

**STATE OF TENNESSEE USES
RE-TRAC CONNECT TO SAVE
\$70,000 PER YEAR**

**TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION**

OVERVIEW

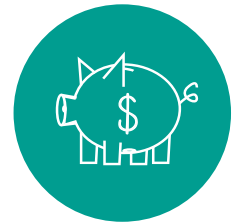
The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) exists to enhance the quality of life for citizens of Tennessee and to be stewards of the natural environment.

Tennessee's Solid Waste Management Act of 1991 requires that each county in the state file a Solid Waste Annual Progress Report (APR) with TDEC every year. The resulting data helps address issues such as local solid waste collection systems; solid waste disposal systems (landfills and incinerators); local funding for solid waste programs and activities; recycling, composting, source reduction, and diversion activities; solid waste education programs; disposal of problem wastes such as used tires, automobile fluids, used paint, and more.

“ Tennessee’s Solid Waste Management Act of 1991 requires that each county in the state file a Solid Waste Annual Progress Report. ”



SAVES TIME



SAVES MONEY



REDUCED ERRORS

The Challenge

Originally, TDEC managed its Annual Progress Report using a custom-built MS Access database. Each year, a new version of the database needed to be created and mailed to reporting entities to be completed and mailed back.

Year after year, program administrators encountered problems collecting data using the MS Access database. They would spend months trying to resolve database environment issues and usually ended up appending the regions' responses to the main database.

“ Year after year, they encountered problems collecting data using the MS Access database. ”

The Solution

Frustrated with the error-prone MS Access database, TDEC set out to find a web-based solution that reliably reduced errors and offered automated analytics. TDEC program administrators met Emerge Knowledge at a conference and took the opportunity to describe their reporting dilemma. The Emerge Knowledge team promptly scheduled a demo to illustrate how Re-TRAC Connect™ could solve their reporting issues. TDEC considered developing a similar solution in-house, but soon realized that attempting to match Re-TRAC's functionality and service within the same time-frame and cost was impossible. Thoroughly convinced that the data management and reporting features exceeded their expectations, TDEC's program administrators adopted Re-TRAC Connect as their official reporting system.

TDEC launched its Annual Progress Report in Re-TRAC's original system in 2007. This allowed TDEC to deliver a consistent report directly to its stakeholders. TDEC was pleased to learn that Re-TRAC Connect is available 24 hours a day from anywhere in the world and system updates and enhancements are free and instantly available.

Since 2014, TDEC has managed its program using Re-TRAC Connect. TDEC uses its Annual Progress Report to collect data from counties, landfills, transferstations, material recovery facilities, and recycling-related industries across the state. TDEC is also using the system to collect data for the Solid Waste Origin Report and the End-of-Life Landfill Survey. It also manages its Recycling Markets Directory and Public Recycling Directory using Re-TRAC Connect. They now accomplish all this much faster, more efficiently, using fewer resources, and spend less money.

**TDEC HAS BEEN
MANAGING THEIR
PROGRAM USING
RE-TRAC CONNECT
SINCE 2014**

The Results

Before Re-TRAC, managing TDEC's Annual Progress Report was very time consuming and the process was rife with errors. In its first year using Re-TRAC Connect and each year afterwards, TDEC experienced \$70,000 in direct savings collecting data for their Annual Progress Report.

Re-TRAC's intuitive interface and powerful reporting features provided further indirect cost-savings by reducing time needed for data review. Finally, TDEC eliminated 26,000 paper manifests by moving to an electronic tire manifesting system in Re-TRAC Connect. TDEC currently delivers and manages three programs using Re-TRAC Connect: Annual Progress Report, Landfill Remaining Life Survey, and Origin Reports.

“ Re-TRAC’s intuitive interface and powerful reporting features provided further indirect cost-savings by reducing time needed for data review. ”

“Emerge Knowledge staff is very attentive and provides great service.”

**Larry Christley, Environmental Assistance Program Manager
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION**