



PHASE I ASSESSMENT

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

Existing conditions across the eight-county Oklahoma City–Shawnee CSA



WHEN WE DID THIS

FROM VISION TO ACTION



2022

Board Visioning

ACOG Board members identified solid waste as a regional priority and called for a coordinated approach to reduction, reuse, recycling and composting.



2024-25

Funding Path Identified

ACOG worked with DEQ to shape a three-phase strategy: **Assess → Plan → Implement.**



2025

Phase I Funded

DEQ funded the assessment to establish a regional baseline and identify gaps, needs and opportunities.



2026

Assessment Complete

We now have the first comprehensive picture of solid waste services and infrastructure across **8 counties, 99 municipalities and 1.6 million residents.**

1.6M

Residents in the
OKC–Shawnee CSA

8

Counties in the study area

99

Municipalities across the CSA

+11%

Population growth over the
last decade





WHAT WE HEARD

TRASH TALKS

November 2025–May 2026

Through the branded public engagement campaign **Trash Talks**, ACOG heard from residents, **43 municipal public works staff** and **29 Board members** through surveys, interactive maps and PublicInput.

We also conducted in-depth interviews with experts from **local and state government, recycling and composting businesses, nonprofits, higher education, cooperative extension and a federal installation.**

To broaden access, all public materials were available in **English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Mandarin Chinese.**

The result: a clearer picture of both what the data says—and what communities are experiencing.



4,172

Survey responses

366

Survey participants

282

Open-text comments

WHAT WE FOUND

REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure is not evenly distributed

Cleveland, McClain, and Logan Counties have no active landfills. Logan and Lincoln Counties have the fewest recycling, composting, and diversion facilities relative to land area and population. **Canadian County** is the fastest-growing county in the state but its growth is outpacing infrastructure capacity and accessibility.

10

Permitted
Landfills

5

Transfer
Stations

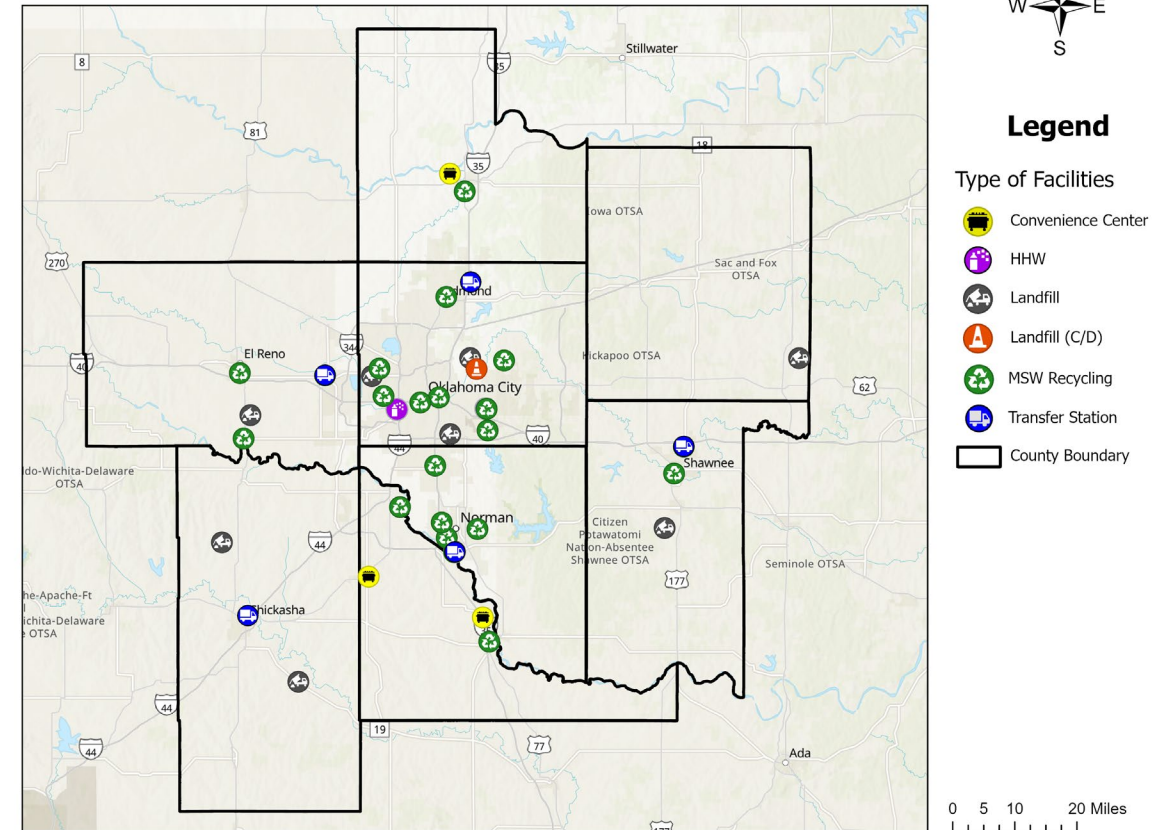
17

Municipal
Recycling Centers

3

Household Hazardous
Waste Facilities

Municipal Solid Waste Facilities Across the Region





FINDING ONE

FRAGMENTATION & ISOLATION

Municipalities negotiate separate contracts, develop individual programs, and invest in infrastructure with limited cross-jurisdictional coordination.

