

CASE STUDIES



Defying Odds & Winning Awards in the Texas Panhandle

TEXAS PANHANDLE

- Booker, TX | Lipscomb & Ochiltree Counties
 - Population: 1,000
 - Program Established: 2010
 - Total Tonnage Since 2010: 770 tons
 - Total Revenue Generated: \$73,021
- Clarendon, TX | Donley County
 - Population: 2,206
 - Program Established: 2000
 - Total Tonnage Since 2000: 1,602 tons
 - Total Revenue Generated: \$131,425

Situation: While Texas Panhandle living can sometimes feel isolated, the area is thriving with environmentally mindful citizens that understand the isolation the ranches and farmland create, is also their livelihood. The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission created the Panhandle Environmental Partnership in conjunction with KTR to establish recycling programs in over 16 communities and are especially proud of the programs in Booker and Clarendon, TX. These programs began with the intention of giving each one equipment and support, for the best chance to be successful.

Solution: In Booker, the program is extremely unique. It is managed almost entirely by the Booker Independent School District and staffed by high school seniors and one part-time paid employee (for the heavy lifting). The City of Booker originally tried recycling by obtaining a baler that sat idle for years with little support from the community. It wasn't until a senior environmental science class developed curriculum, created a business plan and appealed to the City for use of their equipment to start a recycling program at the school.



Clarendon residents have a designated recycle center that is open on weekdays during regular business, but they also have containers in town to make it easier and more accessible. The Clarendon facility is truly "green" by using a building that already housed equipment needed for the recycle center as well as used shipping containers to store recyclables until they are ready to go to market.



Benefit: The Booker program has garnered a ton of support from the community and has since started a composting program and a community garden. In 2016, the Booker ISD Kiowa recycling program won the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Texas Environmental Excellence Award, the state's highest recognition. The City of Clarendon does not own its own landfill, so their trash has to travel 30 minutes away to be disposed, and tipping fees can be expensive. Without including the time, fuel and employee costs to ship the refuse, it's estimated that Clarendon has saved \$43,200 in diversion costs since their recycle center opened.