



Alamo Resource Conservation & Development Area Inc.
Serving by Saving Our Environment and Enhancing Our Communities!



History

Alamo Resource Conservation & Development Area Inc. (Alamo RCD) was created as a unique program that empowers local citizens to help themselves. Since its inception in 1991, Alamo RCD has fulfilled over 450 successful projects with an annual 7-fold impact on every dollar donated toward its mission. As a locally run nonprofit agency, Alamo RCD gauges the needs of their 10 county area through the assistance of volunteer county councils, local leadership and people of all ages and demographic backgrounds. Alamo RCD's multi-layered programs encompass diversified activities that support soil and water conservation, natural resource conservation and management, community development, rural fire and emergency protection and health and human services

Alamo Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization that addresses natural resource conservation and community development in Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Guadalupe, Kendall, Kerr, Medina and Wilson counties which embrace over 2.14 million people (SA Express & News 05/02/11) making our service area the 26th largest Metro Service Area in the nation and the third largest in Texas.

Historically, the Resource Conservation and Development Program (RCD), was originally established as a nation-wide United States Department of Agriculture program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through Federal Farm Bill legislation. As one of over 375 RCD Councils, within a network that covers the nation, Alamo RCD was incorporated in the State of Texas in January of 1993 and received IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit status in September of 1993. With many years of program success behind them, in April of 2011, the federal funding for the NRCS support of Alamo RCD and all Resource Conservation & Development Councils throughout the nation ended with the federal budget appropriations changes.

The Alamo RCD Board of Directors, in light of the loss of funding, regrouped and established strategic plans toward program development, increased funding and sustainability. Alamo RCD is a member of the Texas State, South Eastern and National Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils which continue to provide management, program and development training within a national network of associated councils. Alamo RCD assists many constituents and fulfills many needs with a mission emphasis on rural underserved areas. Alamo RCD's "in your back yard" program approach empowers volunteers to take care of the urgent needs near their homes, workplaces, schools and communities. **Alamo RCD's mission focuses on the utilization of local leadership, use of multiple innovative collaborations and locally established volunteerism, making Alamo RCD one of the most impactful environmental & economic grass roots efforts today.**

Mission & Goals

The Alamo RCD *mission* is to provide a focal point for local leadership to develop and implement strategies that deliver coordinated resource conservation and economic development assistance so that communities thrive. By working together with local citizens, Alamo RCD, *envisions* a future where conservation of our natural resources is the norm, sustainability is in daily practice and communities are prosperous. **The goals of our mission are to:** 1) provide agricultural and environmental education to improve water, land and environmental resource management, 2) protect surface and groundwater quality, 3) expand local community development through improved rural fire and safety protection and enhanced programs for the elderly, children, youth and those with special needs.

Current Programs or Activities

The Alamo RCD diversified mission goals are accomplished within the following programs:

1. **Environmental Education Program (such as Water ~Protect Each Drop):** provides educational workshops, seminars and outreach to local citizens in areas such as land management, feral hog control, sustainable agriculture, environmental protection and stewardship, rainwater harvesting and water and natural resource conservation.
2. **Watershed Protection Program:** helps to maintain clean watersheds through volunteer activated events and projects year round such as abandoned tire removals, illegal dump cleanups, septic system replacements and upgrades, capping water wells, used electronics and household hazardous waste collection events along with SEP/TCEQ projects.
3. **Community Emergency Response Program :** serves our rural communities with assistance toward improved, fire, disaster and emergency preparedness, disaster medical intervention training and volunteer readiness for VFDs, EMS, and CERT volunteers toward the health and safety of all citizens.
4. **Growing Rural Youth Development Program:** works with youth as a collaborative effort modeled to the Growing Rural program of the Center for Rural Outreach and Public Services (CROPS) in San Pierre, Indiana. Growing Rural links young people to service learning activities, centered on our mission of service and natural resource stewardship, that build leadership, provide academic improvement and life skills.
5. **Community Development Program:** provides proposal writing workshops, grant research and direct technical assistance that leads to increased local jobs, improved services, enhanced senior and youth programs, community centers and improved local social services.

Achievements

Alamo Resource Conservation & Development Area Inc. (Alamo RCD) has been a very effective organization since its inception with over 450 successful program activities completed to date while serving a 10 county area population of over 2.14 million. Alamo RCD has achieved national recognition (awarded to very few RCD councils) through the **National Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils "Circle of Diamonds" award. Alamo RCD was honored with the "Circle of Diamonds" in 2006, 2009 and it was reauthorized on Feb. 22, 2011.** This honor comes from the demonstration of a positive mission impact, the achievement of locally established benchmarks, good volunteer management and participation, honesty and integrity and a strong commitment to mission. Alamo RCD has also been awarded the GuideStar "Exchange Partner in Trust Seal" for our transparency on www.guidestar.org.