

Recycling employees recognized for assisting in revegetation project

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The Directorate of Public Works recognized DPW's Recycle employees for assisting Fort Hood in a joint project with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protective Agency.

In Jan 2006, the TCEQ approached the DPW Environmental Division with the idea to utilize Bosque compost and Fort Hood's Texas Department of Transportation certified compost in revegetation projects on the installation.



According to a study, Fort Hood generates 58 tons of horse manure and 263 tons of wood, totaling 321 tons of brown waste monthly.

“Our sustainability goal was to divert this brown waste from the landfill and develop a beneficial product to reuse the wood and manure generated,” said Jeff Salmon, DPW's Solid Waste Program Manager.

Fort Hood developed a method to reuse these products for a joint erosion control project with TCEQ and EPA.

Salmon recruited the assistance from DPW Recycle to help in the preparation phase to process tons of wood chips for the erosion control project.

“Using new equipment in a new process for Fort Hood presented many challenges to the recycle team,” Salmon said. “And with each new challenge, the recycle team met it head-on and performed flawlessly.”

The employees worked long hours during the week and weekend for over two months to screen materials.

“During this erosion control project, the team's mission was to load the continuous stream of trucks taking materials to the numerous sites, assist with the blending of the mulch and compost, all while continuing to screen material for the project needs,” Salmon said. “Their long hours and dedication to excellence played an instrumental part in the success of this vital project.”



At the recent DPW quarterly award ceremony, Roderick Chisholm, Fort Hood's Director of Public Works recognized DPW's recycle employees personally for their assistance with the erosion control project.

"I want to thank you all personally for doing great things for Fort Hood," Chisholm said. "This quarter, recycling was a clean sweep for the team and individual awards!"



DPW's Recycling Assistant Manager Jean Thompson, Assistant Manager Rufus Walker, Materials Identifier Sorter Supervisor Joe Kelly, Materials Identifier Sorter LA Ulmer, and Materials Identifier Sorter Michael Jackson were recognized for the Team award. Micheal Jackson was also recognized for the individual award.

"We (the recycle employees) didn't go out there, thinking we were going to get recognized," Kelly said. "We did what we had to do, to accomplish our mission."

"We went out there blind and didn't know what to expect," said Kelly, "but surprisingly in a week it went really well."



DPW Recycle's assistance, in the erosion control project, is helping Fort Hood to revegetate areas that have been impacted by military vehicles, cattle grazing, and construction activities.

"We hope to show in the next year that areas can be reclaimed and revegetated so that they have value to the installation," said Scott McCoy, TCEQ's Compost Program Leader. "And we plan to take this erosion control project to other military bases in Texas."

DPW's Recycle employees helped in an important phase of Fort Hood erosion control project. Their hard work and dedication helped Fort Hood to start its program and be the first military installation in Texas to use compost, mulch, and sock erosion control methods.