

NEWSLETTER

PEP Partners Shine: Awards Season & Texas Recycles



PEP Awards – Information Needed from All Partners

As we begin the upcoming PEP Awards season, we want to highlight the incredible work happening across our PEP Partner organizations. To ensure every partner is fully recognized for their environmental achievements, we ask that all award materials be submitted as early as possible.

Please send the following items:

Recycling or waste-reduction metrics from the past year from September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026

- Photos or documentation showcasing your initiatives
- A brief narrative highlighting your accomplishments and lessons learned



Texas Recycles Day – November 15th

Texas Recycles Day is fast approaching, offering a statewide opportunity to refocus on sustainable practices. This annual event encourages Texans to take small yet meaningful steps that contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment.

The initiative emphasizes three simple actions:

- Reduce waste through thoughtful purchasing
- Reuse items to extend their life
- Recycle correctly by following local guidelines

Recycling conserves resources, reduces landfill volumes, and supports jobs across the state. Whether by sharing recycling information, hosting a collection event, or reviewing personal or organizational recycling habits, everyone can play a part in strengthening Texas' commitment to sustainability.

Spotlight on Last Year's PEP Champions

Last year, Gruver stood out in an impressive way—earning two major honors in our PEP Awards program. Their dedication to sustainability, community engagement, and ongoing environmental improvement helped them secure:

- The Traveling PEP Trophy – awarded to the community demonstrating exceptional overall progress and commitment throughout the year.
- The PEP Composting Plaque – recognizing outstanding achievement in composting efforts and organic waste diversion.



Gruver's success highlights what can be achieved through consistent effort, creative problem-solving, and strong local participation. We're excited to see what they accomplish next—and we encourage all PEP Partners to aim high as we head into this year's award cycle.

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October Price Update: Paper Continues Soars Across the Panhandle

Paper commodities continue to soar upward, and October prices do not disappoint. White Ledger remains the strongest performer, rising again to \$220 per ton at the direct-mill level. Other grades followed this multi-month momentum: OCC increased to \$110 per ton, SOP reached \$150 per ton, Newspaper (Deink) moved up to \$40 per ton, and Mixed Paper matches newspaper at \$40 per ton. This marks another month of consistent growth across the paper sector for direct mill prices.

White Ledger: \$220/ton	SOP (Office Paper): \$150/ton	OCC (Cardboard): \$110/ton	Deink (#8 Newspaper) : \$40/ton	Mixed Paper: \$40/ton
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Metal Prices Have Mixed Movement

Metals and plastics showed mixed movement. UBCs (aluminum cans) sits steady \$1,500 per ton baled and \$1,460 per ton lose. Steel cans remained the same with baled pricing at \$84 per ton and loose at \$61.60 per ton.

Keep Materials Moving: Why It Matters

Storing recyclables or sending them to the landfill may seem convenient, but it actually costs communities more in the long run. When materials keep moving through the recycling or composting stream, everyone benefits.

If your community needs help reviewing materials or scheduling a pickup, contact Katrena Volden at (806) 372-3381.



Why move materials now instead of later?

- Stored materials lose value and are more likely to become contaminated.
- Holding onto materials costs money in space, labor, and equipment use.
- Landfilling wastes valuable resources that could have been reused or sold.
- A steady flow keeps recycling programs efficient and cost-effective.

Bottom line: Moving materials quickly protects their value, reduces costs, and keeps valuable resources out of Texas landfills.

About the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC)

The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission supports communities across the 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle through regional programs in solid waste, recycling, public safety, economic development, and local government assistance. PRPC works closely with cities, counties, and partner organizations to strengthen services, expand resources, and promote long-term sustainability throughout the region. From coordinating recycling initiatives to supporting community planning efforts, PRPC is committed to helping Panhandle communities thrive.