This limits economies of scale, constrains service options, and leaves the region without a common basis for planning, performance measurement, or shared investment.

Oklahoma's Metropolitan Environmental Trust (MET) in Tulsa and the Oklahoma Environmental Management Authority (OEMA) in Canadian County demonstrate that formal regional collaboration is achievable.



24 out of 99 municipalities collaborate on materials management.



FINDING TWO

LIMITED VISIBILITY

Solid waste financial, operational, and service-level data across the region are incomplete, inconsistent, and largely unavailable in forms that support regional analysis.



Most municipalities fold solid waste costs into combined utility budgets with water and wastewater — blocking cost benchmarking or return-on-investment analysis.



Private operator data is frequently proprietary or reported only in aggregate, and inconsistent reporting units prevent consistent regional performance metrics.

SANITATION FUND
BUDGET
HIGHLIGHTS

Background

The Sanitation Fund is an enterprise fund used to account for the operations associated with solid waste collection and disposal in the City of Norman. Residential collection services are provided weekly, with separate services for yard waste and household garbage. Commercial service is provided on an as-needed basis, and composting and recycling services are also available.

Sanitation rates, approved by the voters in 2011, are as follows:

Residential Customers	\$14.00/unit/month + \$3/month for curbside recycling			
	Container Size	Base Rate	After	Rate cu. yd.
Commercial Customers	2 cu. yds.	52.12	8 cu. yds.	7.04
	3 cu. yds.	66.34	12 cu. yds.	5.95
	4 cu. yds.	78.17	16 cu. yds.	5.15
	6 cu. yds.	97.12	24 cu. yds.	4.48
	8 cu. yds.	113.71	32 cu. yds.	4.07

FYE 26 Budget

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Revenues have been estimated at an average growth rate of 1.5% per year with a projected increase of \$1.00/per month for users who desire additional rollout carts.

FYE 26 expenditure projections are based upon line-item analysis within the Utility. Salaries and benefits are based on current authorized staffing levels. All line items have been reviewed on multiple occasions by Utilities Department staff, Finance Department staff and the City Manager.

Reserve Policy

Enterprise funds have reserve policies to reserve portions of fund balance as follows:

- Operating Reserve equal to 8% of the annual operating cost
- Capital Reserve equal to the annual average of the next 5 year capital expenditure plan

The FYE 26 ending fund balance is projected to be \$4,621,999, which meets the operations and Capital Reserve requirements discussed above.

The City of Norman solid waste finances are reported in granular detail, supporting cost-basis analysis and capital planning.



FINDING THREE

INCONSISTENCY AND DISPARITY

Access to services, programs, and infrastructure is determined largely by population, geography and local fiscal capacity.

Residents in rural areas, outer-ring municipalities, and multifamily housing consistently described conditions that diverge from single-family households in larger cities:

- **Narrower material acceptance**
- **Limited bulk waste service**
- **Drop-off distances of 10 to 20 miles**
- **No practical recycling access**





FINDING FOUR

INCREASED POPULATION, INCREASED DEMAND



+157K

residents added to the region
over the last decade



48%

of survey respondents would
compost if it were available



82%

of Board respondents support updating
state solid waste law or funding



ASSETS AND OPPORTUNITIES

ASSETS TO BUILD ON



170,000 cu. yd.

of organic material diverted annually through two DEQ-permitted composting sites (Bergen Enterprises and Prairie Dirt Solutions).



34 tons

of food waste diverted through ACOG's USDA-funded community composting pilot — a network of 20 dropoff sites with Fertile Ground Cooperative.



88%

recycling participation rate in Norman, which also offers year-round Household Waste (HHW) and e-waste drop-off, a swap shop, and a free compost program.



ASSETS AND OPPORTUNITIES

WHY IS E-WASTE IMPORTANT?

Old electronics contain valuable materials, including metals used to make **semiconductors, computer chips and other components found in the technology we use every day.** Recycling e-waste helps recover those materials instead of sending them to landfills.

