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Take Care of Texas NEWS you can use

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

JULY 2008

New Computer Equipment Recycling Program Slated for Sept. 1

Texas consumers will soon be able to recycle their used computer equipment for free through a new program. By Sept. 1, manufacturers that sell computer equipment in Texas will be required to collect and recycle computer equipment used by individuals primarily for personal or home-business use. Manufacturers that choose not to offer such a program will not be allowed to sell their computer equipment anywhere in the state.



The program covers desktops, laptops, monitors, and an accompanying keyboard and mouse made by the same manufacturer for each computer. Customers are responsible for erasing all data from their equipment and should check with the manufacturer for instructions on how to do this.

Each manufacturer is responsible for collecting and recycling only its own brand(s) of computer equipment. For information for consumers, manufacturers, retailers, and recyclers, visit the TCEQ Web site at <www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/computer_recycling>.

Recycle Texas Online: Upgraded

If you're searching for a place to recycle your unwanted materials or you operate a recycling facility and want free publicity, look no further! The Web site <www.recycletexasonline.org> offers a free recycler-locator service for recycling, composting, and reuse in the state.

You can search 18 categories of materials that include everything from chemicals and light bulbs to our most recent category for electronics. You can easily find any facilities close to home by searching in 24 different areas of the state. Recyclers can list the materials they accept and the services they provide. They can list free of charge by completing the new, online application launched in June 2008.

Keep in mind that, since recyclers post their own information, a facility or company appearing on the list does not imply it is in compliance with TCEQ regulations or other applicable laws. For more information, e-mail <recycle@tceq.state.tx.us> or visit Recycle Texas at <www.recycletexasonline.org>.



Clean Texas: Portrait of a Bronze-Level Member

Dallas-based Hensley Industries, Inc. (Hensley) has expanded its business from producing earth-moving industrial equipment to implementing an earth-moving recycling program—literally. When landfill fees for the facility's main byproduct—spent foundry sand—reached \$60,000 per month, the company made it a priority to shift from disposal to cost-effective recycling.

The result: net savings of more than \$500,000 (between November 2006 and December 2007) on spent-foundry-sand solids, and more than \$100,000 on electric, arc-furnace slag (residue). The new Bronze-Level Clean Texas member is recycling roughly two-thirds of what previously was a waste, and is saving money in the process. As a result of all its recycling efforts, the company's total net savings topped \$1 million.

This success relies heavily on partnerships. Hensley teamed up with over a dozen companies that assisted its staff with recycling, reclamation, or beneficial reuse. In addition to the sand- and slag-recycling initiatives, other targets for recycling include graphite electrodes, reclaimed metal, wood waste, office paper, cardboard, printer cartridges, and facility trash.

While the specific techniques Hensley employs provide a template for others in the industry, the effort to reuse and recycle materials, rather than dispose of them, is a general model for cost-effective environmental leadership.

Congratulations, Hensley, for earning the Clean Texas Bronze Level membership.

For more information about becoming a Clean Texas member, visit the Clean Texas Web site at <www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/ems/clean_tx.html>.



Green Building Workshop Scheduled

The TCEQ will host a workshop for the City of Austin's Green Building Program on Aug. 18, 1-4 p.m., at the TCEQ headquarters, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg. F, Room 2210.

Topics include:

- how to participate
- materials recyclers can accept
- perspective of a TCEQ inspector
- TCEQ requirements for becoming an authorized facility
- currently authorized recycling facilities in the Austin area

For more information, call Teres McCaine, TCEQ MSW Permit Section, at 512-239-1480.



Agricultural Waste Pesticide Collections Scheduled

The TCEQ, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and the Texas Department of Agriculture organize regional collections of unwanted or unused waste pesticides (agricultural waste pesticides) throughout the state.

These free collections—conducted rain or shine—give agricultural producers an opportunity to dispose of unwanted products that may pose a hazard to them, their families, and their surrounding farming or ranching communities.

Collections are scheduled for:

- September 23, 2008.....Dawson County
- September 24, 2008.....Taylor County
- September 25, 2008.....Comanche County
- September 30, 2008.....Kaufman County

For more information, visit the TCEQ Web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/AgWaste/agwaste.html.



Last Chance!

Get your free copy of the *Field Guide to On-Farm Composting*, a guide with practical information on composting for agricultural producers and others who compost organic byproducts. To order a copy, send your name and shipping address by e-mail to educate@tceq.state.tx.us (with "Field Guide to On-Farm Composting" as the subject); or call 512-239-3107.



Updated TCEQ Publications

For a list of and contact information for managers in TCEQ areas and regional offices and Small Business and Environmental Assistance staff in TCEQ regional offices, order TCEQ publication GI-002a.

Mulching and Composting (GI-036) is a short, easy-to-understand flier for beginners about mulching and composting to help reduce the disposal of yard trimmings in landfills.



Confused about Environmental Rules? (GI-202) describes a TCEQ program that offers free compliance help to small businesses and local governments.

You can view, order, and search for these and other publications on the TCEQ Web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications.



Take Care of Texas Tips

Around the House: Lower Your Water-Heater Thermostat

For maximum efficiency, you can turn the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees, and you'll still have a hot shower waiting for you.



Around the Office: Turn Off the Lights



Lighting accounts for 29% of an office's energy consumption. By turning off lights when not needed, performing regular maintenance, and installing upgrades, you can save significant energy and lower your electric bill. Replacing older lights with energy-efficient ones can save up to 30% off your lighting cost and up to 5% off your overall energy cost.



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