

CASE STUDIES



A Typical Municipal Program

RIO GRANDE RIVER VALLEY

- Uvalde, TX | Uvalde County
- Population: 15,750
- Program Established: 1997
- Total Tonnage Since 1997: 6,184 tons
- Total Revenue Generated: \$247,265



Situation: The City of Uvalde, Texas, is small but no less experiences typical consumer rates for the Rio Grande River Valley in South Texas. As incomes rise in the area, this increases consumerism, which equates to more waste that can be recycled.

Solution: In 1997 Uvalde implemented a recycling program through KTR to recycle various commodities collected at a central location point, staffed by one City employee to process and bale the material. Once material is baled, it is sent directly to the mill where it will be processed into a “new” material. KTR negotiated the mill pricing for Uvalde – a service provided to all KTR members. Part of the Uvalde contract includes a guaranteed “baled floor price,” which is very rare in recycling contracts and has helped Uvalde's program survive market downturns.

Benefit: The City of Uvalde owns its own landfill and like many municipalities, would like to keep as much open space in that landfill, as long as possible. They have expanded their efforts to include commercial recycling and are one of the only programs in their region that accepts glass, a notoriously difficult item to recycle. Uvalde is a shining example of rural community that proactively added recycling services before it was considered a social norm.

A Fluctuating Population

RIO GRANDE RIVER VALLEY

- Ft. Clark Springs, TX | Kinney County
- Population: 1,200
- Program Established: 2009
- Total Tonnage Since 2009: 387 tons
- Total Revenue Generated: \$13,619



Situation: Ft. Clark Springs’ unique recycling program was developed for its unique residents in this former Army fort turned private community. Since many residents are part-time snowbirds who want to avoid expanding their current landfill area at a high cost (twice the cost as the average Texan), they needed a recycling alternative that was more cost-effective.

Solution: Because neighboring Brackettville only recycles cardboard, Ft. Clark Springs set up a nearby recycling center for everything else: paper, #1 & #2 plastics, steel cans and aluminum cans. For two hours a week, two volunteers sort and unload materials being dropped off at the facility. At least 24 volunteer hours are spent at the facility per month.

Benefit: Despite any financial or operational shortcomings, this program is effective and proves to be a case study in achieving waste management balance in a unique community. While the population ebbs and flows seasonally, Ft. Clark Springs’ overall tonnage has increased each year. As of 2016, Ft. Clark Springs is now compacting their material to increase revenue and efficiency. They were also selected to participate in the Texas Rural Carton Recycling Project to establish carton recycling in their community, as well as in Brackettville and Brackett Independent School District.