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Take Care OF Texas NEWS you can use

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

AUGUST 2008

Congratulations to the newest CLEAN TEXAS members!

CLEAN TEXAS, a voluntary environmental leadership program of the TCEQ, recognizes its newest members. These organizations are leading their communities by setting goals that exceed compliance levels under existing regulations and by spearheading environmental service projects in their areas.



Our newest members at the Platinum Level—the highest level of commitment—are:

- Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW)
- Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, also of Fort Worth

While DFW is a brand new addition to the program, Lockheed Martin has been an active member since 2001 and has reached the Platinum Level. Through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity, Lockheed's employees built a home using proceeds from an aluminum can recycling program. Over six years, the program recycled 3.2 million cans and raised \$55,000—the cost of building one home.

At the Gold Level of CLEAN TEXAS, we welcome:

- U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Pantex

A member at the Bronze Level since 2005, Pantex has been active in its community as an environmental educator—giving presentations to local 5th grade classes on environmental conservation, and promoting the preservation of local wildlife, such as the North American Purple Martin bird.

We also congratulate our new Bronze Level CLEAN TEXAS members:

- Arts+Labor, Austin
- Camp Mabry, Austin
- City of Sudan - Landfill and Recycling
- Ennis Tractebel Power Company, Ennis
- Hensley Industries, Dallas
- Lower Colorado River Authority - Corporate Services, Austin
- Lower Colorado River Authority Smithville Railcar Maintenance Facility
- Marina at Lake Meredith, Fritch
- NRG Cedar Bayou Electric Generating Station, Houston
- ReadyOne Industries, El Paso

Are you a business that is going the extra mile for the environment? Are you a business that is addressing its environmental impacts in an innovative way? Join the 109 current CLEAN TEXAS members! Visit <www.cleantexas.org> for more information.

Environmental Compliance Assistance Available

The TCEQ offers assistance through its Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) section to help small businesses and local governments comply with environmental rules without the threat of enforcement. The program is designed to give confidential technical assistance on air, water, waste, and pollution prevention issues and has provided direct assistance to more than 7,000 small businesses and local governments per year.

Businesses and local governments can request free, confidential on-site environmental compliance assessments from SBLGA staff. Environmental consultants under contract with the TCEQ conduct these voluntary audits for environmental compliance. If the audited site corrects any noted deficiencies and the consultant verifies compliance, the site becomes eligible for the **Compliance Commitment (C2) Partnership**. Through this partnership, small business owners and local governments stand to earn a one-year exemption from routine TCEQ investigations. In 2007 there were 272 site visits performed with more than a quarter of those sites achieving 100 percent compliance.


To participate in the C2 Partnership program, the owner of the site or facility must employ a company-wide total of 100 or fewer employees, or be operated by a small local government (a county of 100,000 or fewer or a city of 50,000 or fewer), or be an independent school district (ISD) serving a student population of 100,000 or fewer students.

SBLGA also offers the **EnviroMentor** program in which consultants, utility professionals, and lawyers volunteer their time and expertise to help small businesses and local governments comply with environmental rules. They provide advice on complex environmental problems, help fill out regulatory paperwork, and give answers to technical questions related to regulations, design requirements, waste reduction, and much more. Last year the EnviroMentor program saved 52 entities \$247,000 in consulting fees.

SBLGA staff visit approximately 300 entities per year to provide direct, one-on-one assistance. In addition, they offer a number of compliance assistance tools, regulatory guidance, and easy-to-follow checklists for various industries. Example industries include: auto body shops, automotive repair, auto salvage, dry cleaners, fleet maintenance, foundries, metal



An environmental message brought to you by the Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division.

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finishers, printers, reinforced plastics, sawmills, surface coaters, wood products, and small airports including tenant operations.

For free and confidential environmental compliance assistance, call 1-800-447-2827. For more information on the programs and tools, visit the Web site at <www.sblga.info>.

Environmental Education Materials Available

The TCEQ has a number of resources and materials available for teachers. We offer classroom-ready, simple-to-use lesson plans and activities to promote environmental education in the classroom. To view the lesson plans, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/nav/tes.html>. To find out which publications are available, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications> and under the subject category click on education (K-12), or order a copy of **GI-079, Teachers' Guide to Environmental Education Resources**, a brochure listing all of the TCEQ education publications.

Coming Soon! The TCEQ's Take Care of Texas Web site will offer new and updated pages for kids and teachers. The changes include:

- six new interactive kids games
- a teachers' section
- other environmental education links for kids
- new video for kids

To view the new pages, visit <www.takecareoftexas.org>.

Fall Agriculture Waste Collections Scheduled

Oct. 1, Fannin County
Oct. 2, Red River County
Oct. 21, Hidalgo County
Oct. 22, Live Oak County
Oct. 23, Victoria County
Oct. 28, Matagorda County
Oct. 29, Fayette County
Oct. 30, Milam County

All collections are slated from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For contact information and specific addresses, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/AgWaste/schedule.html>.

New TCEQ Publications

TCEQ Strategic Plan, Fiscal Years 2009-2013, SFR-035/09, is a legislatively mandated report submitted every two years to the Governor's Office of Budget, Planning and Policy, and to the Legislative Budget Board, which assesses TCEQ activities and plans for goals, and objectives.

To order TCEQ publications, visit <www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications>.

Take Care of Texas Tips

Around the House

Invest in a New, Low-Flow Toilet

Toilets are by far the main source of water use in the home, accounting for approximately 30 percent of residential indoor water consumption. If you replace an older toilet with a high-efficiency toilet that uses 1.3 gallons of water per flush, you can save 4,000 gallons of water per year, the equivalent to a 17-year drinking supply for one person.

Around the Office

Tune Up Your Heating and Cooling Systems

Heating and cooling account for 35 percent of an office building's energy use. Save energy and money by tuning up your heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system annually. Even better, service your HVAC before both the heating and the cooling seasons. Systems will decline in performance without regular maintenance. Change (or clean, if reusable) HVAC filters every month during peak cooling or heating seasons. You save energy and money, and your system may last years longer with reasonable yearly maintenance fees.



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