenient enough that people were encouraged to participate. Quickly residents found that the recyclables did not create the issues of concern and the recycle center was of value to the community.

Benefit: Year after year the dedicated staff in Palacios work to grow the recycling program and make it bigger and better. Resident participation and types of recyclables has increased. They have also expanded commercial pickup of recyclables so they capture waste from all sectors of the community. Most recently, recycle bins have been added along the shoreline to give the community and visiting tourists the option to recycle and continue to keep Palacios a vibrant and clean community!



Longevity and Environmental Savings

TEXAS GULF COAST

- Texas City, TX | Galveston County
- Population: 45,763
- Program Established: 1998
- Total Tonnage Since 1998: 2,402 tons
- Total Revenue: \$170,332



Situation: Each year Texas City's population grows due to the ever-growing industrial areas along the busy deep-water port. Texas City is also a popular vacation spot, retirement community and birding attraction, so it has a lot to offer both residents and visitors. While growth is good, that also means there is more solid waste to manage. The city, like a lot of cities of similar size, has struggled with how to provide the best possible service, make recycling convenient and easy, and increase recycling rates.

Solution: Texas City proactively designed the Texas City Biosphere site so residents had a place to properly dispose of a variety of items including recyclables, mulch, bulky waste, textiles, oil and tires. Several years later, in attempt to expand services, curbside recycling came to Texas City. However, the material was so contaminated the service eventually had to be suspended as the cost was just too much for the city to continue. Knowing the Biosphere model works, the city continues to improve and expand services there.

Benefit: Due to the proximity of the Texas coastline, the leaders and citizens of Texas City work very hard to contribute to environmental efforts within the community. The coast is a large part of the community's livelihood from industry to tourism and something to be valued. Texas City is proud that it is has offered recycling for over 20 years and in that time recycling efforts have saved 41,000 trees, 147,000 lbs. of air pollution and 17 million gallons of water!