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Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ♦ MC-113 ♦ PO Box 13087 ♦ Austin TX 78711-3087

SEPTEMBER 2005

Stand Up and Be Recognized

Texas Environmental Excellence Awards

People who live by their principles don't do it for the accolades. They do it because it's the right thing to do. In Texas, environmental stewardship and public recognition don't always go hand in hand. That's why the **Texas Environmental Excellence Awards (TEEA)** program was created—to honor the natural instinct of Texans who go above and beyond to preserve our state's natural resources.

Every year, the governor and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality celebrate the best and brightest environmental leaders at an awards dinner in their honor. This event highlights the bold efforts of citizens of all ages, businesses of any size, organizations, and communities across this great state to protect the Texas environment. Awards may be given in ten diverse categories.



If You Live It, Let Us Honor It

The 2006 online application is now available at www.teea.org. The deadline to submit an application is November 4, 2005. For more information or if you have questions, e-mail awards@tceq.state.tx.us.

Texas Recycles Day Events Under Way!

To celebrate this year's Texas Recycles Day (TRD), events are being scheduled across the state, from a high school in Hallsville collecting cans to the Dallas Mavericks professional basketball team handing out TRD bookmarks. Events highlight numerous solutions for simple and inexpensive waste reduction and recycling activities. Texas

communities use these events as an opportunity to raise public awareness on the economic and environmental benefits of waste reduction and recycling. TRD encourages and motivates Texans to make recycling part of their everyday lives. Events will continue through November 15. To view a complete list and to order materials and supplies to help plan your event, visit www.texasrecyclesday.org.



Keep Texas Beautiful Continues Texas Recycles Day Partnership

The TCEQ celebrates its continued partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) and its network of 340 affiliates to raise awareness of Texas Recycles Day. It takes countless partnerships with organizations, schools, and communities to make the statewide Texas Recycles Day events such a success. Over the years, KTB has wholeheartedly done its part to steer hundreds of Texas Recycles Day activities, in addition to promoting waste reduction and recycling year-round. Recognition goes to Stacy Cantu, KTB executive director, who guides its goals and mission. "Keep Texas Beautiful enjoys a wonderful partnership with the TCEQ for Texas Recycles Day," explained Cantu. "Together we educate Texans on the importance of recycling and encourage them to make it a part of their everyday lives." KTB has enlisted the support of IESI, ECO Phones, and HEB.

Alliance Links to America Recycles Day

Also assisting with this year's events is the Recycling Alliance of Texas, the Texas affiliate of America Recycles Day (ARD); they are providing ARD materials and access to national prizes. If you make a pledge to "step up your recycling efforts," you get a chance to win a Ford Escape Hybrid or a recycled aluminum content Trek Model 4300 24-speed bicycle. You can visit the TRD Web site at www.texasrecyclesday.org to access the ARD information and resources.



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

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Lake and River Cleanup Program a Success

The Lake and River program, a partnership between the TCEQ and Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB), is designed to help communities and organizations establish waterway cleanups and litter prevention activities to improve and maintain the quality of surface water.



Results from the spring cleanups:

- ★ 14,410 Texans participated in the Lake and River Cleanup Program event
- ★ 6,113 of these volunteers were under 18 years old
- ★ 664.11 miles of waterways were cleaned by volunteers
- ★ 226 tons of debris was collected

For more information about upcoming events, visit www.ktb.org.

Cleanups Scheduled for the Panhandle and West Texas Areas

Agriculture Waste Pesticide, Household Hazardous Waste, and Texas Country Cleanups have been scheduled in December for rural Texans in the Panhandle and West Texas areas. You will be able to bring unused or unwanted pesticides, household hazardous waste, used oil and filters. For a complete listing of items accepted and locations, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/AgWaste/agwaste.html.

| City | Date |
|-------------|-------|
| Pampa | 12/05 |
| Dumas | 12/07 |
| Hereford | 12/09 |
| Slaton | 12/12 |
| Garden City | 12/14 |
| Fabens | 12/16 |

Training Offered for Underground Storage Tank Installers

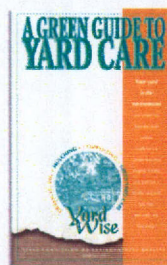
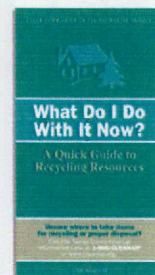
An Underground Storage Tank (UST) Management and Compliance Assistance Seminar will be presented on December 15, at the Renaissance Austin Hotel, in Austin. This seminar offers eight continuing education credits for UST License A/B Installers and Professional Engineers. Those who should attend include owners/operators of underground storage tank systems and contractors/consultants engaged in installation, repair, removal, or modification of underground storage tank systems. Topics presented include cathodic protection, underground storage tank registration and

self-certification, tank installation and removal, and financial responsibility. For more information, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/admin/events/12-05ust.pdf or e-mail us at educate@tceq.state.tx.us.

Featured TCEQ Publications

We've updated the content of some popular TCEQ publications and given them a fresh, new look. You have a choice of ways to obtain these publications: view the printer-friendly PDFs on our Web site (URLs given below), or call our Publications staff at 512/239-0028 to order color, printed copies with the new design shown below.

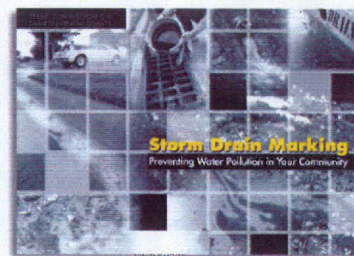
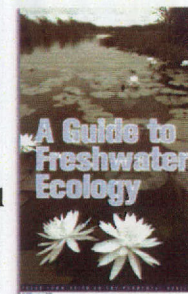
Unsure what to do with your items for recycling or proper disposal? *What Do I Do With It Now?* (GI-288) is a quick guide to recycling resources in your community. PDF available at www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-288.html.



The Green Guide to Yard Care

(GI-028) provides practical information on the YardWise Program, including grass-cycling, mulching, composting, landscape design principles, and integrated pest management. By following these simple practices, citizens can maintain a healthy yard while reducing water needs, organic waste, and the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. PDF available at www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-028.html.

A Guide to Freshwater Ecology (GI-034) presents a variety of topics related to the freshwater ecosystem. From the basics of surface water quality to determining the health of a water way, this user friendly guide is beneficial to individuals with a wide range of expertise. PDF available at www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-034.html.



Storm Drain Marking Manual (GI-212).

This manual is a how-to guide for communities interested in starting a storm drain marking program to reduce nonpoint source pollution of Texas' waterways. The manual covers a range of methods for labeling storm drain inlets and offers examples of programs operating in selected Texas cities. PDF available at www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-212.html.

Environmental News You Can Use is brought to you by the Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. To subscribe, send your name, mailing address, and e-mail address to educate@tceq.state.tx.us or call 512/239-3150.