Oklahoma is becoming a player in advanced manufacturing, with rare earth projects in Ardmore and Stillwater. Recycling e-waste can recover valuable materials, keep them in the supply chain and **help power the technology of tomorrow.**



9%

regularly recycle
electronics



12%

regularly recycle
batteries



52%

of Board respondents selected a
regional e-waste pilot as a priority



ASSETS AND OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT E-WASTE?

Norman's bi-annual e-waste recycling drive-thru events



805 vehicles

Edmond's doorside household hazardous waste & e-waste collection



Through a partnership with Republic Services, residents can schedule **unlimited household hazardous waste and e-waste collections**. Residents sign up by phone or online, receive a collection kit and instructions, and have prepared materials picked up directly from their doorstep.



WHAT'S NEXT?

PHASE II IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE FROM ASSESSMENT TO PLANNING

A Central Oklahoma Materials Management Plan

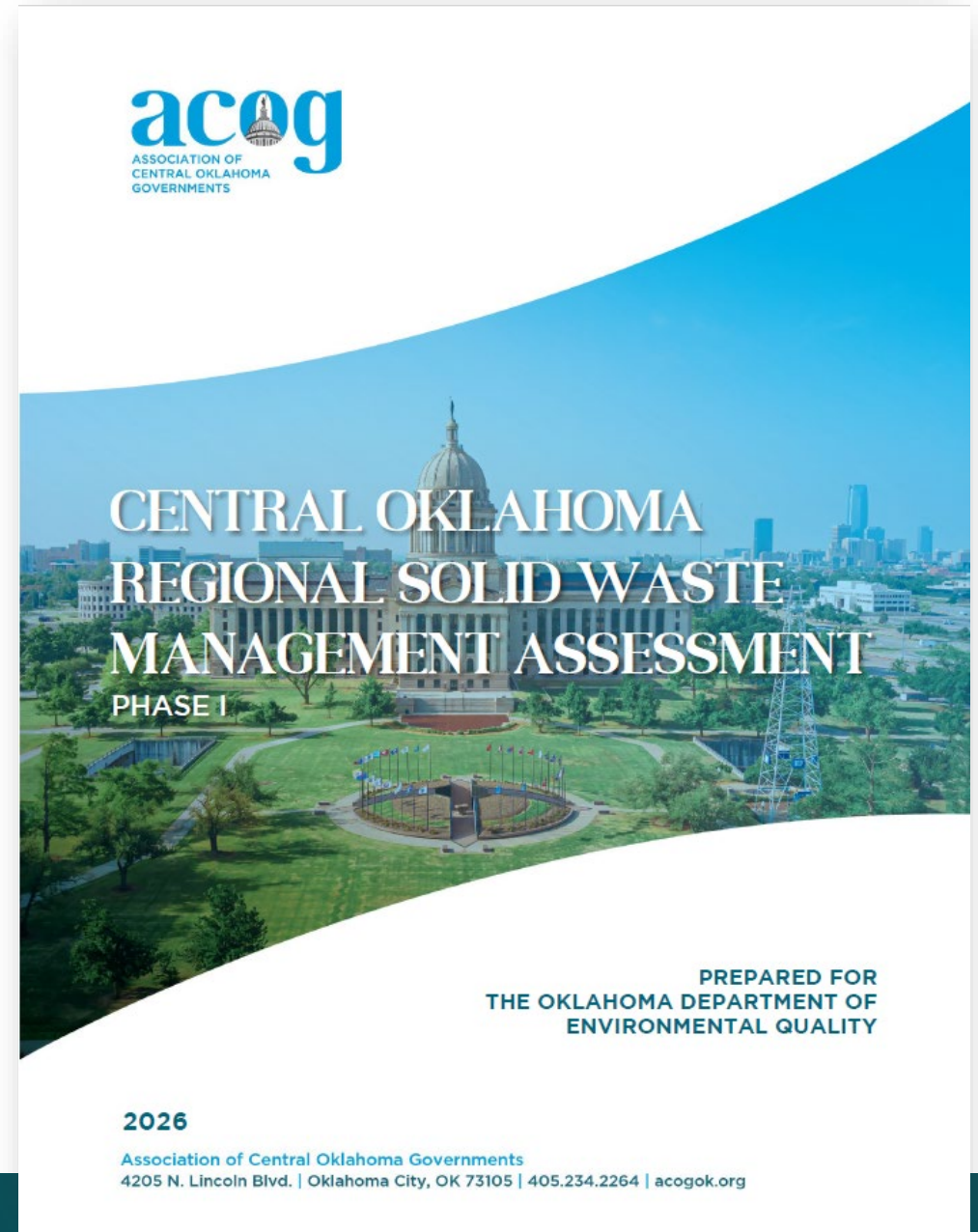




WHAT'S NEXT?

READ THE ASSESSMENT

Scan the QR code to view the Phase I Solid Waste Management Assessment.





QUESTIONS?

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