
Memorandum of Understanding

Between
Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB)
and
Polk County

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the terms and understanding between the KTB and the Polk County for the Plastic Bottle Recycling (PBR) Project.

Background & Purpose

Keep Texas Recycling (KTR) is a program of Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) that has over 25 years' experience implementing and expanding successful rural recycling programs. Rural communities often struggle with low volumes, distance to markets and confusion on what commodities are accepted. The Plastic Bottle Recycling (PBR) Project, implemented by KTR with funding from Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages (CCSWB), will work to increase education surrounding polyethylene terephthalate #1 plastic (aka PET) recycling in areas that have suffered from an increase in contamination, low capture rates & lack of updated education & outreach plans.

Project Description

Through this project, KTR will work with KTR members to increase PET recycling in these communities. These recycling programs are drop-off programs where contamination, lack of education and lack of end-market options has kept recycling volume/tonnage stagnant. KTR will work individually with each community to determine what causes the contamination, what education would be best for that particular community, and provide data before and after the project for reference on increase in volume.

Project Goals

Goal 1- Discover opportunities to capture and divert more PET bottles from the waste stream to increase volume recycled. Measure impact by the amount of PET currently being recycled vs. tonnage after education & outreach plan is executed.

Goal 2- Educate and build awareness of PET recycling opportunities in the community. Communities will update social media/web page/educational materials and can potentially utilize newspaper ads/articles, newsletters, and bill inserts, and provide education to partner groups.

Goal 3- Evaluate signage at the facility to determine what needs updating. Address logistical issues that pertain to contamination in an effort to reduce.

The goals listed above will be accomplished by undertaking the following activities:

Polk County

1. Collect PET bottles at the Polk County's recycle center & applicable satellite locations.
 2. Assist KTR in discovering new sources of PET to increase volume.
 3. Track PET volume coming into the center by weight/# of bales made etc.
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4. Submit monthly reports to KTR with estimated PET collected and bales made. Reports should also provide feedback on project status i.e. quality increase or decrease, best practices, failures, issues etc. Monthly reports can be in the form of an email, word document, pictures, video etc.

KTR

1. Assist in the production of all educational and promotional items.
2. Conduct a minimum of 1 site visit per year to track progress and best practices.
3. Purchase supplies and materials as agreed upon in the educational plan.
4. Report project findings to CCSWB on a quarterly basis through 2024.

Reporting

KTR is responsible for submitting reports, PET volumes/weights, visuals and project findings to CCSWB.

Funding

Keep Texas Beautiful will provide funding for this project, through a grant from CCSWB. All invoices for items related to the project should be submitted directly to KTB for approval and purchase. Polk County shall retain title to, or the exclusive right to use, all materials, equipment or tools purchased using the grant funds, however if Polk County discontinues use of equipment for the designated purpose to process, transport or assist in the marketing of PET plastic within 3 years of purchase, then Keep Texas Beautiful has the right to take ownership and repurpose the equipment for use in a similar program.

Resolving Disputes

In the event of a dispute, difference of interpretation, or appeal of a decision regarding the terms and/or conditions of this agreement, settlement shall be addressed by the KTB Board President and the Polk County Commissioner's Court & Judge. If settlement cannot be reached, the issue shall then be presented to the KTB Board of Directors and Polk County Commissioner's Court & Judge for joint resolution.

Amendment

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended on the initiative of either party by submitting a proposed amendment in writing to the other party and agreement of that party to the amendment.

Duration

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from KTB and Polk County. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from KTB & Polk County and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by either partner by mutual consent. In the absence of mutual agreement by the authorized officials from KTB & Polk County, this MOU shall end December 31, 2024.

Indemnification

Polk County agrees to indemnify and hold harmless KTB & CCSWB from any and all claims, judgements, causes of actions and costs thereof that arise from property damage or bodily injury,

Project Lead Contact Information

Keep Texas Beautiful
Rachel Hering
Director, Keep Texas Recycling (KTR)
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512/872-6630
512/577-4439 (cell)

Polk County
Contact: Kari Miller

Title: Assistant to the County Judge

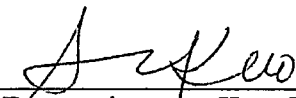
Address: 410 E. Church St. Ste. E, Livingston, TX 77351

Phone Number: 936-327-6813

Email: Kari.Miller@co.polk.tx.us

 Date: 3/22/22
(Partner signature, Polk County)

Sydney Murphy, County Judge
Printed Name

 Date: 3/15/22
(Partner signature, Keep Texas Beautiful)
(Suzanne Kho, KTB Executive Director)