

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Border 2020: US – MX Program



Texas – New Mexico – Chihuahua Regional Workgroup: Waste News

February 2013

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## Highlights:

Waste Clean-up Events: Westway, Texas and Fabens, Texas

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual E-Waste Collection: Juarez, Chihuahua

## Making a Difference: West Texas Border Community Clean-Ups

*Westway, Texas | Fabens, Texas*

In September 2012, two collection events in the Paso del Norte Region resulted in over 64 tons of municipal solid waste, 3.4 tons of E-Waste, 1095 gallons of household hazardous waste and 816 scrap tires collected in Westway and Fabens, Texas.

On September 8, community members of Westway, Texas along with the organization, “Keep Vinton Beautiful”, County of El Paso and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), held a waste collection event. Utilizing funds from the Rio Grande Council of Governments and El Paso

County, organizers were able to collect:

- 292 scrap tires
- 40 tons Municipal Solid Waste
- 575 Gallons of Household hazard waste.
- 1.6 Tons E-Waste



*September 8, 2012 Westway Clean-up*

On September 15, the community of Fabens, Texas held a collection event with funds provided by the Town of Horizon and El Paso County. The event concluded with the



collection of over:

- 574 scrap tires
- 24 tons of Municipal Solid Waste
- 520 Gallons of Household Hazard Waste
- 1.8 tons E-Waste

Several border stakeholders at all levels of government (local, state and federal), academia, with Non-governmental (NGOs) continue to work together to try to develop solutions on solving these waste challenges.



*September 15, 2012 Fabens Clean-Up*



## Ciudad Juarez: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual E-Waste Collection Event



In the past two years, the state of Chihuahua, particularly the municipalities of Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua, have taken great strides to address the issue of handling electronic waste or more commonly referred to as “E-waste”. E-waste is electronics that are nearing the end of their useful life, and are discarded, donated or given to a recycler. Examples include products such as televisions, computers, monitors, microwaves, phones, stereo/audio equipment and electronics from industrial sources.

The majority of these materials often end up in landfills and can pose a hazard to both the environment and human health. E-waste dangers stem from the exposure to the

release of hazardous chemical compounds (i.e. lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium, copper, beryllium, barium, chromium, nickel, zinc, silver and gold) that make up various components within these products.

In December 2010, the state of Chihuahua established their first Annual E-Waste Regional Collection Events, in the municipalities of Chihuahua and Ciudad Juarez. Due to the success of these events, states such as Baja California are looking towards adopting a similar approach.



Staging area for E-Waste

On September 28-29, Ciudad

Juarez held its second annual E-waste collection. The goal of this event was to collect at least 50 tons of e-waste. Participation included stakeholders from the State of Chihuahua, Cd. Juarez Municipality, Secretary for the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), PROFEPA, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US and Mexican Consulates, private and manufacturing industries, EcoRecikla, academia and the general public. At the conclusion of the event, approximately 118 tons of E-waste was collected, far exceeding the original goal.



Volunteers at the Annual EcoReciklaton