

# Study on the Economic Impacts of Recycling: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Announces Report



**Walter Wright, Jr.**  
wwright@mwlaw.com  
(501) 688.8839

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The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("TCEQ") announced the completion of a report titled: *Study on the Economic Impacts of Recycling ("Study")*

The *Study* was required by House Bill 2763 from the 84th Legislature.

The focus of the *Study* is an assessment of the economic benefits of the recycling industry in the State of Texas. It included a Recycling Industry Survey that addresses market conditions.

A key goal of the *Study* was to give Texas policymakers information needed to examine the economic, environmental and policy issues related to recycling. Other topics required to be addressed by HB 2736 included:

- Current recycling efforts
- Methods to increase recycling (i.e., development of new markets for recycled materials and new businesses that may result from increased recycling)
- Funding methods to increase recycling
- Job creation from recycling
- Infrastructure needs and opportunities for rural and underserved areas

Some of the conclusions from the *Study* included:

- Approximately 9.2 million tons of municipal solid waste were recycled in Texas in 2015
- Recyclables (paper, plastics, metal, and glass), organics (yard trimmings, brush, green waste, food and beverage materials), and construction and demolition materials accounted for 8.7 million tons (i.e., 94.4% of the total tons of recycled materials in Texas)
- \$702 million of materials were recycled in Texas in 2015
- The 2015 recycling rate for municipal solid waste in Texas was 22.7 percent
- Recycling of municipal solid waste produces more than 17,000 person years of direct, indirect, and induced employment during 2015
- Overall impact of recycling municipal solid waste on the Texas economic exceeded \$3.3 billion

[A link to the \*Study\* can be found here.](#)