

WCTCOG MEASURES REGIONAL DIVERSION PERFORMANCE WITH RE-TRAC CONNECT

WEST CENTRAL TEXAS
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT



OVERVIEW

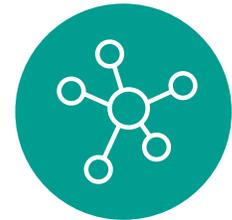
Established in 1966, the West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG) is a voluntary association of local governments formed under Texas law. WCTCOG serves 19 counties, including cities and other districts in a rural area encompassing 18,000 square miles.

WCTCOG is the state-designated planning agency for solid waste management issues in the region. It assesses disposal strategies of local governments and develops source reduction, waste minimization, reuse, recycling, and composting programs, to conserve disposal capacity and resources.

Each year WCTCOG provides oversight on Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) funding for local government projects, including source reduction, recycling, local illegal dumping enforcement, solid waste studies, household hazardous waste collections, and public education efforts. It also provides technical assistance to local governments on solid waste issues and continuing education opportunities for local governments and solid waste professionals.



SAVES TIME



**CENTRALIZED
DATA**



**INCREASED
EFFICIENCY**

The Challenge

For years WCTCOG staff used a series of Excel spreadsheets to track the annual diversion efforts for each of the 19 counties in the region. At the beginning of each new year, they copied and pasted formulas from the old spreadsheet to the new one. Occasionally, they would end up with a lot of circular references and calculation errors. They also tried using Microsoft Access but still found that neither of these systems could provide what WCTCOG needed.

To make matters worse, sometimes their systems would crash. They had server back-ups but recovering the files was a major headache. On one occasion their server also crashed resulting in unrecoverable data loss.

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The Solution

In 2012, Regional Services Director Wendy Allen visited the Re-TRAC Connect™ booth at the Annual STAR Summit. After learning how Re-TRAC Connect simplifies data tracking and analysis, she requested to see a Tracker demo.

Wendy started by establishing baseline diversion rates for each county. From there she began tracking each county's progress toward reducing waste. The results were also cross-referenced with WCTCOG's education campaigns to measure the impact they're having on diversion.

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The Results

Wendy and her team enjoy how Re-TRAC Connect centralizes their data. They can log in to track and analyze their data from anywhere, at any time. The fear of losing data was also eliminated since all data entered into Re-TRAC is backed up on a daily basis.

Wendy saves time with data analysis too. Re-TRAC's Best Practice Reports provide her with the insights she needs to measure the region's recycling and diversion performance. On average, Re-TRAC saves WCTCOG 1-2 days of administration time per month compared to their former data tracking system.

Re-TRAC's data validation feature has eliminated errors formerly introduced by human intervention using the spreadsheet system.

ON AVERAGE, RE-TRAC SAVES WCTCOG 1-2 DAYS OF ADMINISTRATION TIME PER MONTH COMPARED TO THEIR FORMER DATA TRACKING SYSTEM.

“WCTCOG staff is grateful for RE-TRAC connect! The software performs excellent analysis of county and regional diversion rates and is a cost-saving, proficient, effective product.”

- Wendy Allen, Director

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